



Bulletin #36, 25th March 2024

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

Next meeting is at Royal Hotel at 1830hrs for 1900hrs start.

Duty Rota

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

Date	1st April	8th April	15th April
Guest Speaker	Easter Monday No Meeting	Kat Fleming Fitness instructor	TBC
Chair	NA	Alison Hall	
Greeter		David Freeman	
Loyal Toast		Ann Pritchard	
Cashier		Fiona McCarthy	

Invocation ALL

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

Welcome to all - members and especially our guests: Doug Killeen (honourary member and Past President) and his daughter Jenni, Eliot Jarman, Chris Chadwick and the Walton Family.

After the Invocation, we toasted King and country and The Rotary Club of Bendigo.

The Rotary Club of Bendigo was the 8th Club in Australia, the 2nd in Victoria and the 1st Club outside the metropolitan area. It was sponsored by the RC Melbourne and chartered on June 30, 1925. Since then Bendigo has sponsored 6 Rotary clubs in the region.

They meet every Tuesday at 1300 for lunch and try to meet 1 evening each month, for dinner if possible. Bendigo now has 70 members. The RC Bendigo supports the East Timor Knitting Project, Education and classroom support in Samoa and building support in Nepal. Locally the Easter Art Show is a big commitment in Bendigo.



Upcoming Events			
<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
March	29 - 1st April	Shake the can	Ruth Byers
April	4	Provide dinner to SES for Exercise	Peter Holland
	21	Community Market	Mark Dossor
	19-21	District Conference	
	22	Membership Night	Mark Dossor
May	18	70th Anniversary	TBA
	19	Community Market	Mark Dossor

Reports.

Ruth - Shake the Can has be organised for the Easter weekend; Northbound service centre Thursday evening and Friday. And Southbound service centre Monday afternoon. Please indicate your availability to help on the list going round.

Mark - Mark indicated the District Congress over the last weekend was very instructive and the best he's yet attended. He attended with Peter, Catriona and Fiona.

Also, the invitations to prospective members will be sent out this weekend. A reminder that the membership evening is the 22nd April at the Bowls Club; finger food with drinks at bar prices will be available.

Jane - indicated that she would be away for April so Kathy will take on the role organising numbers for dinner each week. Also the website was now fully functioning. Liam is our trusty webmaster.

Jenny (Doug Killeen's Daughter) Is a member of RC Albert Park and involved with the Eclub of 9790. She told us that the refurbishment of the shed (the old cable factory) at Broadford was nearly complete. When up and running would be looking after smaller medical donations to be forwarded to recipients overseas. The Eclub would support medical and medical educational projects. There is a working bee coming up if anyone is interested.

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Tonight we celebrate our Living Legends - Alan Walton, David Freeman and John Keefe.

Mark - Alan Walton

To help celebrate tonight and unbeknownst to Alan, his family was invited. Alan was somewhat overcome when they entered.



One of the by products of Rotary membership is the wonderful people you meet. Tonight, I would like to acknowledge a man who has been part of our club for coming up to 26 years.

My confidential informant tells me that Alan Walton was born and raised in Cohuna, northern Victoria, along with twin brother Brian. He had two other brothers, unfortunately he lost his older brother Ron late last year. He lost his father when he was very young. His mother remarried.

Alan left school at 14. One of his first job was as a lolly boy in the local theatre and then in the local grocery store. With the outdoors in his veins, he then found a job with the Forest Commission and then the Lands Department. These jobs had him, with his crew, surveying timber deposits throughout the region, riding in on horseback in the area to conduct the work. He would often be away for days at a time. Later on, in his career vermin and noxious weed control was his specialty.

Alan and Norma married at 11am in Cohuna, as all people in the district did because the priority on your wedding day was getting the cows milked in the morning. Alan and Norma have been married for 60 years on February 29th. They have two boys, Ian and Stuart and three grandchildren, Danielle, Grant and David. They are all with us today along with Norma.

After some time in Meringar and Piangel, Alan and Norma relocated to Seymour, mainly to give son Ian easy access to schooling. They have been here ever since.

Always a community person, he was scout leader in Cohuna and eventually became a Queens Scout. He had also been involved with Parent Teacher Associations as secretary. He is still a keen bowler and is proud of his CFA service.

