



Rotary



RIMERN
Rotary Inner
Melbourne
Emergency
Relief Network

The Home of Residential Recycling

ISSUE 21 (AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER 2026)

RIMERN NEWS

Providing homewares to people who need a hand

RIMERN is a multi-club Rotary project in Inner Melbourne, providing donated furniture, appliances and homewares to welfare agency clients who have experienced homelessness, domestic violence, refugee displacement, release from jail and other crises.

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We survived another freezing winter in our breezy warehouse and as Spring homemaking season is upon us we're continuing to ship out ever more quantities of homewares to excited new homemakers!

In this issue we're celebrating another Rotary Club joining our team, welcome [Rotary Heidelberg](#) – Club 23! (meet them on page 4).

Word continues to spread of our service and we've just welcomed two new referral agencies, Vacro and ACSO, meet them on page 5.

As well as supporting many people who have had interactions with the justice system, our **Aboriginal Homemakers Program** is making a difference to many First Nations neighbours. Read about it & how you can help on page 9.

See a couple more of our clients' stylish homes on pages 2 & 3 and meet some of our hardworking volunteers on pages 7 & 8.

Thanks everyone, as we head into the final quarter of the year client demand continues to be supported by our fabulous and fun team, our generous donors and our never ending quest for quality homewares.

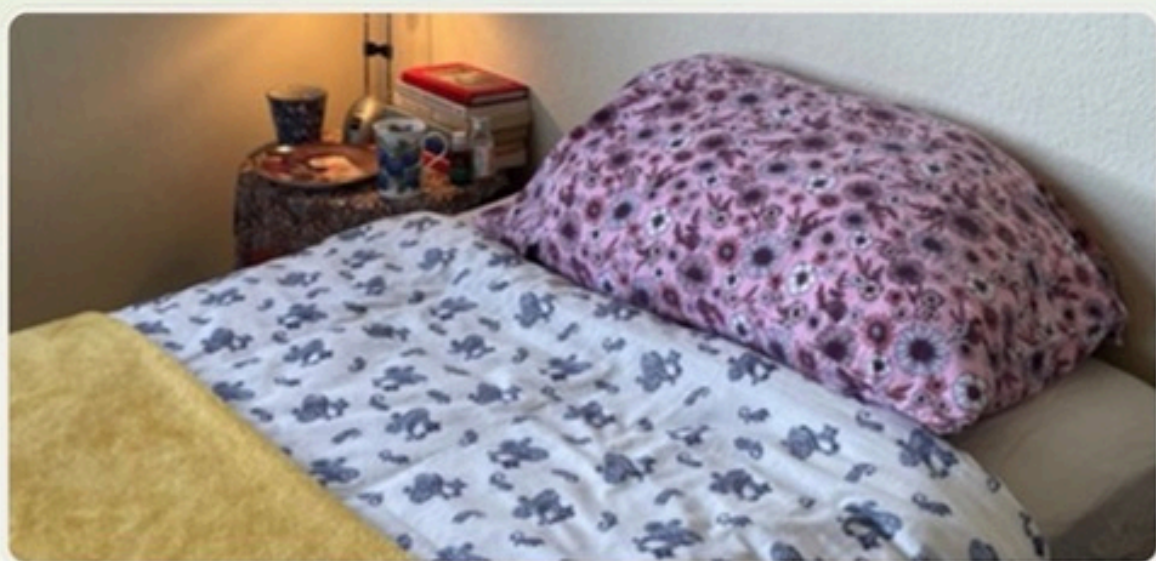
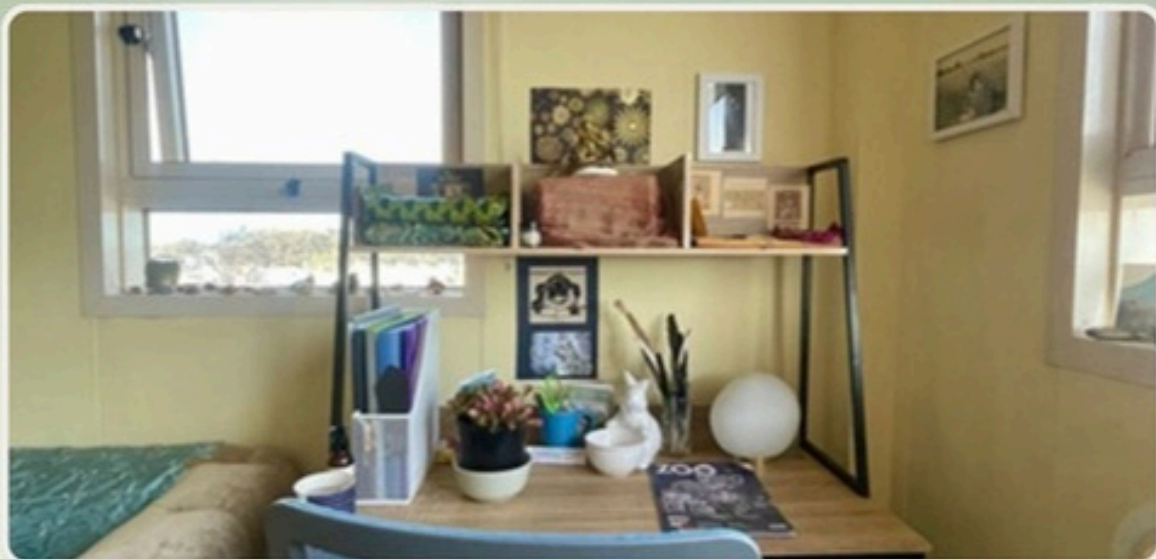
Please continue to spread the word.

