



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 37

President: Stuart Williams

29 April 2020

## STU'S SCRIPT

As a car fanatic- I thought we'd have flying cars by 2020 but, no, here we are teaching people how to wash their hands. Thought I would start and finish with a one-liner. Maybe I'm missing the weekly smile from Sergt. Bob. Hope you are all still safe, well, occupied and keeping fit.

Am I game to look into my crystal ball? It does offer occasional tantalizing glimpses of hope, it is not giving me a clear picture of the way ahead. Rotary is continuing but in a different way. Please check out the district web-site and have a go at registering for the On-line District Assembly tutorials.

It was good to have 10 club members meeting on Zoom on Monday night. John Bindon had his name there but again unfortunately could not "get in".

Ron is going to investigate getting some guest speakers for future meetings.

I'm not having cups of coffee with strangers at the moment, but I have recently placed a Classified Ad.-- Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand-sanitizer for good clean fun.

Stay safe, stay sane

Stuart

## THE LIFE AND LIFE OF BARBARA (EVANS) WILLIAMS

Well here we go again! As spoken of in July 2018, Barbara was born in November 1948 at home in Kew, to join three brothers and one sister. In 1953 she then moved to Templestowe to live on 3 acres, amongst the peach and pear orchards. The next door orchardist would use the dam water and in exchange, leave a box of peaches and pears on the fence for the family to enjoy – yum!

She spent her whole 12 years of schooling at PLC in Burwood. The final year of school, was a great time spent in the weaving room creating various woven products. After leaving school, she joined the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) on the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets, Melbourne. Quite a number of girls and boys worked at this branch over the years, one of whom was Bob Williams. In June 1970 they married and ventured to Tasmania for their honeymoon.

After a lot of hard saving, Bob working 2 and sometimes 3 jobs, they were able to purchase their own home in Mitcham, where they bore two children, Amy and Simon and lived until 1977, when they started their moves around Victoria, for Bob's employment.

First stop was Tallangatta in the north east, a little town, where "everyone knew everyone". Amy started kindergarten that first year. What a wonderful surprise whilst booking her in, Barbara met up with a school friend from PLC, which started a 30-year friendship. Barbara's creating continued with articles made for the local craft shop "The Hub". Golfing became an activity.

Second stop was to Colac, where Simon started school and Amy continued with her schooling.

Barbara continued her creating and was lucky enough to sell finger puppets through the local craft shop. That was a way to raise money, for when Neil Diamond came to Australia!

Third stop was to Heywood, where golfing and craft projects continued, along with mothering.

After 6 years of life in the country, the family returned to Melbourne to live, to enable the children to continue their schooling, at PLC and Yarra Valley, respectively.

They bought their present home in Mitcham in 1983.

A neighbour across the road, had given birth to twins (along with her 2 sons), so each afternoon for the first 3 months of their life, Barbara would pop over after school, to help with chores, so the mother could feed the babies. Whilst there, the neighbour suggested that Barbara approach the local council to work as a home carer, a way of getting back into the workforce.

Barbara spent 22 years working at the City of Nunawading and later City of Whitehorse, doing home help, mini bus driving the oldies around, administration duties in the Aged Care Department, then the final 12 years was spent doing the admin office work at the Nunawading Community Hostel (for the aged).

During all these years crafty, creative things were an every week occurrence and card making is an ongoing creative enjoyment.

Rotary has been added as part of her life, bringing special friendships and interesting volunteering.

Barbara

## **NEXT MEETING**

***Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in the Zoom Room.***

***Our numbers increased again this week but I know a number of members are still experiencing difficulty with getting on-line. Keep trying and give me a call if you think I can help or you would like to check your connection before the next meeting.***

**Bill**

## CELEBRATIONS

We haven't included any celebrations in the last couple of FHH as we were trying not to encourage large gatherings. (Well, that's our excuse.)

But it is time to celebrate again.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April John McPhee celebrated his birthday. He couldn't have candles on the cake because they wouldn't all fit.

Club birthdays were celebrated by Ian Teese on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, Stuart Williams on 21<sup>st</sup> March, John McPhee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and John Donaghey on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Well done all.

Wedding Anniversaries were celebrated by Ray & Merle on 17<sup>th</sup> April (You owe Merle a big dinner when this is all over, Ray.) with Ron and Robbie joining the party on 28<sup>th</sup> April. (Robbie let Ron have a half day break from painting the house to celebrate! That's what he told us, Robbie!)



## AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

We have been very lucky to have contact with a number of Exchange Students and GSE members who have been associated with the club over a long period. We have featured letters from various countries over the last couple of newsletters and continue today. These contacts have really demonstrated how the COVID-19 virus has spread world-wide and had massive effects on people and economies. It makes you realize we are not alone in this stressful time and that we are, in fact, better off than many other countries and communities.

Antti Leppanen was an exchange student from Finland about 20 years ago. A long-haired Nordic blonde Antti originally studied and became a professional artist. He came 200km to spend the day with President Stuart and show him Helsinki when Stuart visited.

The Finnish government restrictions are almost identical to Victoria's. Antti works for a company specializing in geriatric physiotherapy. As you would imagine, all work stopped overnight and he was laid off /unpaid leave. He is getting compensated by his union and his partner, Mervi, is still working.

Interestingly they were both in SPAIN in February. They came back before travel was restricted and at that time, Spain wasn't considered a risk area. As Antti said- "Boy that changed quickly". They both had mild symptoms that they didn't even consider to be corona until later. Antti wishes the club well.

## WHY DID YOU JOIN ROTARY?

### 101 Reasons for Joining Rotary (Well almost!)

Rotary gives members personal satisfaction  
Rotary is great for teaching members new skills  
Rotary members are never lonely, (or in self isolation, really)  
Rotary is a team effort  
Rotary members work towards improving the community.

Rotary provides students with confidence building programs  
Rotary offers so many opportunities to youth  
Rotary assists youth in better international understanding  
Rotary gives students global opportunities  
Rotary provides students with leadership training

*To be involved in activities in the community we live in.*

*To make a difference in the lives of members of my community including all age groups such as youth projects.*

*To meet other people from my local community from different backgrounds.*

*To meet and influence businesses, government and influencers in the community to get projects done or to escalate issues.*

*To stay socially aware of what is happen in my local district*

*To stay mentally and physically active and relevant.*

*To be inspired by people around me to do more.*

To help people in the general community as I belonged to no other community organisations only to a range of job-related ones.

To be exposed to and learn new skills that I did not experience in my work environment then pass them on to others.

These were submitted by four of our members. See if you can add to them and we just might get to 101!!

# *KEEP SMILING!!!*



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