

# Rotary

## Rowville Lysterfield



### District 9810 Conference 2023

The sixteen members of the Club who attended the District Conference very much enjoyed the event. The speakers were informative and inspiring, the organisation was excellent and the Gala Dinner on Saturday night in the Great Hall of Parliament House was a fabulous night.

In addition, there were a lot of opportunity for bonding between Rotarians from across the District and from within our Club, during the Club dinner, meal breaks and in casual interactions in the hotel.

There will be much more said about what was learned from the weekend in the weeks to come, after the attendees have had the chance to report back to the Club.

However, one important takeaway is to encourage even more members of the Club to consider attending next year's Conference, which will be held within a reasonable driving distance, in the city of Warrnambool.

Club members dressed for the theme 'Through the Ages' at the Gala Dinner in Parliament House



### Meeting Details

#### Where:

Tosaria's Café  
60 Henderson Rd  
Rowville

#### When:

Tuesday, 6.30 pm  
for 7.00 pm start

Meetings are  
hybrid unless  
indicated other-  
wise

Visitors are  
warmly welcomed

For information  
contact:

Kevin Harrison  
0419 919 011

Meeting Zoom link  
[here](#)



Home Club of  
IPDG Dr Daryl Moran

More photos on page 3

The speaker this week, Gloria Hargreaves, is the RAM Southern Region Supervisor and is a member of the Rotary Club of Emerald and District.

Gloria's presentation on Rotarians Against Malaria was informative and provided a horrific picture of the impact of malaria and the challenge in eliminating this disease. A quote from the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlights the problem—'Malaria is the biggest scourge the world has ever known'. 50% of the world is at risk of malaria, with high risk in subSaharan Africa. The number of deaths has increased over the last few years, up to 619,000 in 2021 and 70% of the deaths are children under 5. The increase in numbers is understandable given that Ministries of Health in many countries had to stop health programs to focus on dealing with COVID, leaving limited resources and funding for malaria elimination.

Another point of concern is that existing control strategies are becoming less effective due to mosquito resistance to insecticides, so the development of a vaccine is very important. One has been developed but is only about 30% effective; another is in development through a huge contribution from Rotary.

RAM was launched in 1995 when the incidence of malaria showed a sharp increase after the discontinuation of the use of DDT. It is a network of Rotarians with a RAM representative in each Rotary District in Australia, funded by donation from Rotary Clubs and individuals. RAM is a RAWCS activity (Rotary Australia World Community Service)

The goal of RAM is to see happy healthy children who are eager to get an education, so funding is critically important. The amount in the RAM account determines what activities can be funded.

The RAM program is intended to break the

cycle of infection and is a grass roots approach:

- Collaboration with other NGOs and Governments.
- Distribution of long lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLIN)
- Residual insecticidal spraying (RIS)
- Education
- Engineering environments (ensuring there is no stagnant water lying where mosquitos can breed)
- Controlling larvae
- PhD sponsorship

Issues

- Donations have dwindled, although there has been increased external funding through several Global Grants
- RAM must re-engage with Districts and Clubs

As an indication of the progress towards elimination in various countries, Timor Leste was very close to malaria elimination but the impact of COVID has set this back a few years. The status of being malaria free has to be sustained for 3 years before WHO will declare it a malaria free country. It is hoped this can happen in Timor Leste by 2025. One issue has been local transmission across the border with West Timor. Fortunately, now there is a combined effort across all the Timor Island which will help it reach elimination.

RAM is always in need of volunteers to undertake intervention programs such as community assessments or to distribute flyers. They will have a stand at RICON 23 along with Malaria Partner International and RAM Global. For more information visit

<https://rawcs.org.au/rotarians-against-malaria/>







**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### Rotary theme for each month

**July**— New leadership

**August**— Membership and New Club Development

**September**— Basic Education and Literacy

**October**— Economic and Community Development

**November**— Rotary Foundation

**December**— Disease Prevention and treatment

**January**— Vocational Services

**February**— Peace building and Conflict resolution

**March**— Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**April**— Maternal & Child Health

**May**— Youth Service

**June**— Rotary Fellowships

(L) Carol and Stephen joined in with the theme from Carol's AG Cluster and dressed for a portion of the night as cyborgs, then turned into hippies.





A very informative session at the District Conference was given by Brett Sutton, the Chief Health Officer for Victoria, who became a very public face during the COVID pandemic.

