



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 39 President: Bill Marsh

3 May 2023

## BILL'S BY-LINE



Wow!!! I wasn't too sure what to expect from our guest speakers on Monday. They certainly made a fantastic impact on our members and guests. Oh, did I mention that they were from the Deaf/Blind Advocacy group. There is a challenge for you, Deaf and Blind!! A great presentation. (Report elsewhere in newsletter.)

**Don't forget - District Assembly** will be delivered via Zoom this year. There are sessions daily from May 7 to May 12. Sessions cover all aspects of club activity. There are sessions for Presidents, President elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Vocational, Youth, Environment, Membership, etc. You can take part in as many sessions as you like by clicking on the link below.

Here is the direct link: <https://events.humanitix.com/rotary-district-9810-district-assembly-2023>

During the week I totalled the donations we have made so far this Rotary year. I was pleasantly surprised to find we had put \$41,500 into projects ranging from Forest Hill to Kenya. With a couple of months to go to complete the year that figure will still grow. Well done to every member and all those who support the club. Your efforts have 'made a difference' to many lives within our community and beyond.

Our next Blackburn Market is on the 13<sup>th</sup> May with the WFM on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We didn't have a Market in April so let's hope we get a pleasant day on the 13<sup>th</sup> so that we can have a super market. My 'Thanks in Advance' to everyone who helps out – that is just about every member and a number of non-member helpers.

Next Monday our meeting will take place at the Hindu Temple in the Basin. Ron will send out further details over the next few days. If you need a lift ask around – several members have offered their cars.

Enjoy your week. Stay safe. Stay warm.

Bill

## NEXT WEEK

8 May      Sri Vkrathunda Vinayagar Temple Tour

## COMING UP

5 May	Peridot	
13 May	Blackburn market	
14 May	Whitehorse Farmers Market	
15 May	Shannon Nelson	StrokeSafe
22 May	Simon Kearney	Buddhism-Culture and religion

*May is  
Youth Service  
Month*

## CELEBRATIONS



Wedding anniversary  
congratulations to Glenys  
and Rob on May 6!!



## Meeting Report May 1 2023

Monday 1 May; attendance 17

Chair Sue opened the meeting on time. She welcomed the Deafblind advocacy team of "Sunny" Trudy Ryall, "Juz" Justin Gadze, Chris Dunn and Andrew Howard, partners Judy L and Judy M, honorary member Glenys Coates and our members.

Weekly reports

- President Bill highlighted the Assembly, commented on the club's record with RI and the amount distributed so far this year.
- Warwick requested help for the market this month, the funding request for local activities, the square reader and difficulties due to bank closures.
- Glenys G said invites have been sent for Youth Achievement awards and 10 articles have been published in Eastsider News. She is attending an Environment event at Box Hill Town Hall -a forum on greening gardens.
- Sue spoke on Friday Night's Peridot

- Ron has asked Keiran from the Hindu temple to apply for RYLA and he outlined the program for the next few weeks

## Meeting

Trudy was the main speaker with “Juz” as interpreter. She explained her life story learning to speak in school and kinder with help from teachers of the deaf. Later she was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa and became blind as well as deaf. She spoke without notes and “Juz” used finger AUSLAN to communicate with the other two deafblind attendees. Trudy’s life story encouraged her to become heavily involved with the DeafBlind association which is now called Able Australia. DeafBlind Victoria runs social events and peer support, awareness workshops, AUSLAN training, produces and shares info and resources and advises about deaf blind matters. She has attended a conference in the Philippines where one of the highlights was a daisy-chain of interpreters.

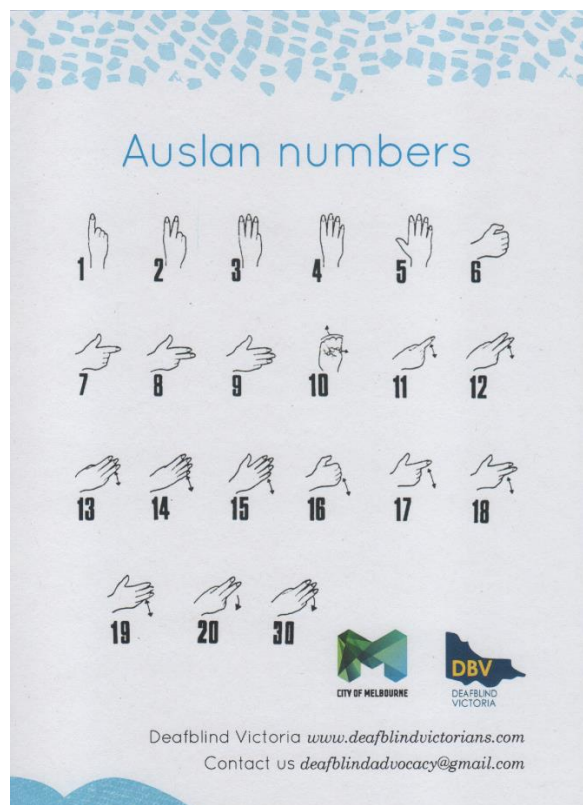
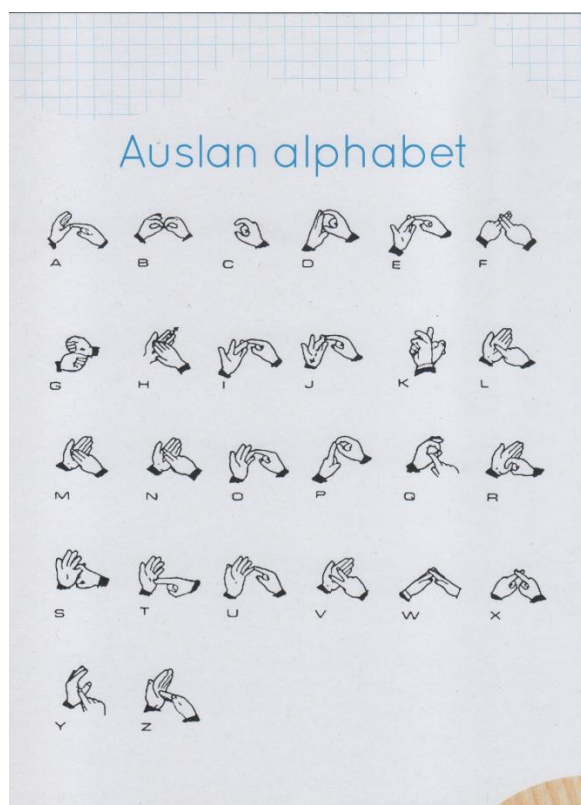


