



ROTARY CLUB OF SEYMOUR

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

President : **Mark Dossor** Secretary : **Catriona Jarman** Treasurer : **Peter Holland**

WEEK COMMENCING 24th March 2025

DATE / VENUE	31st -March Royal Hotel	7 th April Royal Hotel	14th April Royal March
GUEST SPEAKER / EVENT	STUART HARRIS – Goulburn Valley Water – Recycling of Water for use on the Seymour Golf Course	LEESA NEILSON – Enhanced and Outreach Maternal and Child Care Health Nurse Team Leader	Feedback / Reports from our District Conference attendees
CHAIRPERSON	PP Dave Freeman	Bonnie Williams	Samantha Manning
LOYAL TOAST	Trevor Harmes	Janina Taylor	PP Ruth Byers
CASHIER / RAFFLE	Mat Fowler	PP John Keeffe	PP Catriona Jarman
GREETER	Bill Dwyer	Alan Walton	Tony Woodhouse

IF YOU CANNOT FULLFIL YOUR DUTIES PLEASE ARRANGE SOMEONE ELSE AND ADVISE PRESIDENT MARK

APOLOGIES were received from : Mary Greenshields, Peter Holland, Liam Jones, Cathy Goubault-Lawrence, Hugh Lawrence, Vivian Beaumont, Ann Pritchard, Peter Holland, Ron Halicki, Tony Lee, Fiona McCarthy, Samantha Manning, Bonnie Williams and Alison Hall

MARCH IS WATER & SANITATION MONTH

For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve through Rotary we give thanks.

PP Jane Challis provided our toast on behalf of **PP Ron Halicki** to the King and Australia. The international toast was to the Rotary Club of Agra which is the 20th oldest club in India, it was chartered on the 29th March 1939. There are 8 active clubs in Agra while 4 clubs have been

terminated. As of the 1st July 2018 the membership of the club was 113. Their senior most member is PDG P.N. Agarwal who has completed 62 years dedicated service to Rotary. The club has 21 members have completed 20 years of service or more. Agra has sponsored 12 other Rotary Clubs. The club events include A High Tea for mental Health management. Computer Lab gifts to girls schools, Polio awareness via school campaigns and education at schools about the difference between safe and Insafe touch. Agra is the home of The Taj Mahal.

Our Chairman **PP Greg Byers** called our meeting to order.

President Mark opened our meeting.

Thankyou for all attending tonight.

First of all, I would like to thank **Kathy, Ruth, Trevor, Bill, Bonnie, Ian and Jane** for attending Alexandra last Wednesday night and bringing home the trophy! Well done.

Also, thanks to those who attended our Adopt A Road activity yesterday.

Tonight, we acknowledge **Kathy Mills** who celebrates 7 years as a Rotarian tomorrow. Thank you for your service, Kathy.

Birthday wishes to both **Ruth Byers** and **Dave Freeman** who celebrate their birthdays this coming Saturday.

Upcoming activity :

Our next activity is Shake The can over the Easter weekend.

Chairman Greg called for reports :



PP Dave Feeman thanked everyone who participated in yesterday's Adopt A Road activity. Lots of rubbish collected including pallets, car tyres and a fridge!

PP Kathy Mills spoke of the upcoming District Conference. The Plan was to a wine, or 2, and nibblies on Friday night while all attendees would attend the official dinner on the Saturday night

PP Jane Challis provided the following report :

On Wednesday 19th March, Rotarians Ruth, Bonnie, Kathy, Bill, Trevor, Ian, and Jane hit the greens (well, the synthetic turf!) for a friendly Golf Challenge at the Alexandra Golf Course. The evening featured a putting competition under cover, specially set up just for the challenge, where everyone showed off their best putting skills—and a few amusing misses along the way!



After the laughs and the putts, the group enjoyed a delicious two-course dinner, providing the perfect opportunity for some lively fellowship and great conversation. The coveted trophy was won by Seymour who managed to sink those tricky putts with precision and a touch of luck. Score 16 to 15, very close!

It was also a fantastic opportunity to experience how other clubs run their meetings and share ideas. All in all, a great day of fun and friendship! We can't wait to welcome the Rotary Club of Alexandra to our upcoming Footy Night—let's see who can score the most points on the night!

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Tonight we were lucky to have three 'Behind The Badge' presentations from **Ian Chadwick**, **PP Ruth Byers** and **PP President John Keeffe**. Following are abbreviated notes of their presentations. Hopefully they have been written to everyone's satisfaction.



Ian Chadwick – Ian was born in Maryborough and has a younger brother and sister. He attended Maryborough Primary and Technical Schools. Ian was apprenticed in the building. After 10 years and three months he moved in to teaching with stints at Broadmeadows West technical school, Ferntree Gully and Lilydale Tech while attendind teacher training at Hawthorn state college.

At the direction of the Department of education he was posted to a country school, Seymour Technical High School, in 1982. It was a smart move as he married the bursar, Chris. They have two children, kaitlyn and Ryan.

