

# FOREST HILL FLYER 2010-2011

## Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill

PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131

Edition 29: 10 January, 2011

The Rotary Club of Forest Hill meets at 6.15 pm for 6.30 pm on Mondays at Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132. \$27.00 per head

### CLUB PROGRAM

<u>10 January</u>	<u>17 January</u>	<u>24 January</u>
<b>BBQ at Bremner's</b> <b>6.30pm, see below for details</b>	<b>A blow away the cobwebs Quiz</b> <b>Bob Williams and Stan Harper</b> <b>Chair:</b> John McPhee <b>Thanks and meeting report:</b> Ron Brooks <b>Most interesting Christmas I have had</b> John Donaghey	<b>TBA</b>  <b>Chair:</b> David Bremner <b>Thanks and meeting report:</b>  <b>Most interesting Christmas I have had</b>

### DUTY ROSTER

	<u>January</u>
Cashier	Stuart Williams
Recorder	Bob Laslett
Greeter	Bob Williams
Emergency	Glenys Grant

### ATTENDANCE

Apologies - **Please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY on 9878 4891 or [rcssmith@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rcssmith@optusnet.com.au).** Any cancellation after 10.00 am should be made direct with the management of Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268

### CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS WEEK



- 8 January Wedding Anniversary Bob and Judy Laslett
- 8 January Wedding Anniversary Bill and Judy Marsh

## First Meeting in the New Year BBQ 2011

**The first meeting in the New Year will be on Monday 10 January and will be a BBQ at the Bremner's, 19 Justina Close, Vermont South commencing at 6.30 pm. Please bring meat and drink. Please contact Heather to work out arrangements for salads and desserts. Tea and coffee provided.**

### DAVID'S DIARY



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are now raring to go with the second half of the Rotary year.

The Christmas Breakfast was a wonderful meeting made even better by the presence of our guests, honorary members and partners.

Rev Dr John Smith of God's Squad fame gave an excellent address and his story about the challenges of his life served as a lesson to us all on the value of faith, hope and love in our lives. It was also a privilege to have

John's wife, Glenna, with us.

The Christmas meeting was also an opportunity for the club to thank some people who have greatly assisted us this year - Diana Willshire from Box Hill High School who helped with the Ford Davis Endeavour Award Scholarships and Peter Grierson and Lawrie Findlay from the Bendigo Bank who have helped with our new banking arrangements and are interested in our community service program.

At the meeting, it was also a pleasure, on behalf of the club, to present a Sapphire to Stuart Williams to go with his Paul Harris Fellow Award. Whether it's a club project or working on a District Committee, Stuart always displays enthusiasm and a dedication to the ideals of Rotary International. Well done, Stuart.

Thanks to Bob Laslett for chairing the meeting, Stan Harper for opening the meeting with his words of wisdom and Heather for the Christmas table decorations.

Thanks also for the generosity shown by members and guests. The collection of food for the UnitingCare East Burwood Centre and Box Hill Citizen's Advice Bureau will be greatly appreciated as they assist needy people in the Whitehorse community. Bob delivered the food to the charities. The Sergeant's bowl raised \$140 which will also be shared between the two charities - thank you for your generosity.

After the meeting, I thanked the staff of Bucatini for the very enjoyable breakfast.

You will recall that we agreed to donate \$1,000 in order to provide tools for a village we will adopt in the Solomon Islands. The tools will be used by the villagers to eradicate mosquito breeding areas. The *Adopt a Village* project is conducted by Rotarians Against Malaria and I received the following message from its chair:

President David

May I add my grateful thanks to you, your Board and members of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for this wonderful donation. Be assured it will make a difference.

Best wishes for the Festive Season to all at your Club.

Thanks again.

Yours in Rotary

Ian Sayers, Governor 2002/2003, RI District 9710

Chair, National Rotarians Against Malaria Committee

Members will recall that our agreement with Bucatini on the cost of our meals expired at 31 December 2010. I have spoken to the owner, Ivan Millich, about the meal price for 2011 and he decided to leave the meal price unchanged. Ivan said the restaurant is trading very well and he is very pleased with how things are going. He mentioned that he particularly appreciates the way some of our members have dined at the restaurant with their partners and friends. He very much appreciates that we are supporting him.

