

Presidents Message

Rotarians welcomed to this September meeting with Bob Cadden standing in for President Meg.

Welcome to guests tonight: Christopher Simpson – guest speaker whom Bob later introduced.

I have known Chris for more than 10 years after we were introduced by our late friend Beth Wilkinson at an artshow. And now we meet regularly at U3A.

Chris is a past Rotarian, he served in most of the Rotary positions, including as president with RC of Hornsby in NSW & he is a PHF

I won't say more as his presentation tonight is "Why am I here" a question that many of us may sometimes ask ourselves See last page for more from Chris

Reports

- Art Show – Brian all on track see catering request next page. Rosters on Shared Drive
- CADV – Kevin planning DV Walk 28 November



DID YOU KNOW?

Rotary is no stranger to the small screen.

Midsomer Murders fans may have noticed that Detective Chief Inspector Barnaby often wore a Rotary badge. According to the costume designer at Bentley Productions, the badge was to signify the character's membership of the Rotary club in the fictional town of Causton. The idea, which was suggested by actor John Nettle himself, was that it would be very appropriate for Barnaby and his family to be involved in the local Rotary club.

In the detective series *A Touch of Frost*, Detective Inspector Frost's chief, Superintendent Mullett, is often going to or coming from a Rotary meeting or dinner.

A 2002 episode of *Heartbeat* has Celia Beresford in charge of the Ashfordly Rotary Club's annual Old Folks Outing to Whitby

The Christmas 1974 episode of long standing comedy series *Dad's Army* had staunch Rotarian Captain Mainwaring preparing to be the guest speaker at his local Rotary club.

In a 1984 episode of the popular series *Minder*, Arthur Daley is the invited speaker at the Rotary club where Terry McCann provides the security (at a Rotary club!!).

In the much-loved Australian series *Neighbours*, Rotary has featured in at least four episodes. Twice in 1990, where Harold Bishop is rehearsing his speech to Rotary and also when Madge has to make a speech to a Rotary club. It made an appearance in a 2004 episode where Stuart Parker is presented with an award at a Rotary club ceremony and in 2007 when Paul Robinson is offered a job to manage a project at a Rotary Convention.

Celebrations for the week ahead

Birthdays: Lorraine Wilson on the 17th

Wedding anniversaries: Pam & Bruce Wheeler on the 22nd

Induction into Rotary: Kim Joyce 29 years of service



UPCOMING EVENTS

23 September Glenn Howell Cognitive Training

30 September Art Show Briefing

7 OCTOBER NO MEETING

8-11 OCTOBER ART SHOW

Setting up and receiving of Art work 5-7 October

Gala Evening 8th October All hands on Deck

14 October Zoe Brinsden Country University Centre

Weekly social events

Bike Riding Thursday 09:00 at the Ansett Museum, finishing for coffee at Tosca Browns, around 09:35

Friday Coffee: meet each Friday Morning, 10:30 at the Roxburgh, all welcome

Saturday Park Run 7:45am at the Adventure Playground Walk or run 5kms around Lake Hamilton
<https://www.parkrun.com.au/register/>

Please note

Apologies must be submitted by 12 noon on the Tuesday before each Wednesday meeting. Please note that the number of meals ordered by that time must be paid for.

Editors note - Artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT, may be used by the editor to assist in drafting content. Final content is reviewed and published at the editor's discretion.

ART SHOW CATERING

Jenni Barke has distributed requests for assistance with donations of finger food - savoury and sweet- for the opening night on Thursday 8th October.

This year we will have several smaller working bees to make the sandwiches.

On Wednesday morning, the 7th, we will prepare sandwich fillings at a couple of homes.

On Thursday morning we will make sandwiches and set up trays at the PAC.

All hands on deck are needed in the kitchen for the opening night.

Please fill in your request form or ring Jenni 0419 555 561 so we can plan the rosters.



