



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 20

President: Bill Marsh

16 November 2022

## BILL'S BY-LINE



On Friday 10 members and friends enjoyed a night out at the Peridot Theatre. The set up at Clayton is not ideal for the performers and they are struggling for numbers at the moment and so the 'feel' that has always been Peridot is missing at the moment. Hopefully their future is bright as the Peridot has been a wonderful group for many years and it is a shame to see them struggling. Thanks to Sue for organizing the night.

On Saturday we had another very successful Blackburn Market. This one was a genuine 'all hands-on deck' effort. 13 members and friends helped out in some way over the day. Thanks to all who took part and a special Thank You to John McPhee who arranges stalls, gets them on-site and solves all of their problems. Again, on Saturday, I had one of the stall holders telling me how ours was the best of the 4 markets she attends. Not the most profitable but the one with the best 'feel' and the nicest people. It is nice to know that we have something right.

Next month we will be adding 'egg & bacon' to our offerings. This will be a first for us and it will be interesting to see how it works out. All of the eggs, bacon and onions will be donated by Irene from Garfield Fresh Harvest. A very generous offer from a long-time stall holder and a great supporter of our market.

The WFM was also a successful day as, despite the forecast, we escaped without rain. Thanks to Stuart, Sue and Lucy for 'rattling the can'.



Hope Katolo graduates on excursion

After talking to Leanne & Melanie, and through them Georgina, we are going to support Hope Katolo with another large water tank installation. This one will gather rainwater from the Ford Davis Multipurpose Room roof and will be funded by the Gysi-Davis family. This installation, together with the tanks already in place, will go a long way towards making the school self-sufficient for water.

We need to have a nomination, or nominations, for President for the 2024-25 Rotary year. This will be the first year of the new District 9815 being in existence and the two current Districts are trying to get everything into place. If you are interested, please let me know so that we can confirm your nomination and forward it to District. It will be an exciting time to be President as the changes come into effect. I cannot stress enough the importance of gaining this nomination. Our club's survival depends on it.

On Wednesday Sue, Barb, Gary Davis and I will be attending the Apprentice Awards night at Box Hill Institute. Three apprentices will be recognised for their outstanding effort and attitude in the fields of electrical & refrigeration, carpentry & joinery and motor mechanics. Each of the apprentices receive tools & equipment to the value of \$1,750. Two are funded by the Gysi-Davis Bequest and the third by the club. Over the years it has been most rewarding to see how these awards are received by the apprentices and their family and friends who make up their immediate support group.

We will have a Board meeting on Thursday at 7.00pm by Zoom. If members have anything for the Board to consider, please send it to the Secretary by noon on Thursday.

Lexophilia... although not in the dictionary, it is reported that "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences such as, "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," and, "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the 'New York Times' to see who can create the best original lexophile. Below are three entries in this year's competition.

- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

Now you can stay up late at night writing your own lexophiles ready for next year's competition.



Anyone with grandkids and a computer can relate to this!

Have a great week.

Bill

*November is  
Rotary Foundation  
Month*

## **MEETING REPORT**

We had 9 members plus Judy Laslett as both Barb S and Ron were unwell.

Pres Bill after his bout of pneumonia still has a croaky voice so did his best to be understood. He thanked all the members who worked at our weekend markets and both days were successful with good public reports as well. Our next Blackburn bbq will also offer donated egg and bacon sandwiches/rolls as an option so it will be interesting to see on the take up. Saturday our bbq ran out of snags with people still in the queue so discussion on whether we may offer vouchers in the future for those who miss out to use next time.

He attended the Athenaeum theatre in Lilydale recently and they are interested in having our club to their shows. We will make another donation to Hope Katolo school for further school development. Two of the Davis boys were able to attend Box Hill Secondary awards.

Warwick advised the WFM grossed \$5,400 with 51 stalls.

Stuart – no mail.

Sue Centenary committee wallet card has been rolled out with Police aware and Whitehorse Council support.

