

Welcome to Bulletin Ten.

At our last Tuesday meeting we had the pleasure of enjoying vicariously a Tuk Tuk adventure holiday in Thailand. David Proposch shared the experiences of he and his wife, Pauline on their recent Tuk Tuk Holiday. They spent eleven days in Northern Thailand with eight others exploring the countryside, meeting the locals, and learning about the country, its traditions, its food and its people.

Bruce Huxton, an Englishman is the owner of Tul Tuk holidays. Bruce supports the local people with funds from his business investing in local development and community resources, such as play equipment.

The first activity on a Tuk Tuk holiday is to learn to drive the Tuk Tuk. It is a three-cylinder machine, with automatic transmission and brakes!!! While you are driven on your holiday, it is important each adventurer knows how to drive the Tuk Tuk, in case of emergencies.

The highlights for Pauline and David were spending time with the elephants and enjoying their water play; travelling down the river on a bamboo barge built for two. They delighted in evening barbeques cooked by the locals with whom they stayed, overlooking the rice paddy and going to sleep to the vocal delights of frogs, crickets and baboons!
David shared his experiences of having a Thai Massage in the evening for four dollars; and, visiting one of forty thousand temples in Thailand and learning from the monks.

Each day while travelling to a new destination, they enjoyed local food, having morning, afternoon tea and lunch stops. David’s favourites included dried mango and ice-cream sandwiches. But his favourite was definitely their coffee, locally grown and served. David spoke of the sights and smells as you travel each day in Tuk Tuk ; the friendliness of the Thai people ; every inch of land being used for agriculture with crops growing up the verge of the road.

For Pauline and David, the highlights were the elephants and the beautiful Thai people – so friendly and obliging. David told us it was the best holiday he and Pauline have ever enjoyed! If you want to experience a Tuk Tuk adventure for yourself, you need to book soon as 2025 holidays are nearly booked out.

Thank you David – you have given me the travel bug for a Tuk Tuk holiday!



President Mike’s Thoughts

- Mike congratulated members with birthdays and anniversaries.
- A reminder to have your raffle ticket books sold and books returned by next meeting on 3 December.
- Warragul Rotary Club Christmas Trees will be sold on first Saturday in December at Civic Park.
- At our meeting on Tuesday 3rd December, our guest will be the District Governor, Colin and his wife, Leanne.

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- The 21st December will be the last market for the year.
- Mike thanked the team of Tim, Ian B and David who worked with three Rotarians from Moe to assist in the garden clean-up of an older person in Erica. It was very much appreciated.
- Mike asked for volunteers to investigate a request to assist with garden trimming for a lady with a medical condition. Please see Mike if you can investigate.
- Mike thanked Roger Playdon for his management of the November market while Ian and Mike were on holidays.

Announcements

- **Market thank you** Roger Playdon gave a big thank you to all volunteers at the November markets. There were sixty-five store holders. Profit for November from the markets was \$1756.00. Thank you all.
- **Christmas Raffle** Pauline Maunder has sent an update re the sale of raffle tickets. Our Christmas Raffle is going well, we had another successful morning on Saturday at Cole's Drouin selling BBQ sausages, drinks and raffle tickets. Thank you Janette for organising this with Cole's and a big thank you to our helpers. Janette Pocklington, Sally Faye, Mike Kelleher, David Mitchell, Gary Surman, Carol Fenwick, Dick van Leeuwen, Roger & Jane Playdon, Pauline & Brian Maunder.
This Saturday November 30th, Bob & Maggie Vogt, Janette & Pauline will be selling Raffle tickets at Woolworths Drouin from 9:00 to 12:00.
Rotarians - thank you to those of you who have already given me your sold tickets and money and to everyone else, please get your tickets sold and money back to me before or at our next meeting Tuesday December 3rd. Through our local charities let us be able to donate this money raised to give Christmas Hampers to those in need.
- **Christmas Gifts** Russell Ford updated us re his trip to Emerald to collect fifteen boxes of toys to give to children. From this, one hundred toys went to St Vinnies to distribute and two hundred toys went to Foodbank to distribute. These are not big expensive toys. It is an opportunity for a struggling grandmother to pick up a toy to give to their grandchild. Thank you Russell.
- **Big blokes barbeque thank you** Kevin passed on his thanks to all the thirteen who volunteered and worked at the cleanup following the Big Blokes Barbeque. It was forty-five minutes work and \$2,000 was earned and passed on to the Treasurer from Lardner Park.
- **Christmas Party Choir** Lois congratulated those who have joined the Christmas Choir. She encouraged more of us to join. There are a further one or two rehearsals required. Please contact Lois if you want to join the choir.





Drouin Rotary Christmas Dinner

You are invited to the Drouin Golf Club on 17th December 2024 for our Christmas Party.

It starts at 6:00pm. There will be traditional Christmas fare. Drinks will be at bar prices.

President Mike said there will have multiple door prizes, with Music by talented young musicians and the much anticipated Drouin Rotary Choir.

