



KEILOR EAST ROTARY NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club 21222 -

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August 1983

February 27th, 2022 -
Volume 39 Number 15

Club Motto - "Fun and
fellowship whilst helping
others"

www.keiloreastrotary.org

In this newsletter:

Meeting Reports

Pages 01- 14

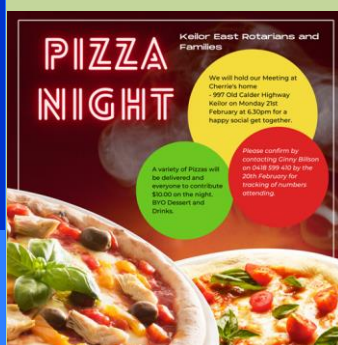
What's On Next

Pages 15-18

Member News

Pages 19-21

Monday 7th February- Jane Canaway – Remnant Grasslands on the Keilor Plains



We're Back – For Pizza Night

by President Yvonne Osborn

On Monday 7th February we were pleased to welcome, via Zoom, Jane Canaway from Gardening Australia and Avondale Heights Community Garden who spoke about the Remnant Native Grasslands of the Western Plains of Melbourne.

On Monday 21st February we finally got together face to face on Cherrie Osborn's large patio for a social Pizza Night. We had delicious pre dinner snacks from Destination Graze and pizzas from Pizza Depot at Taylors Lakes.

We are relying on Member input, patience and support as we try to find a suitable venue and format for our future meetings. We welcome your ideas on 0411773360 or keiloreastrotary@gmail.com.

A Message from Barbara Rafter

1. Bunnings phoned me to ask if our Club would like a donation for Easter/Mother's Day raffle - and I obviously said YES

So, this afternoon John and I collected (photo attached)

a Ozito blower & grass trimmer kit
a picnic tray table kit
a \$50 gift card
a \$20 gift card

A suggestion - that the Club arrange a raffle, at the meeting to be held at 21st Feb at Cherrie Osborn's house?

2. We will be driving to Sydney tomorrow (for 1 week holiday) to deliver 45 - 50 kg of foreign coins to the RC of Hornsby

Thanks to members and friends that have donated coins/notes (photo attached)



A message from Immediate Past President Michael Donnelly

The ongoing **closure of the bistro at Keilor East RSL Club on Mondays** and a number of other constraints that have been placed upon our Rotary Club by their management mean that effectively **we are unable to meet there any time soon** or possibly ever. Consequently, a call went out to you all in recent times to think of alternative venues.

It is clear that we will no longer be able to continue to have our meetings in the manner to which we had all become accustomed. We know that 'change' is always a challenge because it means that we no longer have the comfort of established rituals and continuing universally known ways of doing things. But change can also be an opportunity to re-evaluate exactly what is essential. At our most recent Board meeting we attempted to address the change that is being forced upon us. We agreed that a critical part of the Board's process in making the necessary changes that have been forced upon us is to **consult with the members**.

A consultation process has been developed which aims to help us determine what the essential elements of any new way of gathering will look like. We are very aware that there are many variables at play in determining what is possible for the conduct of our future meetings. It is crystal clear, however, that there is no obvious solution, or we would already be doing it.

What we have ultimately decided to do is to attempt to determine whether there is any degree of consensus about the relative importance of those variables. This data that would provide our search party with a checklist against which all contenders for the future can be measured. To this end, **at our next meeting on March 7 we will provide a list of the variables that we have come up with so far and ask whether we have omitted any**. Once that has been done, all members will be surveyed to list those variables in the order of importance from most important (i.e., a deal-breaker if it cannot be met) to least important (i.e., it doesn't matter to you at all). The collation of those results will create a set of parameters in which some will be 'essential' and others merely 'nice if we could get them'.

Essentially the variables we have identified so far fall into two groups:

- **The Meeting – day of week, time of day, frequency, venue location, private setting, meal available, frequency of guest speakers, accessibility to all, possibility of 'action' meetings, A/V equipment**
- **The Meal – essential or not, maximum cost, choices on menu, provision of setup, provision of clean up, no alcohol prohibition**

Please think about what else should be included in the above list of variables.

