



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 28

President: John Bindon

16 February 2022

## MOVING FORWARD



We are having a challenging start to the year, but things seem to be improving, and now we can reset our sails and hope for smooth waters for the remainder of this Rotary year.

Thank you to those members who assisted at the “Blackburn Arts Craft Market” on Saturday and the “Whitehorse Farmers’ Market” on Sunday. Special thank you to Grace, being a volunteer at the “sausage sizzle” and it would be good if we could improve our volunteer numbers. A total of \$775 was banked from Saturday’s market.

We are fortunate that a new home has been found, for the storage of the barbecue trailer, and we thank Bob and Barbara Williams for the storage and transporting of the trailer for many years. Currently we are exploring new options to replace our existing barbecue setup.

Both markets seemed to be a little quieter than normal, but I am sure that things will improve.

Just a reminder to members of the “Rotary District 9810 Conference” 25th to 26th March 2022. Registration is now open, and we would like to see a good representation of our club at the conference.

We are looking forward to the opportunity when we will be able to return to face-to-face meetings. Meanwhile thank you to all those members working behind the scenes.

### John Bindon.

Did you know? Rotary’s early emblem was a simple wagon wheel, representing “civilisation and movement” in 1923. The present gear wheel, with twenty-four cogs and six spokes, was adopted, and a keyway added to signify that the wheel was a “worker and not an idler”



## MEETING REPORT

Chair Ron Brooks opened the meeting and explained that the hard drive on his computer had crashed and the presentation on Valentine's Day could not be given.

President John gave toasts.

The results from the weekend markets:

Blackburn Craft market bbq had a good steady result.

Farmers' market, even in hot weather, had a good result even with reduced numbers of stallholders.

### Club reports:

Secretary: Stuart reported RYLA dates have been rescheduled for end of June

Treasurer: Warwick noted that Farmers' Market result was over \$5000 estimated for the day.

International: Bob L email sent out re ROMAC

Vocational: Barb S no update from last week.

Community: John B has contacted some community groups to see if they need any funding. If anyone knows of community groups that need funding for anything contact John.

Youth and Enviro: Glenys noted RYLA rescheduled for 27 June to 2 July. District environmental meeting later this week and Blackburn Lake twilight weeding session on Thursday.

Markets: John McP reported that at Blackburn the number of stalls was down but those present had fair day. DG Daryl Moran visited and we had a local volunteer help out. Grace, is a scientist working for the federal government.

Whitehorse Farmers' Market numbers down due to weather and Covid.

Program: Ron has Zoom meetings scheduled for the coming weeks . Ron will be going to Dubai at end of the month but meetings have been scheduled.

General: John B has been looking at possible replacement bbq trailer. A few options are being considered and will be assessed with Bill.

Bill is considering a number of meeting options for his year.

Due to no guest speaker meeting wound up early.

President John closed meeting

**Barbara S**



Scan Me!

**February is Peace and Conflict Resolution Month**

## NEXT MEETING

21<sup>st</sup> Feb – Leila Ragg – Mitcham Community House

Chair: Bill Marsh

Thanks: John Bindon

Report: Bob Williams

## COMING UP

28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Jaswinder Singh – Sikh Community Culture & Volunteering

7<sup>th</sup> Mar – Vicky Zhou – LINK Community Transport

14<sup>th</sup> Mar – No Meeting – Labour Day Holiday

21<sup>st</sup> Mar – PDG Una Hobday – Food Action Group (Zooming in from Tasmania)

28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Members reporting back on District Conference

4<sup>th</sup> Apr – Vocational Speaker to be arranged (Possible Apprentice Awards)

11<sup>th</sup> Apr – Ian Crawford – “Birds in the Suburbs” TBC

18<sup>th</sup> Apr – No Meeting (Easter Monday)

25<sup>th</sup> Apr – No Meeting (Anzac Day)

## CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Bill M who will celebrate his birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations, also, to Glenys G who will celebrate joining Rotary on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2010.



