

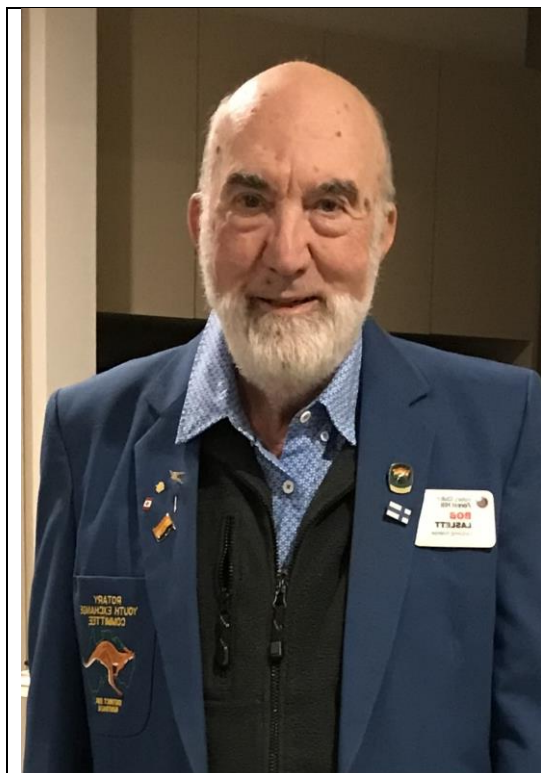


FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 17 President: Bob Laslett

15 November 2023

BOB'S BANTER



Those that could not attend missed a treat. Peter Malden's replacement Mark was an inspiration.

We were sorry to hear John D has had a stroke and our thoughts and prayers are with him and Kathy.

It was a privilege for Judy and I to attend the celebration of Des Dowling's 50 years in Rotary and catch up with a number of old friends. Won't tell who won heads and tails but his picture is opposite.

Congrats to all who helped make the weekend markets such a success.

Help the club by getting your registration in for Conference soon!

NEXT WEEK

20 November Daryl Hawkey A visit to Ukraine and beyond

Chairperson: Bob Laslett

Greeter: Glen Grant

Notes for "Happenings" Stuart Williams

Thanks Ron Brooks

COMING UP

21 November Dementia Café visit

22 November Community Climate Action

27 November DGN Peter Behm Meet and Greet

4 December Diane & Gavan McIntyre ROMAC and AGM

5 December Dementia Café Christmas Party

11 December Rev Rod Brown Christmas Meeting

November is
Rotary Foundation
Month

CELEBRATIONS



Let's celebrate our great Rotary Foundation- a special edition of Rotary Down Under this month!!



MEETING REPORT November 13, 2023

The meeting was opened by chairman Stuart who did the usual welcome to country plus toasts to Australia and RI. We had apologies from Bill (winging his way overseas), John B (recuperating), Sue (a casualty of the Sunday market), Barbara (family issues), and Glenys (who luckily managed to arrive prior to our guest speaker). Stuart then welcomed our guest speaker, Mark Smith, one of the newest members of the Rotary Club of Boronia. He joined Boronia just after COVID with his wife Monique. He is presently Membership chair, and she is Secretary and PE (get 'em in and get 'em working!). They run an Office Choice store in Dorset Rd.

Over an Italian pasta meal and ice cream with panna cotta we heard about some of the projects their club run, and he was very interested in what projects we get involved in. We talked about how some clubs had dropped in membership but while we are small we run lots of projects in Youth and Hope Katolo continues its successful way.



We then got to listen to Mark's story. He told us that growing up he wasn't interested in sport so experienced some bullying. He was interested in riding his bike around the hilly terrain of Montrose and came third in his first bike race, but it didn't really click with him. He "hid" himself away in music. He is an amateur musician who writes songs though he told us he cannot sing. He realized he used to write songs that released his emotions and he felt so much better after he had done so. He suspected that many people write songs to relieve those emotions. After speaking to many different professionals including music therapists, psychologists, music teachers he decided to set up a project for secondary students to write songs. He set up Knox Rocks.