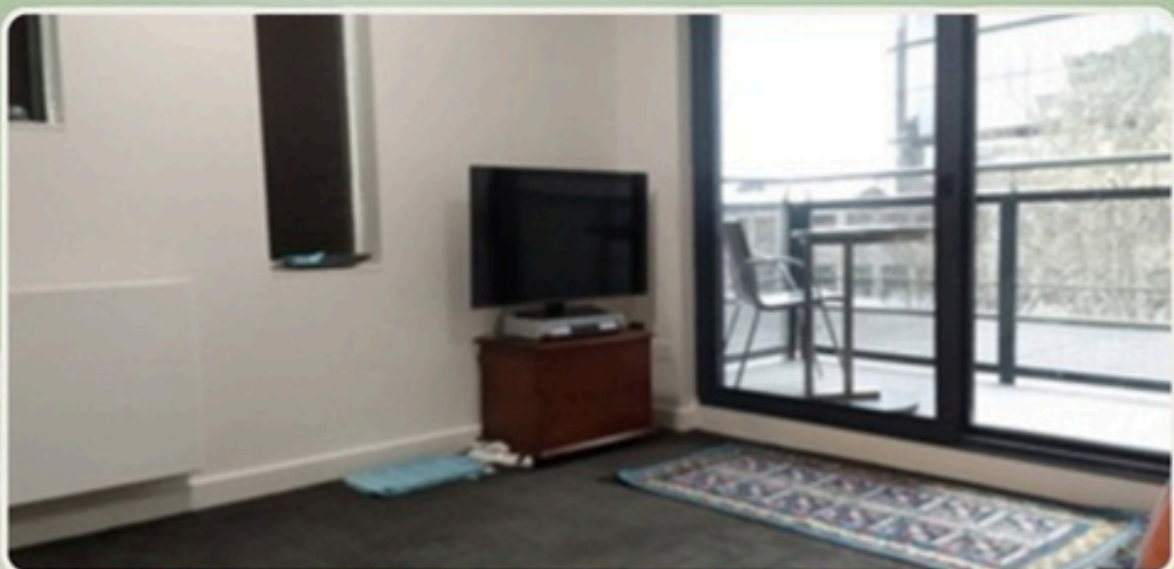


Susie Cole
RIMERN President



FRESH STARTS FOR SPRING





WELCOME ROTARY HEIDELBERG!

Now our 23rd member Club, the team from [Rotary Heidelberg](#) have already referred two clients for support and rolled their sleeves up for a Club Working Bee. See below.

They're our 5th Club from Rotary District 9790 and are very active in the Banyule area. Welcome to President **Allison Roberson** and all at Heidelberg, it's great to have you with us!



MORE CLUBS
are always welcome

CAN YOU SOURCE HOMEWARES AT SCALE??



Thank you **John Cotton Australia** for another delivery of doonas in September, keeping our clients cosy while the thermometer was all over the place, but we really need more SOFAS, BEDSIDE UNITS, LAMPS & TV STANDS..... if you work for a furniture retailer, a hotel or serviced apartment group, please hook us up??



The great donations of furniture from **Fantastic Furniture** are continuing and recently we were able to supply a double bunk for a client (we don't usually stock them but one snuck in with an assortment of treasures) when an agency worker asked..... Thanks Fantastic Furniture!



THANKS!

NEW AGENCY REFERRERS!

[ACSO Australian Community Support Organisation](http://www.acso.org.au)
www.acso.org.au.

Their vision is for a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and prison truly is the last resort



[Vacro](http://www.vacro.org.au) is Victoria's sole specialist criminal justice reintegration service, dedicated to supporting adults in contact with the justice system and their families.
www.vacro.org.au



WAREHOUSE VISITORS FROM PARADE COLLEGE

Around sixty students visited the warehouse over two weeks and learned more about housing insecurity, what we do at RIMERN and how they can help collect wanted homewares for clients in the future. Their teacher **Vanessa Fox** returned with a generous donation of Kmart treasures as thanks for the visit. Thanks for the support!



FUNDRAISING THE NEVER ENDING CHALLENGE!

Rotary Canterbury Debate for the Generations for RIMERN!



Debaters with their medals! The 'mature' team argued the Negative, the students were for the Affirmative! Lots of fun!

Thank you Rotarian **John McCaskill**, PDG **Julie Mason** and all at Rotary Canterbury for the challenging Debate between 'mature' Rotarians and skilled debaters from Canterbury Girls Secondary College (who won by a point!), arguing that *"Life is Better Now Than 50 Years Ago"*.

This well attended fun-raiser raised around \$2,000 for RIMERN!



