



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 16

President: Bill Marsh

19 October 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE

Today I would like to recognize the organization of which we are proud to be members – Rotary International – and the magnificent work it does world-wide.



Whether it is a massive project like Polio Eradication or a small Indigenous Garden in a school – Rotary Makes a Difference. Some months back I set up a RAWCS account for Hope Katolo, primarily so a major donor could get a tax benefit, while the money donated could make a huge difference to the school. Almost \$14,000 has now been paid through the account and this has paid for all of the school requirements for the children for 2022. The final payment has now been made. I think the account will remain open for any further donations, but I will need to confirm this.

We need to have a nomination, or nominations, for President for the 2024-25 Rotary year. This will be the first year of the new District 9815 being in existence and the two current Districts are trying to get everything into place. If you are interested, please let me know so that we can confirm your nomination and forward it to

District. It will be an exciting time to be President as the changes come into effect.

The Whitehorse Spring Festival is on next Sunday. The Cluster has been given a site, 38 in Area C. This is on the Esdale Street side of the site. Gabby, from Nunawading, is co-ordinating proceedings and is looking for volunteers. Everything is provided. It is a general Rotary display with members available to talk to interested people. It is not a club promotion opportunity. If you would like to help out, please contact Gabby and nominate a time. (0405201289 or gabbyk@bigpond.com)

As you know Polio has begun to rear its head again and you would have seen from the video Jennifer Jones sent out that Rotary is determined to stay on top of the outbreak and to complete the work we began so many years ago. Does the club want to run a special event, or make a further donation, to support the work?

This afternoon I attended the launch of the Indigenous Garden at Forest Hill College. This garden was a derelict site, overgrown, weed infested and with some wildlife it could have done without. The V-Cal students have worked over the last two years to reclaim the area and make it a peaceful retreat adjoining the library. They have cleared the site, replanted it with natives to bring in insects, birds and butterflies, added tables and seating and generally made it a delightful spot. The students have been assisted by our club, led by Glenys Grant; Whitehorse Council, Bunnings and the Whitehorse Native Garden Society. These groups have supplied money, ideas, advice and encouragement. The students have done the work and can be proud of the end result they have achieved. They were ably led by one of their fellow students, Charlotte Smart, who was nominated by the students and staff to receive an award from our club.

Bill

MEETING REPORT -17 October

In attendance: President Bill, Stuart, Ron, Warwick, John B, Barbara S, Bob W, John McP, Sue B, Glenys G and our guest speaker Michael Johnson.

Apologies: Bob L.

Glenys chaired the meeting. Glenys presented a welcome to country and acknowledged Australia and Rotary International. We had a delicious meal that was appreciated by all members.

President Bill forgot most stuff but still had a few messages for us. The Indigenous Garden project launch today went extremely well. Bill commented on the excellent achievements of Forest Hill College, especially, the recent sport medals. The Whitehorse Spring Festival is on this Sunday—10 – 4pm at The Hub on Springvale Rd.

Secretary Stuart mentioned that Box Hill High School were well advanced selecting the Ford Davis award winners. Three Footy Tipping winners handed over their winnings to Hope Katolo School.

There was nothing new to report from – Treasurer, Community, Vocational, International

Glenys reported that invites have gone out to schools for our Youth Achievement Awards night to be held on the last Monday in November. There are also many enviro projects “on the go.”

Program- A guest speaker next week. The fifth Monday- a la carte in the Bucatini restaurant. Bob Williams ran an excellent Sgt session and raised \$29.55.

Chair Glenys introduced our guest speaker Michael Johnston. Michael has a Bee- Honey stall at our Blackburn Market.



The Bee project started as a garden project. Michael has a passion for people to grow their own food. He has 75 edible plants on his block. He was given a beehive as a 50th birthday present. He went from owning an engineering company to working 7 days a week, bee keeping. He has 250 hives. Some are in St Arnaud and Maldon.

Bees are actually a feral pest and often destroy birds and other animals. The colony is strictly organized- the females do all the work; males just make love then die. The Queen bee will lay 1,500 eggs. A working bee only has a life span of 40 days. The colony is very democratic- they decide where they will move to in a very systemic way.

Michael is strong on ethics. He will not sell – Royal Jelly and Pollen. The bees need them. He also believes Almond Milk is destroying the Murray River Valley. The trees have no nutrition for bees, consume huge amounts of water, one almond needs 1 litre of water to mature. Michael also believes- “Vegans are ruining the planet”.

Bee keeping has moved with the times and is very high tech. Michael has apps on his phone that can tell him – the weight of the honey in each hive, cameras to detect infected bees and computerized record keeping. Sue thanked Michael for a fascinating, unique talk.

