

It was a great pleasure last Tuesday to meet and listen to Bob Vogt's son-in-law, Simon, share his story of his time working with the Australian Federal Police in SE Asia. Simon commenced his policing career in 2003, after a career as a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Australian Navy, where he served as a Navigator onboard a variety of vessels. In his role he travelled the world and was part of the Australian Defence Force's support to East Timor prior to handover to the United Nations. Simon has worked across a variety of Policing areas, including: Transnational Organised Crime, Counter Terrorism, Proceeds of Crime Investigations and Community Policing. For the past three years, Simon worked as a Liaison Officer in The Philippines. Simon's professionalism and commitment to his work, his concern for the poverty experienced by Filipinos, and his respect for their capacity to be happy and content with their life shone through his talk with us. This is his story. Dianne

Program

Simon spoke to us of the time he received a phone call asking him if he and his family would move overseas for work. It was unexpected but welcomed as a challenge. Simon and his family arrived in mid 2021, during COVID. Home schooling was the order of the day - again! You were unable to leave your own home as a family and curfews applied if you did have permission to be out. It was a significant challenge for everyone.

Post restrictions, Simon and his family travelled as often as possible to see provincial life and escape the city heat and pollution. Poverty is extremely prevalent in the Philippines, which Simon and his family experienced firsthand; this saw them develop a strong commitment to assist as they could whilst posted there. Simon showed us examples of his children playing basketball with local village children, and distributing sports equipment and school supplies. Everywhere his family travelled there was evidence of the work of Rotary International through signs on schools, shelters, tourist sites and in villages.

Simon's wife, Jo, became involved with a local charity called Child Dreamers. It was created some years ago by expats as a way to help the Tondo community's children receive basic healthcare and education. This community lived on the city rubbish dump, using small concrete blocks, roofing sheets and cardboard to build shanties to live in. The dangerous implication was that shanty homes built out of cardboard burn down. Jo worked in this program providing basic kindergarten education, a feeding program and clothing and personal hygiene items; it is through education that there is hope for a better life. Simon shared photographs of his wife and children participating at graduations and in special events held for the children.

Simon spoke of his time in the Philippines as an amazing opportunity for him and his family. He was reminded that the people with the least resources seem to be the happiest. He never felt that his family was at risk or unsafe. He commented that, unlike being at Flinders Street in Melbourne, there is no road rage, no angry words, and no fighting in the street.



Anniversaries

Birthdays Don Blackley (3rd), Janny van Leeuwen and David Mitchell (7th) and Glenda Stewart and Peter Stilburn (9th).

Wedding anniversaries John and Deb Tricarico, David and Pauline Proposch, and John and Marie Franklin.

Joining anniversaries Mike Kelleher two years ago on 8th November ; William Wong (13th November in 2009) ; and, John Tricarico (15th November in 2011).

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

President Mike's Thoughts

- Mike congratulated members with birthdays and anniversaries. Of particular note, were Ian Bennett celebrating his birthday that day ; and, Colin and Val Gardner who are celebrating sixty years marriage.
- Mike spoke of a request to our Club to assist an older person in Erica with trimming of trees. Following a visit and meeting, it has been agreed to hold a working bee on Wednesday 6 November at their home. If you are interested and available, speak with Tim Wills.
- Mike was very pleased to announce that the market roster has been filled since his appeal at the last meeting. Thank you to all who have volunteered.
- On 8 October, the second Board Meeting was held and the minutes are being distributed for your information.
- The AGM of our club is on Tuesday 19 November. Election of Office Bearers for the coming year are elected at that meeting. Nominations are called for President Elect for Rotary Year 25-26 , Secretary, Treasurer, four Board Members and President Nominee for Rotary Year 26-27. The working party is seeking nominations for President Elect. The position can be filled by more than one person with members undertaking the role for three to four months. Please Mike or Tim with your nominations.

A Rotary Club must elect its president in the first instance. Mike said we must all be involved and decide. He asked us all to give the position of President thought and if able to assist, come forward.

- President Mike and his wife, Sandy are taking three weeks leave to explore the Flinders Ranges in their new caravan. We wish them safe travels and an exciting adventure in a wonderful part of Australia.



Received 26th October:

Attached please find photo of the First Lady and myself tasting some very nice wines at Chateau Tanunda can recommend the Riesling and the Shiraz.

We are now off to a boutique brewery in Laura, Just for the sake of balance, it hasn't been all drinking activity as we also visited Maggie Beer's kitchen in Nuriootpa.



