



FOREST HILL FLYER 2011-2012

Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill

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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

26 September	3 October	5 October
District Governor's Visit and Club Anniversary Celebration (Partners & Honorary Members Night) Chair	Meeting of 3 October has been transferred to 6.30pm on 5 October at the Rotary Club of Templestowe	New Generations Seminar with Special Guest Speaker Ian Robson, CEO Essendon Football Club
Ron Brooks	--	--
Thanks & Meeting Report	--	--
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Club Member Talk	--	--
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DUTY ROSTER

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Cashier	Bob Laslett	David Bremner
Recorder	Glenys Grant	Bob Williams
Greeter	David Bremner	Chris Tuck
Emergency	Gary Baltissen	John Donaghey

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



30 September – Birthdays – Chris Tuck and Stan Harper
5 October – Wedding anniversary – Bev and Gary Baltissen

DOUG'S DEADLINE

Welcome to another week in Rotary. It was good to see in last week's Flyer that we have our first 'elevator speech'. I was very impressed and would be happy to use it myself. As I promised I owe the author a bottle of wine so David, let me know if you prefer a red or white. Now that we have an example to start with can anyone think of any additional points that can be added that refer specifically to our Club? Contributions can be sent to David.

The Nominating Committee met at the conclusion of the meeting to identify prospective Board members for the 2012 – 2013 year. As in previous years, it is Club policy to share positions and to change the mix of the Board. I hope that members will again take up the challenge to use their knowledge and experience to steer the Club and support President Elect Bob Laslett.

We took time to discuss the report on 'Our Club – Our Future' which has been prepared by David Bremner. Members should keep in mind that this report reflects various areas identified at the seminar conducted by Ken Wall and Jenny Coburn and is a starting point for future work by the current Board. Various aspects of the report were discussed including fellowship and membership. It was pointed out that we still have work to do with the current Club and Board structure before we are in a position to offer challenges to prospective members. This is an ongoing issue as we look to not only our future but the possible future of Rotary. I encourage members and honorary members to not only come up with ideas but be prepared to implement them.

On a slightly different topic, I was reading the September edition of *Rotary Down Under* and was intrigued by the responses to an article in the July edition titled "Why I resigned from Rotary". Having missed the original article I retrieved and read it. The good news is that it did not reflect the membership or Club culture of the RCFH. However, one point that was made was about hospitality and making people feel welcome. An example was given where the writer was declined a seat at a conference dinner and sent to a spare table. We may have experienced similar situations but as a Club we must make sure that partners and guests are found a place and not left 'hanging around'.

The responses to the article from other 'happy Rotarians' reinforced the positive aspects of belonging to Rotary. One Club has moved away from the Sergeant-at-Arms session and what they term 'ridiculous fines' – they obviously didn't have the depth of talent that we have as our Sergeant can extract the maximum amount of cash in the most pleasant ways. See Sergeant Stu's impressive result from 12 members to prove the point.

One of the letters did strike a chord with me regarding our current situation and I'll read the relevant section to you – As our new RI President Kalyan Banerjee quotes Mohandas Gandhi: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world".

We have a duty to look within regularly, talk openly and make any changes necessary. Some Clubs may be perfectly happy the way they are, some Clubs may simply not be suitable for all people. (Referring to the problems encountered by the author of the letter). I believe we are taking the opportunity to look within and make any necessary changes so that we can continue to make a positive contribution to our community and the world in general and welcome others to the ranks of Rotary.

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

Doug

Doug Berwick
President

MEETING REPORT

Last week's meeting was devoted to a discussion on the club's future and committee meetings. We had twelve members in attendance for a lively meeting chaired by Stan Harper. Our thoughts are with Bob and Heather Nielson as Bob's treatment continues. It was also good to hear that Rob Grant is doing well and that Graham Sharman is taking a break.

Sergeant Stuart Williams collected \$37.95 during his fines session and great fun was had by all.

President Doug Berwick spoke of a recent letter that appeared in the July edition of *Rotary Down Under* in which a former Rotarian commented on his experiences at his club. In later editions there were further letters agreeing and disagreeing with the original letter. Doug pointed out that the clear message is that each member needs to be conscious of new members and ensure that they are fully integrated into the life and fellowship of the club.

The Our Club Our Future report was discussed at some length. The outcome of the discussion was that:

- Every member needs to support the effort to attract new members to the club – this is the key issue for this year;
- New hands-on projects are needed in order to provide a portfolio of projects that will appeal to prospective members. This could be achieved through a 'needs' analysis of the Forest Hill area;
- New, innovative fellowship opportunities are needed;
- The allocation of portfolios amongst the Board needs to be reviewed to ensure an even workload and full coverage of each avenue of service;

5 OCTOBER CLUSTER NEW GENERATIONS SEMINAR

The seminar will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Templestowe and the Special Guest Speaker will be Ian Robson, CEO of the Essendon Football Club and a former Youth Exchange Student.

WHEN: WED OCTOBER 5, at 6:00pm for 6:30pm Start

WHERE: Monte Carlo Receptions, 5 Mitchell Street, East Doncaster (Melways 47 J1).

COST: \$30 for two course meal.



A 'thank you' from Disaster Aid for our donation to purchase a box of disaster aid materials.

ELEVATOR SPEECH CONTRIBUTIONS

We had a contribution last week – are there anymore out there?

An elevator speech is a 20 second description of what it is about Rotary that appeals, enthuses and encourages Rotarians in their community service and fellowship activities. It should be succinct but powerful in the message it conveys.

The speech would be given to a prospective member as an encouragement to consider Rotary.

How about another contribution or three or four! What it is you like about Rotary, why did you join, what do we do?

Any further contributions?

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

Last week's question was - Beulah died in the Appalachians while Craig died at sea. Everyone was much happier with Craig's death. Why? The answer is - because they were hurricanes.

No question this week so we have a quotation instead.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said "Be sincere; be brief; be seated."

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS

23 September 2011	District - Group Study Exchange team member applications close
26 September 2011	Club meeting, District Governor's Visit and Club Anniversary
1 October 2011	October is Vocational Service Month
3 October 2011	Club meeting CANCELLED
5 October 2011	Cluster New Generations Seminar at Rotary Club of Templestowe
8 October 2011	Blackburn Craft Market
9 October 2011	Whitehorse Farmers Market
10 October 2011	Club meeting and Board meeting

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