Beaumaris Rotary

Serving the Community since 1985

IN GEAR

ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Bi-WEEKLY BULLETIN

Edition 9 27th October 2025

Presidents Message

With Peter & Marilyn on holidays up north there's no formal message to members this week other than to note a busy month ahead leading into Christmas festivities.

This week we have *Australia's number 1 horse race caller for over 30 years, Bryan Martin OAM speaking to us at VGC - so wear your finest or best bookies' hat/bag along with your favourite betting tips.*

Also this week; Halloween on the Concourse (4-5PM) - thanks to all those who've volunteered to wave the Rotary flag this Friday as lots of local families will be there for this traditional (*lollies*) festival.

Next week we celebrate our Clubs 40th Anniversary dinner at VGC as well as a Trash & Treasure stall at St Andrews on Balcombe Road the following two weekends (8th & 15th)—donations and volunteers welcome—speak to Viv or Glenda for details.

Our High Tea is scheduled for the 23 November (see Marilyn for details) and the Concourse Christmas Carnival is taking place on Friday 28th at which the Club will be operating the BBQ. So come along with the family to join in the fun or sign up for BBQ duties—see Raj or Glenda for details. Then's there the wine raffle (don't forget your bottle) and Christmas!

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Rotary

CMM

This Certifies that the Rotary Club of
Beaumaris, Victoria, Australia
Rotary International

Future Events

Thursday 30th October
Bryan Martin OAM well known racing identity
Thursday 6th November
40th Anniversary Dinner
Tuesday 11th November
Board meeting
Thursday 13th November
VGC
Colleen D'Offray from DIK
Saturday 8th, 15th November
St Andrews Trash & Treasure
Thursday 20th November
VGC
Peter Mitchell, Author, Family Reminisces
High Tea November 23rd
Thursday 27th November
VGC
David Lea, Genetics and Experience
Friday 28th November
Concourse Carnival BBQ

Ctrl + Click on this
LINK TO CLUB CALENDAR

Club meets Thursday at Victoria Golf Club, 6:30 for 7:00 unless otherwise advised.

RCOB HAPPY HOUR occurs every Friday between 4-6 at ONYX on Reserve Road Cheltenham — Members and Friends welcome

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Meeting on 16th October:

.The Story of James Glenwright: Then Till Now

James, President Elect Glenda and Chair Roy post James presentation

The whole thing kicks off in Act One: The Beginning with James being born in Elsternwick. Right off the bat, we learn a tragic family detail: his grandfather died nearby in a vehicle accident, falling out of a truck. With two brothers already, and James just a baby, his family of five used the soldier settlement act to move into this tiny one-bedroom holiday house in Upper Ferntree Gully. Over the next few years, his dad and his buddies basically built the rest of the house, adding a kitchen, bathroom, four-boy bedroom, and a garage. He talks about his childhood being totally old-school: an outdoor dunny by the creek (no lights!), and milk, bread, and ice deliveries by horse and cart. He grew up with a mini-zoo—dogs, cats, chickens, a nanny goat for his lactose-intolerant brother, and even a duck that hated him. The State National Park was their backyard playground. He went to a two-room school, then the local technical school, where he learned chess from his English teacher and important life lessons about buying property from his Math teacher. After bushfires hit, the family moved to Croydon. The big news? The new school was co-ed (he was pretty happy about that!). But he only made it to Year 11. Since there was no Year 12, and all his brothers had left school early, his dad figured it was time for him to get a job.

Act Two: Starting Work covers his long career in banking. With his mum's help, he landed his first and only long-term job at the Bank of New South Wales. For over 30 years, he moved up the ladder, never staying in one position for more than two years. He went all over the place, including a time in the New York office, running a Commercial Lending Regional Office, and working as a Private Banker. During this time, he got married, had two kids, got a degree, and later separated from his wife. Things took a sharp turn when the bank got swallowed up by mergers and takeovers. This led to massive overstaffing and "restructuring." Basically, everyone had to re-apply for a greatly reduced number of jobs. His department shrank from 117 positions to just 3, and all of them were already filled. He was given a choice: take a dead-end, less-senior role with no raises, or accept the redundancy cheque. He took the cheque.

