



Rotary
Club of Forest Hill



Weekly Newsletter

foresthillrotary1975@gmail.com

President Bob Williams



Be a gift to the world

Number 35

14th March 2016

Club address:

Email address:

Website:

Meeting location:

Meeting time:

Facebook:

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

foresthillrotary1975@gmail.com

www.foresthillrotary.com

Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132

Monday 6.15 for 6.30 pm

ForestHill Rotary

CLUB PROGRAM

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Chair</u> | <u>Thanks/meeting report</u> |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 14 th March | No meeting (Labour Day) | | |
| 21 st March | <i>Miranda Roediger</i> <i>Board Meeting</i> | Stuart Williams | Bill Marsh |
| 28 th March | No meeting (Easter Monday) | | |
| 4 th April | Walter & Eliza Hall visit | Bob Laslett | Bob Laslett |

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

8th March International Women's Day



DUTY ROSTER

| | March | April |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cashier | Warwick Stott | Stuart Williams |
| Recorder | Mike Finke | Bob Laslett |
| Greeter | Glenys Grant | John McPhee |
| Emergency | Stuart Williams | Bill Marsh |

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 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

Pres Bob is collecting USED STAMPS and FOREIGN COINS/NOTES for UNICEF while Ron is overseas

BOB'S BANTER

Wow, twenty-two of us attended our meeting on Monday.

Great to have the Joan, Gary, Malcolm and Veronica Harper, Assistant Governor, Paul Mee and Adele (and Paul looked very relaxed as this was his first Monday off since retiring from the ANZ). Our wonderful partners, Merle, Chris, Robbie and Barbara also came so a lovely atmosphere all evening.

The generous Harper Family gave us a further donation towards local education projects plus Foundation so as the board meets on the 21st March we will put this on the agenda. I had a nice photo of Stan enlarged and framed which I gave them plus three of our 40th year DVDs as Stan features in so much of our history over the years.

All members told of a memory of Stan (we allowed Ray several) which Gary told me later the family really enjoyed. Thank you John McPhee in particular for your memory of Stan being very strong on admitting women into Rotary and insisted on us inducting a lady (Jenny Coburn as she is now), who became a District Governor. An amazing man.

Joan gave me a piece from the "Probian" about Stan's passing which I read out.

AG Paul updated us about Foundation and chair Bob (B1) held the evening together with his usual effortless chairing. We decided to go with the suggestion from MASH to pool the net proceeds of the WFM this month and with hopefully no costs from the Council, donate all to our Fiji fund to assist, after their disaster.

Raffle raised \$44 and our sergeant raised \$51. We had two draws with Warwick and Gary winning wine and as usual I defer to my learned colleague, Bill on raffle and other matters and his terrific suggestion of awarding the lonely choccies to Joan was well received. The support I get from my fellow members is wonderful.

We are finally off to visit the Jazz Museum so thank you to Stuart for all his hard work in pulling this together.

Thank you to Robbie and Barbara for making the breakfasts (pancakes plus chat) this week at Forest Hill Secondary College.

Don't forget to register for "My Rotary" as per Ron's advice in the newsletter as I'm sure in future that will be the main means of communication if you want to know what is going on in the wider Rotary world.

Don't forget to put in your diary the interclub meeting with Nunawading on the 27th April to hear from the Blackburn Rail Crossing People and a folder will go around for the couple of weeks prior.

Last week Barbara and I heard from a speaker from LaTrobe Uni about healthy brain ageing and it wasn't surprising that she said that joining a club, remaining active and participating in stimulating projects are all good for your brain and of course we do all this in Rotary. Thank you to all who are able to volunteer for our two markets this coming weekend.

We wish Robbie and Ron a safe trip to Dubai next week to see their son Nicholas marry. Eight of us are attending the Rotary conference in Shepparton the 18/19/20th March and I'm sure we will all enjoy the event as usual.

As we will enjoy a public holiday Monday our next meeting is the 21st March where will hear from Miranda Roediger plus conference attendees will give a short summary of the weekend.

President Bob

"Be a Gift to the World".

