



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 11

President: John Bindon

15 September 2021

MOVING FORWARD



As we navigate the path ahead, it is important to reflect on the positives. We continue to be part of an incredible Rotary Club of Forest Hill. A club which has shown resilience, support, encouragement, and empathy to each other as we move ahead together. For this, we are extremely grateful.

There is still a way to go. Please keep up your enormous effort in adhering to the current “stay-at-home” restrictions. We know it’s not easy,

Your support to the club and its members were demonstrated at our last meeting as we reflected on 46 years of a great club serving our community.

Rotary Club of Forest Hill was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nunawading, and this club received its charter from Rotary International on the 13th September, 1975.

Past District Gov. Ford Davis was appointed “District Governor’s Special Representative”, to oversee the formation of the club. Ford decided to become a charter member of the new club himself and from that time he has been the inspiring “father figure” of the club.

Even today, with wonderful support from his family, the spirit of “Ford Davis” is still guiding this club.

John Bindon

President.

Note: Stuart will be liaising with Bucatini, at some time in the future. Please contact him for dinner meeting attendance and visitors by 8.00pm on Sunday prior to the meeting. Any changes after this time to be notified directly to Bucatini.

MEETING REPORT

Monday 13 September; attendance 14 which included 4 partners

President John Bindon opened the meeting as usual with toasts to Rotary International and Australia. Starting the club’s 46th birthday celebrations he gave a brief review of the club’s early history and indicated that PDG Ford Davis’s spirit is still guiding the club. The club has indeed a very proud history.

Apologies were received from Sue, Barbara S and Heather Neilson. Owing to a technical hitch Bob and Barb W could be seen but not heard (Absolutely nothing to do with the fact that their voices were non-existent after barracking so hard for Melbourne).

Weekly reports

Farmers' market- Warwick thanked those that helped a successful event on Sunday. SW commented on security

Secretary- Board meeting next week & receipt from Eastern Health

Treasurer- subs in

Community- JB has spoken with Forest Hill Chase

Vocational- Moneys sent & Pride of Workmanship

Foundation- Changes (see later in Happenings) and successful conference over weekend

Youth- Alumni meeting

Sergeant – Absolute silence (tumultuous applause- see above)

Program- ongoing rearrangements

Meeting

Tonight's meeting consisted of memories across the club's 46 years of service from members and partners.

Our only surviving charter member, Warwick, began by saying he was sorry that Heather N could not be there to reinforce his recall (although there were occasional corrections from behind the screen). A menu from the charter dinner/dance was produced. Characters such as charter President Bob Murphy, Bill Smart, John Berti and Ray Colbert were highlighted. The first members (initially 37) were around the same age. Warwick spoke of frequent venue changes, family get-togethers and tile boards. He concluded with a pertinent quote from Bob Murphy.

Christine Stott presented her story as the partner of a Rotarian. While pleased for Warwick to have an outlet from his busy veterinary practice through Rotary she didn't always appreciate being left alone with their active young children during "make-ups". She told us her uncle was a charter member of Box Hill and she had sewn many banners on holders. Early days were very much collar and tie. The Stotts came late to host parenting Youth exchange students but really enjoyed it.

Judy L spoke of sending Anne-Marie to Japan and the joys of hosting exchange students and catching up with them overseas. She mentioned the hard-working club's Ballarat conference and visits to all clubs in the district. She told of yoga at Mordialloc, crazy whist nights and the Rotary Remembers program at the Shrine. The Laslett children remembered a visit to the fire station.

Bob L highlighted the quality of people he had met through Rotary both in and outside the club, fun times and the importance of teamwork. He named the Ballarat conference committee, the Science Experience and Youth Exchange. The launch of a new Rotary club, the peach orchard and weekends away were featured. The bike ride, Cora Anderson's poems and thanks to Ken Clark for the invitation to join were important.

John M highlighted fellowship, tennis days with hosts like Ray Tinker and Bob N, and days at the swimming pool as a group. John mentioned fashion parades and the importance of friends.

Marg M spoke of Bill Irving and many happy times with exchange students like Suzanne, Hiroko and Lisa.

Ron B came to us via RC St Kilda and Barry Lawson. He reminded us of the origins of the spectacle and tea projects – both of which were win-win. Ron spoke of make-ups in 23 countries, 100% attendance and his air show job delivering and removing toilets. He also enjoyed roles as DG's representative and Assistant Governor.

Robbie B emphasized Days for Girls- 'Periods don't stop for pandemics'.

Stuart W told how after Apex he almost became a Lion and his traumatic induction. He highlighted Murray Whitmore and the fun runs, Geoff Hale's fitness and characters like Norm Durham, Don Hulland and John Berti. His role as team leader of GSE was a joy. He liked the internationality of Rotary, its skills development and the opportunity to do things that you would not normally do. He and Geoff H persuaded Bob W to join.

Glenys G told how the Stotts had encouraged her to join. She is thrilled to be involved with Youth and Environment programs and enjoys the club's fellowship.