Megan setting the record straight

Next up was Act Three: Mortgage Broking. He was suddenly competing for senior corporate roles, but he wasn't sure he wanted that corporate life anyway. After a quick stint in finance consulting, a mate convinced him to check out the new mortgage broking scene. Despite never having written a home loan as a banker, he bought a franchise and set up shop with a second-hand desk in his second bedroom.

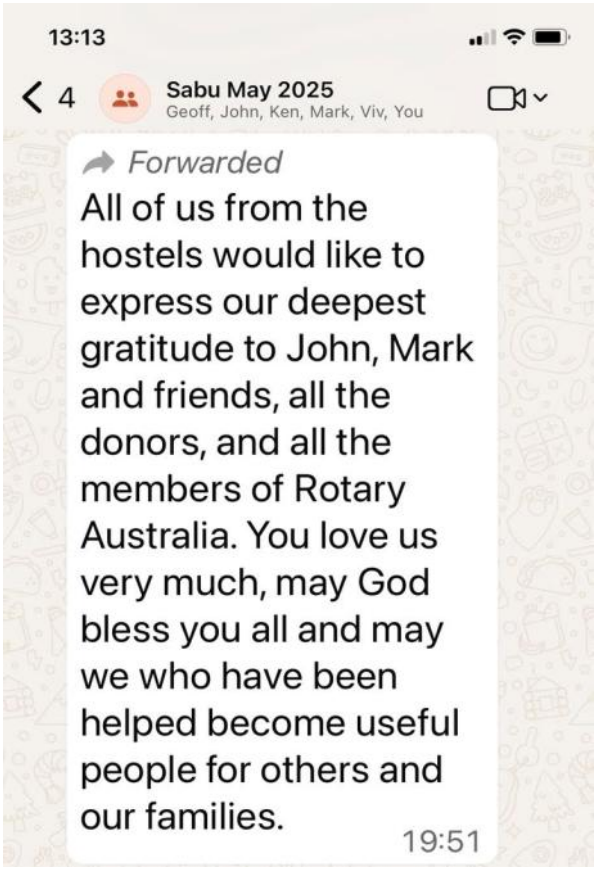
Meeting 16th October cont...Sabu thanks

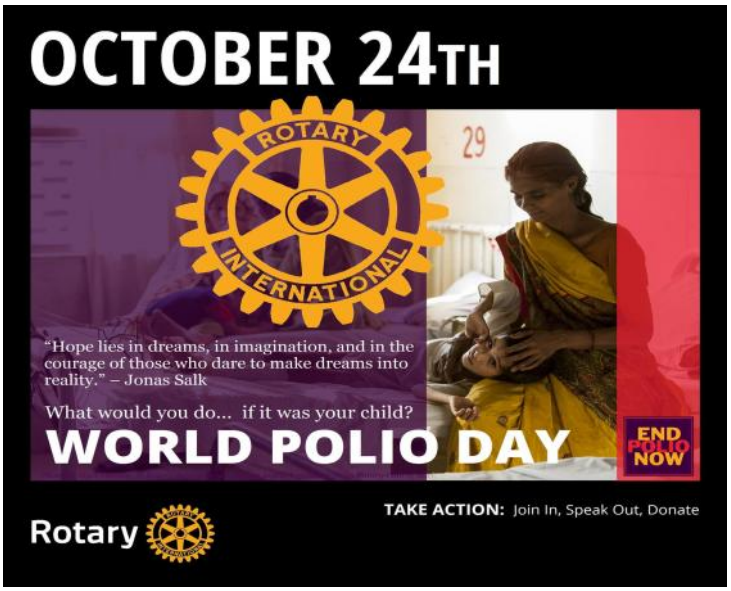
Around this time, he was divorced, renting, and met a wonderful woman he later married (Megan). Getting clients was tough at first—he was mobile, meeting people at their homes or coffee shops. Eventually, referrals started building the business. Six months later, he wrote a loan for himself and Megan, and they bought a house in Hampton. This taught him a huge lesson: brokers could get loans from banks that bank managers would outright dismiss, because brokers focused on affordability, disadvantaging people like single females, self-employed folks, or same-sex couples. The business took off—they opened an office, expanded, and were the "heroes of the home buying public".

