



# 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. Meal cost \$27.00

### CLUB PROGRAM

28 May	4 June	11 June
<b>Ford Davis and Graham Taylor Apprenticeship Awards</b>	<b>Club Forum and Board Meeting (for outgoing and incoming Boards)</b>	<b>Club meeting cancelled - Queen's Birthday</b>
<b>Partners Night</b>		
<b>Chair</b>		
Bob Williams	Doug Berwick	
<b>Thanks &amp; Meeting Report</b>		
Stuart Williams	--	
<b>Club Member Talk</b>		
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### DUTY ROSTER

	<b>MAY</b>
Cashier	John Donaghey
Recorder	Bob Williams
Greeter	Graham Sharman
Emergency	David Bremner

### ATTENDANCE

Apologies - **Please contact Ray Smith by 10.00 am MONDAY** on 9878 4891 or [rcsmith@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rcsmith@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



28 May - Wedding Anniversary - Christine and Warwick Stott

2 June - Birthdays - Heather Nielson, David Bremner

## **DOUG'S DEADLINE**

This should be the final congratulatory message regarding the International Seminar night that was so well organised and (I think at least) a great success. During the week, I received the following message from DG Juliet Riseley:

"I write to say heartiest congratulations on your running of the International night for the Northern cluster. From all the reports I've read it was a most informative and entertaining night. And by all accounts RC Forest Hill excelled in your organisation of the evening and it was appreciated by all.

Thank you for "taking on" this important meeting for the District – we do appreciate your efforts. Can you please pass on my congratulations and thanks to all involved in the preparations."

Juliet

Governor, Rotary International District 9810, Victoria, Australia

I regret missing 'Hat Day' at the last meeting as I had picked out a 'shocker' to wear but a family commitment came first this time. I look forward to seeing some photos. My thanks again to Vice President Bob Williams for representing me on the night and he is going to reprise the role again on Friday 25th May at the District Presidents meeting.

Speaking of meetings, on Thursday 17th May I attended the Whitehorse Clubs Presidents meeting at 'Jam for Joes' on Surrey Rd Blackburn. Unfortunately, several Presidents and PE's were unable to attend and we only just had a quorum. Several agenda items were held over to the next meeting but one item that was reported on was an initiative by RC Mitcham to trial corporate membership. This initiative is being overseen by District and it will be interesting to follow their progress. Mitcham are targeting businesses within their area of influence so that each Club will still have businesses within their areas to approach if there is a take up. Interesting times ahead.

Just a reminder that this Rotary year is coming to an end and Committee Directors are hopefully preparing their summaries of the year for the annual report. All material must be given to Bill Marsh by Friday 15 June to enable the annual report to be ready for our Changeover.

Many thanks again to you all for the support given to the International Seminar as the night would not have happened and been as good without your involvement.

Enjoy your week in Rotary.

Doug Berwick

## **FORD DAVIS AND GRAHAM TAYLOR APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS**

### **PARTNERS NIGHT**

On 28 May, the Ford Davis and Graham Taylor Apprenticeship Awards will be presented. This is one of our significant meetings for the year and partners are invited to attend. The Graham Taylor Apprenticeship Award for the Box Hill Institute Centre for Electrical and Refrigeration Trades will be presented by Marg Taylor.

Please advise Ray Smith that you will be attending.

### **LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

We had only ten members in attendance but it was a very pleasant social evening.

We dispensed with the planned committee meetings because of our leaders being away. Instead, Stuart Williams gave a report on the International Convention – see below – and Bob Williams gave a very interesting talk on what it's like to walk in the shoes of a physically or mentally disadvantaged person.

Our celebration of Australian Rotary Health Hat Day went very well with members wearing an unusual collection of hats to which some amazing stories were attached. Graham Sharman won the major prize for his tartan cap, hairpiece and glasses combination which, we all agreed, suited him down to the ground!

Ray Smith asked members to bring forward community service project ideas for next year. Ray has a project in mind but would like to hear what other members have an interest in.

Congratulations to our host Ivan Millich and the staff of Bucatini Restaurant. There was unanimous agreement that the meal was superb.

## **SWAGS FOR THE HOMELESS – ANOTHER UPDATE**

You will recall that we also provided Swags to the Salvation Army in Box Hill. They have advised that one of the Swags has been given to a fifty year old man who through circumstances has been left with nothing. He greatly appreciated the fact that the Swag was given to him at no cost and was his to keep.

## **GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE**

We have been contacted by a young man who is considering apply to be a member of the Group Study Exchange team to go to Malaysia later this year.

His application is being considered and further advice will be provided if it proceeds.

## **SNAP SHOTS OF 103RD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

The 2012 Convention was held in Bangkok Thailand on 6-9th May. At least 35,000 attended representing 157 countries or areas. There were large representations from USA, India, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Canada and Thailand.

The convention was held at the IMPACT exhibition centre near the old Don Muang airport. The whole area was under 6-10 feet of water last November. It is a massive centre. Plenary sessions held in Challenger Hall 1 – 200 metres across and 370 metres long. The House of Friendship was held next door in Challenger 2 – just as big.

