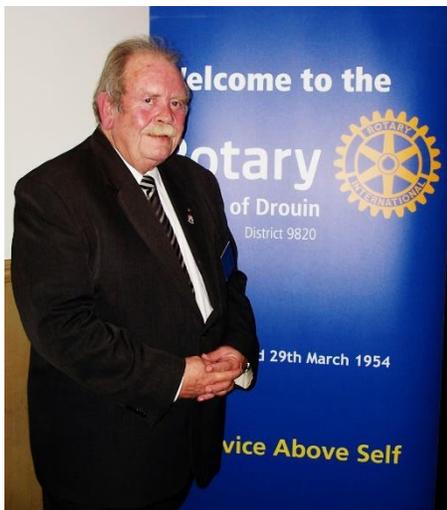


Rotary

Club

Of

Drouin



**President
Russell Ford**

Annual Report 2020-21

Rotarians

People of Action

Rotary



**Rotary Opens
Opportunities**

Rotary Club of Drouin 2020-21
Office Bearers, Directors and Service Committee.

President/Director Membership	Russell Ford
Secretary/Administration	David Veal
Past President/Social Media	Tim Wills
Treasurer/President Elect	Gary Scanlon
Director Community Service & Projects	Bill Petschack
Work Force & Resource Coordination	Kevin Roberts
Director Rotary Foundation	Ian Symons
Director New Generations/Youth	Sharryn Marshall Ass. Russell Ford
Director Insurance & Risk Management	Ian Haughton
Bulletin	Roger Playdon
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jane Playdon & Gary Surman

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

<i>Attendance</i>	Peter Konjevic
<i>Club Historians</i>	Don Blackley, Max Hine
<i>Club Protection Officer</i>	Ian Symons
<i>Social</i>	Glynn Fankhauser & Don Kelly
<i>Property Master</i>	William Wong
<i>On-to-Conference</i>	Gary Scanlon
<i>Risk Management</i>	Micael Ambrose/Ian Brooks
<i>Rotary Family</i>	Pauline Maunder
<i>Bookings & Apologies</i>	William Wong

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

<i>Gazette Liaison</i>	Keith Pretty
<i>Photos</i>	Clarrie Debnam, Ian Symons
<i>Website/Facebook</i>	Tim Wills.

President's Report

To say that this has been a difficult year for our Club or for all Clubs would be a classical understatement, although we should put that into some sort of perspective. We were not the only organisation impacted and more significantly many local businesses and those who work for them suffered enormous financial losses many were Rotarians, and of course many people, including our members were separated from families for significant periods of time, often in moments of great need.

The paradigm during these past twelve months was to be flexible and be ready to pivot into a new direction as there was no certainty about what would happen next and what that might mean for our operations. The greatest concern back in July as we entered into what turned out to be our longest and most severe lockdown was keeping our members engaged in the Club when we could not be together at all, or at times only in very small groups.

We monitored this very closely, the Bulletin was published every week and we could see who was opening it via Clubrunner statistics. Small social groups began to gather within the limits of restrictions as they applied at the time. Coffee groups, the Friday bikers, the chat app, small community service teams and of course there were Zoom meetings. All of these things and more allowed us to see who was engaging with the Club in some form and if a member was not seen or heard from in a month, a quick check in by phone was made.

All of which brings us to the strategy, yes there was a strategy put in place which revolved around four key points. 1, Community Service 2. Finance, 3. Fellowship and 4. Publicity. We are a proud Club and our members

are proud people, proud of what we do in the community and the ultimate way to ensure engagement of our members, particularly in the worst of times from July to December 2020, was to ride this emotion of pride.

1. Community Service: You will see from the Director's report later in this Annual Report the extent that we were able to serve our community. Credit to Bill and the various teams that worked with him for what was achieved. Whether Bill found the project, or they came as request or as President I passed them across Rotarians met every challenge, big or small and always within the restrictions and despite the loss of time due to lockdowns, much was achieved.

2. Finance: Our annual sources of major revenue raising events were severely restricted by COVID in fact the only one that was able to continue was our monthly market and even these were significantly reduced on occasions by weather and others just did not happen due to lockdowns. When restrictions were eased, we did get the markets up and running again but the requirements placed on us by both State and Local Government were formidable and burdensome but huge credit to Roger and his team for satisfying both authorities, by completing the endless documentation and on day requirements.

The recommendation by the Board and accepted by members that we draw down on reserve seeding funds covered our shortfalls and as the treasurer's report shows we were able to make significant disbursements to Foundation, Polio Plus and local organisations.

3. Fellowship: Getting members and partners together was obviously severely restricted but in our usual style we were innovative and able to pivot quickly to meet the need for Fellowship amongst members. Many of us learnt very quickly not just to use Chat Apps and Zoom, but the first hurdle was to find out what they were.

Also, we got together in small groups as restrictions allowed, community service projects, small coffee groups, The Bikers each Friday, emails, phone calls, home visits and of course our wonderful Bulletin, all combined to keep us in touch and enjoying each other's company as much as possible.

The pivot to Middels when numbers in hospitality lifted in October and November but not enough to return to the Hong Kong Inn was well received and the excitement in the room and the numbers who rocked up for our first meeting back at our home base at the Inn was evidence enough that members were well engaged and excited to be back together en masse.

4. Publicity: The fourth strategy in keeping members engaged was a combination and result of the three points above.

As I said we are a proud Club and proud Rotarians and I felt that if our members could see and hear about the community service projects that were still happening, that the disbursements were being made and that in one form or another we were getting together, then their pride in our Club would be there right through the difficult times and sustain engagement.

To actively seek publicity for projects and donations was very deliberate at a time when we knew the community would be looking for good news and I thank Carolyn Turner and The Warragul Drouin Gazette staff for their support. As I said on more than one occasions our scribe Rotarian Keith does not write fiction and every one of the 26 stories about Drouin Club that were published were about things that happened. There were a further 16 stories about us from other organisations we had engaged with were also published.

