

FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 22

President: John Bindon

08 December 2021

MOVING FORWARD



Where has 2021 gone? With all the lockdowns, it feels like the year simply disappeared and suddenly, here we are planning to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

As our normal venue was not available, our meeting for Monday evening was held at the “Balmoral Retirement Village,” and a pleasant evening was had by all. We had two particularly good speakers and all members of the club attended.

As there were no catering arrangements available that night, we had some frozen meals, which were prepared by the Chef of the Village, and with the help of one of the residents of the village, the meals were heated and served to members. Members handled cleaning up and washing dishes etc. and it was also a particularly good night of fellowship.

We certainly have been receiving valuable feedback for our evening serving meals to the disadvantage, and I am sure that our club would like to participate in future functions.

Members have a busy weekend coming up, with the Blackburn Arts and Crafts Market on Saturday followed by the Whitehorse Farmers’ Market on Sunday.

The “Achievement Awards” for primary school children have been distributed and received with immense joy and delight.

Several, Rotary Clubs in the Dandenong Ranges are arranging a “Rotary Storm Recovery Festival” on Sunday, 27th. February 2022, at the Monbulk Recreation Reserve, Moor’s Road, Monbulk. Clubs within our District are being encouraged, to support this event, as proceeds will be directed to “Rotary Storm Recovery Projects.”

John Bindon (President)

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment Month.



Since 1905, Rotarians have been working together to fight and prevent diseases. We know there is no quick fix to eradicating many of the world's most entrenched diseases,

But we are persistent and determine to succeed.

MEETING REPORT

Meeting Venue: Community Centre, Balmoral Village, Ridge Road Wantirna South.

6.30pm **Welcome:** President John Bindon opened the meeting. He welcomed our two Speakers Natalie Dymond and Elise Stevens from The Generosity Collective and 12 club members.

He explained the evening proceedings and that he was meeting the costs of the meal. Members thanked John for his generosity and the venue.

He then proposed two toasts - to Australia and to Rotary International

Chairperson Sue Ballard then called for reports.

President's report: John reported the newly acquired Rotary vests will be worn on Saturday at the Blackburn market.

Ford Davis and Harper Family Scholarships:

Peter Davis and Bill Marsh will attend the Forest Hill College next Thursday to present the two Ford Davis scholarships and the three Harper Family scholarships.

Youth Achievement Awards: Bob Williams reported he had completed all videos and delivered all awards, prizes and video material to the 12 local Primary schools today. Youth Director Glenys Grant then thanked Bill Marsh for producing and framing the certificates, and Bob Williams for producing all the videos with assistance from Barb Williams, Stuart Williams and Bob Laslett.

Program: Ron Brooks reported on the program for the rest of the year and the first two meetings of 2022. See information in this newsletter and on the Website.

Arrangements were discussed as to our venue for the next meeting Dec 13, our Christmas breakup.

Markets: Volunteers were requested.

There were no other reports.

Dinner: Food was pre-prepared or brought in. It was enjoyed by all.

Guest speakers Natalie Dymond & Elise Stevens of the **Generosity Project** were introduced by Chairperson Sue Ballard.

Speaking alternately, they explained their 18 months old registered charity Generosity Collective, creates crisis care packs of lightly used, or new, clothing or toiletries for those of any age facing hardship and living in the Eastern suburbs.

They personally collect new or slightly used clothes from private individuals and homes as well as from conglomerates who they partner with. They are also partnered with Pinchapoo, an organisation that provides the needy with hygiene essentials. The goods collected are held in a facility in Mitcham.

The Generosity Collective then gets requests from organisations who require a backpack specifically for the particular client. They create the pack filled with whatever is needed, and deliver it to the distribution agency who then pass it on.

The recipients of these packs are those fleeing domestic abuse, in refuges, homeless, or those in emergency and intensive care units. In short – they support anyone, of any age, who needs help.

They spoke of a project for teenagers they initiated this Christmas – a pack along with a \$30.00 gift card for teenagers in care agencies.

To find out more, or to donate services, clothes, toiletries or money visit www.thegenerositycollective.org.au.

A number of questions were put, followed by a **Vote of Thanks** given by Ron Brooks.

Fellowship concluded the meeting and was followed by a tour of the facility.

Glenys Grant.

ROSTER FOR MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER.

Chairperson: Stuart Williams

Vote of thanks: Glenys Grant

Happenings Report: Ron Brooks

Recorder/Cashier: Barbara Williams



Scan Me!

