



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 37

President: Bill Marsh

19 April 2023

BILL'S BY-LINE



Our guest speaker, Ramana, and his son, Keiran, gave us a very interesting introduction to the Hindu religion. On the 8th May we will join them for a meal at the temple in The Basin. (A full report elsewhere in the Newsletter.)

Next week our speaker will be Rev Tina Lyndon Ng – 'Weird and Wonderful Travel Stories'

The decision to cancel our Blackburn Market sausage sizzle due to it falling over Easter and the school holidays proved to be the correct call – well done, John.

There were only about 5 stalls on the day and the weather was pretty ordinary.

WFM was well down for the same reasons.

We will be back in the bbq business on the 13th May. So let us hope for good weather and lots of customers. Hopefully, all of our regular helpers will be on deck to ensure we have a successful morning.

The club will donate additional funding to the 'Days for Girls' program.

Enjoy your week. Stay safe.

Bill

NEXT WEEK

24 April Rev Tina Lyndon Ng Weird and wonderful travel stories

Chairperson: Bob Laslett

Greeter: Glenys Grant

Notes for "Happenings" Ron Brooks

Thanks Sue Ballard

COMING UP

1 May Sunny T Ryall Deaf Blind Advocacy

8 May Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple Tour

13 May Blackburn market

14 May Whitehorse Farmers Market

RC Forest Hill has a new Post Box, effective immediately.

**RC Forest Hill
PO Box 502
Brentford Square
3131**

*April is
Maternal & Child Health
Month*

CELEBRATIONS



Major celebrations this week. John McPhee has his birthday on April 26 and Ron and Robbie Brooks celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 28!!
Party time!!!



Meeting Report April 17 2023

President Bill opened meeting and welcomed the visitors from the Hindu Temple at The Basin, Ramana Akula and his son Keiran.

Reports were called for. Secretary Stuart has stated the new postal address is now active and should be used from now on. Treasurer Warwick thanked volunteers for helping at the Farmers Market. Bill thanked John Mc for cancelling the Blackburn market prior to the bad weather setting in.

Sue said that applications for the Deakin University award have started to come in. The award will be presented in June.



Guest speakers Ramana Akula and Keiran gave presentations on the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar temple located on the Mountain Highway at The Basin. The presentation included a visual tour of areas within the temple open to the public. This included a short rundown of the basics of Hinduism and its presence in Australia. Discussion on the Hindu gods, festivals and the importance of Hindu philosophy within the community. They discussed their individual journeys in discovering their paths and religious practices. Everyone finds their own way into enlightenment. They used videos-

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zoAGXYdKongSDKaH8>

The club has been invited to join in festivities starting Friday and going for 2 weeks. We have been also invited to have our meeting at the temple in May which will include a vegetarian meal.

Sue

FUNERAL

Members and friends will be very sad to hear of the death of Kevin Grigsbey, former member and Possum-Billy -Tea man. His funeral will be on Friday 21 April at 10:30am at the Moonee Ponds Salvation Army Citadel, 880 Mt Alexander Rd, in Essendon.

FIJI EYES UPDATE

In concert with the Fiji Society for the Blind (FSB) we have decided to bring all the FSB volunteer screening people to Taveuni at the same time as the project 12th to 23rd June.

I have sourced an additional GP who will provide the training with one of the visiting surgeons. This way they will get real time exposure to the patients and the process of eye surgery, and we can control the training and make sure they get what they need.

Peter Malden

CHARIOT FESTIVAL

We take great pleasure in cordially inviting you and your family to come and participate in our Joyous spiritual experience at our Annual Chariot Festival to be held on Saturday 29th April 2023 between 10 am and 12.30 pm, and thence to a sumptuous Indian Vegetarian lunch at 1.00 pm.

The Chariot and the procession will start from the Temple at 1292-1294, Mountain Highway, The Basin, around 11.00 and will return to the temple by 12.30 pm.