We are also coming to grips with the power of social media especially Facebook became they are valuable conduits to make members and our community aware that we remained active with in the community. Appointing a director to this role had a significant impact and whilst going forward it will not be a director's position it will be a role filled by an experienced knowledgeable member.

The Board has done an outstanding job and I thank them and commend for the way that they also had to adapt to changing times. They all not only maintained but built on their portfolios and were very active contributors to Board meetings when we were together in a room, together on Zoom or in some cases via rounds of phone calls and emails to address urgent matters.

I wish President Gary and his team all the best in the coming year and I know it will be equally productive, I just hope under better circumstances.

Yours in Rotary,
Russell Ford

Club Administration

Attendance

Thank you to Peter Konjevic, for maintaining the Club's Attendance Records and dinner payments. Of course, this was another area severely impacted by the pandemic. The average attendance figure for the face-to-face meetings was 80.46%. Weekly ZOOM meetings were held but moved to fortnightly meetings in August with an average participant rate of approximately 51%, It was also noted that the Bulletin readership each week had a very high level of take up.

Bookings & Apologies

William has again been the contact point for Members and he has generously allowed bookings and apologies to be made up to midday on the day of the meeting which in most cases has been well used and appreciated.

Bulletin

Roger Playdon has done a wonderful job with The Bulletin this year. As mentioned above, the Bulletin became a very important "vehicle" for information and engagement of all members during this COVID affected Rotary year.

Dinner Programs

The move to groups being allocated months to organise programs continued. The result was a very wide variety of programs that members found extremely interesting and engaging.

Property Master

To have a secure and well cared for property location where we meet is a tremendous advantage and we thank William and his staff for this and the set up each week for the dinner meetings. Thanks William

Protection Officer

A concerted effort to encourage and assist members to apply for a current *Working with Children* certificate, plus Rotary International registrations was very successful, significantly increasing numbers who now can be involved in youth-related service. Currently 43 members of the total of 47 have been or are pending registration

Rotary Family

Thank you to Pauline Maunder with assistance from Anita Coonan on occasions, who kept us all up to date on the welfare of our members and families. All members were very active in drawing Pauline's attention to matters or mentioning things themselves and this aspect of fellowship should never be underestimated

Sergeant at Arms

Sergeants Jane and Gary Surman, with occasional help from Ray Howe provided great mirth and had our hands frequently in our pockets.

On-to-Conference

Naturally the regular Conference was suspended this year and also moved to Zoom with a limited Conference Dinner. Hopefully we will be back to a normal conference in Traralgon this Rotary year.

Yours in Rotary,
David Veal



VALE

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the passing of our esteemed past members, Ian Booker, Rob Collins and Peter Williams.

Foundation Report

As of June 2021, the Club has made significant progress in meeting the requirements of the Districts Working with Youth Policy. I have recently forwarded an updated report to the District Youth Protection Officer that During the year some of the Club's enthusiastic bicycle riders undertook a challenge to ride from Drouin to Traralgon on what was dubbed The Foundation Frolic. The concept was that each rider would try and attract sponsors and there was also general support by Club members to the collective team of riders. An amount in excess of \$1000 was able to be added to the Club's budgeted commitment to the Foundation.

The riders were met by PDG Janne Speirs and some Traralgon members along with President Russell, who handed Janne a large Bendigo Bank PR Cheque to indicate that the ride had generated a significant amount. Feedback at the conclusion of the ride was positive and I am sure there will be another Frolic in the coming year. Thanks to Max Scott for daring to suggest that we attempt such a challenge instead of the sedate Friday Coffee run!

Our foreign currency collections have morphed into something bigger and broader than I envisaged. I have been amazed at the coinage and notes we have received so far. The level of public support generated by Keith's article in the Gazette has been excellent. The little rubbish bin has been filled on the two occasions that I have been present. This last market a man gave us collectors first day sets, special event medallions, and other collectables. I think this will become a worthwhile project.

So, from the original idea of unusable foreign currency, we now also have old coins (some very old, e.g., 1806) and sets that we can convert to cash through collectors or brokers. One set of Aussie coins from 1995 is listed on the web for between \$30 and \$50.

I am progressively producing display information about The Rotary Foundation and the 7 Areas of Focus. I also intend to find suitable video presentations about actual projects that we can show continuously in our small pergola or near the BBQ seating.

Yours In Rotary
Ian Symons

Club Protection Officer Report

I have provided the District Protection Officer with an updated report of our status with regard to the completion of the Youth Volunteer Declaration Form and holders of Working With Children Cards.

COVID curtailed the progress we were making in applying for WWC Cards and getting the Declaration forms completed but we still have made really good progress. Now that it looks like we can meet in the flesh again, I will follow up our new members and those older members who have yet to complete the forms or get their card.

Yours In Rotary
Ian Symons

New Generations

Given the turmoil of 2020/21 and associated restrictions bestowed upon the Youth Program, it was a year like no other for Youth. Thankfully, all went well with our exchange student, Ariene Start, who represented our club and district in Japan. Throughout the year, Ariene showcased her aptitude, approach and application to the Youth Exchange Program. Constant contact by in depth reports, a love and appreciation for the opportunities presented to her during her exchange, were the key features of her year away. Ariene was the epitome of what resolve and determination and making the best of any situation and it was an absolute honour to have been her counsellor during 2020. To observe this diligent and determined young lady embrace adversity while involving herself in so many activities in her host country and it was great to read via her reports how all her host families were so very happy to have her as an integral part of their families. Going forward in this new world of life, it is hoped that the Youth Program can involve our leaders of tomorrow in more programs that offer invaluable chances to promote themselves and do Rotary proud.

MUNA and Science Experience These two programs that have been well supported by the Club in past years and very well received by the students who participated and came back to speak at our meetings became victims of COVID and were cancelled.

Drouin Secondary College were asked if they would like to participate in Australia Day and readily accepted the invitation and students grouped together in 5 bands entertained the public who attended the Picnic In The Park.