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

NEXT MEETING

13th December - Christmas Meeting

COMING UP

17th January - Selba Gondoza Luka – ‘Afri Auscare’

24th January - Club BBQ

CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION

Unting deliveries

The people at Uniting East Burwood were absolutely delighted to receive the car boot full of goodies that were given on Monday night.

They will ensure that they are delivered to the most needy in our local community for Christmas.

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness, prompt response and caring concern.

Bob Laslett

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations from all at RCFH to Judy L (9th) and Sue B (11th) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

Take care of yourself and those around you.



USED STAMP COLLECTION

Dear All

With Christmas and cards coming this is a perfect time to collect your used stamps. Barbara W did an excellent job last night giving me an envelope of beautifully trimmed stamps. I look forward to getting some trimmed stamps from each of you at our first meeting back in the New Year, Mon 17th Jan.

I am happy to receive stamps from any of our newsletter readers and other members in their clubs or friendship groups. Just trim the stamps with around 1cm borders and give me a call.

Regards

Ron

THANK YOU

Thank you, Ron and members of the Forest Hill Rotary Club, for welcoming us to your meeting this evening. We immediately felt we were amongst community minded individuals like ourselves and truly find your work and dedication to serving your community inspirational.

John, thank you for welcoming us into your lifestyle village and for generously catering for us. The meals were delicious and please thank Ruby again for helping prepare them.

As promised please see below something that can be used to forward to fellow members or published in a newsletter.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and far better 2022 than 2021!

With Thanks

Elise Stevens and Natalie

THE GENEROSITY COLLECTIVE

The Generosity Collective is a registered charity based in Mitcham Victoria and founded by Blackburn residence Natalie Dymond and Elise Stevens. They collect lightly used and new clothing and create specialised "Generosity Crisis Packs" for people facing hardship in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. They support individuals who may be fleeing domestic violence, in refuges and crisis accommodation, those who may be accessing residential and psychiatric support services, children in residential and foster care and children and adults facing homelessness.

They help bridge the gap between agencies and services currently provided. In doing so, we free up the agency's valuable time and most importantly - create dignity and hopefully a little brightness in someone's life.

Their 'Generosity Crisis Care Packs' include quality second hand and new clothing, new toiletries, underwear, socks and pjs. It's a simple way of providing familiarity and the dignity they deserve during an incredibly traumatic time in their lives. On average each pack contains 23 items chosen for that specific client.

They currently provide support for the following agencies.

- *Eastern Health- Box Hill Mental Health Unit*
- *Eastern Health- Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Service*
- *Eastern Health Box Hill & Maroondah- Emergency and ICU departments*
- *Peter James- Aged Persons Mental Health Service*
- *Peter James- Aged Person Acute Psychiatric Inpatient service*
- *Wellways- Mental Health Prevention and Rehabilitation Care.*

- *Croydon Community School- At risk children*
- *Safe Futures Domestic Violence Agency (200 Crisis Care Units)*
- *Anchor- Youth Services. Assisted Housing, Mother and Babies Support*
- *Anglicare- foster care, alcohol and drug services, parenting support, residential care, family violence, Financial Counselling*
- *Women's Liberations Halfway House- Domestic Violence Refuge*
- *Kara House- Domestic Violence Refuge*
- *Uniting Care- homelessness services 16-25year old*
- *Inspiro- Community Health Service*
- *Turning Point- Eastern Health Service*
- *MacKillop Family Services*

They support the services that sadly get forgotten about or the age groups that are difficult to accommodate like the elderly and adolescents/youth.

No other 'like' organisations offer:

- *Donation Collection from homes and workplaces*
- *Support for all ages- Newborn-Elderly*
- *Delivery of Support Packs directly to agencies*
- *Individually tailored Support Packs based on the requests of the support workers.*

They have also formed partnerships with business and NFPs to foster community connection, collaboration and enhance our support. These include:

- [**Thread Together**](#)
- [**GIVIT**](#)
- [**Fudge Lifestyle**](#)
- [**Foot-ies**](#)
- [**Pinchapoo**](#)
- [**Goods360**](#)
- [**Share the Dignity**](#)
- [**Hanes**](#)

Elise and Natalie would love our assistance in spreading the word about their organisation to strengthen community connections and expand their 'giving community.'

Join their giving community [**HERE**](#) and choose how your generosity is best suited.