Ian retired from teaching in 2018 after 40 years. He now enjoys his retirement with trips on big boats and travelling in general.

Ian joined Rotary in October 1991. In those days all members wore a suit and tie and was a mens only club, 'ladies nights' allowed the wives to dress up and be part of the club. The vast majority of the members were farmers. Ian noted the alcohol played a significant part in Rotary meetings, no wine by the glass, bottles were the way to go!

Women were admitted to the club a few years after Ian joined but it was not an easy process and quite a few members objected.

Ian has also been a member of the Seymour Hospital [now Seymour Health] for 21 years and was recently made a Life Governor.

PP RUTH BYERS – Ruth was born in Euroa on the 30th March 1961. Dad was a blue collar worker and mum was a stay at home mum. They lived next door to her grandfathers farm and was surrounded by animals. She considers herself extremely lucky growing up, it was idyllic childhood.

She attended Euroa primary school then Euroa High and left school at the end of year 11. At 15 she commenced working at the local fish and chip shop then got her first full time job at the Euroa egg board packing and grading eggs.

It was at this time she met Greg when she partnered him at her sisters wedding to his brother. It was not love at first sight but she did see potential! A night at the Shepparton drive in resulted in marriage when she was 18 and Greg almost 21. They will have been married 46 years on April 21.

After marriage they moved to Bendigo when Greg was posted with the army. Unfortunately 10 days before his first birthday they tragically lost their first born son. Following some sound advice from her sister in law they stuck fast to be there for each other. Chantelle arrived and at 5 months they were posted to Perth for 2 years where Nicholas was born before a new posting to Wondoga before a final posting back to Bendigo where Jacinta was born. They stayed for 20 years. Seven moves in 20 years was certainly difficult.

At this stage, a shy person by nature, Ruth made a decision to do something completely different and joined a direct sales company selling cosmetics and skincare. Suddenly she was faced with meeting new people. She was quite successful growing her business to managing 25 sales reps. She earned the opportunity to travel to Dallas Texas to attend their world seminar.

After 8 years and some training she worked for Millers fashions, 7 years as manager.

Greg opened Cartridge World in Seymour in 2004 and after Chantelle finished year 12 she moved to join Greg at Cartridge World. She has now been in 17 years and loves it.

Five years later working with Greg became too much and she worked part time at Betta Electrical. She now works at Nexus Health with the home support team providing in home support to 2000 clients.

In February 2009 she was inducted into the Rotary Club of Seymour where she found a connection with community. She has held just about every position in our Rotary Club and varied district assignments.

Ruth and Greg have 6 grandchildren and feel blessed and incredibly lucky. They like nothing more than spending time with them.

PP JOHN KEEFFE – John still considers himself a ‘westie’ being raised in Parramatta, NSW in a very middle class family. As a kid he loved tennis cycling, dancing at the church social nights and his family. He believes that work has defined his life :

John’s journalism career commenced in 5th grade when he started a school newspaper. He also covered local speedway and school activities and later produced a newsletter for the local cycling clubs. Leaving school he accepted a cadetship at the Sydney Telegraph but was sidetracked into law as a law clerk. Moving onto Woolworths as a management trainee he was eventually placed into their data processing section working with a new computer system the IBM RAMAC 1305. With no avenue for promotion he took a position at Clyde Industries as Operations manager for EDP. Following years of hard work and hours he moved into commercial vehicles as the assistant to the Managing Director.

In 1969 an opportunity came up with CAMS state manager and finally he was offered the position of the new role of Operations manager.. John left CAMS in 1993 after a long stint as CEO with a great deal of international involvement including regular trips to London, Paris, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia and Indonesia. A part of John’s CAMS he was part of the team that launched F1 into Adelaide. There were many highs and lows with the office being bugged, death friends and dealing with fatalities.

Along the way John had been a service station attendant, a grease monkey, paper distribution and paper delivery trucks all while competing in motor sports.

There was fun – the paper tucks delivery. There was stress - V Line ops manager at Southern Cross rail replacement work. There was enjoyment – Working at Seymour Coaches with great people, close to home. It was illuminating – working with the Tanami, Balgo community. There was immense satisfaction in motor sport where John ‘left his mark’. Finally there was the memorable sign from his son, when he had to cancel attending a school event “That’s okay Dad, your work gets us to lots of places and do things other kids can’t”. Behind all of this history is the constant work and support of wife, Jill



Janina was the lucky chocolate winner tonight while Tony won the wine but alas Trevor failed to draw the joker.

55th EASTER Art Show Alexandria 2025

GALA OPENING NIGHT
Friday 18 April 6.30pm
 \$25pp includes drinks and finger food
Saturday 19 April 10am-5pm
Sunday 20 April 10am-5pm
Monday 21 April 9am-12noon
 Entry Saturday, Sunday & Monday \$5pp
 Kids under 16 free
SHIRE HALL, 55 GRANT STREET

MAJOR BENEFICIARY
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You can book for opening night online by scanning code or pay at the door

www.alexandraartshow.com