



President: John McPhee

Number 21

28 November 2016

Club address:

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

Email address:

foresthillrotary1975@gmail.com

Website:

www.foresthillrotary.com

Meeting location:

Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132 (Melways 48H9)

Meeting time:

Monday 6.15 for 6.30 pm

Facebook:

Rotary Club Forest Hill

CLUB PROGRAM

Date	Event	Chair	Thanks and Meeting report
28 November	YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS <i>Thanushi Peiris</i>	Mike Finke	Bob Laslett
5 December	Sustainable Giving ANNUAL MEETING <i>Jess Groszek/Helen Harrison</i>	Glenys Grant	John Mc Phee
12 December	CLUB FORUM at McPhees		
19 December	No Meeting		

THIS WEEKS CELEBRATIONS

Merle Smith's birthday this week- congratulations for 26 November.

DUTY ROSTER

	November	December
Recorder	Glenys Grant	Bill Marsh
Greeter	Ray Smith	John Donaghey
Emergency	Bob Williams	Warwick Stott
Cashier	Bob Laslett	Bob Laslett

ATTENDANCE

APOLOGY – IF A MEMBER IS NOT GOING TO COME TO THE MEETING or you intend bringing a guest please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY on 0412 807 585 or rcssmith@optusnet.com.au

.SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS to Ray by 10am at the LATEST

Any CANCELLATION AFTER 10.00 AM *should* be made direct with the management of

Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268

DON HULLAND

Don is in Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon Street, Alexandra 3714, and his mobile number is **0409**

530 435. Please give him a call or phone the office 5770-2100 and ask for Don.

PRESIDENT JOHN'S JOTTINGS

Welcome to our 2 newest members, Martine Macleod-Craig, and Barbara Searle who were inducted into membership, Monday. Enjoy fellowship and community service with your fellow Rotarians. To Nancy we wish you well for Christmas with family and that a good result is received as you undergo medical follow up from your recent health problems, and your planned trip to Europe. Travel safely and we look forward to your return to Melbourne in due course.

On Friday the first of the Gysi-Davis awards to 2 year11 students, at Forest Hill College will be presented, and next Monday we present our signature youth event, "Youth Achievement Awards" to 12 students from 12 Primary Schools in the South East area of the City of Whitehorse. The attendance number for this night is 64 and presents the opportunity for us to promote Rotary and the Rotary Club of Forest Hill within our schools communities.

Our following meeting on 5th December should be an interesting event where Jess Groszek and Helen Harrison speak to us on the subject "Sustainable Giving".

Don't forget to diarise the upcoming vocational visit to Chris Tuck's cherry orchard and farm on Thursday 15th December.

John.

Last Week's Meeting



This meeting brought joy to the heart of all Forest Hill Rotarians. Two members inducted on the one night. More than that, two female members. Welcome Barbara and Martine. I believe you will strengthen our club and I hope you enjoy the Rotary experience.

As a teacher /trainer my mentors always said, "be prepared for the technology to let you down". We started late due to a major technology hiccup. The computer and the overhead projector threw a wobbly. Once underway Bob opened with a brief historical reflection. Our two new members were inducted by President John. It was wonderful to see our previous newest member, Mike, out front as the person who nominated Barbara and Martine into the club. Such a positive sign.

Brief reports were given by directors and some time was given outlining the requirements for next week's Youth Achievement awards.

The raffle raised \$53 and the Sgt -without doing any work- raised \$31.15. PP Shia Smart from MASH Rotary Club gave a presentation on their International Women's Day Breakfast, 8 March, 2017. This year's theme will be – "Media-Women's friend or Foe?". The breakfast is open to men and women and is held at the Box Hill Town Hall.

The next delight was a video presentation by Bob Williams of Bob and Barb's trip to Cape York peninsula. They travelled with tour company Outback Spirit and were impressed by the food, the accommodation and the effort of the staff. Bob has a talent and passion for video and editing. His film had useful captions and appropriate music. We enjoyed the crocodile scenes and got a great feel for the country-side. A wonderful glimpse of a rarely visited part of Australia. Thanks Bob.

An enjoyable meeting that buoyed the spirits of a small club.

Stuart

Sergeant's Reflection

As we have a big agenda there will be no sergeant's session tonight and a brief reflection.

This was from an address to the 1956 Rotary Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA.

"What could be more symbolic of Rotary than a great symphony orchestra, bringing together in perfect harmony people from many different countries, nationalities, races, creeds and cultures, representing many specialised talents but each playing a different note on a different instrument and each essential for the perfection of the whole?"