Ramana Akula

SPROUTINGS

Whitehorse City Council have sent all Rotarians and others in the community this great invite:



Whitehorse City Council

Sustainable Living Week

28 April to 7 May 2023

To learn more and book tickets visit:
www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sustainable-living-week

Scan to book tickets

You're invited to **Whitehorse's Sustainable Living Week** from **28 April to 7 May**.

Connect with nature, learn about simple actions on climate change that everyone can take and explore a more sustainable lifestyle.

Small steps can make a big difference!

Join us at the series of events from 28 April to 7 May 2023. Connect with nature, learn about simple actions on climate change that everyone can take and explore a more sustainable lifestyle.

Small steps can make a big difference!

Sunday afternoon, 30 April Matthew Evans, the Gourmet Farmer will teach you a handful of practical sustainable tips from his experience of living and working on his Fat Pig Farm featured on SBS and his 13 books about food and soil. Also learn how to grow a gourmet veggie garden.

Explore the importance of moving towards all-electric homes and how to ditch gas at the All-electric Home's webinar on 1 May.

Learn how to transform your very own garden into a place of climate action with Greenlink Box Hill indigenous plant nursery on 4 May.

You can also enjoy some fantastic art created from recycled materials at our annual Upcycle Art Exhibition in Box Hill Community Arts Centre from 28 April to 11 May.

Or meet like-minded neighbours at our **Regenerating Australia movie afternoon on Sunday 7 May.** ‘

To see the full line-up of events and book your spot, please visit

www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sustainable-living-week

Save our Canopy Trees

More than 100 impassioned residents attended the Save Our Canopy Trees Forum held on Saturday April 1 at the HUB, Nunawading. This excellent public meeting was run by the Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc (CROWAG). Attendees included Whitehorse Deputy Mayor Cr Prue Cutts, Cr Trudy Skilbeck, Cr Amanda McNeill, WC CEO Simon McMillan and Tree Education Officer, Belinda Moody.

It was also pleasing to see some of our environment minded Rotarians there.

The aims of the forum were to give voice to resident's concerns and help them better understand:

- The positives of urban forest and negatives of its decline
- the mechanisms which lead to excessive overdevelopment and removal of tree canopy
- the City of Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy.



Thank you to CROWAG for organising this event and for presenting the tree decline issues.

It has made residents even more aware of the necessity of continued action on all our parts.

L-R Cr Trudy Skilbeck, Keynote Speaker Dr Greg Moore, Cr Amanda McNeill, Cr Prue Cutts, with CROWAG's Ross Gillespie and Greg White.

Sessions were engaging and interesting.

Keynote speaker was Dr Greg Moore OAM, Chair of the National Trust Victoria's Register of Significant Tree Committee, an advocator for environment and arboriculture conservation, active researcher, scientific author and Board member. He spoke on "Trees: essential infrastructure as climate changes" emphasizing the threats to human health and survival as *heat island* effect increases with intensification of city and suburban built density.

Dr Moore listed numerous benefits that trees provide, e.g. shade, reducing roof temperatures by up to 8°C; encouraging both active and passive recreation by people, thereby improving their health and lowering health costs; contributing to the aesthetics of the landscape giving a sense of scale, providing screens for unsightly aspects of the urban landscape and how they acting as focal points, adding to real estate value.

Most of the loss of trees across Melbourne is from private open space (front and back yards) rather than public open space in parks and streets and approximately 95pc of tree removal requests are ultimately approved in Victoria!

Greg concluded that there is a real risk to the urban forest and the cover it provides through attrition by the unnecessary removal of trees.

He suggested that it is therefore advisable each time a request for a tree removal is received by Council, a proper cost benefit analysis for the removal should be undertaken.

An analysis that considers both the expected and unexpected outcomes of the removal would go some way to ensuring that the integrity of the urban forest is maintained in the face of unnecessary tree removals.

Whitehorse Council Statutory Planning Assistant Manager Jacqui Hansen, and Leonie Gibson from Parks and Natural Environment, then explained the “*Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy and managing vegetation impacts through the planning system*”.

