

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 40. 4 May 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	11 May Royal Hotel	18 May Royal Hotel	25 May Royal Hotel
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	St Mary's and Seymour College Speakers	Rotary Club of Seymour 72nd Birthday Speakers: Viv Beaumont and Bonnie Williams	Police Awards
CHAIRPERSON	Fiona McCarthy/ Bonnie Williams	Mark Dossor	Greg Byers
TOAST	Jane Challis	Sam Manning	Bill Dwyer
CASHIER / RAFFLE	Paulette Andrews	Leanne Chapman	Alison Hall
GREETER	Ian Chadwick	Alan Walton	Craig Hoath

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

17	May	Rotary Market	Mark Dossor
31	May	Adopt-a-Road	Mathew Fowler

Chair for the night, Russell Chapman, commenced the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. Our impromptu guest for the evening, rail construction worker “Jack” from the Rotary Club of Pakenham, was introduced. Formal apologies were received from Viv Beaumont, Gary Doherty, Cathy and Hugh Lawrence, Peter and Ann Holland, Liam Jones, Tony Lee and Fiona McCarthy.

INTERNATIONAL TOAST TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF RIO DE JANEIRO; BONNIE WILLIAMS

The Rotary Club of Rio de Janeiro was chartered on 28th February 1923 marking the beginning of Rotary International’s presence in Brazil. Located in District 4571, it is actively involved in Public Health programs, notably participating in an ongoing battle against Yellow Fever which is endemic to the country particularly in the Amazon region. The Rotary Club of Rio de Janeiro enjoys professional networking combined with fellowship.



PRESIDENT’S REPORT – RUTH BYERS

President Ruth welcomed everyone to the meeting. She notified members that the Cub’s Changeover luncheon is to be held on Sunday 28th June at the Seymour Bowls Club in Tallarook Street. Ruth reconfirmed her attendance at the District Changeover in Wangaratta on Sunday 12th July.

President Ruth reported that Ken Butcher’s wife had recently passed away and to consider contacting him during this difficult time. Additionally, Fiona McCarthy has injured her back and is currently unwell so may also appreciate a supportive phone call.



President Ruth announced the participation of **Kathy Mills, Jane Challis and Bonnie Williams** (who will be wearing pink tutus!) in this Sunday’s Mother’s Day Classic fundraiser for cancer; good luck girls!



MARKET UPDATE – MARK DOSSOR

Mark provided members with a statistical overview of vendor involvement in the market since it commenced three years ago. The total number of vendors that have registered their interest in attending the Seymour Rotary market from its inception is 265. Of these, 185 vendors have participated. Those that have been involved in 3 markets or less number 34 and there are now only 6 of the original vendors who were at the Chittick Park site that have now transferred their stalls to King's Park. This is a huge turnover although they were contacted by Mark via email and sometimes phone, within 24 hours of registering on the website. There are currently 55 vendors who have applied to attend the market on 17th May 2026. Mark plans to follow up with vendors who have been involved in the market during the past 3 months as the winter period will be critical, however the undercover venue at King's Park should prove attractive. Our Club's market profits average \$1,600 per month after costs, and members all agreed that it is therefore worth persevering with the project.



FROM CLUB MEMBERS

- **Kathy Mills** notified the Club that 11 members are planning to attend District 9790's Conference during 19th-21st March next year. The Corowa caravan park will only hold potential accommodation bookings until 5pm Tuesday 5th May.
- **Dave Freeman** announced that Past President and current Honorary Member of Seymour Rotary **Bryan Tehan** is in hospital and will go into care afterwards as Annette is also unwell and unable to look after him.
- **Ian Chadwick** thanked members for their support during Chris's illness. Chris will attend radiation therapy in Bendigo this week. He was particularly grateful to Kathy Mills for driving him to Melbourne for an appointment although described the trip as being "interesting"!
- **Mathew Fowler** reported that due to last weekend's cancellation of Adopt-a-Road because of inclement weather, the rubbish collection will be rescheduled for 31st May. The meeting place will be the Winery Kitchen at 9.30am and an email will be sent out to members with details closer to the date. (Refer to information at end of Bulletin.)

