

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 28, FEBRUARY 17, 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 - Mark Jones

Mark Jones joined us this week to tell us a bit about his work in Kenya. Mark is a member of the Rotary Club of Leongatha and relatively new to Rotary. The title of his presentation, Dare to Change the World—A Story of Hope, fits rather nicely with the Rotary ethos. His story began with animal welfare and has moved hand in hand into humanitarian pathways.

Many years ago, Mark was made aware of an organisation, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya, that rescues young abandoned elephants and rehabilitates them for release back into the wild when appropriate. Mark loved elephants, so he began to sponsor them at US\$50 per elephant per year.

This evolved into something more meaningful about 10 years ago when Mark developed the Elephants for Education Program to create a connection, curiosity and genuine educational opportunity for children. He reached out to schools and offered to sponsor elephants on their behalf.

In 2019, Mark and his wife planned a trip to Kenya which would also see them visiting the elephant orphanage. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the trip had to be postponed and they eventually headed off in 2022.

When they visited the Trust, they realised how extraordinary they are and that they don't just protect wildlife but also people, communities and the future of Kenya through various programs.

Things took another dramatic turn when they drove through the outskirts of Nairobi to an area of slums and extreme poverty called Korogocha. The images Mark saw started him thinking about whether he could fund day trips for children from the orphanages and slums to visit the Wildlife Trust.

He was put in touch with a young woman, Florence, who grew up in these very slums in a family of 9 children. At the age of 12 she was given the opportunity to go on a safari to the National Park in Nairobi where there is a giraffe centre which breeds the Rothschild Giraffes (which are endangered) and then releases them into the wild. That trip was her first exposure to the world outside Korogocha and completely changed her perspective on life and what was possible.

Florence was lucky enough to be given the opportunity through many sponsors to have a full education and is currently completing a Masters in Project Management. She is also running an organisation called KOCH (Keep On Creating Hope) which began during Covid. Initially, they were involved in feeding people and everything was just running in the background. But in 2024, KOCH was formally registered as an NGO and began running weekend programs for the children in the slums, providing food, educational support and critical education around self protection and sexual predation. They also work with donors to secure an education for children whose parents cannot afford it.

These weekend programs began with 120 children attending and have grown each week, over a 12 month period, to 450 children now attending. The activities are run by a team of volunteers. Mark and his wife have become Board members of KOCH and provide trips to the National Park in Nairobi for 20 children at a time, 3 times per year. It is hoped that this will provide an experience for every child that they would ordinarily never have and, in this way, ignite hope in each and every one of them, just as a similar experience did for Florence 20 years ago.

(Continued on p.5.....)



MUFFINS ROSTER

26th February Muffins	Mary, Corinne, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard
TBC Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Heather & Bob, Rajeev & Anita



FOOTHILLS
COMMUNITY CARE

Muffin makers please be on Standby to start next week on 26th Feb. Kate will confirm if this will be going ahead, so please check emails for confirmation before making your batch. Many thanks again to all the volunteers and 'emergencies' for this year. It is much appreciated.

PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
FEBRUARY- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution				
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	John W	Andy R Kevin	Mark Jones - Borneo Orangutan
17th March	Glennys	Heather	Kevin Bob	Adriene - The Joy of Pottery
24th March	Howard	Alan	Andy John W	Matt Allen - Metro Trains
31st March	NO MEETING (5th Tuesday) - CLUB DINNER			
APRIL - Environment				
7th April	Sharon	Andy R	John W/Alan	Rajeev and Ratnakar - Global Grant information

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

TUES 31st March - Club Dinner - Montania's Ferntree Gully

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/16QvHXSGDYayD5DYgq0mZkKUC-rNe3MLA/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108019844417789794781&rtpof=true&sd=true>



PRE EASTER MARKET

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.

We are also needing prizes for the night which can be used in raffles and/or silent auction. Any donations will be gratefully received. Next time you are out and about please think about asking for a voucher from the business you are visiting.....car service, restaurant, café, accommodation, hair dresser, bottle shop etc. Thank you for your support!

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



Roster now full. Thank you to all the volunteers.

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

CLUB VACANCIES

Congratulations



APOLOGY : Please note that an error was made when reporting on the filling of these vacancies. President Bob apologises for this and the new information is below.

Both club vacancies have now been filled with Mary and Jenny sharing the Treasurer in Training position with separate functions to perform within this large role. Cheryl is taking up the Youth Service Chair position.

Cheryl has already been out and about in her new role this week, visiting the Earlyact Club at Parkridge Primary School with President Elect, Andy Round and presenting badges.

We are sure that Cheryl's background in Education will be very useful in her new club position.

Thank you to Max for his work as Youth Chair over the last couple of years.

Congratulations and many thanks to Cheryl, Mary and Jenny.

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



Rajeev and Anita have jetted off to Indonesia.

We wish them both a lovely time away.



Alan has not been well, and has ended up in hospital. We wish him a very quick recovery, so that he can get back to doing what he loves to do. Take it easy Alan and rest up! We will miss you at our meetings and Eastlink will go broke if you don't get back on the road soon!!!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marg has organised a brunch on **SATURDAY 20th JUNE** at Tosaria's at 10 am. She has invited a Guest Speaker from Knox Police, Louise Perryman, who is a Leading Senior Constable in the Proactive Policing Unit.

This will be a crime prevention presentation that encompasses what we are seeing in the broader landscape and how we can mitigate issues occurring.

