

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary
Rowville Lysterfield



NEWSLETTER 5, JULY 21, 2026

This week - Karen Noonan – A Very Full Community Life

**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



Our meeting this week gave us one of those rare treats: a speaker whose story is so full, so varied, and so genuinely heartfelt that you walk away feeling like you've just travelled through decades of community life in a single sitting. We were delighted to welcome Karen Noonan OAM, a long-time contributor to music, youth development, emergency services and local culture. Many of us knew bits and pieces of her work, but hearing it all woven together was something special.

Karen began by explaining that she's not a member of the Monbulk Rotary Club, but proudly calls herself a "Friend of Rotary." She attends their events when she can, though her schedule is already overflowing with commitments. That became clear very quickly as she took us through the remarkable list of roles that eventually led to her receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia. When she first received the email notifying her of the honour, she assumed it was a scam. It wasn't until her husband looked over the message and assured her it seemed legitimate that she realised something significant was happening.

Her citation reads like a map of community life in the Dandenong Ranges. Karen has been deeply involved with the Dandenong Ranges Music Council, Sing Australia (now the Colour Notes Choir), school choirs, local musicals, and countless music-based projects. She spoke fondly of her years as the Ferny Creek Primary School music teacher, her work with Upwey High School musicals, and the many ensembles she supported because her own children were involved.

One of the standout stories was her long connection to the Girl Guides. Karen and her twin sister Marion began as Brownies, later earning their Queen's Guide certificates. Karen eventually became a leader and developed a statewide camping competition known as the Lady Stradbroke Cup, a program still running today. Her pride in that achievement was clear, not because her name is attached to it, but because it continues to give girls opportunities she believes they deserve.

Her involvement with the CFA added another layer to her story. What began as an offer to help with administration quickly turned into full operational service once she completed the recruit course. Karen spoke about her time with the Sassafras Ferny Creek Brigade and her later move to Monbulk, which brought the unique challenges of a brigade that handles wildfires, structure fires, road rescue and rope rescue. Her stories from deployments, including long nights at Kinglake, were told with humour and humility.

Karen's musical life continues today through the Colour Notes Choir, a group she has conducted for more than 22 years. They perform for joy rather than perfection and their recent involvement in backing a single connected to Professor Arnold Dix, was a highlight she clearly cherished.

The most touching moment came when Karen revealed who nominated her for the OAM : her sons. Their quiet admiration, combined with her decades of service, made the honour all the more meaningful.

Karen closed with a campfire song, bringing the room together in laughter and hand-actions. It was the perfect ending to a talk that reminded us how much one person can contribute when they simply keep saying yes to their community. Click on the link if you would like to sing along!



Karen with Gary Forrest,
Meeting Chairperson

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/NBKnpD7b8Vo>

We thank Karen for her time and for her very entertaining talk about her very full community life.

MUFFINS and SOUP ROSTER

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
9th September Soup	Anita, Robyn L
10th September Muffins	Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard
24th September Muffins	Fiona, Heather & Bob, Anita & Rajeev



PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
JULY - Maternal and Child Health				
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
18th August	Cheryl	Marg	Bob Kevin	Vin Lucas - The Role of an AO Driver
25th August	Kevin	John P	Cheryl Alan	Sue Dymond - Markets by Disabled Sellers (TBC)

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MON 17th AUG - Primary Schools Speech Competition - Rowville Secondary College Performing Arts Centre, Humphries Way, Rowville

SUN 30th AUG - Colour Notes Choir Concert - Knox Community Arts Centre, Mountain Hwy Bayswater
Tickets \$20

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

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>

MAKERS AND BAKERS MARKET MOVING FORWARD

Bob Morris gave the club a clear and honest update this week on the Makers & Bakers Market, and it's fair to say his message landed with weight. Many of us enjoy seeing the market flourish each month, but hearing the amount of work that sits behind it was a reminder that community projects don't run on goodwill alone. They run on people.

Bob explained that around fifty hours a month go into organising the market, most of them carried by him and Heather. Those hours cover everything from managing stallholder bookings to answering enquiries, updating spreadsheets, planning layouts, and keeping the social media presence active. It's not complicated work, but it is steady, repetitive, and time-consuming.

One of the biggest jobs is signage. Ten large corflute signs and ten smaller ones go out every month, hammered into place with star pickets and cable ties, then collected again after the market. It's simple work, but it takes time, and it's one of the many tasks that could easily be shared among members.

Heather's role is equally demanding. She manages the stallholder map, juggling requests for front walls, back walls, neighbours, table numbers, and last-minute changes. Most stallholders are easy going, but a few require careful placement, and that adds to the workload.

Setting up and packing down tables on market day remains the most physically demanding job and Bob acknowledged the members who regularly turn up to help. Their support makes a real difference as does the support of all members who turn up regularly to help out in the many roles.