It was our turn to receive a Christmas Gift when we were presented with a new six-burner gas barbecue by Gary Baltissen and Shane Keating, Eastern Victoria Sales Manager for Elgas. I have written to Shane and Elgas to thank them for their generous gift. We also thank Rotarian Gary Baltissen for organising the gift. The barbecue will

replace our twelve year old unit which has served us well but is almost at the end of its life.

Best wishes to you and your families for the week ahead as we continue building communities and bridging continents.

**David**

David Bremner  
President

**Note from the Editor**

**This is a bumper issue, but I know that many of you are on holidays so there is plenty of time to become entertained and informed.**

**Happy New Year - Stuart**

**NOTICES**

**Update on QLD floods from District Governor David Alexander**

I have been in touch with my counterpart Governors in flood affected Districts 9570 and 9630 and they advise it will be some time before recovery efforts can begin. Therefore, we do not need to panic about providing money or other items. Unlike the bushfires, floods are slower moving and lives are not at immediate risk (if people follow evacuation advice). Rotary is there for the long haul in rebuilding communities; - but should the need for more immediate aid such as ShelterBoxes emerge, I will advise you immediately.

However, in the longer term there will be many groups such as kindergartens, community groups and sporting clubs set up without government support that will need assistance. Many individuals who have built in flood prone areas will be doing it hard as they are unlikely to receive insurance payouts. So Rotary will have a major task ahead to work out the criteria for determining who is eligible for assistance (as we faced with our bush fires).

If you have members that would like to donate funds, D9810 has set up **D9810 Queensland Flood Relief Appeal**, so cheques written with this endorsement will be consolidated and sent to both of the Districts, who we understand will set up a multi-District committee to oversee disbursement (as we did for the bushfires).

Please don't hesitate to call me if you need further information. I have offered the affected Districts any form of assistance they care to name and we have their understanding that when the type of support required becomes clearer, they will advise us further.

Thank you for your interest and I know as Rotarians, we are all keen to do what we can when we see our fellow country men and women impacted by natural disasters of this magnitude.

Kind regards

David

**District 9810 Conference, Adelaide 7-9 April 2011**

Preparations for the next District Conference in Adelaide from 7 to 9 April 2011 are well underway. The theme for the Conference is "Leadership in Challenging Times" and a comprehensive program is being put together to expand on this theme.

Another exciting change will be the inclusion of a "Global Village" where clubs and interested parties can display details of their projects and community involvement in an interactive environment.

The Gala dinner will be the finale on the Saturday evening and the theme of a "Garden

Party" will give everyone an opportunity to dress up and enjoy the evening.

The Conference promises to be a great experience. Our On-to-Conference Chair is David Bremner. Please see David for more details, and to register your interest.

**\*\* PLAN AHEAD \*\***

*Mock Interviews at Forest Hill Secondary College*

*Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

*Please keep the evening free to help as an interviewer*

Our attendance for the last six months has been

July 89.7

Aug 88.0

Sept 91.2

Oct 90.5

Nov 95.6

Dec 88.0

Six month average 90.5%

### **Welcoming women into Rotary**

Increasing diversity in membership helps Rotary stay vital and better reflects the global business community.

Women have made great strides in Rotary in recent years. The number of female Rotarians has almost doubled from 2001 to 2010. Female club members have risen to the ranks of RI director and Rotary Foundation trustee.

Still, women make up only slightly more than 16% of all Rotarians.

Bringing more women into Rotary is an effective and simple way for clubs to better reflect the community. It also helps keep clubs dynamic, says Rotary Coordinator Nancy Gilbert, of the Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park, Ontario, Canada.

Gilbert and other Rotarians working on increasing membership offer these tips for involving women:

- Create a culture of inclusion. "Make women feel welcome," Gilbert says. Ask female club members to talk with prospective female members. Let women know that their help in community projects is appreciated.
- Invite women to your club. In one year, the female membership of the Rotary Club of Greenville, South Carolina, USA, increased from 12% to almost 20%. The club started by inviting 200 women to a special breakfast. Club leaders then asked the attendees to come back for a club meeting. This follow-up was critical, says club member Judith Prince.
- Consider less formal meetings. To emphasize equality among members, don't have a head table at meetings, says Chris Eales of the newly chartered Rotary Club of Crawley, Western Australia, Australia. Stress flexibility, interesting speakers and community projects, he says. In the club's first 10 months, membership grew from 12 to 96 with an almost even gender balance and an average age of 45.

