

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – April 2021

1. Why are Rotary Clubs joining together to establish Rotary Inner Melbourne Relief Network as a Centenary of Rotary in Australia project?

Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN) in Mitcham was established as a joint Rotary, Lions and City of Whitehorse project 26 years ago to provide donated furniture, appliances and household essentials to people coming out of homelessness, domestic violence, jail, natural disaster and other situations of need.

Five years ago EERN helped the Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) set up to provide the same service in the western suburbs, and today 15 Rotary Clubs are active members of this vital community service project.

Both EERNS work with clients introduced by member social workers and support agencies, and supply thousands of dollars worth of goods to many hundreds of people every year.

In inner Melbourne there was a gap, a huge need for material support for the same type of clients that EERN and WERN support, and Rotary Prahran Community Service Chair Mike Scott, (also Community Services Manager at Uniting Prahran, formerly the Prahran Mission, and more recently a City of Stonnington councillor who works with support agencies and clients in need every day) asked “why don’t we establish an Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network?” Rotary Prahran had some funds allocated for a Men’s Shed that didn’t eventuate, the brand ‘Rotary’ was proudly added to the name, and the project was planned last August.

Like Donations In Kind is to international service, RIMERN will be to local community service, a collective project that will enable clubs to work together, to join in meaningful, “hands on service”, supporting vulnerable people in our own back yards for years to come.

2. Where will RIMERN be located?

The steering committee searched for nine months for a free or ‘peppercorn rental’ premises in our target area of Port Melbourne (including Fisherman’s Bend), South Melbourne/Southbank, Prahran, Richmond, North & West Melbourne, Kensington.... even as far south as Moorabbin and south east to East Bentleigh, but despite canvassing politicians, government agencies, developers, agents, landlords et al, we were searching in “the high rent district” and nothing was available other than at around \$190psm or around \$100,000pa rent for the required 500m2 warehouse.

This month we found our future home! A 770m2, 2 level warehouse (with goods lift) in East Brunswick, close to the city, the freeway and support agencies, at a rental that, with our strategic partner/sub-tenant Canard Solutions and enough Rotary

clubs on board, is affordable, with all the features we need to make RIMERN a success!

3. Who are Canard Solutions (Cansol)?

Canard Solutions specialise in managing decluttering, downsizing and estates, and for the last five years have been a significant donor of furniture and household goods to EERN, WERN and other charities. They are growing and need more space and by sharing premises, they will direct donations of goods to RIMERN, provide warehouse and transport support and be an invaluable financial help in sharing the rent and outgoings. Canard's founder is Prahran PP & District 9800 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair Sue Vincent's brother, Susie Cole's son-in-law's father & thus a well known and supportive partner to RIMERN. Learn more about Canard Solutions here: <https://cansol.com.au/>

4. What does RIMERN need to succeed?

We have offers of donated goods, we have support agencies ready to refer clients in need, we have found the premises we want Now we need YOU, *your Rotary Club to become a member* and commit what you can towards supporting the rent and overheads for the next three years (minimum \$1,000 pa, more if you can), *some of your members to get involved* in the running of the project (there are lots of different ways, some in the warehouse, others on the phone or computer) and for RIMERN to truly become a collaborative project of up to 31 Rotary clubs from Districts 9800 and 9790.

5. What will it cost to operated RIMERN?

Rent + outgoings will cost \$65,000pa but we have a sub-tenant, Canard Solutions, who specialise in managing downsizing and estates, who will be paying half!

After the sub-tenant's contribution, RIMERN will need to generate around \$55,000pa to operate effectively.

6. How will RIMERN be funded?

Set up costs, including building security deposit and rent in advance, is being funded by Rotary Prahran (\$27,500).

Last year, when RIMERN was first floated as a Centenary project, four clubs (Southbank, Glen Eira, Malvern & Albert Park) verbally committed to becoming members and contributing to the rent, on the basis of \$3,000 in the first year and \$2,000 per year for the second and third years. The steering committee did not require written commitments because until we'd found premises RIMERN was just a brilliant idea, not a functioning reality, so now is the time!

RIMERN needs at least 15 Rotary clubs as members, contributing a *minimum* of \$1,000 per year for the 3 years of our initial lease (but more if possible please)

RIMERN will also sell selected donated items that are of good quality but not suitable for donating to the clients referred by the support agencies (too big, too antique, too odd etc) and generate funds from these online sales.

RIMERN will also apply for Grants, philanthropic donations and corporate

sponsorships, to ensure the operating costs are always well covered.

7. Who will manage/operate RIMERN?

All Member Clubs will be invited to nominate two members to the RIMERN Committee of Management and once there are 20 representatives they will elect a Board of eight (as at WERN & EERN) to manage the project.

8. What does RIMERN need NOW??

We urgently need commitment to Membership, so that we can commit to a lease and open the doors to donations and get member support agencies on board. The longer we wait, the more likelihood there is of us losing the premises we've found but like any commercial operation, we can't commit without your support, please join us?

9. Where can we get more information?

Please contact RIMERN Co-chair, Susie Cole 0414 907 263 or susie.cole@rotaryprahran.org.au



COMMITMENT TO MEMBERSHIP OF RIMERN Inc. ABN 32 118 131 805

The Rotary Club of is pleased to apply for Membership of RIMERN Inc. a joint Centenary of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand project providing donated furniture, appliances and household needs to people introduced by member support agencies across Melbourne.

Our Club commits to contributing financial support in the amount of:

\$..... (minimum \$1,000) in the Rotary year 2020/2021

\$..... (minimum \$1,000) in the Rotary year 2021/2022

\$..... (minimum \$1,000) in the Rotary year 2022/2023

and understands that ongoing support for subsequent rental periods will be requested but is not mandatory.

Our Club regards RIMERN as an opportunity to be involved in a large scale Community Service project across Districts 9800 and 9790 and offers a wide range of ways for our members to be involved in a hands on way. Our Club will be recognised as a member in RIMERN publicity & signage and we may display the RIMERN logo on our Club website to show our support of the project to our community.

Our Club will invite participation from our Members to assist in the following Committees:

1. Volunteer recruitment, training and rostering
2. Donated goods procurement
3. Support Agency recruitment & liaison
4. Grant writing and fundraising
5. Administration including stock records, financial management and KPIs
6. Warehouse management

Our two nominees for the Committee of Management in the 2021/22 Rotary year will be (can be nominated later):

Name:Club Role/Position (Optional)

Contact Email: Phone:

Name:Club Role/Position (Optional)

Contact Email: Phone:

Once there are 20 members in the Committee of Management they will elect a Board of 8 people to oversee the Governance of RIMERN Inc.

Signed:

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Name

.....
Position in Club

.....// 2021

Please email completed Membership Application to:

Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc.
ABN 32 118 131 805

www.rimern.org.au

Contact: susie.cole@rotaryprahran.org.au 0414 907 263 Co-Chair RIMERN Steering Committee