



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 29

President: John Bindon

23 February 2022

MOVING FORWARD



Now that a number, of restrictions have been lifted, we are now able to look ahead and see a clearer road.

This means that we could be returning to our regular meeting place, and putting our committee plans into action, so that we can once again can be seen serving the community.

We must explore every opportunity to seek out potential members, so that we become a stronger club and explore new projects. It is important that if we gain new members and that they feel welcome and well-integrated into the club; so, they feel part of the club, and enjoy the

club's activities.

We will also endeavour seek volunteers to assist us the work we are doing in the community, and we have had one young lady come forward who did an excellent job at the Blackburn Market working on the sausage sizzle.

John Bindon

Pres.

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Rotary
District 9810

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary Storm Recovery Festival

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2022
10.00am - 2.00pm

St George's Anglican Church Paddock,
Main Street, Monbulk

'A Time to Heal - A Time to Thank - A Time to Help'

STALLS. AMUSEMENTS. FOOD. LIVE MUSIC. DISPLAYS.

Food Stalls. Crafts and Gifts. Coffee Van. Live Music. Amusements. CFA and SES Displays. Pop-corn. BBQ. Yarra Ranges Information tent. Give-Aways.

(Formalities commence at 12 Noon)

Gold Coin Entry donated to CFA and SES

Festival Proceeds Directed to Rotary Storm Recovery Projects

Note change of location.

Rotary ... where people help people and achieve extraordinary things.

For over one hundred and fourteen years, motivated people around the world have come together as Rotarians to unite the power of one with the power of many to bring about exceptional change in the world. Made up of men and women across all vocations and cultures, Rotary is a non-political, non-religious global organisation focused on improving the wellbeing of local and international communities and bringing about world peace and understanding.

To be a Rotarian is simply to have a desire to do something to help others.

To be a Rotarian is to develop your skills, broaden your networks, grow your understanding and knowledge, enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people, and build life-long friendships. With 27,703 Rotarians in 1082 clubs in Australia and 1,220,117 Rotarians world wide.



Working toward the Rotary Citation helps strengthen clubs

The Rotary Citation is an award that recognizes the challenging work that members do throughout the year to strengthen their clubs. Clubs earn the citation by achieving smaller goals that add up to the larger goals of increasing club membership, developing sustainable service projects, giving to The Rotary Foundation, and building awareness of Rotary. When clubs take action to achieve the citation's goals, they engage their members, stay relevant in their communities, and function more efficiently. Their work also contributes to the overall health and culture of Rotary for generations to come. To learn more about the Rotary Citation, review our [Rotary Citation FAQ](#).

MEETING REPORT

We had ten members zoom in plus our guest speaker Leila Ragg and Mitcham Community House committee members, Wendy Rose, Sue Fallon and Wendy Gander.

Bill chaired and introduced Leila who spoke and showed us slides about the Mitcham Community House (MCH) which is nearly 50 years old and has been in its current address since 1996.

Leila has been a local resident for 20 years and worked in Community Houses for the last 10 years. She and husband Jarrod have three children.

As treasurer of MCH, I had alerted Leila about her audience of our club members and so she endeavoured to use pictures, no big words, to speak slowly and because of the short attention span of some members she also kept to time.

MCH runs childcare, playgroups and has courses for Arts, Crafts, Health, Fitness, IT, Languages plus social and support groups. In pre covid times it had over 1,000 through its doors weekly. During the past two years MCH has changed to meet the circumstances, supporting staff and participants safely

via zoom, online and telephone. MCH has still managed to run events such as a recent art competition for kids. It reaches out to residents and recently had printed and distributed 000's of course guides for the first two terms of 2022 in English and Chinese.

Funding is from course fees, government, plus fund raising and MCH held a successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings Nunawading in March last year. Childcare continues to be offered with activity packs made available for the times it had to be closed. MCH was recently granted an increase in numbers using childcare and so needs to make further improvements to the equipment and playground.

Leila spoke of the future of MCH with the need to reach out even more to the local community, provide new activities and to expand adult education classes which gets people into jobs. MCH has an Open Day planned for October to showcase its many facets.

Leila invited all club members to the forthcoming MCH AGM on 23 March (where treasurer Bob has once again been denied his offer to speak for 30 minutes on Balance Sheets.)

President John gave the vote of thanks and made the offer for MCH to put to us proposals for financial assistance for the proposed improvements to childcare facilities and the playground etc. He also thanked our visitors, Leila, Sue and Wendy times two.

Our visitors zoomed off and Pres John reiterated our need be visible in the community and follow up any membership leads.

Reports

Secretary Stuart and Treasurer Warwick, nothing to report.

Vocational-Barb S advised that invites have been sent out to our upcoming Apprenticeship night where the Awardees have been invited to tell us about the courses and future aspirations.