Rotary Leader, January 2011

### Square Eyed Stu at the Movies

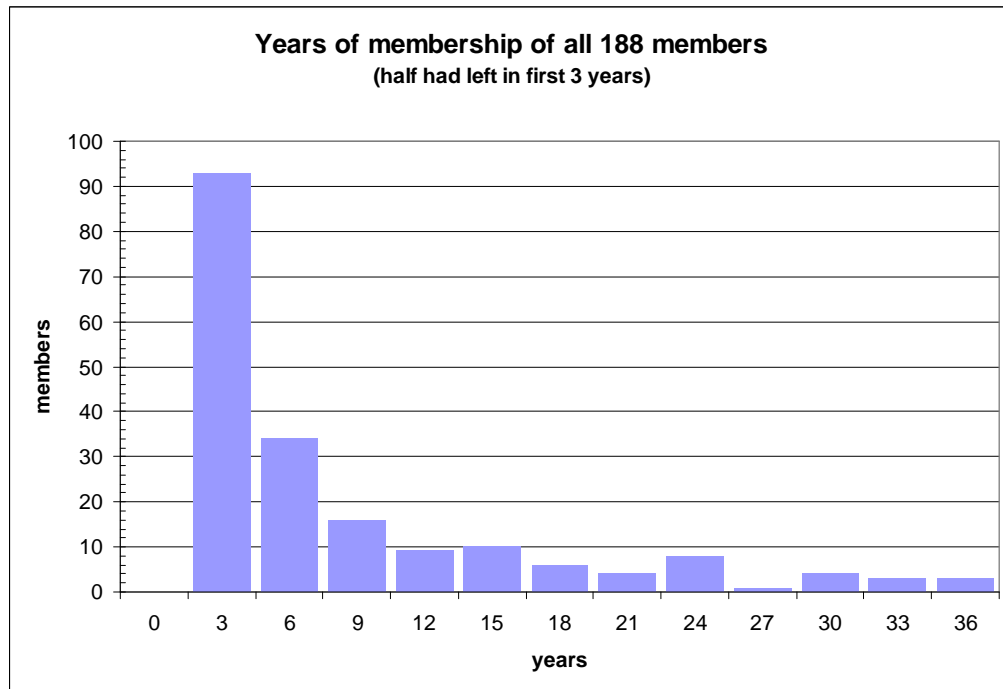
If you have a couple of spare hours - go see **The King's Speech**. Very, very good. Geoffrey Rush is superb. Most of the cast are excellent. It has a fabulous script. Yes, there is swearing, but it is in context and part of the speech therapy that the King is to use. A fascinating story and an amazing piece of unknown history. Well worth the price of a ticket. Can be enjoyed by all from 40 -90.

### Musings and facts from Secretary Ron

I thought it useful to examine how our membership has gone over the years in view of our upcoming review of our club in February. The first column shows everyone who has joined the club by calendar year, the second what our membership was at the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec of each year and the final column how many new members we have had join each year.

year	Progressive total who joined	membership @ 31st Dec	total who joined that year
1975	38	38	36+2
1976	48	34	8
1977	59	41	11
1978	65	44	6
1979	74	49	9
1980	79	43	5
1981	84	45	5
1982	88	39	4
1983	95	43	7
1984	101	46	6
1985	109	46	8
1986	118	45	9
1987	123	43	5
1988	131	44	8
1989	135	45	4
1990	142	49	7
1991	146	51	4
1992	152	50	6
1993	156	45	4
1994	160	40	4
1995	165	44	5
1996	167	43	2
1997	171	44	4
1998	173	43	2
1999	176	40	3
2000	177	35	1
2001	178	33	1
2002	181	30	3
2003	181	28	0
2004	183	29	2
2005	184	29	1
2006	185	28	1
2007	186	26	1
2008	186	25	0
2009	186	18	0
2010	188	18	2

How long do RC of Forest Hill members stay in our club? Look at the following bar chart. Half stay less than 3 years but on the bright side, a quarter of members stayed 10 years or more. That's a great deal of Service. But we have had only 12 new members in the last 10 years (1 per year), compared to 140 in the 25 years after charter (6 per year)



**Don't forget the Whitehorse Farmers' Market this Sunday.**

#### **Meeting Report 20 DECEMBER, 2010**

The Sergeant session raised \$ 140.00 c for the two charities we were supporting from those at the meeting. Thank you for your generosity.