Knox Rocks is a Rotary driven, youth focused initiative serving the local community to provide a program that provides opportunities for youth to learn about song writing. The project vision is that youth engaging in the Knox Rocks program will gain a sense of personal mastery, increased confidence, a sense of achievement, develop music skills and gain an enhanced sense of empowerment. Critically, they recognise the challenges that youth in our communities have faced over the last couple of years in light of the pandemic. This program's purpose is to address some of these challenges. The program itself consists of a series of six workshops that will develop youth developed musical creations utilising provided instruments and materials and culminate in a recording session of the created songs. The program leaders will engage a studio to record and produce the finished songs, gifting the participants with tangible outcomes from the program. It is envisaged that the participants will gain an increased sense of confidence, empowerment, achievement, engagement, mastery of skills and self-expression. This is in harmony with current models of well-being based on researched evidence that is strengths-based and recovery oriented. He recently was awarded a \$5,000 grant by a local community organisation as a finalist in a competition which his wife secretly submitted him to. He bought 6 keyboards and guitars then tried to return the rest of the money \$1,800 as he thought others could usefully use it. The organisers returned the money to him as they thought his project so good. Year 9-10 students are his target but age itself is not totally fixed. They are teenagers with problems such as a girl who was getting over her parents' divorce, an 18-year-old autistic boy etc. We listened to a couple of songs that were created. The music is provided/written by a tutor.

A year ago, 5 teenagers were the first intake. The second group of students are just finishing. Emma Jury was the tutor for the second intake. Mark hopes to slowly increase the intake to perhaps

6-8 schools with 6-8 students from each school. It is free to participants and fully funded by RC of Boronia.

This was a truly memorable presentation of a project that deserves to succeed and with Mark's enthusiasm and the backing of Rotary could be one of those projects that goes viral. Bob L gave the vote of thanks and presented Mark with a box of chocolates.



The raffle raised \$30. John M won and chose the white wine leaving Ron to take the red wine in second place. The meeting was closed and then we continued to discuss the project for another 20 min.

We were reminded that the AGM will be on the 4th of Dec.

Ron

FROM the DG

Rotary statement on the conflict in Israel and Gaza

Recognizing there has been protracted suffering in the long history of conflict between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, Rotary International urges all parties to seek avenues to peace.

At the same time, we unequivocally condemn the horrific attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians and are appalled at the number of people who have been injured, killed, and kidnapped.

As the war between Israel and Hamas intensifies, we remain deeply concerned about the potential for further escalation as well as the loss of life and the humanitarian crisis that is occurring in Gaza. We denounce the violence against innocent civilians and support upholding international humanitarian law.

Peacebuilding is both a cornerstone of Rotary's mission and one of our areas of focus. At our core, Rotary is a common ground for people to come together – across nationalities and religions, cultures and histories – and connect around their shared belief in a better tomorrow. That connection is what humanizes us in times of conflict and builds a foundation for lasting peace.

Rotary remains committed to working with our members, partners, and communities to find long-term, sustainable solutions that support peace and development in the region and elsewhere.

13-Oct-2023

Message to the Rotary community on the Middle East conflict

As events in the Middle East continue to unfold, and we hear from Rotary members around the world, it is important to clarify and underscore that Rotary is non-political, non-religious, and exclusively focused on providing humanitarian support and bringing people together. We build peace in the world, working together to share our compassion and help end human suffering.

We are saddened by the continuing loss of lives and destruction and express our deep concern surrounding the escalating violence across the Middle East, and the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza and the region.

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We believe clubs and districts around the world can help. In that spirit, there are specific steps you can take to help those affected by the violence in these difficult times.

There are Rotary and Rotaract clubs throughout the Middle East. We urge Rotary members who want to help to connect directly with the districts and these clubs in the region to determine the most relevant avenues of support.

Additionally, we encourage members to take action through the following Rotary programs:

- Using district grants (from districts in the region and elsewhere) to carry out projects that support displaced persons and provide medical and other needed humanitarian assistance.
- Developing meaningful, longer-term projects with international partners that align with Rotary's areas of focus and are eligible to receive funding as global grants.

