

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary
Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 4, JULY 14, 2026

This week's meeting-FOODBANK-Katie Fisher

**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 Andy Round
0421053677**



**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**



Last night's meeting featured an outstanding presentation from Katie Fisher, Chief Commercial Officer at Foodbank Victoria which currently feeds 76,000 Victorians every single day. It's a confronting figure in a country considered food-secure but the last six years — marked by COVID, rising living costs and housing pressures — have pushed many families into crisis. Foodbank sources 16 million kilograms of food annually, but donations have dropped sharply as supply chains become more efficient. As a result, Foodbank now budgets over \$8 million to purchase food each year.



To distribute this food, Foodbank partners with 500 charities across the state — Vinnies, Salvos, neighbourhood houses and faith-based groups. These organisations understand their communities intimately, and Foodbank ensures they have consistent access to appropriate food. "If you're living in your car," Katie said, "a pumpkin isn't food relief. You need something you can open and eat."

Her stories illustrated this beautifully. One man arrived with six tins of water chestnuts — all he had been given. "I'm not starving," he said, "but I don't like water chestnuts." Foodbank's work aims to replace mismatched handouts with thoughtful, dignified support.

Katie described Foodbank's Community Food Centres, where people enjoy a free three-course meal and then shop for groceries. One woman told her that it was the first time someone had treated her like a human in months. For many, food is not just nourishment, it's connection.

A major part of Katie's talk focused on the School Breakfast Clubs Program, now operating in every state school in Victoria — more than 1,500 campuses. What began as a food-relief initiative has become a cornerstone of school culture. The program provides:

- Free breakfast for all students
- Fresh fruit in every classroom
- Healthy lunches for identified students
- Take-home food packs providing two weeks of meals

These packs are designed so even a prep student can open everything themselves, and all items can be eaten cold — crucial for children without safe cooking facilities.

Katie shared moving stories from schools. At one, a volunteer named Percy quietly makes lunch every day for a little girl whose home has no food. He packs it into her lunchbox so she looks no different from her classmates, even cutting her apple into pieces because she doesn't like the skin.

Another story came from Bairnsdale, where a father living in a swag saved enough to rent a caravan-park cabin every second weekend so he could have his children. The school's take-home food packs ensured he could meet the requirement of providing safe accommodation and food.

Members asked thoughtful questions about government support, allergies, independent schools and food waste. Katie explained that Foodbank receives 9% of its funding from the Victorian Government, which also funds the breakfast program. She confirmed Foodbank is working to expand support to Catholic and low-fee independent schools.

She also highlighted that 50,000 tonnes of edible produce never leaves Australian farms each year. Foodbank is now intercepting this surplus through partnerships with farmers, transport companies and government — turning waste into meals for families who need them.

We thank Katie for her time and for her powerful, confronting and deeply human presentation— reminding us that food relief is not just about feeding people, but restoring dignity, connection and hope.

Crime Prevention Brunch-Knox Proactive Policing

Saturday's brunch organised by Marg was attended by 30 Rotarians, family and friends who came to hear a presentation on crime prevention by Louise and Penny from the Knox Proactive Policing Unit. President Andy played a video featuring a German Shepherd guarding a home with great enthusiasm which was perfect for a session focused on safety, simple habits and staying one step ahead of opportunistic offenders.

Louise, Knox's Crime Prevention Officer, works closely with victims of crime, community groups and local residents. Penny, who manages more than 10,000 firearms licence holders across the district, brings extensive experience from Highway Patrol and specialist policing roles. Together, they offered a grounded, relatable and often eye-opening look at how crime actually occurs in our area and what we can do to reduce risk.

Their first message was simple: if something doesn't feel right, report it. Whether it's a reckless driver, suspicious loitering or behaviour that "just seems off," Louise encouraged members to use triple zero, the Police Assistance Line, online reporting or Crime Stoppers. What may seem minor to us can be the missing piece police need.