DIARY DATES

Sun 13th March Whitehorse Farmers Market

Sat 30th April Malaria Awareness Day

Sat/Sun 30thApr/1stMay MUNA weekend

28th May/1st June RI CONVENTION, SEOUL, KOREA

Sun 19th June Multi District function to farewell Ian Riseley (RI Pres '17-'18)

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

We drink a toast to our country – but do we really love Australia? Do we smile or cringe when we hear Donald Trump espouse --“Make America great again”? Are we comfortable with Australia? At the weekend, a contest, that 60 years ago, would have had us on the edge of our seats, hardly caused a ripple. Australia V USA in the Davis Cup. National pride on the line? Hardly in 2016! Is it just tennis or is it the qualities of those representing Australia? Is nationalism a dangerous concept or is it just a nice warm feeling but not worth hoisting a flag in our front garden? Do we want our politicians to make Australia great or are we realistic and just hope for “steady as she goes.” We don’t trust our politicians anyhow. Mmmmm ... Advance Australia Fair.

Stuart's Reflection

Chairman Bob Laslett welcomed the twelve members plus wives, Assistant Governor Paul Mee and his wife Adele, and the Harper family, Joan, Gary, Malcolm & Veronica. President Bob Williams introduced the topic for the night, a tribute to Stan Harper who had been a member of RCFH for 39 years until his passing at age 90. His numerous accomplishments over his time with the club include the founding of many (9?) Probus Clubs and a special interest in the education of students within the Whitehorse area.

Reports:

Treasurer Ron Brooks reminded us that raffle tickets function best when one half is kept by the purchaser, and also that stamps and coins are still desired, and that their receipt is put to good use in funding worthy causes by UNICEF. Several additional members have been successfully registered with MyRotary, and Ron has reminded the members that his advice and assistance is available for those who have as yet not accomplished this important task.

Treasurer Warwick Stott raised the issue of an additional warm body being needed for the Sunday Whitehorse Farmer’s Market, but this was resolved quickly with an additional volunteer.

International: Chris Tuck mentioned that Ken Wall of the Box Hill Central Club will issue a more complete report, but it seems that the ABCD team appear to believe that the projects in Fiji have not been seriously damaged by Cyclone Winston. Some funding may be sought for minor repairs once an inspection is complete.

Community: Bob Laslett reported that the 4th of April trip to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute is booked in, and that so far there have been expressions of interest in the infectious diseases and prostate health departments. The Jazz museum trip for the morning of Wednesday the 9th had a total of sixteen booked, and a plea was made to rope in additional guests if possible. The breakfast roster for Tuesday was filled.

Membership: John McPhee reported he had been playing phone tag with Russell Wilson, but assured the members that he would make contact shortly.

Glenys Grant gave a report for the **Youth** Committee to note that both Kingswood and Forest Hill are confirmed as competing in the upcoming Model United Nations Assembly.

Program: Ray Smith reminded that there will be no meeting on the Labour Day holiday next Monday, and that the following week’s meeting will feature psychologist Miranda Roediger as the guest speaker.

Fellowship: John Donaghey mentioned the most recent movie night. Most attendees chose to watch “Lady in the Van”; a succinct positive review was offered of that film. Stuart William’s Sergeant’s session touched on many topics, including the joys of a good quality, inexpensive banana, whether here in Australia or while travelling the world. He offered the rather disturbing information that 70% of dust is made of human skin, and he ended his session by extolling the virtues of Kraft’s Vegemite and reminding the club of Stan Harper’s connection to both of those things. Some fines were levied and some good news shared. Of particular import was Bill Marsh’s news on the much improved health of his daughter after a long treatment.

Special Tribute:

The topic of discussion for the evening was Stan Harper. Members offered their memories of him during his and their time with the Forest Hill Club. Ray credited Stan with helping him immensely, both at the earliest stages of his membership, and throughout it. Warwick remembered working with Stan on the egg and bacon stall during the opening of Eastlink eight years ago. Ron related that Stan had a simple response to why more people don't join Rotary, "Nobody asks them". Chris shared his memories of the loyalty they'd both shown to and been offered by Kraft, and the disappointment they both experienced at the new ownership by Mondelez. Bill Marsh described Stan as a man who took an interest in everything happening around him and missed nothing. John Donaghey mentioned enjoying morning tea in the orchard. Stuart offered his opinion that Stan may have had official titles and duties over his time with Forest Hill Club, but that he had also been the unofficial deputy for every office holder; he offered his assistance to all, and was a gentle man who loved sport. Glenys recalled the hand of friendship offered to her by Stan. Gary mentioned Stan's membership in the Lifeliners, and called Stan a stalwart gentleman who was always willing to share his knowledge. John McPhee dubbed Stan "Mr Probus", and reminded the club of the good work done by Stan and Joan with a cultural exchange student from China. Bob Williams' admiration was particularly for Stan's sense of humour and tremendous memory. And Bob Laslett described Stan as an invaluable resource for the Forest Hill club and for Rotary International as a whole.