Community-John B recently visited the new Alkira establishment in Springvale Road to see if they may want some financial assistance from us which they don't. John again said that we should support MCH and asked Bob W to follow up with Leila.

Youth and Environment-Glenys told us that a new set of eleven child safe standards for working with children was released last year by the Govt effective July 2022. She informed DG Daryl and PDG Malcolm and they have promised to action them in our District. One part was that we need to work more with parents, particularly those with disabled children.

Our club display at the Nunawading library is to be in June and needs input.

She receives much complimentary feedback for the Enviro column in our newsletter (well deserved as Glenys puts in a lot of work on it – Bob W) Sue represented our club at the recent twilight weeding (I think I spelt that correctly) at Blackburn Lake sanctuary.

John Mc raised concern that our current (and any new) BBQ trailer positioned at Blackburn station blocks off the walkers and cyclists and may be construed as dangerous, so more discussion needed and he accepted an invite to remain for the Board meeting. Bill advised that he will be away for our March market and so will not be available to tow the BBQ trailer. John B, Stuart, Barb and Bob W will meet next week re archives

Pres John closed the meeting.

Bob Williams



Scan Me!

February is Peace and Conflict Resolution Month

NEXT MEETING

28th Feb – Jaswinder Singh – Sikh Community Culture & Volunteering

Chair: Barb Searle

Thanks: Bob Laslett

Report: John Bindon

COMING UP

7th Mar – Vicky Zhou – LINK Community Transport (Zoom)

14th Mar – No Meeting – Labour Day Holiday

21st Mar – PDG Una Hobday – Food Action Group (Zooming in from Tasmania)

28th Mar – Members reporting back on District Conference (Bucatini)

4th Apr – Apprentice Awards Evening (Bucatini)

11th Apr – Ian Crawford – “Birds in the Suburbs” TBC (Bucatini)

18th Apr – No Meeting (Easter Monday)

25th Apr – No Meeting (Anzac Day)

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Stuart W as he celebrates his birthday on the 25th. Have a great day, Stu.



FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS ROTARY ACTION GROUP

I have organised Una Hobday to be our guest speaker on 21st March Zooming in from Tasmania. The following is from the Action Groups latest newsletter

Each of you can assist by joining Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group personally, or asking your club to join, for either \$30 per year, per person or \$100 per club, per year. What a difference it would make to children in the world to not only grow food but be confident in the security of the food source; for parents to know their families will survive because they understand how to grow and cook sustainable, nutritious food. <https://foodplantsolutions.org/get-involved-and-join-us/>

*Yours in Rotary, **PDG Una Hobday OAM, PHF**, Chair – Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group*

Ron Brooks

RAWCS

I attended an inspirational RAWCS meeting online last Saturday. Six projects were presented- some local, some overseas.

- Development of an app to assist the SES in language identification at accidents.
- Building crisis accommodation for victims of domestic violence.
- Assistance for those Sleeping out Rough
- Providing water through bores to villages in Tanzania
- Supplying desks and chairs for cyclone-affected schools in Vanuatu
- Medical supplies for COVID relief in Southern India

The last one was presented by Peter Murie who explained how easy the new RAWCS system is to use.

I have access to videos of each presentation if you are interested.

Bob Laslett

SPROUTINGS

Last week we talked about trees and how best to protect them. Thank you to those who responded so positively to the article. It's good to get feedback.

This week let's discuss that precious commodity – **WATER**.

I asked a couple of questions about water last week as well. So here are some questions, facts and figures. The figures are as close to accurate as possible.

What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered in water? About **71%**

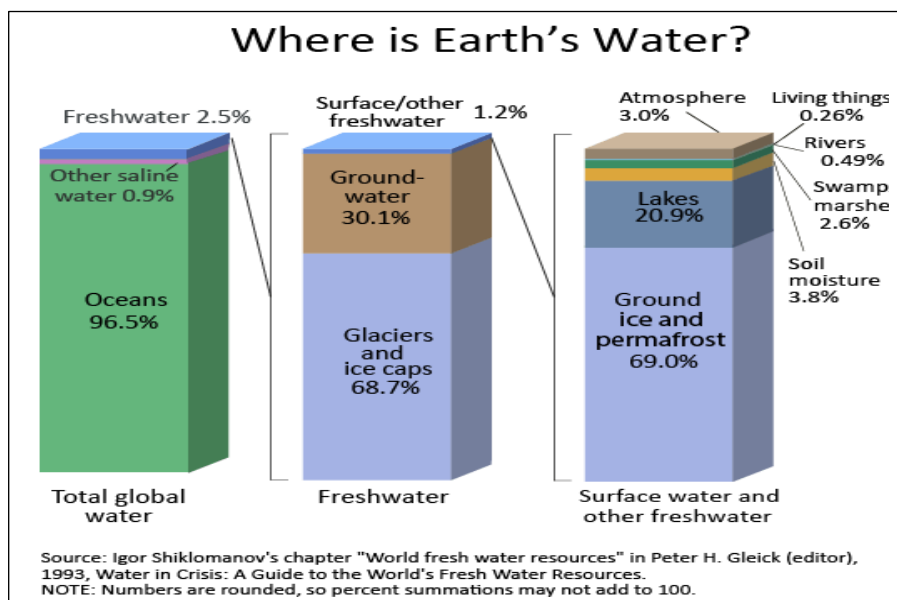
What percentage of the Earth's water is salt water? **97%**

