



2012-2013
Weekly Bulletin of the
Rotary Club of Forest Hill

Edition 17: 19 November 2012

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill meets at 6.15 pm for 6.30 pm on Mondays at Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132.

Meal cost \$27.00

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

Email rlaslett@optusnet.com.au Website foresthillrotary.com

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CLUB PROGRAM

Date	Event	Chair	Thanker and Meeting Report	Member Talk on an aspect of peace
19 November	Professor Lawrence McMahon & Box Hill Club Board	Chris Tuck	Gary Baltissen	
26 November	Youth Achievement awards	Bob Williams	Ray Smith	Bill Marsh

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS



Merle Smith- Birthday -26 November

DUTY ROSTER

	November
Cashier	John Donaghey
Recorder	Ron Brooks
Greeter	Gary Baltissen
Emergency	Bob Williams

ATTENDANCE

Apologies - **Please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY** on 9878 4891 or rcssmith@optusnet.com.au Any cancellation after 10.00 am should be made direct with the management of Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268

BOB'S BELLBIRD BLOG

It's been a great week catching up with former exchange students Antti and Christine and a number of past members. We heard that DG Brian's China water project is going ahead and the Fijian vehicle project has 2/3 of its needed funds. Ken Wall rang through with the good news that his daughter Emma's CD launch has raised \$425 for the Taveuni project. Thanks to all who contributed to the weekend's successful markets. It was also great to hear that Bill Marsh is willing to stand as President Nominee for 2014/2015.

Coming up

- Hanover Ride for the Homeless- 18 November
- Annual Foundation dinner- 22 November-
- Kids Fun run with Thomas-25 November- can you help?
- Peace Forum-27 November
- Club day for visiting GSE team from Malaysia -4 March 2013
- District Conference – 15-17 March 2013 –Wangaratta- 5 rooms booked at Advance Motel-

Our numbers will be swelled next week as our good friends from the Rotary Club of Box Hill join us to hear Prof Lawrence McMahon Kidney Health director for Eastern Health. Also note that our AGM is coming up on December 3.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

What a busy and enjoyable meeting we had this week. It was great to welcome back Antti Leppanen, an Exchange Student from 1996. Antti brought with him his wife, Kahti and son, Ahti. Antti gave us an update on his life over the past 16 years during which time he has started his family and both he, and Kahti, have established themselves as artists following their obtaining Fine Arts Degrees. As is our custom we presented Antti with a pen set for himself and his wife, but never has one of Ray's beautiful pens been so enthusiastically received as when we presented one to 5 year old Ahti. He spent the rest of the night drawing on whatever he could find.



Following Antti's talk we were addressed by Barry Phillips, manager of the Whitehorse Men's Shed. Barry outlined the development of the project from humble beginnings in the back garden of the Box Hill Community Arts Centre to its new home on the Nadrasca site in Springvale Road. Barry told us about the wide backgrounds of the men who have the Shed as a major part of their lives and of their never ending battle for funding. How from 3-4 regulars they now have 16 on a weekly basis with a waiting list of another dozen. The Shed project is one that the Club will be supporting this year through the Harper Family Bequest.

We also welcomed Honorary Members Carol and David McNamara, Visiting Rotarian Stuart McDonald and two Partners in Kathy Donaghey and Judy Laslett.

In his usual quiet manner Stan, as Sergeant at Arms, managed to painlessly extract \$42.75 from us for the Rotary Foundation.

Various Directors gave brief reports on their portfolios and Glenys presented Stan with Centurion Club Certificates for himself and Joan.

Our general Meeting was followed by brief Committee Meetings where each group talked through their progress to date and their plans for the future.

Bill Marsh

PEACE

On Tuesday 27 November MASH are holding a free Q & A style peace forum at Box Hill lower Town Hall 6.30 for 7pm. Great speakers- Dr Helen Szoke; David Vincent ; Sarah Bond; Chin Tan; Dr Melika Sheik-Eldin moderated by Murray Baird. RSVP rotarypeaceforum@gmail.com or SMS 0450472723

Peace Talk by P.P. Stuart Williams

Delivered to the Rotary Club of Forest Hill November,12 2012

As an optimistic and naïve citizen of the world, I believed that friendship, Rotary Youth Exchange and universal education, would bring about, or at least move us all toward a more harmonious, civilized and peaceful world. But over the last 20 years I fear that the world I know has become more violent, more discourteous and definitely, more hate filled. Could this be put down to the proliferation of violence on TV, in films and particularly in video games that have desensitized a couple of generations of young people? The jury is out there.

Recently social or open media, has enabled people of all backgrounds to more easily disseminate hate and savagery. The number of emails that I receive that have been blindly forwarded, ones that lack common decency and that indicate that many people have abandoned their humanity and unthinkingly push a computer key. I have chastised some of the peddlers of this hatred and many have said; " Oh – I really didn't read it, or think about it, and they are not my thoughts or beliefs." In genteel and discerning Melbourne we have been spared the venom of the Sydney shock jocks. Can you imagine our parents condoning many of the comments from the Sydney broadcasters? The broadcasters who often make incendiary comments, who spit venom and who spread political poison and have said the following;

"women are destroying the joint – there is no chaff bag big enough for these people."

