



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 18 President: Bob Laslett

22 November 2023

## BOB'S BANTER



Another memorable meeting as the Hawkeys took us on an educational and enlightening trip to Ukraine and some of its surrounding countries.

Great to have John B back but not such good news for John Donaghey. Kathy would appreciate our prayers.

Happy to represent club at Box Hill Institute for the presentation of the Ford Davis and Graham Taylor awards – see below.

Hamper time-donations through Uniting Care East Burwood.

Meet DGN Peter Behm next week.

Book for Conference

## NEXT WEEK

**27 November      DGN Peter Behm      Meet and Greet**

**Chairperson:** Bob Laslett

**Greeter:** John McPhee

**Notes for "Happenings"** Sue Ballard

**Thanks** Warwick Stott

## COMING UP

**22 November      Community Climate Action**

**4 December      Diane & Gavan McIntyre ROMAC and AGM**

**5 December      Dementia Café Christmas Party**

**9 December      Blackburn Craft Market**

**10 December      Whitehorse Farmers Market**

**11 December      Rev Rod Brown      Christmas Meeting**

*November is*  
*Rotary Foundation*  
*Month*

**CELEBRATIONS**



Congrats to Barbara Searle for 7 years in Rotary on November 24. Celebrate too only 2 countries with wild Polio virus.



**MEETING REPORT November 20, 2023**

Another low-key meeting with lots of warmth and good feeling.

In attendance- J McP, GG, BL, RB, SW, and a very welcome John Bindon.

Guests and visitors- Glen Coates, Judy Laslett, Daryl and Julie Hawkey

Apologies. WS,BM, SB, BS.

President Bob reported on Box Hill Institute award winners.

A reminder to book in for the last D9810 conference in Warrnambool-go to [www.9810rotary.org.au](http://www.9810rotary.org.au) and search conference.

Glenys reported on some lovely letters received from the families of our Primary School Award recipients.

John Bindon hopes to have contact with some community organisations soon to check if they have needs that we could supply.

Ron mentioned the future program, reinforcing ROMAC.. which is up and operating again.

The AGM is coming up.

Our Christmas dinner already has 5 or 6 market stall holders accepting our invitation.

15 January will be the first Rotary night in 2024. A BBQ or casual meeting-- we are looking for a venue.

Stuart mentioned the new regionalisation member positions.



Daryl, our guest speaker was known to many of the club. Julie assisted with the photos as Daryl spoke about "piggyback trips by Intrepid," to Romania, Moldova, Transnistria, Belarus and Ukraine.

Bucharest was depicted as a very impressive and attractive city. They ventured into the Danube wetlands area that has UNESCO protection. Over 350 species of birds can be found there.

In Moldova they had a home hosted lunch. A feature in that country is that they have "separate breads" for weddings, funerals and other special occasions. There were lots of comments about the "remarkable old people there-- around 65 years of age. (a smile- how remarkable are we. -so much older). They were impressed by the large areas of fertile land- grain growing. The capital cities all have Soviet - influenced architecture. A special place was a massive winery with a large number of tunnels.

Transnistria (have you ever heard of it??) is a small area cut out from Moldova.

In Ukraine Daryl commented on the beauty of the port city- Odessa. They took a night train from Odessa to Kyiv. There were many examples of how important freedom was after separation from Russia. They then travelled to Chernobyl. We have forgotten that 130,000 people were evacuated from there. There were areas where it was safe to walk. The guide had a Geiger counter. Daryl was impressed how quickly the vegetation and forests came back. Another city with UNESCO World Heritage was Lviv. Many, many different styles of architecture could be found.

In Belarus some very large memorials and graveyards were moving and impressive. 149 villages were burned by the Nazis. Daryl found the modern and creative memorials very moving. So many people died in the conflicts.

Ron gave a vote of thanks and commented that his mother's family came from Ukraine.





Thanks to Ron's ingenuity and nous the raffle went ahead and was won by Julie Hawkey and Judy Laslett.

An excellent meeting with food for the soul and many fascinating images to remember.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Stuart

Footnote- Judy Laslett met Merle Smith who is going well.

## Apprentice Awards

Last Thursday it was my pleasure on behalf of the club to attend the awards ceremony at Box Hill Institute. The Graham Taylor awardee was Wei Hao in the refrigeration area and the Ford Davis one was Ryan Bartlett in the cabinetmaking section. Unfortunately, Wei could not attend but it was great to catch up with Ryan, his mother and girlfriend.



