



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 23 President: Bob Laslett

24 January 2024

BOB'S BANTER



Berkelium is a rare element- just like the Rotary club of Forest Hill.

Members were in good form as they settled down to the business ahead of us. Everyone had a comment to make as they challenged us to make a difference again this year.

The last Conference for D9810 in Warrnambool is coming up fast. Speakers include Law Reform Commissioner Bernadette McSherry, conference favourite Jonathon Usher, Tom Boyd and Greg Ross. The pre -conference Welcome Drinks event will now be held at the **Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village** instead of the Flying Horse Bar & Brewery, Warrnambool.

As Warwick often says, Don't forget to ask people about membership.

COMING UP

29 January	No meeting	
5 February	Positive Ageing	Sallenna Skye
8 February	Twilight working bee	
12 February	Down Memory Lane	Eric Panther

January is
Vocational Service
Month

CELEBRATIONS



Congrats to Ron Brooks and Warwick Stott who celebrate their birthdays on January 27 and January 30 respectively.



MEETING REPORT January 22, 2024

- A fine, warm night saw 8 members meet at Bucatini to discuss a number of business items. There was no guest speaker present.
- After a brief discussion of American politics and the meal of steak arriving, with a great deal of chit-chat we all settled back into the second half of the Rotary Year. President Bob got the meeting underway.
- John McPhee brought us up to date with preparations for the February Blackburn Market. Hopefully this will be a beautiful day and all of our regulars will be back to see us. It will be three months since our last market. December was cancelled due to the weather, no market in January and so we are looking forward to February. The food traders' licence has been obtained.
- Bill reported that our marquee was damaged when we lent the trailer to Wattle Park Primary School. To date attempts to have the marquee picked up and repaired by the people who borrowed it have been unsuccessful. Bill will take the marquee to the original manufacturers and arrange the repairs. The account will be sent to the school for reimbursement.
- Sue reported that she is still having trouble arranging for the apprentices who received the 2023 Ford Davis and Graham Taylor awards to come and speak at a club meeting. She will continue to pursue a successful outcome, but we may need to reschedule the evening. Bill to talk to Gary Davis re possible alternatives as these awards have been difficult to organise for the last couple of years.
- Bob L brought us up to date with Regionalisation following the emails from District. There appears to be a number of new tiers in the proposed structure and certainly a number of new positions, if any members are interested in applying. The group that our club will be a part of will be announced very soon with the first meeting to be scheduled following the announcement.
- Lasletts have booked for the Conference. Conference organisers have requested previous conference organisers for ten photos.
- Membership was discussed and ideas for getting new members sought.
- Ron B spoke about the very enjoyable and informative evening we had at Blackburn Lake, very generously hosted by Peter Dempsey from the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Committee of Management. It was suggested that the club make a \$1,000 donation to assist them with their work for the community. This was endorsed by all present and Glenys G will get bank details to enable an electronic transfer to be made.

- Glenys G mentioned the Blackburn Lake Clean Water Expo to be held at the lake on 24th February. A number of groups (MMBW, Yarra Water, etc.) will be involved.
- Sue B mentioned our involvement with Hope Katolo. This is an on-going commitment with a minimum of \$3,000 being donated each year. Bill will circulate the latest photos he has showing some of the refurbishment to the kitchen. Leanne and Melanie are running a film night at the Palace, Westgarth on 10th February. (See the email sent out on 15th January – contact Bill if you cannot find it.)
- The possibility of amalgamation to be discussed at our next Business Meeting in February. Please give this issue some consideration so you can make a reasoned contribution on the night.
- The raffles were won by Warwick (chocolates) and Bill (white wine).

Bill and Warwick

Blackburn lake

Working bees are each month.

- February 8, Thursday, 6 - 8pm ~ Twilight Working Bee.

Join us after for refreshments and a “getting to know you/catch-up” chat.

- March 16, Saturday, 9.30 - 11.30 planting preparation starts now!

CUAD –

Sunday March 3 9.45 – 12 noon

Clean Up “Blackburn Lake & it’s catchment” Day & Litter Reduction ideas!

Stay on for **Jazz at the Lake** at 2pm! BYO rubbish-free picnic lunch, perhaps....