The reality check came in Act Four: What To Do Now. Ten years passed, and James was working 70+ hours a week. Then, his business partner Denis died suddenly of a heart attack. This was a massive wake-up call. After analyzing the business, James realized that too much of the profit was eaten up by overhead like rent and wages. He simplified, downsizing to a one-person franchise, which reduced the stress and hours while keeping a similar net income. He eventually told Megan he was done with home loans. She understood but insisted they needed other activities for the next phase: a sport and a service activity to give back.

Act Five: The Future brings us to today. For the last 15 years, they've been living the retired life with travel, golf, and joining Beaumaris Rotary, which has brought a whole new chapter and a bunch of new friends. He wraps it up with one final question: "I wonder what's next??"

A Lovley thank you from Sabu for our International Team who went to SABU earlier his year. Great job all from all of us as well.





Meeting 25th October speaker Gavin Norman— Logistics, supplying all of us….

Gavin Norman The Australian Logistics Industry

Gavin Norman is presently the CFO of Bluestar Global Logistics - an Australian based Transport and Logistics company which provides full National and International supply chain services for Australian companies transacting on a business-to-business basis.

Gavin has spent 20 years working in the Australian Transport and Logistics industry - mostly as a CFO- with his employers including Toll Holdings, Silk Holdings, BR international Logistics and now Bluestar.

Gavin is a CPA, has an MBA and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply.

In preparing for his talk Gavin compared the Australian logistics industry to various international competitors. He concluded that it was the most competitive in the world with many participants, no dominant players and little competition from rail. Making a profit is hard.

As a result the cost of freight and warehousing in Australia has lagged inflation over the last decade. This has not been the case for sea freight into Australia which jumped rapidly during the pandemic and has still not returned to the prior levels. This makes logistics companies poor stock market performers.

He illustrated his talk with the experience of Toll Holdings share price after they listed and up until the time they were acquired by Japan Post (who paid a 50% premium for the acquisition). The purchase was a failure for Japan Post and they eventual divested of the trucking business to Team Global Express.

The industry continues to be difficult with only a few players making a good return eg Linfox. And now a new player, Amazon, with a new logistics model has entered Australia and is rapidly growing in the retail space.

Thanks Gavin and Chair Jim for enlightening us all on such a critical industry, which Australian businesses pioneered in the post WWII era.

November is Rotary Foundation Month. Have a look at what the Foundation does to support Clubs and RI projects globally

What's on in Rotary: Upcoming Events

*** XMAS Wine Raffle is OPEN so get your bottle(s) to Glenda and help sell tickets as best you can (see dates and venues below).**

- **Halloween on the Concourse 31st October**
- **40th Birthday Celebrations on 6th November @ VGC**
- **Trash & Treasure @ St Andrews on 8th & 15th November**
- **High Tea November 23rd**
- **Concourse Carnival XMAS BBQ November 28th**
- **Club Xmas Dinner December 18th @ VGC**

Yes, its WINE RAFFLE time with a pre Christmas draw. Raj & Glenda are coordination this years raffle, with FOUR Prizes (total of 72 bottles) which we're hoping to have collected for the first street fundraising events as outlined by Glenda last week.

1st event will be at SEAVIEW shops on 13th December followed by the CONCOURSE on 20th December with a TBC event at U3A

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Club News—IMPACT Packing & TS4A events

IMPACT Packing Day

A still jet lagged Trish Yates was at Impact on Sunday morning packing and wrapping gift packs that will go into Impact's Christmas Bags of Love. Trish was joined by Mark, Joy, Lynda, Heather and Chris. Despite being a small team, they completed 125 gift packs—great effort Team for a great program that ***Impact*** delivers all year round

Team Sports 4 All (TS4A)

Pat and Roy joined James and I at the trendy St Kilda Life Saving Club to support TS4A in their fundraising event last night

After acclimatising to the noise of 100 young fun lovers we enjoyed our food wine and atmosphere

Fabulous views. Sunset was amazing

As the oldest trendies there it was great to see younger people, including Brad Rowswell attempting to solve the problem of disadvantaged children who are unable to afford to play a sport

These younger groups were not Rotarians but were doing exactly what we do as Rotarians. Trying to solve an unfair problem. Service above Self

This year Roy did not win a $365 bottle of wine and had to settle for a much lesser vintage Megan.

