



Bulletin

RI District 9800

Volume 58 Number 45

June 5, 2025

Celebrating 57 Years of Service

PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

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MEETING

Kew Golf Club

120 Belford Road Kew East

Thursday 12:30 pm

Meeting begins at 1pm

Apologies: **Bob Crozier**

bob_crozier@hotmail.com

Bulletin: **Barb Brook**

Barbrook814@gmail.com

RI PRESIDENT

Stephanie A.Urchick

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Michael Lapina

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THE FOUR WAY TEST

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it benefit all concerned?

LINKS

[Garden DesignFest](#)

[Facebook Rotary D9800](#)



President's Message



Good afternoon everyone.

I would like to welcome two guests today, Treena Brown, who has come to make sure Doug doesn't make any slip ups about their trip to the Spice Islands, which Doug will tell us about today. And Gillian Crozier who may just be planning the Crozier's next holiday!! This promises to be very interesting, and not somewhere that many people have been.

But first we need to acknowledge the passing of our friend Merv Williams. I only knew him for the 4 years I have been in the club, but many of you have known him for a very long time. Merv had been in the club for 42 years, since 1983. A number of people have written touching memories of Merv which Barb will have in the Bulletin.

After we have eaten, and before Doug's talk, it would be great if anyone would like to come to the microphone and tell us a little about their memories of Merv. The Rotary theme for June is Fellowship, which is particularly appropriate at this time.

The only other thing I want to mention is the Antique Fair, which is about the only thing I have been thinking of for the last few weeks.

I have a roster I will hand out, but it is not too late both to volunteer for the roster or to bring any last minute items for the stall.

Many thanks to Evelyne and Gaie and Wendy for their efforts, and Joan for helping me.

Pam Norton

Vale Merv Williams



Some reflections from members highlight Merv's time in Rotary and his personal attributes:

For most of us at Kew Rotary it might be true to say we were saddened, but perhaps not surprised by the news of Merv's sudden passing last week.

For many of us it may have felt as though he had always been old – attending our weekly meetings and sitting at his regular table, enjoying a greeting from his fellow members - taking it all in but not saying much.

But for me his death also revived memories of a strong, committed and sometime feisty Rotarian who made an admirable contribution to the life of the club.

Merv was in his 42nd year of membership at the time of his death.

He had worked at the Country Roads Board as a senior engineer. He joined in the same year as Neil Guerin (Jill's father). Neil had also been a road engineer at the CRB and both men had accepted a package which enabled them to retire early.

Their Rotary journey had some other unusual parallels. Merv and Neil were good friends, as were their wives Helen and Joy. They were both pleased to be free of the frustrations of increasing management regulation (or interference as they saw it) then being implemented at the CRB, but both spoke in their vocational talks with real pride and satisfaction about the major projects they had overseen during their careers.

Both shared a strong Christian conviction, plenty of energy, and a real enthusiasm to do some good for their neighbours through the agency of Rotary.

Both were fully involved in the life of the club and both made significant contributions.

Merv's was President in 1993-4, a busy year, typical of the era. Funds were raised (including by a car raffle) and distributed to good causes. 4 new members including Mah Hoon Tan were introduced. The President hosted a beach day, including sailing from Blairgowrie to Sorrento. An exchange student was sent to Denmark, and one welcomed from Brazil. The senior citizens of Kew were hosted for Christmas and may have been amused by Father Xmas and ELF - a long running doubles act by 2 of the more colourful

Vale Merv Williams

characters in the club at the time. Fifteen Rotarians and spouses attend the District Conference in Adelaide. That year Merv also took a party of 5 to the RI conference in Taiwan and I was lucky enough to be included. It was a memorable experience for me – not just the excitement of mixing with Rotarians from around the world and enjoying the generous hospitality of our hosts – but living for a week in a very polluted major Asian industrial city, in the shadow then - as it is now - of its all-powerful neighbour across the straits. It was a life changing eye opener for me and led to a scramble on my part to rectify the shameful absence of Asian history in my schooling.

But most of all I enjoyed the company of Merv and Helen and fellow Club member Roger Fasken, a retired bank manager and a kind and good man, and his dear wife Elaine, a mathematics teacher at PLC at the time. We took a car together after the conference and drove into the central highlands of Taiwan to the Sun Moon Lake Hotel at Yuchi (a popular honeymooner's destination) and later we travelled on together to have a few days in Thailand.

