

Welcome to Bulletin Eleven: 2nd December 2024



President Mike with DG Colin, Leanne and Conference Chair Wil

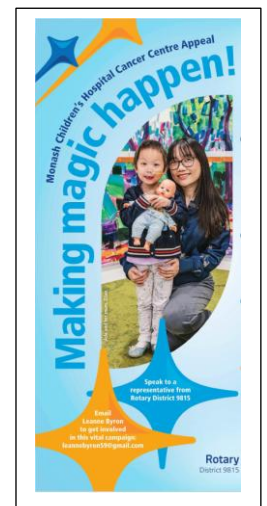
Our guests on Tuesday evening were the District Governor, Colin Bryon and his wife, Leanne, accompanied by Wil Cornelissen, District Conference Chair. It was a great opportunity to learn about the new District 9815 and its activities. District 9815 combines the previous Districts 9819 and 9820, bringing together seventy-six Clubs. There are also twenty-two Interact Clubs which have their own Board, a community in which they serve and participation in the International Interact Club. Colin spoke to us of Rotary's theme for this year, being the Magic of Rotary and reminded us of the goals for this year being; delivering on projects; raising money ; and importantly, being irresistible for people to join Rotary. He spoke of the Club experience as being a critical factor in growing club membership.

Colin explained to us the structure of the new District and the new roles of Rotary Community Groups, being led by Rotary Community Leaders. Tim Wills is the Rotary Community Leader (RCL) for the Rotary Community Group, Strzelecki. Colin spoke of the importance of Rotary Clubs being engaged with community stakeholders and knowing what is wanted by the community. He explained that District 9815 belongs to Zone 8 in International Rotary. Zone 8 comprises Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands. In fact, there are sixteen countries. In the 22–23 year, Zone 8 inducted three thousand members and lost four thousand five hundred members. Of those who left Rotary, fifty percent were in Rotary for less than three years. He explained that is why the goal of being Simply Irresistible as a Club is so important. He spoke of initiatives occurring in our Rotary Community Group, with satellite clubs being sponsored by Clubs to explore new styles of meetings that attract different age groups. He cited the example of a Satellite Club in Traralgon Central meeting over coffee and now having eight women as its members.

Colin explained to us that the current International President, Stephanie Urchick, has not changed Rotary International Goals. Continuity is important. Hence, the projects re empowering women and girls; mental health awareness; Peace in the World have not changed. Colin shared why he is a Rotarian and what his Magic Moment in Rotary is. He shared the story of two children from Timor coming to Australia for surgery, the Club finding a young couple from Beaconsfield to support the children during and after surgery. Rotary's projects have impact and make a difference. End Polio 's impact is three billion children have been immunised; twenty -one million have been saved from paralysis from polio; one million lives saved; and twelve endemic countries reduced to only two countries.

Colin's partner, Leanne, was invited to share her story and work. Leanne is the current President of Dandenong Rotary Club. Her brother at forty-five years of age, passed away from a two-year battle with cancer. Leanne has partnered with Monash Cancer Children's Hospital to continue his legacy and raise funds for this very important work. The research Monash is doing relates to use of stem cell treatment during chemotherapy. The funds raised are supporting health professionals to further their education and knowledge in this specialised area of work. Monash explained to Leanne that thirty percent of children diagnosed with cancer are from regional areas and the Government does not have funding to pay for the Apheresis Therapy. Monash Hospital's catchment area is Gippsland as is District 9815 – a great alignment in an exciting partnership that is very much needed by the community – a truly magic moment! Learn more about this partnership on the District website.

It was indeed a great evening to be reminded of why we belong to Rotary International.



President Mike's Thoughts

- Mike congratulated members with birthdays and anniversaries. Mike spoke the three anniversaries of Keith, John and Colin representing 135 years of service. A hearty congratulations to the three Rotarians.
 - **Birthdays** David Proposch (23rd December) ,Sharryn Marshall (24th December) plus our provider-of-meals Christine (27th) and Marie Franklin (3rd Dec).
 - **Wedding anniversaries** David and Veronica Mitchell, John and Marie Franklin, David and Jacqui Veal.
 - **Joining anniversaries** Keith Pretty, John Franklin, Colin Gardner and Gary Surman.
- With the sale of Christmas trees, Raffle tickets and sausages, \$4,000 is being donated to Longwarry Foodbank and St Vinnies. A fantastic effort.
- Mike spoke to us re his negotiations with Baw Baw Council re Drouin Rotary's management of the Australia Day Celebrations in Drouin. Mike explained that last year, it took 160 hours of planning to provide the free breakfast and barbeque and to coordinate and manage the program of activities and events for the day. There has been a lack of response from the Shire re what support the Council will be providing this year. After discussion, it has been decided not to be involved in Australia Day celebrations this year. The meeting wholeheartedly agreed and supported the decision.
- 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 assist.

Announcements

- **Action Plan for Strzelecki Community Group of Rotary Clubs.** The plan lists all across-community projects. All clubs will appoint an in-house champion. Some will link to Board members while, for us as an example, Pauline Maunder is our "champion" for the spectacle recycling. Members are invited to approach Mike if they are interested in leading our club in any of the projects. NOTE: "lead" does not equate to "doing it all" rather, investigating options and keeping members informed.
- **District Conference** Wil Cornelissen , District Conference Chair, spoke to us re the Inaugural District Conference to be held on 29,30 March 2025. It will be held in Bendigo and include a range of activities designed for fun and fellowship with Rotarians from across the 9815 District. There are seventy -six clubs in District 9815. To date, fifty Clubs have one or more members registered. The reduced fees are open until December 31. Please send your registrations to the District Secretary.
- **Christmas Raffle** Pauline Maunder reminded us that it Giving Tuesday next week for the Rotary Foundation, with donations going to End Polio and Recovering from Natural Disasters. The Christmas Raffle is going well. It has been decided that \$4,000 will be shared between Longwarry Foodbank (\$2,000) ; St Vinnies (\$1,500) ; and \$500 to the Crossing. Thank you Janette for organising the sausage sizzles and 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.
Thank you all for assisting us to be able to give to those in need this Christmas.
- **Christmas Party Choir** Lois congratulated those who have joined the Christmas Choir. We look forward to the entertainment at our Christmas Meeting.
- **Drouin Cemetery Project.** A big thank you to everyone for your participation over the past few weeks to complete this project. And , a special thank you to Judy Alexander and Paulien Maunder for the drinks, sausage rolls and muffins on the last of our working bees.

What's ahead

Tuesday 17th December

Christmas Dinner – Drouin Golf & Country Club 6.00 for 6.30

Tuesday 7th January

BBQ Social Evening at 6.00pm hosted by Glynn and Liz Fankhauser's at 515 Old Drouin Road (Big dam at front sign "Fankhauser Apples" near the driveway). BYO food, drinks and chair.

A few glimpses of activity



Ticket sales at outside Woolworths



Drouin & Warragul members deliver toys to Longwarry



Selling tickets at COLES



And the winner is!!!



Lunch delivered to concreters at Drouin West

Book now for the Inaugural D9815 Conference

A message from Glenda Stewart

President Mike,

I would like to convey my thanks in some way to the members of the Drouin Rotary Club for the formation of the Guard of Honour at Roberts recent funeral. It was a very hard day of course but that wonderful tribute to honour Robert in that way was appreciated by myself, all present and certainly Robert could he have witnessed it.

The live stream of his service and your Guard of Honour has been watched by well over 200 people.

Thankyou again, Glenda. X