Meet our 2026 Art Show Judge – James Peter Henry

We're delighted to welcome international artist and muralist James Peter Henry as judge of this year's Hamilton Rotary Art Show.

Originally from a farm near Cavendish, James has built an impressive international career, with large-scale murals and exhibitions across Australia and the USA. His work has even been projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House.

James has now returned to the region and established a new art studio in Hamilton, making his appointment as our 2026 judge a wonderful local connection.

We look forward to welcoming James and showcasing the wonderful talent of our exhibiting artists.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month for Rotary International.

This month highlights one of Rotary's core areas of focus: giving people the tools they need to read, write, and build better lives.



Our club continues to gift a book to every baby born at WDHS

President
Meg Waton
President Elect
TBA

Vice President/Membership

Brian Jenkins

Secretary

Lyn Christie

Treasurer

Bob Cadden

Immediate Past President

Bob Cadden

Community
James Dunn
Environment

Marg Moffatt/Gerri Griffin

Vocational

Bruce Wheeler

International

Glenn Howell

Youth

Leo Cummins

Rotary Foundation/IT Support

Simon Wilson

Catering

Bruce Warburton

Public Image/Social Media

Bulletin Editor

Lorraine Wilson

District Governor

Toni Thiel (Casterton)

Club Contact

sec@rotaryhamilton.org.au

PO Box 182 Hamilton

Other Key positions for 2026-27

Risk Assessment Bruce Wheeler **Programs** John Main **Club History** Ian Black

Art Show Brian Jenkins **Sheepvention Catering** Simon Wilson

Domestic Violence Project Kevin Safe **Youth Protection** Heather Ward **Welfare** Margy McIntyre

Links to Club
[Facebook](#) [Website](#)

Editor
bulletin@rotaryhamilton.org.au
Created in CANVA

Meetings held
The Speckled Frog 6pm
Wednesdays

Chris Simpson Guest Speaker

Our friend, Chris Simpson, spoke of his life, filled with adventure and near misses; his talk entitled - "Why am I Here?"

During the Battle of Britain in 1940, Chris was born in the cellar. He, in a pram, and his mother escaped another bombing raid on the street when they were out walking.

Christmas as a 12 year old was in Berlin where his father, and airline pilot, was able to take the family. During that time he had an unhappy encounter with a soldier guarding the Russian quarter pointing a gun at him with intent.

As a prefect at primary school, Chris attempted to intervene in a fight but ended up with a cut wrist from falling glass. A temporary bandage got him the 13 Km. home on his bicycle before stitches.

After Primary school, Chris won a boarding scholarship to Magdalen college where he had to catch up with physics, chemistry and ancient Greek studies. There he joined the air corps and had a rather interesting parachute jump from below the recommended safety altitude.

It was during this time that Chris, in a rowing 8, encountered a snow storm, got a lock-keeper out to let them through, and eventually collided with a VW while cycling home into the storm.

A driving lesson with his Dad landed the jeep on its side as it cornered, but he did eventually get his license when he was 18.

In 1958, Chris won a scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford. During the first 2 years he won the whist championship, stage-managed 2 plays and drank much draught Guinness. The third year was one of panic as he prepared for and succeeded in his final year, before a fourth year of research to gain his Honours Degree.

Travelling with his family to South Africa at about this time, there was a very close encounter with 2 large elephants in the Kruger National Park in an unreliable car which did eventually start just in time.

Chris eventually completed his D. Phil in chemistry on a studentship, and along the way identified a number of new compounds and designed and produced specialized equipment for the task.

Working life for Chris lead him to areas of industrial safety and design of specialized equipment for the mining industry in Australia. He recounted several close calls with impending disaster. Chris completed his working life chairing international committees working on Electrical Standards for the IEC.

Chirstchurch NZ seemed an ideal place for retirement, but then there was an earthquake.... So now Chris is in Hamilton.



Chris showed us a special coin with The Queen on one side and Churchill on the other.