

**21<sup>st</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## PRESIDENT PAULINE's PONDERINGS

- We had an enjoyable meeting with our Speaker being our own Rotarian Judy Alexander.
- This month has been Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month and there have been some interesting articles to read in our Rotary Down Under. Catch up with them at your leisure.
- We are proud to donate \$1,000 to the *Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund Appeal* from our Market funds to assist Gippslanders who have been impacted by the recent storms.
- Our *End Polio* is not over yet. There has been a recent outbreak in Indonesia of Poliovirus Type 2. WHO and Rotary are organising mass vaccinations to help stem this outbreak.
- Rotary Family: We are sending our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Gary Surman after his recent heart surgery.
- Dates to Remember:
  - De-badging at the Ambulance Station - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month between 10.00-2:00
  - 2024 Farm World - 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March - Contact Kevin to advise when you can help
  - Foodbank and Breakfast Club in March - Please help fill the rosters where you can.
  - 70-Year's Anniversary - April 2<sup>nd</sup> RC Drouin celebrates 70 years. Please book in for this special occasion. \$40 @ head – partner's night at the Drouin Golf and Country Club.
  - RI President Gordon McNally is visiting our district - June 2<sup>nd</sup> (lunch) or June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Symposium)

## ANNIVERSARIES

Between 21/02 & 5/03: Russell Ford celebrates his birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> while Gary & Judy Surman celebrate their wedding anniversary on 27<sup>th</sup>. Ray Howe joined Rotary on 29<sup>th</sup> in 2000.

## DATES for the DIARY

- TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Dinner Meeting #15 at HKInn 6.00 for 6.30 pm – Kevin Thorpe 'Food 4Thought'
- MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>** – 2024 Farm World Fields Days
- TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Dinner Meeting #16 at HKInn 6.00 for 6.30 pm – Carolyn Turner
- TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Drouin Golf & Country Club



The Rotary Club of Drouin has donated \$27,088.56 to purchase three new stretcher trolleys for the Emergency Department at West Gippsland Hospital. Rotary Club of Drouin President Pauline Maunder joined with fellow Rotary members Tim Wills and Carol Fenwick to visit the Emergency Department and heard all about the new stretcher trolleys from Acting Director of Clinical Operations Jacqui Meyers (*next to Pauline*) and our Chief Medical Officer Dr Letitia Clark (*next to Tim*). The new stretcher trolleys will allow staff to sit and position patients comfortably as well as raising and lowering them all with the touch of a button.



## **PROGRAM – 20<sup>th</sup> February Judy Alexander - ‘A start to my story’**



Chair Peter Konjevic first updated members on his school talk meeting #14: the school pipe band had won the Australian Championships and played at the Edinburgh Tattoo, after which they won the World Championship. He spoke of his early education as a non English-speaking student in Australia.

Judy then stepped up to the microphone to share with us her 18 relocations in 36 years.

In 1972 Judy married Ian in Traralgon where he was finishing an apprenticeship in earthmoving, while Judy was working at Agee. Three years later a move to Flynn coincided with the birth of their son, Byron. Then, in late 1976 the family headed off to the west coast of Tasmania to settle in Zeehan where, Judy advised, it rained for 333 days of the year. *“When it didn’t rain the neighbours were out watering their gardens.”* While there, the family grew with the arrival of a daughter Claire.

Two years later, the Loy Yang construction offered employment opportunities and so back to mainland and a return to Traralgon. Ian did a short stint in PNG and then the family moved to Darwin, living in a small flat in Rabbit Creek, before a move closer to Darwin at Milner where No.1 favourite son started school. Judy described their time there as a great social time for all.

Where next? Well, Traralgon of course. All belongings well packed for transport, including an uncooked and not-fully-dried tortoise shell. That was a joy to discover after weeks in transit!! In 1986, daughter Claire entered a Father’s Day competition at Kmart and won a weekend trip to Adelaide for her parents to the Australian Grand Prix which Judy said was “great” and, it just happened to lead to a job offer back in Darwin. So, off again.

While there, son Byron was selected to represent the Northern Territory in basketball & while at a training camp, news came of a cyclone warning. So, with no insurance, the family experienced Cyclone Tracey...and survived.

Judy spoke of the diverse group of neighbours in Darwin and the community bonding that followed Cyclone Tracey. *“It was like living in a big country town.”*

In 1988 there was the big overseas trip to Singapore, Hong Kong and Nepal, highlights of which were a spectacular elephant ride and trekking up Mount Shivapuri, Nepal..*to be continued, when Judy gets around to it*



**ROTARY ZONE 8 REGIONALISATION Pilot** “The Pilot’s main goal is to find ways to more effectively and efficiently support you and your club to increase impact, grow membership, and adapt to changing volunteer needs and expectations.”

Two changes we will notice in our club are the change from “cluster” to “community” of clubs and change of our liaison person from “Assistant Governor” to “Community Leader”.