Chris spoke on his role as a communication guide giving support to needy individuals who are deafblind.





"Juz" spoke on their resources booklet and T-shirts which Chris modelled. He also spoke and signed simultaneously. They gave an outstanding demonstration of tactile AUSLAN.



Deafblind Victoria [www.deafblindvictorians.com](http://www.deafblindvictorians.com)

Learn Auslan Vicdeaf, Melbourne, CAE

Contact [deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:deafblindadvocacy@gmail.com)

Barb Searle delivered an enthusiastic vote of thanks to our speakers.

President Bill closed a very special meeting after unwrapping the raffle winners Ron B, Judy L and Judy M. The raffle raised \$70.

Bob L

## Sproutings:

Isn't it great when a conservation idea starts small, similar to a trickling mountain stream, then grows momentum as it catches on in the minds of people – to course down through the valleys and becomes a large movement of water or, in this case, of action?

Well, it's happened here in Melbourne and it's such a heartening story.

Do you remember an article in Sproutings more than a year ago about the KooyongKoot Alliance which had sprung to life in the depths of the 2020 Covid-19 winter? It started as a Zoom meeting with some Friends Groups who were concerned about the deterioration of an urban waterway and its surrounds. To refresh your memory:

Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) is the urban waterway. It originates near Blackburn and flows through Burwood and Malvern East before following the Monash Freeway to the Yarra River (Birrarung).

It plays an important role in providing open space, offering highly valued active and passive recreational opportunities as well as water and biodiversity values. The wider catchment includes Scotchmans Creek, Damper and Back Creeks.

The catchment has significant impact on the health of the Yarra River and in turn Port Phillip Bay. It is subject to poor water quality and pollution as a result of urbanisation in the region and storm water flows.

The creek's indigenous Woiwurrung name, KooyongKoot, translates to 'haunt of the waterfowl'. Urbanisation has seen degradation of environmental positives – something all involved have been determined to halt, protect and improve.

The movement has grown, Government grants obtained, and the following recently occurred:

The article below has been published in the Eastsider News and is to be reproduced in the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria newsletter.



## **Launch of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration –** *by Glenys Grant - with quotes from Graham Ross*

A huge milestone was reached on April 4 with the official launch of the Gardiners KooyongKoot/Creek Regional Collaboration and prospectus.

Almost 100 attendees enthusiastically welcomed the new initiative. They included Federal MPs Michelle Ananda-Rajah, Monique Ryan and Carina Garland, a large number of State MPs, local environmental groups, and Mayors and Councillors from the 5 LGA's within the Gardiner's Creek catchment.

The 16 diverse organisations that form the Collaboration were well represented.

These are:

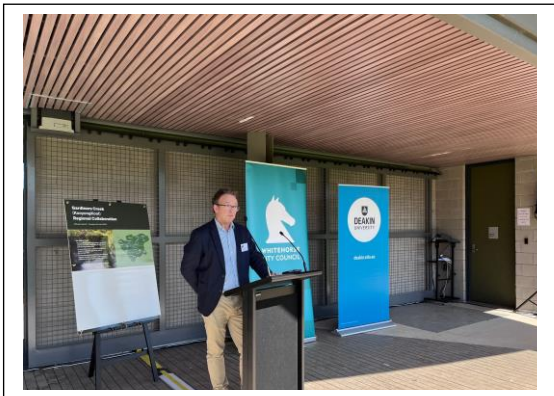
- AFL Victoria
- Bicycle Network
- Boroondara City Council
- Cricket Victoria
- Deakin University
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- Football Victoria
- City of Glen Eira
- Golf Australia
- KooyongKoot Alliance
- Melbourne Water
- City of Monash
- City of Stonnington
- Whitehorse City Council
- Yarra Riverkeeper
- Yarra Valley Water

The Collaboration will focus on protecting and improving the cultural, amenity and environmental value of the Gardiners Creek catchment to benefit the community and environment.

