



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 31

President: Sue Ballard

17 March 2021

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This month the Rotary Focus is on Water and Sanitation. All of us who have travelled have at some point seen the effect of drought on this country. Having farming family in Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland I have witnessed at first hand the effect on business, community and the emotional devastation on individuals. Even today with reports of rainfall in Queensland and NSW there is still drought in this area. Rain may fall but it doesn't necessarily get to the right area. Even when the rain falls the water quality is something that needs to be tested. Rubbish, including plastics and toxins, gets swept into rivers and dams. It is important the water quality is carefully monitored.

Recently Glenys and I joined members from Nunawading and other community groups and locals in a clean-up Australia Day at Blackburn Lake. In a period of about two hours we crawled, climbed and wriggled our way through the bush and amassed over 200kg of rubbish in and around the lake. Most of this rubbish was polystyrene or plastic, possibly coming through the joining waterways or dumped by visitors.

What can you do to help reduce this? Where you can, don't use polystyrene products. Some states have banned cups, etc made of this material. At the moment we can't use keep-cups but when you get that cafe takeaway coffee ask for a paper cup. Another big source is packing material - what you do get should be disposed of properly.

Drains in our area run into local drains then into waterways ending in lakes or in the bay. Please keep in mind what we can do to improve the water quality in our community.

Stuart, Ron and I went to Springvale for another successful RYDA day. I am happy to say Anat is back and making a big impact on the students. This month we were partnered with 3 members from Dandenong-Endeavour Hills. Thanks to Stuart for the Johnny Cash singalong.

Thanks, Ron, for the St Patrick's Day quiz.

And with a final Irish toast

There are good ships  
And wood ships  
Ships that sail the seas  
But the best ships  
Are Friendships  
May they always be.



# March is *Water & Sanitation* month.

## NEXT MEETING

22<sup>nd</sup> March – Member talks – “An Item of Interest”

## COMING UP

29 <sup>th</sup> March -	Partners A La Carte Dinner at Bucatini
5 <sup>th</sup> April -	No Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> April -	Blackburn Market
11 <sup>th</sup> April -	Whitehorse Farmers' Market
12 <sup>th</sup> April -	Kevin Walker – “Schizophrenia – hope & recovery”

## CELEBRATIONS

I bet if you put your mind to it you could all think of something beautiful to celebrate this month – so go for it.

Life is short and can change in a moment, so don't put off to another day what you can celebrate today.

Remember to include family and friends.



## RYDA

### Schools Road Safety Education Day

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March Sue, Stuart, & Ron together with Martin, Ben, & Alan from the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong & Endeavour Hills were the volunteers at Sandown Greyhound Track, Springvale. At 8:15am we met up with Catherine and Sasha from RYDA to set up the various rooms. There were 4 schools and about 120 students involved from Alkira, Marcellin, Emerson Special school, & Carwartha.

There were six 30 minute sessions during the day punctuated by morning tea and lunch with the programme finishing at 2pm followed by the clean-up. The sessions were “I in Drive” (Yvonne), “Road Choices” & “Crash Investigators” (Karen and Anat), “Speeding & Stopping hands on demonstration” (Axel and Michelle), “Mind Matters” (Andrea), and “Drive SOS” (Andrea). Although we have all been volunteers a number of times so have sat through these sessions before, the video presentations and the discussion with the physically /mentally impaired crash survivor are always quite moving.

Thanks to Bob Williams for continuing to organise and promote this invaluable Rotary cooperative venture with RYDA which happens throughout Australia and New Zealand. We would encourage members who have not helped/attended a RYDA day to volunteer. You will get more from it than you give.

Ron Brooks (Additional photos: Stuart Williams)





## SPROUTINGS

The sun is shining and it's a beautiful day in this wonderful environment we live in and are trying to preserve.

This week I've listed two news items you may be interested in.

Firstly, how about joining other Rotarians and community members at **Blackburn Lake Sanctuary** on **Saturday March 20, 9.45am** for a two-hour working bee in the natural bushland.

