



Rotary
Club of Forest Hill



Weekly Newsletter

foresthillrotary@hotmail.com

President Bob Williams



Be a gift to the world

Number 11

14th September 2015

Club address:

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

Email address:

foresthillrotary@hotmail.com

Website:

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>
14 th Sept	40 th Anniversary Celebration/ DG Visit <i>With Partners</i>	Bob Williams	John McPhee
21 st Sept	Family Violence Cathie Nederveen <i>With Partners</i> Board Meeting	Bill Marsh	Stuart Williams
28 th Sept	Stan Harper's 90 th /Stuart Williams trip <i>With Partners</i>	John McPhee	Chris Tuck

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

Warwick Stott Club anniversary 13 Sept



DUTY ROSTER

	September	October
Cashier	Stuart Williams	Bob Williams
Recorder	Ray Smith	Glenys Grant
Greeter	Chris Tuck	John Donaghey
Emergency	John McPhee	Gary Baltissen

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 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

Wow what an amazing story Stephen Fisher had to tell us last meeting of his Kokoda Trek over the Anzac Day period.

A detailed report follows later in this edition.

Following on from the wonderful welcome Glenys and I had when we made the Primary School Speech Contest presentations to both the winner and to Burwood Heights school, I attended the assembly last Monday morning at Weeden Heights whose speaker came second and again was very warmly welcomed and the Principal said that were keen to win back the shield next year as they won it in the first year of the contest.

I go to Mt. Pleasant Road Primary this Friday morning to complete the presentations and as well as presenting the framed certificate to their 3rd placegetter we decided that as their other speaker was only 9 and from 3rd grade, to present him with a special "President's Encouragement Award". So as the school has informed his dad of this I'm sure he will be there beaming with pride as he was at the night of the contest.

The Forest Hill Secondary College breakfast club duo this week was Glenys and me and we made about 60 ham and cheese toasties for the students and I managed to not make too much of a mess this time. Whew!

Wednesday I met with MASH President David Winter to discuss the forthcoming membership promotion day at Whitehorse market on the 8th November as David has some great ideas with all the cluster Presidents wanting to make it a success. All clubs not doing the egg and bacon will be asked to have two members available for a 90 minute shift, with MASH supplying the marquee.

Any ideas from club members would be very welcome.

David owns a bread shop in Mont Albert which is VERY busy and I met him there before we went for a coffee and I can personally vouch for the wonderful grain bread and fruit bread he produces.

Remember to contact Ray ASAP if you are attending our 40th anniversary/DG dinner on the 14th September.

Can all members who have received details from Ray of a particular decade of the club please be prepared to speak to this with your allocated partner on our anniversary night and remember that each decade's description is not to exceed 3 minutes.

Ray gave me 60 photos from over the years which I've put into a slide presentation to show when we are having our meals.

We received \$110 in pledges for Robbie's cycling challenge going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service so a good start and I'll send it around at our 40th year night as well.

This week as well as celebrating our 40 wonderful years we, of course have the visit by our District Governor David and his wife Alison.

Jenny Tuck has arranged for Alison and Barbara to accompany her to Taralye at 4pm for a visit there while David and acting assistant Governor Peter meets with Bill, John McPhee and myself.

Jenny has also arranged for some decorations, thanks Jenny, and Ray has organised with Bucatini for a cake with Warwick to operate on it (well he was a vet!)

Ray advises we have 34 attending.

Remember "Be a Gift to the World".

President Bob

DIARY DATES

3 rd Oct.	Rotaract Movie night
9 th Oct.	District Community Service Seminar
18 th Oct.	Rotaract Dress up at the 1000 steps.
9 th March 2016	Women in Rotary Forum

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

We had nine members plus our guest speaker Stephen Fisher.

Sergeant Stuart's reflection was about refugees and will be more detailed below.

Ray spoke of Stan being in Bellbird Hospital after his fall at home. He is making good progress but is still unsteady as well as his leg issues so may be there for a little while yet. He is on the 1st floor, room 109 with open visiting hours so he would like to have a chat with anyone who has the time.

As well as our Saturday and Sunday market commitments this weekend we also have our annual sausage sizzle at Schwerkolt Cottage so all the assistance we can muster is needed for Sunday in particular.

Glenys advised we have two students for the RYPEN weekend coming up and Diane Fisher has kindly offered for any of our club members to attend to see what goes on at a RYPEN weekend but with our markets plus Schwerkolt Cottage commitments, I don't think we can take her up on her generous offer. Glenys also advised we will have 3 students to attend the Conoco Phillips Science experience.

