

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary
Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 31, MARCH 10, 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**



MARK JONES—the BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FDN

In a very interesting presentation, Mark Jones outlined his personal journey with volunteering, following the example of his parents, to a point where he is focussing on preserving wildlife. Mark realised through scuba diving that animals experience a range of emotions just like humans and hence made a commitment to a vegetarian lifestyle.

In recent years Mark has had some amazing experiences. In 2023 he went to Sumatra for 'Edgar's Mission' on a trek to see orangutans. This organisation rescues and cares for neglected farm animals and the 11 people on the trek raised \$50,000 for the organisation. While Mark had trained, walking 6 km a day, this training did not prepare him for the humidity and the mountainous terrain—it was a very difficult trek, but life changing for Mark!

Not long after his return from this adventure, Mark had the chance to go to Borneo with Leif Cocks and The Orangutan Project. This project aims to develop conservation plans for orangutans to ensure their protection and survival. This was followed by a period of volunteering in Borneo with the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS) at Nyaru Menteng. The overriding goal of BOS is to reintroduce orangutans back to secure natural habitat to establish new viable long-term populations to bolster the conservation of the species in the wild. The 115 orangutans that are cared for in this project have been largely rescued from the wild pet trade or due to deforestation. Most have TB as they share 97% of their DNA with humans and are susceptible to human diseases. These animals are in rehabilitation for a range of reasons: they may be sick, too old to adjust to going back into the wild or may be traumatised from having seen their mother killed.

If they are rescued young enough (6-12 months old) the aim is to send them to forest school to learn the skills necessary to survive in the wild. They have a human surrogate mother who spends much time with them, for possibly up to 3 years, to teach them how to forage for food and to build nests, which they do three times a day in the wild, and to beware of dangers such as snakes.

If they learn these skills they go onto a pre-release island, where they are checked every day to see if they are managing to forage for food and build their nests. It may take up to 7 years for the orangutans to learn the skills but eventually many will be released into the wild.

Volunteers such as Mark had a range of tasks, including preparing enriched food, which encourages the orangutans to find food in various ways, such as scooping it out of bamboo stalks. Other tasks were building nests, making hammocks to hang in the nests and planting trees to stimulate the growth of the forests. At one point Mark was able to join a group building a release island and planting trees on the island; this was quite hard work, digging a 1 metre hole with a shovel!

The final stint of volunteering was four weeks with Oceans 2 Earth which works to ensure orangutan and sun bear conservation in the Borneo tropical rainforest. At this centre there are 150 orangutans and 72 sun bears.

In all his work, Mark has realised that it is important to protect the forest while not disregarding the livelihood of the locals.

Members may be interested in the link here.

[Adopt an orangutan](#)



President Bob and Mark Jones

Report continued on page 4

MUFFINS ROSTER

12th March Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Heather & Bob, Anita & Rajeev
26th March Muffins	Mary, Corinne, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard
9th April Muffins	Marg, Fiona, Heather & Bob, Anita & Rajeev
23rd April Muffins	Mary, Corinne, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard



PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
MARCH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene				
17th March	Glennys	Heather	Kevin Bob	Adriene Mann - The Joy of Pottery
24th March	Howard	Alan	Andy John W	Matt Allen - Metro Trains
31st March	NO MEETING (5th Tuesday) - CLUB DINNER at MOTANIA'S			
APRIL - Environment				
7th April	Sharon	Andy R	John W/Alan	Rajeev and Ratnakar - Global Grant information
14th April	Andy R	Bob	Alan/Ian	Sandra Sursock - Australian Rotary Health
21st April	Kate	Ian	Kevin/Cheryl	Tim Vesey— Engineer and Project Development
28th April	Jeff	Marg	Kevin/ Ian	Daryl Moran—'War and Memory; One Australian Story'

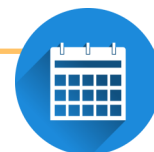
UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 20th March— Bunnings BBQ—Scoresby

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

SAT 4th April— Wellington Village Easter Fair—Wellington Village. Our involvement to be confirmed.