Other helpful pages on their website include

[**Items they accept, Wish List & Fundraising for Them**](#)

For those who are on Facebook and Instagram their pages can be located [**@thegenerositycollectiveinc**](#)

We will be taking a break over this festive season.

KEY DATES

20/12/21

Final Request for Support accepted

21/12/21

Last day for deliveries

17/01/22

Support Requests resume for 2022



**Help promote Rotary
at these fun events**

Rotary
District 9810



Midsumma Festival

Alexandra Gardens Jan 23 2022

Pride March

Fitzroy Street StKilda Feb 6 2022

Show your commitment **Diversity Equity and Inclusion in Rotary!**

All Rotarians are invited to be involved. Join the crew at the carnival booth and/or be part of the Pride march.

For more information and to register your interest contact Alma Reynolds at almareynolds.rotary@gmail.com or 0434 642 570. Do it before Xmas.

Sproutings

Well, Christmas is here again. Here are some ideas from Fairtrade for a kinder festive season. Merry Christmas to all, *Glenys*

fairtrade five
festive edition



1. Do – freestyle wrap

You've got your tunes on, pine tree scented candle lit, and your carefully chosen, ethical gifts for your beloved friends and family stacked up. Now is the fun bit: wrapping. Suggestion: don't add to the 150,000km of wrapping set to be used around Christmas. Instead, look to reuse what your gifts come in, or nab some op-shop silk scarves, fabrics or old pillowcases. If you have children, let them loose with some colourful pens and daggy stickers to bling up some newspaper



2. Do – zero waste decorations

Create festive projects. Cookies as tree decorations? A wreath with greenery you've nabbed on your morning walk? Santa sacks with old pillowcases you've stitched and painted on? Rosemary. On. Everything. You'll know you've made it when you start staring at sticks in the park and imagining how you can turn them into decorative candy canes



3. Gift – experience

Instead of things that'll be taken to the op-shop bins on the way home from Christmas lunch, what about gifting an experience? Museum or Zoo membership for the kids, cooking class, a bushwalk with picnic lovingly prepared by yours truly, and when all else fails, a couple of movie tickets!



4. Listen - [Christmas Train, Paul Kelly](#) Pop on Paul Kelly's new album, full of Christmas-themed tunes, while you deck

out the tree and prep your turkey stuffing. We are big fans of the track Tapu te Pō (O Holy Night) by Marlon Williams, The Dhungala Children's Choir and Paul Kelly.



5. Choose - FAIR

If you're going to go for a purchased gift option, think about the people behind those products and the impact your KK gift to your work mate might have on the planet.

Choosing Fairtrade are a great place to start. No one is complaining when they're gifted delicious [chocolate](#) that addresses child slavery, or [coffee](#) that's empowering women (plus [cotton](#), [icecream](#) and [tea](#) that's protecting the environment)



Here is a perfect gift for those little ones in your life. Lucienne Noontil is a well-known Melbourne based Author/Artist/Illustrator. She paints and creates beautifully illustrated children's books with a focus on nature.

She treads lightly by reducing, recycling and reusing, believing that all of us need to live more sustainably.

In this new publication, which is her fourth book in the Mist the Koala series, she again collaborates with two others, an American author and also a Koala Sanctuary conservationist.

The books are based on actual animals that live at Koala Gardens, Kuranda, Qld.

WORK CONTINUES AT HOPE KATOLO



This is the latest from ESRAO.. it's at 5.30pm next Monday, and should finish just prior to our meeting.

If you are interested and register, then miss part of it, you can usually access the information later.
Glenys



Reminder - Sustainable Buildings in Sustainable Cities.

Monday 13th December at 5.30pm

A presentation by the Climate Action Group of the Rotary Club of Sydney.

Caroline Pidcock, 'Sustainable Buildings in Sustainable Cities' What you can do!,

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

GARFIELD FRESH HARVEST

Originally of Greek heritage, they are well settled locals now. Your intrepid reporter had difficulty getting much information out of them..... they did not like talking to “the press” ie the Rotary website writer. I just managed a quick few words from Terry and Irene before being shooed away.

These fresh vegetable stall people have been coming to the Blackburn Craft Market for over 20 years. They have had an egg farm at Coldstream since 1982 and have been selling at markets in Mt Waverley, Warrandyte and Longwarry for 20 years and also have a shop in Garfield.

They also sell a whole range of home-made chutneys, pickles, and relishes plus various quiches like spinach & tomato, spinach & capsicum, mushroom & leek. Yarra Valley Eggs, including free range, can be bought as well.



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET!!! 11th December



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