

FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 19

President: Bill Marsh

9 November 2022

BILL'S BY-LINE



Our guest speaker this week was Mariah Kirsopp who is the 2022 winner of the Deakin Award for Community Service. The award is made possible by the combined Rotary Clubs and Rotoract in Whitehorse. Mariah was a most impressive young person who is making a serious contribution to her community in a number of areas. (A full report later in the newsletter.)

A discussion was held on a request from Rotoract for assistance in sending some of their members to the District Conference in Canberra. It was felt that this request was too general in nature and no financial assistance would be offered by the club at this stage.

Two of our members, Bob W and Sue, helped RC Nunawading at their recent Bunnings BBQ and as a result RC Nunawading has paid our club \$140 from their profit for the day. Our Thanks go to all concerned in making it a successful day.

RC Nunawading is holding a Christmas dinner at the Kilsyth Club on 9th December. Cost is \$60. Members who would like to attend can contact Sue or Russell Warmington.

On Friday 10 members & friends are going to see 'Curtains Up' at the Peridot Theatre. Always a good night.

Last Friday 13 members and friends had dinner at Marzaj restaurant and then went on to see 'Mrs Harris Goes to Paris'. A most enjoyable evening. Thanks to Sue for arranging both events.

This weekend we have our Blackburn Market on Saturday and the WFM on Sunday. Let's hope for fine days as the weather makes such a difference to the success of the markets.

Scholarships at Box Hill High School and Forest Hill College are in place for this year. Seems no time at all since the last presentations. On the 16th November we will be guests at the Apprentice Awards held by Box Hill Institute. Our involvement in these three events, that make such a difference, is made possible by the support given to the club by the Harper Bequest and the Gysi-Davis family.

Enjoy your week in Rotary.

Bill

*November is
Rotary Foundation
Month*

MEETING REPORT

Meeting opened at 7pm on Zoom with members Pres Bill, Warwick, Stuart, John Mc, Sue, Bob W, and Ron joined by Richard Groom (MASH), and guest speaker Mariah Kirsopp.

Mariah is now in the second year of a Psychology degree but prior to that she had spent two years doing vet nursing. As background, she also told us of her love of gardening and her two dogs. She had an excellent well-prepared set of visuals to explain why she won the Deakin University Whitehorse Rotary Centenary Award. And what an amazing volunteer this young lady was..... we wondered when she had time to study. Her volunteering matched her experience with animals and love of gardening perfectly. The following lists some of the things she has channeled her enthusiasm into.

Pets in the Park, a veterinarian charity runs a once per month free service providing vet care, grooming vouchers, pet food and on the spot treatment. Pets of the Homeless (POTH) helps keep friends together by providing foster care for animals when a homeless person gets a bed for the night but cannot take their pet with them. POTH also ran a Dog Show in which she helped raise \$3,000 to fund their activities. POTH also run a Saturday Food Bank operated by volunteers which divides and donates pet food into 1kg bags. They have provided over 1 million so far. It is run through Meals for Mutts that accept both financial and food donations. She volunteers for the RSPCA Million Paws Walk.



Burenbrug Frog Hollow

A member of Landcare's property has a old sand scar which was used for mining sand a long time ago. The owner of the property wanted to turn it into a area for native flora and fauna.

They privately hired a excavator to shape the mine into 5 levelled ponds. The excavator contractor also put logs from dead trees which had died during the previous bush fire around the ponds edges for frogs and other animals to hide in. They also privately hired a fencing contractor to fence the area off from their cattle.

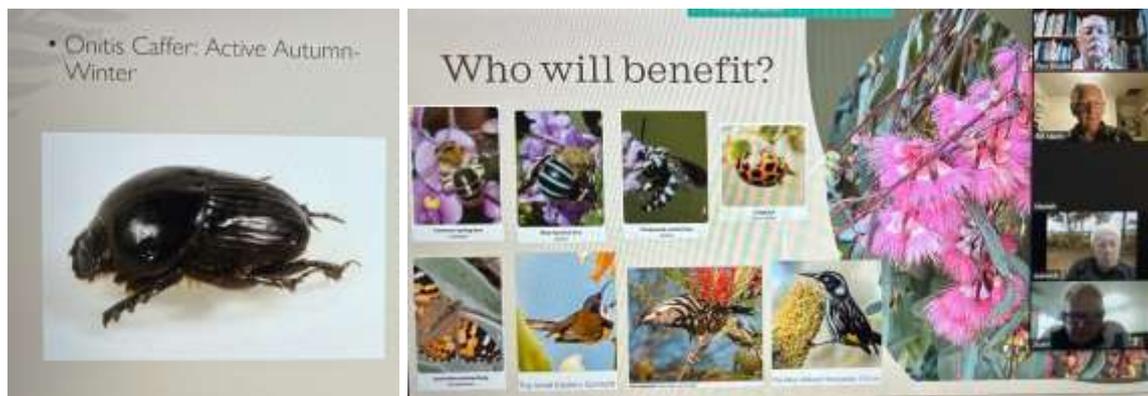
22 Staff from Burenbrug Seeds (Formerly Heritage Seeds) and members of Landcare volunteered their time to help plant out the ponds with indigenous aquatic plants and land plants.

