



SERVICING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale (Inc) Club Bulletin

Date: 17th October 2021



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some good news at last! Having just watched the latest press conference it is really encouraging to hear that we are coming out of lockdown next Thursday night. It means we can look forward to being able to see each other in person. We have a board meeting scheduled for 26th October then the following week nothing as it is Melbourne Cup Day. The week after we have a guest speaker scheduled so I am hoping by then we can meet in person. However there are things to be ironed out first so watch this space. In the meantime it is fabulous that we can again see our family and friends, albeit still with conditions but manageable. Enjoy the next few weeks, I'm looking forward to having a hair cut as I'm sure everyone is ...if we can get appointments!

It still leaves us in limbo about Op Shop reopening and markets but hopefully it won't be too long before we can see our activities return and we can feel like a normal club again.

I'm looking forward to our participation in the workshops about Membership from the district membership team when we are able to all meet in person and I am very encouraged that most members think this is a good idea and happy to support the initiative. It is the most important issue facing our club at this time. There will be more about this in the very near future.



Last Tuesday saw us up early and a bit bleary eyed for a breakfast meeting so we could Zoom in with former Youth Exchange student Amanda Jones all the way from Savannah, Georgia USA, where it was a respectable 5pm.



SERVICING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale (Inc)

Club Bulletin

It was wonderful to see Amanda after 16 years – she hadn't changed a bit and was as bubbly as ever. We were joined by guests – former RC Warrandyte members Ain Utt and Donna from the Bellarine Peninsula and David Greenwood and Liz who were still enjoying the freedoms on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, as well as one of Amanda's host fathers' Trevor Jones from Hawthorn. Judith Lightfoot, Tony Mooney, Frank Molinaro and Gavin Birch also joined us – the screen shot was taken early in the session.

We had apologies from Bob McKenzie, the Guiver's, Louise Latimer and Pippa Birch.

Since we saw Amanda last, she has done a great variety of things. After graduating from high school she went on to study International Business, Economics and International studies.

She has dabbled in Real Estate, in Rochester where she and her boyfriend bought a property and renovated it. She was always passionate about animals so spent some time working in veterinary critical care. She and her boyfriend went back to her home in Buffalo, NY some years ago where they went into the catering business setting up a food cart then a restaurant.

Then a few years later they moved from Buffalo where it is very cold in winter to the warmer climes of Georgia down south, where she loves the trees and greenery not found in the same way in the north. They bought another house and now Amanda, after returning to college and retraining, is working as a canine Physical Therapist – treating dogs with arthritis, post hip operations and doing rehab – generally similar to what humans with musculo skeletal problems go through! She loves working with animals – enjoys the warmer weather where she can indulge in the beach and surfing which she was first exposed to when she came to Australia.

Amanda reflected that when she came on Youth Exchange as a 15-16 year old she was shy and apprehensive. Her mother was worried about her going to the other side of the world from her home. However she adapted to her year in Australia with great aplomb and enjoyed it. Amanda went to school at Tintern where Liz Kirtlan was a teacher so it was a good choice as one of her host mothers could keep an eye on her.

Amanda said she is still in contact with other Youth Exchange students and spent a month in Brazil with three other students after she finished college so she really appreciated the chance to meet people around the world and the opportunities it opened.

Amanda talked about life in USA which she said became somewhat divided during the Trump years, and still is to a certain extent which she does not like. We discussed Covid – where she is now living there are no restrictions and a high vaccination rate.

It was a great morning with plenty of discussion across the board from all the people who joined. Frank was interested in the real estate in USA which she said went through a slump some years ago, when houses were relatively cheap, but had gradually recovered.



SERVICING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale (Inc)

Club Bulletin

Once again we saw the benefits of Youth Exchange program from a former participant who was very grateful for the experience. We hope to maintain our contact with Amanda and maybe one day see her in person - wouldn't that be nice!

Next week we are having an informal cocktail hour from 5.30-6.30 so we hope as many of you as possible can join us for a chin wag and general catch up.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

<p>Tuesday 19th October</p> 	<p>Social night - via zoom a cocktail hour 5.15 for 5.30 – 6.30 pm <i>With partners to have some fun. No formalities but have a drink and some nibbles and indulge in some chit chat.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 20th October</p>	<p>Cluster Event via Zoom – End Polio Now – Doncaster Club hosting with Greg King</p>
<p>Tuesday 26th October</p>	<p>Board Meeting</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd</p>	<p>Melbourne Cup weekend. TBA</p>
<p>Tuesday 9th November</p>	<p>Club Meeting: Guest Speaker: Paola Kupfersein from the Montessori Early Learning Centre in Donvale Chair: Pippa Birch</p>
<p>Wednesday 17th November</p>	<p>Cluster Meeting via Zoom – North East Link Update. RC Templestowe is hosting. Guest Speaker Duncan Elliot</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd November</p>	<p>AGM and program TBA</p>
<p>Tuesday 30th</p>	<p>TBA</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th December</p>	<p>TBA</p>
<p>Tuesday 14th December</p>	<p>Club Christmas party</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st December</p>	<p>Breakfast Meeting – prior to Christmas break.</p>