Brett spoke very eloquently of his early years when he travelled extensively throughout the world and his realisation of the impact on health of access to public health services. He realised that improvement in health outcomes depended on strengthening systems, not just providing aid. For instance, child mortality halved in one year in Timor Leste with strengthened public health. He worked in various medical roles, including a stint with Medecin Sans Frontiers in Afghanistan where he dealt with 175 patients in a day! Brett realised that the symptoms he saw were a manifestation of the social disparities brought about by war and that clean water is the most powerful determinant of health. However, he found that he relished the quick decision making needed to cope with the vast numbers seeking medical aid.

When news broke of a new virus appearing in China that was transmitted between people, Brett was immediately aware that this had the potential for dire consequences. Most of the world made decisions too late during wave 1. The decision to cancel the Grand Prix at the last moment was an exceedingly difficult decision to make (an 'all-nighter') and he was thankful that the Health Minister supported him fully, even knowing that the State would suffer a \$50 million hit.

As wave 1 swept over Victoria, with a 1.5% fatality rate, the question was always what was a proportionate response to the danger it posed. He was aware he would be vilified whatever the decision and could only make decisions, aimed at aggressive suppression of the virus, with the skills and experience available. With wave 2 when the virus was spread from hotel quarantine, the death rate was 1-2% but it was 1 in 3 in aged care. However, the lockdowns bought the State critical months to get vaccination in place and to strengthen the health system. As the vaccine has been rolled out there have been many things to applaud, such as a take-up of 68% who have had their 4th dose. There has been equity of vaccination across the regions and socio-economic status unlike much of the world. However, the pandemic has been not just a health crisis but also a social crisis, with loneliness, depression, financial stresses, bankruptcies and mortgage stress.

On a positive note, Brett was gratified by the care shown by the broader community to look after each other in 2020-2021.



Several Club members were thrilled to get the chance of a photo with Brett Sutton.

### BUNNINGS BBQs

Next BBQ Dates

**Friday March 17th**

**Saturday March 25th**

**Friday April 21st.**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE—MUFFINS

Thursday March 9th	Kaye, Heather, Corinne, Anita and Rajeev
Thursday March 23rd	Marg, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny
Thursday April 6th	Marg, Heather, Corinne, Anita & Rajeev
Thursday April 20th	Kaye, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny

### Brett Sutton Conference session—contd

During the pandemic the role of the media in the social commentary around Astra Zeneca was not helpful and the prevalence of misinformation and disinformation was of great concern. It was apparent that there needed to be stronger intercultural connection as often information came through country of origin news and social media, which were not always accurate. In fact Brett feels that social media is a 'cess pit' of misinformation. In late 2020 better communication was established and there needs to be continued trust and rapport to communicate with multi cultural groups. The need is for nuanced conversations, not just facts.

Brett had two key messages:

1. Get tested
2. Get vaccinated

People often look for the path of least resistance, for instance, taking the view that 'COVID does not really exist' or 'I'm all over this'. A memorable takeaway from this presentation was:

**'The reality is that what you do is not just for you, it is for the community at large.'**

One aspect of Brett's experience during COVID that clearly impacted him significantly was the confronting material about him that often appeared on social media, which Brett referred to several times as a 'cess pit'. An illustration of this is the fact that when he recently tweeted encouragement for people to get their fifth dose of the vaccine, he once again received death threats.

Now, after 15,000 deaths from COVID across Australia, there is negligible risk of another wave, but there will be other public health crises ahead from natural disasters and the like—such existential threats need to be faced with eyes wide open.

An invitation has arrived from Stephen Barrington, CEO of Foothills Community Care, for our members and helpers to attend a Barefoot Bowling Night as a thank you to volunteers. The details are shown in the flyer below. If you are interested, use the contact details below to register.

The flyer has a green background with a diagonal orange line. On the left, there is a photograph of a bowling green with several blue and red bowling balls in the foreground. The Foothills Community Care logo is in the top left corner. The text on the right side of the flyer provides details about the event, including the date, time, location, and a registration link. At the bottom, it mentions the sponsor, Community Bank Knox Group, and includes the Community Bank logo.

 **Foothills  
Barefoot  
Bowling Night**

**March 17th  
6pm - 9pm**

**Foothills Volunteers  
Night**

**Boronia Bowling Club**  
5 Marie St, Boronia,  
Bowling, Dinner and Drinks

RSVP  
[tinyurl.com/FoothillsVolNight](https://tinyurl.com/FoothillsVolNight)

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- A big birthday this week for **Ian** on March 8th. Warmest wishes from us for a happy day and special celebrations with all the family.
- Great to see **Adrian** at our meeting this week.