Michael drew our raffle prize winners. John McP, Bill M, and of course Barbara S. The raffle ticket sales raised \$51 dollars.

After some enjoyable social chit chat the meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

Stuart

Loud Shirt Day - Friday 21 October

Next meeting please wear a loud shirt and join in the fun. The louder the better. Donations for wearing a loud shirt should be given to Stuart but if you can't wear one you will be fined and this too will be collected by Stuart.

Sue

NEXT MEETING

24 October Happily Made Veronica Sharman

Club roster for October 24 2022

Chairperson:	John Bindon
Greeter:	Barbara Searle
Notes for “Happenings”	Bob Williams
Thanks	Ron Brooks
Cashier & Recorder:	Bob Williams

COMING UP

23 October	Ukraine Concert
25 October	Dinner celebrating the life of Joseph O’Loughlin at Bucatini
26 October	Rotary Art Show
31 October	Bucatini a La Carte
7 November	Deakin Uni Rotary Award Mariah Kirsopp

CELEBRATIONS



Congrats to Bob Williams for his birthday on October 28 and Bob Laslett for 44 years of Rotary service on the same date.



The Best of Footy Night – 2022

S. Bob, do you realise that Geelong had more 30 year olds out there than you find at a Kindergarten Trivia Night.

B. Stu- Did you take any notice of the information last year's census provided? **It seems to me, the reason so many people marked, NO RELIGION, was because Australian Rules, wasn't one of the religions offered.**

S. **And the race is on.** Which will we see first in Tasmania – a **genetically reconstructed THYLACINE**, or an **AFL franchise**? **Both long anticipated, theoretically possible but in practice elusive.**

B. Yes it's been a year of change and a year where nothing really changed. **As a WHITEHORSE resident I was not surprised that the final episode of NEIGHBOURS was delayed due to roadworks on Ramsay Street.**

S. Mmmm— A footy show were asking people to name their favourite players. A person rang in and said.

BARRY BREEN, WAYNE HARMES and DOM SHEED. Guess which side he didn't like being successful?

B. Did you notice that **Mason Cox** was a much better kick for goal as an American citizen, than as a naturalized Australian.

S. My turn. Is there any similarity between Joan Collins and the Melbourne Football Club? **No— Joan Collins was part of a DYNASTY. So much for Max Gawn's declaration 10 minutes after the 2021 Grand Final of a "Demon Dynasty"**

B. But, you have to agree **The Pies have been better this year. But that won't stop us highlighting them.** **Stu- Who is the GOOD- LOOKING BLONDE on the arm of a Collingwood footballer?** **No, not a POLICE-WOMAN. THE ANSWER STU-- A tattoo.**

S. After the second semi-final The Demons team visited an orphanage. **"it was heart-breaking to see their sad little faces with no hope."..... said Kylie, aged six.**

B: Oh, not fair- I had a couple of thoughts about the Kangaroos. I heard a Kangaroos player describe that schallacking in Sydney. **"For one minute there we were in with a chance --- Then the game started.**

S: Oh, I reckon The Kangaroos are like an old BRA ---

NO CUPS and NO SUPPORT. **A shellacking or thumping could have also applied to the AFLW game on Sunday.** The Crows beat GWS -96 to ONE point. Arrrrgh.. so tough.

B. Have you noticed the cops who are on patrol during the game at the grounds are MEAN. During the season they caught 2 Nth Melbourne fans climbing over the fence in Hobart. They were angry. What do you think they said to them?

S. **Get back in there and watch the game until it finishes.**

B. Just a thought—This group needs to know this about you. Was that you at the Prelim Final holding up the queue at the turn-stiles trying to find your ticket. Searching all your pockets?

S. Yeah.

B. And then the attendant on the barrier said—"HANG ON A MINUTE-- **What's that in your mouth?? It's the missing ticket.** Friends, .. I shook my head and then said to Stu—Geez, you must be getting SENILE in your OLD AGE. Fancy having the ticket in your mouth and forgetting about it.

S. **I'm not that stupid. I was chewing last week's DATE OFF IT.**

B: As we said in the advertising -- **You're only young once – but anyone can be immature.** .

S. Mmmm – getting personal. I heard a whisper that you said to Barb—**“I can't hear you, the game is on.”**

B. I believe your last girl-friend said to you—**The Geelong Forwards win games, but Pizza wins my heart.**

B. **You taught in Bendigo. They have a QE2 OVAL,** as their premier ground. What will they call it now? Charlie Paddock??