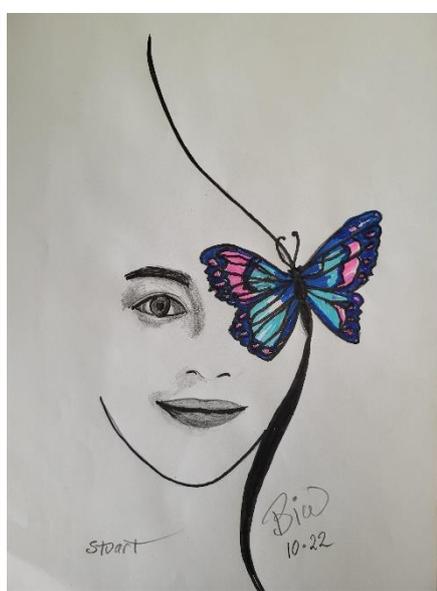
Bob L advised November is Foundation month.

Glenys is doing a piece for the Eastsider newspaper and advised of a RYLA camp done plus schools approached for our Youth Achievement Awards which once again won't be presented in person but via videoed citations on usb and certificates as per previously done in covid times.

John B noted that at our Blackburn market the bins had not been emptied and the grass was unmown and we need to keep on top of stallholders not encroaching on the paths.

Bob W attended RC Doncaster last week for Anton's RYDA address with their members offering to contact local Manningham schools to gauge any RYDA interest. Bob and Barb have RYDA days at Leongatha Secondary tomorrow and Wonthaggi Secondary next Monday.

Sergeant session conducted with Bill counting the money as Bob W was also doing the meeting notes.



As Larissa our scheduled speaker was unwell Stuart stepped up and presented us with his very good sketches of the many Thai ladies he knows. One of his Thai lady friends, Bum, who has visited our club, attended her sister's recent wedding with 500 guests. Wow! Stuart did a lot of drawing over covid mainly in pen and ink and has been drawing for 70 years with his mum as his early inspiration as she also drew well. Many of his works had white or black shadows with some in a minimalist style as he likes to explore different styles with some having one or more colours and he even has had a butterfly stage (a bit like Monet's gardens?) Some are half face and he ventured into cartoon bodies with faces.

Very good work. He then told us of the hardships in Thailand with wages often not covering the basics and many having to have multiple jobs to survive with husbands chasing work a long way from home disrupting family life.

An interesting presentation and thank you Stuart for stepping in.

Bill gave a vote of thanks and arranged for the raffle drawings. Raffle raised \$32 and sergeant \$24-10 with proceeds for the Loud Shirt appeal.

Bob W

## NEXT MEETING

**21 November – Rhonda McKenzie – Cambodian Project**

Also **Emma Clark (RC Emerald) – District Conference 2023**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>            | Ron Brooks      |
| <b>Greeter:</b>                | John Bindon     |
| <b>Notes for "Happenings"</b>  | Bob Laslett     |
| <b>Thanks</b>                  | Stuart Williams |
| <b>Cashier &amp; Recorder:</b> | Bob Williams    |

## COMING UP

|                    |                       |                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>28 November</b> | <b>Thomas White</b>   | <b>RYLA</b>       |
| <b>5 December</b>  | <b>Jackie Gleeson</b> | <b>RAM Update</b> |

## CELEBRATIONS



How about a big celebration of  
the achievements of the  
**ROTARY**  
**FOUNDATION!!**



## FOOD SAFETY

This week is **Australian Food Safety Week**. I have just finished listening to a 2hr webinar run by the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology called "Raw & Risky" which while it highlighted how safe our food is, there is no such thing as totally safe raw food. The salmonella outbreak caused by salad greens would not have been eliminated by just washing before eating. The risk would be reduced but not eliminated. There is a risk if you eat raw oysters, sashimi, steak tartare, kombucha, any of the sprouted seeds like alfalfa – the list is endless. They recommended people watch the ABC "How to poison your family over Christmas". I have just watched again the YouTube of that name. It is short and highly recommended and instructive narrated by Gary Kennedy who was one of the panelists at the webinar Raw & Risky.

Ron Brooks (AIFST member)

### **RYDA Update**

Joady Barnes from Doncaster RC asked me re a speaker for Interplast and Janette Etherington did a great job and so I asked Joady what about a speaker for RYDA to which he agreed, and Anton presented at their Beau Monde hotel venue on 9 November with me as his cheer squad.

Anton was very well received by the dedicated and friendly Doncaster members and so many questions showed the interest in his address. Several members promised to follow up with schools they have contacts within Manningham so a few more schools doing the program would be great along with some Doncaster RYDA volunteers.

