

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 23, JANUARY 13TH 2026

**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 Bob Morris
0416105326



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

Alternate Thursdays at
7:30am

Contact :

Chair: Kevin Harrison
0419919011

**Home Club of
DGE Murray Wilson
PDG Daryl Moran**



This week's meeting....Prof Nathan Grills

Professor Nathan Grills is a public health physician and founder of ENABLED, and joined us to discuss the disparities in disability care between Australia and India.

Nathan shared the personal story of his daughter Abbey who has a profound disability, unable to walk, talk and feed herself. But Nathan highlighted the resources we have here in Australia which have helped Abbey reach her full potential.

Abbey will be 15 on Saturday and like most 15 year olds, is bored at home over the holidays with her parents. The holidays will be over in 2 weeks and Abbey can't wait to go back to school. She attends Glenroy Special School where staff to student ratios are 1:3. There are Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Hydrotherapy in the school's swimming pool. All things that make Abbey's day. Nathan is really thankful for the system that we have in Australia and highlighted that the NDIS has been great for Abbey. It has allowed the family to really enjoy Abbey and see her thrive and reach her full potential.

Nathan gave an indication of costs here in Australia e.g. Abbey's new brace was \$5,000 and a wheelchair starts at \$10,000 for a basic one up to around \$20,000. We have the resources to allow people with disabilities to be part of our broader communities and be part of our social fabric. He spoke proudly of the joy that Abby brings to a lot of people.

The story in rural India where Nathan works is very different. Nathan highlighted the story of Sachi who was a similar age to Abbey and had similar levels of disability but was viewed as a curse by her parents, extended family and community and the belief held by her parents that she would be better off dead.

We cannot judge the parents for this attitude. They live in a remote area with no access to education, no access to a feeding tube to help feed her or braces to help her walk and no access to a wheelchair to mobilise her. The social stigma of having a disabled child meant isolation for the whole family. Some help was provided through a community disability program with a disability worker visiting regularly and trying to get some education and help for the parents. Sadly, during the pandemic, the parents stopped feeding Sachi as it was such a difficult process and she passed away.

ENABLED strives to achieve "Health in all its Fullness" with projects that address 5 areas of need in rural areas of India. These are: Community Health, Mental Health, Disability Support, Education and Livelihoods. Through national and state based networks, ENABLED connects with and helps hundreds of organisations to better assist marginalised and poor people across India.

But the heart of their work can be found in helping those with disability. They enable these marginalised and excluded beings to live a full and meaningful life through disability support programs which seek to achieve change through the social inclusion of those with disabilities.

ENABLED has links with nearly 30 Livelihood programs which support those with disabilities by providing resources, knowledge, skills and networking. Thus helping these people find meaningful work which in turn provides a better future.



The number of programs and participants has grown significantly and ENABLED has had to train more disability workers, most of whom are volunteers, to address the demand.

*We thank Nathan for sharing his personal story as well as his devotion to
ENABLED, striving to make the lives of those with disabilities that little bit better in remote and rural areas.*

MUFFINS ROSTER

February Muffins	Kaye, Mary, Corinne, Heather & Bob
February Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard



Dates and delivery details will be confirmed soon

PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
JANUARY- Vocational Month				
20th January	Sharon	Kate	Andy R John W	Kate Watkins - Companion/Sight Dog recipient
27th January	Marg	Heather	John W Jenny	TBC
FEBRUARY- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution				
3rd February	Ian	Jeff	Jenny Kevin	TBC
10th February	Robyn W	Marg	Kevin Daryl	Luke Vesey - Challenges in the Trucking Industry
17th February	Corinne	Jenny	Daryl Ian	

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WED 18th February - Free Viewing of "Clue" at the 1812 Theatre - sign up list out soon



Murray and John P attended the Monash Children's Hospital on the 15th December, 2025 to celebrate the handing over of a cheque for \$204,000 that was raised in District 9815 as a result of Leanne Byron's Partner Project. Congratulations to Leanne and all the Rotarians who contributed to this very worthy cause.

FIRST MARKET FOR 2026



Makers and Bakers Market at the Rowville Community Centre, Fulham Road Rowville.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1st
9am—2pm

Markets will operate on the first Sunday in February, March and May. There is no market in April as it is Easter Sunday. Please keep an eye out for the new rosters in the next couple of days and add your name if you are able to help out.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16QvHXSGDYayD5DYgq0mZkKUC-rNe3MLA/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108019844417789794781&rtpof=true&sd=true>

COMMUNITY NEWS - Foothills Community Care



A small group of 10 members went along to Tosaria's on the 9th December to sort and pack a large collection of groceries donated by members for the FCC Reverse Advent Calenadar Hampers. They very quickly got organised and sorted all the items which were then packed into boxes and bags and placed into Marg's car. Kaye and Marg delivered the goods to FCC a couple of days later so that they could make up hampers specific to the needs of their clients. We sincerely hope that the hampers helped to make Christmas a little brighter for these people in our community who are doing it tough.

