



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 24

President: Sue Ballard

16 December 2020



Scan Me!!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We have made it through a tough 9 months and even though we each have had our challenges we are now able to look forward to end of year celebrations. This year wasn't what I was expecting but hopefully I have made some steps forward. Like all of you I am looking forward to having a bit of a break for a few days, but I do have a lot of things coming up.

The main thing I am doing is trying to organise our club's participation in the 100 Year Anniversary celebrations, including the baton relay with the Whitehorse cluster and picnic with district clubs. I am hoping the lack of volunteers has less to do with lack of enthusiasm and more to do with a lot of project planning.

We have also committed to the Deakin University Community Award. Hopefully we will be able to identify individuals at Deakin who hold up the community values of Rotary. The form has been completed and applications will be called for early next year.

My hope with the relay is that all of us, partners, friends of the club, schools we work with and others in the community will participate even if just for a few metres. There will actually be two batons. One starting with MASH and the other starting with Nunawading. Our starting point will be the Farmers Market allowing not only those working the market but the traders to have an opportunity. The two batons will converge on a centre point for an end of day party.

During April and May, we can also use Activate Whitehorse spaces currently at Brentford Square and at Box Hill Central. These can be used for free activities and are provided by the council. Any ideas? A school choir challenge? Demos of yoga or pilates? Other ideas?

And we have the District picnic to look forward to in May. We will need to get our 'Waggle' on for the big challenge.

What project are we going to do to commemorate our club and its history? A seat has been one suggestion but does anyone else have suggestions? I want at least 1 from each of you by the first meeting. We need to show the community who we are and that we are more than a great sausage sizzle.

Our celebrations are what you make it. I don't want to force things on the club but if we don't do anything, I think it's a wasted opportunity to lift our profile in the community and celebrate Rotary in Australia. You have all been in the club longer than I have. What do you want 2021 to be?

Final note. For those of you travelling this festive season be careful and enjoy not just the destination but the journey. For those of us remaining close to home enjoy the celebration. While I no longer have my cousin to care for, I do have other relatives to socialise with.

Sue

MEETING REPORT

A delightful addition to our meeting was Dale Moore. I hope she enjoyed being part of the Forest Hill vibe. It was wonderful to have two positive guest speakers. Alex Kajewski and Ben Stephenson work as chaplains at Forest Hill College.

Alex mentioned that the young people have generally pleasantly surprised the staff with their resilience. With social media posts they sent out messages of love and support. There was connection through Zoom. The electronic communication was Ok but showed us how much we get from face to face communication. Alex was excited that the College has been accepted into the Breakfast Club - that entitles them to food and especially fruit.

There was a hunger for connection with the young people. The first and last youth gathering was on 4 December. Everyone is looking forward to 2021 and seeing whether the students will be able to focus for the whole day. The teachers got very tired and Alex commented how many went "the extra mile".

Ben talked about the Crossways youth group which on a Friday night can have between 300 and 500 young people. It survived through lockdown because of the the relationary connectedness between leaders and the youth. Ben spoke of the pleasure of having FH Rotary members regularly coming in and cooking breakfast. He stressed the faithfulness of our member's commitment.

Ben drew Christian ideas together with the work of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill. Upholding the value of the poor and the humbled. He believes our day-to-day work is redeeming and our work matters.

We thanked Alex and Ben for their contribution to our Christmas meeting.

President Sue, mentioned how we need to adjust our 2020 outlook and look for positives with our projects. She reminded us that the 100 Year Anniversary project is about mental health and we need to keep asking- Are you OK?

Brief reports:

Excellent returns from Blackburn Craft market and our sausage sizzle and also from Sunday's WFM.

We have been involved in assisting with "bags for girls"... they are about to be sent off.

The Youth Achievement Awards have been presented. Vocational Awards for Box Hill Institute will be presented at an afternoon tea on Wednesday.

The 6 Davis family scholarships for Box Hill High School will be delivered later this week. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to: Year 12- Ryan Bunce, Linda Chen, Marcus Chen. For year 11: Jemma Phelan, Maria Mafi, Angus Biggs. Congratulations to those six young people.

Olive oil is available as a Hope Katolo fund-raiser.

Our next meetng will be a BYO everything- evening picnic at Barb Searle's place on 11 January.

Stuart.

December is Disease Prevention & Treatment month.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be a picnic dinner meeting at Barb Searle's home on January 11th.
Our first club meeting will be on January 18th, hopefully, at Bucatini Restaurant, starting at 6.30pm.

COMING UP

11th January 2021 – BBQ social gathering.
18th January 2021 – Club Meeting at Bucatini Restaurant.

KEEP SMILING

Well done everyone! It has been a long, and at times difficult, journey through 2020 but we have made it and discovered some new insights into our lives and what is important to us. Perhaps every cloud does have a silver lining!

