

Bulletin #26, 2023-2024

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

Next meeting is at the Royal Hotel 22nd January, at 1830 for 1900hours.

Duty Rota

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

Date	22nd January	29th January	5th February
Guest Speaker	Club night Behind the badge	Bowls night with Lions club at Seymour Bowls	TBC
Chair	Ruth Byers	Alison Hall	
Greeter	Ann Pritchard		
Loyal Toast	Bill Dwyer		
Cashier	Peter Holland		

Invocation ALL

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

After having a beautiful day out last Sunday, we start regular meetings with a Club night and Behind the badge.



Gathering ready to pick blueberries



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

or call the Secretary (Catriona) on 0419372481

Upcoming Events			
2024			
<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
January	26	Australia Day Celebrations	John Keefe
February	17	Community Market	Mark Dosser
	25	Charity Golf Day	Peter Holland

Sunday 14th January, 2024 saw the Seymour Rotary Club gather for an outing to Kinglake. There were 17 members involved; 14 travelled by bus and 3 used their own transport.

The first stop was the Castella Blueberry farm, however the bus decided that maybe they should visit a raspberry farm on the way. Ooops wrong location. Eventually we gathered and those who wished to pick blueberries were given a bucket, then released into the orchard. Fighting overgrowing branches and thick plants members were able to gather between 500gms and 2kgs of berries which had to be paid for at \$18 kilo. An hour later we met by the bus, before heading off to the Kinglake Pub for a very nice lunch.

Now! How can 2 people, practised in checking bus loads of people, count 14 instead of 13 remains a mystery; but poor Tony W. was left behind in the berry orchard, probably hidden by the trees. Ron was asked to go back to find him, however the Berry farmer kindly brought Tony to the lunch venue, where he was cheered, apologised to and provided with a beer. Ron followed him in a little later.

(We wont name Jane, a teacher and Matt who has transported aged people in the past, as those who can't count.)



The Castella Berry orchard is a small part of a bigger farm but the 1/2 acre packs a lot in. There are several hundred trees in the orchard covering 5 varieties and can produce in excess of 1.2 tonnes of blueberries a year. All berries are sold from the orchard, over the summer months, by visitors self picking.



At Lunch at the pub. The meals were delicious and the staff friendly.

All enjoyed their meal.



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Arriving at the Kinglake Pub, we all enjoyed the meal and fellowship before heading off to the Flower farm. We hope to revisit the pub again.

After lunch we visited the Seed and Stem flower farm.

Our hostess only started involvement with flowers during Covid and now works hard all year. This farm mainly grows Dahlias in various sizes and colours. But also grows smaller batches of flowers and foliage that can be used in flower arrangements. She and her husband work at several local markets as well as supplying some florists in Melbourne.



Having toured the fields, we gathered and some of us purchased dahlia corms. From here we made our way to Nina's farm.

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Nina's Blueberry Hills Berry farm is on around 24 acres in Kinglake. Here Nina and her partner grow several varieties of blueberry, red currants and is trialling a new variety of berry. They provide their produce to a co-operative which then distributes the berries to stores and markets around Victoria. While most of the crop is protected from pesky berry loving birds some still get attacked by the birds who seem to prefer the green red currants

Nina's day starts around 0400, checking the weather to see if all is well for picking, then organising the pickers to come. The crop is picked, weighed then packed for shipment to the distribution centre. Nina's day may not finish until around 2300hours during picking season.

After learning about Nina's farm we were given afternoon tea by Nina and Sharon another member of Kinglake Rotary. All home made cakes and muffins and all very tasty.

At around 1600 we said our goodbyes loaded up the bus and cars ensuring all were present then heading home. Since lunch Tony has ensured he was not left behind again by being first on the bus.

Rotary Club of Seymour would like to thank Sharon from Kinglake for organising this outing and the rebooking after the weather delay, Greg Byers for organising the bus and driving it, Ruth Byers for facilitating the outing and all members who attended.



On 8th January, when Seymour had the Flood Scare, 1 enterprising Rotarian organised for us to cook food for the SES volunteers who were filling and supplying sand bags. So, Dave Palmer, Ian Chadwick, Paulette Andrews and Chris Chadwick got the BBQ out of the Shed and provided snags and hamburgers to those workers.

Thank you for your timely service folks.

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