

# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 17

President: John Bindon

27 October 2021

## MOVING FORWARD



It is great news that Bill Marsh has agreed to be the Club's President for the 2022 – 2023 Rotary year. Bill brings with him a great deal of experience and an incredibly good history to be President of our club.

Finally, for those that are double vaccinated, there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

After months of stay-at-home orders and progressively stricter rules around social movements, Victoria has announced a lifting of this lockdown for vaccinated people who can begin to enjoy a free life.

However, I certainly would not refer to last Friday as 'Freedom Day' because there are a few more changes to be implemented on Friday, 5th. November which will give us more freedom.

Then we can begin the process of rebuilding our club by seeking new members and exploring ways we can further support our community.

With Rotary we are part of a bigger family, and below are our neighbours.

Enjoy Rotary.  
John Bindon.

## Rotary International Zone 8



**D9810** is in Rotary **Zone 8** which houses some 30,000 Rotarians in over 1,300 clubs in 25 Districts in 16 different countries. There are 34 Rotary Zones in the world and Zone 8 contains the second largest number of different countries.

## MEETING REPORT

We had our usual 10 members in attendance plus guest speakers, Sharon and Pete Crean to address us on their charitable organisation, "Beyond Water."

Beyond Water is based in Kenya, East Africa and raise funds to build wells, toilets, provide sanitary training for East Africans in need and more.

4,500 children die daily from water-borne illnesses. The boring for water, building wells and water tanks mainly for schools and hospitals is usually with a representative on site then toilets are built of solid construction. They work with school children to teach them how to wash their hands and the students are rewarded with a pair of pink underpants.

Some statistics are that in Kenya alone 2.2 million girls in Kenya do not have access to sanitary pads so another part of their work is raising funds to provide these via their "Girl Project" run by local women who also raise funds to purchase food for families so they are able to assist a wide range of East Africans.

Rotary in Australia and New Zealand are great supporters with donations and access to Grants as every \$1 raised creates \$4 of assistance in Africa. Education for girls is vital as educated girls usually earn 20% more and have their babies at a later age.

We have been asked to assist with donations or to sponsor a child.

Chair Ron took questions and Stuart gave our vote of thanks.

Our club meeting then commenced with Pres John proposing our usual two toasts and spoke of us being able to re-start our Blackburn market and calling for volunteers. World Polio Day was 24 October and our club has given good support to this cause over many years.

Sec. Stuart advised that our trailer rego is due and Box Hill High has contacted us with the names of three students for GD scholarships. With Bucatini now able to open further from this Friday we have 16 booked in for our a la carte return meal 8 November.

Treasurer Warwick will arrange payment of trailer rego.

Bob L wrote a piece on World Polio Day and our recent donation for the last Newsletter and as we want to further assist Hope Katolo he will check if it is worthwhile to seek a District Grant.

Barb Searle advised John that the apprenticeship awards will take place 12 November at Fountains Restaurant with John and Barb to be invited plus we hope if anyone from the Davis family is interested.

John informed us that Scope are aware that we will fund the disability ramp they sought. Also, Raeoni Turner at Nadrasca will put in a request for funding for their farm and told John that she is retiring at the end of the week.

Glenys advised that Thomas White is confirmed as our RYLA candidate. As usual she has been busy with Environment matters attending meetings and activities on the club's behalf.

Markets and John Mc has approached Blackburn South scouts to see if they may want to take over our sausage sizzle.

Warwick needs more volunteers for the last shift at our egg and bacon commitment at the next WFM.

Ron advised of no meeting 1 November, the a la carte dinner 8 November, Selva will address us on Auscare at Bucatini on 15 November and 22 November is a zoom meeting, hopefully at Bucatini with Kerry Anderson on Rural Entrepreneurialship. The Moran's delivered a bag of foreign coins on behalf of their clubs.

Bill will check on availability of movies and of Peridot and advised that the Board approved a progressive GD grant to Hope Katolo for a multi-purpose room and maybe more solar panels and water tanks.

Bob Williams

**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.**

Scan Me!



