

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



NEWSLETTER 9, AUGUST 18, 2026

EXPERIENCES as an AO DRIVER—VIN LUCAS

**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**



This week's speaker, Vin Lucas, provided some remarkable insights as he outlined his experience over ten years as a driver for the Australian Open.

Vin came to this role in 2014 after he took time out from a demanding role in HR for Asahi Beverages and looked for some volunteer work to do. He became involved with 'Big Brother, Big Sister' and then saw an advertisement for drivers for the AO. There was a rigorous interview and induction process, ensuring that applicants interact well and are able to deal with unexpected issues. As it is a very customer facing role and the cars and uniform are very identifiable, the role needs to be taken very seriously. After selection the training was quite intense with half a day driving training with specialist drivers, ensuring that drivers can deal with the KIA cars that are provided and honing skills such as reverse parking. There was training, which is refreshed each year, on health and safety training, confidentiality, zero tolerance for gambling and customer engagement. One session involves building awareness of how to interact with players, how to tune in to when they do not wish to interact and where the limits are regarding conversation topics, plus aspects such as not asking for autographs or accepting gifts. Drivers need to be over 25 and flexible regarding rosters and be available for the full three weeks, plus have a Police Check and a Working With Children Card. Each year they are provided with articles of uniform by Ralph Lauren such as a polo shirt, jacket, shorts, shoes and a hat. At all times the drivers are aware that they are ambassadors for the Australian Open and also ambassadors for Melbourne.

The driving tasks are largely to or from the airport, to or from Melbourne Park and to or from the accommodation. The shifts are typically 5-6 hour shifts, although the 6 pm onwards shift is 'till play ends', which may be early morning! The passengers may be players, officials, players family or entourage and sometimes trips are for family outings, such as to the Zoo or Healesville Sanctuary. There is a daily briefing to ensure that drivers are aware of potential traffic issues such as demonstrations, road works or large sporting events such as cricket matches that can impact movement around Melbourne Park.

Coming from a background in HR, Vin is very impressed with the organisational aspects of the AO. He feels that the best processes and people are in place to manage an event of this scale and the impact of AO CEO Craig Tilley in raising the culture has been immense. Craig has provided strong leadership and embraces collaboration, humility and excellence. The scale of the AO is enormous, with around 15,000 operational staff in roles such as hospitality, logistics, security, psychology, stringers and much more. There are around 350-400 drivers, with 170-180 cars, and 400 ball kids. It is very pleasing that many comments come from players that they love to play in the Australian Open and it is the best of all the Grand Slams. It is in fact termed the 'Happy Slam'!



Chair person Marg thanking Vin

Vin has a number of favourite memories particularly regarding contact with various stars of the tennis world. A conversation with Martina Navratilova demonstrated that she was warm and engaging; Madison Keys had the biggest smile possible when she won; Alcaraz and Sinner are very laidback and organised and Serena Williams always kept him waiting. Boris Becker was memorable as he was like a boy who had never grown up, disputing the need to fasten his seat belt and pretending he had done it up. Vin enjoyed a trip to Werribee Zoo with Rafa Nadal and his family and spent half a day with Dylan Alcott and found him to be very lively and a real character. In fact, transporting disabled players was an impressive part of the role as they were very independent in managing their tennis equipment and wheelchairs.

Thank you to Vin for his interesting and informative talk.

MUFFINS and SOUP ROSTER

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
7th October Soup	Glennys, Jenny
8th October Muffins	Corinne, Pete & Sue, Glennys & Howard



PROGRAM

Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and Production	Program
AUGUST - Membership and Club Development				
25th August	Kevin	John P	Cheryl Alan	Sue Dymond - <i>Markets by Disabled Sellers</i>
SEPTEMBER - Basic Education and Literacy				
1st September	Ian	Jeff	Alan John W	Lauren Newman— <i>Exercises for health and fitness</i>
8th September	Norm	Andy	Kevin Cheryl	Pres Andy - <i>Club Update</i>
15th September	Mary	Jenny	Cheryl Alan	Helen Comport— <i>Quilts of Valour</i>

