

# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 15

President: Bill Marsh

12 October 2022

## BILL'S BY-LINE



Friday evening saw nine members and partners head off for our 'First Friday Film Night'. Dinner at Mazaj Restaurant was a great way to start the evening followed by a couple of good films Thanks to Sue for the arrangements.

The weekend saw almost every member involved in our Blackburn Market or the WFM. Both were successful days and the funds raised will enable us to continue to 'make a difference' in our community. As a bonus we get to meet some great people and raise the profile of Rotary and the work we do to help others.

On Monday I attended the launch of the 'Wallet Card' as it begins to be introduced into the ED's across Eastern Health. This simple project has had a great deal of thought put into it and, as a result of COVID, has taken a couple of years to reach this stage. All of

those involved are to be congratulated for their hard work and perseverance as this initiative will truly make a difference to many suffering with mental health issues.

Our guest speaker, Nalini Scarfe, was dynamic and on top of her subject – 'Bird Life and its protection'. Nalini certainly left us all with plenty to think about in how we interact with our feathered friends. (A full report later in the newsletter.)

Our speaker next week will be Michael Johnson – 'Bees in our Backyard'. Michael has been a stall holder at our Blackburn Market for many years and most of us would have enjoyed the product of his labour over the years.

I hope you are all dry and warm as we 'batten down' over the next couple of days. As you sip your coffee and munch on your muffin spare a thought for all of those who have been inundated by floods over the last couple of years and are now facing yet another disastrous deluge. Rotary cannot stop the floods but we can be there to get people back on their feet.

It was great to have Ron and Robbie join us at our meeting. Ron appears to be recovering well from his surgery and Robbie is relishing her role as carer, driver and general 'dog's body'. (Or so Ron tells us!!)

Next Monday is the launch of the Indigenous Garden project at Forest Hill College. This has been a great project that has really captured the attention of the students who have been involved. The resulting 'quiet space' will be a haven for birds & insects as a result of the specialised planting, and the students should enjoy it, also.

Have a great week and 'Make a Difference'.

Bill

**October is  
Economic & Community Development  
Month**

### **MEETING REPORT- 10<sup>th</sup> October**

We had a “full house” with 100% attendance, our speaker Nalini Scarfe plus Robbie accompanied Ron as he is recuperating after his shoulder operation.

Bill showed us the Certificate of Appreciation we received for our help at the recent Historical day at Schwerkolt cottage. He also talked about the launch he and Sue attended of the Mental Health wallet card by Eastern Health. He then thanked all who worked at our two markets on the weekend.

Warwick advised that the WFM was ok with over \$5,000 raised before costs.

Stuart advised of receipt of the trailer registration.

Glenys spoke of the opening of the Indigenous Garden our club helped fund at Forest Hill College 2pm 17 October and includes the bee book launch. A student has been chosen by their peers as the best contributor and will receive a certificate from us. Youth Achievement invites sent to the usual 12 schools.

Sue is still waiting to hear back from Box Hill Institute re Apprentice Awards, and she added that a man she spoke to at the wallet launch who had mental health issues found the wording on the card very comforting.

Ron updated us on upcoming program and that the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday this month will be our usual a la carte in the restaurant.

Bob W advised that one volunteer still needed for RYDA day 25 October (later filled by his mate Hans).

Sergeant Bob gave his sergeant session that raised \$23-05.

Our guest speaker Nalini told us that her wildlife interest started directly after the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and she has been an official Wildlife resource for three years.

Wildlife faces many issues including Trauma, Disease, Orphaning, Human cruelty, and Poisoning. She deals with all forms of wildlife including possums, ducks and birds.

Birds get a lot of diseases and wild weather orphans baby birds by blowing them out of their nest.

She particularly like owls - powerful owls, boobook owls and tawny frogmouth owls.

We were shown many of her “eggscellent” photos and later we had an opportunity to purchase some from her aiding the Boobook Wildlife Centre as they receive little funding and are all volunteers.

If you find a baby bird on the ground first look for its nest if the bird lacks feathers and if feathered call Wildlife Victoria. Approach any bird on the ground from behind and use a towel etc to cover its head, transport preferably in a cardboard box and treat it for shock by keeping it warm and in a dark place. You can take it to a vet without charge or to a wildlife carer.

Do not handle raptors and do not feed wildlife as it can harm them and increase their aggression. Feeding birds can also lead to an imbalance of larger birds at the expense of smaller ones.

If you have a bird feeder, remember to clean it out to prevent disease and also clean any water containers for birds. Plan your garden to include some thick bushy shrubs to protect little bush birds.

A very educational address and we all learned a lot.

Warwick gave a vote of thanks and one of our coffee mugs to Nalini.

Raffle grossed \$51-50 and prizes went to Warwick, Ron, and Stuart.

Bob Williams



(Which members do they remind you of?)