• There was great excitement among the Club attendees at the Conference when the Golf Ball drop winner was announced. This novel variation on a raffle was a means to raise money for DG Ken's Family Project, which is to support the Rotary Foundation. First prize was a voucher for \$2500 travel from Knox Travel. The winner was..... drum roll.... our very own **Carol**.



- Speaking of winners, second place in the Conference Bowls competition went to **Daryl**, who won a nice bottle of red.
- The Conference Committee were congratulated at the Conference for bringing together a great Conference and a pat on the back goes to our member **Neil W** who was the Conference Treasurer.

- **It was with great pleasure that \$500 was donated to Rotarians Against Malaria, after the presentation by Gloria Hargreaves.**
- Malaria Awareness Day will be held on April 30th, in conjunction with World Malaria Day on April 25th. There are many ways to increase awareness, such as distributing leaflets or selling RAM pins. Something to think about.
- The project to refurbish a container to be used by Backpacks 4 VIC Kids has progressed, with the container now on-site at Port Melbourne, where it will be able to be accessed by Police and Human Services personnel when ME backpacks are required. There are still a few jobs to finish off, such as staining the shelving, but it is very close to completion. This has been a big task which has been carried out by **Bob, Ian, Alan and Jeff**. Well done to these very handy men.



Let's support our members in their business endeavours.

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**Kevin Harrison**  
M:0419 91 90 11  
E:kevin@smfe.com.au  
FB:seemeforeverything  
23/12 Henderson Road  
Knoxfield 3180  
Melbourne Victoria

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Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and production	Program
<b>March—Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>				
<b>14</b>	Corinne	Steve	John Nathan Jenny	<b>Reporting back from District Conference</b> Update on foreign coin collection Ron Brooks
<b>21</b>	Pete	Stephen	Jenny Alan Bob	<b>‘ What goes where?’</b> Recycling update from Knox Council representative
<b>28</b>	Ayanthi	Jeff	Alan Bob Daryl	<b>Annmarie Lambert</b> Orange Sky —portable laundry service
<b>April—Maternal and Child Health</b>				
<b>4</b>	Kate	Marg	Daryl Ian John	<b>Story Dogs</b>
<b>11</b>	Kaye	Rajeev	Ian Nathan Alan	<b>How to Maximize a District Grant</b> Alan, Neil W, Marg
<b>18</b>	Murray	Carol	Alan Bob Stephen	<b>Club Forum</b>



Orange Sky Australia is the world's first free mobile laundry service for people experiencing homelessness – an idea founded in a Brisbane garage by two mates in 2014. Now it has grown to something much more powerful.

Website: [www.rowvillerotary.com.au](http://www.rowvillerotary.com.au)

District 9810

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

Website: <http://www.9810rotary.org.au>

## 2022-23 BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	Kevin Harrison
<b>Vice-President</b>	Marg Vesey
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Morris
<b>Treasurer</b>	Neil White
<b>President Elect</b>	Carol Constantine
<b>President Nominee</b>	Jenny Moran
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Murray Wilson
<b>Director</b>	Steve Macdonald

## 2022-23 COMMITTEES

<b>Community</b>	Marg Vesey (mentor) Kate Kidd Pete Batterham
<b>Youth Service</b>	Max Williams Jeff Somers (mentor)
<b>Environment</b>	Gary Forrest Ayanthi Gunatilake
<b>Foundation</b>	Neil White (mentor) Adrian Klep
<b>International</b>	Alan Lunghusen (mentor) Arshad Samsudeen
<b>Vocational</b>	John Williams Neil Marshall
<b>Membership</b>	Ayanthi Gunatilake Gary Forrest

## OTHER ROLES

<b>Rowville Secondary College Council Rep</b>	Rajeev Wadhwa
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jenny Moran Heather Morris
<b>Facebook Website</b>	Kevin Harrison Alan Lunghusen Stephen Palamara
<b>Club Protection Officer</b>	Adrian Klep
<b>Program Committee</b>	Marg Vesey Jenny Moran Kaye Sharman
<b>On-to-Conference Art Show Committee</b>	Heather Morris Rajeev Wadhwa James Wilson
<b>Rowville Lysterfield Community News Correspondent</b>	Jenny Moran
<b>Fundraising Committee</b>	Carol Constantine Adrian Klep Bob Morris Stephen Palamara Arshad Samsudeen Kaye Sharman