



**President: John McPhee**

Number 2

11 July 2016

Club address:

Email address:

Website:

Meeting location:

Meeting time:

Facebook:

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

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www.foresthillrotary.com

Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132 (Melways 48H9)

Monday 6.15 for 6.30 pm

Forest Hill Rotary

**CLUB PROGRAM**

Date	Event		Chair	Thanks/ Meeting report
11 July	Hearing Impairment & its effects <i>Dr Kartik Iyer</i>	Committees	Glenys Grant	Bob Williams
18 July	Seoul World Convention 2016 <i>Stuart Williams</i>	Board	Chris Tuck	Chris Tuck
25 July	Colon Cancer :Things you should know <i>Frank Chen</i>		Stuart Williams	Bill Marsh
1 August	Behind the Badge <i>Nancy Notman</i>		Bill Marsh	Mike Finke

**THIS WEEKS CELEBRATIONS**

**Gary Baltissen – Club anniversary-July 14**

**DUTY ROSTER**

	July	August	
Cashier	Ron Brooks	Stuart	Williams
Recorder	Bob Williams	Glenys	Grant
Greeter	Glenys Grant	Gary	Baltissen
Emergency	Graham Sharman	Bob	Williams

**ATTENDANCE**

**APOLOGY – IF A MEMBER IS NOT GOING TO COME TO THE MEETING or you intend bringing a guest please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY on 9878 4891 or [rcssmith@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rcssmith@optusnet.com.au) SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS to Ray by 10am at the LATEST Any CANCELLATION AFTER 10.00 AM *should* be made direct with the management of Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268**

**DON HULLAND**

Don is in Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon Street, Alexandra 3714, and his mobile number is **0409**

**530 435.** Please give him a call or phone the office 5770-2100 and ask for Don.

## JOHN'S JOTTINGS



Monday's meeting whilst small in numbers was very enjoyable as we followed Robbie and Ron's bicycle tour through the Netherlands with its dykes, canals, tulips and history. Thank you Robbie and Ron for sharing this venture with us ( but without the rain , wind and physical effort).

To those who missed tonight, Warwick and Graham, in hospital, Gary with the dreaded lurgi, and Mike caring for Kira after somebody re-arranged the boot of her car-we wish a speedy recovery to each one.

Next meeting we are privileged to have Dr Kartik Iyer , an audiology specialist speaking on Hearing impairment and its effects.. Also this will be the first major committees meeting for the year in which to establish the planning for major projects for the year.

A reminder also for the Blackburn Station level crossing bbq for Friday where distribution of 600 sausages will be undertaken between 3.00pm and 6.00pm. This follows our successful egg & bacon sandwiches effort at Heatherdale last Wednesday. A reminder also for the Whitehorse Farmers Market commitment next Sunday.

Congratulations to Warwick on the awarding of an additional sapphire to your PHF whilst you are still trapped with no escape in Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital. Well done Warwick for your commitment and outstanding service to Rotary since joining as a charter member of this Club.

*John*

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING



### The Netherlands

We found out that calling the Netherlands Holland is like calling the British Isles England.... Mind you after Brexit, that may be all that remains of the British Isles.

We were in The Netherlands for 4 weeks in April, cycling 1,100kms in 21 days of riding with extra rest days scattered throughout the month.

Clogs & canals, tulips & windmills, bikes & dikes, pot and prostitutes

It was ruled by Catholic Spain for a long time. The Protestants occupied the north of the country and fought the Spanish eventually winning with the help of the English. Belgium was split off approximately

at the catholic / protestant border with some catholics remaining in the south of the Netherlands. The protestants did invade many catholic churches destroying idols ie statues of Mary, Christ, etc but mostly they were relaxed enough to prewarn the catholics so they could move all the religious moveables away first.

Rijksmuseum has over 1 million items, a repository of dutch culture-paintings, porcelain, furniture, jewellery, tapestries.

Nearly all Dutch people speak good English.

Borders Belgium and Germany

The Netherlands used to be connected to England before the seas rose.

We criss crossed the whole country and were never far from water. 13,000kms of dykes.

Delta Works: Jan 1953 1,800 people died. Storm surge barriers. \$2billion spent transforming the tidal mouths of great rivers into quiet tidal bays that reduced the dutch coastline by half.

Kinderdijk: UNESCO site. They were building windmills by 1600.

Average dutch man is over 6 ft tall said to be due to large consumption of dairy products over the last 200 years.

Great for cycling but it is windy. Very windy.

Rembrandt – Night Watch

Jeronimos Bosch. Den Bosch

Vermeer.

Van Gogh. Neunen

Delft porcelain

For a little country (17 million) many dutch companies are household names

Phillips electronics, Douwe Egberts coffee, Amstel/Grolsch beer, Tom Tom navigation, Fokker aircraft, P&O ships, DAF trucks, TNT parcels, ING banking, Akzo Nobel chemicals, Delta Lloyd shipping containers.

