



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 03

President: Bill Marsh

20 July 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE



-1.4 degrees this morning and I thought I might get out and do a bit of gardening!!! Silly idea.

On Monday we held our Club Forum while we looked at where we have been and where we hope to go this year. The Forum was held on Zoom and it was good to be able to include our overseas traveller, hooked in from France, and our member currently isolated with COVID. Unfortunately, a technical problem relating to the video prevented one member from joining us.

While we hope to introduce a couple of minor changes to our operations the overall feeling was that what we had been doing was as good as could be expected, given the restrictions of COVID. With our decreasing numbers the need for everyone to be involved to their full capacity in whatever project was underway was emphasised. In this regard we are lucky because all members already support each other and contribute as much as possible.

The strength of our Guest Speaker program was highlighted and Ron hopes to be able to keep it to its current high level. The extensive Youth program was another highlight and we are looking for this to continue with as much face-to-face interaction as COVID allows. Glenys will be looking for additional helpers in this area.

A couple of Vocational visits are already in the planning stage. Community will continue to look for areas in which we can become involved. Our involvement in two local organisations has led to the planned Vocational visits.

After 47 years of helping our community we are looking forward to continuing to 'Make a Difference' for some time to come.

Included with this newsletter are the latest photos from Hope Katolo of the multi-purpose room we have funded through the generosity of the Davis family. This project will not only benefit the school but also the general community by providing a safe, undercover area for community gatherings.

After a couple of years 'hibernation' we are glad to again be able to provide the prize for the D9810 Conference golf day in March.

Want to go to a good movie?

I have two spare tickets, \$20 each, for "Where the Crawdads Sing" for the 4.00pm show at the Palace Cinema, Balwyn on 30th July. If you would like one, or both, please contact me at bjmarsh@bigpond.net.au or 0417 369 343.

Bill Marsh

WELCOME TO WINTER!!! (Only 42 days 'til Spring.)

MEETING REPORT-18 July

It was good to have an almost full-house even if it was on Zoom. Everyone was grateful though for not having to leave home. President Bill had produced a thoughtful 2-page document and was pleased to receive two written replies. The document with its multitude of questions provided an opportunity for all to have their input. It was decided that regular formal toasts to Australia and Rotary International would not be continued. The President or chair will cover the intent of these toasts in their comments. Weekly meetings will continue with face-to-face meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday unless speaker commitments dictate otherwise. The meeting structure will be reviewed in six months. The new Board structure will require frequent regular reporting to club members. It was decided to make appropriate use of the material and involvement of the club's display at the library. The importance of gaining new members was highlighted. Members were encouraged to attend the district conference in Canberra and the international conference in Melbourne next year. On these long winter days it was great to see the cheery faces and reinforce our commitment to each other and the cause.

Bob L

NEXT MEETING

25 July Russell Hayes Wheelchairs for Kids

Club roster for 25 July, 2022.

Chairperson: Warwick Stott

Greeter: Glenys Grant

Notes for "Happenings": Sue Ballard

Cashier & Recorder: Bob Williams

COMING UP

1 August Peter Koen Cardiac Cath Lab Fiji

8 August Bob Allardice Rotary Overseas Playgrounds

15 August Bucatini A La Carte

July is Literacy Month

HOPE KATOLO

Hope Katolo are running a movie night on July 30 at 4 PM at Palace Cinemas, in Balwyn. The movie is "Where the Crawdads Sing". \$25 for a single ticket. For more than one ticket \$20 each

Book tickets through Trybooking <https://trybooking.com/CASCP>

As president Bill mentioned here are some recent photos from Georgina





Sandown Support Fund Awards Night – RYDA Thursday 14 July 2022

Function was held in the View Room (which we use for RYDA program sessions) at Sandown Greyhound Club.

RYDA Coordinator, Anton Hockey asked me to in turn ask up to three Rotarians who want to know more about RYDA, and I asked Judith Eadon and she in turn asked Gabby Knaepple so the three of us attended and sat with Anton and representatives from two of the other six organisations to whom the Awards were made.

Thursday night is greyhound racing night at Sandown, so we were treated to live action on the track plus tuned into other States racing – greyhounds, trots, and horse racing via the many tv screens. Having been to the venue so many times for daytime RYDA days it was great to see it all in lights with the track being used by some very fast greyhounds.

We were well looked after and given wrist bands to allow us to dine at the very extensive smorgasbord of seafood, pastas, roasts and vegetables and salads. We ordered drinks from wine, beer and soft drink and I was very good and had soft drink and water. The Awards were made after race 2 and Anton went up on the portable stage to accept the one for RYDA (via Road Safety Education Victoria who is his employer) and many photos taken. We then had sweets/bikkies and cheese from the smorgasbord.

