

Bulletin #24 2023-2024

President Greg Byers Secretary Catriona Jarman Treasurer Peter Holland

Next meeting is to be advised in New Year

Duty Rota

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

Date	7th January 2024 Vocation and	15th January TBA	22nd January TBA
Guest Speaker	Social Meeting Kingleake flower and Berry farm		
Chair	See information further into the		
Greeter			
Loyal Toast			
Cashier			

Invocation ALL

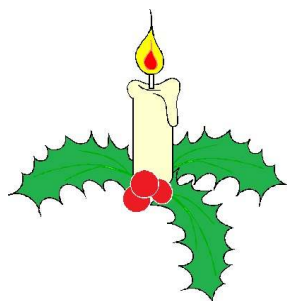
*For Good Food, Good Fellowship and the Opportunity to Serve through
Rotary We Give Thanks*



Contact us at PO Box 80, Seymour. 3661, or Seymour@rotary9790.org.au

or call the Secretary (Catriona) on 0419372481

The Members of Rotary Seymour wish to Thank Leone and Fred for the use of the Shed and their hospitality at our Xmas Party on the 18th. 24 people enjoyed the food and fellowship that was had at this year's celebrations.



Sergeant at Arms fine session—there were only 2 fines tonight; Pres Greg incurred a fine for not checking his calendar and was a day early for the school awards, while Mark incurred a fine for being forgetful and not taking ID when going to Pucka for the school awards. (They wouldn't let him enter.)

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Upcoming Events			
2024			
January	26	Australia Day Celebrations	John Keefe
February	17	Market Day	Mark Dosser
	25	Charity Golf Day	Peter Holland
March	16	Market Day	Mark Dosser
March/April	28th,29th—1st	Shake the Can	Ruth Byers

Raffle Prizes at the Xmas Party Samantha got the wine and Matt the chocs.



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Now that our 2023 meetings have finished, our first get together for 2024 will be a tour of the flower farm at Kinglake (the bus will depart Seymour at 9.45am) on Sunday 7th January. This will be followed by lunch at the Kinglake pub and afterwards there will be a further vocational visit to Blueberry Hill Farm which is owned and run by our previous AG Nina Lunde. Numbers will need to be in by 2nd January to organise transport so please let Ruth, Jane or myself know of your availability to attend.



Today we introduce you to Nina and Rowan, first generation blueberry farmers from Victoria.

The farm.

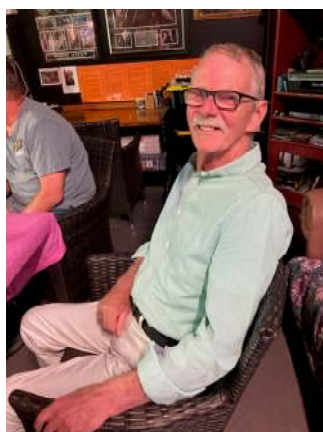
Nina Marie Lunde and Rowan Francis own and run 'Blueberry Hill Farm', a 24 hectare property located in Kinglake, Victoria. The farm boasts five hectares of berry plants that include Blackberries, Red Currants, Blueberries and the premium and rare Krimson Kiss berry. Large covers shelter the berry plants as a way to protect the delicate fruit from birdlife feasting on the crops. Rowan points out that these birds account for 50 per cent of the farms average annual losses.

Background

Nina arrived to Australia as a backpacker 1986. By 1989, she had planted her first berry plant in the Kinglake region of Victoria. Rowan, a graduate from Melbourne University's Agricultural College, was originally a dairy farmer, but quit dairy for berry and helped Nina with the setup of Blueberry Hill farm. The farm has grown in spades since then.

The downfall and new beginnings.

In 2009, the duo were left devastated as the 'Black Saturday' bushfires ripped through the region destroying their entire property, bar the house, which they fought through the flames to save. The two thought that was the end of their business, but with darkness, comes kindness and generosity. The community volunteered over 2500 hours of their time to help get the farm cleaned up. This inspired the two to make Blueberry Hill Farm better than ever.



Merry Christmas
and a happy new year

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