UPCOMING CLUB DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRI 18th SEPT - Business Breakfast - Churchill-Waverley Golf and Bowls Club, Bergins Rd, Rowville 06:45am-8:30am

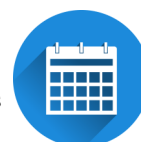
SAT 24th OCT - SHEBA Fundraising Dinner - Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Rd, Mulgrave, 6pm

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)

FRI 6th NOV— 52nd Knox Art Show Opening Night—Churchill Waverley Golf and Bowls Club, Bergins Rd, Rowville

SAT 7th NOV—SUN 8th NOV - 52nd Knox Art Show

FRI 20th NOV - Golf Day - Churchill-Waverley Golf and Bowls Club, Bergins Rd, Rowville (more details soon)



BUSINESS BREAKFAST #22



Rotary
Rowville-Lysterfield

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

AUSTRALIA'S DRONES

18 SEPTEMBER | **6.45 - 8.30** | **\$65**
FRIDAY | AM | PER HEAD

Churchill-Waverley Golf & Bowls Club, 82 Bergins Road, Rowville

MEET OUR SPEAKER


GREG TYRELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNCREWED SYSTEMS (AAUS)

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AAUS is our nation's largest peak industry advocacy body for uncrewed systems, including drones and advanced air mobility across all Australian land, sea and air domains.

  VISIT OUR CLUB WEBSITE
ROWVILLEROTARY.COM.AU

 MORE INFORMATION CALL US
0404 069 751

 **SCAN TO BOOK**

ALL PROCEEDS TO ROWVILLE CFA

BOOKINGS CLOSE 11 SEPTEMBER

Why Attend BB#22 on 18 September?

- **PRESIDENT'S GOALS.** - To support President Andy Round's goal of providing funds and creating awareness for our local Rowville CFA, especially its Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)
- **A GOOD CAUSE TO SUPPORT** - All proceeds from ticket sales and raffles will go directly to the Rowville CFA
- **NETWORKING** - It gives our Rowville-Lysterfield community a chance to network with their local business owners and leaders
- **INDUSTRY INSIGHTS** - We get to learn about cutting edge industry insights, especially those involved in the defence, emergency services and transport innovation areas
- **EXPERT SPEAKER** - Our Guest Speaker **GREG TYRELL** is the Executive Director of the peak Australian body for drone technology
- **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** - Uncrewed systems and drones are rapidly expanding into commercial automation, logistics and asset monitoring. An informed understanding of these applications could spark new products, and better service or operational efficiencies for traditional businesses

NEW BBQ!



We are very aware of the generosity of Bunnings, who not only provide the opportunity for monthly BBQs, one of our major sources of funds, but support us in so many other ways.

Recently, a group of students from the Eastern Ranges School gained some construction skills under the guidance of Bunnings Scoresby staff by assembling a BBQ. This BBQ was then to be donated to a community group and our Rotary Club is the lucky recipient.



Well done to Bob, who has been very active in ensuring we were able to replace our old BBQ which was rapidly falling apart. Thank you to Gracie, the Activities Coordinator at Scoresby Bunnings, who is very supportive of our work.

Member News Snippets.....

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS AUGUST

1st - Ratnakar

2nd - Bob



- ◆ Pleasing to see Debra back with us this week, after an enjoyable trip on the Ghan.
- ◆ The raffle for the quilts being run largely by Marg's U3A cycling group was drawn today and two Rotarians won the quilts.... Congratulation to Mary and Sharon. This raffle raised \$535 which will go to Family Care Uganda.
- ◆ Best wishes to Sharon who took a tumble last week who and is feeling a bit bruised and battered, and to Heather who has damaged her back. Get well soon!
- ◆ Murray and John are out and about this week visiting other clubs in their respective roles as District Governor Elect (DGE) and Rotary Community Group Leader (RCL). We are very proud to have our members working in such impactful District roles.
- ◆ John and Kath sent their apologies for tonight's meeting. Life is just too busy in Bali (not!)

