



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 39

President: Sue Ballard

19 May 2021

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This week the 100 Year Anniversary committee announced the winner of the Community Award at Deakin University. I was a member of the selection committee who read through the applicants. We reflected on the reason for the award and what sort of person we were looking for. In the relatively small community of Deakin University, we were pleasantly surprised at the number and calibre of applicants. All of the applicants did volunteer work in one form or other, even the very young students. Even during lockdowns and studies, multiple commitments to work and family they found time to give back to community. It is nice to know that, despite rumours, many of this generation see the need to be fore filled and gain satisfaction from working on projects that don't give them big profits or fame. We each have different reasons for volunteering but we should be proud that we make a difference. My grandmother instilled in me to get out and do things for others. My range of activities has led me to hone skills and develop projects on a local, national and international level before I joined Rotary. I have come in contact with people I would never meet otherwise, in locations rarely travelled. In this Week of the Volunteer it is important to review and assess the past but even more important to plan for the future.

Sue

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

## MEETING REPORT

Our meeting for the 17<sup>th</sup> May commenced with soup followed by Sue opening, and leading with toasts to country, Rotary and to the memory of our past member Ray Smith.

Reports. Secretary, reminder re D G changeover dinner, and mail having been distributed to committees

Community, suggested wording for the plaque re Rotary in Australia 100 Year celebration was promulgated

Program, Ron reminded us that 31<sup>st</sup> May meeting, being the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday, dinner in the Restaurant. Our changeover 28<sup>th</sup> June, and with meetings planned into the new Rotary year.

Fellowship. Possible TRIP on Puffing Billy

Whitehorse Centre plans now on council website.

Retrieval of photos from Ray's computer has been arranged with Ray's son Gary

RYDA Update given by Bob W,

On conclusion of the formal part, Sue opened our reflection on PP Ray Smith, reading text reports from DG Alma and Rotarian Glenis (who was an apology for tonight.)

Each member gave their reflection on the life of Ray the Rotarian, and his contribution to the club and the community. In summary, Ray was described as being a Mentor, Mr Reliable, Generous, Positive, Multi-Talented, a man who set very high standards for himself, in whatever he undertook, a healthy lifestyle and encouragement in others to achieve to the best of their ability, whether it be in Rotary or through his work in the community.

A high achiever who was recognised by his fellow Rotarians with a PHF + 5 Sapphires, and many wood turning awards. He delighted in the Orchard project and the close relationship with the Davis family, which was recently highlighted in the plane flight to and from their farm.

Meeting closed 8.00pm. John McP

## May is Youth Service Month

### NEXT MEETING

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

### COMING UP

31<sup>st</sup> May - Bucatini Restaurant  
7<sup>th</sup> June - Youth Citizenship Awards  
14<sup>th</sup> June - No Meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> June - Committee Handover Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> June - Changeover  
5<sup>th</sup> July - Club Forum

### CELEBRATIONS



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



### SPROUTINGS

Along with his many other talents, Ray Smith was an expert on honey bees. When the RCFH Enviro survey last year showed our members did not have a lot of knowledge on beekeeping, Ray stepped up and said that when he felt well enough, he would do an article for our newsletter.

Sadly, Ray never had a chance to share his expertise...  
So Ray - this is for you.



**British naturalist Sir David Attenborough** recently drew attention to the dwindling population of bees worldwide. He warned that the disappearance of bees would spell the end of humanity within four years.

In excess of 336,000 types of plants are pollinated by bees, and the bees contribute to 75 per cent of our food crops.

Bee populations in some parts of the world have fallen by a third. This is thought to be due to the spread of the varroa mite and climate change, as well as the use of harmful crop pesticides.

Luckily, local bee populations remain fairly stable in Australia. About 673,000 honey bee hives and 25,700 beekeepers are registered here, according to sources from the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC).

**The Attenborough Facebook page suggests "If you find a tired bee in your home, a simple solution of two tabs of sugar and one tab of water will help revive it. Place this mixture on a spoon for the bee to reach."**

How else can we support our bees? Why not:

- Plant more flowering plants in our gardens (preferably indigenous). Bees love flowers that are coloured **blue**, **yellow** and **orange**.
- Keep our gardens pesticide free so our bee's benefit – and our urban honey will have fewer pesticides in it.

OR.....become a **backyard beekeeper**.

So, let's discuss that concept. Department of Agriculture literature states:

**Backyard beekeeping** is a fascinating and occasionally profitable hobby. Hives can be kept in most parts of Victoria — including cities and towns.

Honey bees that are kept in the one locality will usually provide enough honey for your needs and will help pollinate fruit and berry flowers.

There are, of course, legal requirements for keeping bees in Victoria

Honeybees need to be cared for and managed — just like other livestock. Once the decision has been made to keep bees, the beekeeper has a legal and moral obligation to maintain the bees in accordance with the:

- **Livestock Disease Control Act 1994**
- **Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017**
- **Apiary Code of Practice 2011.**

Beekeepers with more than five hives register as a beekeeper and a planning permit is usually obtained from the local government council before you start.

The Apiary Code of Practice's main aim is to ensure that your beekeeping does not become a nuisance to other people and that a minimum of eight standards are met.

*Basically, it's to do with good management practice. One thing I noted – it's extremely important to provide a really good water supply to your bees.*

The department has a number of programs to help hobby and commercial beekeepers.

Email [honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

### Getting started with beekeeping

For those wishing to start in beekeeping there can be no better advice than to join a beekeeping association or club, or working with a local apiarist.

Some of these have beekeeping books, magazines and videos for loan.

TAFE colleges may offer short courses in beekeeping. When available, these courses offer new beekeepers accurate and valuable information to help

Sources of information:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees/beekeeping-for-beginners>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-25/bees-are-dying-are-we-next/9904464>

At farmers' markets and our own Blackburn market local beekeepers sell their honey. It's delicious. So tell all your friends to buy from these sources.

**One final thought: Bees are frequenting our gardens. Plant and spray with them in mind. And maybe put out some sugar and water for them – I love that idea.**



That's all for this week, *Glenys*

### RYDA DETAILS FOR 2021

Date	Venue	Names
1 June 2021	Sandown	Sue, Ron, Anna, Hans, Barb W, Bob W
8 June 2021	Lilydale	Sue, Ron, Hans, Bob W plus 2 Maroondah
17 August 2021	Sandown	Stuart, Hans, Bob W plus 3 Maroondah
16 November 2021	Sandown	Stuart, Ron, Anna, Hans, Barb W, Bob W
22 November 2021	Wonthaggi	Barb and Bob W and maybe Anna and Hans

Bob W



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](mailto:bmcrennan@gmail.com)