"From little things big things grow, but only if properly nurtured". These words were in the opening remarks made by the Rev Dr John Smith, better known as the founder of the God's Squad, who was the guest speaker at our Rotary Christmas Breakfast. Born in Melbourne to parents who combined working for a living with a busy program of caring for people in trouble, John was no stranger to the Christian concept of compassion in action. At the age of 5, he survived a boiling water episode which damaged one third of his body. At age 11, he was struck by a tram and was unconscious for seven days. At age 11, he contracted rheumatic fever and had a two year struggle to survive. At age 16, he was hospitalised with what was thought to be resulting serious heart problems and was not expected to live. However, a specialist eventually discovered that he had pneumonia and pleurisy. All of these conditions meant that he was unable to play sport and he found school extremely difficult. He paid tribute to the wonderful influence, support and example set by his father Ken, who by now had become a Methodist Minister. The family moved to Queensland where his mother died at the age of 42. Later John returned to live in the Wonthaggi /Woolamai area as a school teacher and part time Pastor. Later in Melbourne, his concern for people in Motor Cycle gangs led him to set up the God's Squad.

The movement has now spread to Europe, UK, NZ and a number of other countries including USA where John and his wife Glenna lived for several years. During this time, he studied for a Doctorate, and it was then that he discovered he had suffered from ADHD since childhood.

In Bulgaria, a family who were members of the God Squad discovered that an orphanage was in league with the Mafia, procuring children for prostitution. The family has rescued and adopted seventeen children.

John told of the impact of Hand Brake Turn, commenced by his son-in-law to try to salvage a group of eight young people involved in numerous car thefts. He told of the difficulty in obtaining Government funding for HBT, because of the outcomes based criteria of bureaucrats. These ignore the evidence of changed attitudes and changed lives that result from the HBT program. Police have tracked young offenders who have completed the training, and discovered that 87% of them do not re-offend.

Speaking of difficult people who have been rejected by society, he said that we should not be too hasty to judge without examining their background.

He spoke passionately of the transformational results of three values to life which we all need, and which are characteristic of the God's Squad and Hand Brake Turn. They are faith, hope and love.

Graham Sharman

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### Correspondence to the Editor

#### YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO SURE!!!

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "But in just a few years my father will die and I will inherit £200 million".

Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother. Women are so much better at financial planning than men.

Thanks to John Bindon for this contribution.  
(John is recovering well from his operation.)

\*\*\* ROTARY NEWS \*\*\*

## Brave boy still has long road ahead

BY EUGENE BENSON

15 Dec, 2010 01:00 AM

THIS has been the toughest week in the life of young Papua New Guinean boy Gregory Jack.

Last Tuesday, the six-year-old underwent potentially lifesaving surgery to treat a condition which has stopped his skull and facial bones from expanding to accommodate his growing brain.

Gregory has been unable to close his eyes for two years and his eyeballs were protruding from their sockets as a result of a genetic disorder called Crouzon syndrome.

Gregory was discovered two years ago when some holiday makers from the Barossa Valley were sailing near his home in the tiny village of Siakeu Village on Panaeati Island.

So unusual looking was Gregory with his bulging eyes that the holiday makers took his picture. On arrival back in South Australia the pictures were seen by someone associated with the Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children program and a mission started to find the boy once more and get his condition treated.

Now two years later ROMAC has raised the \$40,000 required for his treatment and he is being hosted by the East Keilor Rotary.

Gregory underwent five hours of surgery last week as a team of medical staff, led by Associate Professor Andrew Heggie, tried to bring forward his facial bones.

His uncle Paison Vilen and Rotary's David Barnes nervously waited.

Gregory was released from intensive care last Wednesday night and is now recovering in a hospital ward. He has been fitted with a frame around his head which will be in place for several weeks until the bones can knit together once more.

Professor Heggie said Gregory lost a lot of blood during the procedure and needed to be heavily transfused but was doing well. "For a little fellow he has very strong solid bones."

It's been a long journey for the brave boy from a tiny island east of the PNG mainland.

Accompanied by his uncle, Greg was given his final assessment by Professor Heggie and prepped for surgery about 8am last Tuesday.

Having hardly left his home village Siakeu, young Greg seemed so enthralled by all the activity and unfamiliar sites around him at the Royal Children's that he was too distracted to be nervous.

Taking it all in his stride he even found time for a high five and a handshake for the *Weekly* journalist and photographer.

