



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 02 President: Sue Ballard

5 July 2023

SUE'S WORDS OF WISDOM



Happy NAIDOC week. If you get the opportunity look at going to an event near you or look at some of the resources online. Our first nations people have rich and diverse cultures and while we can't change history, we can learn from it and ensure we don't repeat it. Embrace the opportunities available this week.

As the first week of the Rotary year we have the opportunity to reflect on how we can improve or maintain our achievements and plan for the coming years. We have the club forum in two weeks so we need as a club to see what we can do and how we go about it. Members and friends should express their ideas either at the forum or to me prior.

Finally, to all our American friends happy 4th of July.

Sue

NEXT WEEK

10 July Matthew Sonnemann Stockmarket & Economic Update

Chairperson: Bill Marsh

Greeter: John Bindon

Notes for "Happenings" Warwick Stott

Thanks Barb Searle

COMING UP

17 July Club Forum

24 July Isobel Machuca Manningham Whitehorse Mentor Volunteer Program

31 July Buccatini a la Carte

July is
New Leadership Month
Month

CELEBRATIONS



Let's celebrate President Sue joining our club on July 10, 2017.

Well done, Sue.



Meeting Report July 3, 2023

Meeting Attendees: 10 members, Guests Judy Laslett and Buabang Mungmart. Bob Laslett, Chairperson, introduced new President, Sue Ballard, who gave the Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners. Toasts to Australia and Rotary International were then given.

Reports:

Youth: Bill Marsh – report on RYLA. Bill and Judy Marsh attended the RYLA camp at Flinders to support our candidate Kieran Akula and his parents.

- Glenys Grant – report on MUNA. RCFH are sponsoring a Box Hill High School team.
- Members were asked if they will be available for two Youth Achievement Award events this year on October 30 and November 27. Ron Brooks has been asked to book those two dates. Members are asked to try to plan holidays around these dates as we need all members for these events.

Community Service: John Bindon – John requests all members to notify him of any charity groups needing equipment that we can fund.

Secretary: Stuart Williams – banner has been ordered and paid for.

Treasurer: Warwick Stott reported

- Term deposits have been organised.
- Square Reader – funds will go into General Account now.

International: Bob Laslett – Fiji Eye project is now happening.

- It was asked if anyone is collecting reading glasses or sunglasses and sending them overseas. As Nunawading are now doing this project we can send used glasses to them.

Vocational: There is a new contact for the Apprenticeship Awards.

Convention: Sessions were very good.

Program: Ron Brooks reported the next month's program is on the website. Ron will be overseas soon for some time. Ron also reported he gave a talk to RC Doncaster.

Other News:

- Nunawading Changeover was attended by two members. Many other Clubs were represented, including the Melbourne Club. During the excellent evening Bob Williams was presented with a Deakin Award by MP Michael Sukkar, who is a Nunawading club member.



- Box Hill Central have an event on Wednesday evening. Check Website.

Meeting:

Chairperson Bob Laslett then introduced our speaker for the evening, **Sue Ballard**.

– **Topic: NAIDOC Week and Family Connections.**

Sue's talk about NAIDOC week was excellent and informative.

National NAIDOC week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year to recognise and celebrate the history, culture and achievements of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It's an opportunity for all Australians to experience and learn about First Nations people with activities all week. To see what is on, please check out the NAIDOC website. Also peruse the Lume website, which features 650 paintings, including 85 significant pieces of original art.

The NAIDOC theme this year is For Our Elders.

In First Nations cultures elders play a significant role in the community and are chosen by their communities to represent them.

Elders

- are cultural knowledge holders
- trailblazers
- naturalists
- advocates
- teachers
- readers/guides
- role/ models

Sue went on to explain about her family connections:

“My grandfather Gordon Ballard was an idealistic young man when he took a job as a land supervisor on Cape Barren Island/Flinders Island, where there was an aboriginal settlement with transported Northern Tasmanian peoples. These were the Palawa people of the Trawulwai Nation.