After the packing, members relaxed



with a meal and some pre Christmas chatter and laughter and some reflection on what our club has achieved over the last 6 months.



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Tamminya House Christmas News



Our friends at Yellowstone landscaping in FTG provided a huge number of presents for the children at Tamminya House. Susan, is seen here with some of the gifts.

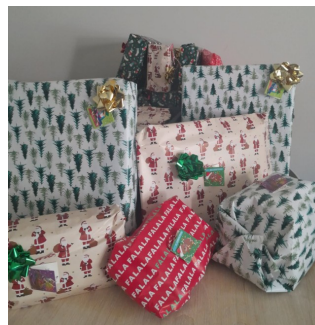
There were so many that some were able to be stored for birthdays but Christmas Day was such a treat for all the kids due to their generosity.

The mums were treated to Christmas gift bags provided and packed by RCRL and also a Ham for their Christmas Dinner.

A bit of Christmas cheer spread to those who need it most.



Many thanks to Yellowstone Landscaping for their generous support and donations.



Parkridge PS Presentation



Marg attended the Parkridge PS Awards Afternoon in mid December and presented the Rotary Award for "Outstanding All Round Student" to Year 6 student, Isabelle.

Congratulations to Isabelle on winning this prestigious award for 2025.



The Earlyact Club at Parkridge PS were instrumental in organising the collection of 300 Exercise books from their student community to donate to Donations in Kind for distribution to students in third world countries.

They are here pictured with boxes full of books! A great effort, from all involved.

Member news Snippets.....



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS JANUARY

7th - Jeff
15th - Rajeev
24th - Marg

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Marg and Ian jetted off on the 9th to Sri Lanka for a holiday. They packed a carry-on bag each!!! How very brave! We wish them good weather and happy times and look forward to hearing all about it in late January.



Morans are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17th January! Congratulations to you both!

A small family celebration is planned.

Baillies are celebrating 41 years on the 18th January! (You get less for murder according to Les!)

BUNNINGS BBQs

BUNNINGS BBQs held in December

This seems like such a long time ago but thanks must be given to the BBQ teams on Wednesday 17th December and on Friday 19th December. The 2 days resulted in profits of \$698.03 and \$1171.50 respectively, a total of **\$1869.03**. A fantastic result, I'm sure you will all agree!!

Under the leadership and organization of our BBQ Coordinators, Marg and Ian, the rest of the team was: Gary, Jeff, Alan, Robyn L, Sharon, Howard, John P, Murray, Kaye, Marg, John W, Cheryl and Kevin. A massive team effort— thanks to all!

The last BBQ was on Sat 10th January and was organized by Bob and Heather resulting in a fabulous profit of **\$2121.45!!!!** Many thanks to the team who worked at a frantic pace to keep the public happy - Alan, Robyn L, Murray, Andy, Sharon, Ayanthi, John W, Daryl, Jenny, Glennys, Howard, Heather and Bob.

Next BUNNINGS BBQs Fri 16th and Sat 17th January



Please click on the Link and check if you have volunteered.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yZ2CCLKH5cvbJSV1ZpT46xjpsngO9Ir1BXYB6B5axe0/edit?usp=sharing>

Pre Christmas Plant Stall - Wellington Village



A happy little group of Rotarians descended on Wellington Village to spread some Christmas cheer.

Whilst they were at it, they raised over \$400 and promoted our club and Rotary in general.

Well done, John P, Sharon, Gary, Jenny, and Murray!



OTHER NEWS.....

Whilst visiting Norfolk Island in early December 2025, Jeff caught up with Jasmine Dawn who is the current treasurer of the Norfolk Island Rotary Club. Also present was Alina Servaye, a Rotary Exchange Student from Belgium. The majority of her stay is in New Zealand but she was being hosted on Norfolk Island when Jeff was there.

The club's major project focus is on water and sanitation in the Pacific Islands. Their fundraising is dominated by catering for a number of very large community events on the island. They have a purpose built trailer that is a mobile kitchen, including fryers at the rear. They do chips by the truckload.