Guest Speaker Monday 7th February - Jane Canaway - Gardening Australia



Guest Speaker – Jane Canaway – Avondale Heights Community Garden

They provided food and resources for Wurundjeri and other tribes for more than 30,000 years. Our modern knowledge of them is still limited in comparison.



Photos: Chris Clarke, Colleen Miller



What they looked like

- The explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell described the western Victorian plains as “an open grassy country, extending as far as we could see ... resembling a nobleman's park on a gigantic scale”.
- John Batman, in 1835, described the grassy plains to the north and west of what is now Melbourne as “the most beautiful sheep pasturage I ever saw in my life”.



Guest Speaker Monday 7th February - Jane Canaway -

- * Introduction of sheep quickly changed landscape, eating out the murnong, which was the main source of carbohydrates for local tribes. Early accounts talk of digging up hundreds of tubers – enough to feed dozens of people – in just a few hours. Now it is rarely found.

- * Sheep also ate out orchids and lilies (edible tubers), and their hooves compacted the soil. Less digging for tubers exacerbated this compaction.

- * Development of land had a huge impact - ploughing up paddocks and building homes/factories.

- * Phosphate was added to the soil, making it more suitable for introduced crops, pasture grasses and clover, which in turn brought more nitrogen to the soils, making it harder for native plants to compete.

- * Weeds have invaded all parts of the plains, especially waterways.

- * Other factors include inappropriate fire regimes, feral animals, logging and habitat fragmentation.



Plants we have (nearly) lost



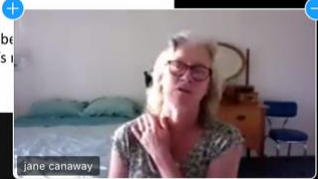
Sunshine Diuris – snow in the paddocks – once plentiful, now almost extinct.
Photo Cathy Powers

Dianella amoena (left).
Photo Michael Cincotta



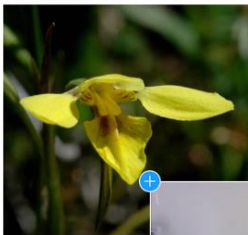
Diuris Golden Moths.
Photo Chris Clarke

Murnong (top left). Its tubers were a staple food. Now it's rare.
Photo Chris Clarke



Guest Speaker Monday 7th February – Jane Canaway -

Some orchids have only one pollinator so if one disappears, they both do.



* Legless lizards, dunnarts & reptiles need cracks in soil & rocks for habitat.



* Plains wanderers (unique, endemic to Australia) only breed in grasslands with well-spaced tussock grasses; if overgrown or unmanaged they can't see predators coming. Werribee Zoo has a breeding program.



Photo: David Baker-Gobb (Trust for Nature), MD



Are small sites viable?

- Small remnants are more prone to weed and feral animal invasion.
- They don't support larger animals or even some birds.
- Animals that can't move – reptiles, small marsupials – become inbred.
- Pollination becomes hard between plant colonies, resulting in lack of genetic diversity too.
- They are vulnerable to dumping.
- Burning as maintenance can be hard in residential areas. But it's not impossible! MVCC has done this several times in Avondale Heights.
- BUT ... they do preserve key species – e.g. the micrograsslands in the car park outside Bunnings, Watergardens, supports the critically endangered *Pimelea spinescens*, which is also found at JH Allen Reserve, Av Hts.
- They can educate residents about the beauty of grasslands



Legal protection – is it working?

- 'Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain' and 'Grassy Woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain' are both listed under national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC 1999) as 'critically endangered' – the step before extinction in the wild.
- Some individual species are also listed for protection under the state Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG 1988).
- Fines of up to \$8.5m for companies and \$850,000 are possible for damage to a grassland.
- However, exemptions are regularly granted.



Some success stories

- Organ Pipes National Park has been transformed by volunteers, now supported by Parks Vic, since 1972. It is weedy but large enough to provide habitat for larger marsupials and birds.



Organ Pipes car park, 1972.
Photo: FOOP
Organ Pipes photo: Parks Vic



"I don't mind grasslands, but why here?"



