

FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 01

President: Bill Marsh

06 July 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE



It has been an interesting start to the new Rotary year for Judy and me. We were having a break in Adelaide before the year started when our son-in-law and then grand daughter came down with COVID, one after the other.

A quick pack-up and then fleeing for the border and home. Working on the theory, if we had to be quarantined, we would rather do it at home.

Fortunately, neither of us has tested positive to date. We have been isolating to ensure we didn't infect any of our friends but are now hopeful of being able to resume our 'normal' life after tomorrow.

The first meeting of my year was on Monday which gave John Bindon a chance to run the night and say Thank You to everyone for their support during his time as President.

Our last three Presidents (Stuart, Sue & John) have all had difficult years with COVID and lockdowns. To add to the difficulty John has been battling ill-health.

I would like to Thank John for all of his hard work on behalf of the club. No matter how he felt John was always bright, cheerful and positive as he battled to steer the club on the right path.

Although our falling numbers, and ageing bodies, make it more difficult to run projects and activities we are fortunate that members are keen, enthusiastic and supportive of each other. I am looking forward to a hectic, fun and successful year.

Our Changeover dinner will be held on Monday night and it will be great to have members, family, friends and supporters of our club all together for a great night.

This weekend, weather permitting, we will be involved with our two markets. Blackburn on Saturday and WFM on Sunday. Thanks, in advance, to all who will be helping out over the weekend.



WELCOME TO WINTER!!! (Only 56 days 'til Spring.)

MEETING REPORT

Chairperson Glenys Grant opened the meeting by recognising the traditional owners of this land being the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Glenys then pointed out that this week the 13th to the 10th. July 2022 was “The National Aborigine and Islanders Day Observance Committee” (NAIDOC) was established.

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Arbiters peoples.

The acting President John Bindon proposed two toasts first to our great country Australia 2nd to Rotary International.

John took the opportunity of thanking board members & committee chairs for their support during his year as President.

Special reference was made to Ron Brooks, for club programs he had organise, Bob Williams’s role as Sgt and a special mention John McPhee for his efforts in running the Blackburn Arts and Craft Markets.

Stuart Williams’s role as secretary, and Warwick Stott as Treasurer.

John urged all members to give Bill Marsh their full support in his year as the Club President.

Again, this week’s meeting operated in a relaxed style as there were only seven members in attendance. Apologies for our meeting were- Barbara Searle, Barbara Williams, Bill Marsh, Bob Laslett and Ron Brooks.

Glenys Grant called for reports.

Secretary: Stuart reported that a past president of the Rotary club of mention had passed away. Club runner has been updated for the new Rotary year. It was expected that thirty-nine people will be in attendance for the Change Over Night next week.

Treasurer: Warwick – reported that the barbecue trailer purchased from the Rotary Club of Hillsville has been paid.

Foundation: Bob L on holidays. It was reported that a film night will be held to raise funds for the Katolo School in Kenya.

Vocational: No report.

Community: John Bindon mentioned that a couple of our community grant recipients were coming to Changeover.

Youth/Enviro: Glenys- reported that the RYLA camp was closed on the 3rd day due to a person affected by covid – 19. Glenys reported that the beehive project at a local school was progressing well.

Markets: John/ Warwick - Warwick sent around the roster for WFM. Program: Ron - no report but all in-hand.

Bob Williams conducted his usual Sgt session, depriving members of their money. The amount raised was a very respectable \$16.30.

Chairperson Glenys introduced Sue Ballard speaking on “Aboriginal Food and Culture”

TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL BUSH FOODS

When Sue, great grandparents arrived in Australia they settled in near Warrnambool in western regional of Victoria. And quickly formed a relationship with the local Indigenous Australian people. They had no understanding of First Nations Australians’ vast knowledge of local plant foods, and over a period they learnt about bush tucker.

In more than one instance, an early explorer gave the people food, only to have them return it. Some of the overland explorers, ignorant of local foods, perished of starvation, while Aboriginal people lived nearby.

Sue's family members learnt about a wide range of plants and animals that were eaten by Australia's Indigenous Australians, and insect foods included certain ants, grubs, moths, and beetles, while streams provided fish and eels (in some regions).

They learnt how to cook Kangaroo correctly & collect plant life, which were used to make tea, herbs to flavour food etc.

The nature of bush tucker (bush foods) varies throughout the country. In the well-watered coastal regions and tropical north of Australia, a large variety of plant and animal species provides ample food for consumption. In the arid interior, where there is less variety of species, Aboriginal people were still able to find enough nourishment for survival, occupying every part of the continent.

