



SERVICING THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale (Inc)
Club Bulletin

Date: 12th February 2023



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our last meeting the 24th Jan was a return to the Grand Hotel. We had a number of apologies and a number of our members away.

February will be back to business with the Riverside Market programme starting again and the Tunstall Market at the end of the month.

Our meeting nights will be February 14th and we are doing something different, with our meeting being held at the Warrandyte Cricket Club 6.30 for 7.00. On this occasion will be meeting with some Cricket Club members and being addressed by their President and a couple of up and coming cricketers. There will be a casual meal and then they would like some information about our Club and their involvement particularly with the Art Show.

February 28th we have invited the Member for Menzies, Keith Wolahan, to address us at the Grand Hotel for a normal dinner meeting.

This month I will be representing our Club at the Manningham Cluster meeting and the District President's meeting at the Mulgrave Country Club.

With the Art Show only seven weeks away we have started to receive some artist entries. I would ask all members to support our co-chairs for this event, Terry and Judy, as we prepare and then operate the show.

The meetings activity was primarily concerning putting all the processes in place for the Art Show. Sponsorship, judge, catalogue, advertising, screens, physical assistance with the set-up etc. A good working night with a lot achieved.

The Board will be meeting on Tuesday 21st Feb. at the Georges.

It was reported that Bob McKenzie is progressing along well with his treatment and is able to remain involved at the Op Shop from time to time. The sales at the shop are going extremely well, which is great news.

See you all at the Cricket Club.

David



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UP COMING PROGRAMME

<p>Tuesday 14th February</p>	<p><i>Club Meeting with Warrandyte Cricket Club</i></p> <p>At their club rooms: Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte (opposite Goldfields shopping centre) Please let Rob know if you are not attending so he can advise numbers for catering.</p>
<p>21st February</p>	<p><i>No Meeting</i></p>
<p>Sunday 26th February</p>	
<p>Tuesday 28th February</p>	<p><i>Normal Club Meeting at the Grand Hotel Warrandyte</i> Partners and Guests night – please bring a friend, neighbour, work colleague and make this worth Keith’s while – he’s a busy man.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Keith Wolahan MP -Our local member for Menzies.</p> <p>Chair: Steve Ennor Greeter: Ian Thomlinson Property: Frank Molinaro</p>
<p>Saturday 4th March</p>	
<p>Tuesday 7th March</p>	<p><i>No Meeting</i></p>
<p>Tuesday 14th March</p>	<p><i>Normal Club Meeting, The Grand Hotel Warrandyte</i> Art Show Briefing</p> <p>Chair: Judy Hall Greeter: Tony Mooney Property: Kevin Hall</p>



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HELP UPDATE

JAN-FEB 2023

We are leading with a report about the great outcomes from our Siphos Stars project at Khayelitsha in 2022 which has our longest lead time.

We start working on advertising in February, go live with promotion in May and send funds in August. At the other end, Uyesu Unathi get busy buying and packaging up presents so they are ready for distribution just prior to Christmas. It's a long time with a lot of work, but as you will see from the report extremely worthwhile.



1581 gifts were give to children in three distributions

November 12

We drove in convoy to a neighbourhood about 10 min from Uyesu Unathi premises. As we arrived children started coming from all over. It's amazing how quickly good news travels!

Our volunteers grouped children by age and sat them in rows. Santa and his helpers did a great job of entertaining the kids. The crowd grew quickly and the singing got noisy. It's hard to explain how unique this experience is for these kids. In this culture adults don't normally interact with children in fun games and activities. They are under-stimulated, and their development is hindered.



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Their parents were wondering what was happening. When we told them that our friends from Australia had generously provided the bags for each of the children they were blown away! They thought it too good to be true. It was overwhelming to see their joy watching the children receiving gifts. The only other time people get free things is when politicians hand out free t-shirts and food hampers in exchange for votes.

They watched to make sure their family didn't miss out. Initially they pushed forward and jumped ahead because they are used to missing out. So it was wonderful to reassure them that there was enough for all.

As we handed out bags we read the names of donors on the star and told them: "X & Y from Australia bought this for you." Some kid's faces light up while some are slow to respond. But it's beautiful to watch as they all leave holding tightly to their packets.

In this broken community, there is a break from their mundane, cold existence. There is laughter, joyful singing and heartfelt appreciation. I looked at all the children and wished we could stay longer and tell them over and over again that they matter.

We then drove to another area and did the same thing all over again. Children everywhere! Loads of fun.

Driving to different areas avoids one large gathering at Uyesu Unathi. It works well. We are able to reach more children in a better managed way. It takes more time, but it is a better experience for all.

November 19

We had a Christmas party at the Uyesu Unathi premises. It was a blast! We told the community to be there at 10am. They arrived at 7am! The kids were lined up



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outside the fence and there was quite a vibe.

Although all the volunteers were tired, they poured out their hearts with fun songs and animated dances. The toddlers were overwhelmed and needed comforting and the pre-teens were trying to be cool, but were still excited to receive their gifts.

The mothers were excited too. One was very enthusiastic and wanted to dance with us. When we got closer to her it was obvious she had been drinking, but she still had fun. Soon it was all over and a great experience has been had by all.

Zusakhe and her team did an excellent job of organizing the event. They were well prepared and bought the items way in advance with ample time to sort and package all the gifts.

The children benefited immensely. Not only did they receive gifts (always a win!), but they were part of an event that took them out of their normal routine; they were included in a fun-filled time where they were treated graciously and with respect. It was a good time for the community to see that people actually care.

It was also a great encouragement to many parents because their children were able to receive gifts that would not have been possible if it weren't for this project.

Thank you for all the hard work of promoting this event.

The volunteers also won by handing out all these gifts. It always feels good to be generous. It was a boost for them and a team-building exercise to do it together.

So thank you to all of HELP's partners who helped to give generously to the Siphos Stars project, for your support and incredible organisation to make this project a reality.

This past year, due to the ongoing effects of COVID, shortage of electricity, and a



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failing economy, there is a growing hopelessness in our country, especially prevalent in the townships. Khayelitsha is growing as people are migrating to the Western Cape. There are an increasing number of vulnerable children. They grow up fighting for survival, and because of daily exposure to trauma, their childlike innocence is replaced with a jaded, cynical outlook on life. There is very little good news. So, thank you for making their lives brighter and better


Mark Parris, Chairman of Uyesu Unathi.

**WARRANDYTE
ART SHOW 2023
MARCH 17th – 19th**



**WARRANDTYE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Sponsors:  **Bendigo Bank** 

Rotary  **CELEBRATING
WARRANDYTE
ART HERITAGE**

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