



Bulletin #27, 2023-2024

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

Next meeting is at Seymour Bowls Club at 1730hrs for 1600hrs roll off;
Dinner to follow at 1900hrs

Duty Rota

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

Date	29th January	5th February	12th February
Guest Speaker	Bowls night with Lions club at Seymour Bowls Club	Visit to Seymour Railway Station	TBC
Chair	Alison Hall		
Greeter			
Loyal Toast			
Cashier			

Invocation ALL

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



Tonight's Chair John Keeffe called us to order, then asked Mary to lead the Invocation.

Next Bill D. gave us the royal toast followed by the toast to Australia and finally the toast to the international Rotary Club of Guaranda in Ecuador. It was chartered in 2019 but only had small numbers. However their first project was to provide clean water to a nearby indigenous village. Together with a German Club they applied for a Rotary grant of \$50k and when given, used it to provide all the equipment necessary to bring clean water to the village. They are currently planning on providing clean water to another village.

They maybe small but they are Creating Hope in the World.

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
	26	Membership night	Mark Dosser
March	9-11	Shake the can	TBC
April	19-21	District Conference	

Reports.

The President and the Secretary had no report.

The Treasurer asked members to pay any outstanding fees ASAP please.

Mark - reminder that the next market is 4 weeks away on 18th February. There have been 140+ applications for stalls at the market; some have been refused due to being inappropriate for this market or have doubled up on already existing stallholders.

26th February is our next membership night so, please look out for prospective members in the community.

Kathy - spoke about the District Conference in April. The cost now is dearer but you can still attend if you wish. So far, Ian and Chadwick and Kathy and David Mills are going, they are currently looking at accommodation.

Ruth - Program -

We went to Kinglake over the weekend and had a lovely time. The meals at the Kinglake Pub are very good so we hope to revisit later this year. It is hoped we can co-ordinate this outing with a visit to the Protea farm and a whisky distillery.

Bowls night is next Monday at Seymour Bowls Club, the cost is \$25 each. We arrive at 1730 for a game start at 1800, dinner will follow at 1900; it will be BBQ food and salad, followed by a dessert. 5th February sees us at the Seymour Railway station followed by dinner at the Royal. There is the Golf day on 25th and over Labour day weekend we will Shake the Can.

Sue Goette has indicated she will resign from Seymour Rotary after being told she has to vacate her property in the next 8 weeks or so. She thinks she will move to the south eastern suburbs to be near her family. We are saddened to hear this and wish her well after her move.

John then gave an update on Australia Day. While the response from members has been good we still require a few more so the job is easier. The Ambassador this year is Shelly Hamilton who has both a shop and a caravan park to run. This year there are several community groups coming to show people what Seymour has to offer.



Behind the badge

Hi my name is Mathew Fowler. My sister, brother, mother and father came from the UK in 1971, as 20 pound poms as they came out on a plane not a boat so dad could get work.

Soon after I was born in the Royal Women's Hospital, in Melbourne, in 1979. I was 6 weeks early due to my mum's high blood pressure.

On a plus we got, from the government, an electric hot water service to replace the old brickette one, a new washing machine and a phone on the wall in the dining room, so no one had to go out to the phone box in our street if the doctor was needed to be called.

Growing up, due to me having an older sister with kids she would be mistaken for my mum and my mum for my nana. As my mum was 35 when she had me this was very annoying. At school the kids were unkind and school assignments required you to have grandparents.

My nephews were often mistaken as my brothers.

And having no other relations in Australia was a problem that was soon fixed by my mum and dads' friends in the Seymour community, that took on the role.

All my education was had in Seymour.

An interesting fact is that my sister 61, my brother 58, my 2 nephews 40 and 38 and I, 44 all had the same high school teachers.

But I am the only one that can say I have looked after the teachers' kids as a childcare worker and now the teachers as a PCA

Since leaving high school in year 12, I have completed a Cert 4 in Hospitality which led to my first job as the cook at the childcare centre at the Seymour TAFE

This then led to me working in the children's rooms, in the afternoon, as a non-qualified childcare worker, a first for a male at the centre.

In later years I also ran and programmed for the before and after school program at Puckapunyal army base. This also included the school holiday program.

At this time, I was also a lunch break reliever in the childcare centre so covered all ages 1 to 12 on daily basis.

Also, a first as a male; as childcare was a very female dominated industry at the time.

I have worked in an aged care home where I was a Personal Carer Attendant. I worked morning and afternoon shifts and also night shifts and weekends. Some of this time I was still working in childcare; so at one stage my youngest was 1 and my eldest was 101

As a PCA I was a jack of all trades so when needed I worked in the Kitchen, Laundry and as the Maintenance officer, in charge of the building and grounds and gardening.

After I completed my Activities and Lifestyle course and I programed for and ran bus trips, inhouse entertainment and an important bingo and craft program. I, also, worked with the volunteers.

I often had late night cups of tea and chats with residents that could not sleep, were feeling unwell or were scared on stormy nights.

As a PCA I have worked in the palliative care area with both the clients and their families and friends, supporting and caring for them at this time was both hard and rewarding at the same time. I feel it takes someone very caring to do this part of the job properly

I now work at Nexus Primary Health, as a support worker Tuesday to Thursday; where I am rostered to shower, shopping, cleaning and respite shifts.

I am often told by my clients that having me in their home is like have their son or grandson over, due to the amount of talking I do, but when I am gone, they still have food in their fridge and cupboards and of course their house is clean.

I love what I am currently doing as it keeps people in their homes for longer and for some people it provides them with someone to talk to.

Clients say they enjoy their shopping trips with me as well as fun car trips.

I am a Diversity officer at Nexus Primary Health on a Monday where I run LGBTIQ+ groups with the local schools for students 12 to 18 and a Nexus community group for LGBTIQ+ people, 18 and over.

I am also, part of the Nexus Diversity committee, so you could say I am still a jack of all trades.

Thanks for listening to my story and I look forward to adding to the above. Starting with the day I left Tony behind on my first Rotary bus trip, to Kinglake lol.

But I must say I did not let the bus hit anything as it was going backwoods or go off the road as it turned around.

I am very grateful to be a Rotarian, thank you all for having me and to Ruth for the invite to the club. I look forward to working with you all in the future.



Peter H. was up next.

Golf Day - the advertising flyers for the day have been passed out and at present there are 4 teams registered to play. Next week he will require help to find donors and sponsors. Watch for emails.

As Treasurer Peter presented a powerpoint on the state of the Club's finances. This has not been done before and members were interested. They now understand the financial sheets that they get after each Board meeting.



Raffle—Mary won the chocs and Cathy L. won the wine

Fine Session. In the absence of our Sergeant at Arms we had fines from the floor. Chaddy would be proud of the reasons for the fines tonight. Many laughs were had by all.

With the Australia Day activities and the Bowls night coming up, our Chair bade us all a good night.



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

or call the Secretary (Catriona) on 0419372481