

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Bob welcomed members including guest speaker Debra King from Hamilton Community House and welcomed back Heather Ward from her travels. Bob did note that we are three quarters of the way through the Rotary Years. Next meeting is on April 1 but as tradition dictates no pranking after midday!

### Domestic Violence Breakfast

Held this morning with 40 in attendance Rotary Hamilton outlined 2025 projects and plans to continue in 2026

Peter Irvin spoke about the professional development for primary schools Helen Henry SGSC about council culture etc. Dr Sophie Ping about WDHS and Lou Hurley Wimmera South West Violence Partnership Principal Strategic Advisor about her organisation. Attendees invited to contribute ideas via a questionnaire lots of great conversations and networking. (President Bob thanked the DV team on a great effort)

### Home Hosting 15 April

John Main is calling for volunteers to host other members in their home. Guests supply the food.

### Raffle winner was Gerri Griffin



In 1980, the BBC World Service announced that London's most famous landmark was getting a facelift. The broadcaster told listeners that, to help tourists tell the time, the Big Ben clocktower would be going digital, and would henceforth be known as 'Digital Dave'.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 27- 29 March** Multi District Impact Summit Horsham
- 31 March** Art Show Meeting @ Brian Jenkins 5:30pm
- 1 April** Sandy Vanrenan - Exchange
- 8 April** Budget plans
- 15 April** Home Hosting
- 29 April** NO MEEETING
- 6 May** Deakin Medical Students
- 13 May** Parklands Golf Club Dinner and Drinks at Bar prices
- 20 May** Pastoral Museum

**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.

### 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/>

**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.



**Celebrations: this week**  
**Birthday** Liz Cummins 26th  
**Wedding Anniversary** Judy and Kim Joyce 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
**Mary and Damien Meagher** 10<sup>th</sup> March  
**Inductions** None  
**Sad to note** the passing of **Faye Gumley** wife of the late Jim. Both valued members on Hamilton Rotary and the wider community


Another great Sunday morning with eight members working together to provide breakfast for the Rural Women's Weekend. We served over 100 Egg and Bacon Rolls in our beautiful Botanical Gardens

**District Notices**

I will be attending the Multi District Impact Summit this weekend in Horsham- could be an expensive trip with diesel already at \$3.00 a litres! Editor

**MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH (WASH)**

Double click to follow link



**March 2026 is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month**  
 What Is your Rotary Club doing to focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in March 2026? Clean water and...  
 District 7070



**BY 2030 EVERYONE WILL HAVE SAFE WATER TO DRINK**  
 #GlobalGoals

**President**  
 Bob Cadden  
**President Elect**  
 Meg Watson  
**Vice President/Membership**  
 Brian Jenkins  
**Secretary**  
 Lyn Christie  
**Treasurer**  
 Geetha Yoga  
**Immediate Past President**  
 Noel Howard

**Community**  
 James Dishon  
**Environment**  
 Marg Moffatt/Gerri Griffin  
**Vocational**  
 James Dunn  
**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**  
 Christine Dufty (Nhill)  
**Club Contact**  
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 PO Box 182 Hamilton

**Other Key positions for 2025-26**  
**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

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

Editor  
 bulletin@rotaryhamilton.org.au  
 Created in CANVA

Meetings held  
 The Speckled Frog 6pm  
 Wednesdays

## Guest Speaker – Debra King Community House

Rotarian James Dishon introduced Deb King noting his connection of using the photocopying facilities provided at the house (and it is literally a converted house!)

Deb King, Manager of the Hamilton Community House in Sedgewick Street, began her presentation with a light-hearted introduction to Laughter Yoga—one of the many programs offered—encouraging participants to “get into mischief and not get caught.”

She outlined the history of the House, established in 1987, and explained that it is governed by a Committee of Management and forms part of a statewide network of more than 400 Neighbourhood Houses across 16 networks.

Funded through the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, the House is currently facing significant funding challenges and is at risk of becoming unsustainable. Deb recently attended a Day of Action in Melbourne advocating for increased support through the “Keep Our Doors Open” campaign.

Deb is the only paid employee at the House, relying heavily on a dedicated but ageing volunteer base. In addition to her local role, she also serves as a Network Manager and contributes to a number of external organisations, including Chatty Café, Neighbourhood Houses Australia, Relationships Australia, Street Smart, and Over the Farm Gate—further extending her impact across the community sector.

She highlighted the ten guiding principles that underpin Neighbourhood Houses and spoke about the ongoing impact of COVID, noting a shift toward more people seeking welfare support and a safe, secure space—placing additional pressure on staff and volunteers.

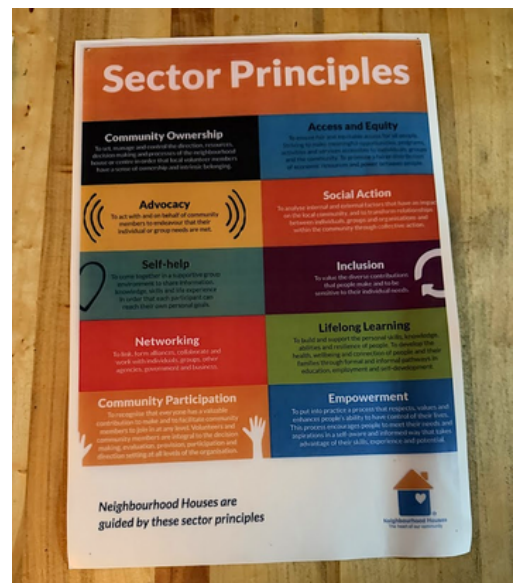
Despite these challenges, the Hamilton Community House continues to deliver a wide range of programs and services, including line dancing, tax help, emergency relief, a food pantry, training courses, and community events.

The House also plays an active role in local initiatives such as Party with the Ponies, Art Activities for kids on HIRL market days, the Good Friday Appeal, 16 Days of Activism, Seniors Festival, and the Blue Light Disco—demonstrating its vital role in supporting and connecting the community.

A true community lifeline, built on connection, care, and support



Cindy and Deb discussing some coming events



President Bob presenting Deb with a Certificate of Appreciation