Bill M missed the opportunity of being involved with youth exchange. Stan H was the epitome of service above self. He has thoroughly enjoyed the impact of youth programs and Hope Katolo. He emphasized the tremendous contribution of the Davis boys for over 20 years and the need for the club to look to the future.

John B has served in 4 clubs but the best was Forest Hill because of the things it does. He told of the joy of being responsible for catering at the Ballarat conference and the source of gold pans for the final lunch. He mentioned the peach orchard and running over Ray Smith's lunch with the van. His highlights were being a GSE team leader (House of Lords, Harrier jump jet), ROMAC (Girls from Tonga) and Youth Exchange.

It was mentioned that Bob W should be thanked for taking us into the Whitehorse Farmers' Market 15 years ago. Stuart told the story of a lady asking why we pay to enter.

A memorable night ended with the cake and the traditional blowing out of the candle in our separate homes.

Bob Laslett

RCFH BIRTHDAY REFLECTIONS FROM BOB & BARB WILLIAMS

I have many great memories of my club involvement and thank Stuart and Geoff Hale for inviting me along. Geoff was treasurer of Taralye in the early 90's when I was the School Bursar so we had many financial type discussions which usually started with a chat on footy, rugby, cricket, tennis or golf. I had known Stuart since our Vermont Apex days early 80's.

Norm Durham was President when I joined and soon after Barb and I well remember helping with the District Conference in Ballarat when Bob Laslett (B1) was District Governor and dressing up in period costumes and having a great time.

I was later informed by members who played Geoff at tennis that sometimes he felt that his base and side-line positions didn't match with his opponents estimations. He was so much fun and his love of the Tigers and Buninyong was so apparent as was his hard work at the orchard, selling produce at Camberwell market as he put in 100% with everything he did.

Vermont Apex met in Silver Grove Nunawading and assisted Reach Out for Kids (ROK) even helping to construct their log cabin a little way along also in Silver Grove. I was on the ROK committee and Apex ran dinner dances and auctions for ROK and then when I joined FH Rotary, we also assisted ROK with golf days at Box Hill Golf Club raising \$20/30,000 annually which ran for several years.

So many characters past and present in our great club with one in particular, Frank Fricke, who at his funeral had organised a video to run prior to starting with Frank telling us of his many heart operations so his surgeon put in a zipper. He then told all present to look around and if you didn't see anyone you knew maybe you were at the wrong funeral.

I enjoy our hands on work, past and present, particularly now with us making breakfast at Forest Hill College (when we could), helping to run the many RYDA days through the year, helping with our Primary School public speaking contests, YAA and Citizenship nights interacting with many youngsters. I also enjoy working for our funds at our markets and am particularly proud of the 15 years the Whitehorse Farmers' market has run with \$50/60,000 a year going back into the Whitehorse community and the interclub teamwork of the seven Whitehorse clubs. During the drought 10 or so years ago, this interclub support led us to join with other Whitehorse clubs for several years to bring a busload of country kids to the MCG for an AFL game to give the struggling families some relief. Barb, Stuart and I would meet the bus at the MCG and escort the kids into the ground with all their appropriate oohs and aaaahs as many hadn't travelled more than 50kms from home in their lifetime.

Such a wealth of wonderful history we have with I'm sure more to create.

Bob W.

Most of my “reflections” of Rotary Club of Forest Hill are as a “partner” having been a member in my own right for only about 4 years.
The wonderful array of members and partners over the approx.. 30 years have been inspiring, as have the opportunities Rotary has afforded me.
When talk went back to Bob Laslett’s Conference at Ballarat, how lucky was I to have the privilege to be official driver of the RI rep, around Ballarat!
My heart lies with “hands on”, Blackburn Market, Whitehorse Farmers’ Market, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness, Breaky Club at Forest Hill College (hope we can resume that activity next year?).
My thanks to all the members and partners present and past, who are/have been such good friends to me, over the years, treasured and a privilege!

Barb W.

September is Basic Education & Literacy Month

While COVID may be impacting many Fellowship activities, remember to check in with family and friends on a regular basis. A friendly face or a supportive word is always appreciated, especially when times are difficult. Get vaccinated so we can all ‘get about’ again.

NEXT MEETING

20th September - Anna Burley “Days for Girls” (All welcome – contact Bill for the link.)

Meeting Roster

Chairperson: **Warwick Stott**

Vote of Thanks: **Ron brooks**

Note taker for Happenings: **Bob Williams**

COMING UP

27th September - Ian Teese “Eastern Emergency Relief”

4th October - Bob & Stuart – ‘Footy Fever’

11th October - Leila Ragg – ‘Mitcham Community House’

18th October - Lesley Thomas – ‘Finding Fabulous Over 60’

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Barb S who celebrated her birthday on the 1st October. We hope you had a great day, Barb, as you reflected on a wonderful life.



NEWS FROM THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

At a stimulating Zone 8 Conference over the weekend, I heard that in Australia there are separate funding bodies for overseas developing countries and for local.

Overseas activities will still be administered by the Australian Rotary Foundation Trust as a Deductible Gift recipient and a tax concession charity.