SPRING INTO VOLUNTEER ACTION

Meet some of our regular volunteers!

VOLUNTEER • COMMUNITY • ACTION • IMPACT



Mr. Fixit
Aidan Wright
(Rotary Ivanhoe)

Larry Robb (Rotary North Melbourne) &
David Gorman
(Rotary Albert Park)
assembling a
Fantastic Furniture
donation.



**Katherine Lynch &
Jo Connellan**
(Rotary Moreland),
Kitchen Room
queens!



Max Sargent, both a T & T team member AND Captain of the garden crew that's replanted our garden for colour in 2027!



David Gorman (Rotary Albert Park) and **Roger Thornton** (Rotary Central Melbourne) unloading Roger's handiwork, transforming surplus timber into TV stands and coffee tables at his Men's Shed.



Russel Chesler, a Test & Tag team member making sure all our donations are safe!

ABORIGINAL HOMEMAKERS' PROGRAM

When the RIMERN team realised that Aboriginal people make up 0.8% of Victoria's population but represent 10.2% of people accessing homelessness services we were shocked! Such an over representation of people needing housing support in our own back yards!

Key aspects of Aboriginal homelessness in Melbourne include:

- **Persistent Crisis:** 31.8% of Victorian Aboriginal people accessing Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) experience persistent homelessness, often living in severely crowded dwellings or temporary, inappropriate conditions.
- **Underlying Drivers:** The primary causes include family and domestic violence (25%), housing crisis (17%), and inadequate/inappropriate dwelling conditions (14%).
- **Youth Impact:** There has been a near 25% increase in Aboriginal children aged 10-14 accessing homelessness services.

Our Rotary Club members sprang into action! Rotary Balwyn donated \$6,500 and Rotary Fitzroy \$1,700 towards subsidised white goods (we buy reconditioned fridges & washing machines & charge the referral agencies a portion of the cost) and delivery within 10km of our warehouse, to enable smaller referrers like [Connecting Home](#), [Grandmothers Against Removal \(Vic\)](#), [Elizabeth Morgan House](#) and [Margaret Tucker Hostel](#) to order for their clients when before they couldn't because of lack of funding. All our Aboriginal referrers have benefitted, including VACCA, VACSAL, VALS & Ngwala Willumbong but we need more funds to keep the program going!

A further seven of our Rotary Club members, Rotary Collingwood, Fitzroy, Chadstone East Malvern, Albert Park, Carlton, Port Phillip and Prahran banded together and applied for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant of \$5,000 to purchase white goods and other home essentials for Aboriginal clients and their Multi Club Consortium kicked off in September with a dinner at Rotary Fitzroy! Over the next few months, they'll be shopping and supporting clients referred by our eight Aboriginal referrers so that more families receive the homewares they need for their fresh start.

Rotary really does *Create Lasting Impact!*



How can you support our Aboriginal Homemakers?

Please donate! Simply click the Donate button below to help us supply more white goods. And share this link with your contacts!

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-AU/donation-form/aboriginal-homemakers-program>

All donations are Tax Deductible & go to RIMERN's bank with no commissions deducted.



COLLECTIONS CHARGES

The war in the middle east continues to mean rollercoaster diesel prices & our lack of 'youthful' volunteers means we must rely on subcontract collectors, so our collection fees (\$50 for 2 items, a scale of fees for more) continue to help cover our costs mid-week.

Thanks to most donors for understanding, we are still collecting lots of pre-loved treasure and our clients still have amazing choice!



Thanks too to the many donors who are dropping their goods in to our warehouse!!

We're open:

Saturdays & Mondays: 10 – 1.30pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 10 – 3pm

To donate goods please email: donatedgoods@rimern.org.au

To volunteer: volunteers@rimern.org.au

To join as a member agency or Club: support@rimern.org.au

WHAT DO WE NEED NOW??



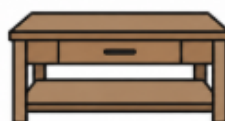
Chest of drawers



Bedside units



TV stands



Coffee tables



Good quality cookware & utensils



Always fridges and washing machines

HOW ELSE CAN YOU SUPPORT RIMERN?

Please follow **Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network** on LinkedIn, our RIMERN page on Facebook and spread the word!



Volunteer with us!
Email us at volunteers@rimern.org.au



Donate furniture, appliances and homewares:
donatedgoods@rimern.org.au



Join as a member agency or Club
support@rimern.org.au



Donate money:

DONATE



We're always looking for more regular volunteers for a range of roles and days. Stay connected and don't miss out on the impact we're making. Follow us now on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram for important updates, and opportunities to be involved.



Instagram



LinkedIn



Facebook

RIMERN IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT OF 23 ROTARY CLUBS WHO PROVIDE FUNDING, VOLUNTEERS AND DRIVE TO SUPPORT SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE INNER MELBOURNE AREA.

Rotary Albert Park, Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Carlton, Central Melbourne, Chadstone East Malvern, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Flemington Kensington, Glenferrie, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Malvern, Melbourne, Moreland, North Balwyn, North Melbourne, Pascoe Vale, Port Philip, Prahran & Preston.



MORE CLUBS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!