Gary, Malcolm and Pres Bob

Gary, Malcolm, Veronica, Bob with Joan

Stan's sons, Malcolm and Gary Harper spoke of their father's passion and interest in local education projects. To respect his wishes, a bequest to make funds available for this has been provided. President Bob noted that Stan features prominently in the 40th anniversary disc provided to the members recently, and announced the plan for the creation of the Stan Harper Community Award, which will focus on education.

AG Paul Mee spoke briefly about the Rotary Foundation, which has been made stronger and more able to provide help due to the dedication of people like Stan Harper in his 39 years at the Forest Hill club. The Rotary Foundation has distributed over \$1 billion to various groups around the world. It is the third largest charitable foundation, and was founded in 1917, starting with a total value of \$27.50. It has operated under its current name since 1928, and when the founder Paul Williams died in 1947, donations flooded in from around the world in recognition of the reputation for good work it had developed by that point. Polio eradication has been its biggest focus for some time, and tremendous success has been achieved to almost complete that goal.

The Rotary Foundation provides both local and global grants which fulfil the five criteria.

Projects must be:

- 1) Sustainable after original RF funding is exhausted.
- 2) Measureable in their accomplishments
- 3) Meeting real community need.

- 4) A combined efforts of both Rotarians and the members of the community in which they operate.
- 5) Addressing one of the six areas of focus for Rotary International

This year, the Ride to Rotary, an initiative of the 47 clubs in the district, will have raised over \$1M over its just over 25 years of existence.

John McPhee closed the meeting with a heartfelt thanks to the Harper family for their generosity in sharing Stan Harper with Forest Hill and supporting the work he accomplished over his life.

Warwick and Gary Harper won the raffle, which raised \$44. The Sergeant's session raised \$51.

Recorder's note: It is not possible to listen to the memories of Stan without developing some sort of image. If a bit of allegory can be permitted, Stan's work within the club seems to have been that of an experienced groundskeeper whose focus was in preparing the soil and supporting young plants. Without his memory of past seasons and his occasional nurturing, the garden would be less robust and hearty than it is today.

Mike Finke

FOREST HILL COLLEGE BREAKFAST ROSTER

Robbie & Barbara were up to their eyeballs in pancakes last Tuesday at Forest Hill with Ben and Emily doing the chatting to students. Only one more week for Robbie before her well earned break so Glenys you will then be free to "pat the pancakes".

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| 9/02/2016 | Robbie | Barb |
| 16/02/2016 | Robbie | Chris |
| 23/02/2016 | Robbie | Kevin |
| 1/03/2016 | Robbie | MJ |
| 8/03/2016 | Robbie | Barb |
| 15/03/2016 | Robbie | Glenys |
| 22/03/2016 | Chris | Kevin |



The "A" team



Emily, Ben, Barbara, & Robbie

Contact Bob Laslett for any roster problems

REGISTERING ON MY ROTARY

Go to www.rotary.org

click on **My Rotary** to the left of Club Finder at the top of the screen if it is not there then click on the three horizontal lines on the right hand side near the JOIN box and **My Rotary** should appear. Click on it.

click on the sign in / register box

You need to register now but in future you will just sign in

Click on the **Create Account** box

[In future this is where you will sign in with your registered email and your password]

Fill in the **Account registration** with your

First name

Last name

Sign in email (the one that rotary has registered for you)

Click the YES button for older than 18

Then click CONTINUE ... there are a few more steps

It comes up with a **Thank you for registering** message.

You will receive an email with a link to activate your account.

When the email arrives (it does not take long) read the email then

Click on **activate** and wait while a page comes up

It asks you to create a password (numbers & letters & capitals is best)

Type in a password

Type the password in a second time

Pick and answer a secret question so if you forget your password they have a secret question they can ask you

You should get a message saying **Congratulations** you have created an account.

You can then create a profile if you want to but it is not necessary.

