

Rotary
 Rotary Club of Seymour
Connecting with our community

Contact us at PO Box 80 Seymour 3661, online at rotaryseymour.org or call Secretary Bonnie on 0414 068 373

President: **Bill Dwyer** Secretary: **Bonnie Williams** Treasurer: **Peter Holland**

No 4. 27 July 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	3 August Royal Hotel	10 August Royal Hotel	17 August No meeting
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	Cluster Meeting with DG Paul Miegel	The Great Debate: Club members to speak	No meeting in lieu of Dinner at the RSL Friday 21 st August
CHAIRPERSON	President Bill Dwyer	Alison Hall	
TOAST	Loyal Toast: President Bill Dwyer	Craig Hoath	
CASHIER / RAFFLE	Alison Hall/ Catriona Jarman	Kathy Mills	
GREETER	Ian Chadwick/ Dave Palmer	Tony Woodhouse	

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

President Bill, Ann Holland, Catriona Jarman or Alison Hall.

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

SAVE THESE DATES

30 July
3 August

Mitchell Shire BBQ
Cluster Meeting – Seymour Bowls Club

Trevor Harmes
Bill Dwyer

Our chair for the evening, Alison Hall, welcomed Club members together with our guest speakers for the evening, Chris Bender and Michael O'Sullivan. Formal apologies were received from Viv Beaumont, Greg and Ruth Byers, Hugh and Cathy Lawrence, Trevor Harmes, Ann and Peter Holland, Liam Jones, Tony Lee and Fiona McCarthy.

TOAST TO THE ROTARY CLUBS OF YEREVAN, ARMENIA: RON HALICKI



The city of Yerevan in Armenia

Catriona Jarman delivered Ron Hlaicki's Rotary International toast which was to the Rotary Clubs of Yerevan, Armenia, a country which Ron is planning to visit in the near future. Rotary in Armenia has grown into a diverse, vibrant and committed network of service.

The **Rotary Club of Yerevan**, situated in District 2452, received its charter in 1991 and is the first club established in Armenia. The **Yerevan Rotary International Club** brings together members through the English language, thus strengthening international fellowship. The **Yerevan United Rotary Club** expands humanitarian service across the community, and the **Rotary Clubs of Gyumri and Vanadzor** extend Rotary's reach beyond the capital.

Supporting healthcare access, educational initiatives and empowering local economies, their collaborative vision is for a brighter, healthier and more equitable future for all.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BILL DWYER

President Bill Dwyer again welcomed our guest speakers, local real estate agents Chris Bender and Michael O'Sullivan. He reminded everyone of next Monday's cluster meeting which will be held at the Seymour Bowls Club. He mentioned also that Trevor Harmes is still in need of assistance for the BBQ on Thursday so contact him if you are able to help out.





FROM CLUB MEMBERS

- **Bonnie Williams** elaborated on the cluster dinner by announcing that 43 Rotarians and partners had confirmed their attendance and reminded us of the chance to showcase our Club to other nearby Clubs.
- **Jane Challis** thanked all those who had donated raffle prizes for the cluster meeting which were to be wrapped the following day. **Craig Hoath** requested that members be generous with their ticket purchases as all proceeds will go to the “End Polio Now” campaign.
- **Alison Hall** announced that due to proposed speaker Hugh Lawrence’s unavailability, a debate between members will be held on 10th August instead. Club members who have volunteered to participate in the debate include Dave Palmer, Kathy Mills, Sam Manning, Russell Chapman, John Stares and Mark Dossor. Additionally, there will be no meeting on 17th August – instead Rotary members will meet at the RSL Club for dinner on Friday 21st August. This will coincide with Vietnam Veteran’s week.

EXCHANGE STUDENT EMILJA FIHLMAN MARRIES



Fiona McCarthy recently travelled to Finland to attend the marriage of our 2018-19 Rotary Youth Exchange Student Emilja Fihlman on 21st July to her fiancé Kalle.



Fiona delivered a card to Emilja and Kalle signed by the Rotary Club of Seymour members sending our best wishes to the couple.

REAL ESTATE TRENDS IN SEYMOUR – CHRIS BENDER AND MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN

Chris Bender and Michael O’Sullivan were both born and bred in Seymour. They each have several decades of real estate industry experience behind them and, working in separate businesses, maintain a friendly rivalry.

Chris Bender (left) is from Bender & Co. Real Estate and Michael O’Sullivan is branch manager at Ray White in Seymour.



Chair Alison Hall led a question and answer panel addressing both speakers who described their observations of real estate trends in Seymour:

- The real estate industry is more challenging today than in the past. Vendors often have great expectations regarding the value of their property and need to be educated as to the actual price.
- Sales to people locating from Melbourne and other areas have increased since Covid as they are realising the benefits that a rural lifestyle has to offer.
- Houses affected by the 2022 floods are now unable to be insured which has led to difficulty in selling these properties however some buyers are still willing to “take a punt”.
- Land tax has not impacted Seymour sales, unlike capital gains tax. Investors are often selling as they have become tired of the costs involved in maintaining rental properties. This has added to the scarcity of good quality rental homes in the area.
- There can be difficulty in selling homes which have a heritage overlay, especially if upkeep has not been maintained.
- The increase in the number of real estate businesses in Seymour has led to higher industry competition. Larger agencies will often undercut their prices to secure the transaction. Fines exist for agencies who are involved with underquoting however this only applies in the case of auctions which are not held in Seymour.

- Business for both real estate agents is usually generated by word of mouth or letterbox drop. Newspaper advertisements are unsuccessful and website listings are expensive.
- Although the establishment of a retirees' complex in Seymour has been addressed in the past, there are currently no plans to have one based in Seymour. It was felt that this is due to construction costs.
- The trend for social housing in Seymour is for the demolition of uninhabitable and unredeemable homes and replacing them with modern units.

RAFFLE WINNERS



Leanne Chapman:
Chocolates



Jane Challis:
Wine



Craig Hoath – Joker Poker
7 of Diamonds

District Governor Cluster Dinner

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Seymour



District Governor
Paul Miegel

Rotary Club of Corowa

Join us for an evening of fellowship as District Governor Paul Miegel provides an update on happenings within the district, shares plans for the year ahead, and discusses how you can help make a difference.



Monday 3 August 2026



6:30pm for 7:00pm



Seymour Bowls Club
41 Tallarook Street, Seymour



\$35 per person

Includes dinner

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Drinks available
at bar prices