



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 39

President: Stuart Williams

13 May 2020

STU'S SCRIPT

What a delight on Monday night to see 15 faces at our Zoom meeting. Really good to have Sue back after IT issues. I had no whisper that 3 of our honorary members would join us. What a pleasure to see Glen Coates, Roger and Peter Davis. We ran out of time to check how Peter and Glen were coping during our lock-down. It has not been ideal but for people out of the workforce it has probably not been so difficult apart from not having personal and close contact with family members. I hope you have all stayed sane and healthy. Things are starting to come back. I hope walking groups, golf etc will add the social component to our lives. Rotary in various guises will start to re-emerge.

I hope you enjoy Bev's article in this edition. I asked her if she would send it to us after seeing it in the MASH newsletter. You have to feel for the bush-fire victims. The virus has consumed the news. The fire victims have been pushed aside. Many of the areas and businesses that I visited in the second week of February I am sure will have collapsed. Blaze Aid has been an amazing Australian group, doing as Rotary does--making a difference.

The Whitehorse Farmers Market for December will be along Whitehorse Rd. in front of the Civic Centre. The Craft market will operate in the same space from approx. 1.30pm. The Farmers markets from June will be re-located to the front as soon as rebuilding starts.

Janette apologized for her lap-top "hissy fit". We have rescheduled her for next Monday. Copies of information about the District 9810 budget have been circulated. Please contact Sue with any concerns. I believe it is a good effort and it seems that we will have on-going cost savings after the success of Zoom meetings. Many of the training sessions in the future will be done on-line saving venue and catering costs.

I expect to produce an annual report this year (no jokes about one third of it being blank). Could you please forward your reports to Bob Laslett by 31 May. We are still planning a Changeover on 29 June. How, where, in what form - who knows.

Life is unpredictable. I have probably averaged two funerals per year for the last five years. I have now attended two within the COVID-19 restrictions period. Sad. Only 10 people in a chapel hardly seems ideal to farewell a dear friend.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay sane

Stuart

NEXT MEETING

Monday 18th May: 7.00pm in the Zoom Room. (Guest Speaker)

7.40pm in the Zoom Room. (Club meeting)

Two meetings this week.

The first, at 7.00pm, will be devoted to our guest speaker, Janette Etherington, from Interplast.

The second, at 7.40pm, will be our normal club meeting.

Links for both meetings have been sent. Please make sure you use the correct link for each meeting.

People from other clubs are welcome to attend the Interplast presentation. Contact me and I will send you the link.

Bill

CELEBRATIONS

No birthdays or anniversaries, but let's celebrate anyway!!!

(Golf is back on the agenda and restrictions are easing.)



PROS & CONS OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Dogs, cats and birds are becoming fluent linguists. My dogs even spoke to a possum last night!

My brother in Canada got his daughter (both masked) to cut his hair - with the dog electric clipping shears. Worked well.

A friend mentioned that she was about to take off her bra at bedtime - then realised she hadn't worn one now for two months.

My neighbour left beautiful flowers and a card on the porch- what a lovely gesture.. Another left us cakes, another - home made relish.... again so caring...

This is the on-line time: accelerated on line shopping, Medical visits, learning,

Families and community groups are more together, more thoughtful, more caring.

The elderly have learnt so many new skills - Zoom, FaceTime, Messenger, Skype,

If the restrictions continue, won't it be good in the Winter to have Zoom meetings from home - with warm fur lined slippers on our feet.

We are respecting and honouring our heroes - the frontline workers...

The Community, as a whole, has worked together as a team to defeat loneliness and Covid 19 - and cared about keeping each other safe.

Glenys G

A BANKER'S JOURNEY

Joined ANZ Bank on 15th March 1954 at Hamilton, which then was the centre for the Victorian squattocracy.

As the junior of the branch my initial responsibilities were to:-

- Fill the ink wells and replace the blotting paper daily and check the pen nibs
- Chop the wood and light the main banking chamber fire to ensure that the bum warmers were well and truly catered to.
- Plus other junior duties which included learning to use a "Sunstrand adding machine which the girls kept operational with the heel of their shoes plus rubber bands.
- Even came across hand written passbook for cheque accounts as the old dears were confused by red and black figures on their statements. Also these new bank statements DID NOT show the cheque payees details, such inefficiency of mechanisation.

