



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 23

President: Sue Ballard

09 December 2020



**Scan Me!!**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we get closer to celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand it's good to reflect on the voyage taken so far and the future that lies ahead. Australia has gone through a lot of changes, adjusting to the ever-changing world and growing to have a voice in our region and influence in the global community. Like Australia over the past 100 years Rotary has grown and reflects the community we live in. What we don't do well is talk about what we do to the wider Australian community. We do the great work locally and in our region. We should be talking about what we do, how we make a difference and be proud to do it. It shouldn't be difficult to talk about the great things we, as a club, and Rotary as an organisation have been able to achieve. Reflect on what has been done over the last 100 years. Look at what we are doing now to plan for the good things we will all do in the future. We all should be preparing to celebrate over the next year. We have the Baton Relay on 11th April starting at the Farmers' Market with photo opportunities along the way. My hope is that we, as a club, and many of the people we have helped and supported along the way will participate along our section. Don't worry, no one will have to carry the baton for any longer than they are comfortable with. And you can walk, run, cycle or ride.

On May 15th all clubs in the district will be invited to participate in a picnic at Jells Park. This is a chance to party with members from all district clubs and to meet new friends. And there will be a challenge. On the day of the picnic with, hopefully, hundreds of fellow Rotarians and Rotaracters we want to break a record. Just a bit of fun for a good cause. It's called the Waggle Dance or the Bee Dance. If you go to the Queen Bee Foundation website and look for Waggle Dance instructions you will see it's nothing too hard or strenuous. It's a bit of good, healthy community fun.

Maybe we can even Get our Bee on with some sort of costume or headdress. Not only some fun but spreading the word on the importance of pollinators, including bees, to our environment.

## MEETING REPORT

### Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the Jewish "Festival of Lights" and has sometimes been nicknamed "Jewish Christmas". This year it is from Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Dec to Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020.



In the second century BC, the Holy Land was governed by the Greeks who at that time had the strongest army on earth. In 164BC, a small band of Jews led by Judah of Maccabee, a priest, defeated them and drove them out. But when Judah and his group arrived at the Temple in Jerusalem, they discovered it had been defiled and almost all the holy oil had been destroyed. There was only enough oil to keep the Menorah going for 24 hrs and it takes 7 days to prepare holy oil. However, a miracle happened and the one lot of oil lasted for the whole eight days until there was new holy oil. Chanukah is a celebration of this historical event. The word Chanukah means “inauguration”. It reminds Jewish people of this miracle in Jerusalem. It always starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> Kislev which obviously varies in our Gregorian calendar as the Jewish dates follow the lunar calendar. It invariably is in December. It starts this Thursday. Just as an aside, the Hebrew calendar started at the time of Creation ie 3761 BC, so it is now 5781.

What we do during Chanukah? Well, we light candles, we eat (boy do we eat!), and we play a special game.

The **Menora** or candelabra has nine places for candles. The centre one is sometimes higher than the others or off to one side. It is called the shamas, which means “attendant”. On the first night you light the shamas and with it light the first candle on the left. On the second night you light the shamas which you use to light two candles on the left..... And so on until the eighth night when every candle is lit. Blessings are said and songs are sung. The candles only burn for a few hours. Who lights the candles? Some say it is the head of the house (who is that?), some say the youngest, some take it in turns. It is usually lit after it goes dark each night but it could wait until everyone gets home from work etc. Large Menorahs have been set up in the city over the past 10 years. I've seen them in City Square and Federation Square.

It is a Jewish festival so obviously it involves food. Because of the oil connection it tends to involve oily food. We always used to eat loads of **latkes**. Which are small potato pancakes for us mixed with onion and fried. Often eaten with sour cream or perhaps apple sauce. We also used to eat them with very strong freshly grated beetroot red horseradish. I believe the modern Israelis eat a lot of jelly filled donuts. Also, Kugel which is a traditional Jewish sweet egg noodle casserole containing and Knishes which are like individual flaky pastry meat pies but they can be filled with cream cheese, chopped hard-boiled egg, sometimes with added raisins/sultanas

It is customary for children to play a special game with a **dreidel** (a spinning top) at Chanukah. They generally get given Chanukah gelt rather than presents ie money. This dreidel is a top with four sides each with a letter of the alphabet. Depending on which side it lands you put one coin in, take one coin out, do nothing or take all the coins. I remember many a game ending in tears. Of course, we also played with matchsticks and buttons. I think there is an English game called Put & Take which is similar. The rules vary but any number of players can play. Start by everyone putting one in the pot ie the centre, then everyone in turn spins the top and when it stops you do what the top showing face says.



Shin (put one in),  
Hey (take one out),  
Gimmel (take all the pot),  
Nun (do nothing)

and when the pot is taken everyone puts one in the centre again

So, Chanukah or Christmas? I think this is where Jewish children win out as many tend to celebrate both by getting presents at Christmas time and eating Christmas dinner as well as having latkes to eat at Chanukah and getting money.

Ron Brooks

**December is Disease Prevention & Treatment month.**

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be a 7.00pm zoom meeting when we will have the chaplaincy team, of Ben and Alex, from FHC address us. Our club meeting will follow at 7.40pm.

## COMING UP

14<sup>th</sup> December – Final meeting for 2020 – Guest speakers - Ben and Alex, chaplains from FHC.  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – BBQ social gathering.

## FARMERS' MARKET

7.30 to 9.00	Barb Williams (gate) Sue Ballard (marshall)
9.00 to 11.00	Bill Marsh (gate) Stuart Williams (marshall)
11.00 to 12.30	Barb Searle (gate) Bob Williams (marshall)

# *KEEP SMILING*

## YOUTH

Thank you for the Youth Achievement award for 2020

We are proud that our son, William Tabe, was presented with this award yesterday at Vermont Primary School, what an honour to be chosen.

