



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 01

President: Sue Ballard

01 July 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thanks to all for making the changeover night such a memorable one. Having the support of so many leading up to and during the night means a lot as I head into my year as president. It will be an interesting year as uncertainty during the last 5 months will continue for a while longer. I have experience dealing with constant change, adapting and progressing in different strategies to achieve results and while it can be unsettling it is manageable. Look how well we have all done so far.

It will be a busy year ahead. We will still have a lot happening with markets, apprenticeship awards and other projects in the pipeline. We have the celebration of 100 years of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand happening early 2021. It is also a great time to reflect on what Rotary means to us as a club, as individuals and the community.

I haven't been in Rotary for long but the Fellowship I have experienced at the club and in the wider Rotary family has given me a wider community and global focus than I had expected.

Monday night's celebration was a great reminder of the Rotary experience. With ceremony and tradition there was also fun and laughter. Thank you all for making my night so special and welcoming my friends Crash Tash and Yoghurt so welcome. They both enjoyed the night. Ron's interview may not have come up with too many surprises I hope, but both my friends enjoyed putting me on the spot.

Thank you also to Stuart and last year's board for all that was achieved in the 2019/20 year. Under difficult circumstances so much was achieved. Everyone at the club should be proud what we were able to accomplish in the year. We are small but we are able to do so much.

Thank you also to all those who have helped me prepare for my year ahead. Special thanks to Warwick and Bill for your mentorship, Bob L for your guidance and Bob W for reminding me to stop and laugh occasionally.

You all inspire me to do more and achieve goals during the year. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sue

MEETING REPORT

Stuart delivers his final address as President



Now – this is how you do it!!



Sue gives her maiden speech.



Sue's

Sue thanks Stuart for his leadership during 2019-2020.

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

Ron Brooks ran an entertaining quiz session with Sue so that we could find out a little more about her life outside of Rotary. Sue's friend, Tash, who had worked with Sue for a number of years acted as the 'fact checker' on the answers Sue gave. Where needed 'Yoghurt', Sue's other friend chimed in with additional editorial comment.

A brief, but enlightening, few minutes. Thanks for maintaining the tradition, Ron.

President's Report for Changeover

Twelve months ago in this very room we talked about the new Rotary theme—ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD. As usual this club connected with many families and many organisations. From where I sat COVID-19 truly connected the world and we struggled to be as involved as we usually are. So many of our club assist others and from that they gain enrichment and new meaning in their lives.

The Presidential year offers an enhanced window on our club's efforts. My school visits, attendance at RYDA, plaque presentations and involvement in occasions that recognise and reward outstanding young people have given me great satisfaction. Our club has for years lifted up young people and made many youngsters better people; something of which we can all be proud.

I sat down, with pen in hand, to list all those I wanted to thank. It is a big list and you don't want to be here all night. After 33 years in Rotary I could look out at the members present and despair that the club is so small in number -- instead I look out at an amazing small group of people who achieve an enormous amount

My job was made more satisfying and more rewarding by the professional efforts of my friend and secretary, Bob Laslett, the meticulous money management of Warwick Stott, the wise counsel and creative and reliable job of producing our weekly "Happenings"- Bill Marsh.

We are looked after every Monday evening and fed well due to Ray Smith's diligence. Ron Brooks has provided us with a wonderful program and in a year with 3 "no shows", we continued smoothly. The thorough preparation and personal engagement of Glenys Grant continued and gave us an outstanding Youth program. Our Blackburn Craft Market has continued to be a desirable destination and John McPhee's efforts have been marvellous. I've been delighted to get to know Sue better and have watched her step up and embrace her President-elect experience.

In August I received a phone call that rocked and shocked me. After dropping Barb and Bob Williams at the airport only hours earlier, Barb told me that my mate, Bob, had had a stroke. All the planets aligned for Bob. He received quick, correct medical treatment and was able to rehab in Adelaide. By the time Bob returned to club meetings he had recovered very well. Bob, we are so pleased you are still with us and I thank you for your engaging, amusing and entertaining Sergeant sessions and RYDA courses. Thanks, Barb, for your huge efforts at breakfast club, RYDA and nursing Bob.

Chris Tuck willingly took on a new position- Compliance- and along with his Community portfolio carried out the duties with the efficiency of a cherry grower and beef cattle producer. Thank you for your 24 years with our club, Chris. I have known Chris since day one. He rang me after seeing my name on the Whitehorse Library wall as the Rotary contact.

We lost Ian Tease after six months and thank him for his efforts in International. Past President Mike Finke resigned and joined the Rotary Club of Nunawading. We wish Mike well in his role as A.G. next Rotary year. I first met John Bindon more than 35 years ago and have always been impressed by his warmth and professionalism. It was a pleasure to have John back in the club. Thanks John.

Barbara Searle and John Donaghey contributed to our club when required and requested to take on a task. Thank you both.

It was my pleasure to induct Indi Hangan into our club and he assisted our club during the year and continues to be one of our success stories. A great Rotary ambassador.

Our club is strengthened by our Honorary Members and friends of Forest Hill. We were saddened that John Rogers, Graham Sharman and Joan Harper passed on during the year.

Although this Rotary year has fizzled to an end, I want to thank you all for your involvement with our club this year. The last 4 months have been challenging but it still has been wonderful to be part of a talented force for good in the world. Thank you for your faith in Rotary. The new normal will still need your passion, skills and dedication. I believe we will have to change the way we go about things to grow and remain relevant in the future.

Your community thanks you for your efforts. Service to others is the rent we pay for our room here on earth.

Thanks for the opportunity to lead this club and for your support.

Stuart

The “Feather Duster’s Final Flutter

I would like to thank all club members and partners for being involved in an enjoyable changeover dinner. It might not have had all the bells and whistles of previous dinners but it was much, much better than a Zoom C/O. I was delighted that Glenys was able to be part of the night via Zoom. Thanks Bill and Ron for organizing this.

I also appreciated the lovely box of chocolates and Past President Certificate.

I wish Sue all the best for her year as president.

PP Stuart-- or "latest feather duster".

The Sergeant Chips In

Tonight, the Forest Hill Flyers team of superb, socialising, stable, syncopated, supportive, stylish superstars has their captaincy role, hand balled from Stu to Sue for the 20/21 year so I thought that some of our player’s nick names needed updating.

Stuart - “Stewie the Lip” –nickname from his Apex days remains the same as he is still the fastest talker in the East and a multi linguist- MEEEEOWWW!

Sue - “Suebedobedoo” – a name from the past as our dog whispering new captain has the whole collection of the old tv show “I Love Lucy”

Sue suggested her two friends in attendance also should be included so starting with Tash. Sue advised that she came here from South Africa via Perth, likes orienteering but a bit accident prone. So, my suggestion is “Crash Tash” as she orientated herself from South Africa to here but can get disoriented and discombobulate herself.

Sue’s other mate is Anne Marie, who Sue says likes to travel and go to the ballet and opera. So, as she likes to take in culture, I think her nick name should be “Yoghurt.”

Bob L - “Big Bad Bob” - the man who likes to send us back to school

Warwick - “Kelpie Wazza” – gone from rounding up sheep on his farm for market to rounding up us for market

Chris - “Cha Che Chris” – prefers the company of Charolais and cherries

Ray - “Tai Chi Ray” – professes Tai Chi not only keeps you fit but cures everything from toothache to piles

Ron - "Babbling Brooks" – he is still of the opinion if 100 words are adequate then 1,000 words must be better.

John Donaghey - "Wheely JohnDon" – loves anything with four wheels, except supermarket trollies

Glenys - "O.G." – Organiser Glenys -if you stand still for too long, she will organise you into doing something useful

Bill - "Zoomer Bill" he can arrange your next party in your study or a phone box

John Bindon - "Boomerang Bindon" – made of sturdy oak and has returned, to kicking more Rotary goals

John McPhee - "Ranger John" – has gone from a bank loan arranger to standout stallholder arranger

Ian - "In and Out Ian" has spent his life doing good in and out of Australia

Barbara S - "Shades Searle" – wears such bright colours you need sunglasses to be with her

Barb W - "Brekky Barb" – maker of pancakes and terrific toastie tributes for teenage troops taking tucker.

Finally, Bob W "Howzat Bob" – with the footy team he supports he always looks forward to the cricket season. Bob W.

CELEBRATIONS

This week we have a fantastic reason to celebrate – it is Ray's birthday.

I could tell you how many he has celebrated but it is a closely guarded secret. If we put the correct number of candles on a cake – the cake would be huge and we would have a forest fire on our hands!

We can all only wish that we reach Ray's venerable age and that we still have half his energy. Must be the Tai Chi each day.

Happy Birthday on the 7th July, Ray from us all.



NEXT MEETING

Our meeting on the 6TH July will be at Bucatini Restaurant at 6.30pm.

This meeting will take the form of a club forum with President and Directors outlining their programs and thoughts for the coming year.

FAREWELL TO STAN & JOAN



On Friday family, friends and Rotarians gathered at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery to farewell Joan & Stan Harper. Stan was a long-time member of RCFH and through the Harper Bequest continues to support the club's activities. His wife, Joan, was always by his side and supported him throughout a lifetime of "Service Above Self" for both Rotary and Probus.

BLACKBURN MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

Jo-ann of **pee wee designs** and Ebony of **EbBie Jorge & Co** share a stall (Ebony is Jo-ann's daughter in law). Their products are labours of love developed from their hobbies which they sell at two markets each month, our Blackburn Craft market and the one at Park Orchards. They have been regulars with us at Blackburn for the past 2 years.

As you can see from the photographs, they have a range of personal accessories including framed original pen and ink drawings, hide and leather purses, hand crafted clay bead jewellery, and cushion covers. They put their perfumed candles into concrete bowls which Ebbie's partner makes, he is actually a concreter by trade. You can also get larger concrete bowls beautifully polished on the outside, some of which contain succulents. To make things simple, you can pay them by card.

Jo is a cheerful stallholder who would be happy to talk to you about any special needs you might have. Come along to the Blackburn Craft market or email them.

Jo can be contacted by email on peewee.designs1@gmail.com while you'll get Ebbie at ebbiejorgeandco@gmail.com