Drouin Primary School Breakfast Club

Once again, this program was suspended due to requirements and restrictions on entering the school

*Yours in Rotary,
Sharryn Marshall*

Membership

Our year started with 45 active members all members remained members through the year and in February we welcomed Rob Coustley and then in June Judy Alexander joined the ranks of our Club taking to 47 members by June 30th. We warmly welcome them and look forward to them enjoying a long and productive Rotary life with our Club.

Paul Harris Fellowship recognition was given to one member and a community member mid-year, our host and property steward William Wong and as a community member, his partner, Christine Chan both were recognized with Paul Harris Fellowship.

The Club has recognized that its age profile is one of an ageing membership and the average years of membership is 20 years meaning that we do need to look at ways we can rejuvenate both these profiles. To begin to address these issues a subcommittee of the Board was formed and met each month from February until June. They undertook a full review of everything associated with finding, inducting, engaging and retaining new members.

They considered the most effective way of involving prospective new members and how the Club could modernise their visibility within the community particularly in the use of social media and advertising banners and brochures when we are out and about working on projects or at the market

A series of documents and recommendations were made and presented to the Board for consideration in 2021/22 and a dedicated Membership Director has been appointed.

*Russell Ford
Convenor
Membership Sub Committee.*

Projects & Community Service

Alex Goudie Park

Our first project in Russell's year began with the Rotary Club carrying out some repairs and painting on the John Saddington Rotunda in preparation for the Nation of Trees opening. Sanding of the fascia and seats was carried out and painting and staining took place over 2 days. Tank stand was rebuilt and the John Saddington name board was revamped by John Franklin. Baw Baw Shire provided the materials.

Food Bank

Our club commenced deliveries of food parcels from the Longwarry Foodbank in July 2020 and continue to do so led by president Russell who organizes the delivery roster each month. Our club delivers food to Drouin and Warragul motels, Drouin and Warragul residential and lately the Oak Street Kindergarten to families unable to collect themselves. Fourteen Rotary members and their partners have been involved distributing food every Friday. Food organizer Debbie Brown spoke at one of our meetings. Over the last 52 weeks Rotarians, partners and friends have conservatively contributed over 2,500 hours of community service delivering food parcels from Longwarry Foodbank to those in need in Longwarry, Drouin and Warragul.

This represents nearly 1000 deliveries to residential addresses and motel rooms housing the homeless, which provided food to individuals, and families with children.

Drouin Cemetery

Successful working bees were held in November and December under the guidance of Keven Roberts where sunken graves were topped up, leveled and re sown. The Trust were very grateful for the club's help.

Drouin West Cemetery

Don and Bill poured two concrete pads for future seats to be installed.

Recycled Playground R.O.R.P Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds. In January the Civic Park playground for removal firstly by extensively photographing and labelling each component. On Tuesday 12th a great team of Rotarians dismantled the equipment and as the excavator removed the uprights another team jack hammered the concrete from around the embedded poles. On Wednesday Wayne Jenkins (RORP) coordinator from Mt Martha Rotary Club arrived with a very large trailer onto which we loaded the components where it was taken to the workshop for any repairs before being sent overseas to Sri Lanka.

Australia Day

Heavy rain was unwelcomed as the club tried to set up in Civic Park on Australia Day with the gazebos around the barby being a dry spot for conversation between showers. This didn't dampen the long que lined up for egg and bacon rolls and snags. With some 13 Workers it was nonstop until noon. Thirty dozen eggs, 250 bread rolls, 32 loaves of bread and 300 sausages were consumed. Kevin did a great job organizing the 2 great bands, a whip cracker and various other displays and guest speakers. Bob had different community groups set up informing the public of what they had to offer to the residents of Drouin. The CWA supplied tea, coffee, cordial and biscuits. Thanks must go to the Rotarians who had the nightmare job of submitting all of the paper work to the Shire to make this happen.

Trees of Nations

On Sunday 21st February our club assisted the Friends Group of the Trees of Nations to celebrate their extensive planting of trees in Alex Goude Park with a sausage sizzle next to the John Saddington Rotunda which we had previously refurbished.

Farm World

After a non-event last year Farm World was back under chief organizer Gary Scanlon. This year's event was reduced to 3 days and we were blessed with pretty good weather. Prior to the event Rotarians provided labour for 4 days to help Lardner Park to re-establish this event at no cost and 36 hours labour. Thirty-six Rotarians were involved over the 8 days of our membership of 45 which was a tremendous turnout. Income generated \$4,500.

Yooralla

Kevin Roberts continues to support Yooralla carrying out everyday maintenance. When they lost their funding for Gippsland Tafe classes, he arranged with the Bendigo Bank for rental assistance the sum of \$2,700 of the Anglican Church. He is also proposing the building of a small chook shed in the back yard of Yooralla and is currently checking with council. He spoke at a Men Shed Cluster meeting in regard to the collection of farm tools which he is currently collecting to be donated to the Bush Fire Recovery Program.

Olivia's Place

Max advises that work on restoring beds etc. has slowed somewhat. He had been busy earlier in the year.



Seats

To celebrate 100 years off Rotary in Australia the club refurbished 19 seats in the Main Street of Drouin. The Baw Baw Shire supplied paint and materials. A lot of preparation was spent on rejuvenating the timbers. Two were painted in Rotary colors with a plaque attached to each – marking the Centenary of rotary. Twelve Rotarians were involved.

Live 4 Life Program

This program is run by local secondary schools aimed at raising awareness about mental health issues. Baw Baw Shire youth officer Ms. Tanarly Hood invited us to run a BBQ lunch at Neerim South secondary, Chair Christian School and Drouin Secondary College. Baw Baw Shire has backed this program and will reimburse the club for food and it's services.

