



SERVICING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale (Inc)

Club Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Date: 4th September 2021



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

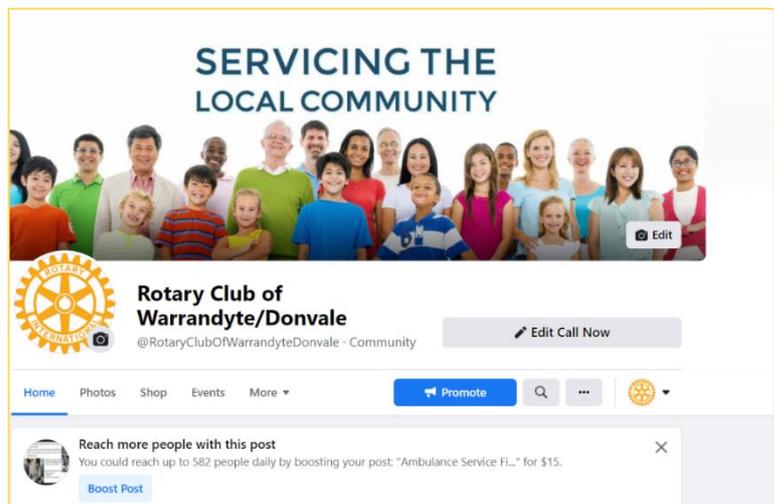
Hello everyone. Today (Friday) I woke up and was convinced it was Saturday. Is anyone else having the same problem? Ground-hog day over and over! Oh well plenty of time to do those jobs put off for so long – cleaning sock drawers, cobwebs from the corners of the ceiling, tidying cupboards etc. No excuse for putting off anything really except for the problem of motivation!

We’ve had a taste of summer in the past couple of days and it was wonderful to have the sun on us, but now it is deteriorating and we’re in for a miserable weekend in tune with the lockdown!

Last Tuesday we had a board meeting with AG Olive present – given that our activities are severely curtailed it was a relatively short meeting but it was good for Olive to see how our club functions and to prepare us for the DG visit coming up on Tuesday week. It will be our first ever DG visit by Zoom but since everything from District is now on Zoom or Teams I’m sure it will all go well.

It’s great to hear the food program is continuing at the Op Shop for those who need it. It is an extra club project that is not a fundraising activity and certainly fills a need in the local community by all accounts. Thanks to Rob Edwards for organizing the roster for that. Free food is also being distributed by *Now and Not Yet Café* as well as, once a week on Wednesdays, by *MCC CareNet* a trailer at the back of the Warrandyte Community Centre has free fruit, vegetables, bread and various other produce to circulate. Both of these are advertised on Facebook.

On that note a segue into the Social Media Seminar last Monday and the importance of us all having Facebook accounts so we can **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ROTARY AND OUR CLUB AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULAR.** I would love to see more members join Facebook if **ONLY TO ADVERTISE OUR CLUB!!** Currently I can think of only about 7 or so, members who see any of our posts out of a membership of 20. The more people who are on Facebook the wider the circulation about us. I can lead a horse to water but I cannot make it drink! We have had around 16



