

Rotary
 Rotary Club of Seymour
Connecting with our community

Contact us at PO Box 80 Seymour 3661, online at rotaryseymour.org or call Secretary Bill on 0438 028 868

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

No 33. 2 March 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	9 March	16 March	Wednesday 18 March Royal Hotel
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	Labour Day No Meeting	No Meeting in lieu of Ride to Conference	Ride to Conference Chris Sutton Australian Rotary Health
CHAIRPERSON			Dave Freeman
TOAST			Fiona McCarthy
CASHIER / RAFFLE			Bill Dwyer
GREETER			Ron Halicki

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 THESE DATES

6-9 March	Shake the Can	Mathew Fowler
15 March	Rotary Market	Mark Dossor
20-22 March	District Conference	Kathy Mills
29 March	Visit to Emerald Bank	Sam Manning

Chair for the night, Viv Beaumont, commenced the meeting by welcoming all in attendance.

Our guests for the evening, speaker Vicki Kenendy, and IJ Halicki were introduced. Formal apologies were received from Greg and Ruth Byers, Hugh and Cathy Lawrence, Peter and Ann Holland, Liam Jones, Fred Sartori, Bonnie Williams, Tony Woodhouse and Fiona McCarthy.

TOAST TO THE ROTARACT CLUB OF KULUBU IN BURSA, TURKIYE – CATRIONA JARMAN



The Rotaract Club of Kulubu in Bursa, Turkiye, was chartered in June 1985 and is a well-established active and progressive Club with a strong presence on social media platforms. The Club aims to support young leaders in Bursa as guided by the principles of professional development, friendship and service. It has numerous projects which target the social and physical needs of their community, in particular children.

During the Rotary International year 2021-2022, the Rotaract Club was named the best Rotaract Club in District 2440 receiving this award for 'impactful projects and solidarity'.

ACTING PRESIDENT - MARK DOSSOR



Mark's good intentions to congratulate Viv Beaumont on receiving his recent OAM were thwarted when he called him Viv Richards – and yes, there was a fine in that!

Sir Viv Richards is also the recipient of a knighthood – something to aspire to Viv Beaumont!



MEMBERS' REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dave Palmer reported that he had recently been in contact with **Ken Butcher** whose health is improving.
- Dave also let us know that his partner **Naurelle** had undergone surgery on her foot and will be wearing a moon boot for the next week – guess the house husband duties are continuing for a bit longer! (Ed).
- Jane Challis mentioned that **Fiona McCarthy** is recovering from her leg injury and will have the stitches removed next week.
- **Mathew Fowler** announced that he still has vacancies for this weekend's 'Shake the Can' activity. Contact him if you can fill a shift; Saturday 7th and Monday 9th March each day 13:00 to 15:00 hours.

ACTING SERGEANT – MARK DOSSOR



Mark's fines went to **himself** for the Viv mix-up; **Catriona** for winning both raffles last week; **Paulette** for not wearing her badge and, fortunately for her, **Fiona's** absence spared her from a fine which was to comprise of 10% of her combined Joker Poker winnings!

NAMESAKE DOPPELGANGER

This week the focus was on **Mathew Fowler** who is from Florida, USA. He fell in love with music at the age of 14. His career began in writing and recording songs in the kitchen with his debut album 'Beginnings' released in 2014. He has played with well-known bands U2, Coldplay and Fleetwood Mac and is rumored to have had an affair with Stevie Nicks.



GUEST SPEAKER – VICKI KENNEDY; KOALA CHERRIES



Vicki displayed the Koala Cherries products during her presentation.



Koala Cherries comprises of 14 farms located in Cobram, Strathbogie and Yarck. Unfortunately, one of the cherry farms was destroyed in the recent fires which, following replanting, will take another 6 years to produce fruit. Cherry picking season extends from November through to January annually. The demography of pickers employed by the company is diverse and includes the Afghani population, backpackers, grey nomads and students. Once picked, the cherries are chilled in water and placed in a cool room within 2 hours. Each cherry is scrutinized (via 36 ultrasound photos and human examination) for defects to ensure that it is immaculate for consumption; taste is of prime importance. The produce is then sent to one of 24 Asian destinations within a day. Local outlets include Coles, Woolworths, Costco and Aldi stores.

A solicitor, employment law specialist and local resident, Vicki's role in the organisation is that of HR manager to 70 full-time employees which extends to 1200 during busy times. She talks to local schools, encouraging students to follow a career in horticulture. Vicki's aim is to raise the profile of Koala Cherries and, with a one hundred million dollars annual turnover is an impressive operation. Vicki concluded her presentation by giving cherry sauce away as quiz question prizes, handing out cherry ice-cream and inviting Seymour Rotary





Alison Hall – wine



Dave Freeman - chocolates



IJ Halicki - Joker Poker



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
wishes go to Fiona
for 2nd March.



Other March Birthdays:

Jane Challis – 8th

Alison Hall – 12th

Ian Chadwick – 18th

Trevor Harmes – 20th

Paulette Andrews – 21st

Ruth Byers and Dave Freeman – 30th