- 1. Regional Community Group:** Our club will be part of the community which has Drouin, Warragul, Trafalgar, Korumburra, Leongatha, Phillip Island-San Remo, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Foster clubs as members. We will actually be the smallest community in the new District 9815 by one club. Our former cluster partners to our east all become part of the large grouping (13) taking in clubs from Moe to Orbost. The concept of ‘community’ aims, among other goals, to promote club cooperation and joint activity and, to this end, you may note that our cluster covers the Shires of Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast which may be partners in our joint activities, as they arise.



2. **Rotary Community Leader (RCL):** The Rotary Community Leader (RCL) will lead Club engagement on behalf of the Regional Council, in support of clubs fulfilling their purpose of providing service to others and promoting peace and goodwill in local, regional, and international communities. With no formal authority, the RCL will inspire and mentor Clubs in their Rotary Community Group to expand their community impact, increase the satisfaction of their members, and grow their Clubs. The RCL will coach Club leaders and facilitate access to advice and guidance from Rotary International and the Regional Council, Portfolio Leads and Rotary Specialist Network. *It is anticipated that the RCL will be selected by the clubs rather than appointed by the District Governor, as is currently the case with Assistant Governors.*

## SERVICE & PROJECTS

### Drouin Rotary Craft & Produce Market:

Our February Market went off well thanks to the efforts of all members and partners who attended and contributed in some way. The financial result was quite good considering there were only 43 stallholders in attendance. A suggestion was put to the Club that public donation money for the storm victims at Mirboo North be supplemented from the Market profits to total \$1000 and, that this be donated to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF). That was agreed to and is another indication of the benefits that flow to the community from the success of our Market.

March is a busy month for our club and its members. Please keep a little time for helping at the Market.

### Drouin Secondary College Breakfast Club: March roster:

<b>5th March</b>	Roger, Jane & John T	<b>7th March</b>	Pauline & Brian M
<b>12th March</b>	Tim & Russell	<b>14th March</b>	David & Pauline P
<b>19th March</b>	Lois R & Judy A	<b>21st March</b>	Pauline & Brian M
<b>26th March</b>	Roger, Jane & John T	<b>28th March</b>	David & Pauline P

Ambulance uniform De-badging....change of day: due to various conflicts for many involved, the de-badging working bees will now be held **every second Tuesday of each month**, starting 12<sup>th</sup> March – 10.00 to 2.00 at the Drouin Ambulance Station, Darcan Way. *If you like, come down and collect a box for de-badging at home.*

2024 Farm World Field Days: Kevin is most pleased to advise that almost all shifts have been filled – *although it would be really good if there were a few “spares” throughout each days (particularly Friday to Sunday) so that others rostered on could be given a short break from time-to-time.* There are two ‘gate’ shifts which do require volunteers – please let Kevin know if you can fill them:

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 6.00 to 9.00 AM and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 to 9.00 AM**

Longwarry Foodbank deliveries: Russell will soon be filling his roster for March. With a few of his regulars unavailable, or likely to be, new volunteers available and willing to give up to a couple of hours on one Friday in the month would be most appreciated. Give Russell a call.

*Do you have any suggestions for other projects &/or Service??*



**BITS & PIECES**

**Never seen  
anyone jogging  
and smiling, so  
that's all I need  
to know about  
that.**

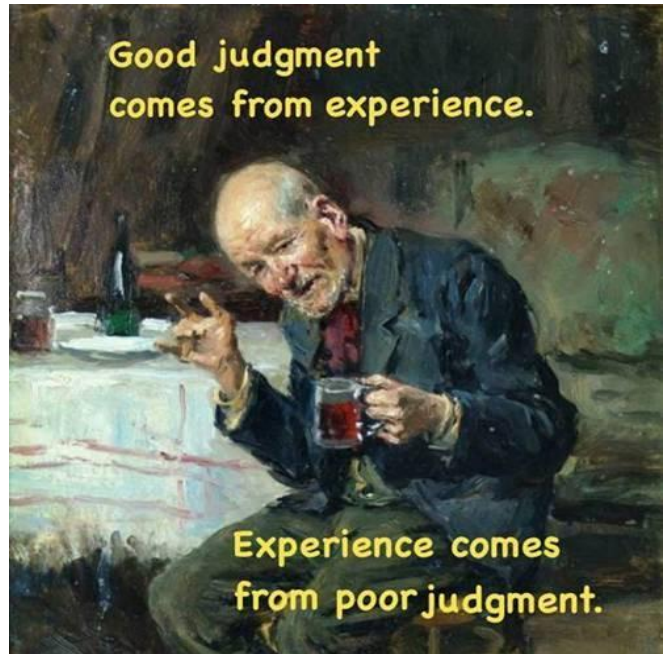
I'm always surprised when heavily tattooed couples have a baby and it comes out blank.



A moment of tension  
If the bishop moves forward the  
queen can take him.



**Good judgment  
comes from experience.**



**Experience comes  
from poor judgment.**

**Why must I prove  
that I am me to pay my  
bills over the phone?  
Do strangers call to  
pay my Bills? And if  
they do, why don't  
you let them?**