



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 11 President: Sue Ballard

20 September 2023

SUE'S WORDS OF WISDOM



Hi all

Spring has arrived in a big way. As is typical in Melbourne we get the full range of weather. Some beautiful sunny spring days with rainy dull days following. One thing is for sure hay fever has arrived as well.

Footy season is coming to an end, spring racing is beginning, Melbourne Royal Show allows city to meet country. It's also a season of change.

At the Presidents meeting District Governor Ian talked on Regionalisation. Something we will need to think about. Stuart and I will be getting a survey to present to the club about our preferences for our club.

Also a reminder that End Polio Month is coming up. October is also Mental Health Month.

I sent out an email I received from Rotary Foundation congratulating us on our anniversary. While I haven't been at the club long many of you have a much longer history. Take a moment to sit back and reflect on how many people you have had an effect on over the years either directly or indirectly. You have created hope and possibilities for thousands of people. By providing awards, scholarships, recognition and supported projects in the community and also those international projects you have supported over the years this club has been active in the HOPE. Well done all.

If you get a hard copy of Rotary Downunder and don't need it anymore, please save them for the YAA goodie bags.

Pres Sue

NEXT WEEK

25 September	Sr Colleen Jackson	Human Trafficking & Slavery
Chairperson:	Barbara Searle	
Greeter:	John McPhee	
Notes for "Happenings"	Bob Laslett	
Thanks	Stuart Williams	

COMING UP

2 October	Stuart Williams	Footy Fever
8 October	Whitehorse Farmers Market	
9 October	Bucatini a La Carte	
14 October	Blackburn Craft Market	
16 October	Business meeting	

*September is
Basic Education and Literacy
Month*

CELEBRATIONS



Let us celebrate Spring with all of its opportunities.



MEETING REPORT September 18, 2023

President Sue opened the meeting at 6.30pm with a recognition of the traditional owners of the land on which we meet.

Sue then went on to welcome members and our special guests Kerry Pell and Mal Hosken from the Forest Hill Chase Community Space.

Bob Laslett was an apology as he was attending an International/Foundation seminar. Ron Brooks is still overseas and John Bindon is unwell.

Reports were taken while we were waiting for the dinner to be served.

Following dinner Kerry and Mal were introduced and gave us an excellent presentation on the work of the Whitehorse Churches Care program that runs in a space provided at the Forest Hill Chase shopping centre. (It was originally the Bank of Melbourne.)

The centre also partners with Victoria Police making phone calls to people on the Whitehorse Community Support Register. This involves around 150 calls a week to check on the welfare of the people registered.

The program has gone from strength to strength and continues to grow. This highlights a real need in our community.

Mal added a very personal side to the presentation when he spoke about a number of individuals and how they became involved in the program. Some taking weeks of observing the activities from outside before they would venture into the space, to others who have now brought new skills and activities to the program through their active participation.

(If people are interested, I have access to the PP presentation made by Kerry and a copy of the One Year Review to June 2023.)

Bill

Sproutings – *Glenys Grant*

It isn't often I get a chance to combine three loves – those of nature, art and youth – but here it happened.

Year 10 student's Impressionist exhibition.

Did you know that Box Hill is the birthplace of Australian Impressionism? It all started in 1885 when Tom Roberts and Frederick McCubbin journeyed from their Flinders Street studios and caught the train to the last stop on the train line.

They set up camp every weekend for two years painting the bush around Gardiner's Creek. It was their friend Louie Abrahams who gave them dozens of 9x5" cigar box lids and they used them to paint the first ever Australian Impressionist paintings exhibited at Buxton Rooms in 1889.

They gained inspiration from the natural environment to help them paint.

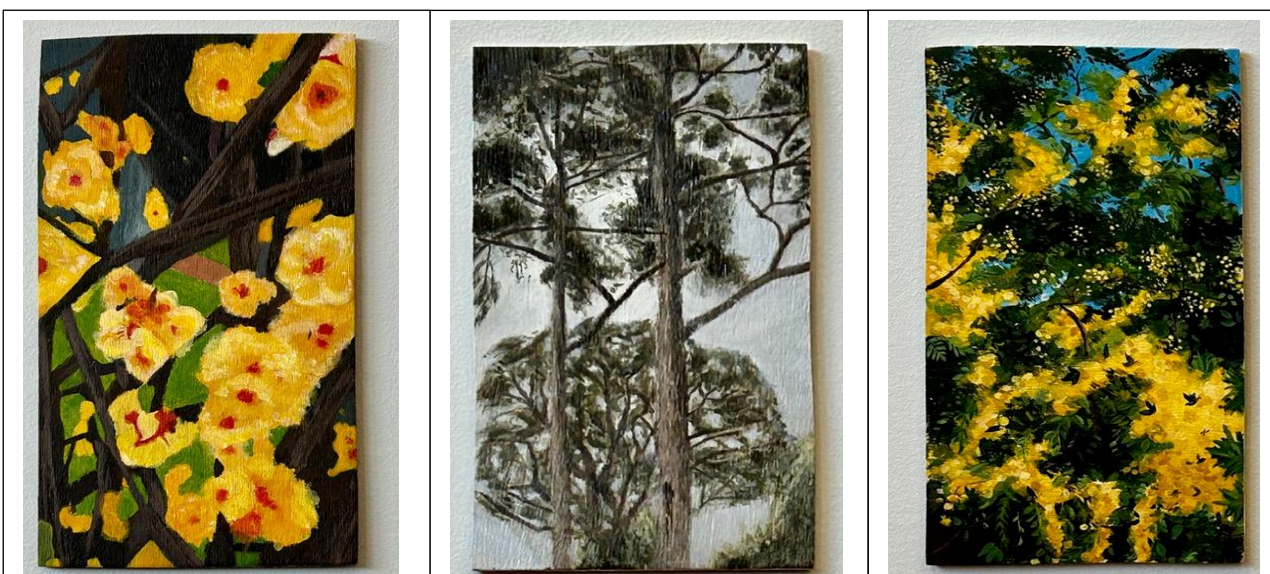
Ten beautiful bush spots from Box Hill to Blackburn Lake became listed as the Whitehorse Artists Trail (a historical walk orchestrated by the City of Whitehorse).