The challenge is clear. If the club wants the market to continue beyond December, more hands are needed. Bob and Heather are committed through to the end of the year, but October will be a real test, as they will both be away from mid September until early October. This means all the organisation for the October market as well as the jobs they do on the actual day will need to be taken up by other members.

There are also financial pressures. The electronic VMS signs on Stud Road now carry a \$600 excess if vandalised, making them too risky to use. Social media has become even more important, and thanks to Donna and Joya, the market's online presence is improving.

The market is gaining traction, and the community is responding well but its future depends on us. If you can take on even one small task, it will make a difference. The spreadsheet is simple, the jobs are manageable, and the impact is real.

The message was clear: if we want the market to thrive, we need to step forward.

Member News Snippets.....

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS JULY

2nd - Kath
6th - Robyn W
16th - Norm
17th - Andy R
19th - Fiona
26th - Raman



- Marg and Ian have finally completed their renovation after many long weeks of no kitchen or bathroom.

The short term pain has definitely been worth the long term gain as they stretch out in their new open plan living space with heaps of room for all the family and friends.

No doubt, regular gatherings will be commonplace!

- Corinne and Les are gearing up for the next adventure with suitcases checked (and replaced) and packing to begin soon.....only 3 weeks to go!!! Woo hoo!!!



ROTARY COLLECTIONS

THE ROTARY USED STAMPS PROGRAM

While receiving a letter with a stamp is fairly rare these days, it is still worthwhile saving any envelopes with a stamp, and eventually passing on your collection to the Rotary Club of Monash Glen Waverley.

This Rotary club program to sort and resell used stamps commenced in 1992 and has since raised over \$150,000. Notably, \$70,000 of these funds went to the End Trachoma program to purchase a water trailer to travel to remote communities. The fact that a recent declaration was made that Australia is Trachoma free is in no small part due to the provision of this water supply.

Over the years our club members have supported this program and in particular a lot of stamps have been collected by Kaye at the 1812 Theatre. While it is a small thing, to collect any stamps that arrive at your home, the result over the years from many, many people have made this an impactful project.

(Please note, the stamps need to remain on the envelope or cut off with a large margin around the stamp.)

Any stamps collected can be delivered to the Rotary Club of Monash Glen Waverley at:

Monash Rotary Op Shop
13 Barlyn Road
Mt Waverley



FOREIGN COIN COLLECTION



A program of recycling that our Club members have supported over the years is the Foreign Coin Repatriation Program. This has been run by Rotarian Ron Brooks, a member of the Rotary Club of Boronia, for many years.

The coins and notes are sorted, returned to their country of origin and then converted into Australian dollars. The money raised in this District has been used to support a UNICEF program of immunization in the Pacific region, Give Every Child a Future. If you have a bag of coin from your travels, bring it to Rotary and give it to Jenny, who will ensure it is passed on to Ron.

Thanks to Jenny for these 2 articles.

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

Weekend at a Glance	
	Thursday 11 March PM Registration desk opens.
	Friday 12 March Friday activities, VIP drinks for Past District Governors, Rotary Uncorked or Club dinners.
	Saturday 13 March First Timers Breakfast, Conference sessions, Expo, Alumni luncheon, Showtime Gala Night.
	Sunday 14 March Foundation Breakfast, Conference sessions, finish with lunch.

Bunnings BBQs

NEXT BUNNINGS BBQ FRIDAY 21st August

Last Friday's BBQ made a profit of **\$820.70** - another excellent result

Our thanks to the team - Howard, Cheryl, Deb, Jeff, Jenny and Kaye under the great leadership and effort of Ian and Marg

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

KNOX BUSINESS AWARDS

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY NEXT WEEK - 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/>

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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
Secretary: Dominic Scuteri
Treasurer: Neil White
Vice President: Fiona Johns




Proudly involved with the Knox Business Awards



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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>

2026-2027 BOARD MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	Andy Round	<i>Secretary</i>	Heather Morris
<i>Vice President</i>	Alan Lunghusen	<i>Treasurer</i>	Neil White
<i>President Elect</i>	Marg Vesey	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Bob Morris
<i>President Nominee</i>			

2026-2027 SERVICE CHAIRS and OTHER ROLES

Community Service Chair	Sharon Ferdinands	Program Committee	Marg Vesey Heather Morris
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	Jeff Somers
		Rowville Lysterfield	Jenny Moran
		Community News	
Membership	Kevin Harrison	Social Convenor	Kaye Sharman
Club Protection Officer	Daryl Moran	Muffin and Soup Roster	Glennys Hocking
Makers and Bakers	Bob Morris	Art Show Chair	Jenny Moran
Market		Girls' Night Out Chair	Jenny Moran
BBQ Coordinators	Ian Vesey	Knox Business Awards	John Williams
	Marg Vesey		
War Memorial Project Chair	Daryl Moran		