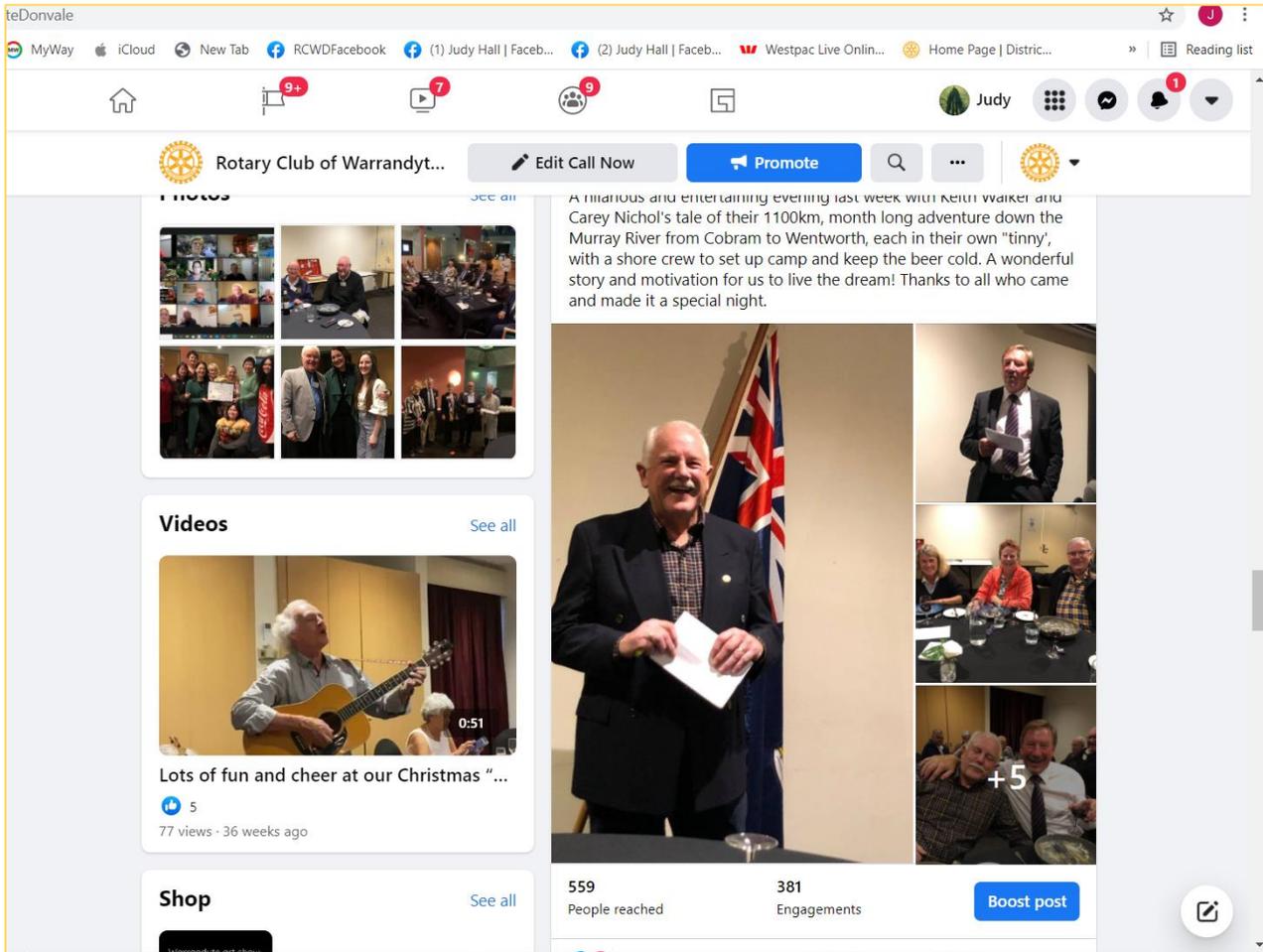


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Facebook posts in the past 3 months, but I would like to see more activity by more members.



posts

This post reached 559 people and had many, many comments, because it was shared by a lot of people who read it and it was interesting.

World- wide Facebook has 2.8 billion users. Our Op Shop is very active and has many responders and that's one of the reasons our OP Shop is so popular because **THEY ADVERTISE ON FACEBOOK!** If you don't know how to do it ask your grandchildren, and make sure your privacy settings are put in place. The most successful clubs are the ones who spruik themselves on social media and are switched on to videoing their activities.

Kevin and I also joined the Vocational seminar last Monday whilst eating our dinner. They talked about the Special interest groups within Rotary such as Rotary Fellowship Groups, Friendship Exchanges and Vocational Training Teams (were the Group Study Exchange) – for working young people who go overseas and experience working within their field to widen their experience).

We heard about the Pride in Workmanship Awards, Young Business Leaders Awards (RC Nunawading), Business Zoom sessions (host a Zoom meeting with a person such as someone from the Chamber of Commerce and invite local businesses), the Challenge to Lead program, the Police Mentoring Program, Rotary Alumni, and vocational



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interviews at local high schools (ie mock interviews to help prepare students for work related interviews), and participation in Conversational English classes for new migrants. So, lots of good ideas there.

Watch out for the next edition of **Change Maker – the District 9810 Newsletter** and have a read to see what is coming up in September. I would like to see more member engagement in district events, seminars etc especially the newer members. It’s how you learn what Rotary is all about, outside of our club.

Next week we have a challenge for you all – Past DG Alma will be leading a Membership workshop and needs to have you all actively participating. After all we are going nowhere with our membership so we need to have an injection of new ideas otherwise we do not want to contemplate the alternative!

I look forward to seeing you all there on Tuesday to make it a great night. In the meantime keep up your spirits, try not to let apathy get the better of you – I seem to remember saying that about this time last year!