The strategy aims to increase canopy cover from 21pc now to 27pc by 2030.

It was noted how community and landowners view trees when they are influencers of increased land costs; growing expectations of how people can use their land including house size, block size, build costs; and how a large number of Whitehorse planning decisions challenged at VCAT are protesting the retention of existing trees or the planting of new trees.

While there is an important role for statutory planning enforcement, community reporting of illegal tree removal is also needed.

Ian Hundley followed, focusing on the neighbourhood perspective, while final speaker Felix Lipkin from Data Analytics fascinating talk - “Canopy Cover and Canopy Analytics”- explained how data programs can now merge satellite photographs to record canopy growth, even down to an individual tree.



L-R Whitehorse Council’s Tree Education Officer Belinda Moody, CEO Simon McMillan and Anne Payne OAM, Chair, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee

A lively panel discussion followed.

Motions put to the meeting were overwhelmingly supported. These urged Whitehorse Council to more strongly enforce the planning scheme clauses and policy on tree conservation; increase funding for tree planting and canopy monitoring; and to liaise with the other 35 LGA’s with an Urban Forest Strategy to enable joint advocacy to the State Government to have the document incorporated into their respective Planning Scheme.

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Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group (WESRG)

At the CROWAG Tree Forum, a time limit to the panel discussion meant a number of community questions remained unanswered. These questions have been collated by CROWAG and directed to appropriate parties for a response.

Also, the agenda for the next meeting of WESRG includes discussion on these items as well as further explanations on the City of Whitehorse Urban Forest Strategy.

That meeting is this Wednesday April 19, so I should be able to answer a few more of your questions, soon....

Glenys

DAYS for GIRLS

Days for Girls Doncaster invite you to an
Afternoon Tea to advance menstrual equity

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Sat. June 17th 2:30pm
Warrandyte Community Church
57 Yarra St. Warrandyte
Parking: front and rear of building

Cost: \$35 includes a delicious afternoon tea and opportunity for you
to pack a DFG kit, silent auction, jewellery and items for sale

Book or Donate: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHNNN>



DFG is a global not for profit,
volunteer movement working
to eliminate menstrual inequity
everywhere and to shatter the
stigmas and limitations for women
and girls.

- make and distribute sustainable solutions
- provide health education
- develop social entrepreneurship
- engage in policy and advocacy

Every girl. Everywhere. Period.

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

HOOPS RELOOPED

The founder of **Hoops Relooped**, Bec is a local from Nunawading. She has always loved collecting earrings but doesn't love always buying new products. She went through her (extensive) earring collection in early 2022 and found several pairs that she hadn't worn for years but were too good to throw out. She started pulling the pieces apart, re-working them into new earrings, glued on some new posts and **Hoops Relooped** was born!

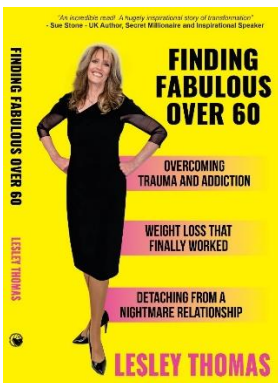
Bec said "We take preloved second-hand unwanted jewellery and turn it into new, one-of-a-kind statement earrings. There is already so much "stuff" in the world, why add more when we can use what we already have?"

They source as many of their pieces second hand as they can - think preloved necklaces, earrings and bracelets from friends, family and op shops - they're working towards a circular jewellery economy. They purchase all their backings from women-led small businesses in Adelaide and Brisbane. They endeavour to be plastic free as much as possible - they ship plastic free; use carbon neutral shipping carriers; and use recycled cardboard boxes, eco tape, and recycled paper bags. Bec sees **Hoops Relooped** as her creative outlet away from work and computers.

They are regulars at many markets in the area (see www.hoopsrelooped.com.au). If you have some jewellery, you would like fixing, changing, updating then contact her via the website to chat about it or email her on hello@hoopsrelooped.com.au



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS





Come and frequent the Market next month- May 13