



FOREST HILL FLYER 2011-2012

Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill

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Edition 3: 18 July 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

18 July	25 July	1 August
Indiana Hangan –Ford Davis Endeavour Award Carpentry (Board Meeting) Chair Ron Brooks Thanks & Meeting Report Chris Tuck Club Member Talk -	Gail Robertson – Australian Rotary Foundation Chair Glenys Grant Thanks & Meeting Report Ray Smith Club Member Talk Bill Marsh	Jenni Heenan Disaster Aid Australia Chair Warwick Stott Thanks & Meeting Report Stuart Williams Club Member Talk John Donaghey

DUTY ROSTER

Cashier Recorder Greeter Emergency	JULY Warwick Stott Geoff Hale David Bremner Bob Laslett
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ATTENDANCE

Apologies - **Please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY on 9878 4891 or 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



None for this week

DOUG'S DEADLINE

My thanks to PPs David Bremner and Ray Smith for 'polishing' the Flyer for last week, the photos really lifted the content.

Speaking of the Flyer, we still need someone to prepare and distribute the Flyer for the rest of the year. I will be away for three weeks commencing 25 July so we need a volunteer or volunteers to keep members informed. The alternative is an email providing basic information. With such great performances from the Williams boys and others (who would want to miss their dose of trivia?), it would be a shame to see the baton fall. Please contact me if you would like to be the Flyer editor!

I mentioned Swags for the Homeless during my report and have included some information from their website as I think it is of interest.

We had a change of format for this meeting in that we had a Club speaker but no external speaker. The time normally allocated to a speaker was given over to Committee meetings. As it was the first time the Committees had met this Rotary year, the extra time was an advantage and helped to set the agenda for the rest of the year. The Directors I spoke with seemed pleased with the results and I would like to hear from the other members as to their thoughts. It may be early days but I hope the change in format will help the Directors and members enjoy the various projects. The final Committee allocation is as follows:

Membership, Recruitment & Fellowship

Chair: Ron Brooks

Members: Chris Tuck, Stan Harper, David Bremner & Bill Marsh

Foundation and International

Chair: Glenys Grant

Members: Ray Smith, Bob Laslett, Stuart Williams, Bob Neilson & Warwick Stott

Community, New Generations & Vocational

Chair: Gary Baltissen

Members: John McPhee (Alternate Chair), Graham Sharman, John Donaghey, Bob Williams & Geoff Hale

Additional Roles

Sergeant: Stuart Williams

Flyer Editor: TBC – currently President Doug Berwick

Attendance Officer: Ray Smith

Program Officer: Bob Williams

Website Maintenance: David Bremner

Our thoughts are with those members who were unable to attend the meeting, Stan Harper, Bob Nielsen, John Donaghey and Graham Sharman.

Wishing you all the best for the week ahead as we reach within to embrace humanity.

Doug

Doug Berwick

President

Update on our Injury List

Stan Harper is doing well. He expects to move to the Peter James Centre in the next week or two which is a very good sign.

Graham Sharman is doing very well. He is recovering at home and looks forward to being back at Rotary in the coming weeks; Graham sends his regards to everyone.

Bob Neilson is coming on well and hopes to be back at Rotary very soon.

John Donaghey hurt his knee and we hope he will be back next week.

The Flyer Editor has a blister on his right index finger but is expected to recover!!

Swags for the Homeless

PP David Bremner brought this article to the Clubs' attention from the Sunday Age of 26 June about *Swags for Homeless* which is a charity that manufactures and distributes special sleeping bags (backpacker beds) for homeless people.

According to its website, swags.org.au, it is a National not-for-profit charity.

The Backpack Bed™ has won the World's largest and most prestigious product design award; the German 2011 Red Dot "Best of the Best" - 4433 entries from 60 countries. Past winners are Rolls Royce, Apple Inc. and Mercedes Benz.

Swags for Homeless

- Run 100% by unpaid volunteers
- 3000+ Backpack Beds (swags) made in only 12 months
- Funded 100% by volunteers
- Only 1.89% of funds went to overheads (ASIC Audit March 2009)

Swags for Homeless distribute the World's ONLY fire retardant Backpack Bed™ (swag) to homeless around Australia and the World.

80% of families are turned away from shelters tonight while 60% of individuals are turned away also.

Salvation Army, Mission Australia, St. Vincent de Paul, Uniting Care, Rosies, Ozenham, Hanover, Anglicare plus 100+ other charities around Australia agree our famous Backpack Bed™ (swag) is an effective and dignified interim crisis measure.

\$68 (AUS) tax deduction helps a homeless person.

In the 21st century and in Australia it is hard to believe that we still have a group of disadvantaged people whose only shelter for the night will be a swag.

Gary Baltissen has contacted the organisation with a view to having a representative come and talk to us at a future meeting.