This term, Yr 10 Art students from Box Hill High School visited the same areas and were also inspired to paint. The resultant 38 images, painted on the 9"x5" cigar box lid size as done by their predecessors, formed a memorable exhibition which was opened on Sept 5 at the school.

Student Kelvin Wang and art teacher Nathalie Brewer explained the concept, Principal Kelly Ind welcomed all, and Curator of the Whitehorse Art Collection Jacquie Nichols Reeves gave the audience a historical overview of the district's Impressionist painters.

Then the families and teachers were free to view the paintings while sipping fake 'champagne' and eating home cooked brownies supplied by hospitality students, with harmonious background music supplied by school musicians.

Scroll down to read an article by two of the students, Kelly Lai and Olivia Dufty.



Box Hill, birthplace of Australian Impressionism.

Kelly Lai and Olivia Dufty

With the invention of the humble paint tube in the 1840's, artists were able to leave their studios and venture into the Australian bush. A new era of artistry was born, Impressionism. Emanating from the French impressionist movement of the 1880s, en plein air — a French term meaning 'in the open air' — quickly became a widespread painting style among Australian artists.

The first artist to introduce impressionism to Australia was Tom Roberts. Every Saturday, for four years (1885-1889), Tom Roberts, joined by his friends Frederick McCubbin, Louis Abrahams, Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder and Jane Sutherland escaped the monotony of the city for a serene weekend of painting and camping in Box Hill, the last stop on the train line.

They continued setting up camp every weekend and painted the bush around Gardiner's Creek. Their friend Louis Abrahams was forced to abandon art and take over his family's cigar business. The story goes, he donated dozens of recycled 9x5 inch cigar box lids to his friends. Together the group of artists painted in the cigar box lids and this became Australia's first ever Impressionist exhibition held at the Buxton Rooms in 1889.

Over a century later, the Heidelberg School's influence on Australia's art culture continues, especially for the students at Box Hill High School. The Year 10 art classes, following the style of the Australia's early impressionists, investigated the historical and cultural significance of this era of art originating from within their own area, and prepared an exhibition of their own. During an excursion to Gardiner's Creek along the Whitehorse Heritage Artist's Trail, students began exploring possibilities for their own artworks: photographing scenes and completing sketches, ready to paint the suburban sprawl that has since replaced the rugged bush lands of the times gone by.

Drawing inspiration from the immensely successful '9 by 5' artworks, the students painted and presented impressionist-style artworks on wooden panels measuring 9 by 5 inches, an acknowledgment of the original 1889 Exhibition.

Students shared their artworks in a private event held at Box Hill High School on Tuesday 5th September.



1. Student home bakes & punch 2. Intro by Kelvin. Jacque, W/H Art Curator 3. Musical entertainment

However, they would also like to share their impressionist style paintings with the Whitehorse community. The general public are encouraged to show their support by visiting the Box Hill High School Art Instagram account [here](#) to see their Artworks.



Thank you, Kelly Lai and Olivia Dufty, Year 10 Art students at Box Hill High School for telling us about the role the Box Hill area played in the development of the beautiful Australian form of Impressionism.

Please visit <https://instagram.com/framing.higher> and leave a message to encourage our new generation of artists.

FOUNDATION/INTERNATIONAL Meeting report

A good representation from clubs in our district last Monday. Our new district will have approx. 81 clubs.

We discovered the six steps for a successful Foundation project using a ball of twine and a variety of kids trucks as aids to unravel the complexities involved. We learnt of the hierarchy from ongoing club projects through RAWCS, district grants, multi-club district grants to global grants. Tracking other club projects and how to contact relevant people was illustrated through active links on the district website. The breakdown of last year's spending was given by Graham Richardson.

Rowville/Lysterfield's container project for Backpacks for kids was commended as was Emerald's multi-club project.

Bob

WORLD POLIO DAY

Put 24 October in your diary.

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.

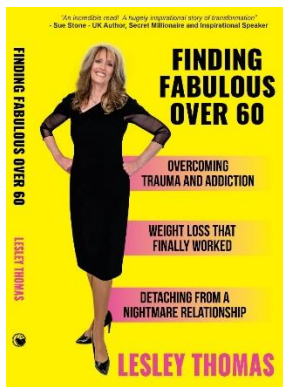
Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

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- October 14

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