Thanks to Sue and Barbara for getting us to this stage. I also met up with Ross Barden from cabinet making who had happy memories of conversations with Ray Smith. Numerous other Rotary clubs presented awards and there was a group photo.



The club was presented with 2 framed certificates acknowledging over 30 years of contributions.

## International Women's Day Early Bird Prices

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

## Invitations

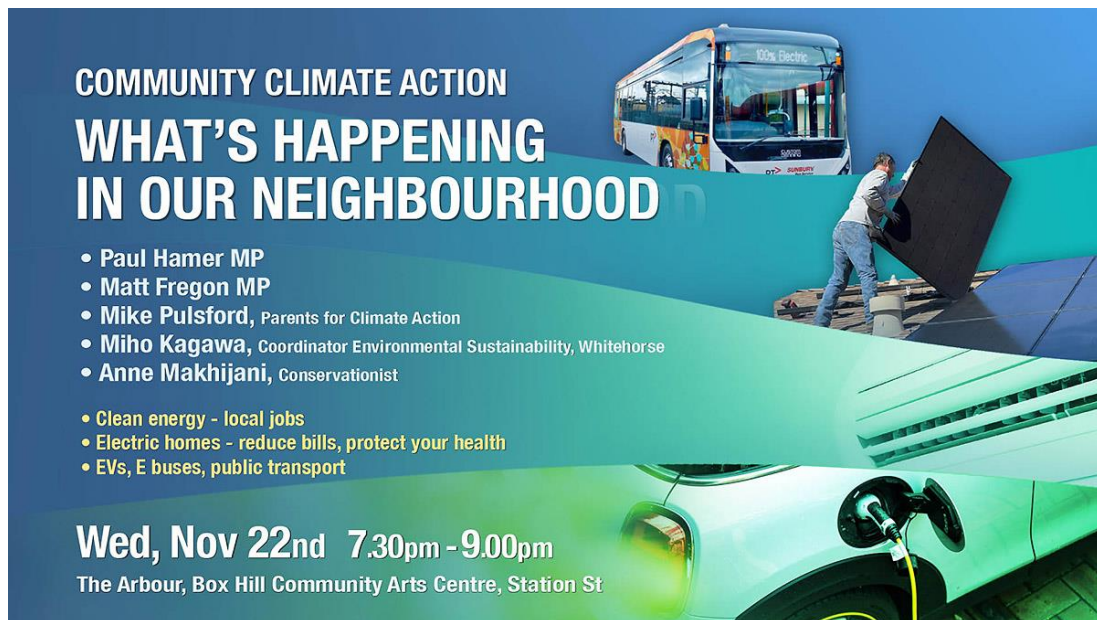
- Club members are invited to Nunawading Rotary Christmas Party on December 6 at the Knox club at 6pm. Cost \$43.

RSVP by **TODAY**

## HAMPERS

It is that time of year when we especially think of the needy. Items such as toys, Christmas cakes/puddings, shortbread/biscuits, custard, long life milk, canned ham/salmon/vegetables, soft drinks, fruit juice, chocolate/sweets, coffee/tea, pasta and pasta sauce, and family toiletries are always very useful. Bring them to our December meetings





## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

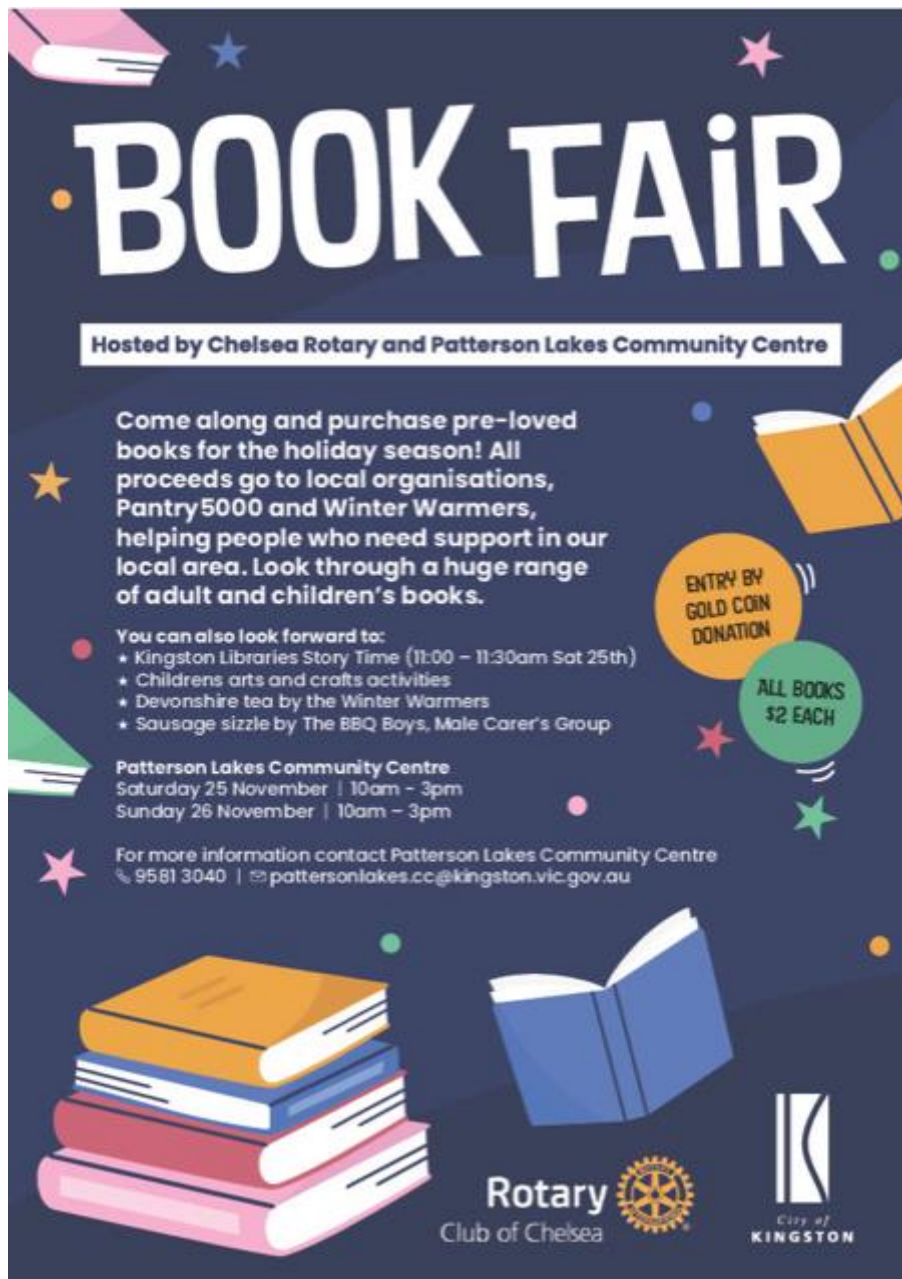
# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- 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

## BOOK FAIR



# BOOK FAIR

Hosted by Chelsea Rotary and Patterson Lakes Community Centre

Come along and purchase pre-loved books for the holiday season! All proceeds go to local organisations, Pantry5000 and Winter Warmers, helping people who need support in our local area. Look through a huge range of adult and children's books.

You can also look forward to:

- Kingston Libraries Story Time (11:00 - 11:30am Sat 25th)
- Childrens arts and crafts activities
- Devonshire tea by the Winter Warmers
- Sausage sizzle by The BBQ Boys, Male Carer's Group

**Patterson Lakes Community Centre**  
Saturday 25 November | 10am - 3pm  
Sunday 26 November | 10am - 3pm

For more information contact Patterson Lakes Community Centre  
☎ 9581 3040 | ✉ [pattersonlakes.cc@kingston.vic.gov.au](mailto:pattersonlakes.cc@kingston.vic.gov.au)

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

ALL BOOKS \$2 EACH

**Rotary**  
Club of Chelsea

**City of KINGSTON**

## 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.

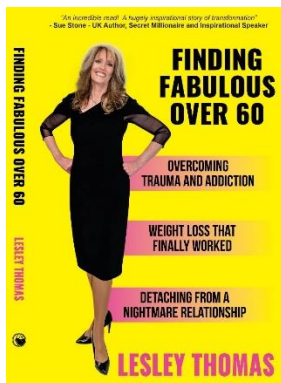
Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

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 next month- December 9**

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