Raffle raised \$39 and Sergeant's session \$22-40.

To our very modest guest speaker, Stephen Fisher.

Stephen was looking for a challenge three years ago (my challenge each morning is getting the plastic wrap off the delivered newspaper) and bumped into a mate who had walked the Kokoda Track. He had also listened to Robbie Brooks (wise man!) as she had told him that she and Ron attend the Anzac Day dawn service as "If Diggers made that sacrifice for me, then the least I can do is go to a dawn service." So Stephen also attends dawn services wherever he happens to be, as well as being in the Army Reserve.

Stephen went with a tour company called "Kokoda Spirit" and was part of an all Aussie group of fifteen, many being Rotarians. Each had a local porter plus there were locals who carried the food and tents etc, so 23 locals plus the Aussies.

He drew us back to the Second World War and the importance of stopping the Japanese advance in New Guinea before it reached the Australian mainland. There were 13,500 battle hardened Japanese against initially 1,500 Aussie Militia before they were later strengthened to 7,500. The walk started on the 23rd April and incorporated a dawn service on Anzac Day at Isurava, the location of a major battle. There were approx. 800 in attendance at the service. One of the significant battles at Isurava was at (later called) Bruce Kingsbury Rock where Kingsbury became the only Australian to be awarded a Victoria Cross on Australian soil. He was killed in the action.

Stephen showed us a fabulous array of photos he had taken along the way which of course couldn't possibly show the difficulty of crossing 22 rivers, some raging torrents with the "bridge": being a couple of logs with a rope strung across. He said that he may have been swept away but for the physical assistance of his wonderful porter, Taylor, who supported him every step of the way. Other smaller rivers were waded across. Overnight camps were in one man tents with long drops for toilets and a hose or river for running water for "bathing" with a fire each night to try and dry out their soaking boots and socks as looking after their feet was, of course a priority. As well as the rivers, 12 kms of very steep muddy climbs up and down added to the 84km long track, making a total of 96kms walked, there were numerous other ways they could break their ankles and legs on tree roots etc so very dangerous as well as arduous.

The walk concluded on the 1st May after 9 days of hard slogging with all in their party completing the walk. Along the way they met Kurt Fearnley OAM who was completing the track for the second time. His first “walk” (he only has use of his arms and is a Para Olympian and so crawled the track – amazing!) was the subject of the TV show “Australia Story.”

Many plaques and war memorials along the way with some villages they passed through having communication but very remote with the tour leader carrying a Sat. phone in case of emergencies but as the terrain was so difficult it may have been a day or so before help could arrive. The porters return to their village at the start of the Track once they safely get their party to the finish at Ower’s Corner and take three days on their return trip.

Stephen’s group’s ages ranged from late 20’s to the eldest at 73. They raised \$20,500 for Australian Rotary Foundation and he acknowledged our club’s contribution to this. We were all in awe of Stephen’s achievement and the subsequent questions reflected this as he is a very modest man.

What a treat for us to hear and see his story!

Thanks Stephen and well done!



SERGEANT’S REFLECTION

Stuart told us that we are the world’s 12th largest economy but only 1/3 of 1% of the world’s population. He was taken by the photo in the press of the body of the three year old refugee boy who drowned and was cradled by a Turkish policeman. He urged us as part of the global community to play our role and assist with re-settling some of these unfortunate refugees.

PROBUS REFORMS

Stan is very concerned about the way Probus administration is heading as from their latest report; they have insufficient funds to cover their liabilities. \$167K more in Liabilities than Current Assets.

They spent around \$200K fighting the NZ Probus Clubs and an extra \$153K spent on employee costs despite substantial decreases in clubs and members.

New Zealand Probus clubs were so dissatisfied with PSPL that they formed their own Probus New Zealand Inc which is a low cost operation responsible only to NZ clubs, hence the “fight” with Australian Probus.

Effectively Australian Probus administration is insolvent and the concern is that it will lead to a substantial financial increase sought from all Probus clubs plus rises in the costs of other Probus items.

The Reform Group is working towards overcoming the major problems within PSPL (as they see them) and wants the issue made known to the wider network and as Stan has created about 12 Probus clubs he is, of course personally concerned at the current situation.

Editor Bob

HOPE KATOLO SCHOOL



Chris and Sue Warmington from Nunawading Club handing their cheque to Leanne and Melanie for Hope Katolo School.



The Play equipment purchased with the money. Thanks Rotary!

The two clubs also donated funds to enable two vegetable gardens to be planted at the school to help feed the children.