For local activities a Public Benevolent Institution has been set up for similar treatment of your and corporate donations.

A new website was launched at the weekend make sure you look it up

<https://www.rotaryfoundationaustralia.org.au/take-action>

SPROUTINGS

Here are three zoom seminars for your interest.

Firstly - from ESRAG



**Join us on zoom on Thursday 16th September at 7.30pm AEST
For the ESRAG Oceania Monthly Chapter Meeting**

**Book your attendance <https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>
to receive the meeting zoom link**

Karin Traeger is our guest speaker

She is the CEO of the Yarra Riverkeepers Association and she is to speak about the association and how they work to keep the Yarra beautiful and healthy.

This talk is aimed to help develop ideas about how Rotary clubs can work towards supporting rivers, lakes and coastal areas across our region.



This month we are discussing how communities can support our local streams and lakes.

Register for your free ticket. <https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>

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Next- from Whitehorse Council:

Whitehorse has some amazing biodiversity hotspots but have you considered how easy is it for a blue-tongued lizard or a pardalote to move from one hot spot to another? Connectivity between bushland patches is vital for wildlife to thrive and the role of private gardens cannot be underestimated.

Dr Amy Hahs who lectures in Ecology at the University of Melbourne and her colleagues have prepared a study of the opportunities for movement between habitats for a range of key species in Whitehorse.

In this online seminar she will take us through her findings. It will be a fascinating and informative event!

Event Details

Name: Wildlife Connectivity Across Whitehorse
Date: Monday 11th October, 2021
Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Online
Cost: FREE

To register please follow this Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wildlife-connectivity-across-whitehorse-tickets-171611965007>

ESRAG- World Rivers Day Series.

The next presentation in the Project Biodiversity+ meeting for the World Rivers Day Series is next Wednesday September 15, 2021 (ESRAG's Project Biodiversity+ meeting #34). It will be presented by Gavin Reynolds on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adopt-a-River – a model for action.



**WORLD RIVERS DAY 2021
ESRAG SPECIAL SERIES #7**

**Adopt-a-River – A model for action
A presentation by Gavin Reynolds
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

**ESRAG Biodiversity – Planet-Pollution
Wednesday September 15, 2021
2:00pm UTC (5:00pm EAT) via zoom**

Title: Adopt-a-River – a model for action

Topic: The UNEP Freshwater Unit has a global mandate for improving freshwater ecosystems with a strong focus on monitoring and capacity development. Gavin will focus on Nature-Based Solutions, and UNEP supporting community-led programmes such as the UNEP-Rotary Adopt a River for Sustainable Development Initiative. This presentation explores the intersection between human development and environmental conservation, with a focus on communities and community led initiatives.

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Now a home hint from Penny Hamilton.

Sustainable kitchen must-haves for a more eco-friendly home-

<https://www.news.com.au/sponsored/OIXTWAnILGEQF0PWQnHa/sustainable-kitchen-must-haves-for-a-more-eco-friendly-home/>

Ditch paper towels for compostable sponges. Paper towel is convenient, yes. But the more you think about it, the less sense it makes. Why on earth would you keep chopping down trees when dishcloths, tea towels, and even mops can simply rinse and repeat? Our grandmothers would turn in their graves (or, since mine is still alive, shake her walking stick at me in disgust) at the prospect of creating so much senseless waste. Even if it's milled from sustainable timber.

However, if you do still want something handy you can quickly grab to effortlessly clean up messes, a growing number of companies are manufacturing compostable cleaning supplies.

[Seed and Sprout](#), based in Byron Bay, makes cellulose dishcloths that can replace your paper towel and grotty kitchen sponge in one fell swoop. They can absorb up to 20 times their own weight in liquid, be chucked in the washing machine, and used for about three to six months before you can retire them in the compost.

Just one last thing

Do you remember last year in Spring I mentioned we had ducks on our back deck. Well, here they are again...to the great interest of Bentley, who is a duck lover....

Glenys



Scan Me



RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

CALABRO OLIVE OIL

The Calabro stall is operated by Josie and Paul. They have been coming to the Blackburn market for more than 5 years. They live locally in Knox but also Paul lives a lot of his time on the Calabro Olive Grove at Toolleen near Heathcote where they have been growing olives on 87 acres for more than 20 years. Josie and Paul have run fruit shops locally all their lives including one in Blackburn. When they decided to retire 5 years ago, they thought they'd have a hobby of continuing selling their cold pressed olive oil, marinated olives, tapenade, chillie jam etc. This has grown to having a stall at local markets every Saturday and Sunday in the year!

They originally came from Calabria. She was only 21 when she came over here by boat in 1971 with two young children and Paul. They now have a grown-up family of four. Paul is 76 and uses some help to pick their olives. He told me they grow many varieties including Frantoio, Calamata, Manzanilla. Their products are all natural with no added chemicals or preservatives and you can always buy their raw olives and have a go at marinating them yourself. They can be contacted on 0488 227 411.



COME TO THE MARKET!!!