Security was obvious with airport walk-through scanners when the Princess opened the Convention. A smart card system identified people and the card was read upon entry each time. There were hundreds of assistants/helpers many of who were university students getting a chance to practise their English.

Transport was excellent. 400 coaches were employed to move people around. Hotel pick-ups, and central transfer station and a shuttle service from Sky train station Mo Chit. That trip was approx. 30 min.

A free Sky train smart card was provided – 480 baht on the card. (approx. \$14.50) My card had baht left on it. The Sky train is a superb system- air-conditioned, clean, efficient and user friendly. I chose the Sky-train /shuttle bus option for convenience and comfort.

It was HOT – almost 40 degrees every day – and high humidity. Ave temp in Bangkok for April had been 40.1. Many locals had died of heat stroke. Once inside the Impact centre it was beautifully air-conditioned.

Next year the Convention is in Portugal, the year after Sydney, Australia.

The convention was addressed by Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Walailak Akra Rajakuman at 9.30 on Sunday morning. This was probably culturally correct but unusual. We were given a list of 10 things not to do, she gave her address in Thai, did not smile once, and the organisers provided no translation. Once she was wheeled off the stage, an announcement was made that the Convention would start in 10 minutes.

The convention flavour and the entertainment was a mixture of Indian and Thai. RI President is Kalyan Banerjee from India. The flag ceremony was impressive and makes one so aware that we are part of a magnificent world-wide organisation that is about doing good in the world.

Australia's Hugh Evans was the first keynote speaker. A young man who made a huge impression. He has hooked his organisation (the Oaktree Foundation) onto End Polio Now.

I was impressed by Gillian Sorensen from UN. She spoke highly of Rotary's humanitarian efforts for 65 yrs.

Angelique Kidjo was second cab off the rank – An African Grammy award singer and activist for girls and women.

Speaker three was Dr Mohammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh – a micro credit bank. In 2009 it had 7.5 million borrowers, 97% of whom are women. He had met with Hilary Clinton the day before he spoke to us.

Day two brought us impressive peace scholar Amanda Martin, then a proud moment when the recipient of the 2011-12 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award was announced - John Skerit from Victoria, a member of the Rotary Club of Hampton. His CV was mainly in the areas of medical science, biotechnology and agriculture. Quite a man.

We received a comprehensive update on End Polio Now. Three countries to go – but at a massive financial cost. (Are they creaming off money now that the end is near?) Does the world community and Rotary have the political will to see this project out?

Breakout sessions were held in the afternoons.

I do not attend the "host ticketed events". They are so large and so difficult to pull off. "A boy and a tiger" on the Saturday night I heard was appalling, with many people walking out half way through. It is better to catch up with friends and enjoy the local hospitality.

Think about attending Sydney in 2014. Every Rotarian should experience one International convention.

Stuart Williams

### **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	<b>18</b>	-

### **A BRAIN TEASER – THE ANSWER**

Only 5% of university graduates managed to solve this puzzle. The puzzle is as follows:

The word has seven letters

"It" (the word) precedes God

"It" is greater than God

"It" has more evil than the Devil

All poor people have it

Wealthy people need it

If you eat "it", you will die

What is "it"?

The answer is "It" is *nothing*.

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

25 May 2012	District - Rotary Program of Enrichment camp
27 May 2012	District Assembly
28 May 2012	Club meeting - Ford Davis and Graham Taylor Apprenticeship Awards
1 June 2012	June is Rotary Fellowships Month
4 June 2012	Club Forum and Board meeting
9 June 2012	Blackburn Craft Market
10 June 2012	Whitehorse Farmers' Market
11 June 2012	Club meeting cancelled - Queen's Birthday
18 June 2012	Club meeting
25 June 2012	Club meeting
30 June 2012	District Governor's Changeover
2 July 2012	Club meeting
9 July 2012	Club meeting & Changeover Night

### **ABCD: ART BUILDING CHILDREN'S DREAMS FUND RAISING DINNER**



**ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams (Australia) Inc.**  
A project of the Rotary Club of Templestowe  
Gala Dinner for the Lavena Primary School Project, Taveuni Island, Fiji



Live entertainment includes singers, dancers, African Drums and the Emma Wall Band playing the new ABCDreams theme song...!

Excellent 3-course dinner with alternate choice of entrée, main and sweet including tea and coffee to follow.



I want to be a nurse - Thanks to ABCD I can go to school and make it possible!

100% of your donations will go to the school through the Rotary Club of Taveuni – and all donations are fully tax deductible



**PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION**  
ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams  
Rotary Club of Templestowe  
Deakin University Global Citizenship Program  
Rotary Club of Taveuni  
Lavena Primary School  
...and the village chief has donated the land!

**Date:** 1 June 2012  
**Time:** 6.15 for 6.45pm  
**Place:** Monte Carlo Receptions  
5-9 Mitchell Street, Doncaster East

**Tickets \$55 per head**

Book on-line at [www.trybooking.com/BJXJ](http://www.trybooking.com/BJXJ)

Or call Graham on 0418 416 616

Please have FOREST HILL FLYER articles to the Editor at [djl91@bigpond.com](mailto:djl91@bigpond.com) by **5 pm next Wednesday** (in Microsoft Word format please)