

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**PRESIDENT PAULINE's PONDERINGS**

- Congratulations and thank you to all who attended and helped organise the club's 70th Anniversary Dinner.
- Special thanks to Russell Ford for his inspiration ,writing and editing the last 20 years of our Club with Don Blackley.
- Thank you Keith Pretty for your amazing presentation of the club's 70 years.
- The Gazette today (9<sup>th</sup>) has provided an excellent coverage of our 70 year's celebration and the District Newsletter from DG Linda has congratulated us on the occasion.
- Congratulations Tim, on being appointed the Community Leader for Group 6 of our new District 9815.
- Club Directors met with prospective members Scott Forbes and Janette Pocklington to discuss membership in our club.
- Craig Debnam (Lardner Park) sent a thank you message to the Club for our work at Farm World and an invitation for the club to visit for a meeting, so that they can give us a presentation on all the exciting projects they have currently. He would also like our commitment to working at the Garden Expo & FW '25.
- We enjoyed hosting our International Women's Day Meeting with some female guests.
- I was pleased to be a guest at Drouin Hills Probus AGM, where I was able to speak about my year as

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Tuesday 16th April:** Dinner Meeting 18 at Hong Kong Inn 6.00 for 6.30
- **Friday 19th April:** Foodbank deliveries (Russell, Allan, RobS, DvL, Tim, Josh, ??)
- **Birthdays:** Judy Alexander, Deb Tricarico, Maggie Vogt, Yvonne Kelly, Keith Cook and Tiesha Davis
- **Wedding anniversaries** for Ray/ Sue Howe, Don/ Yvonne Kelly, Miceal/Helen Ambrose & Ian/Judy Symons
- **Joining Anniversary:** Kevin Roberts (11 years), Ian Brooks (29), Sharryn Marshall (16), Ian Symons (33) & Bill Petschack (17 years)
- **Saturday 20th April:** Drouin Rotary Craft & Produce Market - Civic Park, Drouin
- **Tuesday 30th April:** 5th Tuesday
- **Saturday 4th May:** *Girls' Day Out* clean-up at Lardner Park
- **Tuesday 7th May:** Dinner Meeting 19 at Hong Kong Inn 6.00 for 6.30
- **Sunday 2nd June:** Breakfast with RI President Ian McNally (*speak to Pauline*)
- **Tuesday 18th June:** 2024-25 *Changeover Dinner* at Drouin Golf & Country Club

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS/SERVICE**

- **RC KooWeeRup-Lang Lang Show'nShine:** Ian Symons and Bill Petschack spent 4.5 hours at the event as volunteers. We were given \$600 as a donation for their time and for our donation of cash registers and chip cookers.
- **Farm World Field Days:** Under the leadership of Kevin, and Mike with the people-moving tractors, thirty-six Drouin Rotarians, two former Drouin Rotarians, two partners, two 'Friends' of Drouin Rotary and one Assistant Governor donated in excess of 280 hours in support of this club.
- **Food deliveries:** Russell Ford continues the management of this twice-monthly activity. He relies on 11 members and 3 partners and, two couple who have volunteered to assist.
- **February and March Market:** On top of all the preparations & meetings by Ian and Judy, and their committee, a few with the BBQ and Mike with roster, there is a core group of around 18 members who provide the service hours for this key fundraising and community event activity.
- **Breakfast Club:** this has been again requested by the Drouin Secondary College for every Tuesday and Thursday in term time throughout 2024. We will manage the first four breakfasts, then Lions take over and then we alternate months again. I have 11 volunteers at this time. Recruiting or people outside Rotary is likely to be required so as not to overburden any of our existing volunteers.
- **De-badging uniforms:** Tim worked with Lions and CWA reps in February; Keith, Rex, Rob S and Diane Roberts did extensive works at home and returned completed uniforms...took more. Rob S & Tim gave again in April.



**70th Anniversary Celebration at the Drouin Golf & Country Club**



Pauline, Keith & Mike



Paulien & DG Linda



Senior Rotarians cut cake



at Centenary House

"The Rotary Club of Warragul initiated the move to establish a Rotary Club in Drouin. The 'Organisational Meeting' for the proposed new Club was held at Mrs. Marj Stevenson's reception rooms at 4 Bennett Street Drouin, on 5th March 1954. The weekly meetings of the "provisional" Club were also held at that location, the meal price being 45 cents, and the fines were to be not less than 5 cents (note the ratio of the fines to the meal price 11%!)." was how our Senior member Keith Pretty commenced his speech to kick off the celebration of seventy years of service to the Drouin community by our Rotary club.

Current and past members, partners, members of Warragul Rotary and Drouin service clubs, Rotary District 9820 District Governor and representatives, Baw Baw Shire Council mayor and a number of guests made up the 101 in attendance for this momentous occasion.

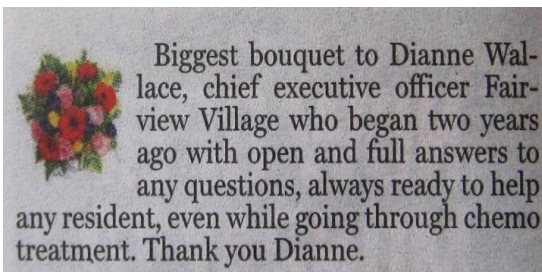
Keith went on to provide an overview of the first decade of the club's life and then summarised the achievements of the next sixty years: "Over the years, **Club projects and programs** have been many and varied, directed locally, across Gippsland and the nation and, internationally. The list can be assembled by reading the history book presented to you this evening but .... some key projects/programs .... Lyrebird Village, West Gippsland Hospital, the Civic Park Sound Shell, Drouin's CFA, scouts and guides, rotundas in six parks, bushfire and flood recovery, support of local youth and students in many ways and through many programs. Then there has been our support for Drouin Men's Shed, Drouin's Yooralla, Tipping House, for the Farm World Field Days and Drouin's Australia Day activities over many decades." and the list of achievements went on.

Rotarian Russell Ford launched the booklet he had prepared with support of Rotarian Don Blackley - The First Seventy Years.

And one of our newest members and President Elect, Mike Kelleher, spoke of his early impressions of our club and of his great pride in hearing and personally inspecting of all we had done in support Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

In conclusion, Mayor Councill Anne-Marie McCabe admitted she had not realised how much Rotary had given to this community and said "We would be lost without our volunteers who give so much to others. Thank you Drouin Rotary, and all others represented here tonight".

**CONGRATULATIONS/RECOGNITION OF SERVICE**



In the Warragul & Drouin Gazette



Rob hard at work sorting



Managing the Market

**And then .....**

- 90% of bald people still own a comb ..... they just can't part with it.
- Every morning I get hit by the same bicycle ..... it's a vicious cycle.
- I've been experimenting with breeding racing deer. People accused me of just trying to make a fast buck.
- The other day I yelled into a colander and I strained my voice.
- Horses have lower divorce rates .... it's because they are in stable relationships.