Professor Heggie said if left untreated Gregory's condition could result in many complications including closure of the upper airway, raised pressure in the cranial cavity and problems with sight and brain function.

To find out more about ROMAC, contact 98884099.

## **SENIOR'S CORNER**

### **Perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading toward 70!**

- 1. Kidnappers Are not very Interested in you.**
- 2. In a hostage situation, You are likely to be Released first.**
- 3. No one expects You to run -- Anywhere.**
- 4. People call at 9 PM And ask, 'Did I wake you?'**
- 5. People no longer View you as a Hypochondriac.**
- 6. There is nothing left To learn the hard way.**
- 7. Things you buy now Won't wear out...**
- 8. You can eat Supper at 4 PM...**
- 9. You can live 'without sex But not your glasses.**
- 11. You no longer think Of speed limits As a challenge.**
- 12. You quit trying To hold Your stomach in No matter who walks Into the room.**
- 13. You sing along With elevator music.**
- 14. Your eyes Won't get Much worse.**
- 15. Your investment In health insurance Is finally beginning To pay off.**
- 16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists Than the national Weather service.**
- 17. Your secrets are safe With your friends Because they can't Remember them either.**



**18. Your supply of brain cells Is finally down to A manageable size.**

**19. You can't remember Who sent you this list... And you notice These are all In bold print For your convenience.**

***ONE MORE THING:***

*Never,*

*Under any circumstances,*

*Take a sleeping pill,*

*And a laxative on*

*The same night!*

### **FOREST HILL'S MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

We publish the table below to keep us aware of the challenge.

Membership at the beginning of the year	Current Membership	Change
18	18	--

### **BREAKFAST QUIZ**

Something to chew on over breakfast – TWO questions again this week seeing a member got last week's questions correct.

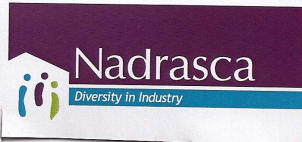
#### **1. Answers to last week's questions**

2. Q1. With the festive season in full swing, and office party antics all the go – What % of photocopier faults worldwide are caused by people sitting on them and photocopying their buttocks? (I trawl the world for fascinating trivia)
3. ANSWER: 23%
4. Q2. We have all gasped at the obscene salaries of our bank CEO'S. What is the salary of President Obama? (including travel, expenses and entertainment)
5. ANSWER: \$569,000

#### **THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is the approximate number of kilograms of food that the average person will eat in their lifetime? (Do not multiply the Christmas week food by \* )**
- 2. What percentage of surveyed Australian men would lie if their partner asked, "Does my bum look big in this?"**

If you don't know the answer/s, you should pay a fine to the Sergeant. If you get the correct answer, the Editor will pay (this is costing me big time). The answer will be in next week's Forest Hill Flyer.



## Meet Vanilla and Mint!

It has been a busy few months at the Farm, but the team has met the challenge. New lambs, Vanilla and Mint, are in good health. Vanilla's name was chosen by students at Antonio Park Primary School (mother Rhubarb's previous home) and Mint was chosen by the Farm clients. Rhubarb is a very proud and protective mother. We thank our neighbour Bill Cooper who looks after the sheep at weekends. Thanks also to Tim Hunt, another neighbour who helped with the initial feeding process and docking the lambs' tails.

The Minister for Roads & Ports and Major Projects, Tim Pallas, announced on 26th October that the land on which the Farm is situated (Healesville Freeway Corridor) may be preserved as an area for important open spaces and community usage. The push to preserve this land has been headed by the Member for Forest Hill, Kirstie Marshall, with a 6,500 strong petition from the local and Nadrasca community. A community task force is being established to make recommendations for the future of the land and to assist Vic Roads with the planning process.

We have also started to plant vegetables in the south paddock. We thank the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for donating a new Disc Harrower for the tractor, and Ray Smith who has spent time and donated seeds (lettuce, beans, tomatoes) for this project. Ray has also worked with the team to prepare the soil and sow these vegetables.

Remember to visit us whenever you can – the Farm is open to everyone. The more the merrier.

*Rodney, Glen and the Farmers*

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS**

9 January	Whitehorse Farmers Market
10 January	<b>First meeting a BBQ at Bremner's.</b>
11 February	Australian Rotary Health Seminar

Please have FOREST HILL FLYER articles to me by **5 pm next Wednesday** (in Microsoft Word format,) Stuart Williams gsestu2@yahoo.com.au