As well as the racing, wonderful company and great food and drinks we also were entertained by a good male singer/guitarist and Judith, and I particularly enjoyed the several Paul Kelly songs and clapped loudly at songs end which he appreciated.

We met up with several other Rotarians there for other functions so had a great chat to Shia and Duncan Smart and said hello to Ian Ballantine plus a few others.

After race 4 we were asked to come outside for a smoking ceremony, and I was congratulated by the presenter for my arm movements when walking through the smoke. Back inside to the warmth in time for race 5 which was the RYDA Road Safety Program Final. After this we then enjoyed some ice cream of various flavours.

The evening wound down and we all left, and I felt like a little kid (yes, I know I often act like one) seeing all the neon signs and floodlights around the track.

My thanks to Anton for inviting us and to Judith and Gabby for coming along and putting up with my driving.



Bob Williams

CELEBRATIONS



Congrats to Bill Marsh on his anniversary of joining the club.



SPROUTINGS

National Tree Day

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

While every day can be Tree Day, we dedicate celebration of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day to the last Friday in July, and first Sunday in August respectively.

In 2022, Schools Tree Day is **Friday July 29** and National Tree Day is **Sunday July 31**.

Tree planting will occur in a number of sites in Whitehorse including Strathdon House and Orchard precinct.

Now to the bad news:

State of the environment: shocking report shows how Australia's land and wildlife are being gradually destroyed.

List of threatened species grows as ecosystems show signs of collapse due to climate crisis and habitat loss.

Read the full story in the **Guardian Australia**:

<https://apple.news/Av7SKIX0nTQqgvSR94L0rhg>. Please note some of this below has been shortened.

The health of Australia's environment is appalling and has deteriorated over the past five years due to pressures of climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and mining, according to a government report that warns the natural world holds the key to human wellbeing and survival.

The state of the environment report – a critical review completed by scientists last year found abrupt changes in some Australian ecosystems over the past five years, with at least 19 now showing signs of collapse or near collapse.

While national and state governments had made some attempt to address the decline, the report found there was not enough funding dedicated to the environment and there had been a disappointing lack of coordination across jurisdictions to properly address the cumulative impact of the threats.

The report quoted the World Economic Forum in finding that environmental degradation was now considered a threat to humanity that could “bring about societal collapses with long-lasting and severe consequences”.

Key points from the state of the environment report

- Since 2016, 202 animal and plant species have been listed as threatened matters of national environmental significance, after 175 were added to the list from 2011 to 2016. This has happened while the rate of discovery and description of new species has slowed considerably over the past decade. There remain many more species that are unknown than those known.
- While a government threatened species strategy had improved the trajectories of 21 priority species, many others did not show improvements. The list would increase substantially in coming years as the impact of the catastrophic 2019–20 bushfires – which killed or displaced between 1-3 billion animals – became clearer.
- Australia has lost more mammal species than any other continent, and has one of the highest rates of species decline in the developed world. More than 100 Australian species have been listed as either extinct or extinct in the wild. The major causes of extinction were introduced species, habitat destruction and clearing.
- Almost half the country is now used for grazing and the areas committed to forestry and cropping have increased. More than 6.1m hectares of primary native forest (an area more than six times the size of suburban Melbourne) had been cleared since 1990. Over the five years to 2019 nearly 290,000 hectares of primary forest and 343,000 hectares of regrown forest was cleared.
- Australia has more foreign plant species than natives. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent over the past 50 years trying to manage introduced species, diseases and invasive pests.
- Water levels in the Murray-Darling Basin were at record lows in 2019 due to extraction of water and drought. Rivers and catchments are mostly in poor condition, and native fish populations have declined by more than 90pc in the past 150 years, a continuing trend.
- Marine heatwaves have caused mass coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016, 2017 and 2020. (The report was finished before the latest mass bleaching in March this year.) Ocean acidification – caused by absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere – is nearing a tipping point that will cause the decline of juvenile coral.
- Reefs around the country, and species that rely on them, were in poor and deteriorating condition. Sea urchins pushed south by rising sea temperatures have devastated kelp beds along the country's south-east, threatening rocky reef ecosystems and 150 reef species.
- Waterways, beaches and shorelines are in generally poor condition in areas near urban centres, but mostly in good condition in more remote areas. The broader marine environment is generally in better shape than the terrestrial environment, with 86pc of populations classified as not overfished.
- Sea level rise has affected many low-lying areas, including the Kakadu wetlands. Saltmarshes across much of Australia's coast are losing territory to mangroves.
- Changes in land use mean Australia has the third largest cumulative loss of soil organic carbon in the world behind China and the US, a devastating change that has implications for the climate crisis.
- Destruction of Indigenous heritage continues at an unacceptable rate against the wishes of Traditional Owners. Indigenous protected areas make up nearly half the national reserve system, but Indigenous people have poor access to finance and other critical support needed to manage their country.
- Most major Australian cities are growing at a faster rate than other developed cities across the planet. The pace of growth has increased urban heat, congestion, pollution and waste and put rising pressure on water and energy resources.
- At least 19 Australian ecosystems are showing signs of collapse or near collapse. Ecosystems experiencing collapse span the continent and include Antarctic and subantarctic ecosystems. Abrupt changes include the loss of Tasmania's giant kelp forests.
- About 93pc of the terrestrial habitat used by threatened species that was cleared between 2000 and 2017 was not referred to the federal government for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The lead authors of the report were Dr Ian Cresswell, an environmental scientist at CSIRO, Dr Terri Janke, a leading Indigenous lawyer, and Prof Emma Johnston, a deputy vice-chancellor for research at the University of Sydney.