## **NEXT MEETING**

**17<sup>th</sup> October      Michael Johnson – ‘Bees In Our Backyard’**

**Chairperson:**                      Glenys Grant

**Greeter:**                                Bill Marsh

**Notes for “Happenings”**    Stuart Williams

**Thanks**                                    Sue Ballard

**Cashier & Recorder:**            Bob Williams

## COMING UP

17<sup>th</sup> October – Michael Johnson

17<sup>th</sup> October – Indigenous Garden launch at FHC

25<sup>th</sup> October – Dinner celebrating the life of Joseph O'Loughlin at Bucatini

## CELEBRATIONS



### CELEBRATE

### SPRING

(And the fact that you will not need to water the garden this weekend!)



## INTERPLAST PRESENTATION 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

Joady Barnes from RC Doncaster asked me if I would update his club on Interplast and I said that as I had not presented in three years I'll see if Janette Etherington Coordinator Rotary Engagement for Interplast in Australia and New Zealand, can assist. Once Janet said would I like her to make the presentation I of course agreed, and we informed Doncaster that Janet would present, and I would be her cheer squad (without poms poms.)

This Doncaster dinner meeting was at the Doncaster RSL. We commenced with a nice meal prepared on site. A few reports and then Janette commenced and fully informed the club through her wonderful Powerpoint presentation of what Interplast has been doing during the covid period. That has been making many online presentations available mainly for our SE neighbours but even USA made use of them plus online direct support by Oz surgeons to their SE Asia counterparts, assisting with their operations. Also, much medical equipment funded, sourced and sent overseas plus payments for various operations of poor patients in SE Asia. In other words, Interplast has been extremely busy. Now that the world is opening up Interplast will re-commence "normal" procedures with medical staff donating their time to travel and work in SE Asia as before.

Janette was thanked and presented with a cheque for \$2,500 for Interplast.

Doncaster is a friendly and hard-working club assisting the RSL, LAARF singers and a multitude of other organisations. A good visit.

Bob Williams

## SPROUTINGS

October is such a busy month, isn't it? As soon as Spring buds burst into bloom we seem to have more invitations than we can cope with. Here are just a few for you.

### Indigenous garden and bee book launch

The launch of the VCAL students indigenous garden and also their bee book publication is next Monday, October 17, 2pm at Forest Hill College.

It's so exciting – and a relief- that both these projects are finished and ready for use.

A student has been chosen by their peer group as best contributor to the project and at the launch will be presented with a certificate and voucher prize.

If you are interested in attending, please contact [glen.grant008@gmail.com.au](mailto:glen.grant008@gmail.com.au)

**Blackburn Lake Sanctuary** members and friends have already been busy for the past two weekends with working bees, Visitor Centre (VC) openings to the public and children's education activities. So much happening.

Next Saturday, Oct 15, there is another working bee. If you are interested in getting out into the fresh air, forgetting the stress of the week, and helping keep the Sanctuary beautiful, please turn up in appropriate gardening apparel at about 9.15am. You may meet other Rotary friends there! And Lions Club members..

Or on Sunday visit the Sanctuary for a walk around and then have a look inside the Visitor's Centre, which is open from 2-4pm.

As you walk around the Sanctuary you will see so many indigenous and pretty wildflowers which are bird, bee and butterfly attracting. For instance, this Hardenbergia violacea, with its abundance of deep purple flowers, is blooming on the bank opposite the VC front door. It was planted a few years ago by one of our club members and it's quite beautiful.

Thank you, Warwick.



**Aussie Bird Count – October 17-23.** Be a citizen scientist and get children to help raise their awareness of nature (and get them outside!)

To participate spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor spot. Count the birds. Register and submit your results using the app, or web form using the built in "bird identification" tool. Repeat as many times as you wish over the week.

[Aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://Aussiebirdcount.org.au)

**Great Southern BioBlitz – October 28-31** – what, you ask, is a BioBlitz?

Well as explained on the Whitehorse Council website, it is an 'intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area.'

And it's fun! More about this next week.

**Rotary ESRAG Oceania**, invites you to attend their meeting on October 18, 6.30pm AEST and hear more about electric vehicles.

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/esrag-oceania-october-meeting/tickets>



**Rotary**



**ESRAG Oceania**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROTARY ACTION GROUP  
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC ISLANDS

**ESRAG Oceania Meeting Tuesday 18 October at 6.30 AEST UTC+11**

Sarah Moran is Head of Engagement at the Australian Electric Vehicle Council. She is also co founder of the Girl Geek Academy encouraging women into STEM and a member of UNWomen. Sarah is also a member of the ANZ Chapter of Women of EVs.

The Electric Vehicle Council is a representative body made up of participants from across the scope of electric vehicle industries and is leading the push to increase the uptake of electric vehicles in Australia.

Sarah will speak about the current situation with EVs in Australian and NZ. Government support and the forthcoming Australian National Electric Vehicle Strategy which will be going out for consultation in October. <http://www.electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/>



### Bubs in the Bush

Have you noticed how many baby birds and possums are around at present? **So has your cat..** ABC News featured an article about new cat containment rules leading to a boom in demand for outdoor pet enclosures.

Enclosures are a good idea if they are large enough for the cat to climb around and play or relax in the sun and so long as they are sheltered from the rain or heat.