S. With all the fuss and blanket news coverage over the last 2 weeks--- **anyone would think a GREAT SPIN BOWLER HAD DIED.**

B. Yes the media love to go for overkill.

S. Did you see on the news that the Seven Dwarfs were marching through Werribee Gorge when they fell into the deep, dark ravine. Snow White was walking well behind them. She stopped and peered over the edge of the steep gorge and called out to her fallen friends. From the depths of the deep, dark gorge a voice returned. **“Help. The Bombers are Grand Final contenders next year.”** **Snow White thought to herself—“Thank God!!” At least DOPEY has survived.”**

S: **Football is a game where 44 men run around for 100 minutes, watched by millions who could really use the exercise.**

B: SO True. And don't forget the line--- **AND 1.3 BILLION CHINESE DON'T GIVE A DAMM.**

S.. I enjoyed the Brownlow count. Loved seeing an advert--- for Front bar.. with Stevie J. Remember him. Mecurial, kicked 6 goals on barely one leg one time. Like Bartlett, .. never passed or handballed to team-mates. Stevie said--- **There is no” I” in Team.... But there is an ” I” in Stevie.**

B. **If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck--- it is probably Stevie J. He of course is the guy who perfected the – around the corner kick for goal.**

S: Talking of the Brownlow – worthy winner.. **Patrick Cripps -----,** he is a gun. But did you notice Jaydn Stephenson, again did not have a stellar year. He gave up BOOZE, SEX and GAMBLING --- **Stephenson says it was the worst 2 hours of his life. Did you realise he received ONE OF the largest penalty by the AFL in the modern era—10 weeks over his betting on AFL. A guy who could LIE LIKE A CHOP IN GRAVY.**

B: What do West Coast and a possum have in common?

Both play dead at home and get killed on the road.

B. Did you notice a few rounds before the end of the home and away season, as Essendon struggled to score, **a 50c piece was thrown onto the Marvel Stadium surface.**

S. Yeah—**Police are still trying to determine whether it was a MISSILE, or a TAKEOVER Bid.**

B. My computer's got the **“Crappy Full Back Virus”--- It can't save anything.**

S. Do you realise, nowadays we are walking nearly as slow as your dad used to. All those years ago, as I was walking beside him, he shared many inspiring thoughts. **One day he said—IN LIFE, WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER DOOR OPENS.**

B. Yes, **he was a thoughtful and intelligent man ... but a hopeless carpenter.**

S. Bob sat down in his seat at the Grand Final and looked to his left and noticed that there was a spare seat between himself and the next guy. Bob said, **“WHO WOULD EVER MISS THE GRAND FINAL”** The guy said--- **That was my wife's seat. We've been to the last 23 Grand Finals here, but SADLY SHE PASSED AWAY.”** Bob said—**That's terrible but couldn't you get someone – family or friends- to come with you. The guy said—NO—they are all at the funeral.**

B. I noticed the woman sitting next to you at the Prelim Final was asking you lots of questions.

S. Yes, she asked me if I was married.

B. What did you say.

S. No. But I have a wallet full of pictures of near MRS.

Rotary Box Hill Burwood Whitehorse Art Show 2022

The club is privileged to have the Stroke Association of Vic CEO Paula Theocharides open its show at the Box Hill Town Hall on Wednesday 26th Oct at 6.00pm (Art Preview) followed by Dinner at 7.00pm. Cost \$80-details from Bob L.

23 Oct Ukraine Concert

A tremendous concert in support of Ukraine. At St Leonard's College Concert Hall- tickets \$35 through trybooking. Details from Bob L

Sproutings – The Indigenous Garden – a Tough Pathway to Success

Yesterday was the launch of Forest Hill College indigenous garden. This has been a two year project – firstly of frustration - and now of delight.

The idea of developing an environmentally suitable garden project with Forest Hill College began in 2021. We contacted the school. An exceptionally skilled teacher, Adrienne Baucke, who we had worked with before, came up with the idea of VCAL Year 11 students as the ideal group to progress this idea. Most of them would be going into business, so would need to understand how to draw up a business plan, present it and complete it.

The students were drawn to the thought of being able to leave something behind for perpetuity and future students to enjoy.

The idea of an indigenous garden, attracting birds, bees and butterflies took shape. These students are all environmentally focused, so wanted an Australian native garden for their peers to read and reflect in, and somewhere the birds, bees and butterflies would be attracted to.

The group worked out the project timelines, parameters, and likely costs.

They picked out an area suitable for the garden. It was a neglected, forlorn, unused area behind their library. Also, it was enclosed, had a pond, thick entangled ivy everywhere, a few decayed wooden seats and plants that all needed removing (a huge job) and trees that needed major pruning.

They presented business plan proposal to the school for the garden site and a second plan to the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for funding. They needed garden tools so outlined a request to Bunnings. Everyone was happy to agree.

