



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 28 President: Bill Marsh

20 March 2024

VALE – WARWICK STOTT

30th January 1939 to 12th March 2024

Charter Member of Rotary Club of Forest Hill

Warwick died suddenly on Tuesday night while undergoing minor surgery. This tragic event has devastated the family and stunned our members. The thoughts and prayers of every member, and all who knew Warwick, go out to Chris and all of the family members.

Warwick was a Charter Member of our club and for the last 48 years has been a friend and mentor to dozens of members. His dream was for the club to complete 50 years of service to our community, and he did everything in his power to bring that dream to fruition.

Warwick served the club with distinction in many roles over the years and for the last 15 years has been the club Treasurer.

Warwick's belief in the ideals of Rotary was embedded in everything he did and his commitment to helping others was total. He will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.

A tentative date of 27th March is planned for a remembrance service to celebrate Warwick's life, but because the coroner's court is involved, this date may be amended. Details will be published as soon as they can be confirmed.

BOB'S BANTER

[BILL'S BY-LINE (Coming soon!)]



Change is in the air.

Bill has taken over as President and most unfortunately, we lost our treasured treasurer.

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.

Bob Laslett

NEXT MEETING

25th March	Jane Moschetti	"The Compassionate Friends of Victoria"
Chairperson:	Ron Brooks	
Greeter:	Sue Ballard	
Notes for "Happenings"	Bob Laslett	
Cashier & Recorder:	Bill Marsh	

COMING UP

1 April	No meeting – Easter Monday
8th April	Club Meeting. Guest Speaker to be advised.

March is
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Month

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Stuart W who joined our club 21-3-1988 and John McPhee who joined the club 22-03-1982. Thank You for your many years of service.



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

• March 4, 2024

Chairperson Sue Ballard opened meeting with Acknowledgement of Country, and a toast to Australia and Rotary International. The club members expressed best wishes for a speedy recovery to Warwick Stott, John Bindon, and Barbara Searle.

Coming events: all members available are helping out
Saturday March 9, BBQ and Blackburn market
Sunday March 10, 'egg and bacon', Whitehorse Farmers Market.

Reports:

Acting President Bob reported on

- Regional Establishment meeting for our group D9815-2.

- Discussions were held on possible attributes of our Community Leader who will be elected shortly (mid-March). This person will not report to the DG but to Regional Council.
- Club cooperations will continue, expand and not be necessarily confined to the recently assigned community groups.
- First meetings of the group with its community leader will take place next Rotary year.
- More support and better marketing are aims of the new structure.
- Suggested meeting plan-2 in person, 2 online meetings per year
- There were 2 breakout rooms with 4 in the group I was in

Re Ethan and Oxford University offer and funding:

- Bob L has received all the application paperwork and criteria for Rotary Global Scholarships - will discuss further with our proposed candidate, Ethan.
- Glenys G has perused 15 of the trust fund scholarships available - none are suitable.
- she has put Ethan in touch with Kirsty from Dementia Cafes to discuss possible visits and involvement.
- Sue B has discussed with Dementia Cafe staff the possibility of funding being sourced from a client's family trust for Ethan. She will pursue this further.

Secretary Stuart W reported a Rumbek School financial report has been received from Joady Barnes.

Youth Director Glenys G reported

- RYLA - she has heard a likely candidate for RYLA speak on a project they have accomplished. She will investigate further.

- MUNA meetings will commence on Thursday night. She is on the committee, but unfortunately these will clash with other meetings she attends.

A poster has come out inviting schools to attend MUNA and she has sent these to Box Hill High and Forest Hill College.

Vocational: Sue B reported invites have gone out to the winning Apprentices and Speaker for our Apprentice Awards Dinner. Bill, as new President, will invite the Davis family when he returns.

International Woman's Day: 250 seats are booked. Sue is attending with four Forest Hill College students, one teacher and one Rotaract member.

Whitehorse Positive Ageing Seminar. Sue has also attended this. Grants for projects to benefit the aged are being offered. She will investigate suitable projects and come back to us.

PETS: Sue is attending.

Environment & Sustainability: Glenys G informed the meeting of a talk which will be held in Blackburn in April and suggested members may be interested in attending.

The Forest Underground is about Australian agronomists Tony and Liz Rinaudo arrived in the Sahara in 1981 to plant trees. There they pioneered a sustainable system of land management that revolutionised reforestation across Africa.

Tony is now a Right Livelihood Award Laureate and Principal Climate Action Advisor with World Vision.

Speaker.

(Editor's note: our nominated speaker Jodie Hollis could not attend as she had recently lost a partner and had a fall and broken ribs! She hopes to present at a later date.)

Stuart Williams kindly stepped in as our speaker. He explained Thailand culture and medical and dental procedures which could be utilised by Australians.

House Blessing: A Buddhist ceremony - these are common in Thailand and are bestowed by Buddhist monks. The aim is to ensure the family moving into a new home will have healthy, happy lives, in prosperity, with good luck free of evil spirits.

