

Rotary



2nd August 2026

bulletin

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARRANDYTE DONVALE

Club Catch Ups:

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:3-8:30pm

At Now and Not Yet Café

Warrandyte

info@warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au

www.warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au

Coming Up: -

Club Catch Up: Tuesday 4th Aug. :
"Living Well at Home With a Terminal
Illness"

Club Catch Up: Tues. 18th Aug: RYLA

Tunstall Market Sunday 30th August



Olive with Rekah who made this stunning cake to celebrate Rotary at our Change Over Night last week. It tasted wonderful too.

COMMUNITY : ENVIRONMENT : SUSTAINABILITY : PURPOSE



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CHANGEOVER NIGHT

We gathered at the Warrandyte Sports Club on Friday 24th July to celebrate the past Rotary year. Derek Bradshaw ably took on the role of MC at the last minute when member Paul Granger was called upon to fly and aeroplane at the last minute!

It was very pleasing to see a lot of old friends - individuals, and members of the various groups and clubs with whom our Club has developed close relationships.

The catering was again undertaken by the wonderful **Pink Ladies** who provided plentiful, delicious finger food. One of the highlights was a stunning “Community Cake” made by **Rekah** who runs the **Cake Reks** stall at the Warrandyte Market. The workmanship in the decoration of the cake was beautiful as was the taste which we all got to sample. Many thanks Reks for such a thoughtful gesture – it was very much appreciated and we are in awe of your talents!



Olive started off the night with a summary of the past year, which is printed in full after this report.

We then had the pleasure of awarding some Paul Harris Fellow awards – Judy Hall to Wayne Rankin for his tireless artwork and graphics for the past two years’ Art Shows. Wayne is a pleasure to work with and his talents as a graphic designer have been such an advantage for us for our publicity and marketing materials for the art show.

Olive then called long time Rotarian Rob Edwards forward to be presented with a ruby PHF (ie 5 sapphires plus 1) for his tireless work in Rotary over more than 40 years. Rob was a charter member of the former Warrandyte Club and has certainly clocked up some thousands of hours of volunteer work over the years.

After a quick break Olive outlined the club’s vision for the next year. The outstanding feature of the night was the induction of 7 new members. All details



are following, with Olive's speech in full followed by her thoughts for the year ahead and formal induction of the new members.

President's - Year in Review



Thanks Derek and good evening everyone, thank you all so much for coming tonight. It's wonderful to be here in such a full room of so many familiar and friendly faces - our members, volunteers, partners, friends and so many who contribute to this great community.

In Rotary, the changeover from one year to the next is always a chance to pause, reflect, acknowledge people's contributions and look ahead to what's next. It's also often the time when we pass on the leadership baton to an incoming team. Tonight we won't be doing that as our current leadership team

have agreed to hang in there for another year but we will be doing some looking back over the past year and looking to the future.

Reflecting on the Context We Set Last Year

At last year's Changeover that I know a number of you attended, Reg and I stepped up as co-presidents of our club and we set a clear intention for the year ahead.

This time last year we said:

We want to better understand the make-up of our community and what's important to the people who live, work, study and play here. We want to do this so that our Rotary club can better reflect our communities and strengthen our positive involvement in harnessing the collective impact of partnerships over the years to come.

We committed to shifting from "doing for" to "working with" the community — convening diverse stakeholders, hearing varied voices, and encouraging collective action. We said we wanted to better understand our community, its challenges, assets and aspirations and to strengthen collaboration and partnerships that reflect the way Warrandyte actually works.

Looking back now a year on, I'm proud to say that while we certainly haven't nailed it, this vision has guided our club's actions, shaped our priorities, and is clearly visible in the partnerships, initiatives, and relationships we strengthened this year and the internal changes we've been making in our club.

New & Strengthened Initiatives – locally & globally

This year has been one of learning and new beginnings — very much aligned with our commitment to “working with” our community, and I’d like to quickly run through a couple of ‘new beginnings’ highlights for us this year.