I thought this appropriate as later tonight we will welcome two new members or "musicians" to the Forest Hill section of our Rotary world-wide symphony orchestra and I look forward to their particular talents enhancing our performance. Hopefully their talents lie more in the strings or percussion sections as Forest Hill already has plenty in the wind section.

Out and About

Barbara and I bought tickets to a fund raiser at Leongatha to see Greg Champion of the Coodabeen Champions fame. We had seen him several times before at the Tamworth Country Music Festival and I (and Stuart) had seen him performing with the Coodabeens outside the MCG doing their Saturday morning show before the Grand Final.

As we were on our own we were made welcome at the Leongatha Rotary club's table. (The wonderful Rotary family). Barbara was chatting to Greg before the show telling him we enjoyed him at Tamworth and I joined them telling him I also saw him at the Grand Final Coodabeen's show. The local newspaper photographer asked if he could take a photo of us with Greg and took our names etc so we'll buy a local paper next week. Greg was on his own so asked if he could sit with us until he was due to go on, to which we, of course agreed. The rest of the table were delighted to have him sitting and chatting to us as he is a delightful guy. He bought me a beer then went on and entertained us for 2 hours with his side splitting views on all the various footy clubs (particularly Collingwood supporters). He knew I was a Dees man and MCC member from our chatting, so during his act asked for any Dees supporters in the audience who were also MCC members and I was the only one so he sang a very funny ditty including snow skiing and Range Rovers directed at me. Barbara also got mentioned by him so we were part of his performance.

Funds raised were towards erecting a statue to Lennie Gwyther. Who was Lennie you may say?

Lennie (the Legend) lived with his folks on their farm at Leongatha and in 1932 in the middle of the Depression he persuaded his folks to let him ride his horse to Sydney for the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. So in February on his horse Ginger Mick, Lennie set off on his 1000 km journey. He was 9 years old. Word got around and he was feted as he rode through towns such as Lakes Entrance, Cooma and Bowral. He followed bush tracks and at the old Parliament House in Canberra which had sheep grazing around it, he took tea with the PM Joseph Lyons and when reaching Sydney met the Lord Mayor and took part in the Harbour bridge opening pageant. He met Donald Bradman then convinced his folks to let him ride home again. Lennie's two younger sisters were at the fund raiser as was his daughter and

granddaughter. He lived until 70. Amazing, as these days a parent probably wouldn't allow their 9yo to walk to the shops by themselves.

Bob W



Social Media Messages

Episode eleven is up and running.

<https://soundcloud.com/mike-finke-167583478/five-minute-forest-hill-episode-eleven>

Efforts by Ron Brooks and me have been partially successful, the official RCFH Facebook page found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubForestHill/>.

We now have three administrators who can add content, post as the club's official voice, and respond to comments. Another able social media expert would be excellent.

We do also have an orphaned RCFH profile here: <https://www.facebook.com/foresthill.rotary?fref=ts>.

The login and password does not seem to be on file. If we had this, we could easily merge the two pages. If anybody knows who might have the access details, please get in touch. Regardless, please encourage anybody and everybody you know to like our current, active page, particularly if they're listed as friends on the now defunct one.

The email address, "WhatWhitehorseNeeds@gmail.com" is now live and ready for use. Please spread it around within the local area by any means necessary, including but not limited to: the business cards which have been printed, flyers, social media posts, in conversations, sandwich boards, skywriting, or yelling it through a megaphone. The hope is that the address will serve to inform or remind the community of the work RCFH does as well as providing some market research on possible areas for future projects.

Cheers,
Mike F

Thailand after the death of the beloved King.

Many people have asked me to describe the differences in Thailand after the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. I arrived a week after his death and the overwhelming impression was – BLACK. Black everywhere. I have never seen so many people wearing black. The government imposed a strict mourning period of one month, and a general mourning period of one year. People were asked to wear black or white in respect. I left home my red shorts and bright yellow T-shirts. The manager of The Australian Pub and BBQ said he did not recognise me in black- I usually wore very colourful gear.

There were huge photos of the king everywhere (much more than normal). Black and white material was used to drape under photos, along fences and around entrances. TV for one month was black and white. No soaps or fun shows, just the news in black and white, news presenters all wearing black, many, many histories of the king and his travels. No sport to be played and "people not to be seen having fun." Bar girls, entertainment hostesses were to cover-up. Bars, many businesses and entertainment to close at midnight instead of 2 or 3am. This had a major impact on the income of many hospitality workers.

Many of the Bangkok venues used an interesting way to "interpret" the rules. Not to be seen to be having fun. Buy big thick curtains and close off the room/ bar / dance area to the street. Close the usually open doors so no one could see in, turn the volume of music way down. In this way the tourist trade was able to continue. Night clubs/ dance clubs

opened at 7.30pm instead of 9.30 but this did not mean people came. Most workers do not finish until 10pm. They were quiet. Bangkok was very quiet.