The above report is so depressing that maybe it's time for a gentle joke...It was sent to me by a church friend so hopefully it won't offend anyone..

The Almighty to St. Francis:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on Earth? What happened to the dandelions, violets, weeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds.

I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now, but all I see are these green rectangles of grass. They are so boring, hard to maintain and don't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs!

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites -they started calling your flowers "weeds" , killed them and replaced them with grass. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn. Then, as soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

Then they rake it up and put it in bags – and pay to throw it away.

Almighty: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away? So these Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat - it slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

Almighty: What nonsense. Well, at least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes for the winter. It's a natural cycle of life.

St. Francis: You better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away. Then they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

Almighty: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

Almighty: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore.

St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....

Almighty: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis!!!

Apologies to anyone the above offends. BUT ...does any of this sound familiar? Well, maybe in that case it's time I went and checked out my weeds...

or even better I can tune in to the **ESRAG Oceania Chapter meeting, Thurs July 21, 7.30pm AEST**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656428581>

Glenys

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2nd May 2022

Wood Workers

Wood Turners

Wood Carvers

Clubs

Dear Wood Enthusiasts & your Clubs,

Warratina Lavender Farm, situated in the Yarra Valley at Wandin, will be holding its 11th Wood Working Expo from 3rd September to 18th September 2022 after a most successful Exhibition in 2019. Following the disappointing cancellation of the Expo in 2020 & 2021, we want to make this one really special.

We wish to invite you again to participate at this year's Expo & make it another success. Proceeds from the entry fee will go to our local CFA in Wandin. In addition, The Eastern Wood Turners have kindly offered to be demonstrators on the weekends of the Expo.

Items exhibited can be for sale or for exhibit only. A **10% commission** will be charged on all sales.

The advertising of this event is now on our website with the amended dates & also on Tourism Victoria's events page.

If you know anyone who may be interested in participating with exhibits, please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Faithfully,

Annemarie Manders

Director

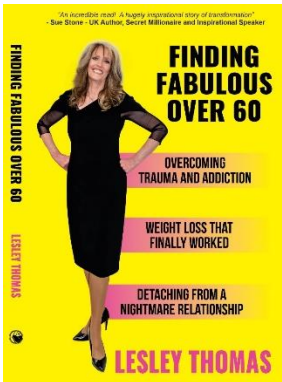
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SHELAGH CRAFTS

bellburn crafts stall is the brainchild of Shelagh Black. Shelagh, a local Blackburn resident, sells handmade cards, items for baby that she has personally made and when the weather turns cooler, her knitted clothes. She has made all the items she sells and has had a Blackburn market stall for 8 months. Shelagh started making things for her granddaughter, including bibs, nappy holders, change mats, baby wear etc. She made many more than her granddaughter could use so had the great idea that others could benefit from her skills rather than just her granddaughter, hence the craft stall. Her granddaughter continues to be the “testing ground” for her new products so expect the range to increase as granddaughter gets older. As she makes everything herself, if you like something but not the colour or it is the wrong size, well she will make it for you. How’s that for service. Shelagh has a stall at a number of markets including two other Rotary ones, Hawthorn Makers Market (1st Sunday), and Waverley Market (2nd Sunday). Good news is that she takes Visa & Mastercard.





Come to the Market August 13