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Monday 6 th September	<i>District Event:</i> Connecting and Engaging with Alumni – <i>with Kehela Vandenberg</i>
Tuesday 7 th September	<i>Club Meeting: via ZOOM – CHAIR: GAVIN BIRCH</i> Alma Reynolds MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP & VIDEO Have pen and paper with you for a working session
Tuesday 14 th September	 <i>District Governor’s Visit:</i> Join us for this much anticipated event with Daryl and Jenny Moran to hear what our DG has to say and to hear about Jenny’s project “Days for Girls”.
Tuesday 21 st September	<i>Club Assembly and follow up session with alma Reynolds</i>
Tuesday 28 th September	<i>No meeting</i>
Tuesday 5 th October	<i>Club Meeting via Zoom:</i> <i>Guest Speaker Joseph Carauna from Warrandyte High School</i>



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UPDATE: TEEN MOMS' EMPOWERMENT

DATE: 14 August 2021

Due to the Third Wave of Covid-19 in South Africa and being on Level 4/Level 3 restrictions, our group meetings for teen moms still have not resumed. Jeanette and the Options counsellors continue to meet with the young women mostly one-to-one, but occasionally in small groups of three or four.

Jeanette has changed the structure of the groups. One group will focus on the girls who are currently in school and the other group will focus on the teenage girls who are not in school. We will focus the third group, led by Berenice, on young women who are between 21 and 30 years of age as these young women have lots of potential but need coaching and guidance. Additionally, our Learn to Earn project is up and running and soon will be helpful with other ways of empowering our young moms.

Jeanette reported that our matric teen moms are working hard but are very challenged in getting ready for their final exams because of losing so much school time due to covid. Many of them had good grades for their mid-year exams which is encouraging but some will probably need some tutoring for science/math concerns.

Aisher's June grades were okay. She has had some challenges in managing her child's care and keeping up with her studies as her grandmother has withdrawn. HELP is assisting her with rent and with her crèche fees. She sees her Options counsellor and Jeanette regularly and she is taking responsibility even though it's hard she does have support.

Rethabile had excellent grades mid-year. She has a very good bonding with her child. We help pay for Child Care and she keeps in contact with her Options counsellor regularly. The father of her child has expressed interest in attending our Legacy Dad workshop for young fathers and hopefully that will help him grow in his role.

Micayla is doing well and her grades are much better. For this year she is living in the hostel to help her focus on her schoolwork and her mom is helping with her baby. She is home on the weekends so she has time with her child. She is responsible and Jeanette is encouraged.

Ishakahaya, a new teen mom, had very good school marks mid-year! We helped her this year with school clothes and clothes for her baby, who is now two months old. She lives with her parents who are very supportive and her mom cares for her baby. The baby's father is not around.

Siyasanga, also a new teen mom, had very good marks mid-year. Her baby is one month old and her family is helping her so she can stay in school. We helped with baby clothes and formula.

Joanne has also been supported by Options Teen Moms Empowerment program this year. We assisted with school clothes and school stationery. Her child is one year and attends crèche. Joanne and her child live with her grandmother.

Lekonya, also a new teen mom, has a one month baby. We have been supporting her and assisted with school stationery, school clothes and baby things. Her Mom is supportive but unfortunately lost her job due to covid-19 so their situation is quite difficult.





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Carmen is in grade 9 and comes often to Options. We assisted with school clothes and stationery and also with baby things as she has a 2 month old child. Both her parents passed on and she lives pretty much on her own in the house so we assist her with food as well as she is very vulnerable. We are trying to assist her to get the Child Support Grant which is challenging due to her age but Jeanette is working on it.

Carmenisha is also in grade 9 and has a 9 month old baby. We assisted her with school clothes and stationery. Her Mom is very supportive and Options supports her, too.

One challenge we have is that some of the girls do not have a cell phone so keeping contact with them and making appointments is very challenging. We are discussing the way forward with this as the girls without phone don't necessarily like the cheap phones (!!!).

One of the challenges of not having our normal groups is that the girls are more vulnerable to getting into unhealthy relationships with young men. We are discussing signing up these teen moms with our Learn to Earn project. Because of being in school they don't have much time to attend the workshops at Options but there are ways that they could earn points to help strengthen their ability to cope with their own needs and the needs of their child. The points will be spent in our pop-up shop and it gives them a way to "earn" a little and not be as vulnerable to men who want to buy things for them in exchange for relationships/sex.

Another issue that has surfaced is that some of the girls in school experience stigma, bullying and inappropriate sexual advances because of being teen moms. They experience this from other students but also from teachers. We work with them one-to-one in setting boundaries but also are discussing what we could do to advocate for them at the Department of Education.

Thank you for the practical support that enables this Teen Mom Empowerment project to help vulnerable young moms to reach their goals and dreams. We are all GREATLY appreciative!

Peter Keep

Help Charitable Trust.