In 1983 this Sunbury site – beside the railway at Evans Street - was described by Dr Jim Willis, Government Botanist, as "the best example I have ever seen of grassland flora typical of the Keilor basalt plains".



Creating new grasslands

- Grassy Groundcover Restoration is more exciting than it sounds.
- Innovative reseedling project led by Dr Paul Gibson-Roy that is having great results.
- Topsoil scraped to remove weed seed bank and any phosphates
- Then it's reseeded with a wildflower and native grass mix



Photos:



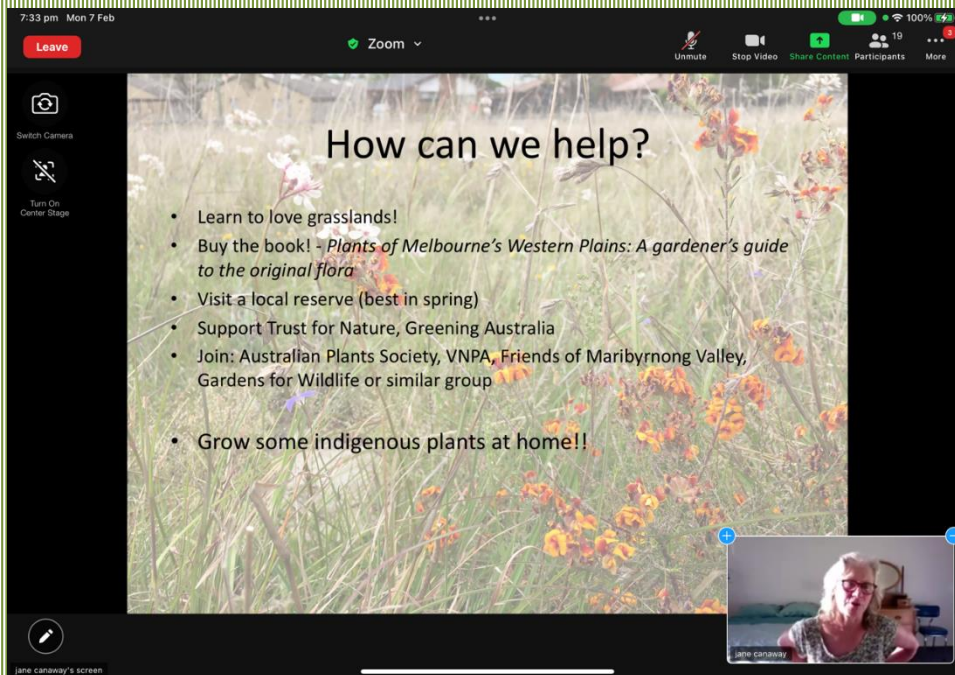
Many successful trial plots in Western District and NSW



Photos:



Guest Speaker Monday 7th February - Jane Canaway -



7:33 pm Mon 7 Feb

Zoom

Leave

Unmute Stop Video Share Content Participants More

How can we help?

- Learn to love grasslands!
- Buy the book! - *Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A gardener's guide to the original flora*
- Visit a local reserve (best in spring)
- Support Trust for Nature, Greening Australia
- Join: Australian Plants Society, VNPA, Friends of Maribyrnong Valley, Gardens for Wildlife or similar group
- Grow some indigenous plants at home!!

Switch Camera

Turn On Center Stage

jane canaway's screen

jane canaway

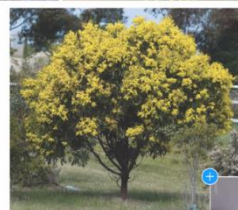
Links for future reading:

- <https://vnpa.org.au/publications/start-with-the-grasslands/>
- <https://theconversation.com/ecocheck-victorias-flower-strewn-western-plains-could-be-swamped-by-development-57127>
- <https://www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/protecting-critically-endangered-grasslands>
- <https://ianluntecology.com/2013/10/13/forgotten-woodlands-future-landscapes/>
- https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Conservation_Action_Plan_for_the_Victorian_Volcanic_Plain_Summary_Report.pdf
- <https://www.zoo.org.au/media/3055/plains-wanderer.pdf>
- https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/536089/FFG-Threatened-List-October-2021.pdf
- <https://vnpa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Start-with-the-Grasslands.pdf>
- <https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/projects/victorian-volcanic-plains/>
- <http://friendsoforganpipes.org.au/>
- <https://www.apskeilorplains.org.au/book.html>