*Yours in Rotary
Bill Petschack*

Fundraising Report

Our fundraising this Rotary year have been seriously curtailed due to the pandemic. We did participate again in the 2021 Farm World at Lardner Park although reduced due to the reduced days of the event which of course impacted our financial return. Our Market, which has grown significantly, particularly the November and December markets, were also curtailed but when held continued to supply a significant steady source of income.

Big Blokes Breakfast

This also occurred and we received a donation of a \$1,000 for our services. Thank you, Rotarian Kevin, for your leadership in this.

Insurance & Risk Management

The survey required from the District Insurance Officer was received and a review of our Club's compliance was undertaken and reported back to District 9820 showing we were fully compliant. A current Certificate of Insurance was issued on June 29th 2021.

*Yours in Rotary,
Ian Haughton*

Craft & Produce Market

This year we have seen substantial growth in the number of stallholders on our books. We have seen markets with over 90 stallholders attending and record amounts have been passed to the club treasurer.

Since our involvement with "Motor-Fest" ceased some years ago, we have come to rely on our monthly market as a major part of our club's community service activity and a major fund raiser.

This year our market celebrated

20 years of service. It is quite an achievement by all of our members who month by month volunteer as cooks, servers, clearers, sweepers, cashiers and organisers. Our club has provided a successful monthly community event that the residents of Drouin have supported. They now expect us to be there. A big thank you to all of the volunteers this year. I know that you all get a lot of satisfaction from the work you put in and enjoy a great deal of fellowship during the market.



This year specially has shown just what we can do. The number of stallholders on our books has risen to 239 of which 32 are regular and the remaining 207 casual or seasonal. Our Facebook page has brought us an extended group of prospective stallholders.

This year we also achieved record markets in November and December with 92 and 80 stallholders respectively. For those two markets record amounts of \$2,761 and \$2,684 were passed to our treasurer. At our November market Val Gardner brought along her hand made collection of handbags of all shapes and sizes. Her sales amounted to around \$350 which she very kindly donated to Drouin Rotary. We look forward to this coming December when the craft group led by Val will be running a stall again.

As we struggled with COVID we had to cancel two markets, however, some of our stallholders donated to our club, with one donation of \$500 and another stallholder who continued to pay their fees while the market was closed.

With the good weather from November to April this year we have been able to utilise the "Two Towns Trail" in Civic Park for the market which has been well accepted by both the local community and the stallholders.

Not all of our markets have been so successful, with two markets this year being "rained off".

The work involved with running the market has grown along with the increased stallholder numbers. We now send out more than 200 texts message each month to invite our stallholders to attend. We have added around 5 new stallholders each month to our database. The additional work imposed by COVID-19 and added requirements from the Shire have also added to the tasks carried out each month. On a monthly basis, the number of volunteer hours required prior to each market amounts to 40. On market day the number of volunteer hours is around 44. For the year the market accounts for around 1,000 hours of community service.

David Veal has joined the market organisation team this year and will be taking over from Roger Playdon at the end of June. David is very enthusiastic and a very capable market manager. However, with the increased workload as already mentioned he will need additional support from all members. It is proposed that the market work prior to each market be done by David Veal while the work at the market on the day be done by other volunteers. The Rotary BBQ has had another successful year providing excellent food and beverage to the market visitors. They also had record months in November and December. Well done to all those who volunteered. The organisation of the BBQ at each market will be organised by David Proposch for the coming year.

We all look forward to yet another successful year under the new management.

Roger Playdon
Market Coordinator



Public Image & Media

It is my pleasure to report consistently good representation on social media, principally Facebook, and outstanding exposure in the Warragul & Drouin Gazette, due principally to the efforts of Keith Pretty. There have been new posts, on average, once a week all year on our Facebook page and sometimes more. Add to this the 'Drouin Rotary Market' Facebook page and the number rises significantly. Both pages have a large subscription base as evidenced by regular responses to our items.

We have also posted on the 'Warragul & Drouin Community (no selling)' page, with great reactions...notably the story about refurbishing Drouin's Street furniture.

Keith has prepared, submitted and had published nearly thirty items in the Gazette, including a photo. These have been supported by items submitted by other club members on particular items e.g., foreign coin's collection by Ian Symons.

The Gazette has generously provided good copies of pages on which we feature which has enabled sharing with other platforms, including our District Newsletter, in which we have featured prominently on a number of occasions.

I have not used our webpage to fullest advantage but believe it could be a much better utilized tool in marketing and membership attraction. A challenge for next year.

Congratulations Russell on your leadership and for all who have supported initiatives which gave us scope to promote ourselves. I look forward to working with Gary's team in the coming year.

*Yours in Rotary
Tim*

Work Force and External Resources

This role is diverse and involves the liaison with other organisation and arranging rosters etc for activities s other than the regular activities of the Club Australia Day with the Picnic in The Park was a major undertaking coordinating the entertainment and organising those other organisations partnering the club in the activity. The documentation and restrictions that required attention to ensure that the day planned was to proceed was a great task to be completed n by a small team of Rotarians.

The connection with The Drouin Men's Shed resulted in an interesting to look over the facility and our current link for the collection of tools for donation to the East Gippsland recovery effort has been a major source of resources. We are currently responsible for pick up, sorting and delivery of all donated equipment from Rotary District 9820 to East Gippsland.

We continue with our support of Yooralla, sponsorship of a venue to hold regular lunch activities planned and prepared by the students was of great benefit and we continue to do a series of maintenance tasks around the facility. There are plans, subject to Council approval, for the construction of a chook shed.

We are also heavily involved in the delivery of food from the Foodbank and supplying pumpkins to them



The very successful bike ride to Traralgon was another activity requiring organisation and participation and apart from the camaraderie the \$1000 raised for Rotary Foundation was gratefully received.

*Yours In Rotary
Kevin Roberts*



Warragul & Drouin Gazette

During the year, all of the 26 news items (most supported by photographs) submitted to the Editor of "The Warragul & Drouin Gazette", were published. Another 16 items in which the Club or its projects were mentioned (submitted by others or written by the Editor), also were published. Cuttings of all Gazette articles are retained in a scrapbook for Club historical records.