Both couples were most kind and tolerant of me tagging along – Helen always having a boiled lolly ready whenever I became restless in the back seat.

Merv was a clever, cheerful man who loved a joke or witticism. He was critical of conduct that he considered in bad taste. He was honest and direct. He was a generous supporter of a good cause. He was a fine Rotarian, and he was my friend.

Even before the Sun Moon Lake hotel it was obvious that Merv loved Helen deeply. He was profoundly affected by her death many years ago. I'm not quite sure exactly how long ago that was but Merv knew. I was recently talking to him about Helen, and he was able to quote the exact number of years, months and days since she died.

He told me he was ready and looking forward to being re-united with her.

Murray Chessell May 2025

Merv was always very supportive of any/all the youth projects I put forward to the club. One time we had two candidates for NYSF equally as promising as each other. He said if I had difficulties getting two past the board he would cover the expense! Luckily for Merv the club came good and they both applied and went off to that years NYSF. A very genuine human!

Jennie Gale

Past President and Paul Harris Fellow Merv Williams was always a very generous and welcoming person, particularly to any visitors attending our meetings, looking to put them at ease and buy them a drink. In the early days I remember going to Helen and Merv's holiday home for a lunch and enjoying a couple of glasses of red. One of the Club's vocational visit for me was a highlight arranged by Merv, going to the RTA / VicRoads and seeing just how the traffic management system work, being controlled from the "star-wars room" with computer screens everywhere showing the movements and the stoppages all around Melbourne. As a special treat each year was his "booming" baritone voice singing Carols at our many Christmas dinners or lunches over the years and keeping the rest of us in tune. A quiet achiever, a true Rotarian and a man who will be sadly missed by family and his many friends. Condolences to Janice and his extended family. Vale, Merv Williams.

Mike McFarlane

I can't believe Merv has gone. He seemed timeless. Although I was at RCK only a few years, I appreciated Merv for his dedication and preparedness to volunteer for anything and everything no matter how big or trivial and he could be relied on to get it done well and with good humour. When I was President Merv was always first to ask what he could do to assist. A real gentleman who will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Bob Slater

A past President of the club, Merv Williams was a quiet achiever in his Rotary, personal and working life. Whilst neither flashy nor outspoken he held quite firm opinions on a variety of topics which could be elicited if one drew him out. Mr reliable in his Rotary activities, Merv was a valuable servant of the club with his involvement in many club projects and in a variety of club service roles over his 40 plus years of membership. His 'corny' sense of humour always brought a smile to people's faces as did his humorous commentary on those occasions when he chaired meetings. Merv was a man who lived a very disciplined life underpinned by his solid Christian values and he will be missed.

Andrew Dalziel

Merv Williams was a man of service. He built roads (sections of the Hume Highway), aerodromes (Darwin). He was a regular member of his church. He was a long term member of the Rotary Club of Kew. His friendship, knowledgeable conversation, contribution and sharp wit will be missed. A long life well lived.

Fred Payne and Lesley Baragwanath

Merv was inducted in 1982/83 during Peter Hoban's Presidency. If I recall correctly our Club was represented by three engineers with a background in road construction, Merv from Vic Roads, Neil Guerin (Jill Forsyth's Father) from the Country Roads Board (President 1986/87), and Des Glynn (President 1978/79) from the Australian Road Research Board.

Merv served as President in the year 1993/94, an extract from the Club History reads as follows:

President: Merv Williams 1993 – 1994

Due to continued poor economic conditions, funds and time available for projects was limited.

Club numbers ranged from 62 down to 55.

Death of two stalwarts of the Club: Tom Harrison and Teddy Kahanoff.

A gift of \$5,000 from the A H Green Charitable Trust. This and other gifts helped maintain our past level of fund distribution despite losing the Kew Civic Center for the Art Show.

Bone Marrow Donor Research Center recognised the efforts of Raymond Martyres with a Presidential Citation by RI President Bob Barth and of Murray Chessell by a certificate presented by DG Rob Dunn. Dennis McDonald with the Car Raffle to end all raffles.

Due to intermittent availability of Studley Park Receptions a forced move to Greenacres Golf Club. Secretary Cathy Nall excellent job as secretary.

