



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 28

President: Sue Ballard

10 February 2021



**Scan Me!!**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Last week was pretty quiet, relatively. Only 200 emails a day plus 2 Zoom meetings and the usual phone calls and text messages. This week I have meetings on Zoom and in person every day, some overlapping, and I am not going to try and count emails. I have had some messages from two of the apprentices apologising for not being able to come Monday. One I talked to was explaining how his workload has jumped in the past 3 months. With restrictions easing home projects have doubled.

I had thought under restrictions I would catch up on projects I had planned but it hasn't eventuated. I have had to be there for friends suffering anxiety and depression, running errand and being a voice on the phone talking through issues. Having health issues myself, I have needed to check in regularly with my GP who usually asks how I fill in my days. My answer is "No problem, I am with Rotary @Always plenty to do." Sometimes I have long nights answering emails well into the early hours. I have had the occasional zoom with the USA at 2am, too. No day is exactly the same with new challenges and new outcomes, but never boring.

With no meeting next week and a social week the following one, it's a great opportunity for everyone to plan ahead. Committees should meet, even if it's virtually, and plan projects etc. for at least the next 12 months. Start with a list on what is already happening and make a plan for at least one future project. Planning a project should begin with what you want to achieve and the steps you need to do to get your desired outcome. Remember, it is possible to team up with other groups and individuals. Looking forward to hearing your plans.

My two weeks ahead include at least one Zoom a day everyday, not all rotary, so far two trips to the CBD and a day trip out west. There are a couple of social catch ups, a trip to the Australian Open and that's just for starters. No rest for a Rotarian. Glad I have Lucy to take me for quiet walks everyday, even if it is just as the sun is coming up!

Don't forget the two markets at the weekend. If you are not working on them come along and support them. All money raised supports Rotary projects.

Sue

**Note: Warwick Stott sends his best wishes to all as he tries to relax in hospital. Warwick is in Epworth, Richmond while they try to sort out his hip problem.**

## MEETING REPORT

Chair, Barbara Searle, welcomed 12 members and our visitor – Mark Egan from Box Hill Institute. President Sue Ballard gave toasts to Rotary International and Australia.

### Reports

Secretary – Stuart W, nothing to report.

Treasurer – Warwick S, not present due to hospitalization, Bob W to be stand in Treasurer tonight.

International – Bob L – nothing to report.

Youth/Environment – Glenys G, there will be an Environment meeting on Saturday morning, to discuss what they can do for the year. Whitehorse Council tree landscapes.

Community – Stuart W, has not heard back from Whitehorse Council as yet re seat placement.

Vocational – Sue B, nothing to report. Blackburn Lake Sanctuary are having a working bee on 20 February, if you can help, notify Glenys Grant.

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Whitehorse Men's Shed to be involved in baton relay, sausage sizzle, etc.

Fellowship – Bill M, no theatre nights at present, still due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Programme – Ron B, next week's meeting cancelled (15 February), due to high number of members who would not be present. Meeting on 22 February, to be a la carte in Bucatini restaurant.

Markets – Warwick S, will notify members by email, later in the week, to remind them of times for the Whitehorse Farmers' Market, egg and bacon stall on Sunday 14 February.

John McP, handed around the roster for the Blackburn Market on Saturday 13 February, with all shifts now filled.

### Apprentice Awards

None of the awardees were able to attend the evening, but Mark Egan, a lecturer at the Box Hill Institute of the Auto Department gave an outline of his professional history and how the students navigated through 2020, with remote learning. Students did all their theory, but have a way to finish the practical part of their courses. He thanked the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for the 4 presentations to students and re-iterated how much the students appreciated the tools, which will make their jobs easier, with the right tools and certainly improved their self-esteem. Mark answered a number of questions from members and in his opinion, Australia is not ready for a big roll out of electric vehicles as there is not enough infrastructure in place and because of our big travelling distances in this country.

Stuart W gave the vote of thanks to Mark and presented him with a Ray Smith turned wooden pen.

