

17 July – 6 August

Welcome to Bulletin 2. Since my first edition, I received Bulletins from other Clubs and have been very impressed with their coverage of Club activities and the wider information from members to read and know. I hope my skills producing the Drouin Rotary Bulletin will develop and reflect your service in our local community.

Since our meeting this week, President Mike has tested positive for Covid. Wishing him a speedy recovery.



Our *second meeting for the year* had a powerful message and reminder to be thankful each day for what we have. Russell spoke of the four-year anniversary since Drouin Rotary began delivering food parcels with *Longwarry Lions Foodbank* across Longwarry, Warragul and Drouin.

In that time Foodbank has provided six hundred thousand meals in total. Foodbank produces two meals for every dollar given and receives food and goods from the 'Foodbank' organisation by the truckload each fortnight. Drouin Rotary has given ten thousand dollars which equates to twenty thousand meals. Sadly, the need continues, and more volunteers are needed to help with food delivery.

Our guest speaker, Darlene Fankhauser, was accompanied by Deb Fusinato, Assistant Principal of Drouin Primary School. She affirmed Russell's message re the need in Drouin. Foodbank provides thirty to forty sandwiches per fortnight to the school for children without. Food boxes are available for families through a partnership with the Department of Education to fund food for children and their families. Food boxes include such items as oats and baked beans. The challenge is how we share knowledge of and grow this service without families feeling ashamed and embarrassed.

Delivering meals to families is an opportunity to have a conversation. The five to ten minutes you spend having a chat makes a huge difference. In our region, six hundred rounds of sandwiches are delivered to eight schools.

Thank you, Russell, for reminding us of the huge need and the need for more volunteers. Please contact Russell if you can help.



**PROGRAM**

Darlene Fankhauser needs little introduction as a member of the Drouin community. Her topic was *Life and School in Vanuatu*. In 2018 the Fankhauser family business joined the seasonal workers program and have sixteen workers per season from Vanuatu. It is a country of one hundred and eighty languages with eighty-three islands. Darlene shared the amazing things that have happened since they started employing seasonal workers each season. The team from Vanuatu have a team leader, Kerry. He has used his income from seasonal work to build a home and is now building additional classrooms to the local school. In Vanuatu, the wage is three dollars per hour. Seasonal work enables the team to contribute to their village’s life and economy.

Vanuatu has suffered four major cyclones in the last nine years, destroying towns and villages. The consequences of cyclones is that houses and schools and facilities in the villages are frequently destroyed. Cyclones, plus recent earthquakes, mean there is no food as crops have been destroyed as well. Vanuatuan describe themselves as an emerging country, not a third world country. There are approximately two thousand schools, with no transport to get to school.

The village where the Fankhauser’s team live are teaching gardening in their school. There is no electricity and no water. Each classroom costs fifteen thousand dollars to build. Darlene showed us photographs from her most recent visit to the village, travelling with many stationery items to donate to the school.

Darlene put out the challenge and asked if Drouin Rotary can assist in any capacity.

She spoke of the Kerry, the team and the Villagers as the friendliest and happiest people on earth, building one school at a time.

President Mike thanked Darlene, saying that at the next board meeting, we will discuss how we can help. He said tonight’s meeting has been a reminder that we normally don’t think that anyone is worse off than ourselves. It is a reminded that in giving we receive which is why we are in Rotary.



PP Pauline, Deb, Darlene & President Mike

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Accounts for 2024-25 annual dues for the Rotary Club of Drouin are now payable. An email with a PDF copy of invoice has been sent to all members, but some have not reached their destination. (investigations underway).

Max Scott  
Treasurer, Rotary Club of Drouin

**Invitation from the Rotary Club of Casey**

<https://www.bunjilplace.com.au/events/rotary-club-of-casey-charity-long-lunch>

Join us on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August for an exclusive three course luncheon featuring Nathan Buckley. This unique event offers an intimate Q&A session with Nathan, providing you with the opportunity to delve into the insights and stories of his illustrious career.

All proceeds from this event will benefit **Variety - the Children's Charity Victoria** and **ermha365 Community Connections Program** for those experiencing homelessness (sleeping rough) in the Casey region. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an engaging afternoon with Nathan Buckley while supporting meaningful causes.



