

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 27, FEBRUARY 10TH 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

DGN Murray Wilson

PDG Daryl Moran



THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER - Luke Vesey

This week our guest speaker was, Luke Vesey, Chief Financial Officer of Ron Finemore transport, which is a large food and fuel transport company on the Eastern seaboard and employs around 1000 people and operates 320 trucks dealing with supermarket chains and large oil companies.

Luke shared some facts with us about 2025. Last year approximately 250+ road tonne kilometres were travelled by more than half a million heavy vehicles driven by more than 200,000 truck drivers. It is estimated that there are currently 50,000 vacancies for truck drivers in Australia. With a changing supply chain due to automation, more imports and less domestic product the kms travelled by Australia's road freight is expected to double by 2050 in this industry worth \$60 billion annually. All freight in Australia has been transported at some point by trucks. This goes some way to explaining the huge number of trucks on the Monash every single day!

Sadly, the safety record shows an industry average of 7.4 lives lost per 100,000 employees with an all industry figure of 1.3 deaths.

With road freight expected to double by 2050, there are plenty of job opportunities ahead. Wages are quite high with \$150,000 p.a. average for a linehaul truck driver, coming down to \$100,000 p.a. for a local driver. The figure jumps to \$200,000 p.a. under fatigue management guidelines without breaching the guidelines. There are no formal qualifications required and drivers only need to be over 21 and hold the appropriate licence which is easy to obtain through accredited providers.

But there are many challenges facing truck drivers, not the least of which, is the very long hours in isolation and the daily grind made difficult by delays in the supply chain and traffic delays/incidents. The job is not seen as a long term role and the average turnaround time for drivers is 3 years. There are fears that automation will take these jobs over time and it is one of the only jobs where you can be heavily fined for doing your job e.g. a simple error on a log book. Under investment in roads and rest stops putting drivers and the general public at risk, also contributes to the undesirability of the role.

Over-regulation in some areas crossed with under-regulation in others leads to unsustainable practices and cost cutting and sham contracting further undermines the sustainability of the industry. Foreign labour is coming in at reduced pay rates that are not sustainable which leads to price cuts. This leads to issues more broadly in terms of competition and last year two transport companies per day were closing down.

One of the biggest challenges the industry faces is the consumer. We expect a lot from transport operators in that we expect product on the shelf, super fresh, at a cheap price point. These 3 things don't always go together and someone has to pay for that and often it is the transport company. This then translates to an average margin of only 1-1.5%. From this, companies have to pay tax, reinvest in their own equipment, depots and networks and then also pay dividends to their shareholders.

The cost of replacing trucks rises by double digits year on year so making replacement costs very expensive. We can therefore understand why the average age of a truck on our roads is 7 years. This ultimately affects the safety and reliability of the Australian fleet. Safety feature innovations and developments such as cameras which detect eyelids closing and alert the driver as well as the company, that the driver needs to rest are becoming more common and add to the cost escalation.

The general public expects that the trucks we are driving next to on our roads are safe and innovative but who, as a consumer, is willing to pay for that at the supermarket checkout or petrol bowser?

As Luke said, "...without trucks Australia stops..." With domestic demand expected to grow substantially over the next 25 years, we must grow our productivity and tolerance to do this both safely and sustainably. Safe and sustainable supply chains are not free and we must all be ready to accept liability and pay for the pleasure.

We thank Luke for joining us on Zoom and for enlightening us as to the opportunities and challenges faced by the transport industry in Australia. High levels of interest in his talk were evidenced by the large number and variety of questions. Thanks again, Luke.

MUFFINS ROSTER

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



FOOTHILLS
COMMUNITY CARE

FCC are moving to a new premises in Upwey. Renovations are currently in progress and they are hoping for the works to be completed very soon. Dates and delivery details will be confirmed soon. Thank you for your patience.

PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
FEBRUARY- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution				
17th February	Corinne	John P	Ian Alan	Mark Jones - Sheldrick/KOCH
24th February	ROTARY COMMUNITY CLUB VISITS - Please fill in your name on Google Sheets			
MARCH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene				
3rd March	John W	Jenny	Ian Alan	Days For Girls Project
10th March	Kaye	Alan	Andy R Kevin	Mark Jones - Borneo Orangutan
17th March	Glennys	Heather	Kevin Bob	Adriene - The Joy of Pottery
24th March	Howard	Bob	Andy John W	Matt Allen - Metro Trains

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUN 15th February-International Chair Event - ZOOM

WED 18th February - Free Viewing of "Clue" at the 1812 Theatre - sign up at a meeting or call Kaye

SUN 1st March - Makers and Bakers Market - Rowville Community Centre

SAT 7th March - Bocce Club Open Day BBQ -Rowville Community Centre

WED 27th May - Girls' Night Out - Mulgrave Country Club



MAKERS and BAKERS MARKET



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

SUNDAY
MARCH 1ST
9am—2pm

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16QvHXSGDYayD5DYgg0mZkKUC-rNe3MLA/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108019844417789794781&rtpof=true&sd=true>

GIRLS NIGHT OUT WED 27TH MAY MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB

Girls' Night Out 2026 is booked for 27th May at the Mulgrave Country Club. We still need the men to come along and be waiters on the night to serve the ladies drinks at the tables and do other tasks such as selling raffle tickets.

