

Guest Speakers - Kelly Sheehan and Kerry Carpenter from Knoxbrooke.

Knoxbrooke is a not-for-profit organisation, born out of an idea from Rotary Clubs in Ferntree Gully and Belgrave over sixty years ago. *Knoxbrooke* provides support services, employment and development activities for people with disability and is the facilitator of five different social enterprises across West Gippsland and Melbourne's South - East. Kerry and Kelly informed us on the role and work of a social enterprise which is less focused on profit and more concerned with meaningful employment.

Kerry is the team leader at *WGAC Coffee Vibes*. The Council approached *Knoxbrooke* eighteen months ago to see if they would run it. It has been successfully doing so since then, effectively handing back a valuable resource to the community. Kerry has a background as a barista and is very pleased to be able to use her skills and teach others to develop their skills as a barista business woman and build a business from a vacant, blank space. There is a team of eleven supported employees, soon to grow to be fourteen plus paid staff. *WGAC Coffee Vibes* also hosts work experience students from mainstream and special schools. *WGAC Coffee Vibes* partners with local suppliers and uses recyclable cups and other products to benefit the community and other organisations.

Customers comment on the "happiness" experienced, often noisy but full of life and joy from staff who love their work and also, from seeing what is possible for special needs employees.

Parents of special needs children have come to Kerry and thank them for giving "hope", seeing what is possible, and also for the personal growth of staff. Importantly, parents are pleased to see the patrons of *Coffee Vibe* being educated re the true abilities of the staff. Kerry invited us all to come as a patron if we wish to help the work at *Coffee Vibe* which is open Monday to Friday from 9.00 - 3.00.

Kelly Sheehan is the Team Leader of the sister business in Warragul, *Vintage Vibe Op Shop*. After many years working at Centrelink, Kelly joined this 'Knoxbrooke Op Shop' (formerly Mawarra Op Shop) in June. Employees are engaged to work on what they can do, not concentrating on what they can not do. All monies raised buy local services and stay local. 'Knoxbrooke Op Shop' has six staff with further six volunteers. The ultimate goal is the hope that a number of the staff may become capable of mainstream employment.



President Mike with Kerry, Kelly & Meeting Chair Janette

Updates from Directors

Ian Symons reported that, although relatively quiet, the Market this month netted \$1,836 for the Club. Ian also reminded us that the latest issue of *Rotary Down Under* magazine focuses on membership. Ian asked us to take time to read through all the options being proposed to encourage new members.

Judy Alexander spoke of plans for an additional Drouin Market in December – SUNDAY 1st December. The extra market will take place in the usual location at Civic Park, Young Street, extending along the walking track, with the focus on Art, Craft, Handmade Gift ware, with the focus for all stall holders being Christmas. It will give our Club an extra opportunity to source much needed funds to disburse during Christmas. Members will be needed prior to and during the market day. Please let Judy know if you can help out.

Website: www.drouinrotary.com Instagram: [drouin.rotary.market](https://www.instagram.com/drouin.rotary.market) Facebook: [Drouin Rotary](https://www.facebook.com/DrouinRotary) & [Drouin Market](https://www.facebook.com/DrouinMarket)

BOOKINGS & APOLOGIES 0419 391 586

Russell Ford spoke of the 2024 District 9815 MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) held at Lyndale College, Dandenong on Saturday 17th, which he attended. Drouin nominated two teams from the Chairo school which we acting as Turkiye and Brazil (the latter team was subsequently sponsored by RC Moe). Russell said he was very proud of our teams who were coached by a well-experienced teacher at the school and presented as articulate and well researched teams. Russell also advised that he had visited Neerim District Secondary College to discuss the ‘Rotary Scholarship’ and sponsorship to the ‘Science Experience’ for Year 9 students.



2024-25 Board

Nominations for Membership

Don Blackley provided members with a brief biography of his daughter Melva Blackley and proposed her for membership. Dick van Leeuwen provided members with a brief biography of his friend David Mitchell and proposed him as a member. All members will receive details of these candidates for consideration and comment.

For Your Diary

Birthdays: Janette Pocklington and Jane Playdon

Wedding Anniversaries: Rob and Glenda Stewart on 25th

Joining: Pauline Maunder 21st Aug 2005, Tim Wills 27th Aug 2005, Don Blackley 29th Aug 1978 & Bob Vogt 30th Aug 2011

President Mike noted that this represents 97 years of community service through Rotary

TUESDAY 3rd Sept: Dinner Meeting #5 - HKI at 6.30pm. *Program - Rotary Community Group & club business*

TUESDAY 17th Sept: Dinner Meeting #6 - HKI at 6.30pm.

FRIDAY 20th Sept: Longwarry Food Bank deliveries

SATURDAY 21st Sept: Drouin Rotary Market - *roster will be circulated at the next meeting*

Tuesdays (3) & Thursdays (3) Sept: DSC Breakfast Club

Date to be arranged: train trip to Melbourne to visit the ‘Pharaoh’ exhibition at the NGV and lunch

