

President	James Dishon	Rotary Foundation	Noel Howard
Vice President	Simon Wilson	Community	Gerard Lucas
President Elect	TBA	International	Jenny Barke
Immediate Past President	Brian Jenkins	Vocational	James Dunn
Secretary	Lyn Christie	Youth	Leo Cummins
Treasurer	Bob Cadden	Catering	Bruce Warburton
Bulletin/Rosters/Webpage	Lorraine Wilson	Program	John Main
District Governor	Kathy Rivett	Assistant Governor Group 1	Darren Brown
Rotary International President	RC Alfredton		Casterton RC
	Jennifer E Jones	Rotary Club of Windsor- Roseland, Ontario, Canada	

Email address for the bulletin bulletin@rotaryhamilton.org.au

Meeting held on January 25, 2023 ERA Nursery visit
Past President Brian welcomed everyone to our meeting at The Speckled Frog (Guest Meg Watson and Peter Sandow)

Notices

- **WDHS Golf Day 24 February members needed. The roster is posted on shared drive please complete ASAP**
- President James will be on holidays for next meeting so Brian Jenkins IPP will be stepping in.
- Next meeting will be **THURSDAY** at Coleraine Meet at front Uniting Church 5:30pm to carpool Book partners in/no cost Please reply to attendance by Monday Club will provide BBQ meets plates and cutlery BYO Chairs/Drinks/glasses Raffle funds to Rotary Flood Appeal

Australia Day Awards



Congratulations to **Ainsley Wilson** (wife of Rotarian Simon) who received an Australia Day Community Award which acknowledged her work with Rotary catering and her interest in environmental issues

Hamilton Rotarian **Peter Milburn** received the Mayors Award for his long time passion using his musical skills to entertain and fundraise for many causes over the years.



ERA Nursery Site Visit John Main introduced PETER SANDOW, principal of ERA

Peter grew up in the wheat belt in the north of South Australia where his family were early proponents of on-farm trees. As an adult, his farm in Wando Vale was one of the demonstration farms of the Potter Farm Plan to show the benefits of on-farm tree plantings.

After some dealerships in Hamilton and 22 years ago, Peter invested in ERA with partner Ted Allender whose academic background was in horticulture and who was vice-president of Greening Australia. Initially the nursery was sited in Hensley Part Rd opposite the airport but moved to its present site at South Boundary Rd for improved access to, and management of water.

The enterprise initially produced Blue Gums which were eventually harvested for the paper industry. In their first year they produced 3 million seedlings; the following year they produced 12 million and eventually produced 8 million seedlings annually. Despatch was by the semitrailer load, including to Kangaroo island and is completed by the end of June.

Blue gum plantations were controversial, with argument that good arable farming land was taken out of food production. However, at the time farming was doing poorly and the blue gums brought in money and jobs. Unfortunately the companies buying farmland and planting blue gums failed, leading to substantial losses for ERA.

Since then, ERA diversified into seedlings of many native trees and shrubs used in revegetation of roadsides and farmland. Species and cultivars are grown to suit different climatic conditions. Leptospermums are produced particularly for the honey industry. Plants can now be purchased on the internet, and are sold singly, by the ute or semi load. With myrtle rust accreditation, ERA can sell to all the Eastern States of Australia. ERA also sells tree guards made from corflute and requiring only a single stake.

On tour of the site, Peter showed us the equipment used to plant seeds in 512 trays (That many seedlings per tray) that are then propagated in hot houses. They are then transplanted into HIKO trays in which the tiny seedlings grow outdoors until despatch. Robotic planting equipment imported from Italy is used, but also up to 50 casual staff are needed in the season.

Growing mediums (soils) are purchased. Two tray system with transplanting allows the most efficient use of soil. Water is also used very efficiently. While some water is purchased from Wannan Water, water is also harvested from road run-off and recycled from the nursery using cumbungie natural filters. Constant checking of the watering system is essential and backups for power, filters and pumps are necessary.

John thanked Peter for showing us his business. We were amazed at its size, the efficiencies embraced, and the diversity of seedlings now grown.

Notes and photos thanks to Jennifer Barke

Peter also invited members to come out and see the process working. Check out the website

<https://eranurseries.com.au/> Trees and shrubs can be purchased online



Roster for coming meeting THURSDAY February 9 at Coleraine

	Cashier	Chairman	Social/bar	Fellowship	Property	Bulletin
	Bob Cadden David Indian	Brian Jenkins	Not required	Barrie Aaron	Not required	Lorraine



Bike Riders Thursday meet at Ansett Museum 9:00am
Coffee @The Roxburgh Fridays 10:30am (last week about 8 members met for coffee)



Family of Rotary – all our members and their families are important to us.

Almoners Rose Howard and Bruce Wheeler.

COVID is still about, and we ask members to take care and take a RAT test if feeling unwell.

This week		
Birthdays	Anniversaries	Inductions
Judy Joyce	None	None

Calendar		
February 2023. Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month.		
Feb 9 THURS	Coleraine Railway Station Joint meeting with Casterton Club Partners invited	Meet at front Uniting Church 5:30pm to carpool Book partners in/no cost Club will provide BBQ meets plates and cutlery BYO Chairs/Drinks/glasses Raffle funds to Rotary Flood Appeal
Feb 15	Martin Hardy	Policing in Western Victoria
Feb 22	TBA	
Feb 24	WDHS Golf Day	Please add names to list on Shared Drive
March 3		Clean Up Australia Day

District Notices

District Conference in Ballarat 24 -26th March 2023
Let's get a group together and attend. Some great speakers **FUN AND FRIENDSHIP.** (At the moment there are 6 members attending)

<https://rotary9780.org/page/district-9780-conference-2023>

Rotary International Convention Melbourne May 27-31, 2023

Registration is open

<https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/> Request for volunteers

Weekly Bulletin, Webpage and Facebook
Our club webpage can be accessed on <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/1943> It is now live. This will allow stories from our bulletins to be published on the webpage and information from the District and RI webpages (which also use ClubRunner) to be shared. Our club also has a Facebook page which shares stories and events, and this page is also shared to other Facebook pages to get our message out.
<https://www.facebook.com/rotaryhamiltonvicau>