The Collaboration has a long-term shared vision:

- *KooyongKoot and its catchment is protected, valued and loved, supporting diverse uses and thriving biodiversity.*
- *As custodians of our natural environment, Traditional Owners play have a key role in its management*
- *Community and all stakeholders are working together to heal, strengthen and ensure the resilience of KooyongKoot and its catchment.*

In conjunction with the launch, a prospectus for the Collaboration is being released. This identifies some of the projects and programs that will be concentrated on in the immediate future.



Graham Ross (seen left) is the Catchment Keeper for the KooyongKoot Alliance, a key member of the wider Gardiners Creek KooyongKoot Collaboration. It represents over 20 Friends Groups within the Gardiners Creek catchment.

He says

*“Gardiners Creek and its tributaries are a key piece of green infrastructure to share not just among our community, but with the flora and fauna that relies on it too.*

*It deserves our serious and immediate attention and a diverse group of organisations working together to heal the KooyongKoot. That’s what this Collaboration is all about.”*

The Collaboration is also seeking to form strategic funding partnerships with a diverse range of government, business, community, educational and not for profit organisations to support the delivery of the projects and programs.

These include:

- A broad-based strategic plan for the catchment
- A cultural values study and program (with Traditional Owners)
- A data strategy, to collect baseline health data (biodiversity, water quality etc).

One of the attendees, Whitehorse Cr Prue Cutts, said

“I look forward as Chair of the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group to Whitehorse working with the other 15 partner organisations on joint projects.”



She echoed the sentiments of all present, including the diverse range of stakeholders.

Graham went on to say *‘The Kooyongkoot doesn’t care about administrative boundaries. That is why the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration is so important. We have to make decisions based on impact on the whole catchment.*

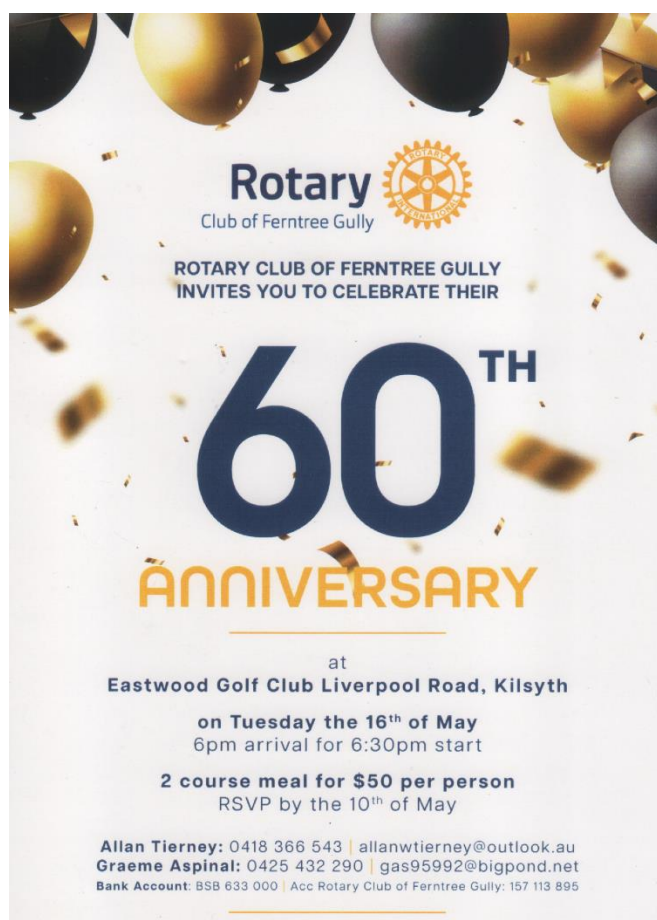
*For example pollution entering the creek at Springvale Road, Blackburn will make its way along 30 km of creek, going through multiple council areas before making its way to the Yarra River and the bay”*

*“We all have our part to play in protecting this key refuge for flora and fauna - including us humans. It contributes to our ‘green reprieve’, our mental and physical wellbeing”*

A number of Rotarians are already showing their support for this venture. This is such an important project for us all to invest our energy into.

Glenys

## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## 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

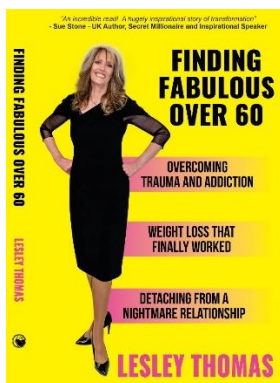


recycled cardboard boxes, eco tape, and recycled paper bags. Bec sees **Hoops Relooped** as her creative outlet away from work and computers.

They are regulars at many markets in the area (see [www.hoopsrelooped.com.au](http://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](mailto:hello@hoopsrelooped.com.au)



## SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS







**Come and frequent the Market - May 13**