

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 48. 22 June 2026

Coming Meetings

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

DATE / VENUE	6 July Royal Hotel	13 July Royal Hotel	20 July Royal Hotel
GUEST SPEAKER/ EVENT	President Bill Dwyer The Rotary Year Ahead	TBA	TBA
CHAIRPERSON	Ian Chadwick		
TOAST	Sam Manning		
CASHIER / RAFFLE	Mark Dossor		
GREETER	Dave Freeman		

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

To Be Announced

PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER LUNCHEON – 28 JULY 2026

Ruth Byers commenced our Changeover luncheon by welcoming the near 60 Rotary Club of Seymour members and guests to the meeting in celebration of her Presidential year. Guests included DGE Paul Miegel and Meredith from the Rotary Club of Corowa, PDG Philip Clancy and Helen, and Jenny Foster, from the Rotary eClub of Changemakers, Past RCL Sharon Fox (Rotary Club of Alexandra), and ARCL Penny Paxman (Rotary Club of Yea). Formal apologies were received from DG Emma Davis, PDG David Anderson and Tippy, Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland, Shire of Mitchell Mayor John Dougall, North Ward Councillors Ned Jeffrey and Andrea Pace, and Honorary Club Member Doug Killeen and partner Bev.



TOAST TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – CATRIONA JARMAN

Following the loyal toast to King Charles 111 and Australia, Catriona Jarman honoured Rotary International as a collective strength of Clubs around the world which number more than 45,000 and consist of over 1.2 million members. Rotarians were described as opportunity creators, community builders, and problem solvers – people of action who serve to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, help mothers and children, grow economies, and protect the environment, not only within their own communities, but also nationally and internationally. She concluded by stating that “Rotary International represents a worldwide movement of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to honour the Rotary motto of Service Above Self.”



Past District Governor Philip Clancy responded with the acknowledgement that world peace is the greatest issue facing humanity today. He outlined the insights of incoming Rotary International President Olyaninka Hakeem Babalola whose belief is that peace does not come when the fighting ceases but rather that it comes when everyone can experience the life that we all enjoy. Rotarians must act to use the seven areas of focus to promote peace with the confidence that they will be supported by Rotary International.

SPORTING GRANTS – FIONA McCARTHY

Fiona McCarthy described the sporting grants as a recent project for the Rotary Club of Seymour, the aim of which is to support the participation of local youth in community sports organisations. The grants assist with the subsidy of fees, uniforms, and equipment, providing families with financial relief. Additional grants will be made later in the year.



Accepting Sporting Grants on behalf of their clubs were Barry O'Connell (left) from the Ryu Senshi Dojo Club and Jade Shiner (right) from the Longwood Football/ Netball Club.



PRESIDENTIAL DISBURSEMENTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

President Ruth Byers notified the room that disbursements in the past have traditionally been distributed at the end of the Presidential year, however the Rotary Club of Seymour came to the realisation that financial assistance is required by organisations in the community as needs arise. Monetary donations have therefore already been made this year; market takings have assisted with this support. Recipients have included the Seymour Performers Workshop, Gnarly Neighbours, Seymour Sharks Swimming Club, and the CFA, amongst others. Funds raised by the Club also go towards running the Australia Day celebrations each January.



Recipients representing their organisations were (from left to right) Zoe Cheggwidden and Jo Evans from the SES, Tony Wallis from the Seymour Historical Society, and Lynne Hutchings and Sue Cross from Riding Develops Abilities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – RUTH BYERS

Ruth Byers reflected on her presidency as a successful one whereby she had exceeded all of her initial goals amidst the fun, fellowship and hard work of the past year.

The year's achievements have included:

- An increase in Club membership with the induction of 10 new members
- A 348% increase in Facebook promotion thanks to the support of a District grant
- The recommencement of the monthly Rotary Market
- Successful fundraising activities including the Trivia Night, the Golf Day and Shake the Can at the Ampol service station
- Community Service projects involving the annual Police Awards, Adopt-a-Road rubbish collections and hosting the Mitchell Shire Australia Day citizenship ceremony
- Foundation/International donations to ShelterBox, the End Polio Now campaign and the Serving Humanity and Repurposing Equipment facility in Broadford
- Support for local youth has centred around the awarding of scholarships, a writers' competition, RYPEN camp participation, mock interviews, sporting grants, and the Junior Community Awards
- Acceptance in the Rotary Youth Exchange program with both an outbound and inbound student scheduled for the new Rotary year
- The launch of the "Say No to Domestic Violence Campaign" which will continue with an event planned for November
- Support for fire impacted students at the Yea High School to purchase school supplies and to sponsor camp attendance
- Assistance with meal preparation at the RSL Hall and Highlands Relief Centre following the January fires
- Members' attendance at the District 9790 conference and District Assembly

Ruth described Seymour Rotary as a vibrant, busy and dynamic Club, welcoming to all. She thanked members of both her Board and the Club who had supported her throughout the year. This included husband Greg whose own support and counsel had been greatly appreciated.



INDUCTION OF BILL DWYER AS SEYMOUR ROTARY PRESIDENT

Under the themed banner for 2026/2027, “Create Lasting Impact” PDG Philip Clancy inducted Bill Dwyer as the Rotary Club of Seymour President by presenting to him the chain of office, president’s badge, gavel, manual of procedure and charter.

In President Bill Dwyer’s address he thanked Past President Ruth Byers for the strong Club that he was inheriting and the honour that had been bestowed upon him by becoming Club President. He outlined his priorities for the forthcoming year as remaining consistent with past practises by continuing strong service performance in current and future projects.



Prior to his Presidential induction, Bill Dwyer had been bestowed a Paul Harris Fellow for his financial contribution to Foundation.



President Bill Dwyer will be supported throughout the 2026/2027 Rotary year by his partner Sarah.



The incoming Board from left to right above: Craig Hoath, Russell Chapman, Samantha Manning, Peter Holland, Ruth Byers, Bonnie Williams, Fiona McCarthy, Jane Challis, President Bill Dwyer. Absent: David Palmer.

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

Gary Doherty
Tony Lee
Jane Miller
Philip Clancy
Bronwyn Allen
Eliot Jarman
Sharon Fox



ROTARY CLUB OF SEYMOUR MEMBERS

Ian Chadwick, Russell Chapman, Mark Dossor, Fiona McCarthy, Alison Ridley, Peter Holland, Trevor Harmes, Paulette Andrews, Bill Dwyer, Alison Hall, Ruth Byers, Di Frankel, Jane Challis, Ann Holland, David Freeman, Leanne Chapman, Bonnie Williams, Kathy Mills, Mathew Fowler, Samantha Manning, Catriona Jarman, Greg Byers, Craig Hoath, Ron Halicki.