\*If you would like further information regarding this event or what is included in the sponsorship package please contact the Rotary Club of Casey via [longlunch@caseyrotary.org.au](mailto:longlunch@caseyrotary.org.au)

**Breakfast Club Roster for July**

- 16th July** David & Pauline                      **18th July** Pauline & Brian M
- 23rd July** Roger, Jane, Janette              **25th July** Janette, Tim & Russell
- 30th July** Judy & Tim



Rotary  **KIND DONATIONS** 400 Somerville Road West  
Footscray

Experience the magic that is stored within these walls. See the treasure which is donated for use in underprivileged communities, both locally and overseas.  
Find out how you can volunteer here.

**2024 OPEN DAY**

Saturday 10th August  
10am to 3pm  
Store tours every hour

Enjoy a range of food, tea & coffee, soft drinks and conversation



President Mike emailed us this week re the Open Day at Rotary DIK Warehouse in Footscray.

Mike had heard personally about this facility previously, but due to not fully understanding Rotary abbreviations he had no idea what it was or in fact did.

His email included the invitation and newsletter which explains this facility. He went to say that considering our interesting presentation by Darlene Fankhauser, it brings this resource into focus. Mike wants to know if you want him to arrange a bus trip to the Open Day.

**Upcoming Events**

**Birthdays:** Rex Greenland, Pauline Maunder, Ian Brooks, Ray Howe & Robert Pocklington

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Keith and Dianne Cook

**Joining Anniversary:** Mark Howes – twenty years ago

**Sunday 28 July:** Tree planting. For a nice day out in Robin Hood Reserve, see Roger Playdon

**Tuesday 30 July:** 5th Tuesday – members, partners & guests at Drouin Carvery 6.00 pm. **Book with Bob Vogt**

**Tuesday 6 August :** Dinner Meeting 3 at Hong Kong Inn 6pm for 6.30pm.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August:** Board Meeting at the home of President Mike and Sandy

*Kevin Thorpe from the Food 4 Thought Restaurant at Drouin Secondary College informed us that he won't be able to go ahead with dinner for our Club this month due to circumstances beyond his control.*

**Looking Forward to August**



**AUGUST IS**

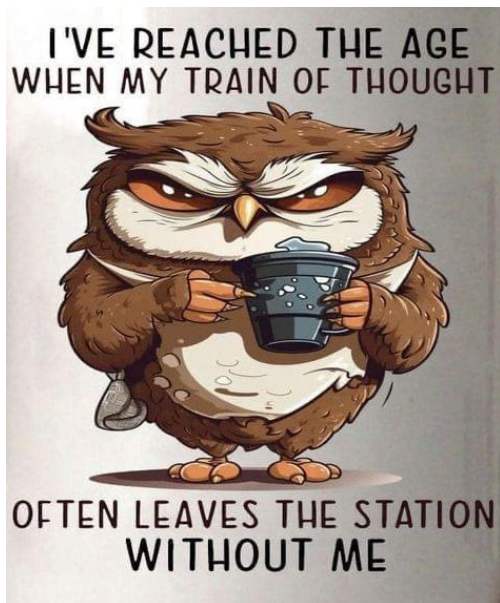
**MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

"Rotary's strength lies in the sincerity of purpose of its members."  
Estes Snedecor, Rotary Club of Portland, Oregon - 1921 Rotary Convention

Rotary  EACH ROTARIAN REACH ONE, KEEP ONE www.rotary.org

Activities to consider and get involved in through August:

- \*Membership and New Club Development Month, a time to focus on Rotary's continuing need for grow and form new clubs.
- \*Update your classifications list and circulate amongst members and accordingly fill up the Vacancies
- \*Educate members about membership Procedure
- \*Induct New Members
- \*Invite Rotaractors to join Rotary
- \*Consider inviting Local Personalities to be Inducted as Honorary Members
- \*Organise Seminar on Club level & a Public meeting inviting non-rotary friends and Rotary Alumni to emphasis Advantages of Joining Rotary



Visit the new District 9815 website

[www.rotary9815.org.au](http://www.rotary9815.org.au)



District Governor  
Colin Byron  
**Rotary**  
District 9815  
Bringing two great Rotary Districts  
together.  
9810 and 9820

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS:  
ENVIRONMENT  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BASE EDUCATION AND LITERACY  
PEACE  
PEACE PREVENTION AND PROMOTION  
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE  
NUTRITION AND CHILD HEALTH