

Rotary

Rotary Club of Seymour

Connecting with our community

Contact us at PO Box 80 Seymour 3661, www.rotary-site.org or phone the Secretary Bill on 0438 028868

President : **Ruth Byers**

Secretary : **Bill Dwyer**

Treasurer : **Peter Holland**

No 13 1 October 2025

Coming Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, we gather from 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Date Venue	6 October Royal Hotel	12 October	20 October Royal Hotel
	Guest Speaker Det Sgt Michelle Elliot Family Violence Unit Kilmore Police	Winery Tour Mitchelton and Tahbilk See details below	RYPEN Presentations
Chair	Bonnie Williams		Fiona McCarthy
Toast	John Keefe		Ken Butcher
Cashier	Janina Taylor		Samantha Manning
Greeter	John Barton		John Steres

***If you cannot carry out your duties, please arrange for someone else to do so,
and advise President Ruth or Alison Ha***

There will be no meeting on Monday 13 October

Save the Dates

11 October	SES Annual Awards	Bill
12 October	Winery Tour	Samantha
28 October	Mock Interviews	Fiona
28 November	Say No to Domestic Violence	Ruth

Last Week's Meeting

Apologies were received from *Viv Beaumont, Greg Byers, Mark Dossor, Liam Jones, Fiona McCarthy, and Janina Taylor.*

PP Mark Dossor had planned to attend, but was simply not well enough to do so.

President Ruth opened the meeting welcoming our guests: His Worship the Mayor Cr John Dougall, Rotarian Craig Hoath, and St Mary's student Ranjike Dissanayake and her father Yenuli. Renuki visited us as part of her Junior Community Award work.

Ruth sought assistance from members in helping at the Show next weekend.

She also asked that members respond to the request for indication of attendance or non-attendance at our weekly meetings. It makes catering so much easier if we can provide accurate numbers to the Royal.

There will be no meeting on 13 October, the day following the Winery Tour. Please respond to Sam Manning. (*Details below.*)



The first item of business was the induction of new member John Stares, who had been proposed by John Barton. Whilst John is perhaps best known to members for his knife and utensil sharpening business, most of us were not aware that he was a State, National and World Woodchopping Champion! Members welcomed John in the usual way.

Bill Dwyer referred to his note regarding the SES Annual awards Night, and asked members to note that it will be held on **Saturday** 11 October. Following presentations, a light supper will be offered. Response ASAP by e-mail to Christine Welsh, Unit Controller christine.welsh@ses.vic.gov.au.

New member John Stares with Membership Chair Bonnie Williams

David Palmer told us that the **Seymour Performers' Workshop** had been nominated in the Georgie Awards in 5 categories, including his daughter Livani. We wish them good luck in what is the country equivalent of the Logies.

Whilst Treasurer Peter had no report, he did thank Alison for standing in whilst he was away.



For our raffle: Catriona took the wine, and Alison the chocs (again). Joker Poker went once again to Bill, who once again couldn't pick the right card.

Guest Speaker

Cr John Dougall is new to the Council, having joined at the last elections. He was then elected Mayor by his colleagues. Whilst he has no prior local government history, John came to the role with extensive management and business experience.

Following graduation in Economics from Macquarie, at 21 John decided that daily commuting to the city to a white collar job was not for him. Following a Careers Day at the university, he applied to join the ADF, which led to 18 months at Duntroon. Following that he was transferred to Townsville, and then on to a series of postings which led to a series of jobs which challenged, generated experience and induced confidence. He then saw overseas service in the Middle East. His last Army job before retiring in April 2024 was working for the Chief of Army running the business of Army.

John brings to Council no preconceived ideas, but a strong knowledge of how things work in this world.

Chairman Alison Hall put to the Mayor questions which had been submitted by members including:

What's Happening to the Seymour Community Hub?

The design is out for comment, and it is hoped that the community will offer some feedback to contribute to the detailed design.

Why does Mitchell not have a hard rubbish collection?

The Mayor confirmed that the Shire has no plans for introducing a hard rubbish collection.

Vouchers issued with Rates Notices should help cover this. Mitchell Shire is spread widely, and there is the question of cost effectiveness to be considered.



Mayor John Dougall being presented with his memento by Chair Alison Hall

Other discussion centred on the Council's Youth Engagement Officer, the Seymour Sharks swimming club and the cost of hiring the pool (expenditure on pools \$5m, income \$2m) and a bus service at Beveridge where residents having to travel to Wallan for supplies (bus services is a state government issue).

Chairman Alison thanked John, wished him well, and expressed the view that we are glad that he is in charge. She presented him with a copy of Love Thy Sister.

In closing the meeting, President Ruth told us that she was proud of the club's achievements, everyone having banded together in service work over the past few months.

Winery Tour

Samantha has planned a great day for us on Sunday 12 October.

In summary, we will arrive at Mitchelton at 10.30, and have a tour of the winery. This will be followed by lunch. Lunch can be self-provided on the lawn, or taken in the Provedore Café. If eating in the Café, bookings are essential. A menu was circulated by President Ruth in her e-mail of 28 September.

After lunch, travel to Tahbilk for a Wetlands Boat Tour, followed by more tastings.

A bus will take up to 26 passengers if you do not wish to drive. The Wetlands boat carries 30.

Samantha needs the following information by next Sunday 5 October.

Are you going?

Do you have guests?

Will you travel on the bus? Leaves IGA at 10.00am.

At Mitchelton will you provide your picnic lunch or will you eat at the café?

The cost of the travel is \$30. Purchase of wine and lunch is at your cost.

Please advise Samantha if you wish to go on this excursion:. 0434 865 765 or samantha-manning@outlook.com.

Thought for the Day

Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.