Guest Speaker Monday 7th February - Jane Canaway -

Some plant suggestions



Photos: Chris Clarke, Ian Taylor, Giorgio di Nola

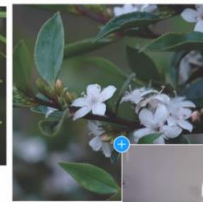
Tall shrubs/ small trees

- Viminaria juncea (native broom)
- Acacia implexa (lightwood)
- Acacia pycnantha (golden wattle)
- Acacia verticillata (prickly moses)
- Banksia marginata (silver banksia)



Tall shrubs/ small trees

- Bursaria spinosa (sweet bursaria)
- Callistemon sieberi (river bottlebrush)
- Leptospermum lanigerum (woolly tea-tree)
- Melicytus dentatus (tree violet)
- Myoporum petiolatum (sticky boobialla)

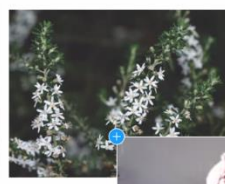


Photos: Chris Clarke



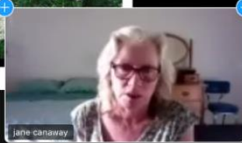
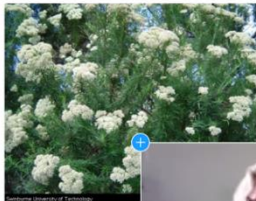
Smaller shrubs

- Acacia acinacea (gold dust wattle)
- Grevillea rosmarinifolia (rosemary grevillea)
- Correa glabra (rock correa)
- Indigofera australis (Austral indigo)
- Goodenia ovata (hop goodenia)
- Olearia ramulosa (twiggy daisy-bush)



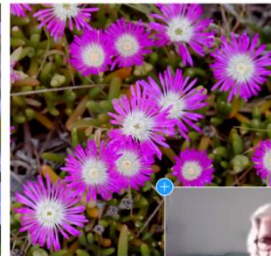
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Ozothamnus obcordatus (grey everlasting)
Senna artemisioides (fine-leaf desert cassia)
Calytrix tetragona (fringe myrtle)
Cassinia aculeata (common cassinia)
Eutaxia microphylla (spreading eutaxia)



Wildflowers

- Xerochrysum viscosum (sticky everlasting)
- Pelargonium australe (Austral stork's-bill)
- Viola hederacea (ivy-leaved violet)
- Wahlenbergia communis (tufted bluebell)
- Rounded noon flower aka pigface – visually makes a good lawn substitute



Linum marginale (native flax)
Chrysocephalum apiculatum (common everlasting)
Dianella admixta (spreading flax-lily)
Hardenbergia violacea (purple coral-pea)
Myoporum parvifolium (creeping boobialla)



Pizza Night - Monday 21st February at Cherrie Osborn's home

Thank You for your great hospitality, Cherrie.



Pizza Night - Monday 21st February at Cherrie Osborn's home



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Rotary District 9800 Conference will be held in Albury in April 2022. We are pleased to have 10 members and partners attending. Bob McMartin is our On to Conference organizer. It is not too late to book, but the Early Bird Special Price has finished.

<https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/district-conference-albury-2022>

David Dippie, Paul Perrottet and Yvonne Osborn were lucky winners in a draw for \$50 vouchers to be spent in Albury.



Click on the photo above for District Governor Dale Hoy and his wife Maureen's invitation to you to join them at this year's Rotary District 9800 Conference.



'Let's Get Together' District Conference 2022

*District Governor Dale and Maureen warmly invite you to our
'Let's Get Together' District 9800 Conference.
Join us in Albury for friendship and celebration after what has been a
challenging time.*

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 April 2022 in Albury

The Conference will commence with a Welcome Function on the Friday after which you have the opportunity to dine with your fellow Rotarians in one of the many restaurants showcasing the wonderful food, wine and hospitality that Albury has to offer.