Ron's notes for his slides (*For those who did not attend paint your own word pictures-Ed*)

Welcome to our view of Hans's country

A small country with lots of people but a huge amount of land which grows great grass for dairy cattle

Notice Holland is just two provinces in the Netherlands Nether means Low. We cycled 1,050kms but still missed some areas.

Near Rotterdam is the lowest place in Europe 7 m below sea level. The highest point is 322m. It is flat. 25% of land is below sea level, 50% is less than 1m above sea level. But we rode up some short 10% hills where the sand dunes are just back from the coast.

I have just finished reading a book about the Netherlands which Hans lent me called "Why the Dutch are different" which Hans assures me is a good reflection on the Dutch. The Dutch are very relaxed about almost everything including drugs and prostitution, working weekends euthanasia etc. German poet Heinrich Herre said if nuclear war ever broke out he would head for the Netherlands because everything happens there 50 years later. It is one of the richest countries in Europe and they work fewer hours. As a trading nation it was once the richest in the world. There are more bikes than people. Cars are never fussed if they have to drive slowly behind a couple of bikes. We never heard a car horn but we did have many cars give way to us when they actually had right of way. Almost all the time there were separate bike lanes- city, town, village, open road

We were never far from water, be it canals, rivers or just swampy ground or drainage ditches. So amazingly different to Oz.

We met ordinary folk walking about in clogs including some bike riders. One guy told us they were cool in summer, warm in winter and hard wearing. His were not made for him specially, they just come in sizes like shoes. I tried some on but they were a bit too big

Keukenhof gardens are famous worldwide. Best month is said to be April. Tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths. It was a 20km ride there from Haarlem and then a 20km ride on to Leiden, so we had about 5

hrs there. Said to be 800 varieties of tulips and 7 million bulbs flower. But there were many other attractions as you can see. Cheese, smoked eel, pickled herrings, folk dancing and loads of others

But flowers were the thing

Obviously it is a country of windmills. There are 991 left in the Netherlands with 19 in Kinderdijk. The oldest still standing was built in 1451. There evidently were 10,000 a hundred years ago.

They come in all shapes and sizes many seemed to be private houses now.

Robbie did a lot of window shopping for bulbs but although the price was right the laws of Australia aren't.

The top two shop windows were in Amsterdam and Rotterdam respectively but there were similar shops in Haarlem etc. Magic mushrooms from many countries, cannabis, marijuana can be sold in coffee shops but only to Netherland residents. We visited the red light district during the day and followed the signs set in the ground. The statue of Belle asks us to respect all sex workers. At night all the red doors are open and all have a girl behind in scanty clothes. We saw a few during the day but mostly they open at night.

There are a huge variety of bikes in the Netherlands. Mostly old and what we would class as very old fashioned design. Carrying babies, shopping, you name it. This is a two tier underground bike park for 2,000 bikes but we used 5,000 space parks. Utrecht railway station is building a 12,500 space park. 40% of travellers arrive at railway stations by bike

Bikes travel on dedicated bike lanes all over the country. Most were in excellent condition but we rode on some dirt and gravel ones in the 1,100kms. We were taken by the aerial rubbish bins. This was a lunch stop as we were away from civilization.

i) They use a route system different to any other country directing you to numbered points (see day route maps I have circulated).

ii) lots of cute little harbour villages to stop at

iii) The car road is to the left, note they have surfaced the RHS to make it easier on the bikes

iv) at many of these knooppunten or junction points there was a map to say where all the others in the district were.

We rode along many dykes. A number were just ribbons of road across wide stretches of water. This one was 27.1km long.

The LHS is a lake now and the RHS is the North Sea. After 1,800 people were killed by a flood in Jan 1953, storm surge barriers were built all over the country costing \$2billion. These are monster steel shields that rotate up and down stopping or allowing water to come through.

Rotterdam had some amazing architecture. This is the indoor market built inside an apartment block. Plus cubes on their point which have been made into three floor apartments with an upside down pyramid cellar two flat floors with sloping walls and a pyramid attic. We stayed in the ss Rotterdam a ship turned into 4 star accommodation.

We were lucky to be there at centenary celebrations of Van Gogh, Vermeer and Jeronimus Bosch. Van Gogh lived in Neunen for many year, we stayed 2 nights on the village green in the centre of the village. You probably know the Starry Night well just about 5km out of the village they have embedded light adsorbing materials into a bike path and so we visited in the day and the path looked like concrete but after dark it had patterns in it like the painting.

We rode past a field of white – all white tulips. Later that day we rode past a field of white – all hailstones. We were fuelled by the fact that we were there at asparagus time, and we made the most of it. We also ate a few Bosch balls. We stayed a night in Den Bosch- the home of Bosch balls and of course the home of Jeronimus Bosch.

So where is this Hans?

The roof of the cheese weigh house in Alkmaar. Two villages still have a traditional cheese market once a week, here and Gouda. We stayed a couple of days in Gouda to attend theirs.