Sue pointed out that Indigenous Australian people were very territorial, example Western district aborigine people did not mix well with the people from the eastern part of the state. Since people have adapted to European lifestyles over the past two hundred years, the traditional foods which required considerable preparation are no longer generally eaten.

Knowledge and first-hand experience of the collecting, and preparation of such foods, is still retained by senior people and has been recorded for posterity by anthropologists and modern-day Aboriginal families.

Sue's great-grandfather was manager of an Indigenous Australian community which was established on Cape Barren Island, Tasmania.

Sue spoke about "The Pearl Sister" (The Seven Sisters) who were a group of female artists who would do their artwork in groups around their communities. Several examples of their work were shown. The sale of their work was to raise money for their communities.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Sue answered several questions.

Bob Williams on behalf the members moved the vote of thanks to Sue for her presentation.

Meeting closed at 8 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Changeover Dinner

Club roster for 11th July, 2022.

Chairperson: Bob Laslett

Greeter: Sue Ballard

Notes for "Happenings": Stuart Williams

Cashier & Recorder: Bob Williams

COMING UP

18th July Club Forum

July is Literacy Month

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Sue Ballard as she celebrates joining Rotary on the 10th July 2017.



SPROUTINGS



The **bad news** first. As I'm sure you have read, the bee-crippling virus carrying varroa mite was first detected in mid-June in NSW.

It was reported that the debilitating virus was detected in hives at the Port of Newcastle.

As Native bee populations in New Zealand reportedly had declined by a staggering 90% after the parasite was found there, prompt action has been taken in NSW and an emergency biosecurity zone established to prevent its spread in Australia.

Since then the problem and the bee eradication zone has been increased. The Guardian reports as many as 600 beehives and at least six million bees have been destroyed and another, larger eradication zone has now been established following the deadly outbreak.

There are now emergency zones around nine infested premises. This means that all bees within 10 km of the Port of Newcastle and Bulahdelah will be destroyed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/30/bee-industry-confident-varroa-mite-can-be-contained-after-600-hives-destroyed-in-nsw>

What is the Varroo mite and why is it a problem?

Wikipedia Abstract. The ectoparasitic mite, Varroa destructor, is unarguably the leading cause of honeybee (Apis mellifera) mortality worldwide through its role as a vector for lethal viruses, in particular, strains of the Deformed wing virus (DWV) and Acute bee paralysis virus (ABPV) complexes.

The future looks grim. Apparently, there is no hope for the almond harvest, or the bees in the current infected area. We can only hope that the virus does not expand beyond those zones, that no further bees need to be killed and the bee keepers' livelihoods survive. So sad. Rotary has done much to help bees survive and now this.

The good news: [Australia's Pat Armstrong is the new ESRAG](#)

ESRAG Oceania's annual report highlighted these key achievements for the year.

- ◆ Change of name from ESRAG ANZPI to ESRAG Oceania
- ◆ Increased membership from 154 to 218 (June to June figures)
- ◆ Monthly chapter meetings on Zoom with presentations from recognised enviro experts
- ◆ Facilitating a panel of speakers connected with COP 26
- ◆ Development and delivery of the pilot ESRAG Ambassador program
- ◆ Monthly Newsletters promoting environmental events and current environmental issues
- ◆ Development and launch of a Rotary Club Carbon Calculator (Oceania)
- ◆ Training in and maintenance of the ESRAG imemberdb portal
- ◆ Maintained Oceania website and Facebook sites
- ◆ On-going support for ESRAG development
- ◆ Development of posters, pull up banners and other collateral for District conferences
- ◆ Initiated a Tonga Hub for improving communications

ESRAG Oceania's aims for our region remain:

- ◆ an Environmental Sustainability committee in every District
- ◆ a network of District Environmental Sustainability Coordinators
- ◆ an Environmental Sustainability representative in every club
- ◆ a Community of Practice of ESRAG Environmental Ambassadors
- ◆ a network to address specific environmental challenges

Here is something from Fairtrade:



Snuggle up under a blanket and listen to a podcast.

If the whole 'climate change' disaster feels a bit overwhelming it might be time to listen to a new-ish podcast by two old friend's, actor Cate Blanchett (yes, that one) and clean energy entrepreneur Danny Kennedy. '[Climate of Change](#)' is an original podcast (so you might need to do a free trial) which aims to bring a little bit of hope to all of us.

Shop: get layered up but make it eco.

Reduce (buy less), reuse (wear more), recycle (OP SHOP!!) and when you can't - shop Fairtrade. May the op-shop gods give you all finds of cashmere vintage sweaters and woollen double-breasted coats!

Ed Note: And shop ROTARY Op Shops for the best!

Whitehorse City Council Sustainability eNews



Food Recycling is Here!

With food waste collections having commenced on July 1, the Whitehorse community is diverting a significant volume of organics from landfill.