Much of the session focused on burglary prevention, with Louise emphasising that 99% of local burglaries are opportunistic. Offenders often walk down a street checking door handles until they find one unlocked. Simple habits such as locking windows at night, securing internal garage doors, and installing security doors, dramatically reduce risk. Security doors, she noted, are noisy to open, difficult to force, and act as a strong deterrent.

Members were encouraged to replace hidden spare keys with lockboxes, bolt safes to floors or walls, and engrave jewellery so stolen items can be identified and returned. Garden sheds should be locked, hedges and shrubs trimmed to improve street visibility, and CCTV (even dummy cameras) used as a deterrent.

Vehicle safety was another key theme. Offenders increasingly use signal jammers in shopping centre car parks to prevent cars from locking. Louise's advice: always check your car is locked before walking away. She also warned against leaving garage remotes in cars, as offenders use them with stolen documents to locate and access homes.

The first part of the session closed with practical travel and personal-safety tips, from walking in well-lit areas to using PSOs at train stations and a reminder that crime prevention, is mostly about small habits that make a big difference.

The second half of Saturday's crime-prevention talk shifted from home and vehicle security into the fast-changing world of scams, personal safety, and modern policing challenges. Louise and Penny continued their presentation with the same practical, down-to-earth style that had already won the room over.

They began with a blunt warning about Facebook Marketplace: if you want to sell anything... don't. The inability to vet buyers or sellers makes it a hotspot for fraud and theft. If members *must* use it, Louise recommended meeting only in the foyer of Knox Police Station, where anyone with bad intentions simply won't show up.

Scam awareness formed a major part of the discussion. Louise explained that legitimate organisations such as NDIS, Centrelink and Medicare now send a pre-call text message that displays the organisation's name — not a mobile number — to help people distinguish genuine contact from fraud. Even so, she stressed that no government agency or bank will ever ask for money over the phone, and any pressure to act immediately is a red flag.

Door-to-door scams remain an issue, particularly for home-maintenance or "closing down sale" clothing scams targeting women online. Members were encouraged to report all suspicious activity to Scam Watch, even if they didn't fall victim. The police don't know what they don't know, so your report helps them protect others.

The Q&A session covered a wide range of topics. Members asked about safety at Ferntree Gully Station, where incidents are rare thanks to a strong PSO presence. Roller shutters were confirmed as an effective home-security measure. Several questions focused on credit-card tap-on scams on public transport; Louise advised never showing bank details and instead presenting only digital receipts.

A powerful discussion followed, on e-scooters and e-bikes, which are causing increasing concern. Police cannot safely pursue underage riders at high speed but repeated reports to triple zero help to build patterns that allow targeted operations. Some high-powered e-bikes can be seized or even crushed if classified as unregistered motor vehicles.

The session closed with guidance on firearm amnesty, prohibited weapons, and the impact of reduced police-station counter hours. Louise reassured the audience that whilst police station counters may close, more officers are now on the road, improving response times and proactive patrols.

This was an informative, practical and highly appreciated session equipping members with ways to stay safer in an increasingly complex environment.

Our thanks go to Louise and Penny for a clear, practical and highly valuable presentation. Members left feeling more informed, more prepared and more confident about protecting themselves and their homes.



RYLA 2026



This past week, several of our club members, alongside our District Chair for Youth, Daryl Moran had the incredible opportunity to connect with Rotary's Youth Leadership Program (RYLA) on Phillip Island. This motivating program supports the personal development of local youth, helping them discover their potential, challenge their skills, and grow into confident, inspiring leaders.

Our club proudly sponsored Liam Shottle and Violet Mangiavillano to attend this year's program. Both will join us at a future club meeting to share their individual

experiences. They will discuss how this opportunity enhanced their personal growth, strengthened their leadership skills, and allowed them to build lifelong friendships.

The journey began early Monday morning when all participants and leaders boarded a bus for Phillip Island. After settling into their accommodation, they immediately dove into their intensive leadership experience. Full information about the RYLA program can be explored using this link. <https://rotary9815.org.au/Page/ryla>

On Wednesday, club members visited the camp to meet the enthusiastic young participants. Rotarians explored the expo, shared lunch with the attendees, and were treated to a fantastic gala dinner in the evening. During the dinner, the RYLA participants took full responsibility for the night, seamlessly serving meals and providing the evening's entertainment.