There were paid advertisements in "The Gazette" regarding the Produce and Craft Market, bearing the Club's name and Rotary logo. Paid advertisements for other Rotary projects such as the Swap Meet were suspended because of Covid-19 restrictions.

RADIO, THE INTERNET AND POSTERS:

Items and/or photographs, arranged by relevant members) appeared or were disseminated on Facebook, website, and radio (3BBRfm), and by posters placed at various locations in Drouin and Warragul regarding the Australia Day function and the monthly Produce and Craft Market.

OTHER ITEMS:

The Club name, in most cases with the Rotary logo, has appeared in various signs and publicity material, including leaflets, signs and banners.

This includes leaflets regarding the Australia Day function.

In recent months, items were published in "Knock Knock", the District Governor's Newsletter, covering some of the Club's projects. These included Rotary Exchangee Ariene Start's story, the recycling of the former Drouin playground equipment, and the street seats project which recognises Rotary's centenary of service in Australia. Coverage of the Gippsland Rotary Community House fencing project appeared in the GRCH newsletter.

The December 2020 Produce and Craft Market was mentioned in the Drouin Combined Churches Committee's Christmas leaflets letterboxed in the 3818 area, stating that Christmas carols would be played at the Market in place of the usual Carols by Candlelight in the soundshell that night – cancelled because of Covid-19.



A Japanese flag signed by new friends and with their messages of goodwill is one of many treasured memories Marist Sion student Ariene Start of Drouin has returned home with after a year as a Rotary exchange student in Japan.

Ariene's different Rotary exchange

by Keith Anderson

Although things didn't go exactly to plan – COVID-19 saw to that – there was no lessening of the enjoyment and benefits Drouin 17 year-old Ariene Start got from her recently completed year in Japan as a Rotary exchange student.

Now settled back into her year 11 studies at Marist Sion College in Warragul, Ariene's appreciation of the opportunity the exchange program provided shines through the enthusiasm with which she recalls her time with seven host families from the Gero Rotary Club, what she learnt, what she saw and what she did.

Gero is a community about a six-hour drive from Tokyo, much less with part of the trip on a bullet train travelling at up to 300 kilometres an hour, and something she did on her trip to the country's capital for a short stay before her flight back to Australia.

The bullet train ride was one of Ariene's "bucket list" of must-dos, along with seeing Mt Fuji and a stay at Capsule Hotel in Tokyo where the rooms are one-metre high, one-metre wide and just long enough to lie down. But the main objectives for her year's exchange were to learn more of the Japanese culture and language, things that she can now also put ticks alongside.

Ariene had a basic feel for the language after studying it at school for five years before she went to Japan in January last year but admits it was nowhere near enough for normal conversations.

But coping with a language that has three alphabets, which Ariene said few Japanese even fully grasp, was a huge challenge.

Since returning to Drouin she remains in frequent contact with the friends she made by iPad and phone that have keyboards programmed with the three alphabets.

And she had gained a glimpse of the culture from her family hosting Japanese, including two teachers on exchange programs organised through Marist Sion College, over several years.

In March, only a few months after Ariene arrived at Gero COVID caused a three-month "lockdown" and home schooling.

That was not as easy as what she understands it was like in Australia. Personal lap top computers and iPads were not in the school bags of Japanese students and it was two months before her school was able to introduce them for teaching.

School days outside of the lockdown period were long, Ariene said.

Classes went from 8.30am to 3.30pm and sometimes 4.30pm followed by school clubs that were largely culturally based until 6pm. There was also a two-way street for learning.

Ariene called on and "very welcome" to give talks to English classes at the school each day to help those students understanding of the language.

Meals were something of a challenge for Ariene also, especially in the early stage of her stay, some taken seated on the floor around a low table.

Fish had never been a favourite of hers at home but for the Japanese many of their meals are fish based along with rice as the staple.

Three meals a day – no morning or afternoon teas – with leftovers from evening meals usually had cold as lunch the following day. Ariene said initially the thought of moving between seven host families during the year would be daunting but reflects "it was the best thing that happened".

She said most of the homes in which she stayed were "old traditional Japanese houses", the families great and had different after-school activities.

In her final month Ariene made a point of staying at least one night with each of the families to say good-bye and one of her goals for the future is to return to visit them.

She has brought plenty of souvenirs back home – about 70 badges that adorn her Rotary Exchange student blazer, most given her by friends she made and her host Rotary club members, a Japanese flag signed with messages of goodwill and, possibly her favourite, a photograph of her dressed in a kimono and her hair and make-up in the traditional way of Japanese women including flowers in the hair.

COVID created a few more problems for Ariene than the lockdown and other restrictions.

She was unable to use tickets Gero Rotary had obtained for her for the Tokyo Olympics when the games were deferred to later this year and some trips within Japan had to be cancelled.

Planned visits by her parents Paul and Elise Start and brother couldn't eventuate and there were a couple of hiccups with her return journey.

Her departure was delayed for about a week, she had to change airlines and return via Adelaide and into two weeks' quarantine, for which her mother travelled from Drouin and shared the hotel room, before finally making it home.

But Ariene regards them as relatively minor matters that didn't detract from a wonderful year.

She said she was extremely grateful for the help and support of Rotary District Governor Barry Rogers and sponsor club Drouin Rotary. She will be guest speaker at a dinner meeting on February 23.



Drouin Secondary College music captain Chantelle Preis was the first to get her hands on the new \$1000 Fender guitar donated to the school's music department by Drouin Rotary Club. Also at the presentation were, from left, Rotarian Kevin Roberts, Wees Hopkins, Connor Carew, music coordinator Yolette Stewart, Rylan Berryman, Pete Brown, Drouin Rotary president Russell Ford, Ash Murdica and college principal Matt Jobling.

Rotary donates guitar

A gift of a \$1000 guitar will further broaden the scope of the Drouin Secondary College music department's instrumental program.