"This Sunday – every Aussie in the Shire get down to North Cronulla to support Leb and Wog bashing day."

Or

"What did we do as a nation to have this vermin infect us like this."

I wonder what is the difference between inciting violence and performing violent acts?

The principle of freedom of speech is black and white – the practice is grey. Have we lost sight of moral and ethical considerations? Freedom of speech is a valued entitlement and should be preserved wherever possible. I believe free speech brings rights and responsibilities. We need to be wary of angry people who set out to cause gross offence and are about vilification. Recently there has been a slide towards anger and hate in our political debates. Surely freedom of speech does not mean enabling a person to incite hatred and /or riots without fear of repercussions.

Some modern societies have managed to retain "respect" as a value. I wonder if we, and many western countries, have nurtured and retained it. People all over the USA respect the position of President. Do we give our PM the respect her position demands?

As Rotarians, in the name of PEACE, let us say we want people everywhere treated with greater care and respect. I truly believe we need to restore civility to our public discourse as a first step towards peace.

Let us continually ask, "What does it mean to be a civilized society? What does it mean to live in a civilized world?"

Could it be a world at peace.

ROTARY CLUBS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN KIDS EDUCATION

The Board has agreed to support the ABCD project in Taveuni, Fiji in conjunction with the Whitehorse Rotaract club. The Rotaract club is planning a giant monopoly game next year.

PP Stuart has agreed to champion the project. Ken Wall has reported that paintings from Taveuni Central School will be displayed at the upcoming District conference.

CONFERENCE

Eight people from our club are planning to attend and six have paid their registration dues.

Where The District 9810 Conference in 2013 will be held at the magnificent [Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre](#)

When The conference runs from lunch time Friday 15th March to Sunday 17th March 2013.

Saturday Night



A touch of green

Whether you decide to celebrate St Patrick's Day or choose a different interpretation, include a touch of green in your dress for this fun night. Don't want to 'dress up'? A green tie and handkerchief or a green blouse or skirt will do. To be held in a large marquee with a tree in the middle, the night will feature great food and wine from the local area – an opportunity to indulge your senses.

MORE <http://2013conference.9810rotary.org.au/registration/>

FOREST HILL'S MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Current 16

Aim 20

POLIO NEWS

There is a new and important website – endpolionow.org that you should visit and help make history.

It

- Has top stories
- Has interactive information
- Shows how your donation matters
- Shows how to calculate your "social worth" and use your social media status to share Rotary's polio story
- Gives Polio communication resources

INTERESTING PROPOSITIONS

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires. The second is full of assassins with loaded guns. The third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years. Which room is safest for him?

A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally she hangs him. But five minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a meal. How can this be?

(Bring your answers for the Sergeant to mark.)

ANNUAL FOUNDATION DINNER

THUR 22 NOV
9:00 pm

6:30 to

**District
9810
Annual
Foundation
Dinner**
hosted by
**The
Rotary**



Club of Noble Park

Keynote Speaker: Bruce Allen

For details and registration
visit: **Foundation**

Contact: Keith Maxwell at **KEITH**

Phone: **0418 647 064**

**The Rotary Club of Noble Park
Inc. You are invited to attend
D9810 Rotary Foundation Annual Dinner
Whealers Hill International, 242 Jells Road Wheelers Hill Vic 3150
(Mel 71 H 11)**

**Guest Speaker - PDG Bruce Allen Manager - The Rotary Foundation
South Pacific & Philippines Office**

Two course dinner (drinks @ bar prices) We hope you can join us to make up
tables of 10.

\$45 per person. (includes a pre dinner drink)

Proceeds will support The Rotary Foundation humanitarian & educational projects in Australia and overseas

Starting 6.30 for 7.00pm start, concluding by 9.00pm

**A table of 10 from a single club will provide that club with sufficient credits to recognise a Rotarian or
member of the community as a Paul Harris Fellow. Clubs might consider subsidising their bookings by
\$20 each. In this way, a table of 10 would cost a club \$200, but would provide 1000 PHF credits.**

RSVP to: Keith Maxwell by Thurs 15/11/2012 keith_t_maxwell@yahoo.com.au phone: 0418 647 064 Please bring your
club name badge

Payment by cheque to The Rotary Club of Noble Park 5 Romsey Street Noble Park Vic 3174

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS**11/2012 *ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH***

19/11/2012	Club meeting & board
22/11/2012	Foundation Dinner
26/11/2012	Youth Achievement awards
27/11/2012	Peace forum
30/11/2012	Institute
-2/12/2012	

12/2012 **FAMILY OF ROTARY**

3/12/2012	Club meeting/ AGM
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Please have FOREST HILL FLYER articles to the Editor at rlaslett@optusnet.com.au by **5 pm next Wednesday** (in Microsoft Word format please)