

Rotary
Club of Forest Hill



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 04

President: Bill Marsh

27 July 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE



This week we have started to settle into the program for the year and are selecting dates for the various activities.

We are going to re-start our regular Film Nights, visits to plays at Peridot Theatre, Vocational visits to community organisations we support and, of course, the myriad Youth programs in which we are involved.

Bob W has the next RYDA day already in place, 9th August at Sandown, for two local secondary colleges.

The Whitehorse Spring Festival is set for 30th October 2022 after a forced recess of two years. Our club may be involved by joining with another Whitehorse club such as RC Nunawading.

At our meeting this week we welcomed Russell and Grant from 'Wheel Chairs for Kids'. You would be hard put to find two more passionate presenters about an amazing program. With our connections with 12 local primary schools, I am sure we will be able to find at least one or two schools willing to become involved and run a 'Wheelathon' to have a heap of fun and raise funds for this great organisation.

Next week we will hear from Peter Koen on 'Cardiac Cath Labs for Fiji'.

Bill Marsh

MEETING REPORT-25 July

Monday 25 July; attendance 7(+2)

The Bucatini meeting was in the capable hands of Warwick the former vet (although he was not ready to operate on our speaker after Russell's slight accident with a chainsaw).

President Bill Marsh welcomed us with the good news that Bob W has agreed to be Youth Protection Officer. Bill mentioned updates for Working with Children and distributed Youth Volunteer declaration forms. He emphasized the Hope Katolo film, membership seminars, and calendar dates. There will only be one raffle prize normally. The Board will meet on Wednesday by zoom.

Weekly reports

Secretary Stuart received 2 letters!!

Warwick noted dues will soon be required.

Community- JB reported on donations to Mitcham Community House and ALKIRA

Youth- MUNA - 30/8 - Nossal High School, Berwick. Help is needed, pls contact Glenys.

She will be less available for Rotary work from start of August to September end, but will attend when she can. PSSC - Marlene Sinclair -Monday first September is free to run PSSC if someone would like to organise it.

Environment: world tree planting for Schools is this Friday. So long as it's not cancelled by COVID I will be with the FH students.

Fellowship- Peridot 23 or 30 September. First Friday films will start in September?

Sergeant – Bob W was in "fine" touch. He raised \$19.35.



Meeting

What an inspirational evening. Our speakers were Russell Hayes and Grant Klaaysen. Our club first participated in the Wheelchairs for Kids program in 1997 at the instigation of Keith Smith when Warwick was President. In those early days it was a hands-on operation when the club worked together to assemble the wheelchairs from old bicycles. Today it is a much bigger operation with 52,000 chairs being sent to over 60 countries. The design is different and a factory with 300 volunteers in Perth does the assembly from parts sourced in China. Rotary's role is seeking funding particularly through schools. The fun Tintern kids had in raising \$16,000 was shown on video as was the inspirational story of Sam Majamanda, a child with no hands and one and a half legs. Each chair now costs \$250 but what an impact that can have on a child, the family and the community. A really special Rotary evening all the better for being in house and not on zoom. How else could you feel the weight of the wheelchair? President Bill closed the meeting after revealing the raffle winners Russell Hayes and Bill M. The raffle raised \$29.

Bob Laslett

I attended the funeral yesterday of Barbara Shaw. Her late husband Ted was DG in my first year as President of this club.

NEXT MEETING

1 August Peter Koen Cardiac Cath Lab Fiji

Club roster for 1 August 2022.

Chairperson:	Bob Laslett
Greeter:	John Bindon
Notes for "Happenings"	Bob Williams
Thanks	Stuart Williams
Cashier & Recorder:	Bob Williams

COMING UP

8 August	Bob Allardice	Rotary Overseas Playgrounds
15 August	Bucatini	A La Carte
22 August	David Tolstrup	Zone 8 Pilot Options

August is **Membership** Month

HOPE KATOLO

Last chance

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>

FORD DAVIS MULTI- PURPOSE ROOM

The most recent photos from Georgina

The latest photos show the Multi-Purpose Room at Hope Katolo Nursery School in its almost completed state.



Supporting the school has been a long-term project of the club over about 8-9 years.

During this time, we have installed water tanks, built and equipped a first aid room, assisted with the funding for a house for the head teacher/manager and now built the MPR.

Individual Rotarians and Friends of Rotary have sponsored individual children throughout this period.

From the photos you can see that the MPR has been named the Ford Davis Multi-Purpose Room. This is as a result of the fantastic support of the Gysi-Davis family for this project.

This latest addition to what began as a dream and is now a thriving reality will be a boon to the school and the community.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the project you can do so by going onto the RAWCS website and entering Project No. 38-2021-22 and then clicking on the 'Donate' tab and following the prompts.

