

It was great to see Drouin Rotary’s Pie Night in the Gazette last week with members showing their true footy colours. It was another great dinner meeting last Tuesday evening with special guest, Jeanie Haughton, to speak of the journey to realise a statute for the ‘Three Kurnai Women’. When I arrived in Warragul and lived in Fairview Village, I asked residents what I needed to know, having never lived in Warragul before. I was given a copy of Jackson’s Track as essential reading and, “essential” I found it to be! *Dianne*

Three Kurnai Women – Jeannie Haughton

Jeanie’s presentation was illuminating and passionate. She told us of the privilege it was to be part of the project to create the large sculpture that was installed on 27th May 2023 in Civic Park Drouin. She spoke of the work involved for the *Committee for Drouin* to win State Government funding through the ‘Victorian Women’s Public Art Program’ to create a sculpture that acknowledges three women’s leadership, tenacity, wisdom and cultural integrity as they raised their young people in adversity. The three Kurnai women were Dorothy, Euphemia and Regina. They straddled two worlds. They were leaders of the women and children of the Kurnai clan that lived on Jackson’s Track, Labertouche across two to three generations, from the post World-War-2 years through to the late fifties and early sixties. The matriarchs set the rules and tone for people to live by at Jackson’s Track.

Jeanie spoke of Rebecca Vandyk Hamilton being the driving force for the sculpture, involving Jessie McLennan as sculptor, and well-known local Kurnai Elder Cheryl Drayton whose mother, grandmother and auntie are the three women. Lynette Hayes, Karen Whitaker-Taylor and Melissa Forlano were the Baw Baw Shire Officers and key supporters of this project. Jeanie spoke of the role played by the Meridian Foundry in Melbourne where the statute was fired and built. She explained the challenges involved in getting such a heavy sculpture in the Meridan Foundry and from getting it there to the process of making plates, bronzing it together and polishing the final product following it being fired at the Foundry.

Jeanie explained the symbolism of the objects each woman is holding being guitar, washing tub and the Bible. Grace and Dorothy had attended a Billy Graham Crusade in Labertouche and understood the importance of keeping their families safe if they were to stay together at Jackson’s Track. The children had to be kept clean so as not to be taken away. Sadly, when the families were moved on to Drouin they were not kept together or given homes that enabled them to maintain family and community as they had.

Jeanie is now working with the Committee of Drouin to find a home for the Kurnai people so that there is a place for them and their cultural items thereby preventing further loss of their history. Given Jeanie’s tenacity and passion and her mantra for “finding the extraordinary within the ordinary “I am confidently looking forward to seeing a building built for the Kurnai people in Drouin.





Dorothy Hood (nee Harrison)
Born December 1855, Lake Bolac
Died March 1937, Melbourne
Carey & BOWE

Euphemia Care Mullett/Tonkin
(nee Hoyle)
Born 21 February 1927,
Lake Tynan mission
Died 5 August 1997, Great
Circle & Warragul T18

Regina Rose (nee Hood)
Born 8 December 1929,
Lake Tynan mission
Died 6 October 2006, Warragul
Hilda & GUYRA

Three Kurnai Women

Ordinary yet extraordinary leaders of the Kurnai Community

Three Kurnai Women acknowledges the leadership, tenacity, wisdom and cultural integrity of Dorothy Hood, Euphemia Mullett/Tonkin and Regina Rose as they raised their young people in adversity. The women balanced the tightrope between honouring their Kurnai heritage while still seeking to obey government decrees and living constantly with the fear of having their children removed.

In the everyday living of their lives, including the years at Jacksons Track, the three women passed on cultural learnings and practices ensuring the traditional ways and knowledge were not lost.

The women walked tall in their own communities. There was much fun and laughter amid the serious and disciplined routines Dorothy established to prove they were responsible and caring parents who kept their camp ordered and very clean.

The Jackson’s Track community lived along a river in Labertouche from the late 1940s to 1982, cautiously out of sight and under the cloud of repressive laws and regulations. The women continued to lead the community through years of turbulent transition and dislocation when the Board of Protection moved the families into Drouin township.

The Creative Team:
Kurnai Elders:
Cheryl Drayton
and Lynette Hayes;
sculptors:
Rebecca Vandyk-Hamilton,
Jessie McLennan
and writer:
Jeannie Haughton

#PutHerNameOnIt
#WomensPublicArt
#HonourHer
#VicForWomen






President Mike's Thoughts – need for volunteers for upcoming events.

