

Last Week's Program:

Sisters, Mel Browney & Annie Van Der Heyden have become well known to the group of Cyclists from our club over the last 3 years. They are the proprietors of the **Soul Sisters Café** in Longwarry.



We invited them to speak to Rotary about the challenges of setting up a small business and the challenges they faced during the Covid Pandemic.

About 5½ years ago the girls were travelling to Box Hill Hospital to work every day.

One day Mel noticed the Café was for sale and suggested to Annie that they buy it. Annie thought she was “mad” but after some discussions they went ahead and did it.

Four minutes commute to work versus 1½ each way was a huge plus. But it has not been easy, given that they both have young children to manage as well a full time job.

When they bought the business previous customers gave them some advice: “Don’t change the coffee”. As neither of them drink coffee they took this advice and feedback from members at the meeting confirmed that decision. They also make some (but not all) of their ranges of cakes and biscuits.

Despite describing them-selves as “a couple of farm girls from Longwarry” they showed their considerable business acumen when describing how they run their business. They have developed a strong bond with their staff who are key to their success and make every effort to get to know their customers names (and brew of choice).

Covid lockdowns and restrictions meant they reluctantly had to reduce hours for some of their staff but most of them were happy to return once the situation improved. On top of Covid they also experienced a burglary in which lost quite a bit of cash, their security system and prizes they had won in several local Business Awards.



Well done to Kevin for asking Annie & Mel to talk to us. It was good to see them being being treated to Rotary hospitality after all the hospitality we have received at Soul Sisters.

Notes from the President

Farmworld will be held from Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th of March. Some Rotarians will be required for the Bump-In on the Monday to Wednesday.

Gary will be seeking volunteers from next week.



Rotary Conference:

Gary spoke briefly about how much he and the other participants enjoyed the conference and of the quality of the Speakers. It was a pity there were not more members present to take part in this event.

This link will give you a summary of what we missed out on:

<https://rotary9820.org.au/sitepage/district-9820-conference-2022/about-the-speakers>

<https://rotary9820.org.au/sitepage/district-9820-conference-2022/keynote-speaker-fiona-wood>



Ride to Conference

Max Scott and Ian Symons completed the 85 km ride to conference this year in 4 hours and a few seconds. Riding in perfect conditions they shaved 30 minutes off last year's time. Sponsorship has been slow to come in so if you plan to chip in please do it soon.

Rotary Board Meeting Held:

Tues 8th March at Hong Kong Inn at 4:45pm

Market Saturday 19th March

Figures reported at the meeting on Tues 22nd Feb were excellent. A figure of \$1318.55 collected from Stallholders, \$510 made on the Bar B Que. And donations of \$510

Swap Meet 2022:

Plans are coming together for Swap Meet and Show'n Shine.

As part of our advertising blitz we are asking members to put a *half A4*

sized notice in the window of their car(s) to help promote the event.

A copy will be emailed to you with this Bulletin and copies will be provided at Rotary.



Partner's Movie Night



'End Polio' Movie Night Fundraiser at Warragul Cinema Tuesday is now Tuesday March 15th Obviously a partner's night.

The Film is "The Duke".

Swap Meet 2022: Volunteers will be sought for

this in the next week or so.



Program Groups for the Next Few Months

Look for your name in the list below and organise with your colleagues for the dates assigned to you.

Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
Mar 8 th & 22 nd	Apr 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th	May 3 rd 10 th , 17 th , 24 th	June 7 th , 14 th , 21 st
	Jane Playdon	D Van Leeuwen	John Franklin
David Veal	Pauline Maunder	Rob Stewart	Tim Wills
Mark Howes	Anita Coonan	Clarrie Debnam	Graeme Watts
Russell Ford	Ian Brooks	Jo McKechnie	Don Blackley
Roger Playdon	Ray Howe	Keith Pretty	John Kinrade
Colin Gardner	Ian Haughton	Gary Surman	Peter Konjevic
	Tricia Jones	David Proposch	Max Hine
Paul Davine	Bob Vogt	Rob Coustley	Keith Cook
Max Scott	John Tricarico	Judy Alexander	Max Hine

Drouin Rotary Club Leadership Team 2021/22

President:	Gary Scanlon		
Secretary/Administration:	Russell Ford		
Treasurer/President Elect/On-to-Conference:	Roger Playdon		
Past President/Asst. Youth/ Rotary Centenary Directors	Russell Ford		
Community Service/Projects:	Bill Petschack	Work Force and Resources:	Kevin Roberts
Director Rotary Foundation:	Ian Symons	Youth/New Generations:	Sharryn Marshall
Membership & COVID Support:	Bob Vogt	Insurance & Risk Management:	Ian Haughton
Sergeants-at-Arms:	Ian Haughton/Jane Playdon		

Administration Assist Secretary in all areas of administration

Protection Officer: Ian Symons	Rotary Family: Pauline Maunder
Attendance: Peter Konjevic	Property: William Wong
Grants Coordinator: Terry Blundell	Club Historians: Don Blackley/Russell Ford

Market: Manage preparation for and delivery of the monthly 'Drouin Rotary Craft & Produce Market'

Manager: David Veal	BBQ Control: David Proposch	Support & Manpower: Max Scott
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Public Image/Publicity: Manage communications, both internal and external

PI & Digital Media: Tim Wills	Bulletin Editor: Ian Haughton	Photography: Keith Pretty/Clarrie Debnam
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From the Editor:

I have received a copy of the Bulletin from the Rotary Club of Kooweerup/Lang Lang.

1. I note with envy that they only meet fortnightly.
2. Therefore they only have a Bulletin every fortnight.

Two good ideas I reckon.

