



PRESIDENT PETER FRANCIS 2024 – 25



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'The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri people as the traditional custodians of our beautiful lands and surrounding waters and respects elders past, present and emerging.'

MEETING NUMBER 2242: 5th December 2024

Venue: The Anchorage Hotel

President Peter opened the meeting and welcomed all Rotarians, including Goolwa Rotary Club President Maxine Timbs who was accompanied by a large contingent from the club, and Maxine Timbs, President of the Rotary Club of Victor Harbor. Also in attendance was Linda Sweeney from Seaford club who is Assistant Governor Area 11. Our Guest Speakers Tim Mee and Maurice O'Connell from the New Dawn – Rotary Ukraine Project were also welcomed by President Peter.

Earlier this week the Victor Harbor High School held its annual presentations and our club was represented by President Peter and Colin Francis, Director of Youth Service. The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay continued its long tradition of donating the cash academic prizes which were presented by Peter and Colin. President Peter reported that it was a very successful and rewarding evening.

President Peter then handed over to David Virgin, Director of International Service as Chairman for the evening. David introduced Tim Mee, New Dawn – Rotary – Ukraine Crisis projects; Chair of District 951- International Service, & District Governor Nominee (2024-25); and Maurice O'Connell, who, although not a Rotarian, shares Rotary's values and has many Rotarian friends.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, Maurice decided to travel there as a volunteer to help those civilians impacted by Russia's aggression. He connected with some Ukrainian volunteers who had formed the non-government organization "New Dawn" to help the forgotten villages with food, electricity, clean water and other basic supplies they had been living without following extensive destruction of their villages.

President: Peter Francis
Secretary: Marilyn Shaw
Club Service: Sue Morisset
International Service: David Virgin
Membership: Peter Manuel

President Elect & Vice President: Sue Morisset
Treasurer: Phil Beckett
Community Service: Mary-anne Woodman
Youth Service: Colin Francis
Market Director: Cherilyn Fleming

The New Dawn volunteers have worked to provide support to Ukrainians including aid packages being delivered near the front lines, often only 10 kms away. The organization has developed to now being well financed from the initial group of Ukrainians who pioneered it.

Maurice explained that 2,167 medical buildings have been destroyed by the Russians, and providing medical and education facilities are priorities.

Initially just forgotten villages, they have now succeeded in delivering support and children are able to go back to school, although with the front line so close they must frequently take shelter from the bombing. These bomb shelters were built especially by “New Dawn” volunteers.

Tim told us about the many projects that had been completed that helped local villagers, including providing 40 large windows in the local hospital, rebuilding a community centre and providing educational supplies.

It is a very upsetting and distressing story that Maurice and Tim shared with us all last evening, but inspiring to learn about their outstanding contribution to humanitarian aid and support for Ukraine.

Chairman David thanked them on behalf of us all for coming down from Adelaide to explain to us the amazing work they continue to do.



Guest Speaker Maurice O'Connell who formed the non-government organization “New Dawn” to assist the people of Ukraine after it was invaded by Russia.



Guest Speaker Tim Mee speaking at the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay's meeting held on 5th December.

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President Peter also thanked our Guest Speakers, and explained that Victor Harbor Rotary Club has already made a significant donation to “The New Dawn”, and the Rotary Clubs of Goolwa and Encounter Bay will be donating as well.

FORWARD PROGRAM – Rotary Club of Encounter Bay

Partners and guests very welcome

For catering and/or attendance purposes, if you will be an apology or are bringing guests you must advise **Fleurieu Crash Repairs 8552-4833** no later than **1600 hrs the day before (Wednesday)**.

Remember also, when food is available, to advise of any dietary requirements.

12 Dec	7pm	Grosvenor Hotel	Skin Tech Dr Brooks	TBC
19 Dec	6.30 for 7pm	McCracken	Christmas Dinner & celebration	TBC
			19 Dec – 30 Jan Christmas Break	
30 Jan	TBC	3 Knight’s Beach Walk	Bubbles by the Bay	David Virgin

Market Rosters – Goolwa and Port Elliot

See Market Director Cherilyn Fleming for details

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