

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 39. 27 April 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	4 May Royal Hotel	11 May Royal Hotel	18 May Royal Hotel
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	Behind the Badge John Stares and Di Frankel	St Mary's and Seymour College Speakers	Rotary Club of Seymour 72 nd Birthday Speakers Viv Beaumont and Bonnie Williams
CHAIRPERSON	Russell Chapman	Fiona McCarthy	Mark Dossor
TOAST	Bonnie Williams	Jane Challis	Sam Manning
CASHIER / RAFFLE	John Keefe	Paulette Andrews	Leanne Chapman
GREETER	Kathy Mills	Ian Chadwick	Alan Walton

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

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

Chair for the night, Craig Hoath, commenced the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. Our guests for the evening, guest speaker and RSL President Matt McLaughlin, his partner Charlie, their daughter Savannah and, from the Puckapunyal School of Armour, Brendan “Buttons” Morely, were introduced. Formal apologies were received from Greg Byers, Russell and Leanne Chapman, Gary Doherty, David Freeman, Peter and Ann Holland, Liam Jones, Tony Lee and Fiona McCarthy.

THE LOYAL TOAST – MATT McLAUGHLIN



RSL President Matt McLaughlin gave the Loyal Toast “to King Charles III and Australia”.



PRESIDENT’S REPORT – RUTH BYERS

President Ruth announced that she had attended the Anzac Day dawn service in Seymour for the first time. She was very impressed with the formalities and congratulated Matt on this achievement. Our local event has gained a quality reputation and now attracts statewide and interstate visitors. The presence of Vietnam Veteran’s Walk in Seymour also adds another dimension to the commemorations.



Left: “Bluey” stands in front of Seymour Health; site of the Anzac Day Dawn service.

Right: Rotary Club of Seymour wreath laid at The Cenotaph, Anzac Ave.





- President Elect **Bill Dwyer** notified the Club that he had attended District Assembly with his incoming Board. He reported that changes to our District format are to be made by Rotary International whereby it is proposed that there will only be 2 Districts in Victoria. President Ruth added that this proposal will need to be voted on and an agreement reached otherwise Rotary International will decide on our behalf.
- Following her attendance at the District Public Image workshop, **Jane Challis** stated that monthly online zoom meetings with the District PI representative, which she attends, are also available for those interested. The \$500 grant that our Club received for our Facebook promotion has been successfully used.
- **Kathy Mills** promoted next year's District Conference which is to be held in Corowa 19th-21st March 2027. Registration is now available online through District 9790's website. She will forward an email to Club members shortly with all the relevant information, including accommodation options. (See end of the Bulletin for details).
- **Craig Hoath** stated that he will investigate the availability of \$2,500 grants through District in the new Rotary year.
- **Mathew Fowler** advertised the forthcoming Adopt-a-Road community service project, which is to be held this Sunday, 3rd May, commencing at 9.30am. Club members are to meet at the Winery Kitchen to clean up the Puckapunyal arterial. An email will be sent out with these details – RSVP to him regarding your availability.



Jane, Craig, Sam, Ruth
Bonnie, Russell and
Bill attended the
9790 District Assembly.

GUEST SPEAKER – RSL PRESIDENT MATTHEW McLAUGHLIN

President of the Seymour RSL Matt McLaughlin addressed the Seymour Rotary Club. He spoke about the collaboration between the RSL and Rotary as evidenced following the bush fires in January. At the time, he was contacted by the Incident Control Centre requesting that the RSL provide 150 meals daily, starting immediately. A Kilmore chef was found to co-ordinate the operation, however, volunteers to man the roster were required. Rotarians Fiona McCarthy, Jane Challis and Paulette Andrews, and dual hatted Rotarians and RSL members, Kathy Mills and Trevor Harmes, soon stepped into this role. Matt expressed his gratitude, stating that without this assistance, the operation would not have been possible and that he will approach our Club if a similar request is made in future.



Left: Matt with his family; partner Charlie and daughter Savannah.