NEWS FROM OUR 2013 GSE Student

Parts of a letter from "V", our GSE professional in 2013.



" Life is as hectic. As you already know, I finished my undergraduate studies last year and my convocation is scheduled on this 12th Sept. Once my masters is complete (March 2016) I will be a licensed Industrial Organizational Psychologist.

.... I am applying for jobs in New Zealand starting end of this year. I was informed that University of Auckland is one of the best schools for psychology, I can do my PHD there. As soon as I get a job I will move to New Zealand with Asha. North Island. I hope all will turn out well. You probably already heard that our Ringgit (currency) is falling terribly due to our political issues. Sad. Keeping finger cross, one day at a time towards our dream for a better end....

..... I am also leaving the bank, as got a job as a trainer, a day job. Will start in October- it's good and better paying job.....
Love, V"

Thanks Glenys

SUPPORT ROYAL FLYING DOCTORS

Robbie Brooks is this year unavailable to row row row her boat merrily down the stream (river.) in support of the RFD

So, she has asked to advertise that she will ride up soooo many hills between Salzburg and Trieste and asks if any Rotarians or friends would be prepared to sponsor her (suggested maximum \$20) which will be tax deductible with all funds to go to the RFD. We raised \$110 last week so I'll put the pledge sheet around again at our birthday bash. So please help Robbie get up those hills by supporting RFDS.
Go Robbie!

SQUARE EYED STU

The Bill Bryson book -- A walk in the woods has been made into an enjoyable movie starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. Walking the iconic Appalachian Trail. Many good laughs and gorgeous scenery. No spaceships, no car crashes but a pleasant way to spend two hours. But - read the book and other Bill Bryson travel books. He is a fabulous writer with a great eye for the different. Cheers Stu

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPEECH CONTEST PRESENTATION AT BURWOOD HEIGHTS PRIMARY.



Belinda Young won 1st prize, seen here with her Dad on the far right and her teacher, Skye Andrews, Principal Esther Woods is holding trophy next to Glenys and on the left is some other guy.

STAMPS



Even if you only get a few stamps a week, collect them and give them to me. John McPhee, Bill Marsh, Joan Harper do. Please collect your stamps. It's a no cost project, easy to do. Just cut around the stamp by about 1 cm and pop it in a spare used envelope and bring them along to me on club night then Robbie drops them off at Carol Farmers when I have a large batch..... Easy!!

FOREST HILL'S FELLOWSHIP COOK OFF!!

This is the plan. Each month I will be looking to publish a recipe with photograph of an entrée, or main course, or dessert. They can be submitted from the Newsletter readership of members, honorary members, and friends of Rotary. I am asking for 4 entrees, 4 mains and 4 desserts. Then next June we will choose one of each by vote. The winning three will then be prepared by the cooks who submitted them at a combined dinner and **the invitees will be those people who submitted recipes that appeared in print and a partner of their choice.** Costs for the night will be shared by attendees.

SO IT IS OVER TO YOU. THE FIRST 12 RECIPES ARE THE WINNERS.

(The photo can be scanned from a recipe book if you like)

FOREST HILL FELLOWSHIP

Movie night 4th September. 3rd and 18th October – Rotaract fundraisers as above.

ANNUAL SUBS FOR 2015/2016

It was decided that the annual subs will be **\$270** for this year. Please pay up if you haven't already. If you wish you can direct credit the amount to our Bendigo Bank account at BSB 633108, account number 1418 41288. Please note that a formal invoice will be sent to members in due course. Warwick.

CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

	2015-16
President	Bob Williams
Vice President	Stuart Williams
Secretary	Ron Brooks
Treasurer	Warwick Stott
President Elect	John McPhee
Sergeant	Stuart Williams
Foundation/International	Chris Tuck
Members	John Donaghey, Stan Harper,
Youth Service	Glenys Grant
Members	Ray Smith, Bill Marsh, Graham Sharman
Community & Vocation	Bob Laslett
Members	Stuart Williams, Gary Baltissen, Ron Brooks
Membership & Publicity	John McPhee
Members	Warwick Stott, Bob Williams,
Fellowship	John Donaghey
Primary Schools Speech Night	Bob Williams
Programme	Ray Smith, Gary Baltissen
Bulletin Editor	Ron Brooks
Web page & Facebook	Ron Brooks
On to Conference	Stuart Williams
Historian	Stan Harper
Almoner	Graham Sharman
Public Officer	Bill Marsh

Newsletter articles to the acting editor at bandbwil@bigpond.net.au by 5 pm Wed please.