Bill M, pointed out this was the first year there were 4 Apprentice Awards.

Raffle won by: Barbara S, Bob L and Barbara W.

Raffle raised \$46.70. There was no Sergeant's session.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Barb W.

**February is Peace & Conflict Resolution month.**

## NEXT MEETING

*Our next meeting will be a social dinner meeting with partners & friends at 6.30pm at Bucatini Restaurant on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. To assist with bookings please let Ray Smith or Bill Marsh know if you are going to attend and how many guests you are bringing.*

**Note: No newsletter over the next two weeks. Look out for a 'bumper' edition when we resume.**

## COMING UP

15 <sup>th</sup> February-	No Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> February-	Dinner at Bucatini (Planned Trivia Night to be rescheduled.)
1 <sup>st</sup> March -	Ray Shuey – 'Road Safety'
8 <sup>th</sup> March -	No Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> March-	Ron Brooks – 'St Patrick's Day Quiz'

## CELEBRATIONS

Three celebrations coming up.

Bill has a birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as does Stuart on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Glenys celebrates 11 years in Rotary on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## D9810 USED STAMP PROJECT

**Big thanks** to Barb Williams for 4 large packs of used stamps **all neatly trimmed** which she has given me over the last two weeks. And to Stuart for his contribution.

This district project has been supported by our club over the last 15 years or more. Overall, the sale of stamps has brought in over \$120,000. Stamps are categorised into overseas, Australian standard postal rate, and Australian other. They sell by weight with the overseas ones worth the most. As you can see from the picture below, the stamps should be trimmed WITH SCISSORS to approximately the margin shown. They should not be torn off. If everyone trims their contribution then it doesn't fall to just one person to do them all. It is getting more difficult to collect these stamps as we get less and less correspondence with stamps on. All the more reason why we should all help by trimming the few we get and giving them to me please. It is a very worthwhile cause. People also contribute stamp albums with the stamps mounted inside. I have handed on quite a few over the years. They are sold separately.

Ron Brooks

**Let's Stamp Out Trachoma**  
*We need your Used Stamps*  
**\$8,000** raised in 12 months!  
*Keep those stamps coming*

Rotary Districts of Australia | EndTrachoma by 2020  
Building Healthy Communities

Please send your used stamps to:  
**Rotarian Camille Rogers**  
245A Glenferrie Rd, Malvern. Vic. 3144  
Email: [camille@sacredsource.com.au](mailto:camille@sacredsource.com.au) Phone: 03 9509 2421

## DISTRICT 9810/UNICEF FOREIGN COINS COLLECTION

### Milestone !! Foreign Coin Collection for UNICEF

Today we shipped off another 60 kg of coins & notes and in the process **passed the half tonne mark**. In these last five years the district has actually sent off 540kg valued at over \$17,000. A huge thank you to all those clubs that have continued to collect over the years. We also organised for Star Casino to send coins they'd collected which were valued at \$4,705. The coins and notes are sent off in 60kg batches in 10kg pouches which UNICEF organise through Change Global Exchange who pay for all the transport. And, we already have 20kg towards the next batch so please keep collecting.

When I first contacted UNICEF back in 2015, the UNICEF Partnerships Manager Eamon Bryant emailed "*We see Rotary and UNICEF as a perfect match, a dream fit*". UNICEF works in over 190 countries for the rights and welfare of all children. It supports children's health needs, clean water and sanitation, quality basic education, and protection from violence, exploitation, and HIV. It has the same ideals as Rotary.

The **Rotary Give Every Child a Future** is a centenary project aiming to immunise 100,000 children in the Pacific: <https://everychildafuture.com/> It is a UNICEF project that Rotary has agreed to fund. This project collection helps fund the centenary project.

UNICEF pointed out that they partner with very few organisations. They only want their names linked to world class organisations. Qantas and CBA are just about the only ones apart from Rotary.

This is a NO COST project for Rotary, apart from the effort of all those people who donate the coins and notes. Most clubs in the District have contributed along with some churches, some branches of the Bendigo Bank where clubs hold their accounts, a Sikh temple, and of course the many friends of Rotary.

Ron

Contact: [ronbrooks1942@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrooks1942@gmail.com) 0413-042-043



Coin & note collection as they come in from donors.



Coins packaged in 10kg bags for shipping.



Coins on their way to start working miracles around the world.

Every successful project needs one committed (or is that 'should be committed'?) person to drive it to achieve its goals. Ron has been that person for this project. Congratulations on a super effort Ron. Editor

## SPROUTINGS

### Sproutings

This week we are bringing you Marine news – [The Good](#)- [the Bad](#)- and [the Brilliant!](#)

It is so heartening to be able to end our article this week on a wonderful process that is occurring in nature.

### *Glenys*

#### [Tasmanian Waters: The Good news:](#)

While all Australians know about the Great Barrier Reef, very few know that Tasmania is a unique, global hot spot for marine biodiversity. **90 per cent of Tasmania's marine life is found nowhere else on earth.** Giant underwater kelp forests, the endangered spotted handfish, the Macquarie Island cormorant - these are just some of the species that only exist in Tasmania, the gateway to Antarctica.



## ... and the Bad...

Unfortunately, just 1 per cent of Tasmania's marine environment is properly protected. Industrial, feedlot salmon farming and the waste dumped in the water is one of the biggest threats to Tasmania's marine values.

Read more at **Environment Tasmania:** <https://www.et.org.au/marine>

*And there is more....*

...And from BBC Future: **Abandoned Oil Rigs and the Marine Future.**

### **More Bad News:**

There are more than 12,000 offshore oil and gas platforms worldwide. As they drain their reservoirs of fossil fuels below the sea, they eventually become defunct when they produce too little fuel for extraction to be profitable to their operators.

What to do with these ever-growing derelict enormous structures? Removing them from the water is incredibly expensive and labour-intensive. Allowing them to rust and fall into disrepair is an environmental risk that could seriously damage marine ecosystems.

## .... The Brilliant News... Nature is, seemingly, coming to the rescue.

As offshore oil and gas platforms come to the end of their working lives, the remarkable ecosystems beneath the waves come into their own.

Above the water, decommissioned oil rigs are dull and lifeless, but the view below the surface is very different. Beneath the waves, colourful fish, crabs, starfish and mussels congregate on the huge steel pylons, which stretch for more than 400ft (120m) to the ocean floor.

**For some species, offshore rigs are even better nurseries than natural reefs. The towering pylons are the perfect spawning grounds for tiny fish larvae.**

These old rigs can be remarkably useful: the subsurface rig provides the ideal skeleton for coral reefs. Teeming with fish and other wildlife, offshore rigs are in fact the most bountiful human-made marine habitats in the world.

Oil companies are being shown the value of these platforms and are, in some areas, aiding the process. It's a win - win all round!



*Fish have their 'home' platforms, which provide a safe and versatile habitat (Credit: James Wiseman)*

Author is Isabelle Gerretsen 27th January 202. Read whole article at:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210126-the-richest-human-made-marine-habitats-in-the-world>

**Finally: Help your local environment:** Blackburn Lake Sanctuary AC has a two hour working bee on Saturday 20 Feb,2021- Visitors Centre at 9.30am.

And also: **Clean Up Australia Day** is on Sunday March 7 at 9.45am, same venue.

**Let me know if you can join us at either of these and I will add you to our list.**

More next week...when I hope to give you news on **Whitehorse Council's 2021 City Nature Challenge.** My first meeting is tomorrow- so watch this space..



**"MAD March Cycle Challenge "**

Ride, run, walk or swim to **Make A Difference**.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

Raise funds for **"Australian Rotary Health"** to sponsor medical research

**"Registration is free"**

For more details and to register please go to:

<https://madmarchcyclechallenge.raisely.com/>

## 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.

[www.tbbyard.com.au](http://www.tbbyard.com.au) 0419 607 807

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