Residents who have a lime-green lid bin for their garden organic waste can start placing their food scraps into the same bin.

If you are eligible and would like to order one, [visit our website](#) or call customer service on (03) 9262 6333. The Food and Garden Organics bin is an optional user-pays service.

With good community participation we can divert up to 13,500 tonnes of food and garden organics waste annually! For more information, [visit Council's website](#).

Plastic Free July is upon us and it's a great opportunity to think of creative ways to reduce our plastic waste and be part of the solution to the plastic problem. Read the ENews newsletter to find out about local Plastic Free July events to help you get started, and consider [signing up to take the Plastic Free July Challenge](#).



Plastic Free July Morning Tea

When: Thursday July 14, 10 - 11am

Where: Strathdon House and Orchid Precinct

Cost: \$5 per person

Bookings essential: [Register here](#)

Join us for a plastic free morning tea to celebrate Plastic Free July and to learn some clever ways to live waste free and stop using single-use plastics.

Whether you're just starting on your zero-waste journey or a seasoned waste-warrior there will be an opportunity for everyone to learn and share.

The new Rotary year: It is now time to reflect on what we have achieved for the environment in the last year and what actions we plan for this coming year.

We began this column to provide relevant information, discussion topics, projects that members could implement and actions and opportunities you could take. Over the past twelve months we have covered as many topics as you indicated were of interest in our original survey.

We hope these columns have been enjoyed by you.

Bronze Award: We have achieved a Rotary ESRAG Bronze Environment Award for our numerous activities.

Other:

Our original survey gave us useful feedback and helped us plan the year. It showed us all to be great recyclers.

Now some club members are on a number of environment committees and working groups. One member is one of four community representatives on the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group which discusses all E&S issues and efforts in Whitehorse.

Our skills are expanding to include supporting activities such as environmental education, antipollution and waterway protection. All of this is very exciting and showing growth in our interest, involvement and knowledge.

Thank you all for your environment sustainability achievements.

Our Forest Hill College Greening Project is going very well. The club can expect more news on that soon.

So what does the future hold? That's up for discussion.

For now here is a wish for you all which is part of an Acknowledgement of Country statement and is for all of us who care about our beautiful environment in which we live:

'.....may we all live, work and act in harmonious relationship with land, with sea and community.....'

Signing off, **Glenys**



WARRATINA FARM PTY LTD

Trading as

WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM

105 Quayle Road, WANDIN YALLOCK

Victoria, 3139, Australia



Phone: +61 (0) 3 5964 4650

Fax: +61 (0) 3 5964 4658

E-mail: info@warratinalavender.com.au

Web: www.warratinalavender.com.au

ABN – 34 257 074 101

2nd May 2022

Wood Workers

Wood Turners

Wood Carvers

Clubs

Dear Wood Enthusiasts & your Clubs,

Warratina Lavender Farm, situated in the Yarra Valley at Wandin, will be holding its 11th Wood Working Expo from 3rd September to 18th September 2022 after a most successful Exhibition in 2019. Following the disappointing cancellation of the Expo in 2020 & 2021, we want to make this one really special.

We wish to invite you again to participate at this year's Expo & make it another success. Proceeds from the entry fee will go to our local CFA in Wandin. In addition, The Eastern Wood Turners have kindly offered to be demonstrators on the weekends of the Expo.

Items exhibited can be for sale or for exhibit only. A **10% commission** will be charged on all sales.

The advertising of this event is now on our website with the amended dates & also on Tourism Victoria's events page.

If you know anyone who may be interested in participating with exhibits, please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Faithfully,

[Annemarie Manders](#)

Director

M: +61 (0) 417 589 231

Email: info@warratinalavender.com.au

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

SHELAGH CRAFTS

bellburn crafts stall is the brainchild of Shelagh Black. Shelagh, a local Blackburn resident, sells handmade cards, items for baby that she has personally made and when the weather turns cooler, her knitted clothes. She has made all the items she sells and has had a Blackburn market stall for 8 months. Shelagh started making things for her granddaughter, including bibs, nappy holders, change mats, baby wear etc. She made many more than her granddaughter could use so had the great idea that others could benefit from her skills rather than just her granddaughter, hence the craft stall. Her granddaughter continues to be the “testing ground” for her new products so expect the range to increase as granddaughter gets older. As she makes everything herself, if you like something but not the colour or it is the wrong size, well she will make it for you. How’s that for service. Shelagh has a stall at a number of markets including two other Rotary ones, Hawthorn Makers Market (1st Sunday), and Waverley Market (2nd Sunday). Good news is that she takes Visa & Mastercard.



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET



Market operates on the second Saturday each month (except for January)