The ponds were planted with Scented paperbark, Prickly tea tree, Woolly tea tree, Swamp paperbark, Burgan, Black Sheoak, Prickly moses, Spreading wattle, Native rushes and sedges, as well as other aquatic plants. Over 1700 plants were planted in this area in one day.

Hopefully once the plants take off it will attract native waterbirds, frogs and other aquatic wildlife.

Mariah's second love is Gardening. She has helped with the Bunyip North Garfield Replanting related to bushfire recovery when she helped clean up all the wire etc left behind to enable others to get in with machinery that would get tangled in that debris. She has helped with the Endangered Butterfly Orchid and planted out thousands of trees in Burenbrug Frog Hollow and 2,600 trees with the Bunyip Landcare Group. She has raised over 15,000 plants from seed for Landcare. Also she has worked in the Dung Beetle Breeding programme. We found out there were four different types which breed at different times of the year. Her favourite was the horned one that breeds in winter. Her next project in 2023 is to work in the Pollinator corridor of the Bunyip State Park.

Mariah's favourite beetle and the Pollinator Corridor benefactors



During question time she was asked how she got involved and we heard that Mariah's friend persuaded Mariah to join her in volunteering then did not turn up so she was the "last one standing". Vote of thanks was given by Sue who was one of the three Whitehorse Centenary club presidents that chose Mariah as the award winner. Mariah has set a very high standard of Volunteerism. Four of the Whitehorse clubs put in \$300 each to fund the award.

After Mariah and Richard left us, we discussed club business.

1. Rotaract asked our club along with others if we would help fund their members to go to our conference. We decided that just tipping money into some general fund to help their members attend was not the best use of charity money.
2. Bob W and Sue helped on the Nunawading RC BBQ at Bunnings. We were given \$140 by them for our efforts.
3. Nunawading RC are holding a Christmas dinner on 9th Dec \$60 pp at the Kilsyth Club. If any members would like to attend then contact their club.
4. Warwick has the three volunteers he needs for this weeks WFM. He will need a major turnout in January as we are manning the Egg & Bacon stall. There will be no Blackburn Craft market the previous day.
5. Bob W is an apology for 21st Nov
6. We have 10 tickets and 10 attendees for Peridot on 11th Nov. If others want tickets contact Sue.
7. The Box Hill Institute dinner will be attended by three members from our club. Bill suggested the Davis "boys" should be invited.
8. Loud Shirt Day is (belatedly) being held by our club on 14th Nov, our first opportunity after the actual day of Fri 21st Oct. We did decide to donate to Next Sense who help give deaf children sound and speech.
9. We will have a second guest speaker on 21st Nov as District want to update us on the D9810 conference.

Ron Brooks (meeting recorder)

NEXT MEETING

14 November – Larissa Reinboth – Children First Foundation

Chairperson:	John Bindon
Greeter:	Barbara Searle
Notes for "Happenings"	Bob Williams
Thanks	Ron Brooks
Cashier & Recorder:	Bob Williams (Bill to count Sergeant's bounty,)

COMING UP

12 November

Blackburn Craft Market

13 November

Whitehorse Farmers' Market

21 November – Rhonda McKenzie – Cambodian Project

Also Emma Clark (RC Emerald) – District Conference 2023

Chairperson: Ron Brooks

Greeter: Bob Laslett

Notes for “Happenings” Glenys Grant

Thanks Stuart Williams

Cashier & Recorder: Bob Williams

CELEBRATIONS



How about a big celebration of
the achievements of the
ROTARY
FOUNDATION!!



Listen out for the Skidaddle Jazz Band when
you come to the market.

SPROUTINGS

Environment and sustainability involvement is becoming such an important area in community work, isn't it?

I just received an invite from Whitehorse Council to join with other environment education volunteers to visit the Western Treatment Plant and Conservation Wetlands on Monday December 5, International Volunteer's Day.

The idea is to learn about sustainable sewage treatment, resource recovery and the environmental importance of this site. Following a tour of the sewage treatment plant, we will visit the Ramsar site, do a bit of birdwatching and learn how the site is managed.

This tour will provide training in the areas of sustainability, biodiversity, water and earth's other resources – topics that are preferred by most schools and community groups that book our programs.

I'm sure it will be a very enjoyable and informative day.

Climate and Peace Forum

November 8th
6.00 PM AEST UTC +11

Rethinking Waste

The pursuit of positive change - considering waste as a new resource

Speakers:

 <p>Professor Veena Sahajwalla Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate, Director SMaRT@UNSW and internationally recognised materials scientist, engineer and inventor revolutionising recycling science and generating new 'green materials'.</p>	 <p>Alexis Bowen Founder of The Bin Chicken Australia and NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year 2022. The Bin Chicken is a waste repurposing operation, selling products made from recycled or plant based materials.</p>	 <p>Phil Senn Woolworths' Senior Manager - Climate Change. A Chartered Engineer and represents the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) as Aust/NZ Vice Chair.</p>
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→ Date: **November 8th** | 6:00 PM AEST UTC +11
Presented by the **Rotary Clubs of Sydney**.

