



**Rotary meets
weekly at
Tosaria's Café
60 Henderson Rd
Rowville**

Tuesday 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm
start

Meetings are hybrid unless
indicated otherwise

[Zoom meeting link](#)

Visitors are warmly welcome

Contact :

President Jenny Moran
0404893870

Dr. Risha Bhatia - Royal Women's Hospital

This week our guest speaker was Dr. Risha Bhatia who is a Neonatologist and Director (Medical) Neonatal Services at the Royal Women's Hospital where the Vision is: Creating healthier futures for women and babies and encapsulating the Values of: Courage, Passion, Discovery and Respect.

Risha gave us a chronological history of the hospital which opened its doors as an "Infirmary of Peculiar Diseases" back in 1859 and was the first Australian hospital to teach midwifery.

In 1865 in partnership with the University of Melbourne it became the first specialist teaching hospital teaching medical students. Nearly 30 years later in 1892, Doctor Margaret Whyte became the first female resident. However, prior to this in 1884, it became the Hospital for Women and later in 1954, the Royal Women's Hospital.

The Women's did pioneering work to reduce mortality and morbidity rates from sepsis due to childbirth and induced abortion as in those days 1 in 15 women died. It continues to improve care and lead the way in many fields including reproductive health, ultrasound, cancer and pre cancer.

As a Neonatologist Risha has dedicated 20 years to caring for our most vulnerable babies, specializing in Neonatal resuscitation and respiratory care across the Monash Children's Hospital, the Royal Children's Hospital and now the Royal Women's Hospital.

Not much is known about the care of babies in the first 50 years of the Women's Hospital with midwifery led care between 1900 and 1940 as doctors were not involved. The first nursery for sick babies was established in 1939 followed by a nursery for premature babies from 1941. Sadly, parents were forced to observe their sick babies through large windows in the hallway which thankfully, is far from what parents are offered now. In fact, at the RWH the parents/families are seen as the central part of the Team working together with doctors, nurses, allied health and support services to achieve the best outcomes for these sick babies. Parents touching and holding these infants is pivotal in their recovery.

Neonatal Intensive Care Units provide specialist care for newborn babies with surgical and medical needs. The care is provided to babies born prematurely (less than 37 weeks) and also full term babies. They are provided with breathing assistance and advanced life support and specialised nutritional support. The problems faced by these babies include: congenital abnormalities, feeding difficulties, prematurity, infection, hypoglycaemia and jaundice.

The NICU at the RWH is one of only five such units in Victoria and operates 59-62 beds at 90-95% capacity with more than 140 admissions per month totaling approximately 1700 per year. The NICU can care for babies as young as 22 weeks gestation.

Back in June 2024 the Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield made a donation of \$3093 to the Royal Women's Hospital Neo Natal Services. The money was used to buy a Transilluminator for the NICU. This provided staff with the ability to easily identify veins and arteries and to administer life saving medications, nutrition and fluids to their tiny patients and gave them the means to make likely diagnoses in emergencies, where X-ray is not immediately available. It has meant that these sick babies do not have to suffer pain and bruising because staff can't see where to place needles and cannulas. Correct placement of intravenous lines is important in the administration of antibiotics and other medications, fluids, nutrition, the monitoring of blood pressure and the taking of blood samples.

Dr. Bhatia concluded by thanking the club for our commitment to building stronger communities and our commitment to giving our tiniest babies the best start.

We thank Dr. Risha Bhatia for her informative talk and for making the time in her very busy schedule to come and speak to us. We are so very pleased that the transilluminator is making a difference to tiny patients, parents and staff in the NICU every single day.