Major contributions (Funding) Bone Marrow Research Student Exchange Citizen's Advice Bureau – Food Hampers Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Life Education Center \$12,000 \$2,764 \$1,940 \$1,000 \$1,000

Forty attended the Chinese Night at Cheng Moon Restaurant. Beach Day – sailing Blairgowrie to Sorrento – hosts, the Williams and Hatherleys. Fifteen Rotarians and spouses attend Conference in Adelaide. Party of five attends Convention in Taiwan.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party enjoyed dinner and Father Xmas Peter Hoban with assistance from ELF.

Rotary Student Exchanges: Alison Stewart to Denmark and Ricard Roats from San Paulo in Brazil.

Inductions: Jenny Richards, Jim Donnelly, Gerry Petrie, Mah Hoon Tan. Resignations: Bryan Mackenzie, Leo Adams, Eileen Marquis, Rod Whittaker, Rod Branson, Prue Gillies, Tom Harrison, Ted Kahanoff, Paul O'Brien, Ken Blair, Paul Wise, Peter Jacobson.

From a personal perspective I enjoyed a wonderful and productive relationship with Merv during his membership of Kew. The Annual Art Show was the highlight of our fundraising activities during the 1990's, with Merv, Neil Guerin and myself providing the

Vale Merv Williams

administrative function for the event over many years, we then worked closely with the balance of the art show committee with the physical construction, hanging, judging, and sales in the lead up to and during the art show.

Merv and his wife Helen were always active participants in the various club activities and regular attendees at the many social activities the club undertook during those years.

From the Club History I note Helen and Merv hosted members of a GSE Team visiting from Bangladesh, Ricardo Raats an Exchange Student from Brazil. Merv Williams was a potent and tremendously capable Sergeant. His policing of our "Red Light" District made a tight ship policy eminently achievable!

The Merv we all knew as a younger and energetic Rotarian will be sadly missed.

Michael Stillwell

Bulletin

Where possible, please submit information to barbrook814@gmail.com by Wednesday for inclusion. I am looking for people to assist with the Bulletin. If you would like to be on a roster to assist with the write up of our guest speaker, please let Barb know. Please note as there is no meeting next week, it is not planned to issue The Bulletin next week.

Happy Birthday for June



Marilyn Shepherd (2nd)
George Verginis (23rd)



Dates for Your Diary

Till 14 June

Lipwurrunga by Les Huddleston
Hawthorn Town Hall Gallery, free entry
There will be finger food, and drinks at bar prices.

Saturday 7 June

10am – 4pm Fair Trade and Gift Shop – Book Fair

Tuesday 10 June

5.30pm RCK Board Meeting new and old Board with dinner to follow.

Thursday 12 June

10.30am Funeral for the late Merv Williams Doncaster Church of Christ
No RCK meeting

Sunday 15 June

10am-4pm Antique Fair – Hawthorn Arts Centre

Tuesday 17 June

12noon Breaking the Silence on Men's Health
Chandelier Room Hawthorn Arts Centre see details

Thursday 19 June

1pm RCK meeting Speaker Colin Burns
"My Life in Mining"

Thursday 26 June

1pm RCK meeting Speaker Keith Chessell
"How to recycle household rubbish"

Thursday 3 July

6.30pm Rotary Club of Kew Changeover night

Saturday 5 July

10am – 4pm Fair Trade and Gift Shop – Book Fair
District Changeover (lunchtime)
Peter Shephard will be our new District Governor.
Join the District for this event trybooking.com/DCATG to make a booking

Thursday 10 July

1pm RCK meeting Speaker Rev Natalie Dixon
Boroondara Community Outreach

Thursday 17 July

1pm RCK meeting Speaker Justin MacLean
Georges. The Shop in Collin's Street

Thursday 24 July

1pm RCK meeting – Fellowship

Thursday 31 July

1pm RCK meeting Speaker

Guest Speaker



Doug and Treena Brown's trip to the Spice Islands

Doug and Treena's Coral Expeditions trip earlier in the year took them to the Spice Islands, an

archipelago located in Eastern Indonesia.

They visited three specific areas; the Banda Archipelago, famous for nutmeg and other spices, the Raja Amat Islands, renowned for their marine biodiversity, and Cenderawasih Bay, one of the few places globally where it's possible to swim with whale sharks.

Highlights of the trip included visiting villages in the Banda Archipelago group, with its history of spice trading. Here, locals performed traditional dances. Doug commented on the vibrant cultural practices, alongside the use of modern technology, including mobile phones. The villagers proudly spoke of their Christian faith and Papuan/Melanesian heritage. The Raja Ampat islands are covered with abundant vegetation and the waters around them offered opportunities for snorkelling, both from the beach and from the back of the boat. Doug's presentation included photos showing the abundance and variety of tropical fish and beautiful corals he and Treena were able to observe whilst snorkelling.

