



## Weekly Newsletter

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**President Bob Williams**

Number 43

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Website:

[www.foresthillrotary.com](http://www.foresthillrotary.com)

Meeting location:

Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132

Meeting time:

Monday 6.15 for 6.30 pm

Facebook:

ForestHill Rotary

### CLUB PROGRAM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Thanks/meeting report</u>
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Hans Eecen "Rotarian behind the Badge" <b>Board Meeting</b>	Ron Brooks	Chris Tuck
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Peter Carter Blackburn Village Resident's Group	Bill Marsh	Glenys Grant
30 <sup>th</sup> May	Partners Restaurant night		

### THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

None. (Hopefully another Demons win?)



### DUTY ROSTER

<u>ROSTER</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Cashier	Glenys Grant	Mike Finke
Recorder	Ray Smith	Hans Eecen
Greeter	Chris Tuck	Bill Marsh
Emergency	Gary Baltissen	Graham Sharman

### ATTENDANCE

**APOLOGY – IF A MEMBER IS NOT GOING TO COME TO THE MEETING or you intend bringing a guest please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY on 9878 4891 or [rcssmith@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rcssmith@optusnet.com.au) SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS to Ray by 10am at the LATEST**

Any CANCELLATION AFTER 10.00 AM should be made direct with the management of Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268

## BOB'S BANTER

The Williams clan were there in force last week with our guest speaker being Bronwyn Williams.

I was the manager of Westpac Nauru House branch in Collins Street in the late 1980's with our major client being the Republic of Nauru and back then they were a wealthy nation, so I was particularly interested in Bronwyn bringing me up to date. The Nauruan President at that time was Hammer DeRoburt and I recall being invited to the grand parties he hosted on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor whenever he was in Melbourne.

Bronwyn in words and pictures presented a very different Nauru in 2012 when she was there working as Religious Liaison Officer for the Salvation Army helping to make the lives of the refugees in the detention camp there, a little better. It was a privilege to hear your address Bronwyn and the number of questions you were asked to answer at the end of your talk represented the interest we all had for your presentation.

Thank you to our members who worked in the cold and wet (well three of us did) at the Whitehorse Farmers' market on Sunday. Well done Warwick, Stuart, Bill and Bob W. Details are later in the newsletter.

Merle Smith is having her cataract operation on Monday so we will all keep you in our thoughts Merle. Ray will be her "seeing eye dog" for a few days and of course, an apology Monday night.

Joan Harper is away with her Probus club this week so we hope she has a good time and when I dropped off the newsletter to her last week she said how she enjoys people coming to see her (even Ron and me) so whenever you're in the area and have some time, drop in and have a chat.

Thanks to Barbara and Bob Laslett for making toasties Tuesday for the hungry students at Forest Hill Secondary College Breakfast Club. Bryce, a hearing impaired student helped out and so Barbara and Bob had a quick lesson in sign language. Bryce quickly progressed from being a messy toastie maker with as much shredded cheese on the bench as on the bread, to being a very fast and neat toastie assembler.

I collected our fund raiser hamper from Michael Sukkar's office and will bring it weekly. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5 with people to write their name and phone number on the stub as it will be drawn on Changeover night.

Thanks Stuart for running the entertainment book purchases, with \$91 being made and sent to Hope Katolo School.

District 9810 Changeover dinner is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7 for 7-30pm at Karralyka theatre and I will send around a registration sheet for the next few weeks.

Our committee meetings followed the dinner meeting and as Chris was chairing himself in the Foundation/International meeting I hope he didn't have too many disagreements! John sent around the roster for the Blackburn Market for this coming Saturday and now has a full team. Kerilyn from the Railway Crossing Authority agreed to write a letter for our stallholders to update them as to future construction impacts and will come with John and I when we go around to all stallholders and hand each a copy. As previously advised, we will not run the market in July and also August/September will require relocation for many of our stallholders.