**Satellite Club meets
at Tosaria's Café**

Alternate Thursdays at 7:30am

Contact :

President Kevin Harrison
0419919011

**Home Club of
PDG Daryl Moran**



ROSTERS—Foothills muffins



06 February Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Pete & Sue, Anita & Rajeev
20 February Muffins	Kaye, Jenny, Corinne, Heather & Bob
06 March Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Pete & Sue, Anita & Rajeev
20 March Muffins	Kaye, Jenny, Corinne, Heather & Bob

PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
FEBRUARY - Peace Building and Conflict Prevention				
4th February	Andy R	Corinne	Andy R Kevin	Tom Mason - The Nigerian Princess and the Evolution of Scams
11th February	Bob	Heather	Kevin John	Toni Arafas - Stroke Foundation
18th February	Carol	Stephen	John Ian	Anton Hockey - RYDA
25th February	5th Tuesday No Meeting - Social Night (see below)			
MARCH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene				
4th March	Stephen	Kate	Ian Daryl	Martin Roche - All About Shipping
11th March	Kaye	TBC	Daryl Alan	Rotary Information Night
18th March	Marg	Carol	Alan Bob	Janette Etherington - Interplast

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SAT 15th FEBRUARY - COFFEE CATCH UP - Tosaria's Restaurant, Rowville

WED 19th FEBRUARY - 1812 THEATRE Free Night to see Spider's Web - Rose Ave, Ferntree Gully

TUES 25th FEBRUARY - SOCIAL NIGHT - MINI GOLF - Morack Golf Club

SUN 2nd MARCH - CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY— TBC

TUES 11th MARCH—ROTARY INFORMATION NIGHT - Tosaria Restaurant, Rowville

SAT 15th March - HOLLAND FESTIVAL - Caribbean Gardens, Scoresby



Member news snippets...

January Birthdays

Jeff- 7th

Rajeev- 15th

Marg - 24th



Wishing Jenny and Daryl a happy holiday in Apollo Bay! They will Zoom into the meeting next week if they can.



Our deepest sympathy to Marg, Ian and family on the passing of your brother-in-law and uncle. May he rest in peace.

Marg shared with us all the importance of making an Advanced Care Plan, so that your wishes are followed in the most challenging of times.

Senior Australian of the Year 2025

Brother Thomas Oliver (Olly) Pickett AM, co-founder of Wheelchairs for Kids, has been named Senior Australian of the Year 2025. Olly, from WA, co-founded Wheelchairs for Kids with the Scarborough Rotary Club back in 1996. It has become the club's signature project. In that time, more than 61,000 custom built all terrain wheelchairs have been gifted to children in 81 countries including Australia.

The organisation began after Rotarian Des LaRance went to Fiji on holiday and witnessed first hand, young children with cerebral palsy living their lives on the ground. Des decided to "do something about this". On returning home, he began to make wheelchairs from parts of bikes he found at the tip. He took 6 wheelchairs back to Fiji and saw the difference they made to the children who were given them.

Des came back to Australia and put a call out to Rotary Clubs around Australia for help and that's when Olly became involved and has "loved it ever since".

The charity produces wheelchairs which meet WHO standards, with Olly leading the development of a low cost wheelchair which grows as the children grow, which is a world first achievement.

Olly now leads the team of over 250 retiree workshop volunteers making Wheelchairs for Kids one of WA's largest volunteer-led charities. There are also 550 remote volunteers from all over Australia from aged care and community groups who sew covers for the wheelchair soft supports and also crochet soft toys and rugs which are sent out with the wheelchairs.

Olly dedicated his award at the award ceremony to the organisation's volunteers.

Congratulations Brother Thomas Oliver (Olly) Pickett AM. A true inspiration.

Follow the link to read more or see the YouTube video.

[Meet the 2025 Australians of the Year | SBS News](#)



Coffee catch-up morning—Saturday 15th February, 9.30 am

A chance for those who cannot make it to an evening meeting to build their connections within the Club.

All welcome – come for 10 minutes or come for an hour!