Here is a photo



Sincerely, Rhonda Tabe

## INTERNATIONAL

Christmas Hampers packed by Uniting East Burwood Centre.

Normally at this time of year we collect goodies for hampers for the needy in our local area through the above centre.

This year because of COVID, monetary donations to cover the cost of food purchases for the hampers will be most gratefully accepted.

If you contact me, I will forward the form to you for your donation and receipt details.

Any queries, ask.

Bob L

## Hope Katolo

Things are grim in Kenya at present. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

There are three ways to help

- Olive oil - \$12 a bottle – contact me
- Recipe Book- President Sue encourages us to contribute recipes from an African country or influences by African flavours in different categories such as soup, chicken, beef, vegetarian and dessert. The electronic recipe book will then be sold to raise funds .
- Hamper of Hope - \$5 or multiples -see elsewhere in newsletter for details.

Bob L

## CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Sue Ballard as she celebrates her birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.



## HOPE KATOLO NURSERY SCHOOL HAMPERS OF HOPE

Hi everyone,

Can you believe that its already that time of year again?! Almost Christmas and that means **Hamper of Hope** time for Hope Katolo Nursery School.

### How does it work again?

We kindly ask for donations of \$5 or multiples of \$5. Every \$5 entry gives you one ticket in the draw to win a fabulous hamper for Christmas. The money raised goes towards “hampers” (bags 😊) of food staples for the families of each of the children and staff at the nursery school (see picture attached). For almost all of these families, this IS Christmas. That’s it. To say that this fundraiser means a lot to the people of Katolo is a huge understatement.

### How do I get involved?

Simply transfer \$5 or multiples of \$5 to the Hope Katolo Nursery School account

Account 033349

BSB 411858

Confirm with us your name & amount by texting Mel on 0412 187 353. Every \$5 that you donate will give you an entry into the draw to win the hamper.

### When will it be drawn?

The winner of the hamper will be announced on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We are really grateful for early ticket purchases because then we have a better idea of our budget for the Kenyan hampers.

Any questions, please email or give us a call on the number above.

Warmest Regards,

*Melanie Haley, Leanne Pinfold and Georgina Malanga*

### Hope Katolo Nursery School, Kenya



## SPROUTINGS

This week we have a chance to have our say in two Environmental surveys.

### What's your vision for Whitehorse in the future?

Talk to the Community Engagement Team at Whitehorse Farmers Market, Nunawading, on Sunday 13 December, 8am-1pm.

Share your **Environment & Sustainability** ideas with them.

Or take the online survey - visit: <https://oursay.org/whitehorsecitycouncil/communityvision>

### Greening - Where would YOU like to see more trees planted

North East Link has already started planting the first of more than 30,000 trees - and want to hear ideas from Whitehorse locals on where to plant next.

For every tree removed to build North East Link, at least two will be planted, helping to grow a greener north and east.

Trees will be planted along and near the North East Link Project (including near the Eastern Freeway), keeping them as close as possible to where they have been removed. Trees will also be planted to shade and cool local places nearby like parks, nature reserves and walking and cycling paths.

To suggest a place, or places, you think trees could be planted in Whitehorse, take the survey by 31 December 2020 at [www.engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link/trees](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link/trees)

### Are you still looking for Christmas presents for the grandchildren?

Here are two manufacturers worth checking out:

**1. Lego:** As you know, Global giant Lego has been sold in Australia for 58 years. **But recently they have become more environmentally aware.**

Just last year, Lego released some products made of [sustainable bioplastics](#). The plastic that makes up these Lego pieces are manufactured using [sugarcane ethanol](#), a plant-based polyethylene.

Lego has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to ensure the material is sourced sustainably. They are also switching to eco-friendly paper bags for packaging.

Lego plan to invest 310 million pounds in sustainability over the next three years and say their product in Australia will be completely sustainable by 2030.

**2. Happy Planet Toys:** if you like to encourage a young Aussie enterprise check out this website <http://happyplanettoys.com.au>

Founded by mum of 3, Miranda, these exciting, engaging and sustainable bath toys are Australian made from recycled plastic milk bottles.

So, this week enjoy your Christmas cheer, your shopping and having your say.

Happy Sproutings

Glenys

## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH



### The *Bee-autiful* Basin Backyard

Nine years ago Michael asked Meredith for a beehive for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present because he didn't want to keep hand pollinating their trees and plants on their ¼ acre block in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges. Who would have realised that it would lead to a new career and the launch of The Basin Backyard, with over 240 beehives throughout Victoria, 10 regular markets a month, and a shop in Knoxfield (Unit 1, 31 Rushdale St).

Michael & Meredith told me “at the Basin Backyard, we sell pure raw honey & bees wax and related products e.g. lollies containing our honey (eg. honey & eucalyptus drops, nougat & peanut brittle). As well as our beeswax which we make into candles & food wraps. We are the beekeepers so we are hands-on for the whole process, from looking after our *bee-autiful* bees, harvesting the honey & jarring the honey and collecting the wax which is in our products. We are located in The Basin and we have 240+ beehives throughout Victoria. Whilst we have 5 hives on our property, the majority of them are local in the Dandenong ranges and we also have them on properties in NW Victoria, the Mornington peninsula, Gippsland and various other locations in Victoria where our bees can collect different varieties of flora for our different tasting honeys. Come and have a chat to us about our bees, our honey, our wax, our lollies & the value of bees in our environment.”

They will organise bee swarm collection, they have bee keeping supplies. Usefully, you can pay by card.

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