Our District Assembly is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and John Mc has organised our attendees. Next week we will have our "Rotarian behind the Badge" presentation by Hans Eecen and with the two of us being high school mates together I'll ensure he sticks to the truth about those years and Anna will be there to see he tells the full story from then on! Pressure's on Hans!

**Remember "Be a Gift to the World".  
President Bob**

## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

The meeting had 10 members (including our loaves and fishes (minus the loaves) man Graham) plus our guest speaker, Bronwyn Williams.

Sergeant Stuart opened with a reflection about values and the appalling attitude of Oz tennis brat, Bernard Tomic recently, being disrespectful to his opponent by not trying to return a serve. You aced him Stuart!

We received a letter of thanks from Mitcham Community House for the \$800 donation we gave to their Family Violence program for Cultural training for their staff (and the whole of the House staff and committee) which is essential to retain their status.

John McPhee spoke of the President's meeting he attended last Friday night.

He spoke of two District policies that were launched, Conflict Resolution that incorporates sexual harassment, bullying and mediation and a Youth Protection policy. John also confirmed the continuation of the chicken and veg main course, the origins of which have been lost in time.

Ray advised that we had been invited by the Institute lecturers last week to look over the new department at Box Hill TAFE so that would make a good vocational visit in the next Rotary year.

Glenys advised that the MUNA committee meet this Wednesday to assess the MUNA weekend and it appears that invoices for the extra \$125 per team for additional Parliament house security haven't been sent out as yet so Warwick is prepared for a cheque for \$250.

We have 5 schools sending awardees to the Citizenship Awards on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. NYSF interviews for 5 applicants will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Theresa Wang our successful NYSF student has been selected to go to Singapore so seeks suggestions of how to raise the \$8,000 needed.

Stuart advised that we sold 7 entertainment books with \$91 proceeds to go to Hope Katolo School.

Warwick advised that the WFM had 45 stallholders instead of the usual 65 because of it being Mother's Day and the poor weather. Thanks to Warwick, Stuart, Bill and Bob W for representing Forest Hill on the day.

Schwerkolt cottage historical day is 11<sup>th</sup> September and as usual, also the WFM so a big day for us.

Another entertaining sergeant's session with us being asked about "things our mothers told us." Session raised \$20-80 and raffle \$20. Raffle was won by Graham. Bad luck Glenys!

Guest speaker, Bronwyn Williams has a background in education and wanted to change and work in the non profit sector. After re-training she worked for the Salvation Army as their Religious Liaison Office in Nauru helping with the refugees in the camp on Nauru during 2012. Nauru is only 21kms in circumference and in the 1980's had the highest per capita wealth in the world due to their phosphate reserves but that all changed dramatically to now being one of the poorest nations with 80% unemployment. The income from the Australian Government to keep and run the camp there is a major income source. Bronwyn told us about 'the water she swam in', meaning her background didn't prepare her for the very confronting issues she experienced working with the refugees who had nothing. She helped them attain the various religious needs for their services which were mainly Muslim and quickly learned that her "white privilege" upbringing attitude needed changing.

Her working group consisted of people from 12 different countries plus Nauru and the group engaged the refugees into learning to swim, sports, etc. The experience changed her life. On her return home, she was also fortunate to meet up with a few of the refugees she got to know there, when they were allowed into Australia.

A privilege to hear her story and her web site is [www.backstory.com.au](http://www.backstory.com.au)  
Committee meetings followed.

Bob Williams

Reflection 9 May, 16

We've entered the election phase. Eight weeks of hearing from those who want to represent us – facts, figures, charts, statistics and opinions. Will we hear, or take heed of, comments about values?

What are Australian values? As a regular overseas traveller I often reflect on what sets us, as Australians, apart. I heard our Chef de Mission of the Australian Olympic team say –“it goes against the values of the Australian team.” Good on you Kitty Chiller. She was describing Bernard Tomic's behaviour at the Madrid Masters as “appalling.” Tomic gave up match point as he stood perfectly still, turned his racquet around and held it by the strings, and made no attempt to return the serve. When asked by a journalist, at the press conference afterwards, about his behaviour he said –“would you care if you were 23 and worth over \$10 million?”

