



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 40 President: Bill Marsh 10 May 2023

BILL'S BY-LINE



A couple of weeks back we had a speaker from the Hindu Temple in The Basin to our meeting. Following this we were invited to visit the Temple and enjoy a vegetarian meal. The Temple is a most interesting structure, and our dinner was excellent. (Full report elsewhere in newsletter.)

While our contact has been relatively brief, I am sure all members were impressed with what we saw and heard. Our understanding of Hinduism has been greatly extended. The Blackburn Market is this Saturday. If the rain holds-off we should have a good day. Who can resist a sausage on a cool day. (Cool, not wet!!) Please let John know if you can help out and at what time.

The WFM is on Sunday and Warwick will let the coin collectors know where we are stationed and what time they are down for. Don't forget you can visit the House of Friendship on Mon - Wed free of charge. You can register on-line or at the venue when you arrive.

- RC of Healesville are holding a Memorial event on 1st June to showcase the life and work of Stuart McDonald. This event is being held in the Matsudo Room at Box Hill Town Hall from 6pm to 8pm. Proceeds from the evening will go to Australian Rotary Health. Tickets are \$25. [Memorial of Rotarian Stu McDonald & launch of memorial fund Tickets, Box Hill Town Hall - Matsudo Room, Box Hill | Trybooking Australia](#)

Enjoy your week. Stay safe. Stay warm.

Bill

NEXT WEEK

15 May	Shannon Nelson	StrokeSafe
Chairperson:	Warwick Stott	
Greeter:	John Bindon	
Notes for "Happenings"	Stuart Williams	
Thanks	Ron Brooks	

COMING UP

13 May	Blackburn market	
14 May	Whitehorse Farmers Market	
22 May	Simon Kearney	Buddhism-Culture and religion

*May is
Youth Service
Month*

CELEBRATIONS



A big thank you to those
that did the rain-dance!!



CENTURION donations

Hi all

Our District Foundation coordinator advises that donations are down by 20%. This will affect Rotary Foundation programs in 3 years' time so please make sure your individual contribution is sent in promptly.

Meeting Report May 8 2023

We had a club visit to the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple at The Basin. It is the oldest Hindu Temple in Australia which started operating in 1992. It is also the largest Granite Temple in the Southern Hemisphere. In the last couple of years there has been a major refit with the main granite centrepiece being hand made in India by 28 skilled stone masons who then travelled to The Basin to assemble it. The largest single piece in this jigsaw of granite weighed 6 ½ tonne.



Pres Bill & Judy came along with Ron & Robbie, Bob & Judy, Glenys G, Stuart, Sue, and Barbara, plus Glenys Coates and Judy Arnold. We were met at 7pm by Ramana, our guest speaker a few weeks ago, and his wife Shobar. They and the head priest explained the significance of the main idols until 7.15pm when evening prayers happened. The head priest and another priest conducted the service with a few other Hindu worshippers. We were all brought into the prayers warming our hands on the holy oil lamp flames and all being anointed with white ashes to remind us that eventually we all return to ashes. We were all then presented with fruit by the head priest. Reminding us that Earth Mother gives us her bounty. Pres Bill was given a large scarf as he was the honoured guest. We were also joined by Kieran, Shobar & Ramana's son, who came straight from his first day at work since graduating in law from Melbourne Uni.

We slowly walked clockwise around other idols while Shobar told us the stories related to the idols with some additions from Ramana. We noticed that other worshippers walked three times around each idol. We also saw the gold flagpole that had been one of the centrepieces of earlier festivities Robbie and I attended a week or so ago. One of the idols is anointed daily by water, honey, milk, and yoghurt as was the flagpole at those earlier festivities. We then saw the smaller idols which are constructed so they can be carried around inside and outside the temple on appropriate festivities. Each of the idols also has an animal that has their characteristics including a monkey, a rat, a bull, and an elephant. When we last visited, a large very heavy gold rat, carried by about 24 men was walked around the Temple on two large bamboo poles.

The final display we visited were the nine planets which included the sun and the moon but not earth because everything was done in relation to the earth we are standing on.



We then were invited to a vegetarian meal at the canteen. Kieran, Shobar and Ramana, in keeping with the tradition that guests are served first then very kindly brought our four different types of dips that were eaten using roti, dhosa, etc. We were given mango yoghurt to drink and served a sweet dessert. We were encouraged to eat with our hands but all given forks (thankfully).



Then we met with the President of the Basin Temple committee who spoke to us and Pres Bill then thanked everyone from the Hindu community that had looked after us and he gave them a donation from all of us who visited. Ramana is the Treasurer of the Basin Temple committee. We were introduced to the chef who lives permanently at the Temple who only wore traditional trousers and we were told never covers the top of his body and is never cold!



They gave us a very large collection of foreign coins and notes for the District UNICEF project. I later weighed the contribution of 18.2kg which is estimated to be worth over \$700. A fantastic end to a wonderful evening. They have asked us to spread the word that they would love to welcome any other groups from the community. They are not looking for converts, they want people to see what they do. Their doors are always open.

Ron Brooks

60th 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?"

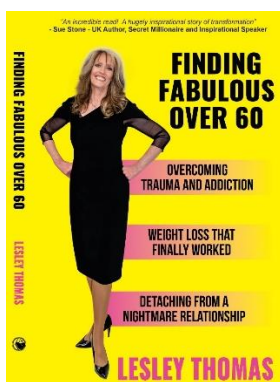
They source as many of their pieces second hand as they can - think preloved necklaces, earrings and bracelets from friends, family and op shops - they're working towards a circular jewellery economy. They

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). 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



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS





Come and frequent the Market - May 13