While we haven't nominated the next phase in this project (in fact it will be nominated by Georgina in Hope Katolo) additional water tanks and solar power are two possibilities.

Bill

FORMER EXCHANGE STUDENT



We caught up with Sebastien Debuire last night for a long talk and a meal. We had local Toulouse sausage. He is working 3 nights a week at a local hotel at present and doing lots of cycling and running. We had a goodnight drink at his local which is only a few hundred metres from his flat and also about the same distance to our hotel. Our plan is to catch up with him to wander through the park and visit the cathedral this afternoon. Robbie is planning to buy a few things at the local market so we can picnic. He is living a happy quiet life.

Regards to all from a warm Toulouse where it is only going to get to 32degC today, cooler than the last two weeks. When we wished Sebastien goodnight it was still 28 degC at 11pm.

Ron

CELEBRATIONS



Many happy returns to Christine Stott on July 28- Warwick please remember!



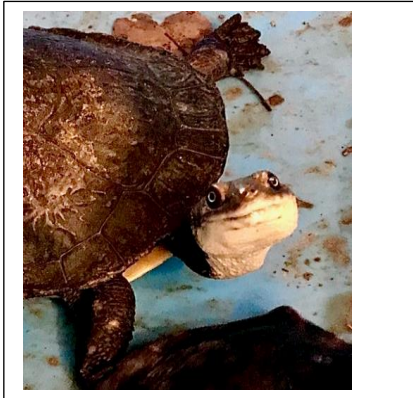
SPROUTINGS

Victoria has a new Minister for Water, Harriet Shing. We are hoping she listens to Victorians about why they love their rivers and what they're concerned about.

Maybe you'd want her to know about the animals, birds and reptiles that live there and why they need to be protected.

For instance – maybe some of you would like to talk about the long-necked turtles that lay their eggs along the riverbanks of the Murray, or in – yes, you've guessed it – our local waterways like Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

So today – **Let's talk turtles.**



On Sunday July 17 a number of enthralled listeners attended one of the regular community environment education programs at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary to hear Graham Stockfeld, President of Turtles Australia Inc, tell us a lot of cool facts about Australian turtles, the research being done, how Turtle-Sat. works, predators and nest protection efforts. **Andwe got to see some live turtles up close!** (No- they don't bite)

These ancient reptiles have apparently been around for 230 million years – but are now declining around the world, due mainly to human impact and habitat destruction.

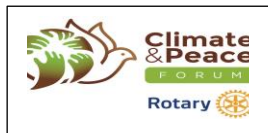
What did we learn?

- Turtles are important as **scavengers, herbivores, carnivores and often contribute significant biomass to the ecosystems.** They break down the energy of plant materials and convert them into protein.
- **What is the difference between tortoises and turtles?** Tortoises have more rounded and domed shells where turtles have thinner, more water-dynamic shells more streamlined to aid in swimming. Tortoises are land based and turtles live in water.
- There are **34 species** of native turtles in Australia: 28 freshwater and six Sea turtles.
- Freshwater turtles are reptiles with hard shells to protect them from predators
- They spend most of their time in water, only coming on land to move to another water area or to nest. Turtles don't have teeth or ears – but are not deaf – they have thin flaps of skin covering internal ear bones.
- They can go for eight hours without water
- They feed in the water. The juveniles feed every day, but once they are about seven and mature they only feed every second day.
- **Length of life** is a bit contentious- The oldest sea turtle in the world was likely 100 years old- some sites say much older. Fresh water turtles can live up to 50 years.
- There are so many threats to turtles, including turtle egg eating foxes. Then when they hatch they are prey to turtle eating fish, birds and other predators. If they move onto land they can be killed by dogs and foxes and by humans crushing them.
- **Nesting turtles** dig a backward curved hole in the ground with their hind legs, lay their eggs in the hole, then cover the eggs with earth. A nest may contain up to 25 eggs.



- After a few month's incubation the eggs hatch and the hatchlings scurry to the water, where they eventually mature and start the cycle again.
- Over 90% of turtle nests are predated by foxes or other animals which is unsustainable. You can help prevent this loss of recruitment by protecting any nests you become aware of.
- For more information on how to help preserve the turtle population click on the link below
<http://www.turtlesaustralia.org.au/>

Here are some invites for you:



Climate & Peace Webinar – Tuesday August 2, 6pm For registration, go to www.climateandpeace.com.au or, if you have already registered, please share with your friends.

Speakers are: Dr Saul Griffith (author of The Big Switch) and Taryn Lane (manager of Australia's first community wind farm).

You will hear about the pathway to net zero emission communities. This could be a big part of the solution to our climate crisis and we can all be involved in making this a reality.