As a tennis player whose fees and taxes have assisted in his junior development, I was furious. As an Australian I cringed. We certainly don't need him representing Australia at the Olympics. When will sports officials get tough on the rogue element? When will people set aside economic arguments and put values and commitment seriously on the agenda? Let's support Kitty who said, “his behaviour goes against every value that all the Olympians live by.’

Every value that decent Australians live by.

**You served it up to him beautifully Stuart – Ed.**



Bronwyn enlightening us about Nauru

## **WHITEHORSE FARMERS' MARKET**

A bit disappointing due, I guess, to Mothers' Day and weather.

Compared with last year, Stalls down \$600, B'bque \$50 donations about same.

Actual Results

Stalls \$3100

Donations \$996.80

Egg & Bacon \$133.00

Total \$4,229.80

Regards

Brian

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Another donation to Hope Katolo School

Our club managed to sell 7 Entertainment Books on behalf of the Hope Katolo school in Kenya. I picked the Books up from Melanie's home and she thanked those who purchased a book very much. The \$91 we donated I am sure will be put to good use assisting the young people to gain an education.

Thanks everyone for your support. Don't forget the new book starts 1 June. Start saving almost immediately.

Stuart.

## 2016 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA

I am attending this convention. 28 May - 1 June. I will be one of approximately 30 District 9810 attendees. I have not been to Seoul or Korea before so I am looking forward to the cultural experience. They are big on cosmetic surgery, so maybe you won't recognize me on return. K-pop is of course huge so I have been practising my dance moves. I am staying just outside the Gangnam area (a suburb) but I'm sure my "Gangnam style" dancing will be an advantage. Korean strawberries are a real delicacy so my Korean wealth should enable me to sample these. The Korean currency is somewhere between 750 to 900 to ONE Australian dollar. (A bloke could be a Korean millionaire). I will have a few days sightseeing before the convention and five afterwards. The Melbourne group will have a couple of get-togethers. It is my 6th RI convention. Melbourne, San Antonio, Chicago, Brisbane, Bangkok and Seoul. Mmmm I wonder if we get a free Kia or Hyundai in our convention welcome bag.

Stuart.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

23<sup>rd</sup> May Peter Carter

30<sup>th</sup> May Partners in restaurant

6<sup>th</sup> June Citizenship Awards

13<sup>th</sup> June No Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> June Club Forum

27<sup>th</sup> June Club Changeover

## DIARY DATES

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> May Girls Night Out – Rowville – Lysterfield club

28<sup>th</sup> May/1<sup>st</sup> June RI CONVENTION, SEOUL, KOREA

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June Multi District function to farewell Ian Riseley (RI Pres '17-'18)

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June District Governor's Changeover at Karralyka Theatre.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June Our Changeover

## ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

May Youth Services

June Rotary Fellowships

## ROTARY DISTRICT 9810 CHANGEOVER

Our outgoing and incoming District Governors invite all Rotarians and Partners to the changeover night at Karralyka Centre, Mines Road Ringwood Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7 for 7-30pm. RSVP by 10<sup>th</sup> June.

See President Bob if you wish to attend.

## **FOREST HILL SECONDARY COLLEGE BREAKFAST ROSTER**

17/5/16 Robbie and Bob W  
24/5/16 Robbie and Bob L  
31/5/16 Kevin and Robbie  
7/6/16 Robbie and Barb  
14/6/16 Robbie and Bob W  
21/6/16 Robbie and Kevin

## **FOREST HILL WEBSITE [www.foresthillrotary.com](http://www.foresthillrotary.com)**

Have you looked at our website? **Our website is a window through which the world looks at us.** What do you think?

- Do you like what you see?
- Do you want other things on our site?

Newsletter articles to Editor Ron at [ronbrooks1942@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrooks1942@gmail.com)

by 5 pm Wed.

Please email me or ring if you want to be removed from the circulation list.

YAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Ron's back

Acting editor Bob