Alan and Norma have travelled on the Ghan, and to Vietnam and New Zealand. If missing at home he will be found in the garden which gives him enormous satisfaction. A regular workout at Serge Prados gym is part of his weekly routine. My confidential informer tells me he is an avid reader and could read a brown paper bag.

Alan completed his work as a farm labourer around Seymour and retired at 75! Alan has been a valued member of our Rotary club for 25years, joining us on 23rd June 1998 and has been actively involved in numerous Rotary projects and activities. His recent passions have been outstanding work in battery collection, which has raised 1000's of dollars over the years and our bowelscan initiatives.

He has also been a keen supporter of the Rotary Foundation and his overflowing little money boxes are almost legendary among Foundation committee chairs. Alan was the recipient of Paul Harris fellowship recognition in 2009, 2015 and 2021.

(It was at this moment that Mark presented Alan with a new cardboard money box as the previous one could no longer be used). Ed.

Again I would like to acknowledge, with us tonight -Alan's wife Norma, sons Ian and Stuart as well as grandchildren Danielle, Grant and David.

Finally, my confidential informer, who provided this information, finalised our discussion by saying that Alan was a 'good ordinary bloke'. - I would add gentleman.

Thankyou for being one of us Alan





Catriona - David Freeman

Early Life:

David was born on the Isle of Wight on 30th March 1945, one month before the completion of the second world war. He was born into a background of military secrecy as his father was a member of Churchill's secret army and his mother was monitored by the military in her role as a cinema projectionist and required to sign the official secrets act. David was a handsome child, admitting that he had at one time won a beautiful baby contest! Longevity is in his genes as his mother lived well into her late nineties.

David's childhood was a boys' own adventure as he played in the vicinity of a medieval castle called Carisbrooke where King Charles the First was imprisoned before he was transported to the Tower of London for beheading. Living on a small island the size of the Puckapunyal Army Base, David was able to reach the beach by pushbike in any direction within a few minutes. He also went hiking and camping with the Carisbrooke Cubs learning skills that he still uses today.

By his own admission, David was not a scholar and after spending his school years daydreaming out the window and watching Farmer Moody drive his horses along many rows of cabbages and potatoes, David realised that his true interest and talents lay in the field of animal husbandry and his education led him to perform well at the Hampshire College of Agriculture. From there he worked for a local farming group managing sheep and cattle on the island, cropping thousands of bales of hay and straw, and growing wheat, barley and oats – it was hard physical work and probably one of the reasons why David has maintained his physique and level of fitness.

Meeting Eileen:

By 1965, having achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Award in Scouts, David traded in his future desire to become a Queen's Scout and discovered dancing and girls instead.

One evening, David and his mates were visiting a folk club when a couple of nurses sat down behind them and, after chatting, David's group brought them a couple of pints of ale. The liquid lubrication worked because David and his mate were invited back to Eileen's nurses' home for tea and bikkies. They travelled there in David's newly purchased panel van and it was an encounter that appeared to be love at first sight because David announced to his friend afterwards that he had met the girl that he was to marry; this occurred two years later in June 1965.



Daughter Helen arrived in July of 1968 and after considering their future options, David, Eileen and Helen arrived in Sydney in March 1969 aboard the Fairstar on an assisted migration scheme. After a luxurious cruise via the Canary Islands and Capetown, accommodation on arrival in Australia at the Villawood hostel was a Nissan hut. Villawood was a melting pot of nationalities with many migrants not speaking English, and they found it amusing when a Turkish lady arrived at their door one day holding a chicken and a jug, miming that she needed a saucepan in which to cook the chicken as it would not fit in said jug.

Early years in Australia:

After the rustic experience of Australian hospitality at Villawood, David quickly approached several Stock and Station agencies in Sydney and immediately secured a job at Taralga on the Southern tablelands near Crookwell. The family felt right at home because the English weather had followed them as in the first winter there, it snowed. David's first Aussie purchase (which cost most of their savings at the time) was a Holden HD ute to take their possessions to the farm. David was surprised at the lack of technology in use for farming practices in the area and looking back, at the liberal method of purchasing gelignite and detonators via the general store for clearing tree stumps, a situation that would not be possible today.

David and his family remained at Taralga for two and a half years before David trained as an inseminator with the Dairy industry of N.S.W. A son Michael and another daughter Katherine consequently arrived and by 1975 David had travelled many kilometres and inseminated approximately 25,000 cows. It was in 1975 that a depression hit the cattle industry and farmers were disposing of their stock so David's service was no longer viable and after training farmers to inseminate their own cows, he moved again, this time closer to our own neighbourhood.

Life in the Seymour region:

In 1976, David, Eileen and their children came to live at a property called Woodlands near the old Kerrisdale railway station and another son, Brendan, was born around this time. David worked as an inseminator at Terangaville station at Homewood near Yea. The aim of the company that he was working for was to import cattle from New

Zealand that were pregnant to purebred Simmental cattle with the plan to lease them to business people experiencing taxation problems; a purebred calf was guaranteed and David's company were available to manage the cattle for the businessmen! An operating theatre was set up and the transfer of embryos commenced with the aid of Dr Alan Trounson, an Australian pioneer in the field of in vitro fertilisation. It was many years later that David discovered coincidentally that an Honorary Rotarian of our Club, Doug Killeen, was also working with the same doctor in this field however implanting sheep embryos instead. After remaining with the company, the business that



David was working for finally went into liquidation after it received, perhaps not unsurprisingly, an unpayable taxation notice.

It was following this experience that a friend of David's offered him a cottage to live in at Kulaba in the Seymour region, where he became manager, remaining there for 30 years until he retired in 2017. David had found his agricultural niche and this became his dream job. He was responsible for all decision making with profits being directed back into the farm for asset improvement. David was able to expand his role as an educator by affiliating with both the Agricultural Department and Melbourne University. Asian students particularly reciprocated by teaching him about their own countries and agricultural practices.

In 2005, David's efforts were rewarded when he became runner up as Victorian Sheep Farmer of the year, the story featuring in the Weekly Times. Upon departing from Kulaba, David was able to purchase plant and machinery enabling him to continue undertaking contract work. He also grows lucerne on his property in Nagambie and remains involved in sheep shearing and wool classing – farmers don't ever fully retire!

Life in Rotary:

Sponsored by Tom Tehan, David joined the Rotary Club of Seymour on September 2nd 1997 under the classification of Farm Management with Bill Holman as President. David's memory is that he has filled every position in the Club from Corporal to Club President; his own Presidency occurring in 2002/2003. He was bestowed a Paul Harris in 2005 as nominated by Rotarian Jim Peart for service to Community, Agriculture and Landcare, and again with Sapphire in 2015. David's quiet constancy ensures that he is ever present at Club meetings and activities. Owing to the solitary nature of his occupation, David enjoys the camaraderie of catching up on a regular basis with fellow Rotarians.

Community Interests:

David's community involvement is extensive. Aside from Rotary, he has been, or remains involved, with the Seymour Pony Club, the Australian Stock horse Society, the Grassland Society of Southern Australia, the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, the Homewood and Whiteheads Creek Fire Brigades, Whiteheads Creek Landcare and is a Past President and current Head Steward and Life Member of the Seymour Agricultural Society.

Personal Interests:

David's personal interests have centred around the outdoor life including camp drafting (which is a horse and rider working cattle activity), tent pegging (also an equestrian sport) and endurance horse riding. Although he has been unable to pursue team sports since arriving in Australia due to the remoteness of work locations, he was involved in Soccer, Rugby Union and Hockey whilst younger. Today, David has swapped the saddle for a bicycle seat by participating in several ride to Rotary conference events. He has also been successful in sheaf tossing at the Strath Creek sports and still holds the record for this at Marong. Sheaf tossing is a Scottish sporting event where a pitchfork is used to hurl a hessian bag with straw over a horizontal bar above the competitor's head. With each round the bar is raised higher and competitors are gradually eliminated.

Perhaps the more surprising interest of David's is his love of folk music in particular singing Celtic ballads due to the historical nature of the songs. Unfortunately, he is unable to provide us with a rendition tonight as his vocal chords have been affected by raising his voice to sheep dogs in dusty yards. David's music collection is extensive and he has passed on his musical talents to his grandchildren.

David stands by his decision in moving to Australia as one of the best that he has ever made. It has allowed him to pursue his own educational interest by studying farm management courses and gaining a Diploma of Agriculture. Additionally, his children have acquired their own tertiary qualifications and he is a grandfather to 9 grandchildren. He is admiring of his partner Eileen who has been with him 'through thick and thin' for nearly 60 years.

Eileen in her own right is worthy of recognition for her work exceeding 35 years as a District Nurse in caring for the Seymour community. David is also grateful to his past employers John Berger and Philip



Cornish for providing him with the freedom to try new farming techniques and management practices which have proven to have long term benefits.

Finally, David is happy to put his English heritage behind him and to disassociate from the 'overners' or people from the English mainland who visit the Isle of Wight. He says that he is not really a 'Pom' but a Vectenian, so named after the Roman island of Vectis, as those from the Isle of Wight are known. He feels proud overseas when he is identified as Australian by his accent - and anyone who has owned the Aussie icons of both a panel van and a ute in their lifetime and spent decades working the Australian land are certainly worthy of this recognition.

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Greg - John Keefe

John was born on the 25 November 1939 in Parramatta, Sydney NSW. The year World War 2 started. (John had nothing to do with that.)

John lived in Parramatta on and off for 30 years.

John's parents were John Richard Keefe and Brenda Evelyn Keefe. I believe John's dad was actually in the American Navy because the RAN wouldn't take him. John's mum pretty much looked after the house and raised the children. Apparently, back then, women were frowned upon if they worked. John has a sister; her name Maureen.

In the early days John was very keen in journalism, at school he started the local school newspaper, and later he wrote articles for a local bicycle club.

Over the years John had a very diversified job portfolio. From selling ice-creams, journalism, managing service stations, and truck driver.

In his early days John was a keen cyclist, until he became a licenced driver. John realised the need for speed.

John worked for VW, Volvo and the British Motor Corporation (BMC)

John had ago at car racing. But due to a lack of sponsorship, (he had to pay for his own driving) This didn't last long.

John later worked for Volvo. As a sales manager

In 1969 John became the CEO of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport. CAMS, John was CEO for 20 years. John was involved in motor sport for 24 years. John reckons this was the best job ever, visiting Paris 5 times a year, Asia and the South Pacific. At this time John was the Track Safety Officer.

John and his team bought F1 racing to Australia in Adelaide. John was chairman of the racing organising committee for 7 years

For his services to Motor Sport John received an AOM. John is also the recipient of CAMS - Motorsport Australia Award of Merit.

John did, so many things in rallying, including the World Rallying Championship in Perth. In 1993 John was a senior official on the committee to organise the London to Sydney rally. He travelled all over the world.

John reflects that even though, his life, was very exciting. It was Jill who had to pick up the pieces. John and Jill had two boys, Aaron, the eldest who has 2 children and Timothy who has 3 children.

In 1998 John and Jill moved to Seymour. After a while Jill asked John to get a job so he did. John got a job at the Seymour bus company. John had several roles from front office to workshop supervisor to bus driver.



The Olympics

As part of the Sydney Olympic planning various bus companies were asked to send buses for transport of Olympians and support people. John drove one of those buses and fondly remembers transporting two groups of First Nations people to and from activities. He was even asked to stay at one venue. He was very taken by what he saw and the music he heard.

Rotarian John

Over the past 20 years John has done everything a Rotarian could do. President, Secretary, Treasurer, Services Chair. Unfortunately John has never been Sergeant at Arms.

Over the last few years John has been instrumental in some new projects. Including Shake the Can, collecting Batteries, and Storage sheds.

In conclusion we thank you for your service and for your friendship.

Thank you John.



We congratulate our deserving Legends - farmer and gentleman David Freeman, an ordinary bloke and gentleman Alan Walton and a quiet and diligent gentleman John Keefe, OAM ASM. All Legends were asked to speak and all expressed their thanks to the Club..



Doug Killen asked to speak and said that as a past 15 year RC Seymour member he enjoyed the community life in a country club. He passed on his personal congratulations to David, Alan and John.

Doug has been in Rotary for 50 years and in Apex for 15 years before that. Doug celebrated his 90th birthday last week so we sang Happy Birthday to him.

No time for the Sergeant tonight .

Raffle prizes to Matt the chocs and Peter the wine.

Greg thanked all for coming especially our guests; Doug Killeen and Jenni, Eliot, Chris and the Walton family.

Good Night.

