

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 5. 3rd August 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	10 August Royal Hotel	17 August No meeting	Friday 21 August RSL Club
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	The Great Debate: Club members to speak	No meeting in lieu of Dinner at the RSL Friday 21 st August	Dinner at the RSL Club 2 Station Street Seymour
CHAIRPERSON	Alison Hall		N/A
TOAST	Craig Hoath		N/A
CASHIER/ RAFFLE	Paulette Andrews		N/A
GREETER	Tony Woodhouse		N/A

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 August

Rotary Community Market – King's Park

Mark Dossor

Our chair for the evening, President Bill Dwyer, welcomed DG Paul Miegel and partner Meredith, PDG David Anderson and partner Tippy, PAG Sharon Fox, RCL Penny Paxman, members from the Rotary Clubs of Alexandra, Kinglake Ranges, Seymour, Southern Mitchell and Yea, and their guests. An apology was received from the Rotary Club of Mansfield. President Bill Dwyer made the loyal toast to King Charles 111, Australia and Rotary International prior to introducing District Governor Paul Miegel.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PAUL MIEGEL



District Governor Paul Miegel described himself as a pharmacist by profession who has an interest in whisky production. A long term Rotarian, he had the opportunity last year to meet with Rotary International President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola with whom he was very impressed.

DG Paul spoke about the membership challenges that are currently being faced by many Rotary Clubs, however District 9790 is the only one in Zone 8 that has increased its membership in the past 12 months. A financial incentive from District is being offered to Rotary Clubs who undertake a Membership and/or Public Image initiative during the 2026/2027 Rotary year.

A map was displayed showing the proposed Victorian/Tasmanian District model; all clubs will be amalgamated into two zones - the Rotary Club of Seymour will be located in Zone 4 on the left hand side of Victoria.



DG Paul asked Rotarians to consider attending the Rotary South Pacific Zone 8 conference being held in Melbourne at the end of October. He also outlined next year's District conference occurring in his hometown of Corrowa next March 19-21, 2027. He concluded his presentation by comparing the past Rotary values of club rules and regulations to today's more relaxed approach where it is important to enjoy the experience. His advice was to have fun and create lasting impact with what you have: "Tell the Story Go Forth and Do Rotary!"

MEREDITH MIEGEL – PARTNER’S PROJECT

Meredith Miegel described the impact of domestic violence in relation to women and children. The “Emerge Women and Children’s Network” supports families impacted by violence to find safety, stability and recovery. The association recognises that children are victim survivors in their own right. Targeting the 5-12 year age group, it ensures that children receive the dedicated support that they need to recover, reconnect and thrive. A not for profit organisation, Emerge is lobbying for government funding, however must rely on donations to continue their work.



emerge
Women and Children's
Support Network

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS BESTOWED



Immediate Past President Ruth Byers took the opportunity to bestow Paul Harris Fellow recognition upon Club members Mark Dossor and Dave Palmer as both Rotarians were unavailable at the Club’s recent changeover event.

Above left to right: IPP Ruth Byers, Rotarian Dave Palmer, PP Mark Dossor, DG Paul Miegel.

Mark Dossor: was recognised with a PHF double sapphire for his constant and high level Club involvement since 5/4/2011 (including two Club Presidencies), and also notably for his determination and effort executed in the development of the monthly Rotary market.

Dave Palmer: received his PHF for both his overall contribution to community volunteering and Rotary Club service and fundraising projects. Having joined Rotary on 13/7/2010, Dave has recently become a regular meeting attender again after taking time out to raise his young family. He has clearly demonstrated the Rotary ideal of “Service Above Self”.

ROTARY CLUB PRESENTATIONS

DG Paul Miegel described the Rotary cluster meeting as an opportunity for “a cross pollination of ideas” where Clubs can learn from each other. Each Club provided a presentation of the work in which their members had been involved:

SEYMOUR



Bonnie Williams described the inspiration that she had received at the 2025 District 9790 Conference following a presentation of the Rotary “Say No to Domestic Violence” campaign in Ballina, NSW. She became motivated to establish a similar project in our region citing its relevance as the Mitchell Shire has very high levels of reported domestic violence compared with the rest of Victoria. Printed shirts are to be worn in the lead up to a community walk and evening presentation by author “She is not your rehab” speaker Matt Brown in November. Local businesses and schools have been supportive of the initiative.

ALEXANDRA

Helen Gibb spoke about the impact of the January fires on the Alexandra and surrounding communities with Rotary Club members joining forces to assist affected residents. Fundraising for the cause in the form of firewood raffles has proven successful. Projects that the Club will undertake in the coming months include involvement in Foodshare, additional fundraising with an “End Polio Now” BBQ, as well as parking for the local Golf Tournament. The Rotary Club of Alexandra members will celebrate their 60th anniversary in October and invitations are to be forwarded to surrounding Clubs in the lead up to the event.



KINGLAKE RANGES



Julie Burgess listed the array of projects in which the Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges have been involved including the Rotary market, the MND Big Freeze, Show and Shine, Bunnings BBQs, Community Youth Challenge, Defensive Driving Program, Epic Day of Service, Super T, Gunfire BBQ, RYLA Oceana, Junior footy support, feeding hayrunners, Christmas Eve extravaganza, RFDS Ocean to Outback fundraiser, establishment of a Dementia Cafe, partnering with the Rotary Club of Capetown to support new mothers and End Polio Now fundraising. It has inducted 3 members.

SOUTHERN MITCHELL

Charles Bender announced that the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell had also been involved with numerous events during 2025/2026. Club projects have included busking championships, an art show, RYPEN and RYLA, recycling and op shop fundraising to support a school breakfast program and free laundry service, planting trees and local street clean ups, the Madagascar project, a Vanuatu school project, volunteering at the SHARE facility, Australia Day celebrations and support for Gnarly Neighbours. The Club aims to increase its membership and has appointed a Membership Director for the first time.



YEA



Ann Drysdale completed the presentations with a list of her Club's involvement in service work. This included a water tank project to assist with the fires, a world first "mouth project", the purchase of hospital equipment, support for a tertiary education student and support also for health professionals to visit fire affected areas. The Rotary Garden Expo will be held in September and the Rotary Art Show in January.

RAFFLE WINNERS



The evening's raffle was successful in raising
\$500 towards Rotary's "End Polio Now"
campaign.



A separate donation was made by the Rotary Club of Seymour towards "Operation Cleft".



PASSING THE POLIO BATON

The Cluster meeting concluded with the passing of
the "End Polio Now" baton to Ann Drysdale
from the Rotary Club of Yea as
fundraising encouragement.