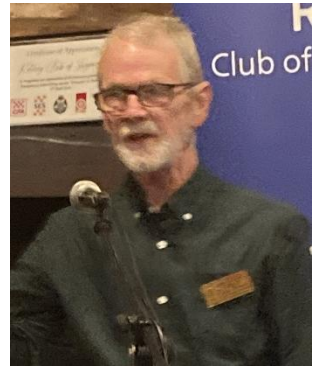
Above: Matt addressed Seymour Rotary members at The Royal Hotel. Matt praised the hotel's Anzac Day contribution by providing breakfast and lunch to the local community.



Left: Matt with Brendan "Buttons" Morely. Under Matt's guidance, considerable changes have been to the Seymour RSL Sub-Branch which has grown from 40 to 140 members.

SERGEANT'S SESSION – MARK DOSSOR

Acting Sergeant for the evening, Mark Dossor, fined Bonnie for going on holiday, Chaddy who had been seen waving at Prince Harry, Fiona in absentia for not returning to the Club after winning the Joker Poker and Craig for his shorts wearing attire. Mark decided to follow in the footsteps of Asian Rotary Clubs who bestow nicknames on Club members. His new titles included Muso (John Barton), Smiley (Jane Challis), The General (John Keeffe), Axe man (John Stares), and for himself, Muscles! Additional fines included Jo for forgetting her name badge, and all Collingwood supporters. There were a couple of cross fines from District Assembly attendance directly relating to the navigational skills of Ruth and the driving skills of Bonnie which were respectively likened to the TV series Hawaii Five-O and a duck with ducklings. (By this stage the commentary was rather confusing! – Ed).



RAFFLE WINNERS



Cathy Lawrence;
Wine

Sam Manning;
Chocolates

Craig Hoath – Joker Poker
Six of Diamonds



DISTRICT CHANGEOVER LUNCHEON

The District 9790 Changeover luncheon is being held in Wangaratta on 12th July. Please let President Ruth know if you plan to attend.




2027 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Corowa: March 19, 20 & 21

ACCOMMODATION

Greenacres Motel
91-99 Federation Ave, Corowa
Ph: 0490 539 769



Motel Menere's
146 Federation Ave, Corowa
Ph: 02 60331066



Statesman Motel
2 Edward Street, Corowa
Ph: 02 60332411



Federation Motor Inn
330 Honour Ave, Corowa
Ph: 02 60332022



Heritage Motor Inn
25 Edward Street, Corowa
Ph: 02 60331800



Accommodation has been booked at the motels listed. You **must** call your preferred motel directly and mention the "Rotary Conference".

There are also four Caravan Parks and Air-bnb accommodation available.

DISTRICT 9790

CONFERENCE

MARCH 19-21, 2027

TO BE HELD IN

COROWA

Pre-conference Program- Friday 19th March

- Golf- 18 Holes (Corowa Golf Course)
- 18-Mini Golf (Club Corowa)
- Lawn Bowls (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Paint and Sip (Corowa Civic Centre)
- Rutherglen Wine Tour (Tour of 3 Wineries)

Conference Opening and Welcome Reception
A welcome drink and fingerfoods on the lawn of Cofields Winery
When: Friday 19th March, 5.30pm- 7.30pm
Where: Cofield's Winery, Distillery Rd, Wahgunyah.

Friday

Register Now



Conference Day 1: An array of inspiring speakers and the first District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.
When: Saturday 20th March, 9.15am- 4.30pm
Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa
Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea are included in the ticket price

Gala Dinner and Entertainment- A separate ticket is required
When: Saturday 20th March, 6.30pm - 11pm.
Where: The beautifully restored 105 year old, heritage-listed, flour mill that is now home to the Corowa Whisky and Chocolate Factory.

Saturday

President's Elect Breakfast: A separate ticket is required
This Breakfast is reserved for the President's elect
When: Sunday 21st March, 7.30am - 8.30am
Where: Miss Birdie Restaurant, Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Conference Day 2: Inspiring Keynote speakers and the second instalment of the District "Murray Cod (Shark) Tank" presentation.
When: Sunday 21st March, 9.15am- 12 midday
Where: Federation Room (Level 3), Club Corowa, Betterment Parade, Corowa

Sunday