



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 38

President: Sue Ballard

12 May 2021

VALE RAY SMITH

Ray died peacefully on Monday with his wife, Merle, and family beside him.

Ray was almost 93 years old and had been a member of our club for a little over 40 years.

A life-time educator, Ray brought an abundance of knowledge, wisdom, skill and enthusiasm to every project he undertook.

As a teacher and Principal Ray touched the lives of thousands in the many schools in which he worked. He continued to touch the lives of thousands more through his work with Rotary.

No job was too small, or too large, and all were completed with equal excellence.

Our club has lost a tireless member and we have lost a true friend.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

From the Presidents' meeting last week, the important message was respect of others. You would have seen the reports in the media of charges made on those who have used bully tactics and intimidation on others and Rotary is not immune. While I would hope that no one we know is using coercive behaviour to undermine others, we all need to review what we say and do with others.

What may have been acceptable behaviour, or at least ignored, in the past is not acceptable now. Unwanted or disrespectful jokes or comments make others uncomfortable and disrespected. It can be the turning point of getting that new member and the closing of a club. Being over familiar with someone, such as making a personal comment, innuendo or tasteless jokes is not acceptable.

In the past I have been targeted by colleagues and strangers just because I was a woman or over weight. While comments like, "Girlie, make me a coffee." or being left off training courses may seem innocent enough it demeaned me in front of my peers when it came from a manager. In my case my employer, the ATO, stepped in to stop this behaviour. If I had said anything without their support I could have been sacked.

It is up to all of us to say something to stop anti-social behaviour, not just by ourselves but by others.

Sue

Note: Stuart will be liaising with Bucatini. Please contact him for dinner meeting attendance and visitors.

MEETING REPORT

Monday 10 May: attendance 15 including Ann Payne (BLSAC) and AG Geoff Logie-Smith

President Sue opened the meeting with toasts to Rotary International and Australia.

As long-time member Ray Smith had died that day a minute's silence was observed. PP Bill acknowledged Ray's service and gave a brief tribute.

Weekly reports

Treasurer- Sunday's White Horse Farmers' Market very successful.

Community- report on progress re proposed seat -Centennial project

Youth – 3 schools interested in citizenship awards

International- great progress re Polio eradication

Program – next week change - reminiscences about Ray instead of conference report - coins and stamps continue to be collected.

Fellowship- successful film night

Blackburn Market- triumph

RYDA- busy June program

AG – condolences from District

President- respect

Meeting

Once she had sourced the cord for the projector from the Whitehorse Council offices, Belinda Moody addressed us. As the Tree Education Officer for the Council, she spoke in detail on the Gardens for Wildlife program. She explained the strategies for developing habitat-friendly environments and the need for them. Her career fitted her well for the role she plays in our Forest Hill Secondary Indigenous Garden project (developed by Glenys Grant) connecting volunteers with students at the Forest Hill College. Belinda spoke of finding guides for the interests chosen by the students namely butterflies, frogs and possums. She indicated how the Rotary club could help.

Our other speaker was Adrienne Baucke. She explained her Rotary family connections and is the VCAL teacher responsible for the students involved in the project. She detailed the site for the project (a neglected area) and the students' involvement in choosing it. Adrienne conveyed the excitement of the students with ideas for bee hotels, tiny cameras in recycled old boots and frog bogs. Nearby there are indigenous murals as the college has 21 indigenous students and links with the Richmond footy club MIT school. The next stage is the selection of plants for a sustainable garden.

We all learnt more about this fascinating and developing new project for our club.

The speakers were thanked and presented with Ray Smith crafted pens.

A memorable evening.

Bob Laslett



1. Adrienne Baucke, Positive Learning Specialist & Co-ordinator of the Youth Environment Project at Forest Hill College.
2. Belinda Moody, Whitehorse Council Tree Education Officer and Gardens for Wildlife Manager, proudly displaying her Ray Smith pen.
(It has been the tradition that these pens be gifted to every Speaker.)

May is Youth Service Month

NEXT MEETING

17th May - Ray Smith – reminiscences by members.
Chair: Sue Report/Thanks: John McP. Desk: Barb W.

COMING UP

24th May - Amy Maddison, PE Reg Smith – ‘Hush Gathering of Kindness’ program
Chair: Ron B. Report/Thanks: Glenys G. Desk: Barb W.