Barb and I drove to Leongatha Secondary college today (Tuesday 15 November) to assist with their RYDA day and Anton thought that the suggested 60 or so students may be less, and he was correct as we had 34, so only two groups instead of the scheduled three, with Barb taking one and I took the other. Barb had her favourite colour, green group and I was wearing red socks so of course had red group.

We had heavy rain on the way plus many times during the day and as the school has a metal roof it was quite loud inside. Barb had the outdoor speed and stopping first session without rain and my group did it as their second session and we had a couple of bouts of heavy rain but fortunately we were in the bus shelter.

Leongatha is a typical laid back country school and so the students (and us) enjoyed 30 minutes for morning tea and 55 minutes for lunch. I was in charge of collecting the goodies from the school canteen which were well received.

As usual everyone was well behaved (even me!) and both Barb and I were thanked by the students which was nice.

The last RYDA day for this year for Barb and I is next Monday 21 Nov at Wonthaggi Secondary where we had 170 students last year so it will be interesting how many we have this time. I offered to Anton for any facilitators to stay with us the Sunday night at our place at Inverloch and we have two ladies as guests so that will be great.

Another rewarding RYDA year with our club assisting more than one thousand youngsters be more aware and respectful on the roads we share.

Bob Williams

## Return of INTERPLAST surgical teams

Imagine hearing your child required life-changing surgery, only to have it delayed for nearly three years. That is what COVID did. The good news is that an Interplast team is returning to Fiji in mid-November.

## SPROUTINGS

Bill Gates is known to have donated to many environmental causes over the years. Not so all wealthy men... In July an article in Forbes on billionaire philanthropy explained that Warren Buffett, Jeff Bezos, and Elon Musk are using their business investments to meet their personal goals, and then using their personal philanthropy to repair the business issues that their companies, in part, create. It went on to explain how they have not recognized the planetary limits to economic growth, instead following the 1970's models which assumed limitless growth could erase economic problems. They have failed to recognize the environmental problems created by such growth, including catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss. Warren Buffett, for instance, was quoted as saying his business investments must create shareholder value, and social and political concerns should be left in the hands of individuals. Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk were mentioned as thinking the same way, showing indifference to environmental issues. The article explained that the company that Buffett governs, Berkshire Hathaway, was one of only two in the top S&P500's that hadn't made carbon commitments or ESG goals. Elon Musk's Tesla does not report its carbon emissions or make commitments. It continues to hold onto its right to repair, which means higher repair costs for consumers and more cars being sent to landfills sooner than needed. Jeff Bezos, the former wealthiest person on the planet, founded and, until recently, was running one of the largest companies in the world, Amazon, with, the article said, no thought to the environment. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/timabansal/2022/07/26/billionaire-philanthropy-why-warren-buffett-jeff-bezos-and-elon-musk-have-it-wrong/>

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### But there is hope.....

A recent CNN article stated that Bezos has made his own personal pledges to do good in the world. Bezos wrote in an Instagram post in 2020 that "Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet."

**He has given climate advocate Van Jones a one hundred million grant, pledged \$10 billion to fund research to counter climate change through the Bezos Earth Fund, and plans to give away the majority of his \$124 billion net worth during his lifetime.**

**Bezos Earth Fund**, which his partner Lauren Sánchez co-chairs, has priorities to reduce the carbon footprint of construction-grade cement and steel; push financial regulators to consider climate-related risks; advance data and mapping technologies to monitor carbon emissions; and build natural, plant-based carbon sinks on a large scale. Such good news – let's hope he can influence the others.

### Recycling Pledge.

ABC News reports that despite the collapse of a major soft plastics recycling scheme, the federal government has set a target to recycle or reuse 100pc of plastic waste by 2040 and end plastic pollution.

That's an ambitious target, as currently Australia only recycles and reuses about 16pc of the more than one million tonnes of plastic in circulation.

The recycling of soft plastics suffered a major blow last week when the [REDcycle recycling scheme was suspended](#) after it was revealed the company was unable to offload the plastics it had acquired from waste bins at Woolworths and Coles.