BEHIND THE BADGE – JOHN STARES

The eldest of eight children, John was born in Colac. He described his childhood as challenging and left school early having attended St Patrick's College in Sale (which coincidentally is the same school that President Elect Bill Dwyer attended). John's career has followed a variety of paths which include roof tiler, timber feller and logger, shearer, insurance seller and counsellor. He currently has a knife sharpening business. John's father was a timber worker which possibly influenced him to become world woodchopping champion in 1991. John moved to Seymour 15 years ago, for family reasons. His interests include going to the gym, meditation, drawing and writing poetry.



BEHIND THE BADGE – CRAIG HOATH



Craig was born in Box Hill where his father was a member of the local Rotary Club and owned a sports store. This was a haven for Craig and his two brothers. Craig left school at 16 to commence an apprenticeship in printing. He worked initially in Richmond for employers whom he described as 'thrifty' so after leaving there he set up business at the back of his father's sports store, eventually building his own factory. Craig described this time as "the good old days" which included being introduced to his wife Rae by the next door's coffee shop owner.

Following in his father's footsteps Craig was a member of the Rotary Club of Box Hill for thirty years prior to his recent retirement and relocation to Seymour, also for family reasons. His interests include football and collecting motorbikes of which he has 7 in total.

PRESENTATION BY JACK – ROTARY CLUB OF PAKENHAM



Prior to the commencement of our meeting, Jack was having dinner in the bar area of The Royal Hotel and noticed Russell Chapman's Rotary badge which started a conversation. Jack told Russell that he was a member of the Rotary Club of Pakenham and was in the area working on the rail at Tallarook. He was then invited to join us where he spoke about a project that his Club has recently started.

THE PROJECT:

Pakenham, which once had a population of 4,000 people, has since expanded to approximately 150,000 residents, attracting crime into the town due to youth disengagement. Twenty teens faced with life challenges have been identified through local schools and a basketball team for the students has been formed. A partnership with aged care hostel residents has also been established and each student is to be assigned a grandparent figure who will support them by attending their matches (via transport provided by the hostel) and washing their uniforms. The Rotary Club of Pakenham has supplied the funding for the uniforms and will be responsible for busing the students to and from their games.

Jack has been invited to attend next week's Rotary meeting if he is still working in the area.

39 YEARS AGO



Women were not initially permitted to be members of Rotary Clubs. This situation was tested when, in 1976, the Rotary Club of Duarte in California admitted three women as members. In response, Rotary International revoked the Club's charter. The Rotary Club of Duarte then filed a lawsuit claiming discrimination. On **May 4th, 1987**, the United States Supreme Court supported this claim leading to Rotary International removing Club gender requirements.

SERGEANT'S SESSION – GREG BYERS

Greg commenced the Sergeant's session expressing frustration at Melbourne commuters using free public transport who visit Seymour and ask him to take them on a trip to the tourist hot spots – he is happy to oblige although not necessarily to the areas that they have in mind! He then proceeded to fine:

- **President Ruth** for not previously accompanying him to an Anzac Day dawn service.
- **Jack** (perhaps unfairly!) for not wearing a dinner badge.
- **Russell and Leanne** following the marriage of their daughter and in relation to their own forthcoming wedding anniversary.
- **Bonnie** for forgetting to toast the Rotary Club of Rio de Janeiro with a drink in hand.
- **Mat** for the cancellation of Adopt- a -Road as Greg was organised to attend on time.
- All **Collingwood** supporters.
- **Dave P** for his booming business and noticeable dollar signs in his eyes.
- **John Stares** for keeping up appearances at the gym.
- **Dave F** for his impatience at a 30 second delay in the start to the meeting.
- **Catriona** for causing confusion with the weekly duty roster (I maintain that it was a computer glitch! – Ed).
- All **Mothers** (although these fines were not followed through).



**May 4th is International Star Wars Day;
May the Fourth (Force) be with you!
For interested members, there is a
Rotary Star Wars Fellowship.**



**John Keefe;
Chocolates**



**Kathy Mills;
Wine**



**Leanne Chapman;
Joker – 3 Spades**

ADOPT-A-ROAD EVENT



The next Adopt-A-Road is being held soon

When: Sunday 31st May

Time: 9.30am

Where: Meet at the Winery Kitchen/Somerset Crossing Carpark

Members are welcome to bring family and friends along to clean up the Puckapunyal end of Emily Street from Tierney Street to Northwood Road. High visibility vests, rubbish bags, pick-up sticks and gloves will be provided.

Mathew is hoping for a good turn-up which will result in the collection of many bags of rubbish.

Contact Mathew - Mobile: 0432 270 27