They keep the cats safe from cars – and the wildlife safe from the cats..

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-10/cat-containment-push-drives-demand-for-outdoor-pet-enclosures/101516610>

City of Whitehorse have a lot of requirements for keeping cats. A cat curfew is in place from 8pm - 6am - cats must be confined indoors or in a suitable enclosure.



Cats are also prohibited from the following reserves at all times to ensure wildlife is protected:

Antonio Park, Bellbird Dell, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Campbells Croft, Cootamundra Walk, Joseph Street Reserve, Koonung Creek Parklands, Wandinong Sanctuary and Yarran Dheran.

Cats love to roam, don't they? When we owned a cat it used to disappear right on dusk to avoid being locked inside. It would be much less stressful for all to provide your cat with an enclosure.

And have you seen some of the pet enclosures on offer? Any cat would love the luxury.

The website below explains all the rules. It also gives information on how best to train your cat to accept confinement and how to enrich their environment so they are not bored and adapt well.

What peace of mind it would be to know your cat- the wildlife, and their bubs are all safe.

Read more: <https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working/pets/cats/confining-your-cat-your-property>

That's  
all for  
this week.  
Glenys.



## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

### The *Bee-autiful* Basin Backyard

Nine years ago, Michael asked Meredith for a beehive for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present because he didn't want to keep hand pollinating their trees and plants on their ¼ acre block in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges. Who would have realised that it would lead to a new career and the launch of The Basin Backyard, with over 240 beehives throughout Victoria, 10 regular markets a month, and a shop in Knoxfield (Unit 1, 31 Rusdale St).

Michael & Meredith told me “at the Basin Backyard, we sell pure raw honey & bees wax and related products e.g. lollies containing our honey (eg. honey & eucalyptus drops, nougat & peanut brittle). As well as our beeswax which we make into candles & food wraps. We are the beekeepers so we are hands-on for the whole process, from looking after our *bee-autiful* bees, harvesting the honey & jarring the honey and collecting the wax which is in our products. We are located in The Basin and we have 240+ beehives throughout Victoria. Whilst we have 5 hives on our property, the majority of them are local in the Dandenong ranges and we also have them on properties in NW Victoria, the Mornington peninsula, Gippsland and various other locations in Victoria where our bees can collect different varieties of flora for our different tasting honeys. Come and have a chat to us about our bees, our honey, our wax, our lollies & the value of bees in our environment.”

They will organise bee swarm collection, they have bee keeping supplies. Usefully, you can pay by card.

[www.tbbyard.com.au](http://www.tbbyard.com.au) 0419 607 807

[www.facebook.com/Thebasin1backyard/](https://www.facebook.com/Thebasin1backyard/)

[instagram.com/tbbyard/](https://www.instagram.com/tbbyard/)



## SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come to the Market next month- November 12th



**Luton Lane Wine-Eat-Meet Network Evening**  
**Thursday October 13th**



Join WoW for a fabulous evening of networking on Thursday October 13th at [Luton Lane Wine Bar](#) in Hawthorn. Owner Rebecca, also recently joined us a WoW Business Member. We welcome both Members and Non-Members to our Events, however our Members receive discounted prices to all Events.

**Tickets must be booked before Monday October 10th.**

Luton Lane is a hidden gem and has been inspired by bringing the inner city vibe to Hawthorn! Serving Canapes & Cocktail style food. Think yummy Arancini Balls, Haloumi Sliders, Chicken Skewers, Sausage Rolls, Beef Crostini & Calamari. Specialty & locally sourced wines, and cocktails from the classics to the experimental. With a great vibe and ambience that complements the fabulous food and wine!

Includes:

- Food (including gluten free, Vegan & Vegetarian)
- Drink on arrival (Wine/Champers/Aperol Spritz/Soft Drink)
- Networking

\*Purchase extra drinks at bar prices.\*

Please note that this is not an exclusive WoW Event, we will be sharing the Venue space but will have our own area with some seating available.

[Book Here](#)

**Casual Networking Lunch for Business and Social Women Friday October 28th**



As much as we all enjoy a long leisurely lunch, life can get pretty busy, so let's go Express Friday October 28th.

Lunch includes sharing plates and tapas with dishes such as Popcorn Chicken, Spiced Hummas, Pickled Mushroom Bruschetta and a Brewers Board! At least 3 or 4 of the five dishes are gluten free and vegetarian. A glass of wine/beer/soft drink or tea/coffee is also included.

Book on your own or bring a girlfriend or colleague. Meet other like-minded women, whether you're a business woman wanting to network with other business women, or a woman just looking to make some new social connections, we've got you covered!

**\*\* There are only 3 spots left to our Lunch, so don't delay booking \*\* If you try to book after this please add your name to the wait list. \*\***

Free Parking at Eastland for up to 3 hrs and our Venue is the fabulous [Suburban Rooftop + Dining](#) in Ringwood.

\* Purchase extra drinks at bar prices.\*

Book Here



## WoW Business and Social Network

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Australia

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