31st May - Bucatini Restaurant

CELEBRATIONS



This week let us celebrate the life and work of Ray Smith and all that he brought to our club.



SPROUTINGS

Youth Environment Project:

Belinda Moody and Adrienne Baucke, our Speakers this week, discussed our 2021 club project, the ‘greening with indigenous flora’ of an area at a local secondary school, aimed at bringing the birds, bees and butterflies back to the desolate area and this to do done by and through a group of enthusiastic VCal students.

The project involves youth, a school, various external groups, members of the community and RCFH Rotarians. It’s a project which really shows how involved this club is in the community.

At the end the two Speakers were presented with Ray Smith crafted pens, which they assure us they will treasure and feel very honoured to have.



Adrienne & Belinda assessing part of the project area.

A Ray Smith crafted pen.

Ray Smith was a true environmentalist. He was involved in each Environmental and Youth project, and it has been a privilege to know him and to work with him. One of his recent discussions was to write an article on his years of bee keeping for our group. Ray will be so missed and I, especially, will miss his wisdom and nurturing on each and every project.

City Nature Challenge:

As promised last week, here are the results of the global City Nature Challenge, including regional, Whitehorse and personal results.

COLLABORATIVE RESULTS:

419 Cities in 44 Countries. 1,270,767 Observations were made, 45,300 species were documented and an amazing 52,777 people participated.

REGIONAL RESULTS: Melbourne - Eastern Metropolitan Area

Between the eight councils (Boroondara, Greater Dandenong, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Stonnington and Whitehorse) there was a total of 7630 observations of 895 species made by 324 observers.

WHITEHORSE RESULTS:

Whitehorse was placed second out of the eight councils in eastern Melbourne with a total of 1722 observations of 389 species made by 84 observers.

PERSONAL RESULTS:

57 Observations, 25 designated to be of Research Grade.

The most important aspect of this event for me was not so much the tally of personal observations, but rather to gain more local knowledge and a new skill.

That was how to use the iNaturalist tool properly and through it and participating in the Four Day event, learn so much more about our natural habitat and the local flora and fauna.

Since this will now become an annual event hopefully more Citizen Science Rotarians will join in next year.

Change of Name of Parks Dept - Whitehorse Council

In the City of Whitehorse, the name of Councils parks department will be changing. The new name has been chosen to help provide a clearer understanding in the community of the functions of the department, and ensure it is distinctly recognised as a Council service department

From May 17th 2021, the name 'ParksWide' will be replaced with '**Parks & Natural Environment**'.

The most common Environment problems

- Pollution. ...
- Global warming. ...
- Overpopulation. ...
- Waste disposal. ...
- Ocean acidification. ...
- Loss of biodiversity. ...
- Deforestation. ...
- Ozone layer depletion.

<https://thebluegreenjourney.com/blog/10-major-current-environmental-problems/>

Plastic debris linked to coral disease

- International researchers have found that plastic trash entering the world's oceans attracts microbes that cause corals to sicken and die. When plastic debris meets coral, the likelihood of disease increases from 4 – 89 per cent.
- The study's researchers estimated that approximately 11.1 billion plastic items are entangled on reefs across the Asia-Pacific region, which has 55.5 per cent of the world's coral reefs.
- Of the 159 reefs in the Asia-Pacific region which were surveyed one-third of the corals were contaminated with plastic waste.

Our Australian banning of plastic bags and straws in coastal areas and having stronger recycling programmes and beach clean-ups can help solve the problem.

We can't blame climate change - this is plastic pollution and is wholly attributable to humans.

(points from SciDev.Net)

That's all for this week. *Glenys*



Scan Me!!

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

KUMFY KIDS

For 22 years, there has been a knitting corner at the Blackburn Market just opposite the Band stand. They have been selling at markets for 26 years. Everything on sale is hand knitted, mostly acrylic “to keep the price down” Bernadette told me. But they will, and do, make woollen items on order. They generally knit items for new born up to about 4 years of age. They also sell handmade knitted clothes hangers. Jeanne was sitting alongside Bernadette and told me that they do have other knitters at times working at home including one lady of 92. They have a regular turnover of garments and if anything doesn’t sell after a little while they donate it to the op-shop. That is an amazing community spirit. Go and see them at work both knitting away while they chat. They will make any item at any size on order. Kumfy Kids can be contacted at bmcrennan@gmail.com

