



# FOREST HILL FLYER 2011-2012

## Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill

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Edition 11: 12 September 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

12 September	19 September	26 September
<b>Walk across Spain</b> Brad Kyle	<b>Committee meetings</b>	<b>District Governor's Visit and Club Anniversary Celebration</b>
<b>Chair</b> John Donaghey	Graham Sharman	Ron Brooks
<b>Thanks &amp; Meeting Report</b> Chris Tuck	Gary Baltissen	--
<b>Club Member Talk</b> David Bremner	John Donaghey	--

### DUTY ROSTER

	SEPTEMBER
Cashier	Bob Laslett
Recorder	Glenys Grant
Greeter	David Bremner
Emergency	Gary Baltissen

### 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



13 September – Club member anniversary – Geoff Hale, Bob Neilson & Warwick Stott (our Charter Members)

## **DOUG'S DEADLINE**

Welcome back David Bremner and Heather. I've been told that it was a great trip but that it is equally great to be back home.

I was disappointed not being present to hear our guest speaker, Lisa Clark from Swags for the Homeless. This project was brought to our attention by David having seen an article in the Age newspaper and I trust that it was an informative evening.

Has anyone been doing research on the 'elevator speech' that I mentioned last week? It's a great way to keep your internet skills current and think about what it is about Rotary that appeals to you. My suggestion was to use the phrase *"To be made a Rotarian is the beginning of a wonderful journey through life!"* as an opening line and I leave it to you to decide if this is too strong a comment or not. Have a think about this statement and how it relates to our Club now. Remember, this speech will be to a prospective member to get them interested in Rotary and hopefully join our Club. What can you say about the Rotary Club of Forest Hill that will appeal to someone outside Rotary and get their attention and/or interest? Does what you say reflect on what we currently do? If not, what do we have to change as a Club to make ourselves attractive to new members?

I believe that one of the outcomes from the 'Our Club – Our Future' workshop was to identify our vision and desire for the future but I am not sure that we identified our current situation. My hope is that a little reflection from all of us will help to answer that question and provide the starting point to move in the direction desired by the Club members.

On a different note, a project being formed by AG Ken Wall is the ABCD project to assist schools in Fiji and I am sure that we will hear more of this in the coming weeks. One thing that did intrigue me is the barriers that still exist today to the work of Rotary. A recent example was the duty charged on goods imported into Fiji and I share these with you.

This is part of a response to a request for Duty and VAT Concession on donated imports of nine (9) Rotary Clubs in Fiji.

<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
For computers for school laboratories	Cleared under Code 223 to Part 3 of the Customs Tariff: Free Fiscal Free Import Excise and Free VAT
For computers for special schools, orphanages, and old people's home	No policy provision hence normal rates of duty will apply.
For books, new and used, for schools, special schools, orphanages, and old people's home	No policy provision hence normal rates of duty will apply.

Fiji is not the only country that places taxes on charitable goods brought into an overseas country and I use this as an example because of the information provided. However, I find it amazing that after the long history of good work done by Rotary around the world that Governments still insist on imposing costs and/or barriers to not only us but other charities who are trying to help their people. It is hard to believe that we are living in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Wishing you all the best in the week ahead.

Doug Berwick  
President

## **URGENT CALL FOR ASSISTANCE**

Warwick Stott is urgently seeking assistance with the Whitehorse Farmers' Market roster for 11 September – we need two people for the 11.00am to 1.00pm shift. Please email Warwick if you can assist with this important project.

## **MEETING REPORT FOR LAST WEEK**

The club welcomed back long-time and much respected member Stan Harper after seven months of illness.

Members were asked to note that extra help is needed for this coming weekend of 10th - 11th September to assist with the Blackburn Market, Whitehorse Farmers Market and Schwerkolt Cottage sausage sizzle.

There was no member talk, but Stuart Williams gave a very interesting Sergeants session, raising \$54.00 in the process.

Bob Neilson is to commence chemotherapy soon and our thoughts and prayers go with him.