Australia has joined other nations in the high ambition Coalition To End Plastic Pollution, including Canada, the United Kingdom and a number of Pacific countries.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-15/australian-government-pledges-to-recycle-all-plastics-by-2040/101655630>

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**Rotary**



**ESRAG Oceania**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROTARY ACTION GROUP AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC ISLANDS

**ESRAG Oceania Meeting Thursday 17 November at 6.00 AEST UTC+11**



Steve Lyon is a member of Rotary Rarotonga and District 9920 Environment Co-Chair. He is the business owner and manager of Pacific Divers, Rarotonga.

He is also a qualified marine scientist and has conducted numerous research projects in the Cook Islands.

In 2009 he established the Pacific islands Conservation Initiative, a Cook Islands-based charitable trust that conducts several projects in conservation and environmental matters. [www.picionline.org](http://www.picionline.org)

Please share this meeting information with fellow Rotarians, colleagues, friends and family.

ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84826552900>

## Bush Tucker:

Sue Ballard recently gave us a talk on bush tucker. It was well received, so here is more on this subject from the ABC **Tasmanian news**.

## Students learning about native ingredients

Students at Sacred Heart Catholic School at Geeveston, with the assistance of local cultural practitioners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, are learning about native ingredients, and how regenerative and sustainable practices in caring for Country impact on traditional food sources.

The **Sacred Country project** was inspired by an indigenous family camp.

Last month, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students took part in one of multiple "activation days" planned as part of the project — learning from representatives of the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation and Wayraparateee, identifying native ingredients that already, or could soon, be grown and even getting to sample dishes.

The ABC confirmed that the wallaby stew, packed with pepper berry, warrigal greens and saltbush, received rave reviews.

The plan is that the indigenous children will become educators and learn a lot more about the pepper berries and different types of native plants, and then they can share that knowledge with non-Indigenous students as well as community members.

## The key is ensuring it is the students who are driving the areas of focus.

Indigenous fire practitioner and Palawa man Jason Smith, who has been teaching the students about bush resources and regenerative cultural burning practices, said it is a project that is long been overdue.

"The kids are itching to get out and start healing country the right way. Especially in the last five or 10 years, we're starting to realise that not only is Country unhealthy, but we as people are," he said.

"We're relying on the wrong systems ... and I think First Nations people all around the world are finally starting to be recognised for the knowledge that we hold."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-13/luon-valley-community-banding-together-food-insecurity/101643472>

The **Whitehorse City Council Environment and Education team** is providing environmental and sustainability education for local schools, preschools and a diverse range of community groups. Students who attend Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and Yarran Dheran learn about bush tucker, habitats and ecosystems and caring for our environment.



<https://bluethumb.com.au/angelo-quabba-angelo-quabba>

*Until next week, Glenys*

## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

### EARTHFIVE LEATHERWORKS

The **Earthfive** leatherworks stall is operated by Peter Davies who has been a leatherworker since 1969, with a few years in between as a graphic designer.

Peter was telling me, between making made to measure belts for three different customers, that he started his leather journey when he made himself a bag from a goatskin in Kabul in 1969. He was travelling overland from the UK to Australia and wanted to replace the shoulder bag he had. So, he made one! He then made a few more for friends. When he arrived back in Melbourne an old friend heard about his bag making in Kabul and handed him a couple of hides he no longer needed and suddenly this became EARTH Leatherworks in Glenferrie road, Earth II in London when he started travelling again and Earth Three in New York when he moved there. Returning to Australia he had a big workshop employing 10 staff. Now he is on **Earthfive**.

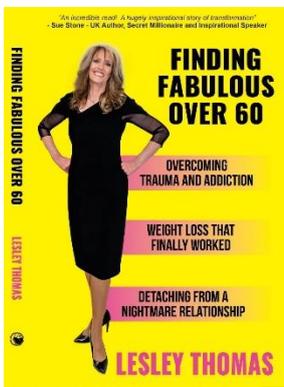
He has been coming to our Blackburn market for more than 4 years. Peter makes shoes, sandals, handbags, purses, wallets, wrist warmers, glasses cases, three legged stools, you name it. He has made leather thigh length boots and helmets for films and the theatre. He will quote on any repairs. He takes credit cards and you can use PayPal. Come and see him at the Blackburn Market or Cockatoo, Mulgrave, or Belgrave markets.

Contact him via his website [www.earthfive.com.au](http://www.earthfive.com.au) by email [peter@earthfive.com.au](mailto:peter@earthfive.com.au) or 0425 713 889



## SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS





**Come to the Market next month- December 10**