Announcements

- Pauline Maunder informed us that the Christmas Raffle will be open in November and December. Pauline asked each of us to take a raffle book of twenty tickets and go out and sell. If we sell 15,000 tickets, we will have \$3,000 to go to the charities such as Foodbank and Vinnies and schools to distribute at Christmas. There are 8-10 raffle prizes. Get your book of tickets at our next dinner meeting.
- Janette Pocklington advised us that Raffle tickets will be sold next three Saturdays at Coles, Drouin. There will be a sausage sizzle, and we will use the opportunity to sell our raffle tickets. Please see the roster below. Thank you to everyone who volunteered last Tuesday night. Please see the roster below and let Janette know if you can fill any of the gaps.



Shift 1:Janette, Lois, Brian, Russell and Pauline



Shift 2: Janette, Jo and Bob



& Ian and Dianne

- 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.
- End Polio Day is being held by Warragul Rotary on Wednesday 24th October. All are invited to attend the special meeting.
- Dick Van Leeuwin spoke to us re a presentation he heard at a recent Lions meeting he was invited to attend re the dangers of scams and how to avoid getting caught up in a scam. He canvassed interest from members present in arranging a speaker for one of our meetings. Please let Dick know if you are interested in knowing more.
- Bill gave us an update on the work at the Drouin West Cemetery. Much progress has been made with the poles, bearers and nearing readiness for the roof to the Gazebo later this week. Bil thanked everyone for their help.
- Lois sought choir volunteers for our Christmas Party on 17th December. This year, the choir will sing “We three kings of Orient are “. Lois encouraged everyone to be brave and have a go! Please see Lois and put your name forward.

What's ahead?

COLES SAUSAGE SIZZLE and RAFFLE ROSTER

	BBQ Cook 1	BBQ Cook 2	Food Server	Cashier	Raffle Ticket Sales
Nov 23rd 9-11am	Dick Van Leeuwen	Gary Suman	David Mitchell	Mike Kelleher	Carol Fenwick
11am-1pm	Jane Playdon	Roger Playdon	Janette Pocklington and Sally Faye (Friend)	Dick Van Leeuwen	????????
Dec 7th 9-11am	Jo McKechnie	??????	Tim Wills	Carol Fenwick	Mike Kelleher
11am-1pm	Roger Playdon	Jane Playdon	Colin Gardner	????????	Janette Pocklington

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| Tuesday 5 th November | Dinner Meeting #9 at the Hong Kong Inn – Cup Day |
| Wednesday 6 th November | Working Bee in Erica |
| Thursday 7 th November | First Breakfast Club at Drouin Secondary College for November |
| Tuesday 19 th November | Dinner Meeting #10 and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING |
| Tuesday 3 rd December | Dinner Meeting #11 |
| Tuesday 17 th December | Christmas Dinner – Drouin Golf & Country Club 6.00 for 6.30 |



Registrations Now Open!!
Sunday 24th November 2024
Puffing Billy Railway Station Gembrook

A fun day out for all the family
Raising funds for
Childhood Cancer Research
at the
Monash Children's Hospital



<https://www.emeraldrotary.org.au/page/kfrwpb>



Foodbank Roster for November 2024

Again, thank you so much for your commitment.

As you will now know there are 3 Fridays for this month, thank you for those who are able to take 2 turns.

With others coming on board, and to make it clear who it is on the roster I will code names this way:

(W) Warragul Rotarian (D) Drouin Rotarian (C) Community volunteer.

Any issues, or offers from new volunteers...call Russell Phone – 0412241110

Drop Off	November 1 st	November 8 th	November 15 th	November 22 nd	November 29 th
Drouin	Allan (C) Pauline & Brian (D) Jane & Roger (D) David (D)	No Deliveries	Allan (C) Sue & Marshall (C) Lois (D) Melva (D)	No Deliveries	Sue & Marshall (C) Pauline & Brian (D) Lois (D) Rob & Dick (D)
Longwarry	Russell (D)	No Deliveries	Russell (D)	No Deliveries	Russell (D)
Warragul	Di & Tony (W) Greg (W) Nick (W) Blake (W) Gwen & Bill (D) Tim (D)	No Deliveries	Rob C (C) Greg (W) Rob & Dick (D) Russell (D) David (D) Josh (D)	No Deliveries	Jacinta & Chris (C) Rob C (C) Nick (W) Blake (W) Sandy & Mike (D) Peter & Bob (D)



The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than **\$4 billion** on life-changing, sustainable projects. **With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.**

On Saturday, our club’s Foundation Chair, Pauline Maunder, took the opportunity to act on behalf of our Rotary Foundation and give due recognition to Jo McKechnie for her ongoing, generous support of the ideals and work of our Foundation. It is with gratitude that the Rotary Foundation recognises Jo’s contribution with a second sapphire pin.

Thank you Jo.