Donated by Drouin Rotary Club as part of its community service commitment the high-quality Fender guitar was chosen by the music department after the club could help.

The cost was beyond the instrument amount allocated to the music department.

It followed performances by the college's

five individual rock bands at Drouin's Australia Day celebrations in Civic Park.

Resources director with the Rotary Club Kevin Roberts the interest in providing support was inspired by many appreciative comments from the public about the bands' performances.

President Russell Ford, who joined Mr Roberts for the presentation to the school, said the guitar would enhance skills that could stay students for the rest of their lives.

Because our Club regularly gives financial support to the West Gippsland Music and Drama Eisteddfod, it usually receives prominent mention in the hundreds of Eisteddfod programs distributed each year – but unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 "lockdown", not this year.

APPRECIATION:

I wish to acknowledge the excellent support received from the Editor of "The Gazette", Carolyn Turner, who has published practically all of the news items submitted. From my contacts in previous years, I know that many Rotary Clubs in other areas do not receive the level of support granted to us.

Keith Pretty
Media Officer

Disbursements & Projects

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT \$
WEST GIPPSLAND HOSPITAL (Includes a \$2,200.00 District Grant)	7030.00
AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH	5000.00
LIVE4LIFE PROGRAM	3600.00
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL - FOUNDATION	3276.00
FOOD BANK (Longwarry) (Includes personal donations from Rotarians)	3070.00
ROTARY CENTENARY HOUSE	2000.00
OLIVIAS PLACE – (Includes personal donations by Rotarians)	1250.00
VARIETY CHILDRENS CHARITY	1015.00
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL - POLIO PLUS	882.00
DEFIBRILATOR REGULAR MAINTENANCE	502.00
BAW BAW L2P PROJECT	500.00
DONATION IN KIND	300.00
DROUIN STATIONERS – Station beautification	100.00
TOTAL	\$28,525.00

In addition, as a result of Grants from Baw Baw Shire and The Australia Day Council via Rotary, we were also able to make the following distribution.

Drouin CWA - \$1,000.00 – catering for Australia Day

Drouin Secondary College – \$995.00 guitar - Payment in Kind for appearance at Australia

Rotary Club of Drouin 2021-22
Office Bearers, Directors and Service Committees

President	Gary Scanlon
Secretary/Administration	Terry Blundell
Past President/Youth/Club History	Russell Ford
Treasurer/ President Nominee 2020/21	Roger Playdon
Off-To-Conference	Roger Playdon
Director Community Service & Projects	Bill Petschack
Director Work Force and Resources	Kevin Roberts
Director Rotary Foundation	Ian Symons
Director New Generations	Sharryn Marshall & Ass. Russell Ford
Director Membership	Bob Vogt
Sergeants-at-Arms	Ian Haughton

ADMINISTRATION

Assist Secretary in all areas of administration:

Attendance	Peter Konjevic
Club Historians	Don Blackley, Russell Ford
Club Protection Officer	Ian Symons
Programs & Social	All members
Property Master	William Wong
On-to-Conference	Roger Playdon
Insurance	Ian Haughton
Rotary Family	Pauline Maunder and Anita Coonan
Bookings, Apologies	William Wong

PUBLIC IMAGE & PUBLICITY

Manage communication—internal and external:

Print & Digital Media	Tim Wills
Newsletter	Ian Haughton
Photos	Clarrie Debnam

COMMUNITY SERVICE & PROJECTS

Identify and manage service projects including:

Australia Day, Bowel scan, Combined Service Clubs, Special projects

Identify & manage fundraising opportunities including: Produce & Craft Market, Farm World, Swap Meet and, Special Events

MEMBERSHIP

Develop membership plan, develop, and manage promotion and recruitment

NEW GENERATIONS/YOUTH

Initiate and manage involvement in Youth Projects — MUNA, RYLA, Science Experience, Interact

FINANCE

Assist Treasurer with financial management and disbursements

SOCIAL

Identify and manage opportunities for social events for members and partners

WORK FORCE AND RESOURCES

Liaise with Directors to identify and coordinate external resources and workforce for projects, including Australia Day, Swap Meet and Farm World.

To investigate and follow up partnerships with other Clubs and organisations.

Drouin Rotarians Are People of Action Locally.

A photographic view of our Club in action in the year that was with some relaxation along the way.



At the presentation of six wheelchairs to Drouin's Lyrebird Village for the Aged, from left, Terry Blundell, grants co-ordinator of Drouin Rotary Club; John Loggion, of Bunyip-Garfield Rotary, Lyrebird's director of care Tara Okham and CEO Bill Baker, and Drouin Rotary president Russell Ford.

New walkers for Lyrebird

Traffic around the corridors of Lyrebird Village for the Aged at Drouin will be a lot smoother after it received a donation of six wheelchairs for use by residents. The donation of the aids worth \$2100 was a joint effort by the Garfield-Bunyip and Drouin Rotary clubs through Rotary International's Donation-in-Kind program.

Rotary has been a long-time supporter and donor to major projects at the community owned and managed aged care centre. A delighted Lyrebird Village chief executive Bill Baker and director of care Tara Okham were on hand to accept the donation from Bunyip-Garfield president John Loggion and president of the Drouin club Russell Ford and its grants coordinator Terry Blundell.

Drouin Rotarians, from, left, David Yeat, Bill Patschack and Don Kelly working on the barbecue as part of the Live4Life program at Neerim District Secondary College.

Awareness raised through program

Drouin Rotary Club has thrown its support behind the Live4Life program aimed at raising mental health awareness among secondary school students. President Russell Ford said the club had committed \$3600 as well as having barbecues at three district schools in conjunction with Live4Life mentoring sessions. Two of the barbecues have been held at Neerim District Secondary College and Chairo Christian School with another, at Drouin Secondary College, held over until current COVID restrictions are lifted. Bow Bow Shire council is helping out with costs of the barbecues. Drouin Rotary's community service and projects director is leading a team of 14 members to hold the barbecues that continue the club's support over many years for local school projects. Mr Ford said the club's costs were being met from the income from its monthly produce and craft markets in Drouin.