“Gordon helped develop the land for food production and housing and ended up helping teach English and trade skills. While working there he fell in love with a young Palawa woman. He was only on the islands for about 2 years before returning to Launceston. His first love chose to stay with her family on the island.

“My grandfather continued to train local first nations people in trades and business, even developing a shopping bag based loosely on Billy bags used by Palawa peoples. His daughter, my Aunt Lorna, was to marry Palawa man Russell Beeton in the early 1950s. They went on to have 3 daughters.

“Russell Beeton was born about 1920 on Flinders Island to a Palawa family. He grew up on the islands and went to Launceston for work opportunities and ended enlisting in WW2. He returned to Tasmania with PTSD, like many other soldiers, but received no help or treatment.

“His nephew Michael Mansel, the activist and lawyer, wrote about his experiences. One reason given by the government of the day for no health care being offered was said to be because ‘as an aboriginal he wasn't recognised as an Australian’. Mental health issues at the time often went untreated especially in Tasmania. First Nations People weren't recognised as Australians until 1967.

Sue then gave these statistics about Tasmanian first nations people:

Pre-European settlement there were nine nations with between six -15 clans in each. Each clan has between two-six family groups or mobs.

Post- European settlement at least three nations no longer existed and numbers did get as low as 500 people.



Sue showed a map of First Nations people in Australia with most of the 500 nations identified. Most nations apparently do stay within their land or region. Any wandering they did within the region is seasonal. Most of the family groups will interact with other regional families, despite not having a common language.

John Bindon thanked Sue for a most interesting talk. The raffle raised \$46.20 and winners were Warwick, Buabang and Barbara.

Glenys Grant

RYLA report

On Saturday my wife, Judy, and I went down to the Golden Valleys Lodge at Main Ridge to see our RYLA candidate, Keiran, at the closing ceremony. Keiran thoroughly enjoyed his 5-day camp and he, and his family, expressed their appreciation of the club for sponsoring his attendance. Keiran will attend a club meeting shortly to tell us about his RYLA experience.



It was interesting listening to the 'happy campers' as they told us about their experience. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the experience and felt they had achieved some degree of personal growth over the week. The most common thread was the new friends they had made and the fact they were looking forward to maintaining the friendships post RYLA.

The fact that the candidates all had smiles on their faces, despite sloshing about in mud whenever they went outside, indicates how much they enjoyed the activities.

Bill

THIS YEAR'S PRESIDENTS



RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

Jeremy & Mary Ann Furness are locals from Croydon. They sell children's books, oil paintings on gum leaves, and knitted toys in markets at Nunawading, Yarra Junction and of course the Rotary Blackburn station markets. Jeremy started writing and illustrating his Barry the Bike series of children's books over 10 years ago. It is one of the very few children's books that feature classic motorcycles, cars, and trucks. Go to Barry the Bike on Facebook to see all the books in the series.

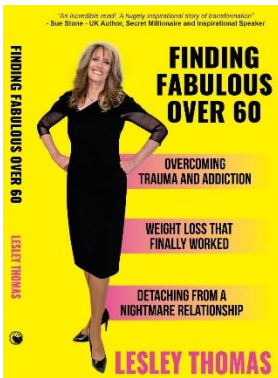
Mary Ann started **oil paintings on gum leaves** as a 15-year-old inspired by paintings by her grandparents. Her grandfather was William Beckwith McInnes who won the Archibald Prize seven times. These gum leaf oil paintings are as unique as they are beautiful. She paints on specially prepared Tasmanian Blue Gum Eucalyptus leaves which when painted are sealed to ensure a long life. She has been a professional illustrator for the last 40 years working for some of the world's leading publishing houses but now Mary Ann runs Wattle Gum Studios nestled in the Croydon Hills.

Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

Jeremy and Mary Ann can be contacted on 0403 310 032 or mafurness@bigpond.com or via Instagram [mafurness_arts](https://www.instagram.com/mafurness_arts). But better still, come and talk to them at one of their regular markets to see the full range of their talents.



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come and frequent the Market this week- July 8

Disclaimer: Articles and reports do not necessarily reflect Rotary Club of Forest Hill opinions.