Sergeant's Session:

I would like to thank all those who attended for their generosity. The Rotary Foundation benefited by \$44.15.

Sergeant Stuart

(It was such a clever and skilful performance from Stuart, based on the new Carbon Tax, that we didn't even know we had been relieved of so much. Even with 5 carbon credits, I didn't emerge unscathed. - Ed)

Club Member Talks

Our speaker was PP Warwick Stott. Warwick had a range of topics from which to select the subject for his talk:

- My 15 seconds of fame!
- What I am most proud of;
- I got a kick out of...;
- My most enjoyable holiday.

The idea is that speaker can select whichever of the topics appeals to them.

Despite this guidance and the wide choice available to him, Warwick chose to tell us about his 'least enjoyable holiday'.

Warwick told us of the family holiday from hell when he took Christine and the family up to the Hawkesbury river for a pleasant holiday on a houseboat. What could be more idyllic than driving up to the beautiful Hawkesbury River, settling in on a houseboat and

taking in the magnificent scenery and solitude that a river journey can provide? Without the benefit of Warwick's story-telling skills, the main 'highlights' were:

- Arrived in Sydney with the whole family suffering from food poisoning (the café looked good).
- Trying to navigate the river with a dodgy rudder that could not keep a straight course.
- Having the dingy that they were towing behind the houseboat sink. It turned out that the previous user has stopped the bung hole with a carrot. Not the best way to keep a boat afloat.
- Losing power at night because the batteries did not hold their charge
- Not being able to get provisions from the local provider despite Warwick being told they would have no trouble. The fact they were shut probably didn't help.
- When it rained (what happened to the perfect weather?) the houseboat leaked.

If anyone has a story to beat Warwick's we would like to hear it.

Meeting Report 8th August 2011 - Prepared by Bob Williams channelling the AFL

Meeting chaired by interchange John McPhee who kicked off with a short pass to Ron welcoming him back to the team. We had some injuries to our starting 18 and so had 14 turn up for the match.

Our ruckman and captain, Doug spoke of having an interest in a project, Swags for the Homeless, which might apply to more of us when we start paying for the carbon tax our President announced the day before. Cost is \$68 and our very full forward, Gary said later that he has asked for a speaker from that team to address us one night as we would like to support it.

Our team caterer supplied a filling pasta meal for us in preparation for a tough match.

Our back pocket (or is that fob pocket), Treasurer (or is that Treasure?) Warwick spoke of the blustery conditions on Sunday when our WFM team went out to play but as they love the mud and slush, the team went well and had a good win.

Our full back Bob Laslett spoke of the sad passing of PDG Max Buchanan.

Interchange John who was playing a linking role running up and down the field handballing to other players, passed on the message from the runner that again our Blackburn market team performed well on Saturday, particularly with the BBQ in the stand at the railway station end of the ground and raised \$360 from this and \$544 in total including gate receipts.

Centreman, "Stewie the lip" (sorry that was from his former team the Vermont Apex Eagles) framed his game plan around our President's carbon tax strategy, handing out promises and then in his usual way, extracting all the team had to give in a match winning performance earning his new nickname of "Carbon Tax Stewie".

Warwick had swapped positions from back pocket to half back (and half knees etc etc) and gave the half time address to the team urging us to get over adversity as had done with a houseboat trip many years ago with his family on the Hawkesbury river that included wonky steering, a dinghy with a carrot-stuffed bung hole, generator issues and a leaking roof.

His usual stirring address had us all fired up and wanting to get out there and in Teddy Whitten's words, "get out there and stick it right up 'em" (just as the houseboat owner had done to him!)

Captain Doug gave the full time address reminding us of next week's game and of the post game meetings that followed.

Bob

Footy Tipping:

Bill Marsh continues his accuracy with the ball while Bob Williams and David Bremner try to out pace him.

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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 or brain exercise

What % of men's clothes is bought by women?

Answer 30%

Peter Falk of Columbo fame passed away recently. How many of you knew he had a glass eye? The question is – which one was fake?

Trivia:

It takes the intestines from 4 cows to make the strings for one tennis racquet. (Hmmm, a plastic cow? Most strings today are synthetic.)

You're ten times more likely to strike up a relationship in a park if you walk with a dog rather than alone.

A rabbit can run at a top speed of 72 kmh.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS

25 July District - Applications for Group Study Exchange Team Leader open

August is Membership Development & Extension

1 August District - Group Study Exchange team members applications open

6 August District National Youth Science Forum interviews

7 August District Youth Exchange - outbound students orientation

12 August District - Applications for Group Study Exchange Team Leader close

13 August Blackburn Craft Market

14 August Whitehorse Farmers Market

Please have FOREST HILL FLYER articles to the Editor by **5 pm next Wednesday week** (in Microsoft Word format,)