**We would love to see you there!**

Also listed are further details on the global City Nature Challenge 2021.

It will take part across two time periods, from:

1. 30 April to 3 May - taking pictures of wild flora and fauna and uploading them to the iNaturalist platform
2. 4 May to 9 May – identifying what was uploaded

For more information on either event please contact me. **Glenys**

Here are the details from Whitehorse City Council:

### City Nature Challenge

**Date: Friday 30 April – Monday 3 May, 2021**

**Whitehorse** has joined forces with six other Councils in Eastern Melbourne. They are Boroondara, Knox, Maroondah, Monash, Manningham and Stonnington and together we will compete as Melbourne against cities from around the world in the annual City Nature Challenge.

During the four day observation period from 30 April to 3 May, 2021, Whitehorse residents are invited to find, photograph and document the native wildlife that lives and grows in our neighbourhoods.

Working together to find and document nature in our area helps scientists and land managers study and protect these species. By joining the City Nature Challenge, not only do you learn more about your local nature, but you can also make Whitehorse a better place – for you and other species!

To learn more about the City Nature Challenge visit: [www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org)

### Get involved

1. Download the free iNaturalist app from [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
2. Do the app training to know more about how best to use it.
3. Look out for wild plants and animals to photograph during the listed observation period and
4. Upload your photographs to the app.

**Event:** iNaturalist Training Webinar

**Date & Time:** Tuesday March 23, 2021: 7pm - 8.15pm AEDT

**Cost:** Free

**Host:** City of Monash (all seven councils participating in the City Nature Challenge will be promoting this event to the community)

**Link to register or obtain a recording:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/inaturalist-training-webinar-tickets-141757714139>

### City Nature Challenge Events at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

**Register:** To register for the following events at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary during the City Nature Challenge email: [blsac@bigpond.com](mailto:blsac@bigpond.com)

**Where:** All events will begin at the Blackburn Lake Visitors Centre.

#### Finding and Photographing Moths and other Nocturnal Bugs

**When:** Friday 30 April, 6pm-8.30pm

#### Photographic Survey of our Bushland Invertebrates

**When:** Saturday 1 May, 1.30pm-4.00pm

#### Taking Waterbugs Mugshots!

**When:** Sunday 2 May, 11am-1.30pm

#### Bushland Photographic Discovery Walk

**When:** Sunday 2 May, 1.30pm-4.00pm

#### Spotlighting for Possums, Gliders and other Nocturnal Creatures

**When:** Monday 3 May, 6pm-8.30pm



**I will be there, and hope you will do one of the activities – it will be FUN! Glenys.**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Blackburn Lake Visitor Centre:

**Understanding Australia’s “Otter”- the Rakali**

2pm - 4pm Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy will outline the biology and key conservation requirements of this fascinating native mammal, then join us on a walk & hear some tips on how to spot them, and recognise the habitat they like to live in.



**Scan Me!!**



**"MAD March Cycle Challenge "**

Ride, run, walk or swim to **M**ake **A** **D**ifference.

**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

### Powerhouse Cheese

Barbara Power started making her own cheeses over 10 years ago. With a degree in Microbiology she had a good scientific foundation to base her production. Two years ago, she started up her own commercial business **Powerhouse Cheese** and persuaded her sister, Donna Hall, who also has a Science degree, to leave her native New Zealand and join her in this venture. These two Artisan Cheesemakers use cow's milk in small 100 litre batches of milk from St David's Dairy in Fitzroy. They sell their cheeses at markets every Saturday and Sunday around the Melbourne area or you can order on line for pick up on Monday afternoon. The rest of the week you will find them busy in their cheesery making their standard Blackburn Blue, Whitehorse White and Ash Bree cheeses or producing new varieties like their Bellbird Blue or a surface ripened Rosella Red which may become another standard offering in the future. Certainly, these two talented very local artisan cheesemakers running **Powerhouse Cheese** have a future.

[www.powerhousecheese.com.au](http://www.powerhousecheese.com.au)