PRIMARY SCHOOLS' SPEECH COMPETITION

A group of very excited young people, who were also somewhat nervous, arrived at the Rowville Secondary College Performing Arts Centre on Monday night, ready to show their skills. This was at the Annual Primary Schools Speech Competition, which has been one of the highlights of our youth programs for a number of years. Once again this year the students showed impressive skills in their preparation of a coherent discussion of their chosen questions, as well as excellent presentation skills. Varying the voice with light and shade, pauses and emphasis, were put to good use, as well as using appropriate gestures. It was impressive that many of the competitors were so confident with their material that they barely glanced at their notes.

The winner this year was Winter Rudd from Heany Park Primary School, with the topic 'If I could change the world'. Winter focused on the issue of smoking and vaping and backed up her points with good use of statistics. Runner-up, Torben Kulesa from Park Ridge Primary School also chose the same topic, with some very compelling arguments that he would strive to make the world a utopia, a task in which we could all share.

The evening ran very smoothly and thanks go to the Youth Service Chair Cheryl who, while still not very well, had every detail sorted and who chaired the evening with great warmth and aplomb. Thank you to all the Rotarians who attended and ensured that any and all tasks required were willingly fulfilled, particularly Bob for catering, Heather, Robyn and Andy for being judges, Ian for timing, Kevin for his role as photographer, Marg for taking care of attaching the microphones, Daryl for outlining some of the Youth programs in the District while the judges made their decision and Jenny for being on the registration desk. We also appreciate the support of all the parents and teachers who took time to come along and support these young people.



Winter, President Andy and Torben



Winter proudly holding the shield for the winning school



Youth Chair Cheryl in action

DISTRICT 9815 CONFERENCE 12-14 MARCH, 2027



HUNTER VALLEY CONFERENCE 2027

RYDGES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY
12-14 MARCH 2027

BOOKINGS OPEN 1ST AUGUST

EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS 31 DECEMBER 2026

BOOK EARLY & SAVE

SAVE \$50	SAVE \$30	
FULL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE EARLY BIRD	CONFERENCE ONLY EARLY BIRD	GALA DINNER ONLY TICKET PRICE
\$295	\$195	\$140
After 31 Dec: \$345	After 31 Dec: \$225	After 31 Dec: \$140

WHY BOOK EARLY?

- Save on registration**
Keep more in your pocket with Early Bird pricing.
- Plan together**
Organise your Club group and make a weekend of it.
- More than a Conference**
Speakers, ideas, connection and Hunter Valley fun.
- A weekend to remember**
Friday adventures, Rotary Uncorked and Showtime.

TRAVEL MADE EASY

Bus transfers provided for Newcastle Airport and Friday activities

**MAKE IT A CONFERENCE.
MAKE IT A HOLIDAY.**

BOOK FROM 1ST AUGUST

rotary9815.org.au/page/district-conference-2027



EARLYBIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW

- a great array of Friday activities to choose from - High Tea, Winery Tours, Golf, Pickleball etc
- 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, KNOX BUSINESS AWARDS & THEATRE NIGHT

NEXT BUNNINGS BBQ FRIDAY 21st August

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



Rotary
Rowville-Lysterfield

KNOX BUSINESS AWARDS

Awards presentation October 8th

More details coming soon

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

An important message from Kaye.....

I have booked 20 tickets at Her Majesty's Theatre for 1pm on Sunday 4th April 2027 to see the stage production of The Castle. The cost per ticket is \$100. Those interested in going please put your name, number of tickets required plus your phone number on the list that will be at our meeting each week. Alternatively, you can phone or email me to put your name down. Payment is due to me by our first meeting in January. Kaye 0404 056 506

kayesharman@bigpond.com



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Debra Pink (FIPA)
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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
Secretary: Dominic Scuteri
Treasurer: Neil White
Vice President: Fiona Johns




Proudly involved with the Knox Business Awards



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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>

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
BBQ Coordinators	Ian Vesey	Art Show Chair	Jenny Moran
	Marg Vesey	Girls' Night Out Chair	Jenny Moran
War Memorial	Daryl Moran	Knox Business Awards	John Williams
Project Chair		Business Breakfast Chair	Daryl Moran