On April 26th, 1955 I was moved to Melbourne, commencing at Collingwood to further my branch banking experience and that was followed by a number of branch moves all in different social areas but mainly in the city and western suburbs. During 1956 I was stationed at 338 Flinders Lane branch and, during the Olympics, we had our cash balanced and put away by 3.15pm and out the door to see many of the late afternoon sessions of the games including the "Golden Girls" races.

Late 50's and early 60's was the time of mass migration and Saturday banking catered mainly to migrants remitting monies home to support families in southern Europe Italy / Greece

The 60's was an era of change, with the elimination of Saturday morning trading, decimal currency, and the commencement of computer banking arrangements in branches.

In 1963 I was transferred into 'General Managers Office' to the staffing area as staff clerk, where I remained for the next 4 years and enjoyed greatly. As a send-off I was given a trip as Banker on the ARCADIA for a 14 day Pacific Island cruise attached to the Pursers Office to change currencies for the passengers. Soon after my return I was appointed accountant at Camberwell branch. After that, I returned to the Bank's

admin area, to methods and procedure area, first in the State level, and then later back into General Manager Office, assessing staffing needs for branches., and branch procedures following the ANZ/ES&A bank merger.

By the mid 70's I returned to branch Banking, with my first Lending Manager role at Ringwood, followed by Heathmont, Noble Park and Albert Road, South Melbourne before early retirement in 1993.

John McP

DON'T FORGET THE BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

Covid-19 has made such a sudden and devastating impact on the community that the bushfire victims from early summer have been overshadowed. This article is reproduced, with thanks, from Bev Winter at MASH.

We were in Metung in December when the bushfires devastated much of Victoria and NSW. Having our village evacuated three times and watching and waiting to see if we would be impacted made it very real. Seeing what was happening to towns so close to us was heartbreaking.

Volunteering at BlazeAid has been a way to help our local community recover from the impact of the fires. BlazeAid was set up by Kevin Butler, a Kilmore farmer who was impacted by the Black Saturday fires in 2009. His fences were burnt, and quickly needing to secure 1500 sheep he sought assistance from friends and local volunteers to rebuild the fences. Within a week the fences were rebuilt and BlazeAid was born.

Since 2009 BlazeAid volunteers have assisted in cleaning up and rebuilding fencing after floods, bushfires and cyclones all around Australia. Basecamps are set up as soon as possible following a disaster, first obtaining approvals and assistance from local government. The camps are usually set up at local facilities such as community halls or football grounds.

Volunteers are needed to run the camps, from Camp Co-ordinators, cooks, cleaners and administration to the all-important volunteers going on to properties to clear and build fencing as well as giving much needed support to the devastated owners, who often just need to talk.

In January 2020 the Bruthen Blaze Camp was one of around 20 camps set up to assist with the recent fires. Bruthen is just 20 minutes from Metung and close to the impacted towns of Sarsfield, Clifton Creek and Wairewa. With a background in admin I had the right experience to assist with the office work and quickly learnt the ropes and assisted with the registrations of the hundreds of volunteers and property owners. To date there have been 180 properties registered at Bruthen and almost 500 volunteers. At one stage there were 100 volunteers in camp at one time – a huge job to co-ordinate, feed and find space to accommodate their vans, tents and swags.

Due to Covid-19 the camp has had to reduce in size and has been in lockdown with 20 volunteers now living at the Bruthen facility, practicing social distancing but still able to continue slowly with the rebuilding. The fact we are still there has given enormous relief to the property owners who have been feeling forgotten now that the fires have taken a backseat to the virus.

So far at Bruthen camp 100km of fence line has been cleared and 120km of fences rebuilt. With only 65 of the 180 properties completed there is still a long way to go.

Bev Winter

'BlazeAid' at work



KEEP SMILING!!!

Bucatini's are great supporters of our club - SUPPORT THEM!

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Now open

*Wednesday to Saturday each week
5pm to 9pm*

And also Sunday 12 noon to 2.30pm

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Timing is everything.