



Bulletin #15 2023-2024

President Greg Byers **Secretary** Catriona Jarman **Treasurer** Peter Holland

Next meeting is at the Royal Hotel at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Duty Rota

If you cannot fulfill your duties please arrange someone else and inform Pres. .

Date	23rd October	30th October	6th November
Guest Speaker	Shane Elliot Seymour Flexible Learning	TO BE CONFIRMED WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS	THE ROYAL ROTARY BIRDCAGE
Chair	Ruth Byers	David Freeman	TBA
Greeter	Ian Chadwick	Alan Walton	
Loyal Toast	Sue Goette	Peter Holland	
Cashier	Mary Greenshields	Ann Pritchard	

Invocation ALL

*For Good Food, Good Fellowship and the Opportunity to Serve through
Rotary We Give Thanks*

This week's Bulletin is brought to you curtesy of Catriona Jarman and Jane Challis. Thank you.

The Bulletin – Rotary Meeting 16th October 2023

Chair Alison Hall commenced the meeting by calling on Jane Challis (in lieu of Fiona McCarthy) for the Loyal Toast which was in honour of the Rotary Club of Zurich Turicum in Switzerland (chosen by Fiona as it is the last Rotary Club to be listed alphabetically). Chartered in 1998, the Club has 73 members who meet on Wednesdays for alternate lunch and dinner meetings. Projects include:

Scholarships for intelligent but needy students in Kenya and the Philippines

Sponsorship for 'This Priis' which is an initiative that awards an annual prize to companies offering people with disabilities a job in their company

Support for the Swiss Muscle Society which strives for a future in which all people with a muscle disease can live their best lives possible.

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or call the Secretary (Catriona) on 0419372481

Rotarians' guests included Chris Chadwick, Eileen Freeman, Mathew Fowler and Samantha Manning.

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Reports came from:

Mark Dossor provided positive feedback regarding the weekend market. Special acknowledgment went to **John Keeffe** for his commitment to the event and both **Peter Holland** and **Chris Bence** for their clean-up efforts. Word of the success of the Rotary market is spreading and consequently an additional 22 vendors have now been placed on the waiting list. Mark encouraged all members rostered on for the day to stay as long as possible after their shift to support this exercise in PR.

Catriona Jarman reported that over the weekend she had received a community award on behalf of the Rotary Club at the Seymour Hub's commemoration of the anniversary of last year's floods. This award is in recognition of the work performed by the Club in providing meals for local flood affected residents in the days following the event, and for the donation of approximately 35 direct debit cards to local households.

Ruth Byers reminded everyone that there are car raffle tickets to be sold and also that assistance is required to distribute Trivia Night flyers to local businesses; letters for donations of goods are to be sent out shortly.

Jane Challis notified the group that the Club's website is now live and remains a work in progress. Thanks go to Liam Jones for his invaluable input. As Rotary support is provided through a Club in Wales, the cost of a \$180 annual fee is reasonable especially as this subscription goes towards the Rotary Foundation. Type 'Rotary Club of Seymour' into Google to view the layout.

Family of Rotary – Viv Beaumont let Club members know that he had recently run into past Club member **Xenia Williams** who visits Seymour regularly from Geelong to exercise her horses.

Ian Chadwick notified everyone that **Janina Taylor** had developed a post operative infection and was not feeling well – phone calls would be welcomed. **Trevor Harmes** is now recovering at home following knee surgery.

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The **Seymour Performer's Workshop** members were unable to perform owing to an unexpected meeting. Fortunately the director of the forthcoming performance of 'Legally Blonde', Olivia King, was able to provide a brief overview of the play which is due to run in November. The **SPW** celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and was originally established by a core of interested talented Seymour residents whose aim was to provide a local theatrical group. Performers for 'Legally Blonde' are coming from as far away as Wodonga to participate in this musical which is expected to be a hit with the general public.

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Alison Hall additionally provided the Rotary Club with a talk based on her recent visit to the Cygnet Bay pearl farm in WA. She provided background to the development of the **South Seas Pearling** industry established in the region.

Originally the indigenous population used the Mother of Pearl shells for carving purposes and it wasn't until the **1870's** that the Mother of Pearl fishing industry commenced. This was due to the need for buttons as plastic had yet to be invented. By **1899** Mikimoto from Japan had learned the art of creating cultured pearls and by **1910** the industry was supplying Mother of Pearl to 80% of the world's population. In **1922** cultured pearling became illegal so as not to destroy the natural pearl market.

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In **1940** the industry collapsed owing to the invention of plastic. **1960** saw the ability of the first manufacturer outside of Japan to successfully culture pearls which led to the peak of the South Seas Pearling Industry during the **1990s**.

By **1998** it had declined due primarily to climate change.

Alison spoke about the growing of the Pinctada Maxima which is famous as a large lustrous pearl.

The development of this pearl is labour intensive as it takes about 4 years to grow, thus making it 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. The shells need to be cleaned once a month until the time when they can be seeded and then, once seeded, the nacre takes 2 years to develop. Each shell produces only one pearl. Following harvest, pearls are valued on their size, lustre, and roundness of shape. There are a variety of colours with grey and pink proving to be the most popular.



Caring for pearls is relatively easy as they only require washing in water and then patting dry. Soaps or detergents are not required and ironically they do not like salt water. Contact with chemicals of all types is to be avoided, especially perfume and makeup, and pearls should be stored in isolation from other jewellery.

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Fines Session:

Fine recipients were **John Keeffe** for his market gin purchases; **Jane Challis** who blamed her own purchases on her daughter; **Paulette Andrews** for her ability to find a quick cup of coffee; **John** again for receiving a phone call during the meeting; **Dave Freeman** for receiving a 'Good Citizenship' award, and **Paulette**

generally fined Rotarians for occupying the several chairs that she had relocated at the market for her own use.

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Raffle Winners:

Chris Chadwick took home the bottle of wine; **Alison Hall** won the chocolates and new Club member **Bill Dwyer** turned over the Ace of Diamonds in Joker Poker.

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Next Week's Meeting:

Guest Speaker – **Shane Elliot; Seymour Flexible Learning**

Chair – **Ruth Byers**

Greeter – **Ian Chadwick**

Loyal Toast – **Sue Goette**

Cashier – **Mary Greenshields**

Please organise a replacement if you are unable to perform your duty.