It is hoped that members will attend and invite along any others who may be interested.

More information will be provided with RSVP details as we get closer to June.

Mark Jones Cont'd from p.1

Mark and Julie also provided T-shirts for the kids which read "Engage/Educate/Encourage/Empower." The clothing provides a symbol of belonging and pride to be part of the KOCH community.

Mark sees education as the key to a better life and so he and Julie have put money into supporting young women to study tourism which will give them an employment pathway and help them become financially independent and to be able to help their families and avoid early marriage. KOCH runs a scholarship program that is fully funded by donors and is going from strength to strength.

Last year Mark and Julie visited Korogocho and provided toys for the children and 400 food packs for the families. They have also supplied tablets, educational support materials, a computer and 200 chairs and tables. Prior to this, the children sat on half buried tyres. Something as simple as a chair gives dignity and sends the message that they matter.

As Board members, the Jones' have a clear understanding of what is required to make KOCH a success. They are now funding a small wage for 6 people to run the programs and travelling costs for 10 volunteers. This ensures that every single dollar given in donations goes directly to the community and program needs.

We thank Mark for his passionate talk and for sharing his message with us.... "It's not about how much you give. It's not about what you do. It's about doing something." An impactful presentation.

2026 Ride for Medical Research

Marg and Ian are again joining the District 9815 Ride for Medical Research, "Search for the Centre of Victoria" 2026, Woodend to Kyneton. This year the ride is covering approximately 568 kms over 6 days in Central Victoria from 22 -27 March. With the recent fires, this may not be as scenic a ride as it has been in the past.

The Club has donated \$1100 to this very worthy cause, splitting the funds between Marg and Ian.

If you would like to make a personal donation and sponsor Marg and/or Ian please click on the link below:

[2026 Ride for Medical Research | Australian Rotary Health](#)

The Annual Ride for Medical Research 2026

Rotary District 9815 **2026 Ride for Medical Research**

Search for the Centre of Victoria

Supporting Australian Rotary Health

Last year we raised a further \$50,861.00 for Australian Rotary Health, bringing the total raised by both the old D9810 & D9820, now D9815, to an amazing \$2,476,285.00. The next "Ride For Medical Research" will take place in the week of March 22 - 27, 2026, marking 41 years of fundraising for medical research and health, this will be the second ride organised under the banner of D9815.

Registration for this popular fundraising event will open in November 2025, with strictly limited places, so get in early to secure your place. (Cost for riders is \$1,135.00, support crew/drivers \$950.00)

For early bird registration (opening in October), please pre-register your interest, in either riding or driving, by please send an email to Stephen Spiers: - jshecrest3154@outlook.com

Join us for the "Search for the Centre of Victoria" 2026, Woodend to Kyneton.

APPROXIMATELY 578KM OVER 6 DAYS

Day 1: Woodend > Harcourt - 71kms
 Day 2: Marong > Rheola > Inglewood > Lockwood - 103kms
 Day 3: Maldon > Maryborough > Dunolly > Marong - 115kms
 Day 4: Lockwood > Castlemaine > Maldon > Newstead - 110kms
 Day 5: Marong > Tarnagulla > Bridgewater > Raywood - 115kms
 Day 6: Harcourt > Kyneton - 68kms
 (Distances subject to change due to road/traffic conditions)



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

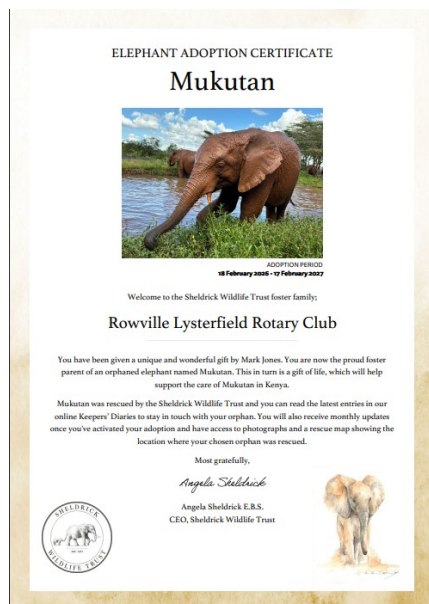
CEO Foothills Community Care

Heaps of fun and laughter expected!

Last year's night was lots of fun.



Our very own elephant!!



Mark Jones provided us with a certificate of adoption.....our very own elephant, Mukutan! Thank you, Mark!

KNOX BUSINESS AWARDS

John W gave an update on the Knox Business Awards which will be held in the evening of 8th October, 2026.

The venue is the Knox Community Arts Centre in Bayswater.

John announced that we all need to think about our favourite businesses in Knox and encourage them to put in an application. He is currently visiting other Rotary clubs and asking them to encourage their favourite businesses to get involved.

More details will follow in the coming months.

Cheryl announced our 2 RYLA Candidates are:

- Liam Shottle
- Violet Mangiabellino

Both are interested in the possibility of getting a Rotaract club off the ground.

FUNDRAISING

As we know, Kaye our social convenor, looks after our club dinners and chooses venues that she knows we will enjoy. She also organises the fundraising theatre nights at the 1812 Theatre Upper Ferntree Gully.

By organising these nights Kaye has raised \$1180 for the Family Care Uganda Project. Our congratulations go to Kaye for this wonderful effort!

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.

Let's support our members....

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The corporate concierge



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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		