As it was to be an indigenous garden I contacted Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife Manager, Belinda Moody, who embraced the idea and joined our group of supporters, adding knowledge, good contacts and advice.



Gardens for Wildlife has volunteers who go into gardens and give free assessments and advice in a very professional way. Three of these volunteers visited the school in May, 2021.

They inspected the area and gave formal talks on suitable plants, discussing canopy cover and how to plan a garden of native plants for best results.

For instance – the best native plants start with sun hardened tubestock which is ready for planting.

A book, the second edition of ***Gardening with Indigenous Plants***, was given by Belinda to the students and this became their go-to reference.

This group and our Rotarians were always aware that this was the students' project. And the students wanted to own it.

COVID had hit with a vengeance throughout this time. Schools were closed for weeks. Students were sent home to study. It was so hard to go on with the project.

I almost gave up...

Not so these students and their fantastic teacher, Adrienne Baucke. Every time they got back to the school and caught up on their academic work, they managed to do a little work on the garden.

But 2021 was virtually a write-off for the project. Each time they started again our protective Government closed the schools...



End of year came. A huge amount of clearing and cleaning up had been done exposing, among other things, a nest of rats under the scungy pond. The decayed wooden seats and cracked edgings and rocks had been removed. It was a bare canvas for creativity.

The project seemed to have come to a dead end.....

As restrictions eased and the 2022 school year began the students returned. They were now in year 12 – their most demanding year. Rather than give this project to another group they were determined to finish 'their' garden.

They turned over the soil, ready for plants and cleaned out the pond, replacing it in the same garden spot, ready for frogs. Then – a windfall – Belinda managed to get them the plants they wanted, donated through the Whitehorse indigenous nursery.

They planted these according to their vision for the future and mulched the area. So technically the garden was ready.

But they had no-where to sit but the ground. That's where our club came in again. Rob Cousins Garden Furniture gave us an excellent deal on an environmentally friendly concrete mix satin finished table with bench seating for 10, two side tables and two extra chairs. All are very sturdy and guaranteed to last any student or weather onslaught..

The launch was Monday October 17 – a lovely sunny Spring day. The plants have survived the turbulent weather bombardment of the previous week and are growing strongly. Bee houses hung in the trees are already inhabited.

Adrienne Baucke explained the project, Principal David Rogers thanked all involved and R.C Forest Hill President Bill Marsh had the delightful job of presenting an Environment Award and voucher prize to Charlotte Smart, the student who was voted by her peers as best contributor to the project.

We would like to express gratitude to all the generous contributors to this project.

And to the VCAL Year 12 students - as Adrienne has said "you have been committed, creative and dedicated" – congratulations to all for your effort. In six months this area will be the wildlife and student haven you envisaged and a fitting tribute to leave for future generations.





You thought I was finished, didn't you... No ... next week read about their Year 12 environment project **"Bees on a Mission"** - - *Glenys*

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

The *Bee-autiful* Basin Backyard

Nine years ago, Michael asked Meredith for a beehive for his 50th birthday present because he didn't want to keep hand pollinating their trees and plants on their ¼ acre block in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges. Who would have realised that it would lead to a new career and the launch of The Basin Backyard, with over 240 beehives throughout Victoria, 10 regular markets a month, and a shop in Knoxfield (Unit 1, 31 Rusdale St).

Michael & Meredith told me "At the Basin Backyard, we sell pure raw honey & bees wax and related products e.g. lollies containing our honey (eg. honey & eucalyptus drops, nougat & peanut brittle). As well as our beeswax which we make into candles & food wraps. We are the beekeepers so we are hands-on for the whole process, from looking after our *bee-autiful* bees, harvesting the honey & jarring the honey and collecting the wax which is in our products. We are located in The Basin and we have 240+ beehives throughout Victoria. Whilst we have 5 hives on our property, the majority of

them are local in the Dandenong ranges and we also have them on properties in NW Victoria, the Mornington peninsula, Gippsland and various other locations in Victoria where our bees can collect different varieties of flora for our different tasting honeys. Come and have a chat to us about our bees, our honey, our wax, our lollies & the value of bees in our environment.”

They will organise bee swarm collection, they have bee keeping supplies. Usefully, you can pay by card.

www.tbbyard.com.au 0419 607 807

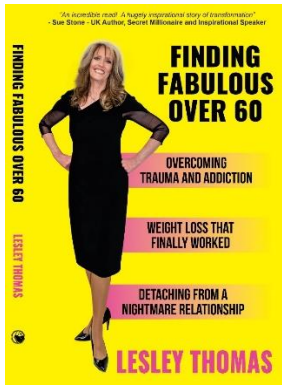
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SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS





Come to the Market next month-November 12