So far, Mike, Glenys, Bob L, Bill, John Mc, Ray, Warwick & Bob W have registered.

FOOTY TIPPING

Start chasing your friends to join our **Rotary Tipping** competition. So easy. Only 5 minutes per week. Only \$30. Approx \$7 of that goes to Hope Katolo in Kenya. The more we have involved, the more fun and the bigger the prize.

Instructions,

1. - Go to www.footytips.com.au

2. - Log on if you were in the competition last year You will probably be asked to re-activate your account by confirming your email address.

3. - If you were not in the competition last year click on "register" - then complete the details as requested.

4. Hover cursor over competitions --a blue box. Click on search or type Forest Hill Rotary. I don't believe you need a password. Click - Join Comp

5. It might be worthwhile clicking on -Strast tipping Now.... and complete your selections for round one. It gets busy near the start of the season. You can log in once you know the teams and edit your TIPS before round ONE if need be.

How to Tip

Click on "Tipping" at the top of the page and the AFL. Then enter your tips. Remember to click on SUBMIT TIPS at the bottom of the page. If you forget to enter your tips then all is not lost - you will receive the average score for the round minus ONE tip.

Stuart

FOREST HILL WEBSITE www.foresthillrotary.com

Have you looked at our website? **Our website is a window through which the world looks at us.** What do you think?

- Do you like what you see?
- Do you want other things on our site?
- Tell me what you want to see there.
- Give me some ideas, photos, feedback, stories

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 as he misses our fellowship. I spoke with him during the week. He says he is being looked after extremely well by loads of dedicated staff at Kellock Lodge. There is a good chance he'll be having a few days in Box Hill or Epworth as they may decide to take out his gall bladder. If so, I've asked him to give Pres Bob a ring (0448-149-106) so people have a chance to catch up with him.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST HOLIDAY?

Our President Bob has come up with yet another idea!

Ron & Robbie 16th March to 9th May Dubai and Holland]

So let's hear from you. Tell us where you are going and tell us how the holiday went when you come back..... then give Ron your foreign coins when you return !! EASY.

SRI LANKA a comment on getting around

Sri Lanka is an island country of very steep mountains and flat swampy coastal plains. Being an impoverished country which experienced a 30 year internal upheaval, its transport system is poorly developed and makes getting around a challenge.

Its rail system is basically the remnants of the British colonial infrastructure, and the steep terrain makes extension a real challenge other than the coastal fringe. Even that because of the coastal swamps estuaries, bring other challenges. The train ride from Kandy to Ella is said to be one of the great experiences of the world, but unfortunately we were unable to do the train thing on this trip.

Road transport is another experience, with many of the main roads reminding me of English lanes but instead of hedges, they have roadside stalls by the 1000's to line the roads.

The most popular transport means are low powered motorcycles and Tuk Tuks, with a fair share of cars trucks farm vehicles, bicycles and shoe leather.

The road rules appeared to be: go wherever there appears to be a vacant spot, but make sure you do not hit anything. Traffic lights, pedestrian crossings etc were there a guide only, but again, make sure you do not hit anything. Because of the narrow roads and masses of people travel is rather slow with the worst congestion in Kandy a very undulating area heading for the mountains. This meant that travel anywhere is time consuming with a 100 kilometre trip likely to take 3-4 hours so whilst the country is small, timewise we spent most of the days during the 14 day trip, in the Bus.



Other than the magnificent mountainous scenery, a highlight was the skill of our driver when confronted with the bus being too big to negotiate a turn in the road, the driver was

forced to reverse the Bus back about 2 kl along a winding dirt road with much of the distance being an elevated road over swamp land with very little room for error. However the main system of transport was, vintage Leyland Busses in various stages of disrepair, but with motors and horns working well. From observation it would appear that these busses had right of way on the roads, or if they did not then they took rights of way at speed, whilst sounding of their horns.

Overall, commuter busses are a great way to see Sri Lanka and travelling therein, is quite an experience because of the narrow roads without very much protection from guard rails etc.

An alternative is by bike , but preferably down hill roads.

John McPhee

OUT AND ABOUT IN MELBOURNE

[I would love to receive reports from any readers of visits to exhibitions, cinema, theatre, ballet, days out in the country – I promise they will be published to give ideas where others might like to go].