We were lucky enough to be in the Netherlands on King's Day. Public transport stops, fairgrounds everywhere, drinking everywhere, people in orange everywhere. Overcrowded noisy boats on the Amstel river through the centre of Amsterdam. Why do they not fall in? We walked to Vondel Park which traditionally has children performing to earn money. Band groups playing/singing, side shows like throwing eggs at a person's face, knocking over cans with balls, throwing darts at a bulls eye, catching sticks, etc

So many churches and towers and 3 or 4 storey buildings were crooked due to being built on sand or soil with the water table at ground level. A half day at the delft porcelain factory. Only in the Netherlands are there vases made specially for tulips. Robbie chatting to the Gouda man about the cost of the 14kg round of old cheese. And finally, riding into the hotel at the end of our trek around. Glad to finish but glad we did it.

*Ron B*

### Notes from the meeting

Bob (W) gave a report of the Heatherdale “egg and bacon” event. 300 sandwiches were distributed. Everyone was flat out!

Ray introduced a Ms Bum (pronounced differently thank goodness) from Thailand who is visiting Stuart. Warwick is on the improve at Donvale Rehab.

Excuses Mike Fink, as his wife Kera had a car accident today.

Treasurer Bob (W) Account increased by \$7,500 -proceeds Whitehorse market?

Ron If any member is unable to do assigned duty let him know.

Glenys. Thursday 15 September -Primary School Public Speaking Contest

Stuart. Report on Footy tipping.

Mentioned Manningham club’s progressive idea of having a Christmas celebration in July.

Bob (W) Sausage Sizzle at Blackburn station this Friday 3.30 pm to 6.30pm. North side platform 3, car parking behind shops in Main st. There are 600 sausages to cook! Troops on deck- Bob W, Ron, Hans, Glenys, Ray ,John (mac), Ms Bum (Stuart as well I presume)

Ron 2.30pm visit to Warwick at Rehab (room 45) to present PHF to raise his spirits.

*Hans* (Well done for your first report-Ed)

### **DIARY DATES**

Sunday 10 July Whitehorse Farmers Market

Friday 22 July District Membership Seminar

Thursday 15 September Primary Schools Public Speaking Contest

### **SERGEANT’S REFLECTIONS**

As per our weekly flyer, July is Rotary Awareness month and as we usually take a bit of time to get the year under way, this important theme is often not given the importance it deserves.

This awareness is twofold – making the community more aware of what we do and improving the knowledge of all members.

The history of our club is important and at the last board meeting we decided to make use of the amazing work that Ray did in putting together our club history into each of our forty years, together with a range of photos. Our aim is to put all this work into electronic form to preserve it, as Glenys and her Best Chance organisation is doing with their history.

Ron and I collected the club historical documents from Joan Harper last week and all is stored at my place until a few of us can go through it all and this too will add to our historical recording.

Our club has a lot of history to be proud of and we, like most clubs are not very effective at creating and promoting the community awareness of who we are and what we do.

So let’s all get behind this initiative to preserve and promote our history and also talk about what we do at every opportunity and where we as a club or as an individual are in the eyes of the public let’s proudly advertise the fact of who we are. Last week at Heatherdale station where we made 300 egg and bacon sandwiches for commuters, Bill brought our rotary flags which put us in the eye of the travelling public and amongst a great many thank yous from commuters we even scored a \$10 donation from a grateful lady traveller.

So, remember that awareness is multi-dimensional, reflecting within and reaching out to the wider community as people may be aware of work being done in the community and maybe even some are aware of Rotary so it’s up to all of us to connect the dots.

*Bob W*

## FOREST HILL COLLEGE BREAKFAST ROSTER

The roster starts again on 12 July when Robbie and Kevin fire up (not literally I hope).

19 July Robbie Hans  
26 July Robbie Bob L  
2 Aug Robbie Glenys

## ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

July New Year of Service (Rotary Awareness)  
August Membership

## CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEES 2016-17

NOTE Members with an asterisk are Board members

<b>President</b>	John McPhee*
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Marsh *
<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Laslett *
<b>Minute secretaries</b>	Mike Finke/ Hans Eecen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Warwick Stott *
<b>President Elect</b>	Bill Marsh
<b>Sergeant</b>	Bob Williams*
<b>Foundation/International</b>	Stuart Williams*
<b>Members</b>	John Donaghey, Mike Finke, Graham Sharman
<b>Youth Service</b>	Glenys Grant*
<b>Members</b>	Ray Smith, Ron Brooks, Nancy Notman
<b>Community &amp; Vocation</b>	Chris Tuck*
<b>Members</b>	Bob Laslett, Gary Baltissen, Hans Eecen
<b>Membership &amp; Publicity</b>	Warwick Stott
<b>Members</b>	John McPhee, Bill Marsh
<b>Fellowship</b>	Bill Marsh
<b>Program</b>	Ron Brooks
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Bob Laslett
<b>Web page</b>	Bob Laslett
<b>On to Conference &amp; Facebook</b>	Stuart Williams
<b>Public Officer</b>	Bob Laslett

Newsletter articles to the editor at [rlaslett76@gmail.com](mailto:rlaslett76@gmail.com) by 5 pm Wed. Please email me or ring if you want to be removed from the circulation list.