



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 25

President: John Bindon

26 January 2022

MOVING FORWARD



Monday night's meeting opened with Brian McPhail doing his first zoom meeting promoting the District 9810 Conference on the 25th & 26th March.

Brian gave a great presentation and I am sure would have convinced a number of members to attend.

The meeting was well attended, with all members present and contributing.

Main point of discussion for the evening, was about the sausage sizzle at the Blackburn arts and craft market. Members agreed that the current set up is not good, as it requires heavy lifting of equipment off and onto the trailer.

It was agreed that the February market would continue as usual while we investigate the option of a barbecue trailer, which cooking would be done from the trailer itself, therefore not requiring any heavy lifting of equipment.

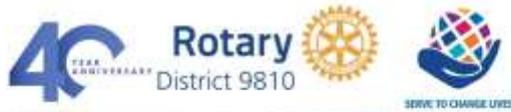
Discussion took place regards to our current membership and how we can improve our numbers. Also suggested that we put notices on our Facebook and the Club's website seeking volunteers work at the Blackburn market.

Members were disappointed that the RYLA camp was cancelled, as Glenys Grant had put a great deal of work into the preparation of the camp.

As next Monday as it is the 5th Monday of the month, we will be meeting at Bucatini for a La Carte dinner at 6:30 PM.

Please notify, Stuart Williams of any person wishing to attend, so that he can inform the restaurant of our final number.

John Bindon



**25TH -26TH
MARCH 2022**

Caulfield Racecourse

Rotary Storm Recovery Festival

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2022
10.00am - 4.30pm
Monbulk Recreation Reserve, Moore's Rd, Monbulk.

'A Time to Heal - A Time to Thank - A Time to Help'

STALLS. AMUSEMENTS. FOOD. PLANTS. DISPLAYS.
Food Stalls, Crafts and Gifts, Ice Cream, Coffee, Devonshire Teas, Live Music, Petting Zoo, Plant sales, Kids Zone, Amusements, CFA and SES Displays, Give Aways.

Proceeds Directed to Rotary Storm Recovery Projects.

MEETING REPORT

It was good to have a full attendance for our club forum held on Zoom (courtesy Bill Marsh).

District Conference

Also, in attendance for the first part of the meeting was Brian McPhail from RC Box Hill Central. After President John's regulation toasts Brian presented enthusiastically the call for us to attend this year's exciting district conference in its non-traditional format. The theme is the Family of Rotary with sub-themes of Healthy World-Healthy People. Friday 25 March will be online while the sessions on Saturday will be in-person at the Caulfield racecourse. Cost \$140 pp. Club dinners need to be arranged on the Friday night. The dinner dance on the Saturday has the theme "Famous Families" at an additional cost of \$100pp. Masks need to be worn and attendees need to be double-vaccinated. Excellent speakers are promised

Meeting

President John led the club forum. The first major item discussed was the sausage sizzle at the Blackburn Arts and Craft market. A wide range of issues were covered and each person was asked for their input. It was decided that the sale of sausages at the February market would proceed in the usual fashion (apart from some notable absentees) and different options would be explored for the future.

The other major item covered was membership. Discussion ranged over meeting styles and formats, whether we have weekly or fortnightly meetings, alternating meetings, costs, effects on program, and venues. It was decided to continue with zoom meetings while Covid lingers and alternate venues are explored.

President John thanked all for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Bob Laslett



Scan Me!

January is Vocational Service Month

NEXT MEETING

31st January - Bucatini Dinner (TBC)

COMING UP

7th Feb – Fiona Denmark - 'Blind Inspiration'

14th Feb – Valentine's Day Special – hosted by Ron Brooks

21st Feb – Leila Ragg – Mitcham Community House

28th Feb – TBC

7th Mar – Vicky Zhou – LINK Community Transport

14th Mar – No Meeting – Labour Day Holiday

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Ron Brooks (27th) and Warwick Stott (30th) who celebrate their birthdays this week. Ron's is a very special event as he clocks up 80 years. We hope both of you can enjoy some special time with family and friends.