**October is Economic & Community Development 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**

1<sup>st</sup> November – No Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> November – Club Dinner Meeting at Bucatini

## **COMING UP**

15<sup>th</sup> November - Selba-Gondoza Luka – 'Afri-Auscare

22<sup>nd</sup> November - Author – Kerry Anderson (Zoom Presentation)- 'Rural Entrepreneurship'

## **CELEBRATIONS**



***Congratulations to Bob W. as he celebrates his birthday on the 28<sup>th</sup> and to John & Marg McP as they celebrate their wedding anniversary on the 31<sup>st</sup>.***

***Relax and enjoy as we begin to move towards a more normal lifestyle after months (years) of restrictions.***



## INTERPLAST UPDATE

Janette Etherington our 9810 chair hosted representatives from Australian and New Zealand clubs with Interplast CEO Cameron Glover the speaker. Janette and Harvey Lane, both from Nunawading club plus PDG David Tolstrup from 9810 attended.

Cameron told us that slowly the world is opening up after covid with Fiji now re-opening to the world to be followed by the rest of SE Asia. Many issues with one being that Australia and New Zealand authorities are reluctant to allow their medicos to travel overseas plus some other of our volunteers unwilling to travel with annual leave being cancelled in many cases. There is a world-wide shortage of supplies and even planes. In the past our equipment has been flown for free or at cut rates, but this has ceased as airlines try to cover costs so a probable 40% increase in costs.

Interplast trained a Fiji surgeon who is that country's Chief Health officer so he has been a good "sounding board" for their situation. Asia is still considered unsafe to visit.

In the past 12 months Interplast has worked online in 17 countries providing 90,000 hours of online support. Interplast is now partnering Harvard University and the Burnett Institute re how best to open up. Current work being done with Interplast Holland and Interplast USA sharing ideas and materials.

Many countries such as Nepal have in the past year received our funding for life changing surgery as the country may have Interplast trained surgeons but no funds for operational costs.

Many streamed training modules produced by Interplast and even the Australian College of Surgeons use them.

Interplast is researching past cases particularly in Mongolia, Nepal and Vanuatu to ascertain how their patients are now after life changing surgery and Cameron told us of a heart-warming case of a three-year-old girl in Nepal who would have died without Interplast's surgery and now as a 16-year-old leads a normal life.

Cameron concluded with advising us that through Janette he will send out a digital resource guide to all of us to assist with our talks at other clubs.

Bob Williams - District Interplast committee member

## SPROUTINGS

Well, what an exciting weekend! For those interested in the environment there was so much to participate in.

The **Aussie Backyard Bird Count** was held October 18-24.

In 20 minute timeslots, local birds were counted to give scientists valuable data. This is collected to assist Birdlife Australia in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.



The birds above were photographed in, and are regularly seen in, our garden. They are not nervous and seem to turn up when the Lake becomes too busy for them. Or maybe some are nesting near us.

The Blackburn Lake Sanctuary **Spring Bird Survey** (GS BioBlitz) was also held on Saturday. Here are the results as collated by, and with thanks to, Su Dempsey. *NB This is a precis of the original compilation of data.*

Some birds normally seen were missing and numbers were down a little but this may be due to the increased number of visitors in the area. Let me know if you live around here, and regularly see birds other than these.

Survey Saturday October 23, Weather: 12°C, 12mm rain. **No. of species 31**

**Large numbers:** Australian Magpies, Little Ravens, Noisy Miners, Red Wattlebirds, Rainbow Lorikeets, Spotted Pardalotes, Brown Thornbills, White Browed Scrub Wrens, Superb Fairy-Wrens.

**Also seen:** Grey Butcherbirds, Pied Currawongs, Kookaburras, King Parrots, Eastern Rosellas, Gang Gang Cockatoos, Little Corellas, Pacific Black Ducks, Eurasian Coots, Chestnut Teals, White Ibis, Australian Wood Duck, Sulfur-crested Cockatoos, Dusty Moorhens, Musk Lorikeets, Crested pigeons, Eastern Spinebills, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Grey Fantails, Magpie Larks, Tawny Frogmouths. There were also Spotted Doves - an introduced species.

**The Great Southern BioBlitz** (GSB) was also held October 22-25. Information from the organising team included the following:

*Citizen Scientists from Australia and 13 other countries are participating in the largest scale biodiversity survey in the southern hemisphere. Last year 3131 took part to 'do their bit'.*

*This is an annual opportunity to be involved in a large, global biodiversity survey.*

*Flowers, insects and birds are observed and using the iNaturalist platform, photographed, identified and documented. Information collected is used as a data point for that species, existing in that place, at that time. A valuable piece of scientific data which can be accessed for all sorts of important biological research.*

On Sunday the **Great Southern Bio Blitz wildflower walk** occurred at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary. Thousands were involved at other sites around the country.