Saturday is your chance to Engage and Connect with your fellow Rotarians, hear from our wonderful guest speakers, plan for our Rotary future, and join together in celebration at our gala dinner.

The Conference will conclude with a casual lunch on the Sunday.

The conference venue is the:
Albury Entertainment Centre
525 Swift Street, Albury.



Albury Wodonga is ready to welcome delegates to the 2022 Rotary District 9800 Conference.

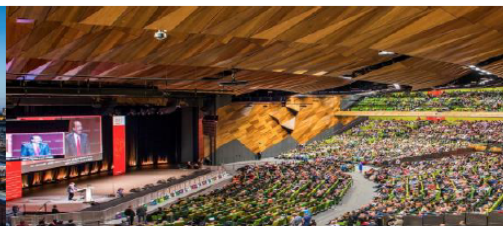
Albury Wodonga is a thriving regional destination that offers both a cosmopolitan and a laid back vibe. The two cities nestled between the foothills of the alps and on the banks of the mighty Murray River, offer a unique natural setting, a cultural connection to place and is easily accessible, making this a unique destination for the Rotary District Conference and a perfect getaway for you.

The Albury Entertainment Centre is set in the hub of Albury's cultural precinct, overlooking the picturesque QEII Square. Everything you need is within a few minutes walk including accommodation, bustling cafes, restaurants and bars, boutique shops and picturesque riverside parks along the Murray River.



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 27-31 MAY 2023 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Nov 2021



Melbourne Convention Host Hospitality Night

Monday 29th May 2023 is the Melbourne Convention Host Hospitality night. An RI Convention tradition where local Rotarians and Clubs provide delegates with a memorable evening of hospitality, local culture and international fellowship.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from individual Rotarians and Clubs to participate in either Home Hosting or Club Hosting events. This is a great opportunity to induct delegates into the culture and marvels of our wonderful city.

I look forward to hearing from you and your great ideas on how to impress our overseas and interstate delegates! **Closing Date 22nd Jan 2022.**

Peter Dunn - HOC Director

HOME HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

Rotarians who are registered for the Convention and live within an approximate 15 km radius of the CBD can apply to host between 4 and 8 international and interstate guests in their home for dinner. Priority for hosting will be given to Registered Convention attendees but non-attendee Rotarians are also welcome to apply.

As a Home Host you will be responsible for arranging transport for your guests to and from your home. You may want to consider involving others in your Club, or immediate family to assist in this process. It is acceptable to have guests returned to their hotels by Taxi or Uber.

Hosts will receive \$55 per guest (from the registration fee for this event) to help offset the costs of the dinner and transport.

For more information and to Register your interest in Home Hospitality Opportunities go to:

<https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/home-hospitality>

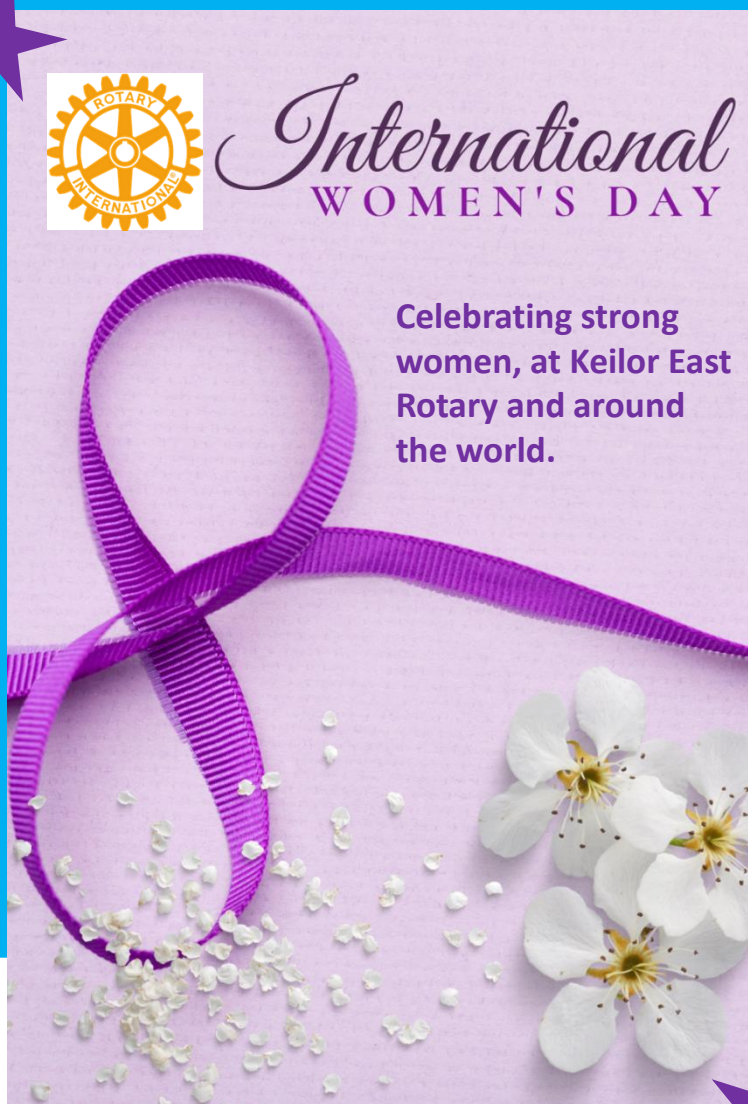
CLUB HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

These ever-popular Convention events fill quickly and we expect that Melbourne won't be any different. Clubs or a group of Clubs are invited to design their own event and dinner which can be at the same venue or two different venues. To minimise travel time venues should be within a 20 km radius of the CBD. Guests are picked up by bus from their hotel and once onboard, an announcement about their destination is provided. **Surprise!** Clubs will need to host guests in multiples of 50 (one busload) and have at least 5-10 hosting Rotarians & partners for each group of 50 at the dinner venue.

Delegates registering for Host Hospitality will pay a flat charge to attend which will include their return bus trip. Clubs will receive a contribution of \$35pp towards the catering costs. Drinks will need to be purchased on a cash basis at the bar. Clubs should consider budgeting separately for any additional catering costs or entertainment. For more information and to register your interest in Club Hosting go to:

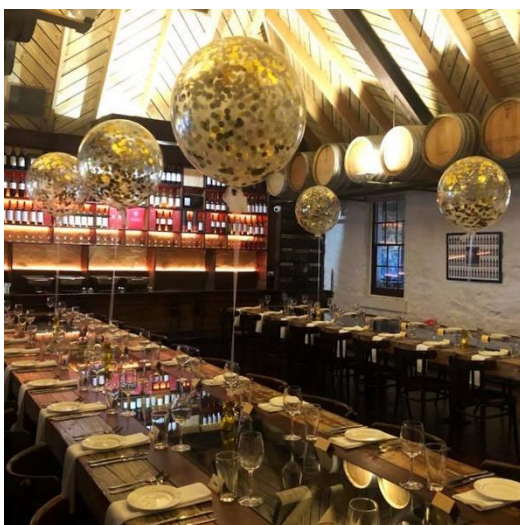
<https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/club-hospitality>

Next Keilor East Rotary Meeting - Monday 7th March 2022 6.30 for 6.45 pm at the Taste Room, Keilor Hotel, Old Calder Highway Keilor



You are welcome to arrive from 6.15pm and order meals by 6.30pm. Our Guest Speaker is introduced at 7.00pm. The meeting concludes at 8.00pm.

We welcome your suggestions for future Guest Speakers. Email keiloreastrotary@gmail.com



Left: The Taste Room at Keilor Hotel set up for a party.

It is free for us to use on Monday 7th March so we will give it a try.

We can order our meals from the [menu](#).

Now meeting at various venues TBA until we find a new home.