We were incredibly proud to see Liam serve as the stage manager, while Violet treated everyone to a wonderful singing performance. Both did an outstanding job! The enjoyable night was made even better when a team of our own club Rotarians, leaders, and participants won the evening's trivia competition.



As the program concluded on Saturday, we enjoyed a final meal together before the participants shared personal reflections on their leadership journeys. Their growing confidence, passion for making a difference, and deep gratitude for this unique opportunity were truly inspiring. The strong emotions displayed by many of the youth demonstrated just how powerful and meaningful this journey was for them.

Liam and Violet have since returned home to rest and reflect on this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Looking ahead, we are already thinking about potential candidates to sponsor for 2027. Thank you to Rotary for providing such an invaluable opportunity and experience for the youth of today.

Many thanks to Cheryl for this very informative report.



Thank you for guiding, supporting
& investing in a new
Generation of people to help others.

More personally, I appreciate your
contribution towards giving me this
opportunity, & I'll make sure it's not
wasted 😊

Cheers!
Jordan

A note affirming why Rotarians support the RYLA program so strongly. It was handed to Cheryl on behalf of our club members.

MUFFINS and SOUP ROSTER

16th July Muffins	Corinne, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard
30th July Muffins	Fiona, Heather & Bob, Anita & Rajeev
12th August Soup	Glennys, Jenny
13th August Muffins	????, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard
27th August Muffins	Fiona, Heather & Bob, Anita & Rajeev
10th September Muffins	????, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard



Help is needed on both the 13th August and 10th September with a batch of muffins as Corinne will be away. If you can help, please let Glennys know.

PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
JULY - Maternal and Child Health				
21st July	Corinne	Gary	Bob Kevin	Karen Noonan - A Very Full Community Life
28th July	John W	Bob	Kevin Cheryl	Ines Tan - The Importance of Vaccinations
AUGUST - Membership and Club Development				
4th August	Jenny	Andy	Cheryl Alan	Andy - Club Update
11th August	Howard	Cheryl	Alan John W	RYLA Experiences - Liam, Violet and Lisa

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MON 17th AUG - Primary Schools Speech Competition - Rowville Secondary College Performing Arts Centre **(Please note that an incorrect date was published last week)**

SAT 24th OCT, 6pm - Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Rd, Mulgrave

WED 4th NOV - District Final of the Primary Schools Speech Competition - Doncaster Secondary College, Performing Arts Centre, 123 Church Rd Doncaster(6:40pm for a 7pm start)





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

SUNDAY
2nd August
9am—2pm

[DoFoodSafely](#)

Please have a look and see if you are able to put in a couple of hours at our next market.

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

Reminiscing about a fabulous brekkie with Sam Neill.....

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<https://www.trybooking.com/BJUUZ>

Six years ago back in June 2020, 3 months into Victoria's first Covid lockdown, the Club held a Business Breakfast online, inviting Sam Neill as the special guest. As we could barely leave our homes, this was a fabulous idea to get us all thinking and looking forward to something a bit different.

Sam was quite the entertainer as he sat back chatting with Daryl and Marg pouring his tea from a pot. He was incredibly relaxed and it felt as though we were listening to and watching a friend in his living room. We were all very sad when it had to end.

The breakfast was a huge success with approximately 100 people watching online in Australia, USA and the West Indies and raised over \$4000 for Sam Neill's cause, which was to support out of work actors due to the pandemic.

This week the world lost a great actor, raconteur and a true gentleman with the gift of wit. I'm sure many of us feel as though we have lost a friend. May he rest in peace.

Vale Sam Neill

1947-2026

Member News Snippets.....

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JULY

2nd - Kath

6th - Robyn W

16th - Norm

17th - Andy R

19th - Fiona

26th - Raman



- Rajeev and Anita farewelled their youngest daughter Nidhi last week as she headed off to London to take up a position with Microsoft, for an indefinite period. They are already planning a trip in November to see her. We congratulate Nidhi and wish her well in her new position!
- Norm is heading off later this week to Fiji, Kiribati and Nauru. He has a goal to visit all the countries of the Commonwealth, so this ticks three more off the list. What a wonderful goal!! Have fun Norm.



