



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 23

President: John Bindon

15 December 2021

MOVING FORWARD



Oh, what a busy week, with an extraordinarily successful “Blackburn Arts and Craft Market” on Saturday, followed by the “Whitehorse Farmers’ Market” on Sunday. Thanks to all those members who helped make it a successful weekend.

Monday evening again our dinner/ meeting was at the “Balmoral Lifestyle Village” and members appreciated courtesy shown by management and staff of the village, for the use of their facilities the past 2 Monday nights.

Reverent Peter Cannon was our guest speaker for the meeting and presented an interesting message about how we cope with the recent lock down, and how it affected our lifestyle.

Monday’s meeting was our final meeting of the year, and we will be resuming, 17th January 2022. We trust that the next 6 months of our Rotary year will be of benefit to our club and to the community we serve.

Again, our main drive for the club in the New Year is to attract new members who would enjoy helping the local community while enjoying fellowship within the organisation called Rotary.

I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families and the people who support us, an incredibly Happy Christmas and that you can celebrate Christmas with family and friends. All the best for 2022.

John Bindon

MEETING REPORT

Meeting opened at 6:30pm with chairman Stuart welcoming everyone to our second meeting at Balmoral Over 55s Lifestyle Village, Pres. John’s home. This included our speaker Peter Cannon, Hon Members Glenys Coates & Merle Smith, together with wives Judy M and Robbie. Stuart then called on Pres. John who proposed toasts to Australia and Rotary International.

The reports were brief.

Warwick thanked the three volunteers and Bob W who helped at the Whitehorse Farmers’ market on Sunday 12th.

Bob told us that there were about 60 stalls but crowds were down. He estimated a revenue of about \$5,500 to \$6,000 on the day. He also reported that the club’s Craft Market on Saturday 11th cleared \$628 from stall holders and \$400 from the sausage sizzle after expenses.

Santa, John McP sweated buckets while handing out bags of lollies to the kids and did a brilliant job with Pres. John and Marg McP running the free raffle for the two hampers and vouchers that had been donated (well done John McP).

We ran out of sausages and then ran out a second time after Marg McP bought more. Rumour had it that the sell-out was due to the incredible onions that had been sliced to perfection.

Bob L was on "sick leave" but his stand in Bill told us about the video of the nursery school children from Hope Katolo that he had circulated and that \$5 raffle tickets were on sale on their website to fund the hampers that each child and teacher get at Christmas.

The Youth Achievement Awards continue to be handed out by the schools.

Glenys and Barbara W handed over a large number of used stamps. Robbie will organise to pass them on to Carrol Farmer together with another box that have accumulated over the last six months.

The first meeting next year is 17th Jan when Selba Gondoza Luca will talk about Afri Auscare followed by our traditional BBQ on 24th Jan at the home of Judy & Bill.

Diane, a neighbour of John's, was kind enough to warm up all the meals. I saw sweet & sour chicken, roast pork, salmon patties, roast beef, & silverside (there may have been others) – all agreed were excellent. This was followed by individual cheesecakes, apple pies and apricot pies with serve yourself ice cream. Great. We served ourselves tea & coffee. Big pat on the back to Pres. John and Diane.

Chairman Stuart then introduced our guest speaker Rev Peter Cannon to the fifteen of us, as Diane had joined us to listen in. Peter is married to Helen. They have one son and five grandchildren. He has worked most of his life in country towns but also in various parts of Melbourne. He was ordained into the Church of Christ in the mid-80s. He has a degree in Theology, Graduate Diploma in Ministry, and Masters of Social Science (Pastoral Counselling). He spent 16 years as a school chaplain in State High Schools before he transferred to the Uniting Church. In recent times he has been focussed on finding new ways of being church in this rapidly changing world. He enjoys gardening, umpiring hockey, riding his motorbike, snorkelling, paddling a kayak, photography and being with friends and family.