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
MAY 3rd
9am—2pm

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

CLUB PICNIC



Left: Petra, Bob, Tony



Above: Andy, Murray, Janine

Last Monday, Heather and Bob opened their home for a Club picnic, which was a very enjoyable afternoon for all those who attended.



Thank you Heather and Bob for your hospitality!

Left: John, Kath, Kaye, Sharon

TRAINING in EFFECTIVE FACEBOOK POSTING

PE Andy Round has offered to teach Club members some skills that will enable them to prepare more focused and effective FB posts.

The plan is to run 3 x 1 hr sessions at Tosaria's during April. The dates and times will be confirmed soon.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

CLUB NEWS



As President Bob outlined, support for The Rotary Foundation (TRF) can be in two ways: personal donations or Club donations. Both are equally important to provide the funds that come back to District and to clubs to fund their service projects. The donation of \$US1000 is recognized with a Paul Harris Fellowship, which comes at various levels.

Congratulations go to Jeff, who was awarded a PHF with 1 ruby to acknowledge his personal contributions. One ruby indicates that Jeff has achieved 7 PHF awards. Well done, Jeff!

The BBQ at the Bocce Club community day last Saturday raised a total of \$400. It has been agreed to donate this money to the Special Olympics Australia—Melbourne Eastern Ranges Bocce Club. This Club provides opportunities for young athletes to attend the Special Olympics, at a cost of \$5000 per athlete, so every contribution helps.

On March 31st there will be a Club dinner at Montania Café, Bar and Restaurant, Shop 52 Mountain Gate Shopping Centre, 1880 Ferntree Gully Road, Ferntree Gully.

Please let Kaye know if you will be attending; she will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting next week.



MARK JONES contd



Recently, Mark has taken up a role with BOS Australia, as well as continuing to run his own business, as the Infrastructure and Maintenance Supervisor. A lot of effort goes into raising funds such as gaining corporate sponsorship for projects. An example is the \$1.2 million that was recently spent on new cages for the orangutans.

Mark has also made a podcast, 'Because', that can be heard on Spreaker and Spotify.

In his work, Mark said that everything they do is trying to make up for conditions that have been imposed on the wildlife by humans!

Congratulations to Alan who was the attentive listener who won a T-shirt for being able to answer Mark's questions at the end of the presentation.

Thank you Mark for sharing your experience and passion with us.

BUNNINGS



NEXT BUNNINGS BBQ 20th MARCH

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yZ2CCLKH5cvbJSV1ZpT46xjpsngO9Ir1BXYB6B5axeo/edit?usp=sharing>

Member News Snippets.....



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS MARCH

1st - John P

8th- Ian

Next travellers from the Club—Daryl and Jenny are heading to Sth Korea next week.

Reports are that this is a very interesting country to visit. Safe travels.



GIRLS NIGHT OUT—BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

**A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT
RAFFLES
SILENT AUCTIONS
& MORE**

Get a group together >>>

WHEN
Wednesday 27th of May 2026
@ 6:30 pm

COST
\$75 pp - Includes welcome drink & 2 course dinner
Drinks at bar prices

WHERE
MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB
469 Wellington Road
Wheelers Hill

ENQUIRIES
Jenny Moran - 0404 893 870

BOOK ONLINE!
<https://www.trybooking.com/DJNKF>

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RAISED GOES TO
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ROTARY CLUB OF ROWVILLE-LYSTERFIELD

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Rowville-Lysterfield

WWW.ROWVILLEROTARY.COM.AU

A reminder that our 'waiters' need to book also and, if a 'tuxedo' T-shirt is required, let Alan know so that he can order them in good time.

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: - jsthecrest3154@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.)

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE 13-15 MARCH, 2026



Wishing all those attending the District Conference a very enjoyable time, full of interesting information and many opportunities to build friendships.

Looking back at some other District Conference antics!

<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.
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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:

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

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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	Cheryl Harrison	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		