*Ron Brooks demonstrating the Swag for the Homeless*

Chairman Gary Baltissen introduced Lisa Clark, who, with husband Tony, is co-designer of Swags for Homeless. Lisa gave a very interesting and professional talk about the swags, making these points:

- Swags for Homeless is a National not for profit charity
  - It is run and funded 100% by unpaid volunteers
  - Only about 2% of funds went to overheads.
  - The organisation now partners with about 100 charity distribution agencies
  - There are 104,000 homeless and of those 16,300 are sleeping rough each night
- 3000 swags were made and given out to some of these homeless people last year
  - The production amount needs to be greatly increased to meet the need.
  - Government funding is required - the message about these swags needs to be spread
  - International interest is being shown.
  - The backpack converts to a full body cover swag with built-in fire retardant mattress
  - It withstands all weathers, is mosquito protected
  - It has room for extra blankets, cover for clothes and areas to store needy items
  - The organisation won three awards recently – two within Australia
  - It also is the first Australian organisation, and first charity, to win the International Red Dot Design Award.

Best of all – the swags improve homeless health, and preserve their dignity.

Glenys Grant

## **GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT IMPRESSIVE IN COMBATING DENGUE FEVER**

A Rotary Foundation Global Grant project has proved highly effective in preventing the spread of dengue fever in a community in Indonesia. The one-year project, the first funded by a global grant under the Future Vision pilot, began on 1 July 2010, carried out by Rotarians in districts 3400 (Indonesia) and 7980 (Connecticut, USA).

The effort helped disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes that transmit the disease in Kadapiro, a community of almost 50,000 people near Surakarta, Central Java. During the project's first six months, contractors installed white ceramic tiling on the interior surfaces of cement water tubs in more than 1,400 homes, making it easier to spot and remove gray mosquito larvae spawned in the tubs.

In the second half of the project, members of the Rotary Club of Solo Kartini, Indonesia, which came up with the idea for the effort, educated residents to empty and scrub the tubs twice a week, close the lid on water containers, and bury waste that can collect water. The club also oversaw a group of monitors, who were paid a small stipend to visit participating homes weekly to check on compliance with the procedures.

As a result of the project, the incidence of dengue fever in Kadipiro fell to four cases in the first six months of this year, compared with 43 cases in all of 2010. The percentage of tubs infested with larvae averaged 1.4 percent, compared with 9.7 percent for tubs in homes not included in the project.

"This is very significant, as the community went from being highly endemic to non-endemic," says Paul Spiekermann, a physician specializing in tropical diseases and a member of the Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut.

He also noted that chemicals, which could have proved hazardous to public health and the environment, were not used to treat tubs and other water retaining areas to interrupt the mosquitoes' breeding cycle.

Dengue affects 50 million people annually and causes about 22,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization. "The disease is very debilitating, and drug treatment or vaccination is not available," says Spiekermann, who chairs District 7980's grants committee.

The project, which supports Rotary's disease prevention and treatment area of focus, received a US\$15,660 Foundation global grant, \$7,740 in District Designated Fund allocations from the two districts, and \$15,844 raised by participating clubs.

Key to the effort's success was the collaboration between the international and local Rotary clubs, Surakarta's public health department, and the Kadipiro community, say the project's sponsor Rotarians. They also point to the cooperation between the clubs and the global grant coordinator at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

### **CLUB MEMBER TALKS**

Club members can select from the following range of subjects for their talks:

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

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

### **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 & BRAIN EXERCISER**

Answer to last week's questions:

Which is further from the equator – Tasmania, Tanzania or Transylvania? Answer: Transylvania.

What to the Chinese call "kwai-tsze" or "quick little fellows"? Answer: Chopsticks

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS**

10 September 2011	Blackburn Craft Market
11 September 2011	Whitehorse Farmers Market
11 September 2011	Whitehorse Historical Society sausage sizzle at Schwerkolt Cottage
12 September 2011	Club meeting and Board meeting
13 September 2011	Club anniversary - official date
16 September 2011	District Youth Exchange - Outbound students interviews
19 September 2011	Club meeting
23 September 2011	District - Group Study Exchange team member applications close
26 September 2011	Club meeting, District Governor's Visit and Club Anniversary

Please have FOREST HILL FLYER articles to the Editor at [djlb91@bigpond.com](mailto:djlb91@bigpond.com) by **5 pm next Wednesday week** (in Microsoft Word format please)