ESRAG's invite to read about their efforts

The inauguration of Jennifer Jones as the first woman Rotary International President is historic. Also,

Dr. Patricia Armstrong has become Chair of ESRAG, joined by seven dynamic new members of the Board from Europe, Africa, Australia, and North America. ESRAG invites you to take up Jennifer Jones' invitation to IMAGINE effective environmental solutions.

This is Pat's message to us all:

Imagine a Positive Solutions Mindset

By Patricia Armstrong, ESRAG Board Chair

Recently, we all have been exposed to frightening stories and reports of environmental disasters, and sometimes experience them for ourselves. It is easy to become despondent in the face of all these doom and gloom stories. How can we learn from these stories, yet rise above them and go on to take meaningful actions and projects as ESRAG members and environmental leaders in our clubs and Districts? I suggest that one approach is to adopt a Positive Solutions Mindset.

We've all been shocked recently to read of environmental disasters in many countries across the world: record temperatures in the United Kingdom, bush fires in Spain and Portugal and heatwaves in the United States. In my country, Australia, we've had several major floods in New South Wales and, most sobering of all, this week the Australian Government released the "[Australia, State of The Environment Report 2021](#)". According to this report, "Overall, the state and trend of the environment of Australia are poor and deteriorating as a result of increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction." In similar vein, the [IUCN has added the migratory monarch butterfly](#) to the Red List of endangered species, due to a decline in population numbers over the past 10 years.

It's very easy to be dragged down psychologically by all these very important, nonetheless negative news stories. As the new Chair of ESRAG, I'd like us to remain aware and up-to-date with the stories, yet not let them define who we are or what we do. I encourage you all to adopt a positive mindset that focuses on solutions, not despondency. There are so many good news stories about the environment in the community and within Rotary and ESRAG, where people are taking actions to address some of the serious environment problems facing their region and the world.

The current issue of the newsletter at esragoceania.org shares a wealth of tools to help you design and implement climate action. You will find these items:

- Singapore Rotarians demonstrate how clubs can be the solution for their region
- Project Drawdown's new and updated solutions, and climate-poverty webinars
- The Climate and Peace August 2 webinar on 'Becoming a Net Zero Community'
- ESRAG's 2023 Climate Summit in Costa Rica
- ESRAG's impact and strategy, shared in recorded presentations at the June 23 Annual General Membership Meeting
- Climate policy in Europe and the US, the first in a series on high-emitting nations

Another invite – How would you like to join the **Environment Victoria Board?**



Conor Costello, Board President writes:

'Due to current members reaching their maximum terms we are seeking to recruit four new, voluntary, non-executive directors to join the Environment Victoria Board in October 2022.'

[Learn more here](#)

That's all Folks, Glenys

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADERS OF THE MONTH

Powerhouse Cheese

Barbara Power started making her own cheeses over 10 years ago. With a degree in Microbiology, she had a good scientific foundation to base her production. Two years ago, she started up her own commercial business **Powerhouse Cheese** and persuaded her sister, Donna Hall, who also has a Science degree, to leave her native New Zealand and join her in this venture. These two Artisan Cheesemakers use cow's milk in small 100 litre batches of milk from St David's Dairy in Fitzroy. They sell their cheeses at markets every Saturday and Sunday around the Melbourne area or you can order online for pick up on Monday afternoon. The rest of the week you will find them busy in their cheesery making their standard Blackburn Blue, Whitehorse White and Ash Bree cheeses or producing new varieties like their Bellbird Blue or a surface ripened Rosella Red which may become another standard offering in the future. Certainly, these two talented very local artisan cheesemakers running **Powerhouse Cheese** have a future.

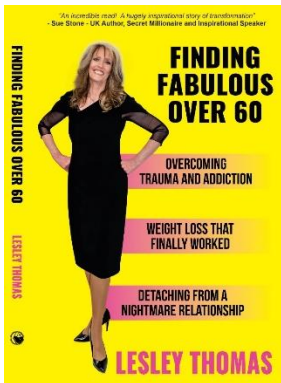
www.powerhousecheese.com.au



Dawn's Flowers

Dawn Hooton has been a regular at the Blackburn Craft Market from the very beginning. If you want her plants, you have to come to our market as she sells nowhere else. Dawn lives in Forest Hill and propagates every plant herself from her own seeds or cuttings. Her love of flowers and gardening started as a young girl when her father bought her a packet of fuchsia seeds..... it has been her hobby ever since. It's amazing looking at the large healthy specimens of evergreen perennials such as the fuchsias, ferns, and pelargoniums she sells with long flowering periods all at very reasonable prices.





Come to the Market August 13