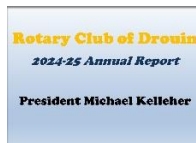


Rotary Club of Drouin – Changeover 2025

A great night of fellowship and fun heralded in the Presidents Elect for 2025 – 2026 and celebrated the significant contributions of Past President Mike Kelleher. The Board Members for 2025 – 2026 were welcomed and acknowledged by everyone for their contribution in the year ahead. The Drouin Rotary Choir, lead by the Choir and Quiz Master Supreme, Lois Ryan, entertained us in style and challenged our brains.

Past President Mike reported on the past year's achievements. Rather than give a synopsis, I am including his Report in full below. *The full Annual Report may be found at www.drouinrotary.com* President Ian Bennett and President Russell Ford acknowledged the Theme for 25-26 – “Unite for Good” and then Ian and Russell welcomed the new Board members that will work with them in the coming year.

President Mike Kelleher's Annual Report



The start to Rotary Year 2024 – 2025 was a steep learning curve for me and one that was made a lot easier because of the Board I had with me on the journey.

It was also the first year of newly amalgamated Rotary District 9815, and the first of the Regionalisation Pilot Project which meant we were now part of the “Strzeleki” community group, and we have actively contributed to projects agreed upon as “community projects” such as SkyHydrant to Timor Leste, spectacles to Vanuatu and saying “No to Domestic Violence”. In hindsight this all enabled me to gain valuable input from other club Presidents

The first fund raiser for the year was the Baw Baw Shire Tree Planting “Sausage Sizzle” which while being successful in raising funds was held on a cold and rainy day which dampened community involvement.

On that subject it is ironic that in a year that has seen farmers forced to feed stock due to low rainfall, we have had to cancel 2 markets due to rain and had 3 that have been either rained or blown away with the famed Easterly wind. I would like to thank our regular markets workers with special thanks to Ian Symons, Roger Playdon who have managed our stall holders over the year. Although we have suffered weatherwise, we still managed to fund a \$7,000 donation to Centenary house using funds from our market activities.

The first major project was the Drouin West Cemetery gazebo, led by Bill Petschack, who in his usual way led from the front resulting in the job being completed to a high standard and with little fuss. The result is a structure the Drouin Rotary Club can be proud to have their name attached too. That was preceded by another effort in refurbishing some of the seats around Civic Park and a working bee with Moe Rotarians to help out someone in Erica.

Our regular community service work is through two activities primarily: with the Longwarry Foodbank two Fridays a month during which 16 Drouin Rotarians and partners, 5 Warragul Rotarians and around 8 community members deliver 400 food parcels monthly to Drouin, Longwarry and Warragul. This highlighted the growing requirement in our community for assistance for with day-to-day needs. It was with this knowledge, that a group of Rotary members, led by Pauline Maunder, Janette Pocklington and Carol Fenwick with great assistance from one of our Rotary “Friends” John Tricarico, sprang into action and I must say in no time we had donations by local businesses that enabled a raffle to be organised along with sausage sizzles held at Coles Drouin. We also tried selling Christmas trees supplied by Warragul Rotary to assist reaching the goal of providing those struggling at Christmas for some cheer in the form of hampers to the value of \$4,000.

During this time, we received a phone call from our sister club of Phillip Island & San Remo, that if we “came down today”, we could pick up some toys donated by the “Motorbike Ride for Kids”. These were added to toys we had secured from the Emerald Rotary Club and others from ‘Donations in Kind’, secured by the Warragul club. The result was we delivered a ute load of toys to Longwarry Foodbank to be distributed to those needing help making kids happier at Christmas. An aside to this was the toys needed to be sorted into age groups, we had some 12 members and partners arrive to take on this task, I think this activity proved most Rotarian men leave children gift buying to the lady of the house.

The second regular activity is the ‘Breakfast Club’ at the secondary college where toast and milo drinks are served twice a week in alternate months, the other being handled by Drouin Lions.

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We had a musical themed Christmas function that had us all dancing to music from a great young band and of course the highlight being the Drouin Rotary Choir, under the Musical Direction of Lois Ryan, who somehow along with Rob Pocklington kept the group in time if not tune. The New Year started with an evening of fun and fellowship at Glynn and Liz Fankhauser's home.

The New Year also saw the preparation begin for our biggest single fund raiser being the Farm World Field Days where Rotarians manned gates, drove tractors and managed people movers over 5 days...contributing nearly 700 hours in volunteer service. The turnout by all Rotarians was impressive as with the leadership of Kevin Roberts and the roster management of both Tim Wills and Max Scott made for a most successful event, that saw plaudits from Lardner Park Management

Our fortnightly meetings have seen a number of interesting speakers give presentations on various subjects along with themed nights such as our football pie night, International Women's Day and Melbourne Cup event. And then there was the Inaugural Drouin-Warragul Trivia Night. We will win next year! We also celebrated our 10 year anniversary of meetings at the Hong Kong Inn and I would again thank William, Christine, Sam and staff for their hospitality and friendship over this period.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming Melva Blackley and David Mitchell to our club during the year. Another occasion that gave me great pleasure was to present Sapphire Paul Harris Fellowship recognition to Dick van Leeuwen and Don Blackley who between them have served as Rotarians for some 94 years. It never seems to amaze me when we celebrate joining anniversaries as to how many combined years our club has given to the community.

We have been able to give disbursements over the year to the value of \$29,910 to our community both Local, regional and International. Locally we have participated and ran community service events that assist our young people, those in poor health and those who are struggling financially.