*The first has been working with Daniel Webber and his team at Anderson’s Creek Primary School to establish an **EarlyAct Club** which gets into full swing this term. EarlyAct is a Rotary program for primary school students, designed to help them develop leadership skills, and a sense of service above self and volunteerism. Seeing the enthusiasm of the 26 grade 4&5 students who have signed up is a delight and we’re excited to be able to support these young leaders and their guiding teachers as they begin their experience of being of service.*

*Last year was a tough one for our **Tunstall Square Market** in Donvale, which we’ve been running for more than 35 years. Month after month, our market days were washed out — it felt like the last Sunday of every month came with guaranteed torrential rain.*

*But that didn’t stop one of our new Board Directors — and **1st Templestowe Scouts Group** Leader — Paul Granger. Paul worked closely with **Manningham Council** to come up with a new and improved Market Agreement, and the results have been remarkable. Not only has he stopped the rain ??, but we’ve seen a major increase in stallholder numbers and variety, a great new community atmosphere with food trucks and live music, and a significant boost to our fundraising, which we share with our Scout group partners.*

Speaking of partners, I’m pleased to share that, for the first time, the three service clubs in our area have formed a genuine working partnership — bringing Warrandyte and Park Orchards Lions Clubs together with Warrandyte Donvale Rotary to support major water-well projects in South Sudan, the world’s most poverty-stricken country.

This collaboration shows what service organisations can achieve when we focus on shared purpose rather than organisational differences. Together, we funded a well this year, giving more than 5,000 people access to clean water for the first time. In the years ahead, we can hopefully build on this effort and bring additional partners into the project.

*Coming back closer to home, we’ve established a new partnership this year with the **Park Orchards Community Pantry** — an outstanding volunteer-run initiative that rescues more than 500 kilograms of food every week from landfill and shares it with local residents from a small, welcoming pantry space on a quiet street corner. The Pantry has a strong community following, with more than 600 people on its Facebook page and over 300 households regularly accessing food each week.*

*Its impact has been recognised through multiple award nominations this year, including the **Manningham Civic Awards** and the **Australian Government Menzies & Deakin Community Awards**.*

I'm also pleased to announce tonight that our Board has agreed to support the Pantry through a formal auspice arrangement — which will be news to the Pantry contingent here this evening. We're looking forward to the opportunities this partnership will create for surrounding communities.

*For the first time we became a proud sponsor of the **Run Warrandyte** under 8yr olds event.*

*Lastly, I'd like to mention our **Warrandyte Art Show**. Our club has successfully delivered 39 Art Shows, almost consecutively (minus Covid). This year we continued our partnership with the Warrandyte Artisans and introduced a **Warrandyte High School student exhibition**, giving local students a platform to share their creativity and be celebrated in their community. Apart from bringing a new energy and interest to the Art Show, it was a great experience for our club which certainly strengthened our connection with WHS.*

Strengthened Partnerships & Shared Advocacy

Alongside these initiatives and in line with the vision we set last year, we've been working hard to build mutual trust & understanding with many of our community partners across Warrandyte & Donvale.

*The establishment of the **Warrandyte Volunteer Alliance (WaVA)** has been a significant milestone that we've been part of this year. "WaVA provides a clear albeit loose structure for local volunteer organisations to connect and work together more easily. The aim of this alliance is to build stronger relationships, shared understanding, and support for each other in practical & meaningful ways. It is already becoming a trusted forum for collaboration with our first '**Volunteer Campaign & Register**' shared initiative underway and I'm proud that our club is able to play a key support role in helping it/this come to life.*

*As many of us here tonight know, **WaVA** grew out of our shared advocacy following the **Warrandyte community facilities review** and certainly demonstrated the strength of united community voices. Together as a partnership of 17 community organisations, we were able to showcase the needs of local organisations, the value of volunteer-run services, and the importance of accessible, fit for purpose spaces for communities to access. These efforts have certainly deepened our partnerships and laid the groundwork for greater collective impact in the years ahead, while also strengthening our working relationship with Council.*

Closing Reflection

None of this happens without the people who show up, contribute their time and energy, and stay committed to their community.