At Tosaria's Restaurant

International news update

- Bangladesh Eye Care project is continuing and about 75% complete. Hundreds of people have been treated for various eye conditions.
- As Robin Yamaguchi has returned to Uganda, there should be progress made now with the submission for a Global Grant to support Family Care Uganda.
- The Kiriwina toilet maintenance project will need new batteries soon.
- Ayanthi has completed a lot of ground work to enable some computers to be sent to several schools in Sri Lanka. The next step is to get approval from the Board.

WELCOME

A large group of Visitors attended the meeting this week, including some who were return visitors. We welcomed Robyn Willis, John Poke, Mary Kelly, Sunil Wekadapola from the Rotary Club of Kandy Heritage and Kushal Mudiyanse. We hope they all enjoyed their visit to the Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield and learnt a bit about us and what we do.

SPECIAL EVENT - KNOX ROCKS

Knox Rocks has previously been funded by grants and/or the Rotary Club of Boronia. This year there will be a concert, where the songs will be revealed in a public performance.

Ticket sales will help fund the program as well as promoting Rotary in a progressive way to a broader audience.

This is a ticketed event that will include an evening of music with 6 different acts as well as the songs written this year.

Please see opposite, the flyer with all the details. It would be great if they could fill the venue and create a great atmosphere for the presentation of the songs.



Bunnings

NEXT BUNNINGS BBQ FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Heather has published the rosters for the rest of the Rotary year in Google Sheets as “2025 Bunnings Barbeques”. If you are able to help, please fill in the roster/s as soon as you can. For those members who are not able to help out on the Friday BBQs, we have a Saturday coming up on the 19th April which is Easter Saturday. Please consider adding your name to that list.



Let's support our members....

 SEE ME FOR EVERYTHING! THE CORPORATE CONCIERGE see me for everything KEVIN HARRISON ☎ 0419 919 011 ✉ kevin@smfe.com.au 📍 23/12 Henderson Road, Knoxfield 3180, VIC	 ESSENTIAL SERVICES PLUS Domenico & Claudia Scuteri Owners ☎ Domenico 0412 279 364 Claudia 0434 492 578 ✉ dscuteri@essentialservicesplus.com.au 🌐 essentialservicesplus.com.au 📄 domenicoscuteri.acndirect.com
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CONTACT DETAILS

Club website <https://www.rowvillerotary.com.au/>

District website : <https://rotary9815.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Rowville-Lysterfield-171446576246728/?ref=bookmarks>

2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President Jenny Moran

Secretary Heather Morris

Vice President Murray Wilson

Treasurer Neil White

President Elect Bob Morris

Immediate Past President Carol Constantine

2024-2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS and OTHER ROLES

Community Service	Marg Vesey	Art Show Committee	Rajeev Wadhwa
	Kate Kidd		Carol Constantine
	Ian Vesey		Alan Lunghusen
	Ayanthi Gunatilake		Gary Forrest
Youth Service	Max Williams	Program Committee	Jeff Somers
	Gary Forrest		Kate Kidd
	Daryl Moran		Jenny Moran
	Rajeev Wadhwa		Corinne Baillie
International Service	Alan Lunghusen	Newsletter	Corinne Baillie
	Marg Vesey	Fundraising/ Sponsorship	Stephen Palamara
	Ayanthi Gunatilake		Kaye Sharman
	Rajeev Wadhwa		Heather Morris
Environment	Arshad Samsudeen	BBQ Committee	Bob Morris
	John Williams		Ian Vesey
	Stephen Palamara		Rajeev Wadhwa
	Neil White		
Vocational		Rowville Secondary	
Foundation	Bob Morris	College Council Rep	
	Kevin Harrison	Facebook	Stephen Palamara
	Carol Constantine	Website	Andy Round
	Anita Wadhwa	Rowville Lysterfield	Jenny Moran
Club Protection Officer		Community News	
Club Protection		On-to-Conference	Jeff Somers
Assistant (WWCC)		Social Convenor	Kaye Sharman
		Antique Fair	Stephen Palamara
		Committee	Gary Forrest
			Kaye Sharman
			Jeff Somers