The club is fortunate to have major business sponsorship that allows members to only pay a \$50 annual membership fees.

Norfolk Island Rotary has a strong tie to New Zealand and is strongly opposed to any attempts to align the club with Australia.

Interestingly, Qantas has a monopoly on flights to Norfolk Island due to a subsidy from the Australian government. New Zealanders need to fly to Sydney to get to Norfolk Island.

Jeff was given the traditional Rotary banner to present to our club which is an old tradition which seems to have disappeared.

Thank you Jeff for this interesting Rotary Snippet!



President Bob with Jeff
after the banner presentation



Jeff with Jasmine and Alina enjoying coffee at a local café.

CHINESE NEW YEAR FUNDRAISING EVENT

The RC of Springvale City is running a Chinese New Year Fundraising Event with all monies raised going to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

If you wish to attend, you must contact Bob ASAP as bookings closed on Sunday.

ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION FUNDRAISING DINNER

PLACE: SHANGRI-LA INN (37/39 Brentford Square, Forest Hill)

DATE: WED 25th FEBRUARY, 2026

TIME: 6:30 for 7:00pm Start

COST: \$88 per head (this includes a \$31.20 donation)

RSVP: Please let Bob know ASAP



INTERNATIONAL CHAIR Event

President Bob received the following email earlier in the week re an International Chair Event via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Please see the details below.....

You're warmly invited to join us for our upcoming Zoom get together on **Sunday, Feb 15, 2026 at 10:00am**, where we'll be coming together to share ideas, insights and a renewed sense of purpose on our International Service front. These gatherings are always richer when voices from across our community are 'in the room', and we'd love to have you with us. The more the merrier - please feel free to spread this invitation across your Club membership - previously, we've even had groups get together at one home to zoom in!!

We will be hearing about projects which are known and loved as well as new projects which will be far less familiar, so there will be something for everyone.

To attend, please register via the Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/SAQJ1v3WSoioNkYPVnNH9g#/registration>

Once registered, you'll receive your personalised Zoom access details.

If you're unable to attend on this occasion, we completely understand. In that case, please send a brief apology by email to the organiser at international@rotary9815.org.au, so we can keep our records up to date.

Please register or apologise by Thursday 12th February.

Cheers

Janne Speirs

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE 13-15 MARCH, 2026



Time is ticking by.....8 weeks to go!

**FULL CONFERENCE including GALA
DINNER - \$340 pp
(Includes a green Polo
Conference Shirt)**

<https://rotary9815.org.au/page/district-conference-2026>

Let's support our members....



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The Knox Business Network Satellite club
of the Rotary Club of Rowville- Lysterfield.
www.knoxbusinessnetwork.com.au
Email: knoxbusinessnetwork@gmail.com
President: Kevin Harrison 0419 91 90 11
Secretary: Dominic Scuteri
Treasurer: Neil White
Vice President: Fiona Johns

*Proudly involved with
the Knox Business Awards*



Meeting timetable for the rest of the year:

January	29	July	2, 16, 30
February	12, 26	August	13, 27
March	12, 26	September	10, 24
April	9, 23	October	8, 22
May	7, 21	November	5, 19
June	4, 18	December	3 Finish for the year

Come and join us at Tosaria's @ 7:30 AM
and expand your business
and also make a difference through **Rotary**

Let's support our members.....



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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>

2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	Bob Morris	<i>Secretary</i>	Heather Morris
<i>Vice President</i>	Murray Wilson	<i>Treasurer</i>	Neil White
<i>President Elect</i>	Andy Round	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Jenny Moran
<i>President Nominee</i>	Marg Vesey		

2025-2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS and OTHER ROLES

Community Service Chair	Marg Vesey	Program Committee	Bob Morris Rajeev Wadhwa
Youth Service Chair	Max Williams	Facebook	
International Service Chair	Alan Lunghusen	Website	Andy Round
Environment Chair	Gary Forrest	Newsletter	Corinne Baillie
Vocational Chair	John Williams	Rowville Secondary College Council Rep	Rajeev Wadhwa
Foundation	Neil White	On-to-Conference	Heather Morris
		Rowville Lysterfield	Jenny Moran
		Community News	
Membership	Kevin Harrison	Social Convenor	Kaye Sharman
Club Protection Officer	Bob Morris	Muffin and Soup Roster	Kate Kidd
Makers and Bakers Market	Bob Morris	Art Show Chair	Jenny Moran
BBQ Coordinators	Ian Vesey Marg Vesey		
War Memorial Project Chair	Daryl Moran		