Betty Wilson PHF



The presentation of Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs. Rotarians often designate a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives of The Rotary Foundation.

Betty was designated to receive this recognition as a special expression of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield. Betty has for many years, knitted beanies, mittens, dolls, teddies and Santas which have raised much needed funds so that Rotary can continue to do good work both locally and overseas. Literally hundreds of Betty's knitted toys have found their way to many Pacific Island nations where they comfort those in need and beanies and mittens have benefitted people closer to home, doing it tough.

A world of peace and goodwill comes closer to reality as Betty becomes a Paul Harris Fellow. It is because of gifts like the one made in Betty's honour that The Rotary Foundation is able to carry out an array of programs that achieve beneficial changes in our world: improved living conditions, increased food production, better education, wider availability of treatment and rehabilitation for the sick and disabled, new channels for the flow of international understanding, and brighter hopes for peace.

Congratulations



Bunnings BBQs

NEXT BUNNINGS BBQ FRIDAY 17th July

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17MgWI6b0-pgyBCOxnsxee5WVuqVP-IpCgW9HpQbmfdI/edit?gid=1103626758#gid=1103626758>

KNOX BUSINESS AWARDS

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON 31ST JULY

If you haven't gotten around to nominating a local business, please do so as soon as possible, as the judging phase begins on 1st August.



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

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE 12-14 MARCH, 2027



EARLYBIRD TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1ST AUGUST AT A REDUCED PRICE OF \$295 PP (until 31/12/26)

- a great array of Friday activities to choose from - High Tea, Winery Tours, Golf, Pickleball
- Accommodation starts from \$275—use this code in the Block Code Field -

2703ROTARY_001



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

President Andy used last night's meeting to give members a clear, structured overview of the upcoming Community Assessment — the club's major strategic initiative for the year ahead. While the concept has been mentioned previously, this session provided a fuller picture of what the assessment involves, why it matters, and how members can participate.

Andy explained that the purpose of a community assessment is simple but powerful: to understand Rowville and Lysterfield properly, rather than guessing what the community needs. By gathering real data, listening to residents, and mapping local assets, Rotary can make informed decisions and build trust with people who may not yet know who we are.

The assessment will explore key questions:

- What issues exist in the community?
- Who is affected, and how long have these issues persisted?
- Who is already trying to solve them?
- Who are the trusted leaders and voices?
- What changes could genuinely improve local life?

Before any surveys or interviews begin, the club must prepare carefully. Andy outlined several early tasks: forming a committee, identifying participant groups (including marginalised communities and non-English speakers), establishing a data-collection system, and ensuring the process remains unbiased. Members were reminded that Rotarians must approach the assessment as outsiders seeking understanding, not as problem-solvers arriving with preconceived answers.

Andy also walked through the tools the club will use — asset inventories, community mapping, focus groups, interviews and surveys — each with its strengths and limitations. He emphasised that listening without judgement, collaborating with local organisations and creating safe spaces for youth voices will be essential.

With several members volunteering on the spot, the Community Assessment Committee is now forming. The next step: defining the scope, selecting methods, and preparing to engage the community with respect, curiosity and openness.

The work ahead is significant — but the potential impact is even greater. If you would like to be included in the team, please let President Andy know.

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SMSF Audits & NFP,
Club & Associations Reviews & Audits

Awesum Financial Services Pty Ltd Tas Awesum SMSF Audits
ABN: 69 613 396 071





Meeting timetable for the rest of the 2026:

July	2, 16, 30
August	13, 27
September	10, 24
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**

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

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

2026-2027 BOARD MEMBERS

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<i>President Nominee</i>			

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International Service Chair	Alan Lunghusen	Website	Andy Round
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		Community News	
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Market		Girls' Night Out Chair	Jenny Moran
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	Marg Vesey		
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