One favorite venue – Tawangdan German brewery (huge restaurant and show place) revamped their Floor show (actually their whole program) and toned down the rock n roll and had many ballads and every third song related to the king or the monarchy. It was very moving and very tasteful. The girlie bars covered up. Usually fully naked pole dancers wore a t shirt—that stopped in line with the private parts. They had on no briefs or G strings, so any movement was still revealing. Others who might normally be topless wore bras and briefs. Places with large numbers of girls have half in black bras and briefs and the replacement dancers in white bras and briefs. The girls attempting to entice men to stop for a drink were covered up much more than normal.

Outside of Bangkok more liberal interpretations of the bans and restrictions were applied. In Hua Hin (where the King often holidayed and had a palace) dancing was allowed at one venue (The Hilton) and they were allowed to stay open until 2am. Phuket seemed to be operating normally.

There were many outdoor art shows of paintings or photographs of the king on display. The Art Gallery had a wonderful display of black and white photos of the king's life. A massive trade was going on in black ribbons, black T shirts and black dresses, tops and trousers. Trade and commerce was alive and well by the second week after his death. Thousands of Thais flocked to Bangkok to join thousands outside the Grand Palace, in stifling heat, to try to file past his coffin. This is set to continue for almost 3 months. The Bangkok Post newspaper for 3 weeks had 3 or 4 full page advertisements –The Kings photo- and the company name in each issue. Many smaller ones were scattered through the press. Businesses erected huge billboards expressing sympathy. In a mainly Buddhist country I was interested to see a large sign erected by Bangkok Hospital to say – Eternally resting in Heaven. Heaven is obviously not just a Christian concept.

It is hard for Farangs (foreigners) to comprehend such adoration and love. Each individual Thai spoke about “MY KING”. It was a love and respect as though this person had personally done things for that individual. Thais are proud of their constitutional monarchy. I felt it was like our attitude to the monarchy back in the 1950's. The late king seemed to be a good, kind, caring man who had a vision for Thailand and was able to suggest many positive things to his subjects to help them improve farming and their lives. He will be missed. The royal cremation will take place in one year. Special trees have been selected to burn the ashes. An elaborate chariot has been prepared to carry the body and funeral urn.

It was a privilege to be there at such a unique time and to attempt to comprehend a very different culture.

Stuart Williams

Accommodation for Geelong District Convention

I have booked 6 rooms at Rippleside Park Motor Inn for Fri 31 March and Booking out Sunday 2 April.

Cost \$200

It could be a pleasant 2 km walk around Corio Bay to Cunningham Pier.

Currently booked in are Bob and Barb Williams, Bob and Judy Laslett, Bill and Judy Marsh, Glenys Grant, Stuart Williams.

If anyone else is interested in attending , please contact me asap.

Stuart

DIARY DATES

Monday 28 November	Youth Achievement awards
Thurs. 15 Dec.	Visit to Chris & Jenny Tuck's Cherry Orchard.
Mon. 9 Jan. 2017	BBQ at Mike & Kira Finke's home in Vermont to open the year.
Sat 4 Feb. 2017	Lunch at Kathy & John Donaghey's home in Ocean Grove.
Thurs. 2 Mar. 2017	Lunch at Bev & Gary Baltissen's home in Sorrento.

FOREST HILL COLLEGE BREAKFAST ROSTER

The dynamic duo Barb and Bob W filled in with verve this week on a miserable morning. Here is a note from Bob.

As Bob Laslett had a funeral interstate to attend I filled in for him and so Barbara and I did the breakfast this week. Pancakes were the go with me doing the preparation (and getting a lot of it all over the place) and Barbara doing the cooking. Even though it was cold and wet it was a fairly busy morning and I noticed that Chaplain Ben had this growth under his nose which he was growing for Movember. A funny moment was when I heard this deep voice (a year 11 guy) telling us about him being on his "L's" and preferring to drive with his dad as his front seat passenger, as when his mum takes him she grips his left arm so hard that she leaves a mark. I told Ben about RYDA and the great assistance I'm sure it would be to the school's "L's" if the school would allow them to participate. He will speak to the teachers about it.

Bob W

29/11/2016	Barb	Judy L
6/12/2016	Barb	Bob L
13/12/2016	Bob W	Kevin

ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

November Foundation

December Disease Prevention and Treatment

ARTICLES

Newsletter articles to rlaslett76@gmail.com by 5 pm Wednesday, please.