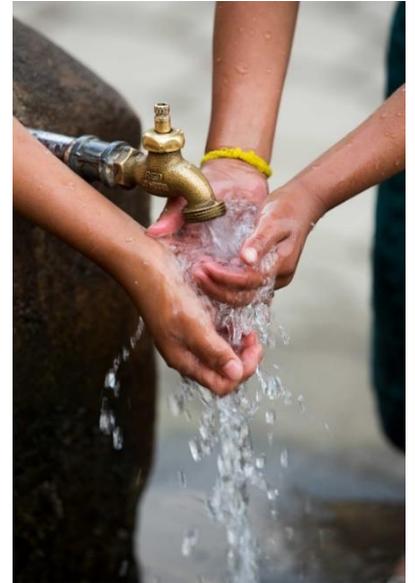
And that is just some
of what we did in 2020/21

Rotarians Are People of Action Internationally.



Rotarians are involved in providing Maternal and Child Health all over the world.

Rotarian's fund and work directly in providing clean drinking water wherever it is needed.



Rotarians support Economic Development with business micro loans to enable people to become self-sufficient.



Rotarians encourage and support Education opportunities all around the world

In conjunction with other worldwide organisations Rotary's End Polio Campaign has funded immunization programs resulting in almost eliminating wild Polio from the globe. We are so close to totally wiping it out.



Club Presidents			Club Presidents		
1954-55	Fred	Armstrong	1993-94	Gordon	Hill
1955-56	Tulli	Russell	1994-95	Max	Hine
1956-57	Don	Roberts	1995-96	Dennis	Ross
1957-58	Noel	Housden	1996-97	Peter	Fitzpatrick
1958-59	Fred	Phair	1997-98	Lea	Caldwell
1959-60	Bruce	Drysdale	1998-99	Pat	Gogan
1960-61	Brian	Anketell	1999-00	Rex	Greenland
1961-62	Peter	Pedersen	2000-01	Bill	Zeldenryk
1962-63	Tom	Powney	2001-02	Arie	deWit
1963-64	Keith	Pretty	2002-03	John	Kinrade
1964-65	Jack	Paynter	2003-04	Rob	Collins
1965-66	Alan	Brown	2004-05	Gary	Surman
1966-67	Bob	Bacon	2005-06	Ray	Howe
1967-68	Laurie	Kilby	2006-07	Glynn	Fankhauser
1968-69	Geoff	Wadham	2007-08	Ian	Brooks
1969-70	Leo	Boeyen	2008-09	John	Franklin
1970-71	Leo	Boeyen	2009-10	Barry	Jones
1970-71	John	Wilson	2010-11	Leigh	Bates
1971-72	Allan	Ford	2011-12	Paul	Davine
1972-73	Ted	Gibson	2012-13	Colin	Gardner
1973-74	Perc	Eacott	2013-14	Jeff	Copping
1974-75	Don	Murphy	2013-14	Jeff	Copping
1975-76	Malcolm	Reed	2014-15	Miceal	Ambrose
1976-77	Don	Tanner	2015-16	Ian	Bennett
1977-78	Russ	Rees	2016-17	Sharryn	Marshall
1978-79	Kevin	Fawcett	2017-18	David	Proposch
1978-79	Malcolm	Reed	2018-19	Merv	Deppeler
1979-80	Gordon	Williams	2019-20	Tim	Wills
1980-81	Alan	Ferguson	2020-21	Russell	Ford
1981-82	Dick	vanLeeuwen			
1982-83	Bruce	Bowman			
1983-84	Ian	Gaffney			
1984-85	John	Saddington			
1985-86	Joe	Hulbert			
1986-87	Don	Blackley			
1987-88	Bill	Burrows			
1988-89	Clarrie	Debnam			
1989-90	Terry	Palmer			
1990-91	George	Laxton			
1991-92	Rob	Stewart			
1992-93	Ron	Bray			
1993-94	Gordon	Hill			

PHF RECONITION - ROTARY CLUB OF DROUIN

NAME	DATE PRESENTED	NAME	DATE PRESENTED
ARMSTRONG, Frederick	**/01/1981	GOGAN, Patrick William	26/06/2012
BACON, Robert Everett	8/07/1985	JONES, Barry Anthony	26/06/2012
ROBERTS, Gordon (Don)	8/07/1985	BATES, Leigh Cyril (40th)	25/06/2013
PRETTY, Pamela Gladys (Mrs.) *	6/10/1986	GARDNER, Colin Arthur	25/06/2013
PRETTY, Keith Albert	4/08/1987	KELLY, Donald Leslie	25/06/2013
DRYSDALE, Bruce Graham Henderson	25/05/1988	TINDLE, Graeme John	25/06/2013
PEDERSEN, Knud Helge H. (Peter)	25/05/1988	BLUNDELL, Terrence	24/06/2014
WADHAM, Charles Ernest Geoffrey	25/05/1988	BUIRROWS, June*	30/06/2015
TURNER, Stanley	22/04/1991	MULCONRY, Gwen*	30/06/2015
CUTHBERTSON, John Henry * (10th)	29/06/1993	GREENLAND, Rex (Sapphire pin)	30/06/2015
TANNER, Donald Charles	29/06/1993	PETSCHACK, Edward William (Bill) (Sapphire Pin 2021)	25/08/2015
WILLIAMS, William Gordon	28/06/1994	WILLS, Tim	21/06/2016
BIBBY, Vincent Michael *	27/06/1995	KONJEVIC, Peter	28/06/2016
FERGUSON, Alan Maxwell	12/05/1998	DAVINE, Paul (50th)	28/06/2016
BLACKLEY, Donald Roy	29/06/1999	SURMAN, Gary	28/06/2016
FARMER, John William *	27/06/2000	MAUNDER, Brian*	28/06/2016
PRETTY, Keith Albert (Sapphire Pin)	16/12/2003	BIBBY, Judy*	28/06/2016
GREENLAND, Rex Alfred	20/02/2004	FARMER, Judy*	28/06/2016
KINRADE, Lorraine Florence (Mrs.) *	20/02/2004	REES, Leigh	28/06/2016
GAFFNEY, Ian Thomas (20th)	27/06/2006	BROOKS, Ian	29/06/2017
Van LEEUWEN, Dirk Hermanus (Dick)	27/06/2006	DEPPELER, Mervyn	29/06/2017
BURROWS, William Herbert	26/06/2007	PROPOSCH, David	29/06/2017
ZELDENRYK, Willem (Bill)	26/06/2007	TINDLE, Yvonne*	29/06/2017