To our club members — a heartfelt thank you. To our Board members — Rob Edwards, Judy Hall, Paul Granger, Derek Bradshaw, Reg Ellery - thank you for your leadership & support.

Finally, to our Op Shop contingent - volunteers & manager — you are our fundraising engine room and we couldn't do it without you. To our Art Show volunteers, our market teams, our Wdyte Community Bank sponsor, our community partners, and supporters — thank you all for your generosity last year and your ongoing commitment to our wonderful community.

President's Year Ahead Speech – Olive Aumann

****Warrandyte Donvale Rotary Changeover Celebration****

Thank you, everyone, for staying with us — we're almost at the most exciting part of the evening. As I mentioned earlier, changeover isn't just a moment to reflect on the year that's passed; it's also a moment to look ahead. And the year ahead is already shaping into one of growth, renewal, and stronger connections.

Much of that comes from the foundations we've built together — some over many years, and others more recently through our shared advocacy and through WaVA. - Warrandyte Volunteer Alliance.

*Tonight marks an important step in that journey, with the launch of our two new membership pathways: **Companion Club membership** and **Community Partner membership**.*

These pathways are designed to make Rotary more accessible, more flexible, and more reflective of how people contribute to community life today. They create simple, practical ways for individuals and organisations to stay connected to Rotary's work — and for Rotary to stay connected to theirs — strengthening collaboration, understanding, and shared impact.

***Companion Club membership** offers a low-barrier way to be part of Rotary. It's designed for people who want to contribute but may not have the capacity for regular meetings or ongoing commitments. Companion members can join projects when they're able, bring forward ideas and passion projects, and enjoy*

the connection and support of a community-minded group — without the pressure of a heavy volunteer load.

*Our second pathway, **Community Partner membership**, strengthens ties across local organisations. Each organisation nominates a representative to join our club, giving us a direct point of contact and a shared voice in the room. There's no expectation of additional volunteer work — it simply formalises the relationship, supports smoother collaboration, and helps Rotary better understand and complement the work already happening across our community.*

Before we welcome our new members, I want to touch briefly on our priorities for the year ahead.

***First**, we'll be **deepening our partnerships** — continuing our work with WaVA, our community organisations and groups, including through the Volunteer Campaign and Register initiative.*

***Second**, we'll be **strengthening our volunteer-led projects** — That means continuing to grow the Op Shop and its community pantry, improving how we support and develop our volunteers.*

***Third**, we'll be **expanding our impact** — through new collaborations, new members and new opportunities to serve.*

***And finally**, we'll be **building a club that's welcoming, inclusive and future-focused** — a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can contribute in ways that genuinely fit their lives.*

And with that future in mind, it's the perfect moment to make a start with our last priority and welcome our newest members.

*I'd also like to acknowledge three new members who couldn't be here tonight: **Ruth Rankin, Bec Brown, Suprabha Soundararajan**. We look forward to welcoming them all in the coming weeks.*

"Service Above Self" is one of Rotary's guiding principles. It's simple — communities thrive when people put community wellbeing ahead of individual priorities.

And our club is incredibly fortunate, because every one of our new members already lives that. They're not newcomers to service.



New Members: Katie Taubert, Natalie Reinhart, Peter Keep, Amanda Minogue, Sandrajane Vincent-Corry, Grant Purdie and Lachlan McAlry

They're the volunteers who quietly show up, help neighbours, direct local theatre productions, keep the community food pantry running every day. They're the people who step up on Boards and Committees — WHS, WNHH, WCC, WMIAA — taking on child-safety roles and advocating for the greater good. They're the ones who keep our sporting clubs and Scouts groups thriving.