UPCOMING Event at Beaumaris Theatre & Angel Tree Kids presents for Christmas.

Thanks for those who have confirmed attending this performance on *Sunday 9th November*

I've booked a table for TEN of us.

There are tickets available on other tables (and nights) but the show is selling out quickly so if you want to go but missed out on the Rotary booking check out Beaumaris Theatre's website and book a ticket directly $35 ($32 concession)

Based on British TV series Black Adder this live production on our doorstep should be a real hoot.

DATE OPTIONS

7th, 8th, 9th November

14th, 15th, 16th November

20th, 21st, 22nd November

Confirmed attendees for 9th November show:

Ken & Shirley, Mary Cunnington, Glenda, Viv & Mark, Roy & Pat, Peter & Marilyn.

See Chris M for payment.

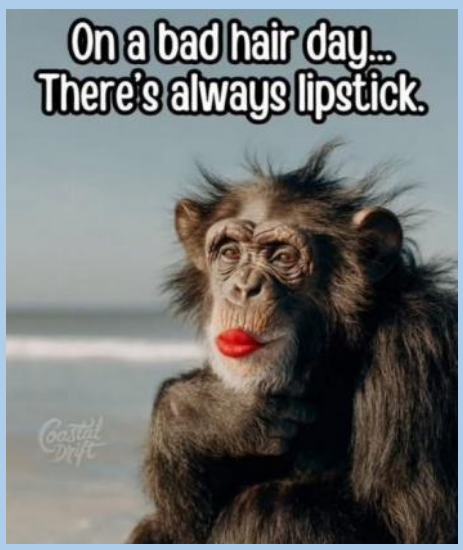
Others wishing to attend are advised to visit the Beaumaris Theatre website for availability on the dates shown below.

Don't forget the Angel Tree donation for kids without parents at Christmas.

See Soula for details.

Wit, wisdom and beauty ….

Beautiful Beaumaris Bay **and the '*old*' Beaumaris hotel glistening in the morning sun (from Mentone beach)**



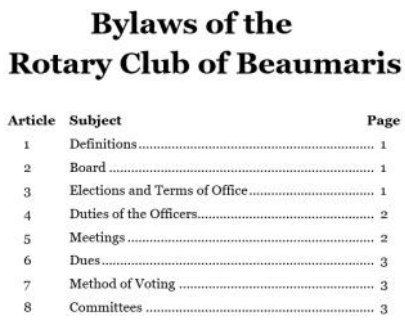
Club & Rotary Links

Club Program

The forward club program has been uploaded onto the Club Calendar and is available by clicking on the image below or use the QR code below #: The Calendar is best viewed in Agenda mode.

Beaumaris Rotary Calendar

Key Club Documents


Bylaws of the
Rotary Club of Beaumaris Inc.

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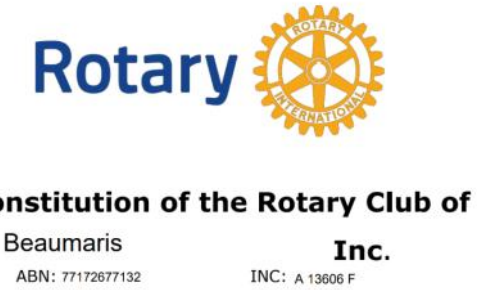
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Constitution of the Rotary Club of Beaumaris Inc.

ABN: 77172677132 INC: A 13606 F

Beaumaris Rotary | Service Above Self

Strategic Plan 2025-2026

Board and Committees 2025/26

President Peter

Rotary Links

Beaumaris Rotary Website

Rotary District 9815

Rotary Website Click here