We are talking about waste this week – and that leads me into the 10th Climate and Peace webinar that was held tonight.

Climate and Peace forums are run by the Rotary Clubs of Sydney.

I think both President Bill and I have mentioned this forum to you in recent weeks. I hope you had time to attend, but in case you didn't here is some information.

This forum explored quite a new concept on waste. It was exciting to find out what these three environmentalists and their teams are accomplishing and planning for the future.

Phil Senn, Woolworths Senior Manager- Climate Change, spoke about the initiatives Woolworths is taking and its Sustainability Plan - 2025.

Phil is a passionate sustainability professional who also volunteers on the Green Building Council of Australia.

He discussed Woolworths environment and sustainability ideas, progress, challenges and opportunities along with the Australian waste context and their organisation's development of a circular economy which they hope will cut their landfill by 50pc by 2025.

Phil says Woolworths:

- recycle 225,000 tonnes of cardboard each year- almost one fifth of the Australian market.
- Has 1,200 battery and mobile phone collection points. This represents a third of the battery collection points in Australia, collecting 50 tonnes of batteries per month.
- Are working with Pact Group toward using 18,000 tonnes of recycled plastic in Woolworths own brand packaging each year. Phil aims for 100pc packaging sustainability.

- Are trialling innovative solutions to process food waste for their stores. They also give food waste to food rescue organisations to help alleviate food anxieties in those in need.
- Their goal is to reduce emissions by two thirds by 2030.

Alexis Bowen, founder and director of The Bin Chicken, Australia and 2022 NSW Environmental Citizen of the Year, spoke next. She created The Bin Chicken in 2020. It's a local business committed to reducing the amount of Campbelltown's recyclable material entering landfill by improving the ease of recycling and investing profits into the local community.



It began when she and her children started to pick up litter on their walks. Over five weeks they collected 5,000 single use drink containers and this began the recycling program.

The Bin Chicken has motivated its local community to recycle their drink containers to numerous community collection points in sporting clubs and children's centres.

Once a month these are collected, sold and 15pc of the refund is returned to those community points to fund their projects.



The rest of the funds are used to run the Community Pantry and Recycling Hub which is free and open for those in need in the community to access at all times.

Alexis has a written step-by-step plan for how Rotary clubs can band together and take on this Project. Her website also gives information on many of the products made from recycled or plant based materials. www.thebinchicken.au

Laureate Professor Veena Sahajwalla, University of NSW was our third inspiring speaker.

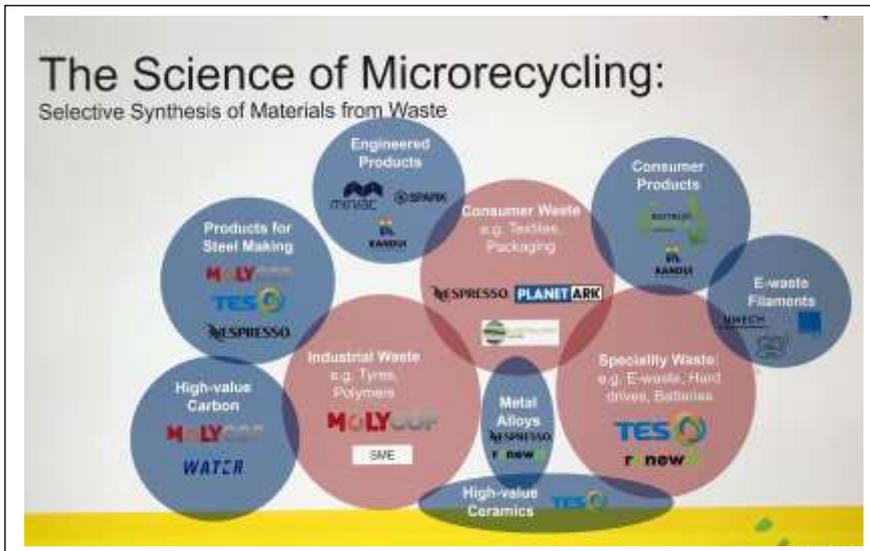
Veena is Director, Centre for Sustainable Materials Research & Technology; Director, ARC Microrecycling Research Hub; and Hub Leader, Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub, National Environmental Science Program.

Her research focus is entitled 'Cutting Edge Sustainable Materials and Processes with an emphasis on Environmental, Social & Economic benefits'.

She says "Taking waste and harvesting high value products from it which then perform to a quality standard is what we should be aiming for."

For instance, there is so much E waste. The target is to convert this to metal-alloys which give a better quality metal than the original.

Batteries and plastics are the same – all can be recycled to produce products which are competitive in every way while also being better for our planet. She showed examples of successful products that have retained their quality and are competitive.



So re-imagine, redesign and regenerate waste, is her advice.

This webinar was recorded and details for access will appear on the Climate and Peace website soon.

We are in for exciting times ahead. [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 by email peter@earthfive.com.au or 0425 713 889



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come to the Market this month- November 12th