Visitor Centre Opening. Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre is open to the public each Sunday from 2-4pm.

Volunteer supervisors are required to meet and greet the Public. It’s easy to do.

Major event.

Blackburn Lake Clean Waterways Expo. 24 Feb.

International Women's Day Breakfast at the Box Hill Town Hall

13 March 2024 -6.45am for 7 am start

Speakers

1. Dr Niki Vincent



Dr Niki Vincent commenced as Victoria’s first Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner in 2020. She oversees the implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020 and plays a key leadership role in promoting gender equality in the Victorian community and workplaces. Niki has a wealth of experience in gender equality and organisational leadership. This includes serving as the South Australian Commissioner for Equal Opportunity from 2016-2020. Prior to that, Niki held the position of CEO of the Leaders Institute of South Australia and was a member of the Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia. She has established two successful not-for-profit organisations, has led major programs of academic research, and holds an appointment as an Adjunct Associate Professor in UniSA’s Business School. Niki sits on the boards of InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence and the Brave Foundation, which supports teenage parents (Niki was a teenage parent herself).

2. Dr Helen Keleher



Dr Helen Keleher is Director of Keleher Consulting, an author, researcher and Adjunct Professor at Monash University. Her work over many decades has been about increasing gender equity and the prevention of violence against women and children. She is past-President and Life Member of the Public Health Association of Australia, was the lead author during COVID of the National Framework on the Prevention of Violence Against Women for Our Watch and enjoys working on projects that serve to make a fairer, safer and more equal world for everyone.

Letter to John

On behalf of the members in the CasKids Auxiliary I would like to thank you sincerely for agreeing for us to set up a stall at Blackburn over the past three years. We always enjoyed going there and continue to be grateful to you and the other members of Rotary who assisted us. Sadly, we have had several members resign due to ill health and feel that we are no longer able to continue to hold our external stalls. This is a great disappointment to us as we raised around \$500 on most occasions. Apart from that we met some lovely members of the public and as ambassadors of The Royal Children's Hospital, we were always happy to have a chat and talk about our fundraising activities and the difference that makes to the sick children at the RCH. We continue to hold stalls in at the hospital and enjoy that immensely but will miss coming to Blackburn and catching up with the regulars John, we wish you and your members continued success with your Rotary activities and hope that 2024 brings you all continued good health and happiness. Wishing you the compliments of the season.

Robyn Anderson OAM

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

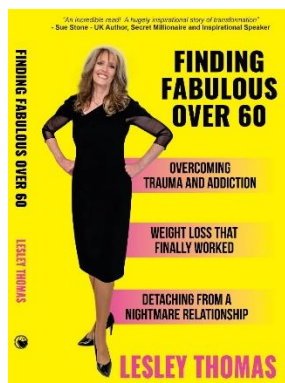
Every month for the last 10 years or so we have heard the sometimes lively and sometimes plaintive sounds of jazz drifting down over the stalls at the Blackburn Craft Market. The Skidaddle group give their time freely to entertain us while clearly having fun (or is it that they would play anywhere for a free sausage at the end of the morning?). If you haven't met them, they are Richard Desmond (cornet), Dave O'Sullivan (drums), Jim Badger (banjo), Ezra Kawadlo (trombone), Simon Gilbert (guitar), Tony Lee (clarinet), and Rod Evans (double bass). Richard and others also sing. So next time you are at the craft market, go up, say hello, smile, tap your feet, sing along - they'll love you for it. Rod is their low-profile leader and told me they are available for parties, and for gigs particularly their 16-piece big band that plays swing music mostly from the 30's and 40's. You may have seen and heard some of the other bands they play in which include the Dandenong Ranges Hot Jazz Orchestra, South Dereel City Stompers, U3A Big Band, and the Diamond Valley Big Band, too many to list. Many in the band will be playing at the Port Fairy Jazz Festival in February 2024. As I was listening to them play, I heard one say let's change the key to ..., I didn't realise it but all these guys read music as well..... and there was me thinking they just play it all by ear.

So if you what to hire them please contact: rode.evans@macrodynamics.com.au



THE SKIDADDLE GROUP

SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come and frequent the Market – February 10

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