In Cenderawasih Bay, tourists swam with juvenile whale sharks, and again enjoyed the wonderful variety of marine life.

Members thoroughly enjoyed Doug's presentation about the Spice Islands, with their interesting history, cultural heritage, and remarkable marine biodiversity.

Joan

RCK profile

We are working on raising our Club profile on social media and also at events.

Thank you to Alison - we have our first sandwich board.

If you have a sandwich board lurking around - please let Barb know- it can be painted and reimaged.

We are also hoping members can wear Rotary clothing or items with insignia promoting Rotary at our events.

Almoner

Das continues to have regular contact with our members, and we thank him most sincerely for his continual care.

Fair Trade and Gift Shop



Boroondara Antique and Collectables Fair

10 days away

Please advise me if you have items for sale on your own behalf or with proceeds going to RCK.

We are not savvy about prices so please check on-line sources or with experts.

All items for sale must be marked with a swing tag with your first name & surname initial plus a fixed price for each item.

In addition, please provide a list in 4 columns on A4 paper----

List each item	Price	* Sold	* Cash/ CC

*Wendy or Gaie will enter Cash or C.Card after sale of item .

Money or receipt (for credit card payment) from sales will be placed in a named envelope and sorted out afterwards.

All items must be on the RCK Table before the opening of the Fair and any unsold items must be collected at the end of sales

or they will be gifted to the OP shop.

Phone me on 0419 115971 or email

me- evelynperks@netscape.net

with any queries

Many thanks Evelyn Perk



Boroondara Antique and Collectables Fair



The Rotary Club of Kew invites you to

BOROONDARA ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES FAIR

*Unearth hidden treasures, seek valuations, and
revel in the charm of antiques and collectables*

WHEN

June 15th 2025,
10 AM to 4 PM

WHERE

Hawthorn Arts Centre
360 Burwood Rd,
Hawthorn VIC 3122

ENTRY

ADULTS \$5 Children Free
\$5 per valuation (no jewellery,
stamps or coins)

Have your treasures valued by **David Freeman**,
renowned, government-approved valuer, whose vast
experience with art, antiques, china and collectables will
help you understand the value of your family treasures.
David Freeman Valuations/ Amanda Addams Auctions/ Desirable Objects Gallery



David Freeman

BOOK TICKETS

ROTARYCLUBOFKEW.ORG.AU/ACF



This event is proudly brought to you
by the **Rotary Club of Kew** dedicated
to "Improving People's Lives"

Boroondara Antique and Collectables Fair 2025

Thought of the Day

The thought was contributed by Evelyne
Just 10 days to go
'til the Antique show!
Remember to bring
Items with zing
To help our R C K
Run a successful day!
Evelyne Perks

Raffle

The raffle this week was won by Michael Stillwel

Breaking the Silence on Men's Health

Tuesday 17th June 2025 from 12 noon - 2:30pm
Chandelier Room Hawthorn Arts Centre
360 Burwood Rd Hawthorn
\$30 light lunch included



Our speaker Simon von Saldern, CEO healthymale.org.au
Simon's goal is to make a sustainable difference in the
area of male health by ensuring that men have the tools
they need to lead healthier lives.



This is an important event focussing on: key men's health
issues impacting them in the workplace, in their families
and in their daily lives.

We will canvass emerging trends and time will be
allocated for a Q&A session.

Scan the code to book



<https://www.trybooking.com/DBRIZ>

Bookings close 10/6/25

All Welcome!
bring your
colleagues,
teams & friends

Brought to you by
the Rotary Clubs of
Camberwell, Kew & Balwyn



Book Now!

Bank Account Details

When making payments directly to the Club, please use
the following details:

Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000

Account 125381590

Please remember to include your name and reason for
payment in the reference

Robert's Idle Observations

Apparently you can't use 'beef stew' as a password. It's
not stroganoff.

Meeting Duty Roster

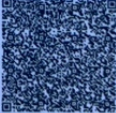
Date	Chair	Host	Meeting Equipment	Cashier-1	Cashier-2	Thought
19-Jun	Stewart P	Ibbotson P	Crozier B	Dias C	Perks E	Brown D
26-Jun	Scott J	Turner-Atkins M	Brown D	Ewart C	Bourke M	Turner-Atkins M



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