SPROUTINGS

See the exciting STOP-PRESS at the end!

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group, ESRAG, has implemented a new member data base (imemberdb) that hopefully will soon provide a member interface. While there have been some teething problems it will provide tools to help them connect with members, send out newsletters and promote events.

ESRAG are seeking your ideas about how they can support your specific environmental interests. Please contact me, or email your interest to ted.waghorne@canterburyrotary.org).

Rotary Current and Future Directions.

By the time you read this newsletter the Insights Forum will have just occurred. We are awaiting feedback on what exciting Environment and Sustainability information and news updates have been received from the many inspirational speakers. We are hoping some recordings of the event will be available soon.



An Awakening – this report (edited) has been updated and reprinted. It is from Rotarians 4 Bees Ted Waghorne, Rotary Club of Canterbury.

The Rotarians for Bees (R4Bees) group was formed by the Rotary Club of Canterbury, Melbourne, Australia, after seeing David Attenborough outline the importance of bees and their recent decline.

Bees, along with other pollinators, are critical to life as we know it; and in Australia there is concern about the sustainability of our agricultural, horticultural and viticultural industries, as bee numbers are dropping.

R4Bees, formed under the auspices of ESRAG, has highlighted the risks to bees to several other Rotary Clubs / Districts, and is gaining traction.



At the same time the numbers of butterflies have drastically reduced over the years – why?

One reason is the loss of habitat on the mating flight path. The butterflies fly, land, mate and the next generation of butterflies emerge to fly. The caterpillars require suitable vegetation. Unless the butterflies can fly beyond the crops or find a local place to support their landing, this can cause their demise.

In Europe, along the flight path, a partnership between Rotary Clubs and schools have taken up the challenge to provide suitable gardens for the butterflies. The life of the butterfly has been included into their curriculum and each year children can study these creatures as they land and visit for a while. This initiative is succeeding, improving the chances of survival for these butterflies, while at the same time introducing school children to nature.

Whilst this example is of the difficulties facing butterflies, they are symptomatic of issues facing bees and other insects across the world.

Rotarians can make a difference. R4Bees say they will continue to investigate how we can best improve diversity and bee sustainability in Australia. They will seek ideas from all quarters. **One of the projects is to simply offer flowering plants and information at Farmers' Markets and to get pollinator friendly plants into every Rotary Garden.**

Ted Waghorne, R4Bees Group; Facebook: RotarianforBees

Links: [ESRAG Pollinator Projects](#) [Rotarians4Bees](#) [Monarch Butterflies in Australia](#)



The Rotary Clubs of Canterbury, Balwyn, Kew and Eltham are working together to co-host this evening and planning for a sit down two course dinner for 200 people and at least that number again **on line**.

Our outstanding guest speaker presenters will be talking about providing habitat for bees and other pollinators in an urban environment (including nature strips, streetscapes, residential and public gardens and rooftop or balcony gardens) and agricultural regeneration in rural settings.

Guest Speakers include:

1. Rotary International President Ian Riseley
2. Costa Georgiadis: ABC Gardening Australia Program Host and Rotary Environment and Sustainability Ambassador
3. Alick Osborne: Rotarian and CEO of Seasol
4. Fiona Sutton-Wilson, CEO of the Earthwatch organisation in Australia and Citizen Scientists
5. Fiona Chambers, CEO of the When Bee Foundation and friend and partner to Rotary and Rotarians for Bees.

This promises to be an informative and exciting evening. Please register through the [Trybooking link](#) which explains all details.

'What's The Buzz about Bees' event for Pollinator Week - YouTube

For more information please contact John McCaskill at the Rotary Club of Canterbury, District 9800. john@jmcresources.com.au Mob: 0414 477 444

Some of the latest ESRAG meetings

When available the recordings of meetings will be posted to the Projects Division page on the ESRAG website (<https://www.esrag.org/biodiversity>) and YouTube. See below for those available.