Members can make long-term investments in peacebuilding through Rotary by:

- Contributing District Designated Funds or district cash to support Rotary's Peace Centers, which invest in peacebuilders around the world, or the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus that supports programs like our Positive Peace Activator Program.
- Joining Rotary peace programs that advance global understanding and peacebuilding, including Rotary Action Groups, Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Intercountry Committees, and Rotary Fellowships.

Together, let's be the inspiration to create hope in the world.

Rotary International

27-Oct-2023

International Women's Day Early Bird Prices

The date for 2024 is March 13. Contact me for details.

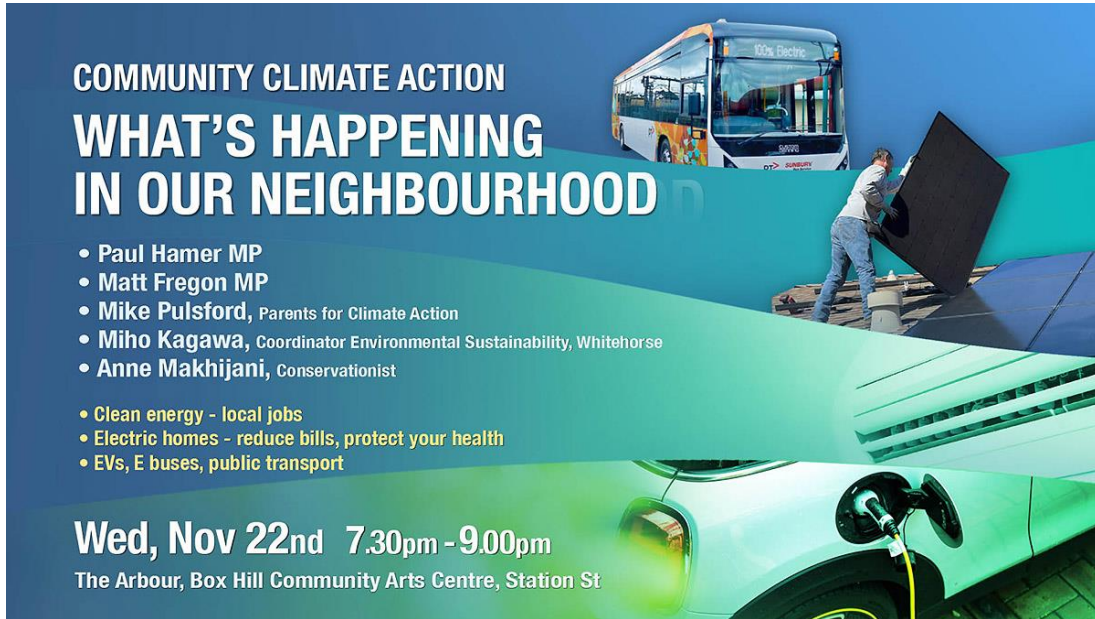
Invitations

- Club members are invited to Nunawading Rotary Christmas Party on December 6 at the Knox club at 6pm. Cost \$43.

RSVP by November 22.

- Zahangir Alam from the Rotary Club of Dhaka New City (District 3281) will be speaking at Box Hill Central club at our morning meeting on 31st January. He will be talking about "Smile Baby Welfare Society"

Sproutings- Enviro column



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WHAT'S HAPPENING
IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Paul Hamer MP
- Matt Fregon MP
- Mike Pulsford, Parents for Climate Action
- Miho Kagawa, Coordinator Environmental Sustainability, Whitehorse
- Anne Makhijani, Conservationist

- Clean energy - local jobs
- Electric homes - reduce bills, protect your health
- EVs, E buses, public transport

Wed, Nov 22nd 7.30pm - 9.00pm
 The Arbour, Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Station St

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.

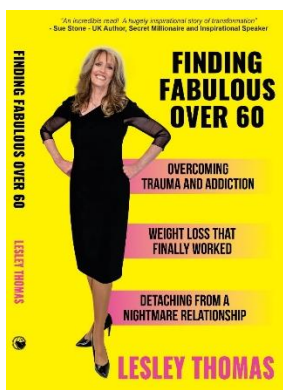
Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

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- December 9

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