



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 27 President: Bob Laslett

28 February 2024

BOB'S BANTER



Change is in the air.

Our first duties in the new structure as a member of a Community Group begin this weekend.

Bill takes over as President next week and Emma Clark from Emerald is named as DG for district 9815 in 2026-2027.

Our business meeting highlighted the difficulties our club is facing. It also reminded us of our many achievements over a significant period of time. These achievements have resulted from the dedicated and committed service of many Rotarians that will long be remembered.

Let us all continue to CREATE HOPE with what we do and say.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being President again.

NEXT MEETING

4 March

Cancer Support Angel

Jodie Hall

Chairperson: Sue Ballard

Greeter: John McPhee

Notes for "Happenings" Glenys Grant

Cashier & Recorder: Bill Marsh

COMING UP

29 February Positive Ageing Forum

3 March Clean Up Australia Day

11 March No meeting

February is
Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention
Month

CELEBRATIONS



Celebrate Rotary International President (2023/24) Gordon McNally congratulating Australian Rotary Health (ARH) on their involvement in mental health – especially for providing vital funds for 0–12-year child mental health research.



MEETING REPORT February 26, 2024

Six members met for a business meeting and general review. Four apologies.

Ethan Newnham joined us at 7.15pm and was introduced by Glenys Grant as the initial contact with the club was through her. Ethan talked to us about his aspirations to pursue his chosen career path in neuroscience at Oxford University. Ethan has gained a place for 2024-25 and now needs to find the \$76,000 to cover his course fees. Ethan hopes to apply for a Rotary Global Grant and would like to have the club support him through this process. The club has agreed to do what it can to help him.

Glenys gave us a run down on various environmental programs underway or about to begin. She also reported back on the very successful water expo held at Blackburn Lake last weekend.

Bill reviewed Kirsty Porter's visit to the club and support we have given the Dementia Cafes to date. The club will continue to support Kirsty's work with a further donation targeted specifically at the Blackburn café. Bill will contact Kirsty to put in place the directions to finalise the funding and to determine any other possible areas of support required. Bill also mentioned how successful the last Hope Katolo film night has been with around \$2,000 in donations coming in over the last month. Melanie and Leanne continue to do a wonderful job and the club will continue to support them.

Bob gave a review of where Regionalisation is at the moment and what steps we need to take. Emma Clark from Emerald is new DGND.

Sue recapped the arrangements for International Women's Day breakfast. The club donates the venue for the event through Whitehorse Council and has sponsored 5 students and a teacher to attend the event from Forest Hill College.

Stuart mention RYDA and asked any members who would like to help out to contact Bob Williams.

Bob spoke about the District Conference. Bob & Judy are the only attendees this year.

Sue has heard back from two of the three Apprentice Awards recipients and one lecturer who will be attending our meeting on 15th April.

We then held a general discussion ranging over the way the club currently operates and the options that are available for the future. With numbers dwindling and no realistic chance of a major input of new members we will explore the possibility of merging with another club and what that would mean for our club. In our current form we are viable for another 8-12 months, possibly 2 years. We would celebrate our 50th year in 2025 and this could be both a symbolic and fitting time for the club to cease operating in its current format.

Bill Marsh

Report from Presidents' Meeting

- Graham Richardson reported on Rotary Foundation requirements and handed out club preparation documents.
- Storm damage in hills district and report on Jenny Coburn at Beaufort.
- July 11- Youth Mental Health- Emerald.
- Exciting update on ShelterBox by Steve Crosling from Diamond Creek- family tent packages, family tents, shelter kits, solar lights and blankets. Store in Philippines -work with RAM.
- Barry Vickers and Wilma Best reported on Kenya Bore project – provides water on slopes of Mount Kenya – 3 stages of the project.
- Regionalisation – establishment meetings this weekend as work in Community Groups commences- aim is impact- District retains responsibility for Rotary Foundation during pilot period for the regions

Blackburn Lake

Clean up Australia Day (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....

Working bees are each month.

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

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

13 March 2024 -6.45am for 7 am start

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

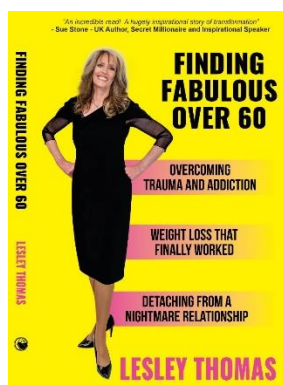
Every month for the last 10 years or so we have heard the sometimes lively and sometimes plaintive sounds of jazz drifting down over the stalls at the Blackburn Craft Market. The Skidaddle group give their time freely to entertain us while clearly having fun (or is it that they would play anywhere for 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 next month—March 9

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