In the past, the men have worn "Tuxedo T-Shirts". If you would like to be a waiter on the night and require a T-shirt please contact Alan, who will order one for you. Please do this soon whilst there is still plenty of time.

The men will be able to order their meal on TryBooking at a reduced price.

2025 ART SHOW FUNDS

After the wonderful result of our share of the Art Show Profit of \$6,000, we were thrilled to hear that our RAWCS Grant application was successful and means that the amount will be doubled to \$12,000!! A fantastic result! Well done to all those concerned.

NO MEETING 24TH FEBRUARY - CLUB VISITS

Please note that there is no meeting on Tuesday 24th February. Instead President Bob has asked that members attend a meeting at another Club in our Rotary Community Group.

This is an opportunity to meet other Rotarians and see how other clubs operate, exchange ideas and network. It is hoped that members will be able to share their experiences at a later date.

It was suggested that members get together in small groups of 3-4 and maybe travel together to the meetings.

Heather has compiled a list of all the clubs with contact details so that you can contact the club to organise your visit. Please find the list on Google Sheets.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - WORKING BEE 3rd March

The meeting on March 3rd will have a different format. Jenny will give a brief outline about the work of Days for Girls, which was the recipient of her fundraising for the DG Partner's Project in 2020-2021.

After this introduction, there will be a working bee with some simple tasks to complete to assist with the preparation of hygiene kits that are distributed by Days for Girls. This will involve either tracing or cutting, so an easy task for all to be able to assist.



PLEASE BRING A PAIR OF SCISSORS TO THIS MEETING (per person).

Next BUNNINGS BBQ Fri 20th FEBRUARY



Please add your name to the roster if you are able to assist.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yZ2CCLKH5cvbJpSV1ZpT46xjpsngO9Ir1BXYB6B5axeo/edit?usp=sharing>

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Due to a positive response from members, we will be running a BBQ for the Bocce Club Open Day on Saturday 7th March.

The BBQ will serve egg and bacon rolls early, followed by sausages until close and be the usual prices that we charge, with all monies raised coming back to the club.

This will take place at the Rowville Community Centre 8:30am – 2:00pm over 2 shifts. Heather and Bob are rostered on for most of the day, so if someone could take some of the load by doing the second shift, that would be great!

If you are able to assist, please fill out the roster included under Bunnings BBQs 2026 on Google Sheets.



A Theatre Night at the 1812 has been organised by Kaye on:

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
8PM

Dinner at the Royal Hotel Upper Ferntree Gully prior to the play at 6pm for those wishing to have a meal (but please let Kaye know)

Please add your name to the list at a meeting or call Kaye 0404059509 so she can add you

There is no cost for this performance.

Member news Snippets.....



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

20th - Anita

27th—Dr Shariff

ZOOM/AV TRAINING SESSION

A Zoom/AV Training Session will be held at 5:30pm prior to the meeting on Tuesday 3rd March.

Come along and learn or refresh your skills on how to set up for meetings and breakout rooms.

Alan isn't always on scene and we need more people to be able to handle this job.

ALL WELCOME – Cheat sheet provided

Our very own District Governor Nominee, Murray, is very busy with all manner of activities and meetings etc. There are all sorts of things currently happening in Rotary at an International level and one of those is major committees that are being formed to redistrict Australia, to rezone all of the clubs in this part of the southern hemisphere.

The good news is that Murray has been elected by his peers in the District Governor Nominee group as Australia's representative on that particular committee to make decisions about rezoning and redistricting in the year after he finishes as the District Governor. There are only 2 people on that committee from Australia. Congratulations Murray!!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Community Chair, Marg, received this email from Foothills Community Care a few days ago.....

"We want to extend our sincere thanks for your generous contribution to our Foothills Reverse Advent Calendar appeal recently. Your support has made a tangible difference in the lives of so many in our community during the holiday season.

Thanks to your kindness, we were able to provide:

- ☐ 450 hampers filled with essentials and festive treats to families in need
- ☐ Extra love and care to individuals who may have otherwise gone without
- ☐ A sense of hope and community connection during a challenging time of year

Your donation didn't just fill hampers - it filled hearts with gratitude and joy. We are so thankful for your generosity and the positive impact you've made.

Thank you for being part of this important initiative with us at Foothills and helping us bring comfort and care to those who needed it most.

We've put together a video capturing the highlights of our recent Foothills Christmas Lunches, and we'd love for you to watch it on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#). It shows some wonderful memories and I hope it puts a smile on your face!

As we speak, we have trades all working on our new Foothills Hub in Upwey, and hope to open in the next fortnight. We hope that this new space will provide our community with support and connection 6 days a week, and we look forward to welcoming you into our space shortly.