I would like to thank all Rotarians and their partners for their generous support throughout my year as President.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their support and time during the year, with special mention to Dianne Wallace for her work in producing our bulletin, it has made my time as President an enjoyable experience. In particular I would make mention to our Treasurer and Secretary who have put up with my many questions and discussions during the year. To Max and Tim, a big THANK YOU.

To my wife Sandy, I would like to give thanks for the never ending support, that she has always shown, to whatever task I have taken on over our time together.

To incoming Presidents Ian and Russell Ford, and to 'first lady' Jan, I wish you a successful and enjoyable year – you have the clubs full support and I am looking forward to a productive 2025 – 2026.

Yours in Rotary, *Michael Kelleher* President 2024-25



PP Mike, Presidents Ian & Russell and DG Elect 2025-26 Peter Behn

Back row: Prez 1 Sargeant Foundation PP Membership
Front: Prez 2 Market Treasurer Secretary

What's ahead

Tuesday 1st July
Tuesday 15th July

Dinner Meeting #1 at Hong Kong Inn, at 6.00pm for 6.30pm *David Mitchell – A Story*
Dinner Meeting 2 at Hong Kong Inn, at 6.00pm for 6.30pm President Ian will outline the planning for the next 6 months and beyond.

Anniversaries

Birthdays: Brian Maunder (29th June) Rob Stewart (2 July) Peter Konjevic (3 Jul) Pauline Proposch (7 July)
Wendy Laycock (8th July) and Sandy Kelleher (9th July)

Joining anniversary: Paul Davine & Keith Cook (18th), David Proposch (19th), Peter Konjevic (23rd), David Veal (25th)

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Centenary House, Traralgon.

On Friday 27th June, Past President Mike Kelleher, arranged for a those interested to visit Centenary House and learn of Rotary's work over the past twenty years. Centenary House was born over two bottles of red wine and Rotary Presidents in Gippsland explored ideas to celebrate 100 years of Rotary International. Originally, it was to build a Ronald McDonal House in the region. The concept gelled into accommodation for people of Gippsland to receiving Cancer Care from Latrobe Regional Hospital Cancer Care Centre. Since Stage 1 commenced in 2006, it has grown to 30 rooms available at the cost of \$5 per night for individuals and their family to stay during treatment.

Centenary House employs three full time staff, one being manager, Tania Whitehead. They were many hats from laundry workers to gardeners, cleaners and supporters of families staying. Centenary House has a significant group of volunteers who who u=do everything from gardening to small maintenance work.

Centenary House has an operating budget of \$300,000 and depends on fund raising for to meet a shortfall of \$60,000 per year.


The age of guests staying is 65; they travel 145 kilometres to come, 55 % are females and 45% are male; 67% of guest are in treatment and 33% are family members. Many people staying are receiving Oncology treatment.

Drouin Rotary in its disbursement for 2024 -2025, gave \$7,000 for refurbishment of a room in Stage 1 built back in 2006.

Those of us who went had the pleasure of seeing the Drouin Rotary room and how the Stage 1 rooms are being refurbished using local contractors and keeping prices low. Past President Mike shared that it is a Rotary Magic Moment, and I certainly agree.



Upcoming events



Rotary District 9815


Governor Colin Byron and Leanne
together with
Governor Elect Peter Behm and Gail
warmly invite Rotarians, Partners and Friends
to celebrate our
Rotary International District 9815 Changeover
on Saturday 12th July, 2025
at 6.00pm for 6:30pm
at the Pakenham Racecourse,
420 Nar Nar Goon-Longwarry Road, Tynong.
Exceptional value at \$69.00 per person
Tickets can be purchased via the booking link on the District web site.
<https://www.rotary9815.org.au/>



Rotary Warragul

COLLECTABLES FAIR
Darnum Memorial Hall
4 Copley Street Darnum 3822
Saturday 6th Sept 2025
10am to 4pm
ADMISSION \$5.00 Adults
Children Free
STALL HOLDER ENQUIRIES CONTACT
ROGER COLLIS 0498 - 961476
Email: - rotarywgcollectionsfair@gmail.com

ROTARY 9815 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
13th-15th March 2026
Hobart Tasmania



Be Inspired
Rotary District 9815
PEOPLE OF ACTION

President Ian's Update

I'll begin by formally welcoming everyone to the new Rotary year. I would like to thank those who attended the changeover to witness the induction of Russell and myself as the presidents for 2025-26. Also, I wish to acknowledge Past Pres. Micheal and his board for the way in which they ran the club during the last year.

On a sad note, we remember Helen Gaffney who passed away early Tues. 24th June. Helen's husband Ian was a long-time member of our club. Our thoughts are with Ian and his family at this sad time. Helen's funeral will be held next **Wednesday 2nd July at 2pm** at Nielsen's chapel Warragul.

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BOOKINGS & APOLOGIES 0419 391 586

On to business, I've cancelled the proposed Colour Run, it was going to take a lot more organising than I first thought, thanks to those who did offer assistance. It maybe something for the future?

We've been approached to do a 2 day sausage sizzle at the STEM event at Lardner Park in early August, I have sent out an email outlining the details regarding this event, PLEASE READ IT. At the next meeting on July 1st, hopefully we will have an idea of the required people power we would need, if we decide to take up the offer to participate.

Are the members prepared to run the Australia Day celebrations in Drouin as we have done in the past?? We will look at this in the near future, but please consider if you are willing to support this event

A donation has been made to Olivia's Place. I'll outline the details at the meeting

We have special guest speaker for this meeting.....you will have to be there to find out who it is!!

Thanks must go to Roger, Janette, Josh and all those who worked hard to make this month's market the success it was. Great job, well done.

And then....



The Choir