Why is the percentage of fresh water less on the Earth's surface? *This is my simplistic answer – you may want to check with Mr Google for more information...*

The sea occupies all the lowest lying land on Earth. Water travels down into the sea. Soluble minerals on land also get washed by rain into the sea – where they stay.

Is 3% the exact percentage of fresh water available on the Earth?

Only 1% is freshwater and available to drink. 2% is found in ice form.



Fast facts: Global water crisis. World Vision reports:

- 780 million people lack basic drinking water access, more than one of every 10 people on the planet.
- Women and girls spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water every day.
- The average rural African woman walks six kms every day to haul 18kgs of water.
- Every day, more than 800 children under the age of five die from diarrhoea attributed to poor water and sanitation.
- 90 percent of all natural disasters are water-related.

Everyone agrees water is precious and must be preserved and not polluted. **Rotary has many environment projects to clean up waterways of the world.**

City councils are all aiming for the best solution to water issues. In Bass, for instance there is a new housing estate development with rainwater collected onsite.

City of Whitehorse has been recently working on a new water management strategy for best practice water management. Resident groups were asked for responses to the proposed **Whitehorse Integrated Water Management Strategy**.

Ideas included

- Clear and improved effective procedures for removing pollutants.
- Litter traps.
- More community and industry education
- Better monitoring.

And many more. Residents can look forward to better quality of water, better protected from pollution.



BUT – despite all this care and planning, accidents happen – some totally unavoidable.

Some could be avoided with better monitoring, while some are just carelessness.

For instance, check out this clay spill pollution which happened in the past week in one of Whitehorse's large waterways.

An old pipe burst causing the contamination seen here to seep into the surrounding waterways.

This was picked up by a number of very observant, caring and environmentally conscious local residents.

When something like this is seen – what is best to do?

Snap – Send – Solve

Go to **Snap, Send Solve**, of course. It's great for cleaning up our communities. – and **FAST**. If you are like me, you may have noticed there is a lot more dumped rubbish right now around the streets.

For instance, today, in Blackburn, I saw two used masks on the ground in the length of two shops! Ugh!!

If you're out in your neighbourhood, remember Snap Send Solve as the tool to get mess cleaned up fast, to keep our streets walkable, accessible and safe and our waterways unpolluted and litter free.

So download the app and happy snapping!

Our final topic for the week is:

Clean Up Australia Day

When: [Sunday March 6, 2022](#)

Where: Locations across Australia



Did you know litter in the environment is at an all-time high? Why not **step up** to **clean up** this Clean Up Australia Day!

Clean Up Australia Day will be held on March 6, 2022 or you can participate any day of the year that suits you! Anyone can sign up to get involved. It is a great opportunity to get a small group of your friends, family or neighbours together and make a difference in your local community.

You can register your own event or join a local community group.

To participate in

“Clean up Blackburn Lake and its catchment” Day and Litter Action Project,

contact Peter Dempsey on 0415 055 835

If you want to discuss anything of an environment nature or have a project you would like us to consider Rotary, and our club members, would love to hear from you,

Glenys Grant



RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

THE HAZELNUT TREE

The Hazelnut Tree is a small business based here in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne producing handmade soaps and body products. Hazel has been a regular with us at the Blackburn Craft Market for eight years and her products can also be purchased from the “Market Fair” 2/794 Burwood Hwy, **Ferntree Gully. She lives just around the corner. At busy times she ropes in her children and husband** to help on the stall making it a family affair.

As you can see from the photographs, there is a beautiful unique range of soaps poured and cut by hand. She makes her soaps using the traditional cold process method from olive oil, castor oil, coconut oil, avocado oil and hemp seed oil – no palm oil here. Hazel then uses natural colours, plant extracts and essential oils. The range also includes liquid soaps, shampoo bars, moisturisers, lip balms and more. She has an unscented range for people with sensitivities.

Hazel will be happy to talk to you about any of her products as she personally makes them. Come along to the Blackburn Craft market or email her. To make things simple, you can pay by EFTPOS.

Hazel can be contacted by email on hazel@thehazelnuttree.net and take a look at her website www.thehazelnuttree.net



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET



Market operates on the second Saturday each month (except for January)