INTERNATIONAL

Hi Members of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill,

Thank you again for your generous donation of \$500 towards the End Trachoma project. We have used \$385 so far for the hygiene bags.

We still need extra bags so the balance will either purchase extra bags, water bottles or be passed onto the End Trachoma project direct. Bags will be taken up by hand on 21/1/21.

Please pass on our thanks to your Members.

Kind Regards

Bill Haywood

CELEBRATIONS

Who needs a reason to enjoy the company of family and friends?

Enjoy yourselves, recharge your batteries and we will see you back again in 2021.





“I told him as an expert in the field I strongly recommend wearing it, but he just kept bringing up his ‘rights’.”

SPROUTINGS

Sproutings - and so it is Christmas ...

Have you finished your Christmas shopping? I haven't – but, as usual, Bunnings vouchers can fill some stockings. And I can feel good about using them as the DIY giant is becoming increasingly environmentally aware, now committing on its website to reducing its carbon emissions and to fighting climate change.

Bunnings has said that by 2025 it aims to run on 100 per cent renewable energy by maximising natural light and installing LED lighting and solar PV systems in their stores.

The retailer now has 72 rooftop solar systems covering 18,000 square metres of its warehouses. These contribute about 30 per cent of the store's energy needs and their energy consumption bill has already dropped by more than 20 per cent.

By 2030 Bunnings goal is a big **zero** net emissions!

If Bunnings isn't your answer –you have young ones to buy for and want toys that are safe, durable and most importantly, plastic-free and planet-friendly.

Then check out the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) handy list of Nine Sustainable and Eco-friendly toys for Summer. It's got some very good suggestions.

<https://www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/9-sustainable-and-eco-friendly-toys-for-summer#gs.nkew0f>

A few more ideas for the holiday and gift giving season. Some of them you will already be doing—others may help you spend less, minimise waste, spark your creativity—and could even be fun!

- Give gifts that are long-lasting, energy-efficient, recyclable, or made of natural products. Purchase gifts that are fair-trade, locally made or organically grown.
- Support your local economy - buy from markets, farms or at local or antique shops. Or swop home grown produce with family and neighbours.
- Make your own gifts: build, knit, sew, bake or create art; make calendars using your own photographs or a recipe book with all your favourite/family recipes.
- Use creative materials for gift wrapping:
 - Scarves, fabric, handkerchiefs
 - Old maps, sheet music, advertisements
- Give in ways that also support your community: tickets to Peridot or other local theatre performances, to concerts, sports events, local attractions; or give museum memberships or gift vouchers for a coffee or meal at a local restaurant.
- Give your time and skill—schedule dog walks (a friend said this was the best gift EVER), or lessons in DIY, computer, photography, i-phone use or cardmaking.
- Instead of receiving a gift from a friend ask them to donate to a Rotary project. Or to help you out at a Rotary function.

So maybe try some of these out if you not already doing them. That's what we're doing in the hope that this and next year we can contribute to sustainability and health while simplifying our lives. That way there will be more time to enjoy family and friends.

I wish you the joys of the season. **Happy Sproutings** until we chat again, Glenys

Best Wishes to all of our readers for a wonderful festive season and a great New Year.

May you all enjoy it in whatever way you wish and share your joy with family and friends.

Our next newsletter will be sent out on 20th January, 2021.

Regards

Bill

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH



The *Bee-autiful* Basin Backyard

Nine years ago Michael asked Meredith for a beehive for his 50th birthday present because he didn't want to keep hand pollinating their trees and plants on their ¼ acre block in the foothills of the Dandenong ranges. Who would have realised that it would lead to a new career and the launch of The Basin Backyard, with over 240 beehives throughout Victoria, 10 regular markets a month, and a shop in Knoxfield (Unit 1, 31 Rushdale St).

Michael & Meredith told me “at the Basin Backyard, we sell pure raw honey & bees wax and related products e.g. lollies containing our honey (eg. honey & eucalyptus drops, nougat & peanut brittle). As well as our beeswax which we make into candles & food wraps. We are the beekeepers so we are hands-on for the whole process, from looking after our *bee-autiful* bees, harvesting the honey & jarring the honey and collecting the wax which is in our products. We are located in The Basin and we have 240+ beehives throughout Victoria. Whilst we have 5 hives on our property, the majority of them are local in the Dandenong ranges and we also have them on properties in NW Victoria, the Mornington peninsula, Gippsland and various other locations in Victoria where our bees can collect different varieties of flora for our different tasting honeys. Come and have a chat to us about our bees, our honey, our wax, our lollies & the value of bees in our environment.”

They will organise bee swarm collection, they have bee keeping supplies. Usefully, you can pay by card.

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