A friend of Stuart's had built a house, and the tradition is to perform a symbolic house blessing. She selected an auspicious date, engaged the services of seven monks, then prepared the home and invited family and friends. The Monks performed the rituals, praying, sprinkling holy water, chanting and at the end they were paid a donation to their temple. The Monks then ate some of the delicious food, leaving with some. All then joined in the feasting and celebrations. Stuart said it was a delightful day.

He also visited a friend who is a dress designer and maker of expensive, beautifully stylish and chic fashions. Her shop Oraya Designs is in an exclusive shopping centre. She does not advertise as it is against the culture to do so.



Stuart also explained the medical and dental treatments available to Australians in Thailand for about one third of the prices here, and how to access them.

Thank you, Stuart, for providing us with yet another interesting talk.

Raffle: raised \$29.00- won by Peter, from Bucatini, and Bob Laslett.

Glenys Grant

Report from Stuart

I visited a talented dress designer in Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Oraya designs quality clothes and specialises in using traditional local colours and fabrics. There is a local colour called Phrae blue that was created using local dyes. Oraya now has a shop in Central Plaza, Chiang Mai. A couple of her dresses retail at 13,000 baht. (Currently there is approx 23 baht per one \$ AUD. Many Tshirts etc retail for 200 to 300 baht.)

Another interesting cultural learning was the blessing of Buaban's new home. Bum and her family are refurbishing the family home. (the home with its new balcony is in the background of the group photo.) 60 people were invited to the blessing and to stay for breakfast. Many women from the village helped prepare the food for the people who had been invited. At 7 am, seven monks walked to the house. The monks sat on the floor on attractive seats. Each monk received an envelope with money I believe most were 1,500 baht. They also had some drink available next to their seating position. They each also received a small basket of goodies. There was a lay person who was the master of ceremonies for the occasion.



At the end of the ceremony the head monk drew pictures, images, on the glass in the door leading to the upstairs rooms. The images are designed to keep away bad spirits. The monks did not stay for breakfast but ate at the big sister's place over the road.

During the day school friends and other friends arrived at the house.

There are now 3 homes in the village of Krathing. The 3 girls of the family each have a home. Many villages are made up of relatives of village members. Farmland surrounds the village.

The nearest large town is Khun Hun, in the province of Sisaket.

I am not aware of Bum's family regularly attending the local temple, or even going to "make merit", but this tradition was important. There was food available all day and into the night. Thai people seem to eat all day.

Stuart

MEETING REPORT

March 18th 2024

- Chair, Bill, opened the meeting. 6 members present. Apologies from John B, Sue & Barb.
- Warwick's funeral details will be in the paper. Tentatively planned for 27th March but may be later as still waiting on the coroner.

- Bill will arrange a card & gift from the club for Chris. Stuart will arrange notices in the papers and on Facebook.
- Warwick was a long-time supporter of Camp Getaway and a \$5,000 donation in his memory will be made to the camp through Ken Maxfield at the RC Balwyn North.
- Club financial accounts are being amalgamated to provide a clearer picture to members of balances and to simplify distribution of funds to designated charities and projects as nominated by members.
- An end date for club activities has been set at 30th June 2024.
- Parkmore PS is holding an Easter Breakfast at 8.15am on 28th March. Members who are available are invited to attend. Sue is a possible starter.
- Club outing suggested to The Lume exhibition at the gallery until 30th April. The exhibition features "Leonardo Da Vinci- 500 years of Genius." Possible dates are 8, 15 and 22 April. Please let Ron B know your preferred date.
- Colin Byron to visit the club on May 13 and at special meeting on September 16.
- Special Club gathering for current and past members on September 16 in the main Bucatini Restaurant. This meeting will recognise the fantastic work of the club over the last 49 years.
- Glenys brought us up-to-date with preparation for the Youth Citizenship Awards. These will be done at the schools.
- Decision to continue the raffle until end of June.
- Meeting Dates. 25th March Jane Moschetti "The Compassionate Friends of Victoria"
 1st April No Meeting – Easter Monday
 8th April Speaker to be confirmed.
 15th April Apprentice Awards 2023 Recognition Evening
 22nd April Michael Sukkar
 29th April Bucatini Dinner. Partners and guests invited.

Bill

SUNDAY MARKET



Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Working bees are held each month.

Check the date for the next morning and come along if possible

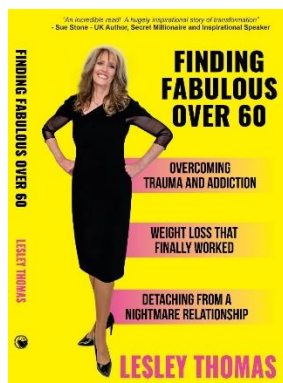
RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

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



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come and frequent the Market next month—April 13

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