#	Date	Presenter	Topic	Domain Focus	URL-YouTube
48	22-Dec-21	Dr Yasar Atacik and All	End of year roundup	All	https://youtu.be/73L-OWUNetc
49	5-Jan-22	Dr Christopher Puttock	Biodiversity of Mangroves	Biodiversity	https://youtu.be/2zRlo6dASds
CP1a	12-Jan-22	Dr Dhoolappa Melinmani	Repurposing Feather	Circular Economy	https://youtu.be/A5lsz-0pY7c
CP1b	12-Jan-22	Mary Anne Rishebarger	Little Libraries	Sustainable Living	https://youtu.be/jsHMVOVXmo8
CP1c	12-Jan-22	Brian Braginton-Smith	Boston Greenfest	Sustainable Living	https://youtu.be/jLPOe0RAfxk
50	19-Jan-22	Joey O'Brien	Climate and Geothermal Energy	Energy	https://youtu.be/Z1MhS2JHS5s

Now for Local News update:

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Working Bees, start soon! Our first is a Twilight working bee on Thursday Feb 17. Hope you can join in.

Also, City Nature Challenge is being run again, and events will be held at BLS and all over Whitehorse, so let me know if you are interested.

City Nature Challenge:

As you may recall, last year we participated in the City Nature Challenge, representing Whitehorse in the global challenge. It was part of a biodiversity data gathering event that is run worldwide using the app iNaturalist by taking photos of flora and fauna observations. Whitehorse Council plan to increase the community group involvement this year with biodiversity data from sites all across Whitehorse.

The community will be encouraged to snap a photo of a natural observation and upload it to the iNaturalist project during the four-day observation window, running from April 29 –May2.

If you would like to be involved there are various opportunities. For instance, groups could host or guide a nature walk. It can be focused towards finding and documenting a specific species or just general observations. You can also be involved with our species identification sessions through the iNaturalist platform.

Ultimately, the broad goals of the City Nature challenge are to connect people to their local natural environment, collect biodiversity data that will be available to scientists and managers, promote the ongoing use of the iNaturalist platform as well as having fun. We have recorded iNaturalist training if you are interested in learning how to use the app.

Please let us know if your Group is interested and how you would like to be involved by **Friday, February 4, 2022.**

More information: <https://citynaturechallenge.org/participate/>
and <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-whitehorse>

It's too hot today to take photos of the birds, bees and butterflies outside, but here are two local inhabitants suffering under the air conditioner!

That's all for now, **Glenys**



STOP-PRESS:

Australians who have played a critical role in helping safeguard the nation's environment have been recognised today in the **Australia Day Honours**. They include **Alan Finkel AC, John Church AO, Russell Reichelt AO** and many others. Congratulations to them all. More next week.

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

THE HAZELNUT TREE

The Hazelnut Tree is a small business based here in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne producing handmade soaps and body products. Hazel has been a regular with us at the Blackburn Craft Market for eight years and her products can also be purchased from the “Market Fair” 2/794 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully. She lives just around the corner. At busy times she ropes in her children and husband to help on the stall making it a family affair.

As you can see from the photographs, there is a beautiful unique range of soaps poured and cut by hand. She makes her soaps using the traditional cold process method from olive oil, castor oil, coconut oil, avocado oil and hemp seed oil – no palm oil here. Hazel then uses natural colours, plant extracts and essential oils. The range also includes liquid soaps, shampoo bars, moisturisers, lip balms and more. She has an unscented range for people with sensitivities.

Hazel will be happy to talk to you about any of her products as she personally makes them. Come along to the Blackburn Craft market or email her. To make things simple, you can pay by EFTPOS.

Hazel can be contacted by email on hazel@thehazelnuttree.net and take a look at her website www.thehazelnuttree.net



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET

