



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 07 President: Sue Ballard

16 August 2023

SUE'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Hi all



Another busy week for all of us. Both markets had a slow start but built up well to have successful outcomes. Many thanks to members and family members who worked the markets. We get a lot of regulars coming back month after month at Blackburn, which is fantastic but this week, we probably had extra people affected by the train disruption who seemed to relish the opportunity.

It was also the week DG Ian Ballantine and AG Catherine Elfick joined us. Talking to them both pre meeting they had many positive things to say regarding the future and our club in particular. They both commented on how welcomed they felt. Thank you to all those able to come and for the messages received from those who couldn't come.

Health update. Both John B and Stuart are recovering from surgery and other procedures. While they are going to be out of action for a while longer they are with us in spirit. John Mc and Barb are back on board.

In a lighter note our sausage sizzle is not only appreciated by our human community but one canine in particular showed his appreciation by helping clean an apron which after being washed and ironed was presented to our king in BBQ Bill. Thanks Bentley the Labrador.

Have a good week all.

Sue

NEXT WEEK

21 August Nicholas Brooks Living in Dubai

Chairperson: Warwick Stott

Greeter: Glenys Grant

Notes for "Happenings" Bob Laslett

Thanks Barbara Searle

COMING UP

18 August Peridot

19 August MUNA

28 August Business meeting

*August is
Membership & New Club Development
Month*

CELEBRATIONS



Let's celebrate the magnificent Matildas. We wish them every success.



MEETING REPORT August 14, 2023

On Monday the club was pleased to invite DG Ian Ballantine and AG Catherine Elfick to visit as part of Ian's official duties.

Ian and Catherine met with the three 2023-24 Presidents (that's right three!!!) prior to the club meeting. Bucatini rose to the occasion and gave us a separate room for the meeting and turned on the heating so that we didn't freeze - it was a cold night. The meeting was a few minutes late starting because Ian was held up in coming up from Sandringham through the peak hour traffic. It was a very productive meeting and Ian was well versed in the background of the club. Thanks in part to his years in Rotary but also to the background material supplied by President Sue and the first-hand knowledge of AG Catherine.



Organisational matters were covered quickly, and Ian mentioned that a number of clubs were experimenting with different variations of our Presidential structure. This was because numbers were dropping, members were aging, the role was fairly demanding, and less people were volunteering to take on the job solo. (Certainly, sounded familiar to the three Presidents from our club.)

The conversation covered fundraising, projects the club was involved in, our two markets, and of course membership. It was interesting to note that many of the clubs in our district were facing similar membership problems, as was Rotary as a whole. District numbers have dropped by about 200 in the last couple of years. (That is about 15-20 %.) We are fortunate to get virtually 100% of our members involved in every activity we undertake.



When Ian had covered all of the areas he needed to explore we moved on to the general club meeting where members, partners and family were waiting to join us. The next half hour or so was given over to general chatter and our meal. This was then followed by Ian's presentation to the club in which he covered how he saw the club functioning, District mergers, Regionalisation, his partner, Helen's project for the year – "End Polio Now" and the work of the Rotary Foundation. Ian also stressed the importance of the social aspect of Rotary and the very positive impact it has on how clubs' function. He then moved on to the District Conference in Warrnambool, 22-24 March 2024. Like all Conferences it sounds like a lot of fun, a chance to learn more or reinforce your knowledge of Rotary and an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The Conference Dinner has limited numbers so get in early with your booking. Conference webpage on the District 9810 website at www.9810rotary.org.au.

Ian, Catherine and many members had a real interest in dogs and so they featured strongly in general conversations. Some favourite stories of doggy daring featured, and our own Glenys was happy to share the trials and tribulations of 'Bentley', her Labrador pup. (See Sproutings). Pres. Bill then received a beautifully wrapped gift from Pres. Sue. The gift turned out to be Bill's apron from the market on Saturday with a few modifications courtesy of Bentley who thought it smelled and tasted very juicy when Glenys took it home for a wash.



Pres. Sue thanked Ian for his visit and thoughtful comments and also Catherine for her contributions to the evening – no Spangles though!!

Bill

SECRETARY REPORT

I am going to Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital today. ...opposite Tunstall Square. Hope to be there 9 days. My hip and leg are fine.

It has been incredibly frustrating. I have had maybe 20 medical interventions in 10 days. There have been issues with, brain, bowel, heart, blood, chest, stomach.and I thought I was fit. I won't be driving for 6 weeks. Hope to see you soon.

Stuart

SPROUTINGS

Bentley is a young, goofy, boofy, loveable, gentle white Labrador...



Bentley is also a great environmentalist. He decided to write the column this week to educate the rest of us as to how to preserve both the environment and its wildlife?

'I decided when I was adopted into this family as a pup that I would be their environment watchdog. So I watch and act when necessary.

I had two occasions recently where I had to act swiftly... The first was when the Lady Boss (Mum for short) brought home Rotary BBQ aprons to be washed after they had been used at the Blackburn market.

There were about six of them, but one, from Bill, the top Rotary Club of Forest Hill sausage sizzler, was very 'nose worthy of lots of smells)

Oh boy- the strong sausage odours coming from that one! Now we dogs, of course, don't have the ability to use clothes washing facilities. But we are great sniffers and know when we have to act fast because aprons are polluting the atmosphere.

By the time I'd finished doing my best to get rid of the smell there wasn't much left of the apron.



And it was delicious.

My second environment act recently was when Hana, my support dog, and I helped save the family and house from a pesky possum polluter. Why anyone likes possums I don't know. We know possums eat lots of things in the gardens. We don't know why Mum likes them and says, "they were here first so leave them alone".

We sometimes come across their poop - that's another form of pollution. We try to eat it to keep the garden clear. Mum again is wrong because she says, "Stop that Bentley, it's disgusting"! She thinks their poop is good for the garden and that's why our garden is so beautiful. Hana and I know better. We do a much better job of fertilising the garden.

So what happened? Well, last Wednesday at 2am I found a possum in one of the trees in the garden. It was small with a curly tail. I think it's called a ringtail, but I couldn't see any ring. I barked and barked and only Hana came. Humans are a bit dense sometimes - we had an enemy in our garden, and it needed stopping.

It took a while, but eventually Hana and I managed to chase it into the house -all the way into the living room and kitchen. We were playing with it but not touching it because its teeth looked very sharp.

Then Mum came out of the bedroom and the possum ran up into her hair. So much noise. What fun. So exciting. We jumped around and up and down, trying to stop it attacking her. It took a flying leap into the laundry and hid under the bench behind the clothes basket. We had it-almost- but Mum dragged us away into the passage and locked us in the house all night. She has no idea.

The possum wasn't grateful she stopped us all playing - when she helped it to get outside it bit her! And she was bleeding and calling us naughty dogs, when all we were doing was saving the house and garden from possum pollution! We patrol and check every night and have not seen a possum since - but we know they are still in the part of the garden we can't get to.

Yes, we are doing our best to educate humans, but they are a bit thick, you know, and not environmentally aware... So all you environmentally expert dogs out there - let me know how you help save the world. Hope you like what Hana and I are doing- I'd love a paw-pal, so write to me. Smacko's for now,

Bentley

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

Please let Glenys know if you are attending.

PUBLICITY

It was great to see the Rotary Club of Forest Hill featured in the Neighbourhood watch as they will be represented at our September market. Thanks to those responsible for its inclusion.

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.

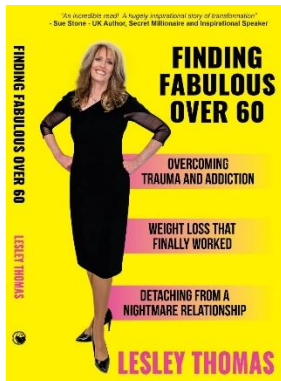
Mary Ann started **oil paintings on gum leaves** as a 15-year-old inspired by paintings by her grandparents. Her grandfather was William Beckwith McInnes who won the Archibald Prize seven times. These gum leaf oil paintings are as unique as they are beautiful. She paints on specially prepared Tasmanian 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 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 next month- September 9

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