PHF RECOGNITION - ROTARY CLUB OF DROUIN

NAME	DATE PRESENTED	NAME	DATE PRESENTED
HINE, Maxwell Roderick	24/06/2008	BENNETT, Ian	19/06/2018
KINRADE, John James	24/06/2008	TRICARICO, John	19/06/2018
deWIT, Arie	22/07/2008	BROOKER, Ian	17/10/2019
PRETTY, Keith Albert (Ruby Pin)	9/12/2008	SCOTT, Maxwell	17/10/2019
COLLINS, Robert William	29/06/2010	WILLIAMS, Peter	17/10/2019
FRANKLIN, John David	29/06/2010	MAUNDER Pauline	17/12/2020
STEWART, Robert Edward	29/06/2010	ROBERTS Kevin	17/12/2020
HOWE, Raymond Stanley	5/07/2011	WONG William	19/01/2021
ROBINSON, Thomas Wayne (Sapphire pin)	5/07/2011	CHAN Christine*	19/01/2021
WATTS, Graeme Eric	5/07/2011	BROWN Debbie*	6/07/21
ATKINS, John William *	13/12/2011	PLAYDON Roger	6/07/21
DEBNAM, Clarence Arthur	13/12/2011		
FANKHAUSER, Glynn Edward	13/12/2011		
COPPING, Jeffrey Douglas	26/06/2012		

* = Non-members

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS AWARDED BY OTHER CLUBS

NAME	CLUB
Keith Richard DOHERTY Deceased	Pakenham
John Alfred RUNDLE Deceased	Berry (SA)
Ian SYMONS	Cranbourne 2004 Sapphire 2017
Judy SYMONS*	Cranbourne 2014

* = Non-members

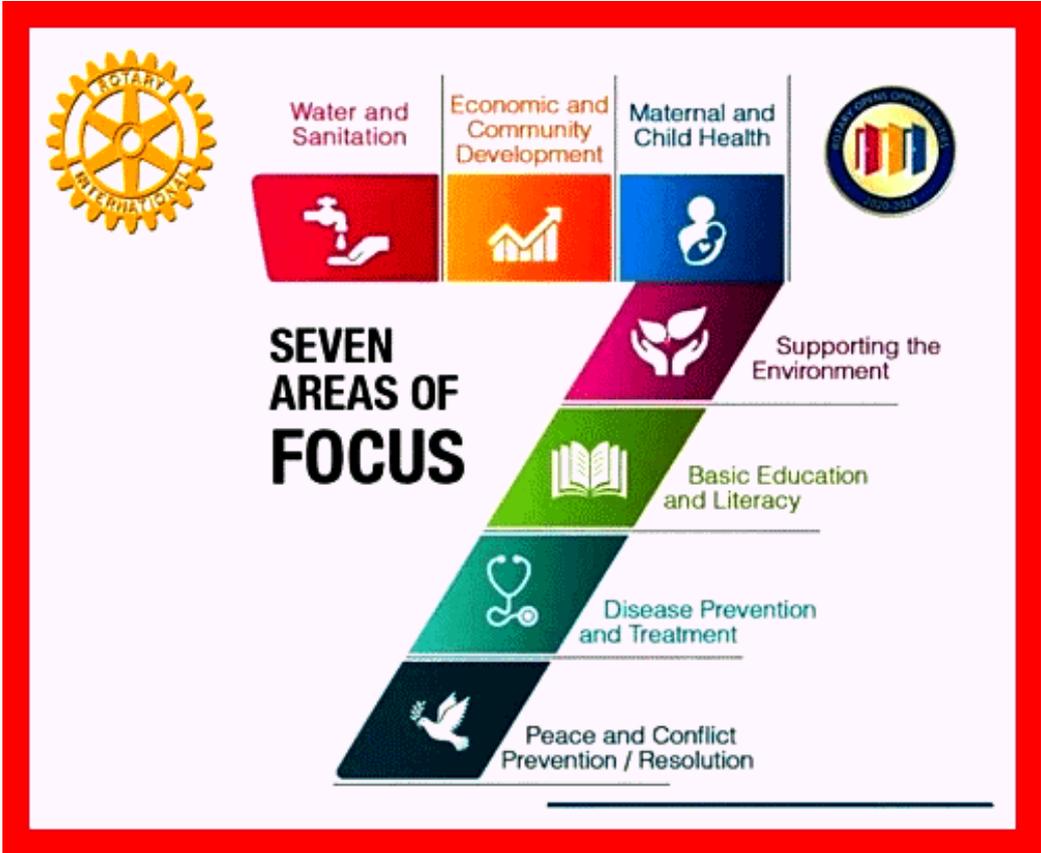
ROTARY CLUB OF DROUIN HONORARY MEMBERS

NAME		NAME
Don TANNER	Deceased	Ian GAFFNEY
Terry PALMER	Deceased	Arie DeWIT
Pat GOGAN	Deceased	Leigh REES
Keith DOHERTY	Deceased	Bill ZELDENRYK
Rob COLLINS	Deceased	Alan FERGUSON
		Jeffrey COPPING
		Bill Burrows



Rotary Areas Of Focus

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through seven areas of focus, which are the foundation of Club activity.



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES