

Rotary
 Rotary Club of Seymour
Connecting with our community

Contact us at PO Box 80 Seymour 3661, or www.rotary-site.org or call Secretary Bill on 0419 372 481

President: **Ruth Byers** Secretary: **Bill Dwyer** Treasurer: **Peter Holland**

No 27. 19 January 2026

Coming Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, we gather at 6.30pm for 7pm

DATE / VENUE	26 January Australia Day King's Park	2 February Seymour Bowling Club	9 February Royal Hotel
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	Australia Day No Evening Meeting	Bowls Night With Lions, SES and CFA 2 Course Buffet Dinner (\$25 per person)	Rose Halse Victoria Police
CHAIRPERSON			Craig Hoath
TOAST			Paulette Andrews
CASHIER / RAFFLE			Janina Taylor
GREETER			John Barton

If you cannot carry out your duties, please arrange someone else to do so and advise

President Ruth and Alison Hall.

All Members: Please respond to meeting invitations to allow for easier catering.

SAVE THE DATES

26 January	AM	Australia Day Celebrations	Greg, Ruth, Mark, Jane, Mat & Catriona
15 February	AM	Market	Mark
22 February	AM	Golf Day	Peter

Chairman for the night, Mathew Fowler, commenced the meeting by welcoming the 24 Rotarians in attendance back to The Royal Hotel for 2026.

Formal apologies were received from Jane Challis, Cathy and Hugh Lawrence, Ron Halicki, Liam Jones, Tanina Taylor, Jo and Trevor Wilson and Fred Sartori.

TOAST TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF TOKYO – BONNIE WILLIAMS



This Club was chartered in 1920 following a visit to Dallas by founder Umekichi Yoneyama but was disbanded 20 years later by the Japanese military who labeled Rotary as ‘Traacherous’.

Rechartered in 1949, the Rotary Club of Tokyo now supports its community after natural disasters (in particular eathquakes), with Youth programs and also runs Falls Clinics for the aged.



REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Treasurer **Peter Holland** reported that the Club was solvent. There are outstanding dues requiring payment by the end of January. Invoices have been sent to relevant members.
- **Sam Manning** is organising a day trip to Emerald Bank (near Shepparton), the date of which is yet to be finalised.
- **Catriona Jarman** requested that members forward their baby photos to her in preparation for a Quiz being held on 23rd February (Rotary International’s birthday).
- **John Keeffe** asked members to re-box unused soft drinks following an event to avoid extra work when they are returned to the shed.

- **Family of Rotary: Tony Lee** has been keeping a low profile but has been sighted in Seymour; **Ken Butcher** has been discharged from hospital and is being cared for by his daughters; **Mary Greenshields** had a fall prior to Christmas and is being supported by her family who live with her.

BEHIND THE BADGE PRESENTATION – RUSSELL CHAPMAN



Recently inducted Rotary Club of Seymour member Russell Chapman spoke about his life as a long-term resident of Seymour which commenced on 7th May 1961 when he was born at the Seymour and District Memorial Hospital. Russell's mother's family had lived in Northwood for over 100 years however his father did not arrive in the area until much later. He has 3 siblings who continue to reside in Seymour. Russell is also the nephew of past Rotarian Keith McClarty who was a member of the Rotary Club of Seymour for several decades.

Russell grew up in Seymour attending the Victoria Street kindergarten and both Grant Street and Tallarook Street Primary Schools before finally completing his education at the Seymour Technical High School in 1977. During these years, Russell held numerous part-time jobs helping his father chop firewood, delivering papers, working at the local garage and mowing lawns (he was Jim's lawn mowing service before there was one!) Upon leaving school, he worked at Doug's Bakery where he met Leanne in 1980. Defying their boss's advice that workplace relationships don't last, Russell and Leanne have been married for 42 years and have 3 daughters.

Russell continued to work virtually without a break for several years before he needed to retire from the bakery due to workplace illness caused by the constant inhalation of flour. He took a 9-month camping trip around Australia and later toured New Zealand. A friend suggested that he gain his bus license; numerous trips driving students to Canberra and the Gold Coast have given him much enjoyment. An accident 3 years ago led to a broken back and permanent retirement.

