



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 06 President: Sue Ballard

9 August 2023

## SUE'S WORDS OF WISDOM



It's been a tough week and more for our small band of warriors. John Mc is recovering from illness; John B is heading in for surgery and so is Stuart. Barb S is recovering from surgery. We are all sending them our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery. I am considering I had better renew my first aid certificate as it would come in very handy.

This week we had Roland talk to us about the scouting movement. It's so different to the scouting movement our members once were involved in. But like Interact, Scouts is a great foundation for our youth to learn skills such as teamwork, organisation and community involvement. My personal journey involved Girls Friendly Society for over 10 years as a member and leader and helping my gran with Country Women's and senior citizens activities.

Our youth learn from us what they can do for their community and for themselves. Achievements such as leadership, cooperation and problem solving are just some outcomes. With guidance our youth can develop and implement their own community projects. We can as mentors create Hope for generations to come.

A busy week ahead. Markets this weekend. Hope to see you and Blackburn on Saturday and/or Whitehorse Farmers Market on Sunday.

Sue

## NEXT WEEK

**14 August Ian Ballantine District Governor's visit**

**Chairperson:** Sue Ballard

**Greeter:** Barb Searle

**Notes for "Happenings"** Bill Marsh

**Thanks** Bob Laslett

## COMING UP

12 August Blackburn Craft Market

13 August Whitehorse Farmers Market

18 August Peridot

21 August Nicholas Brooks Living in Dubai

*August is*  
*Membership & New Club Development*  
*Month*

## CELEBRATIONS



Let's celebrate our district and its governor Ian.

Belated congratulations to Rob Grant for his birthday on August 4.

All the very best to our sickies.



## PERIDOT

Bob and Fran Price have loved each other for thirty years. They have built a home and raised four strong children. At the end of it all, they are left asking: Was it worth it? Who are we now that the children have gone? *Things I Know to be True* is a funny and honest account of family life in the Australian suburbs. Over the course of one year, the four adult Price children struggle to establish their identities and deal with personal crises.

This classic play by Andrew Bovell (*Speaking in Tongues*, *The Secret River*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*) is about growing up and moving on, even if you're not ready to.

Friday 18 August -tickets from Sue

## Meeting Report August 7, 2023

As there was need to prepare for a busy weekend and the impending DG visit our guest speaker spoke first. Our speaker was Roland Gesthuizen and the intriguing title of his talk was "Monash to Mars and back".



Roland revealed that he had been a District Rotaract Representative and a RYLA attendee and thanked Rotary for the skills he had learnt there and was still using. His talk was more like a man behind the badge report as he went through highlights of his fascinating career enthusing students to challenge difficult and impossible situations. His involvement with NASA and getting student discs on the robot visit to Mars was amazing. AS a STEM leader he had directly involved in enthusing 8000 students and 1000 leaders in the South Australian outback through a Scout jamboree. His talk was illustrated with PowerPoint slides, and he demonstrated his skills in getting our display to work with a different program than we had used. He is currently doing a PhD at Monash. He was involved in teaching overseas during COVID and his wife was a COVID ward supervisor during that difficult period. He challenged each of us with a many-sided ball full of questions. It was an inspirational evening, and he was very grateful to all who had helped him along the way. I was proud to have played a small part as one of the early cogs on his journey.



The raffle prizes were won by Bill and Sue and then President Sue thanked Roland on behalf of the club and made a small presentation.



The business part of the meeting dealt with annual dues, the problems of our upcoming markets and the upcoming DG visit. Glenys commended MUNA, Eastsider News publicity and a climate change symposium. President Sue spoke of changes to the program in September.

Bob

## SPROUTINGS

### Burwood Brickworks roof is sprouting!

**Burwood Brickworks** and the **Cultivating Community** organisation are working together to form an amazing alliance to transform the Rooftop Garden. In future this collaboration will grow culturally appropriate fresh food in an environment friendly setting. As well, it will be used as a learning and education pathway to employment and to improve community knowledge.

For those who have not heard of Cultivating Community, it is an accredited social enterprise working from plot to plate with CALD communities across Melbourne, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their work involves cooking clubs, baking, community meals, school activities, workshops and employment pathways and food literacy projects like the one now in partnership at Burwood Brickworks.

Cultivating Community started managing the rooftop farm at the end of March 2023.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Prue Cutts, as Chair of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference committee, recently organised a tour of the facility for the group and other Councillors.

We received a warm welcome from Rob Rees, CEO of Cultivating Community, who explained. "When we arrived here the space had experienced the full burst of the Summer and Autumn growth. This allowed us to harvest produce as best we could to supply directly to a variety of community groups across Melbourne. But it also meant there was a lot of green waste management, tidying and preparation required to quickly get different, more ethnically suitable produce into the ground ready for Winter and Spring 2023".



Members of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference group being shown around by CEO Rob Rees



“We had begun our work pathway with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in February 2023 - working from other locations such as our community gardens and collaborative spaces.

“It felt natural to bring them to the Rooftop Farm from April and each Thursday the group are on site working and learning. It is expected that more of this CALD community will engage in the farm on different days of the week over the coming year thanks to support from philanthropic funders, donations and grants. We work closely with the Victorian College for the Deaf and their Urban Block Gardening Group but are expanding to work with other related groups looking for work pathways at the start of Spring.



Planting in progress

### **What is the future?**

Cultivating Community and Burwood Brickworks plan to develop the rooftop farm into a thriving landscape that improves social connections. Food will be grown that can be provided to projects and communities throughout Melbourne who may be facing barriers to obtaining multiculturally diverse fresh food.

The location will also be used as a pathway to employment for a variety of organisations including CALD groups and those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

An activities and workshop calendar will offer opportunities for people of all ages to engage in food systems knowledge as the rooftop farm becomes a learning and education space. You will also start to see a stronger culturally diverse range of products grown to meet the needs of local communities. The first set of FREE community workshops begin this month funded generously by Open Gardens Victoria.

Over time some of the produce will be commercially sold to secure ongoing funding directly to consumers or local cafes and restaurants or school canteens.

This is an inspiring project to increase food security, bring many diverse cultures together and connect communities.

Glenys

## MUNA Invite

You are invited to attend MUNA - August 19, 2023 -Nossal High School, Berwick.  
Come any time in the day to support our Box Hill High School team.

This is the program:

8.30am Registration – Assemble for Procession  
9.00am Flag Procession (RC/MD/EV/HG & DG's)  
9.15am Housekeeping (MH) 9.20am Overview of Program (DH)  
9.25am Guest speakers x2 (15 mins each) \*\*  
9.55am Assembly opened by Sec.Gen (HG)  
10.30am First resolution (75 mins) 11.45am Morning tea Break (20 mins)  
12.05pm Second resolution (75 mins) 1.20pm Lunch Break (45 mins)  
2.05pm Third resolution (75 mins) 3.20pm Afternoon tea Break (20 mins)  
3.40pm Fourth resolution (75 mins)  
5.00pm Photos and Finalise results (30 mins) 5.30pm Move to Foyer for a seated BBQ Dinner  
5.40pm Dinner & Presentations (Tables in foyer of Auditorium) (35 mins)  
6.15pm Farewell Delegations (15 mins) 6.30pm

## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

**Jeremy & Mary Ann Furness** are locals from Croydon. They sell children's books, oil paintings on gum leaves, and knitted toys in markets at Nunawading, Yarra Junction and of course the Rotary Blackburn station markets. Jeremy started writing and illustrating his Barry the Bike series of children's books over 10 years ago. It is one of the very few children's books that feature classic motorcycles, cars, and trucks. Go to Barry the Bike on Facebook to see all the books in the series.

Mary Ann started **oil paintings on gum leaves** as a 15-year-old inspired by paintings by her grandparents. Her grandfather was William Beckwith McInnes who won the Archibald Prize seven times. These gum leaf oil paintings are as unique as they are beautiful. She paints on specially prepared Tasmanian Blue Gum Eucalyptus leaves which when painted are sealed to ensure a long life. She has been a professional illustrator for the last 40 years working for some of the world's leading publishing houses but now Mary Ann runs Wattle Gum Studios nestled in the Croydon Hills.

Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

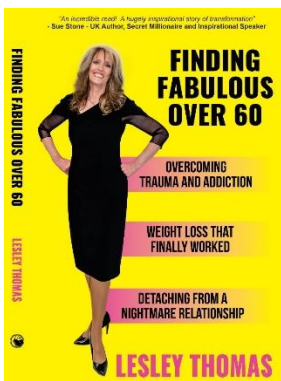
Jeremy and Mary Ann can be contacted on 0403 310 032 or [mafurness@bigpond.com](mailto:mafurness@bigpond.com) or via Instagram [mafurness\\_arts](https://www.instagram.com/mafurness_arts). But better still, come and talk to them at one of their regular markets to see the full range of their talents.







## SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS







## **Come and frequent the Market this month- August 12**

Disclaimer: Articles and reports do not necessarily reflect Rotary Club of Forest Hill opinions.