Peter's message was "Don't go back to the old ways, now that lockdown is over." Carefully select things you used to do and add them to all the good things that have happened in the last 18 months. He said ministers do a lot of listening. He was pleased to see women and the marginalised took the lead on many new ideas. Do you remember the idea of putting a teddy bear in the window to connect with the community and let the community connect with you during those long periods when no one was allowed into your home. (He commented on the smiles that lit up among us when he mentioned this). What about all the Spoonvilles that sprang up. Community communicating. They were not vandalised either. He was in the Macedon Ranges area at the start of lockdown and was cheered by the women in the community who started putting together simple pastoral care packs to hand out. Employers giving out food to their non employed hospitality casuals who did not qualify for government assistance. The Sikh community providing meals for strangers. Community communicating. He saw so many examples of "We are all in this together". Clearly people realised health & well-being matter, family matter. He thinks many people re-evaluated how they had been spending their time and cut out some of their activities to concentrate on what matters. He thinks Zoom helped meeting others on cold winter nights but people also could not wait to get together again. Community communicating.

Glenys gave the vote of thanks and presented Peter with a Forest Hill mug. We did not have a raffle or Sergeant's session. The meeting was handed back to Pres. John who wished us all well over the festivities. The meeting then closed at 8:10pm.

Once again, we have to thank Pres. John for not only organising the evening but also taking all the dirty dishes home to be washed, and all the rubbish to be disposed of. Last week we had Ruby

volunteering to help and this week Diane (those scones better be good John). You have great neighbours, John. Further examples of what Peter Cannon was talking about.

Ron Brooks



Rev Peter Cannon speaks to the group and President John Bindon presents Peter with a RCFH coffee mug.

BLACKBURN MARKET



Prize winners at the Blackburn Market. Thanks to Paul Hamer who donated one of the hampers and to the Blackburn traders who gave donations for the other prizes.



Scan Me!

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

FOREST HILL COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday 9th December Peter Davis accompanied me to the Forest Hill College Awards Night. This was a great evening and the first such event for two years. Congratulations to all of the students who won awards and to the College for putting the evening together on such short notice. The kids, and their parents, really appreciated the effort.

The RCFH were responsible for four awards. Two in memory of Stan Harper, to Year 7 students moving into Year 8. These awards follow the student until they have completed Year 10. This year's winners were Jennifer Schultz and Madeline Carter.

And two, in memory of Ford Davis, to Year 11 students moving into Year 12.

It was great to have Peter attending as the Principal made the awards after outlining the life and work of Ford Davis and his commitment to Rotary. The following photograph features Peter with one of the recipients, Melvin Subramaniam. The other winner, Maggie Nhu, was unavailable for a photograph.



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We couldn't hold our usual presentation dinner for the twelve schools but the awards were still made and appreciated. (Photos courtesy of parents & teachers.)



Please find the photo of Surya with the framed award attached. We would like to thank you for the award.

Sincerely,

Sravan Battala (Surya's Dad)



Anné Buchan with her award.

NEXT MEETING

17th January - Selba Gondoza Luka from 'Afri Auscare'

COMING UP

24th January - Club BBQ

Club roster for 17 January 2022.

Chairperson.	Bob Laslett.
Vote of thanks.	Stuart Williams.
Notes for Happenings.	Bob Williams.
Recorder/cashier.	Barbara Williams

NOTICE

Forest Hill Happenings is going on holidays for the next four weeks.

Have a wonderful Christmas, enjoy the festive season and have a happy and safe New Year.

We will return on the 19th January.

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to all of our readers from all at RCFH. We seem to have 'weathered the storm' of COVID 19. It has not gone away and is not over yet. Take care of yourself and those around you.



SPROUTINGS

A joint statement signed by Victorian National Parks Association, Birdlife Australia, Environment Justice Australia, Friends of the Earth (Melbourne) and The Wilderness Society was released in December.

It commented on findings from the recent Government Ecosystem Decline inquiry.

This found that Victoria must act now or face the possible extinction of 400 critically endangered animals, plants and ecological communities listed as endangered and almost 2000 listed as threatened.

<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2021/12/03/joint-statement-parliamentary-inquiry-report-reveals-tragic-state-of-victorian-biodiversity/>

Thank you to Sue Ballard who sent us the Bush Heritage Australia newsletter. It's a very informative document and had considerable information on environmental matters- some of which also discussed our threatened species.

... But it's Christmas for some and the festive season for all, so let's finish our newsletter environment column for the year with something cheerful.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year

Best wishes, Glenys



**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.

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