They're the people who established a Landcare group 35 years ago to protect our environment. They're the founders of charitable trusts making a real impact globally.

In short, they've been living Rotary's values long before tonight — and through our new membership pathways, we're recognising that service doesn't begin with an induction.

(Turn to the new members) *By joining Rotary, you're not starting something new. You're widening the circle — connecting your efforts with ours, bringing your strengths into a broader network of community service.*

You bring enthusiasm, commitment, compassion, and lived experience of what it means to be a volunteer in your community.

So tonight, we're not just inducting new members. We're welcoming fellow volunteers, neighbours, and community builders — people who already make a significant difference, and who will help us make an even bigger one together.

Robbie will now present Rotary pins as I read out each new member's name and affiliation.

Name	Affiliation	
Grant Purdy	Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Arts Association	CPM
Marni Jenkins	1 st Templestowe Scouts	CPM
Sandrajane Vincent-Corry	Park Orchards Community Pantry	CPM
Lachlan McAlry	Warrandyte Cricket Club	CPM
Amanda Minogue	Warrandyte Netball Club	CPM
Peter Keep	HELP Charitable Trust	CPM
Natalie Rinehart	Warrandyte Neighbourhood House	CC
Katie Taubert	Warrandyte Pink Ladies	CC

Thank you all for joining us. We're thrilled to have you with us and look forward to your ideas, your energy, your friendship, and the shared journey ahead. Welcome to Warrandyte Donvale Rotary — and thank you for the difference you already make.

Could I ask everyone to stand and give them a warm, rousing welcome.

I'm grateful to each of you for the commitment you bring to this club. I'm excited for the year ahead, and I'm proud of the direction we're moving in — as a club, as partners, and as a community.

Thank you all for your support, your energy, and your belief in Rotary. I'm looking forward to discovering new directions together and everything we will accomplish together.

Final Thankyous:

- **Thankyou to –**

- *Derek for EmCeeing at the last minute*
- *Katie, Sandra and Nicole for the catering*
- *Rekha – Rekha's cakes,*
- *Our community partners for joining us: WCC, WNC, WMIAA, PO Pantry, WA's, 1st Templestowe Scouts, HELP Charitable Trust*
- *All of our new members for your trust and faith in joining our Rotary club and helping us bed down and refine these new membership pathways as we go.*

- **Ongoing Community support**

- *We acknowledge the ongoing support of the broader community*

Thankyou all for coming and helping to make this such a celebratory night.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Tuesday 4th August	<i>Club Catch Up – Now and Not Yet Café – Yarra Street, Warrandyte 6.30 for 7pm start</i> <i>Guest Speaker: Jane Jordan Eastern Palliative Care “Living well at Home with a Terminal Illness”: an informal discussion about palliative care for those experiencing a terminal illness and the great work that EPC do to assist those going through it. All welcome RSVP to Olive please. CHAIR: Judy Hall</i>
Tuesday 11th August	NO Meeting
Tuesday 18th August	<i>Club Catch Up – Now and Not Yet Café – Yarra Street, Warrandyte 6.30 for 7pm start</i> <i>Guest Speakers: Elim Cheung, Patrick McAlry and Lachlan McAlry were sponsored by our club to attend the recent RYLA camp (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). They will talk about their experience at this wonderful Rotary camp which takes place over a week in the school holidays. All welcome. RSVP to Olive please. CHAIR: David George</i>
Tuesday 25th August	NO Meeting
Sunday 30th August	
Tuesday 1st September	<i>Club Catch Up – Now and Not Yet Café – Yarra Street, Warrandyte 6.30 for 7pm start</i>
Saturday 5th Sept.	



**INVITATION:
EASTERN PALLIATIVE CARE
PRESENTS:**

Living well, at home,
with a terminal illness



Tuesday 4 August
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Now and Not Yet Cafe,
148-150 Yarra Street,
Warrandyte



All welcome - light meal \$16
RSVP by Friday 31st July:
info@warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au

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