- Mike spoke of the need for a larger team to manage the Drouin Markets. He told us that we need six people who can alternate/share weekends and help everyone have a break throughout the year. The small team of three members has been doing this role continuously for two years, and some longer. Please register your availability to take on a role helping in the managing of the markets...our foundation fundraising vehicle.
- On 19th October, the Dinosaur Show in the Sound Shell will feature at the market and a good crowd is expected.
- On 17th December, Drouin Rotary will celebrate Christmas at the Drouin Golf Club. Mike would like to see a group of 2-3 persons organise entertainment for the evening. There is a budget so you are not restricted to trying to coax members into doing the actual entertaining. Please consider and put your name forward.
- We have an opportunity to sell Christmas trees supplied by Warragul Rotary. We will not be charged for any trees not sold. Two to three people are needed to take over the management of this opportunity which involves signage for trees, collecting trees from Warragul and bringing to Drouin for sale at events.
- Mike congratulated Pauline, Janet and Carol and acknowledged their work securing donations for the Christmas Raffle. The proceeds will be distributed to families and people in need in Drouin over Christmas.

Announcements

- Pauline Maunder informed us that the Christmas Raffle will be open in November and December. She asked each of us to take a raffle book of twenty tickets and go out and sell. The funds raised will go the charities such as Foodbank and Vinnies and schools to distribute. There are 8-10 raffle prizes. Get your book of tickets at our next dinner meeting.
- Kevin reminded us of the Baw Baw Big Blokes event at Lardner Park on Friday 25th October. A dozen people are needed to help with the cleanup. You will need to be there at 4.15pm to start cleaning up at 4.30pm and be finished by 6.00- 6.30pm.
- Volunteers were asked for on the night to help the next day, Wednesday 2nd October, with the painting of three seats near Civic Park. A number of Rotarians and partners volunteered to help with carpentry and painting. The photos show the response, and a great job completed by the members able to help. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped.



- Drouin West Cemetery Trust member Bill Petschack has asked for help with the construction of a covered pergola with seating at the cemetery where no such facility currently exists. The club has been successful in obtaining a Foundation District Grant which it will match and the Trust has successfully applied for a grant from Bendigo Community Bank. Work has commenced.

Induction of New Member

President Mike welcomed new member David Mitchell and his wife Veronica to our meeting. David is sponsored by Dick Van Leeuwen. David was an Electrical Engineer. The photograph below shows last week's new member Delva and her father, President Mike, David and sponsor Dick.

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



Don Blackley Melva Blackley President Mike David Mitchell Dick van Leeuwen

What's ahead?

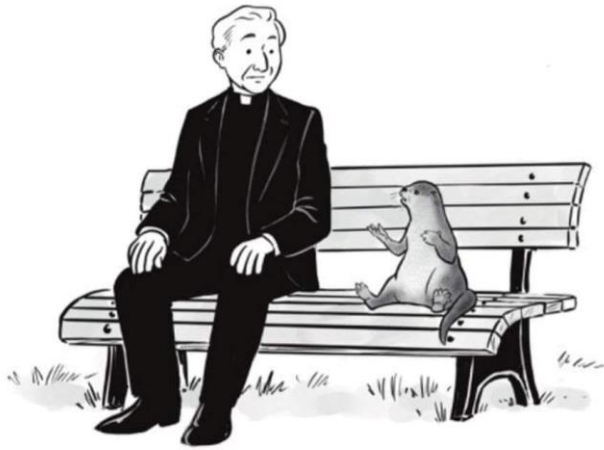
Tuesday 15th October
Friday 18th October
Saturday 19th October
Friday 25th October

Dinner Meeting #8 at the Hong Kong Inn – *Policing in the Philippines*
Longwarry Lions Foodbank deliveries in Drouin and Warragul
Drouin Rotary Craft & Produce Market – *DINOSAURS*
Big Bloke's BBQ clean-up: Lardner Park from 4.00 PM

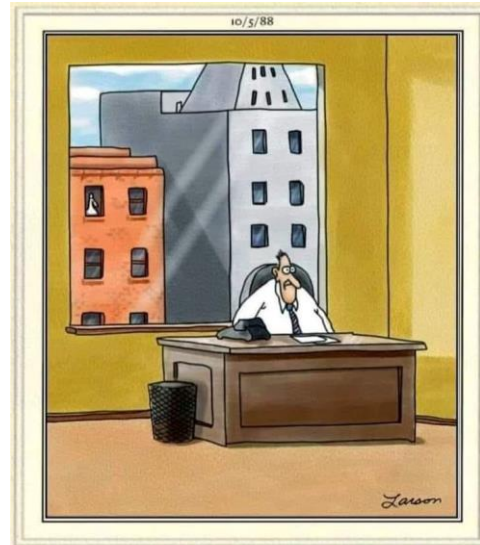
Anniversaries

Between now and early November: Birthdays Ian Bennett (15th), Jacqui Veal (20th), Don Blackley (3rd) and both Janny van Leeuwen and David Mitchell (7th). Four wedding anniversaries are pending: Ian/Jan Bennett, Col/Val Gradner (**Diamond – 60 years**), John/Deb Tricarico and David/Pauline Proposch.





“No, I’m pretty sure it’s do unto otters as you would have otters to do unto you.”







Anatidaephobia: the fear that somewhere, somehow, a duck is watching you.



Fields of Tulips

DINOSAURS
at the
Drouin Market



For more information and bookings
myli.au/events
 Drouin Library 56 251 564

SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 19th
 10.30am