We were led by a wildflower expert who armed us all with a list of what to see.

The group of us, with phones or cameras, walked around together for a couple of hours. It was beautiful in the bush with all the Spring wildflowers blooming. We managed about 38 different observations.

It was interesting to then come home, crop the photos, identify them and document the name while uploading them to INaturalist.

It's so easy with the INaturalist App. It is simple to use and so helpful. If you don't know the name you just ask the App for help. It gives you three alternatives. You can select one, or check them out on Google – then pick the correct ID, name your observation and share. On iNaturalist others comment on your observations for its research rating.

The weekend was really exhilarating and exhausting (in a good way). So enjoyable to get out there at last.

We were all socially isolating, all masked, all double vax. So as safe as one can be these days. There are many active environment groups around here and it's wonderful to see Rotarians enthusiastically participating.

There was a different type of walk Sunday night, spotlighting the night feeders. On Monday there was another wildflower walk- but after the lockdown and less activity my feet and back were really sore and aching after two days - so enough for me.

Here are some of the wildflowers you can expect to find – maybe take a walk there- it's worth it.



Last week I promised you information about a draft proposal about Carbon Neutral Bunnings Sausage Sizzles. Here it is.

**ESRAG**, (the Environment & Sustainability Rotary Action Group) held its October Chapter Meeting recently and I reported on that last week. In the breakout sessions all sorts of interesting discussions occurred. Some points, below, followed a discussion about becoming a Carbon Neutral Rotary Club, which I'm sure we all aspire to.

There is not enough room here to report the whole proposal, but I have it on file if required. It is a really interesting idea.

*Thank you to Ian Dempsey, Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell, Rotarians for Bees and ESRAG Oceania membership team, for this information, which is currently in draft form.*

### **Carbon Neutral Bunnings Sausage Sizzles – Draft proposal**

'in summary, the proposal would work on several levels. This is the initial stage.

To become carbon neutral, clubs need to first calculate the amount of carbon generated at events. The Club Carbon Calculator can be used for this. The basic activities are: preparation, travel to the event and carbon produced there.

Bunnings BBQs are run to a strict formula. The calculation for one BBQ would produce a simple template for all of them. Clubs could use the average figure or make some simple changes.

- Distance travelled during preparation. Calculate average for each event.
- Distance travelled by the Rotarians running the BBQ. We know there will be at least five workers. if it is run as three shifts (5x3)= 15 workers by the average distance travelled.
- The fuel used by the BBQ; this should be fairly constant.
- The energy / sausage sold – sausage, bread, sauce and serviette.
- Drinks sold and average sales

Calculate carbon footprint using the Club Carbon Calculator.

With this as a formula, it would then be easy to calculate other events.'

***More next week, keep safe and well, Glenys***



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

### EARTHFIVE LEATHERWORKS

The **Earthfive** leatherworks stall is operated by Peter Davies who has been a leatherworker since 1969, with a few years in between as a graphic designer.

Peter was telling me, between making made to measure belts for three different customers, that he started his leather journey when he made himself a bag from a goatskin in Kabul in 1969. He was travelling overland from the UK to Australia and wanted to replace the shoulder bag he had. So, he made one! He then made a few more for friends. When he arrived back in Melbourne an old friend heard about his bag making in Kabul and handed him a couple of hides he no longer needed and suddenly this became EARTH Leatherworks in Glenferrie road, Earth II in London when he started travelling again and Earth Three in New York when he moved there. Returning to Australia he had a big workshop employing 10 staff. Now he is on **Earthfive**.

He has been coming to our Blackburn market for more than 4 years. Peter makes shoes, sandals, handbags, purses, wallets, wrist warmers, glasses cases, three legged stools, you name it. He has made leather thigh length boots and helmets for films and the theatre. He will quote on any repairs. He takes credit cards and you can use PayPal. Come and see him at the Blackburn Market or Cockatoo, Mulgrave, or Belgrave markets.

Contact him via his website [www.earthfive.com.au](http://www.earthfive.com.au) by email [peter@earthfive.com.au](mailto:peter@earthfive.com.au) or 0425 713 889



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET!!!