Russell knows everyone in Seymour. As a present, Leanne bought him a hand waver to display at the back of his car to save his own hand from wearing out from constantly waving to town locals!

FIRE SITUATION UPDATE – DAVID FREEMAN



David Freeman provided an informal update regarding the recent fires in our local area. He first became aware of them at Longwood and Mitchelton on 7th January but it was not until the following 2 days that the Whiteheads Creek CFA became involved. David stated that the hills became difficult to manage as there were not enough fire truck drivers. Additional crews came in to assist from as far away as Gundagai, Coff's Harbour, the Blue Mountains and the Riverina. The base location of the operation was Alexandra which in turn became a fire-affected area. Unfortunately, crews were sent to

inappropriate places. David was involved in setting up firebreaks and mentioned that the property that he used to manage 'Kulaba' had lost 500 acres to the fire. Fighting the fires was a community effort and, fortunately, there were no major injuries, however many dead animals were left scattered over blackened country.



AUSTRALIA DAY PREPARATIONS:

Greg Byers outlined duties required of Club members for next Monday's Australia Day celebrations. Craig Hoath circulated a BBQ roster calling for shifts between 7am-10am and 10am-1.00pm. Sites will be marked out on Sunday and a visit to the shed made. It will be a 6.30am early start on 26th January to man gates, guide attendees and erect marquees. All members are expected to assist.



Note that the Police Awards will not be presented on Australia Day owing to police preoccupation with the fires; an alternate date will be made for the event to take place during a Club meeting.

RAFFLE WINNERS:



Chris Bence – wine



Viv Beaumont - chocolates



Ann Holland was successful in drawing the Joker Poker ticket number but unlucky in her choice of card.

The Joker lives to play another day!

President Ruth Byers concluded the meeting by thanking all for coming stating that as we will be busy on Australia Day there will be no evening meeting on 26th January.

The next get-together will be our Bowls Night on 2nd February. Numbers will be required for catering purposes therefore a timely RSVP would be appreciated.



Club Members enjoying being back at The Royal Hotel



Australia Day In Seymour



**MONDAY
26 JAN**

Come and join us!

Fun Country Market

8am - 1pm at Kings Park Seymour



**GREAT
AUSSIE
FOOD**

8am - 10am Australia Day Brekkie

Gold Coin Donation

10am to 12.30pm Rotary BBQ



**PROGRAM
OF EVENTS**

9.30 am - Flag Raising Ceremony

9.45 am - Australia Day Ambassador

10.00 am - Police Awards

10.15 am - Mayoral Address

10.30 am - Mitchell Shire Community Awards

Australian Naturalisation Ceremony



**MORE
FAMILY
FUN**

Entertainment & Activities

Music by the Mitchell Shire Concert Band

Seymour & District Car Club • Face Painting

Drawing & colouring • AFL Handball

Thong Throwing • Mintie Tearing

Community displays

Proudly
presented by:





Rotary
Club of Yea



ART 2026 SHOW



YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO

JOIN US ON OPENING NIGHT -

AT SHIRE HALL, HIGH ST. YEAP

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2026

7.30pm - 9.30pm and

UNITE FOR GOOD

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS and
NIBBLES - EXHIBITS and
PAINTINGS ARE FOR SALE.

OPENING NIGHT DRESS THEME
WEAR FLOWERS OR
SOMETHING FLORAL

ART SHOW DAILY OPENING TIMES
FRI 23rd; SAT 24th; SUN 25th
10.00 am to 5.00 pm
LAST DAY MON 26th 10 am to 2 pm
Entry \$5 - Children free

TO ASSIST WITH CATERING
BOOK ON Trybooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGVVG>

**BY 16 JANUARY 2026 FOR A
DISCOUNTED**

Early Bird Entry \$25



OR

PLEASE BOOK FOR OPENING
NIGHT BY USING THIS CODE

if unable to do so, please RSVP
by 16.01.26 to Glenda Woods
0428 321 545 or email
woodsylgm@bigpond.net.au
AND PAY AT THE DOOR

\$30