



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 09

President: Bill Marsh

31 August 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE

On Monday we had Nafty Vanderhoek as our guest speaker. Nafty presented a view on Climate Change that certainly challenged a number of those present. Nafty is from the group of scientists who are labelled 'climate change sceptics'. An interesting presentation that gave us food for thought and made us re-evaluate our beliefs in the area. Whether, at the end-of-the-day, it changed or confirmed our beliefs was a personal choice.



Membership Seminars – membership affects us all so get on board and have a look. The more involved the better. One zoom session to go on 29th September at 7.00pm. The link is in the District newsletter.

Calendar dates. Please keep any dates you want added coming so the calendar can be updated.

The Board met on Wednesday and AG Catherine Elfick completed the preliminaries for the DG's visit on the 12th September. The Board approved the proposed Budget items with few modifications. I will send out the updated Budgets during the week.

The Cluster meeting on Thursday was the first gathering for the year and it was an excellent idea to try and get the whole of the Whitehorse Cluster together. Given that much of what we do impacts all of the clubs it makes sense to have them working together.

I spoke to the Cluster Presidents and the two AG's, as well as a few of the Presidents, on Thursday evening about the Market proposal put forward by APH Holdings. There was certainly interest among the group and we are going to arrange a meeting with APH where we can try to address the concerns of the Cluster and firm up some of the details. (Meeting arranged for 2.00pm on 9th September)

I will not be available for the next Presidents' meeting but our club will have a representative in attendance.

RC Monash is running a fund-raising auction for one of their projects and they are looking for prize donations. I have passed this on to Sue and John to see if they wish to become involved. If you would like to donate a prize for the auction, please contact Sue or John or the RC Monash directly.

The Cluster has been granted a stall at the Whitehorse Spring Festival. I am not sure what is planned at this stage. Date is 23 Oct 2022. Further details when they are available.

Our Film Night will be on the 9th September. I will put out the list of films available next week.

The two markets are coming up again on the 10th & 11th September. Help if you can.

Great speaker again this week

Bill

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

MEETING REPORT- 29 August

Our meeting on Monday night was attended by all members and partners Chris S, Robbie B, Judy M, Judy L. It was ably chaired by intrepid traveller Ron Brooks, who welcomed all, commented on some of his and Robbie's 12 weeks of holiday activities and introduced guest speaker Dr Nafty Vanderhoek.

He then introduced President Bill for his opening, Welcome to Country and acknowledgements of Rotary International and to Australia.

Our President reported:

- Latest news on polio – we are 'that close'
- The District Governor's visit is on September 12. DG Ken Miller and AG Catherine Elfick will attend. All are welcome – just let Stuart Williams know.
- Budgets are mainly approved. Directors will hear soon.
- APH holdings want to run a market. Rotary Presidents and the group will meet soon to discuss what is planned.
- Spring Festival will be at Whitehorse Community Hub. Rotary has a stand. Interested members should contact President Bill or Nunawading Club.
- A film night will be held on Friday week at Pinewood.

-Youth and International Directors reported they found their various recent workshops very useful.
-Vocational Director needs indication as to who will attend the Brickworks information session
-Upcoming program events are listed later in this newsletter.

Guest Speaker Dr Nafty Vanderhoek "Climate Change – A Scientific Perspective" was then introduced. He explained he was not a climate scientist, nor an expert in the area, but his aim is to make the community aware of scientific facts that provide evidence to the contrary of the commonly held views on climate change. He hopes for full disclosure of scientific facts and a sensible debate on the best way forward with respect to climate change policies and options. His talk was very informative and provided us with interesting information most of us had never heard before.



A number of questions were asked, then Rotarian Barbara Searle thanked Nafty for his interesting talk and perspective on climate change and presented him with a club mug.

More information regarding this subject is to be found in Sproutings in this newsletter.

President Bill closed the meeting with thanks to all.

The raffle raised \$47 and winners were Bob W, John McP, and Bill M.

Glenys Grant

NEXT MEETING

5 September Mikaela Stafrace Women CAN

Club roster for 5 September 2022.

Chairperson: Sue Ballard
Greeter: Barbara Searle
Notes for "Happenings" Ron Brooks
Thanks Bob Williams
Cashier & Recorder: Bob Williams

COMING UP

9 September Film night
10 September Blackburn Craft Market
11 September Whitehorse Farmers Market
12 September Club birthday DG Ken Miller

CELEBRATIONS



Happy birthday to
Marg McPhee on 4
September! Hope it's
in your diary John.



VOCATIONAL VISIT

A tour information session with lunch after is planned for the BRICKWORKS CENTRE behind the RSPCA in Burwood.

The tour is proposed for a weekday morning with lunch at one of the cafes/restaurants depending on the day.

Please let me know if you are interested, your preferred day and specific dates you can't come if known.

Email me on suzmbal1@gmail.com as I still don't have access to my other email address.

Sue

FOUNDATION

RC Nunawading is holding a fund-raising event for The Rotary Foundation on Wednesday 28 September 2022. The film is "A ticket to paradise" starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts. The film will have a start time between 6 and 7pm – exact time will be advised by the cinema once they know.

Cost is \$20.00 which includes a ticket, drink, finger food and a donation to The Rotary Foundation of approx. \$10

There is also capability for people to donate only if they so wish.