The cost is \$45.00 per head Please pre-pay dinner payment and so confirm your attendance **by TUESDAY 10th December** to:

BSB 633 000

Account number 175 311 851

And please quote your surname as reference. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

From the Veally Veal Travellers

Today marks 9 months of living full time in our caravan (yes, we count the two months we "lived" in the driveway after our son and his partner took up residence in our house) and Sunday marks our 7 month van-niversary. Seven months since we drove out the driveway, (with the TV aerial still up) and started traveling full time. It has been an interesting year and while we know some of you are following us on our FaceBook page, we thought we might share a few highlights for those who are not FB fans.

We have traveled 32,000 odd km and visited 5 states and 2 territories. We have driven on road, off road, on toll roads, free roads, and roads that don't actually exist on Google Maps. We have had a few casualties (the door of the ensuite fell off, we lost the foot off one of the stabiliser legs, and the other day we misplaced the cap to one of the water tanks) but overall the caravan has been great, and the car has not stepped out of line.

A quick outline of our travel so far:

- *May: Our first big "destination" was Coffs Harbour where our daughter was Chief Bridesmaid for her high school bestie. It was great catching up with her and all her high school mates. Reminded us of the good old days when we would drive out to out of the way halls to pick her and her buddies up from parties, and she would bring the party, and her buddies, back to ours!*
- *We were then headed for Cape York for my birthday, but had a little glitch. Jacqui slipped in the mud at Cape Tribulation and fractured her wrist. That gave us cause for a pause, and we spent almost 6 weeks in Cairns while she had surgery and did her rehab.*
- *July: We finally made it to Cape York - left the caravan behind at a homestead in Laura and took the tent up for two weeks. Got the selfie at the tip and bought the t-shirt.*
- *After Cape York, we returned to Cairns for a final sign off from the surgeon and hand therapist, and took the Savannah Way across the base of the Cape to Karumba. Which truly has the most amazing sunsets! We continued across the Savannah Way via*

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Normanton (of Big Croc fame), Mary Kathleen Deserted Township, the Barkly Homestead Roadhouse (like a little oasis in the middle of the desert!) to Three Ways in the NT, where we turned south.

- *Another bucket list destination was Karlu Karlu (The Devils Marbles). While the campsite was possibly the worst we have stayed in this year, the rocks there are out of this world.*
- *Traveling towards Alice Springs, we did a bit of gem fossicking and found some garnets. Four of them were good enough to be faceted, and our son has arranged for them to be made into earrings for our daughter, and our son's partner for Christmas*
- *Alice Springs outdid itself! Despite all reports, we had no issues with anyone, and the scenery around there (Hermannsburg and Simpsons Gap) is next level!!*
- *We made it to Uluru, just not in time for Jacqui to do her marathon. We were traveling with some Kiwi friends who had to go home unexpectedly, so we followed them and made a quick dive south to Port Augusta.*

- *September saw us exploring the Flinders Ranges, with a special note of ruins, rocks and railways. Oh, and gin - we got to replace the bottle of Flinders Gin that the kids helped us to polish off at Christmas time!*

- *We revisited the Eyre Peninsula (which we last visited in January 2023) and prepared to cross the Nullarbor.*

- *It took us 8 days to dawdle across from Ceduna to Norseman, exploring caves, blowholes, old homesteads, the Old Eyre Highway and of course, the roadhouses. Ian Haughton has been taking care of our culinary side, giving us timely tips on where to eat and places to visit... And he has not been wrong.*

- *Since October we have been exploring the WA Goldfields - Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Leinster, Sandstone, Mount Magnet, Cue, and Meekatharra. We have just turned south, and are headed for Perth for Christmas, via the South West coast, and Margaret River.*

Our plans for 2025 include exploring more of WA, heading north and then across the top to Darwin, before coming back down the Centre (a little slower this time!) and try to get over to Tasmania. We would also like to go to New Zealand and visit our friends over there. While we continue to be fit and healthy, we enjoy "van-life" and it seems to agree with us both.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope we might catch up with some of you on the road next year.

David Veal (and Jacqui).

Annual General Meeting

At our meeting on Tuesday 19 November, President Mike held the Annual General Meeting.

Mike announced that the Nominations Committee had met and was pleased to announce the following nominations:

- Joint President, with each serving six months, being Ian Bennett and Russell Ford
- Secretary and Treasurer were Dianne Wallace and Melva Blackely respectively
- Public Officer Tim Wills.
 - All were elected unopposed.

The annual Financial Statement was presented, discussed and accepted.

The Annual General Meeting was closed at 6.50pm.



VALE ROBERT STEWART PP PHF

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Robert Stewart – President 1991-1992 & PHF 2010.



Architect Auden Pedersen with President Rob & Keith Pretty in front of the construction of the Drouin Sound Shell

Robert's Memorial Service will be held at *Nielsen's Funeral Chapel*, Warragul on **Wednesday 4th December**, starting at **1.00 PM**.