Thanks to Kathy and John Donaghey for organising our **Movie and Dinner evening** last Friday night. We met at Melbas and enjoyed a meal together and even Judy and Bill Marsh, who had another engagement, came to have a chat before going to the Box Hill Golf Club for dinner. Stuart saw “**Neerja**” and Heather Bremner, Kathy, Glenys, Pat, Barbara and I met up with Robbie and Ron at the theatre and all enjoyed “**The Lady in the Van.**”

The story was based on fact with Mary Shepherd (played by the irascible but irresistible Maggie Smith) an elderly lady taking up residence in her van in the front driveway of writer Alan Bennett (played by Alex Jennings). Her “temporary” park lasted for 15 years until her death. We witnessed the amazing patience shown by Alan who pieced together the past life of this homeless bag lady whilst putting up with her often revolting habits. Her time as a Nun (get it? “habits” and “Nun”) and a gifted pianist are drawn into his story and her antics are both at times hilarious and sad.

The “real” writer had a minor role at the end. Barbara said that it was also a good advertisement of quality aged care that Mary enjoyed only near the end of her life. Well worth seeing I believe.

Pres Bob.

“Neerja” a wonderful movie about an incredible young woman. A flight attendant on a Pan Am flight that got hijacked to Karachi. It is well told, warm, sensitive and “very scary”. It is based on a true story. Neerja received the highest Indian bravery award possible (youngest recipient ever) and awards from other “countries”. A hero that many of us have not heard about. In Hindi with sub-titles. Well worth seeing. I was in tears for the last 5 minutes.

Stuart W

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Days for Girls is a grass roots charity that has a network of Teams and Chapters around the world that make and raise funds to provide sanitary hygiene kits. (You may remember the talk on providing toilets for school children at the annual conference in which one added benefit was that if teenage girls have a toilet to go to they don't miss one week a month). Over 100,000 kits have been given out in over 75 countries.

These kits are washable and reusable lasting up to three years.

How can you help?

- you can sew
- you can do non sewing tasks,
- you can donate fabric,
- you can contact margaretdccunningham@gmail.com
- you can visit www.daysforgirls.org

Connie Millott and Chris Stott have been in touch with Robbie to say they want to help. If there are any others of you interested in helping **please contact Robbie**.

ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| March | Water and Sanitation |
| April | Maternal and Child Health |
| May | Youth Services |
| June | Rotary Fellowships |

CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

| | | 2015-16 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| President | | Bob Williams |
| Vice President | | Stuart Williams |
| Secretary | | Ron Brooks |
| Treasurer | | Warwick Stott |
| President Elect | | John McPhee |
| Sergeant | | Stuart Williams |
| Foundation/International | | Chris Tuck |
| | Members | John Donaghey, Mike Finke, |
| Youth Service | | Glenys Grant |
| | Members | Ray Smith, Bill Marsh, Graham Sharman |
| Community & Vocation | | Bob Laslett |
| | Members | Stuart Williams, Gary Baltissen, Ron Brooks |
| Membership & Publicity | | John McPhee |
| | Members | Warwick Stott, Bob Williams, |
| Fellowship | | John Donaghey |
| Primary Schools Speech Night | | Bob Williams |
| Programme | | Ray Smith, Gary Baltissen |
| Bulletin Editor | | Ron Brooks |
| Web page & Facebook | | Ron Brooks |
| On to Conference | | Stuart Williams |
| Historian | | |
| Almoner | | Graham Sharman |
| Public Officer | | Bill Marsh |

Newsletter articles to the editor at ronbrooks1942@gmail.com by 5 pm Wed Please email me or ring if you want to be removed from the circulation list.

GIANT MONOPOLY NIGHT Fri 8th April 2016 at 6:30pm

The **Rotaract Club of Whitehorse** would like to invite you to our Giant Monopoly Night on the 8 April 2016 to help raise funds for ABCD (Art Building Children's Dreams).

Location: Box Hill Town Hall (Lower Room), 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Cost: \$16 Early Bird Tickets (til 8 March), \$20 Standard Tickets (9 March – 6 April)

Tickets are available for purchase online at: www.trybooking.com/181719

Rotaract Club of Whitehorse meets 2nd and 4th Wed of the month 7:30pm at Melbourne Baseball Club, Surrey Drive, Box Hill. Rotarians are welcome.