UPCOMING EVENTS



We are very grateful to Annie Webb for all the work she has done as Program Organizer and in various other roles at Keilor East Rotary over many years. She has been Newsletter Editor and was a brilliant organizer of our Camp Getaway Working Bee/ Social Weekend each September. Annie has recently resigned as a Club Member citing personal and medical reasons. We thank her for past contributions and wish her well for the future. We hope that she will still consider herself part of our Keilor East Rotary Family.

Date	Day	Speaker/ Event	Contact
27 February	Sunday	Bunnings BBQ	Gerard Mahoney
28 February	Monday	No Meeting	
6 March	Sunday	BBQ at Family Fun Day – Summer in the Valley at Avondale Heights Library	Phil O’Brien
7 March	Monday	International Women’s Day Celebration – Partners Welcome	
14 March	Monday	Public Holiday – No Meeting	
14 March	Monday	Board Meeting - 7.30pm via Zoom	Helen Penna
16 March	Wednesday	Combined Meeting with North Essendon Rotary at Hyatt Essendon Fields	Ginny Billson and North Essendon RC Pres. Paul Burdett
19 March	Saturday	Community Bank Birthday in the Centreway, Keilor East	Gerard Mahoney
21 March	Monday	ROMAC – Jill Oliver – Taste Room, Keilor Hotel	Yvonne Osborn

Club Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 3: Jeselee Vytilingam
February 11: John Rafter
February 22: Pauline Badenhope
February 25: Gerard Mahoney
February 25: Les Norton
February 26: John Young (Tina Ballos's husband)
February 28: Debbie Gaehl
February 29: Bob McMartin
March 9: John Compton
March 19: Arnold Vandenharn
March 20: Deb Sloggett
March 23: Robert Chessell
March 25: Daryl Cornish



Wedding Anniversaries

February 12: Ginny and Alex Billson
50th Wedding Anniversary

February 23: Terry and Pauline Badenhope

March 18: Minh and Kim Nguyen



Rotary Anniversaries

February 1: Bob McMartin 1986
February 10: Ian Wright 1997
February 16: Marianne Potgieter 2004
February 17: Patrick Honeyborne 2003
February 25: Gail Horkings 2002
February 25: Bob Sercombe 2008



MEMBER NEWS



Joe and Liz Albioli enjoyed a picnic with their family at Woodlands Park in Essendon. Above right is their son Ryan with his wife and daughter Liana and their nephew Charlie. The younger children pictured are Luke' and Charmaine's sons, Noah and Leo.



A message from Barbara Rafter: John and I (along with John's youngest sister Rose and husband Paul) went to our usual Japanese Restaurant, Tokaiya, Keilor Road, Niddrie. After an enjoyable lunch, the Restaurant surprised John with a chocolate mouse Birthday cake and with the 80th birthday balloon decorations. He received many 80th birthday wishes as well as a congratulations letter from Ben Carroll MP.

Below: A wonderful night in the city with daughter Marita & granddaughter Abigail to see "Frozen". Annie Webb.



Out and about at the Theatre post Lockdowns

Another wonderful night with granddaughter Celeste & her Nan Karren. Fabulous



MEMBER NEWS

A message from Barbara Rafter:

When we drove to NSW last week, after John's 80th birthday, we met with Rotarians from RC of Hornsby, to deliver approximately 50 kg of foreign coins.

We had a meal with them at the Brooklyn Hotel on Tuesday evening, and on Wednesday morning took a 3-hour cruise on the Hawkesbury River on the Riverboat Postman tour. This is a Postal and delivery service for people that live along the River.

Very enjoyable morning cruise that included morning tea and lunch, and perfect weather.

best wishes
Barbara Rafter



Barbara and John enjoyed the Cruise on the Hawksbury River.
Editor : Lucky to have been there back then Barbara and John. It would look a lot different now.

Below: Dinner at the Brooklyn Hotel with Rotarians from the [Rotary Club of Hornsby](#).



Foreign Coin Repatriation Program

The program works by collecting and repatriating unwanted foreign coins and notes that travellers bring back to Australia. The coins brought back are of too little value to be converted into Australian dollars; and the Rotary Club of Hornsby District offers to take them as donation.

Foreign Coin repatriation Program