Wishing you a fantastic start to 2026, and we're so grateful to have you as part of the Foothills family making a positive dent in our local community.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Stephen Barrington

CEO and the Foothills Team"

THANK YOU



**FOOTHILLS
COMMUNITY CARE**

RYLA

We were pleased to welcome Caitlyn Smart and her mother Bronwyn to the meeting. Caitlyn was our RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) candidate back in 2024. She decided to visit us before she heads back to Tasmania for the start of the Uni year where she is about to begin her second year of a Bachelor of Architecture and Built Environments. Caitlyn very kindly agreed to give us a brief overview of her RYLA experience and the way it has impacted her life.

Caitlyn highlighted that RYLA impacted her whole life by boosting her self confidence leading to personal growth in so many areas. It gave her life direction and clarity which lead to her enrolment at the university in Launceston. She joined Darkside which is a Design and Architecture Society for students, where she has taken on the Secretary role. This involves a lot of events organisation and management. She believes RYLA has given her the confidence to step out of her comfort zone and get the job done.

Caitlyn has started coaching Gymnastics in a club where everyone is new to her, very different to the club she was part of here, as she grew up in that club and knew everyone. She has been asked at the University to become a Student Ambassador and give support to students who are new to the Uni. She has learnt to mix with a variety of people from all stages of life. Not all university students are 18 and fresh from High School.

Caitlyn has been asked to become a RYLA Leader but this is difficult at the moment with Uni commitments. She hopes to become a leader in the future as she believes the leaders are key to the success of RYLA and that expanding your network is so valuable. *Thank you Caitlyn for your impromptu talk! You are a great example of the impact of RYLA on young people's lives.*



Invitation from Foothills Community Care...

We have received the following email of thanks and an invitation to a Barefoot Bowls Night.....

"Foothills have been incredibly busy in construction mode with our new Hub space which is set to open very soon!

Thank you for your incredible support over the past year. Together, we've achieved so much—distributing over 50,000 free meals and 20,000 food parcels, while also creating safe, welcoming spaces for people to connect and feel a sense of belonging. We couldn't do it without you, and we're so grateful to have you as part of our community.

To say thank you, we'd love to invite you to our **Foothills Volunteers & Supporters Barefoot Bowls Night!**

 **When:** Friday, February 20, 6–9pm

 **Where:** Boronia Bowls Club

 **What's included:** Dinner, your first drink on us, and a fun evening of barefoot bowls with tips from the local club members.

It's completely free and we'd love to see you (and your family) there! If you can make it, just let us know by [filling out our rsvp form here](#)

Thanks again for everything you do to support Foothills. You're making a real difference in so many lives, and we can't wait to celebrate with you."

Warm regards,

Stephen Barrington

CEO Foothills Community Care

Heaps of fun and laughter expected!

Last year's night was lots of fun.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE - CAMBODIA

Our Satellite Club member, Dr. Jen Luu's passion, is a charity known as Restore One in Cambodia. Restore One's focus is on "one". They aim to restore a normal life for one child, one family, one village at a time and to ensure the sustainability of that village before moving to the next village. Restore One Charity schools are catering for 30 pre school children, 300 primary students and 200 high school students. They also support high school graduates in their tertiary education.

They have recently completed building a library for a school and the Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield was asked to fund a fit out for this library.

Funds were raised with the help of a District 9815 Grant to purchase and install the following:

- Reception Desk
- Book Shelves
- Tables and chairs
- Bean bags for students to meet and relax in.

This school not only educates children that would otherwise not be educated, it also fights against the child sex trafficking organisations that operate in the area.



As you can see, being able to double the amount we can offer in assistance through securing a District Grant, is truly impactful and a beautiful, light filled space has been created for staff and students.



INTERNATIONAL CHAIR Event

ZOOM EVENT

Sunday, Feb 15, 2026 at 10:00am

Sharing ideas, insights and a renewed sense of purpose in the area of International Service

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.

ROWVILLE LYSTERFIELD COMMUNITY NEWS

The latest edition has been published and Jenny has written another fabulous article about our club's endeavours both locally and internationally. Follow the link and go to the Current Year Editions tab to see it on page 16.

<https://rlcnews.com.au/>

CLUB VACANCIES

President Bob congratulated Mary for making the decision to take on the Treasurer's role 2027-2028. Over the next 15 months or so, she will learn the ropes from Neil, who has capably performed this role over many, many years. Thank you, Mary!

YOUTH CHAIR - is vacant

Please speak to Bob if you are interested in filling this role.

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE 13-15 MARCH, 2026



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



If you have not booked as yet and have any questions, please get in touch with Heather, who will be happy to help.

Venues for the Club Dinner on the Friday night as well as breakfast on both mornings have been organised. Thanks to Jeff, who organised this on a recent holiday in Tasmania.

<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:

February	12, 26	July	2, 16, 30
March	12, 26	August	13, 27
April	9, 23	September	10, 24
May	7, 21	October	8, 22
June	4, 18	November	5, 19
		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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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		