Venue is Waverley Cinemas (also known as Pinewood)

Use this link to book

https://waverleycinema.com/E_006.php

Sproutings

Here are a couple of invitations for you:

September is Platy-Project Month for the Australian Conservation Foundation



Citizen Science in action: Surveying platypuses as part of the Platy-Project Month of Action.

It's called the **Platy-Project Month of Action**. In the month of September, the ACF are trying to get as many people as possible to head down to their local creek or river, find a quiet place on the bank, try to spot a platypus and record what they see (or don't see).

How does this help the platypus?

Even though the platypus is one of our most unique and iconic animals, there are big gaps in our knowledge about the creature, including where it lives and how big platypus populations are.

With platypus numbers declining, the lack of existing platypus data is a huge barrier to getting the protection it needs from extinction. The Australian Conservation Foundation has been working with researchers at the University of NSW to try and fill this data gap along the east coast of Australia, but they really need help from the community.

If you're interested

Surveying can also be done individually or in a small group. ACF have developed easy to use toolkits and an interactive map to make the process really simple. Not only would it be helping nature, but it's an easy, and relaxing activity that really helps science.

You can check out more about the project here, <https://www.acf.org.au/platy-project>.

Another invitation – *sorry this is so late*. The next Lighter Footprints public meeting is on August 31 at 7pm at the Marwal centre in North Balwyn.

You may have heard of Lighter Footprints - they are a community-based climate action network and have a membership across both Boroondara and Whitehorse Local Government

Areas. <https://lighterfootprints.org/>

The Mayor and several Boroondara Councillors are attending this event and Lighter Footprints is very pleased that several speakers with diverse experience in ecology, community action and tree management have agreed to speak at the meeting.

There is still time to attend: register here <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/urban-trees/>

Climate Change – or not...



Everyone has views on climate change – and it is good to have such interest in debating aspects of it across all groups in the community.

On Monday night Dr Nafty Vanderhoek gave us a very interesting talk on how any change in climate policy should be based on science, facts and logic and not on sensationalism, misinformation or fear.

Everyone agrees, I'm sure.

He went on to explain his perspective as a self-confessed climate change scientific sceptic, touching on many climate change subjects and myths like temperature measurement, polar bear population numbers, coral reefs and accuracy (or inaccuracy) of climate change models.

His first take home message was that **'the science of climate change is not straightforward – it is complex, uncertain and ambiguous'**.

Nafy then explained his concerns about renewables – touching on Solar panels and wind farms and whether they are really 'green'. He explained that if the demand for them increases, so will the demand for base load power. His second take home message was that **'Renewables are not as clean or cheap as claimed'**.

Dr Vanderhoek, while not denying climate change, the need to reduce our emissions, better and less-pollutive technology and cleaning up the environment, says three critical questions need to be asked: "What is the cost of specific measures?

What really benefits the planet?

What measures are simply unrealistic?"

His final message is a concern that **too rapid a transition to renewable energy will lead to grid instability and affordability issues.**

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It was interesting to hear views on climate change which are quite different to what we usually hear and see.

As mentioned in the last Sproutings column, **MUNA** students recently debated the stance of their chosen country regarding UN climate change policies. Some came up with such impressive arguments about reduction in greenhouse gases and a more sustainable, low-carbon pathway forward.

It's worthwhile being aware of what the **United Nations** are currently doing in this area.



The United Nations Secretariat has adopted a new 10-year Climate Action Plan aimed at transforming its operations to achieve a 45pc reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and sourcing 80pc of electricity from renewable energy by 2030

COP26: Together for our planet <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop26>

As you know, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) brought together 120 world leaders and over 40,000 registered participants, including 22,274 party delegates, 14,124 observers and 3,886 media representatives. For two weeks, the world was riveted on all facets of climate change — the science, the solutions, the political will to act, and clear indications of action.

The outcome of COP26 – the Glasgow Climate Pact – was the fruit of intense negotiations among almost 200 countries over the two weeks, strenuous formal and informal work over many months, and constant engagement both in-person and virtually for nearly two years.

COP26 did produce new “building blocks” to advance implementation of the Paris Agreement through actions that can get the world on a more sustainable, low-carbon pathway forward.

2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference



The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP27, will be the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, to be held from November 6-18, 2022, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) sets out the basic legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation with the aim of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”

World Health Organisation “Climate change is the biggest health threat facing humanity, threatening the progress in development, global health and poverty reduction made over the past 50 years”, World Health Organization. 16 Dec 2021



Climate change and health

- Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.
- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- The direct damage costs to health (i.e., Excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation), is estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion/year by 2030.
- Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy-use choices can result in improved health, particularly through reduced air pollution.

There you have it – some different aspects and views. Climate change topics will continue to be debated for many years.

Lots of work continues to be done – including through our Rotary environment champions- ESRAG.

*Have a good week. **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.

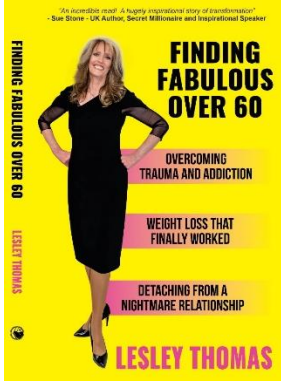
www.powerhousecheese.com.au



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 next month- September 10