## FOOD PLANT SOLUTIONS ROTARY ACTION GROUP

I have organised Una Hobday to be our guest speaker on 21<sup>st</sup> March Zooming in from Tasmania. The following is from the Action Groups latest newsletter

*Each of you can assist by joining Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group personally, or asking your club to join, for either \$30 per year, per person or \$100 per club, per year. What a difference it would make to children in the world to not only grow food but be confident in the security of the food source; for parents to know their families will survive because they understand how to grow and cook sustainable, nutritious food. <https://foodplantsolutions.org/get-involved-and-join-us/>*

*Yours in Rotary, **PDG Una Hobday OAM, PHF**, Chair – Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group*

**Ron Brooks**

## SPROUTINGS

As you know, we are always writing about how important trees are to the environment, and to our mental wellbeing. This is the Grant's twelve month's saga.

On **February 5, 2021**, our first tree for the year fell down. The enormous old tree fell across the front yard, hitting the garage and destroying part of our large garden.

On **February 5, 2022**, exactly a year later, our sixth tree came down-yes **SIX trees..**

The photos below show what happened to the last tree. As with the first, it was very tall and snapped half way up. Luckily the canopy was caught in a couple of huge pine trees we have, where it hung, dangerously, for two days.



The other four trees dropped during the twelve months. One fell from the neighbour's garden, smashing our back and side fences. Two months later another fell from the back easement into our garden, smashing the same (just repaired) back fence.

The remaining two smashed our south side fence, with a massive ball of roots coming completely out of the ground. We heard it was waterlogged.

Our insurance company, who paid out on only three of the trees, were not happy (*could they have been calling us vexatious tree litigants?*). They more than doubled our premium, and we had to pay out an excess on four trees. The last one (above) we paid the lot as insurance didn't pay. It certainly became an expensive business.

Now – we do have many more trees, but it's seriously upsetting that so many beautiful trees fell and ended up as mulch.

Why am I telling you this? Only two came down in a high wind so there had to be a reason for the loss of the others. This area is so beautiful and many birds and animals live here with us in nature so freely, that the loss of their habitat is sad.

Googling (as you do) possible causes, we found this article from Arbor Operations.

### Nine Signs Of A Sick Tree

#### #1: Tree Bark Changes

One of the most easy-to-identify signs of tree disease is tree bark change. If you notice tree bark fungus growing on your tree with white or black spots on the tree bark, or cracking, peeling, crumbling, brittle or spongy bark these are clear signs of an unhealthy tree.

#### #2: Cracks in the Tree Trunk

Sometimes the cracks that form in a tree's trunk will be perfectly harmless. However, if the cracks or splits are significant and go deeper than the bark, it may be a sign of a sick, structurally compromised or potentially dangerous tree.

### #3: Reduced Foliage

Healthy trees enjoy full leaf coverage in summer and spring. Unless it's the middle of winter, your tree should have some greenery on its branches. If your tree is no longer producing leaves at all, its leaves have browned out, or the leaves have thinned out in a small section of the tree canopy, this may be a sign of tree disease.

### #4: Discoloured Leaves

If you start to see unexplained changes, spots or mottling of the leaves, it could indicate that the tree has a disease, or isn't receiving enough water, sunlight or nutrients such as nitrogen. It doesn't have enough energy for photosynthesis and the production of leaves. On evergreen trees, branches with leaves that are yellow, red or brown are sick or dying.

### #5: Fungal Disease

One of the most damaging tree diseases is a fungal disease. Trees can become infected by fungi with airborne spores or fungi transferring from another infected plant or tree. If the fungi spreads throughout the tree and has attacked the root system, it may become sick. Signs of a fungal attack include a white substance that forms when the bark is chipped off, presence of mushroom or conk-shaped fruiting bodies.

### #6: Pests

Many different pests can invade a tree and cause tree disease. In Australia, common are:

- **Termites** – Look for wood shavings, termite wings, mud tubes on the tree bark, an unstable or hollow trunk, or termite nests in the soil around the tree base
- **Leaf beetles** – Keep a lookout for 'shothole' or 'scattergun' damage to leaves
- **Wood wasps** – Search for meandering galleries under the bark packed with fine boring dust and round, clean-cut holes that penetrate the wood
- **Stem borers** – Presence of sawdust, calluses and cracked bark, lifted bark, exit holes, swelling, leaking sap, ring-barking and withered branch tips

### #7: Deadwood

Deadwood can be perfectly normal for a tree canopy. However, deadwood and dead growth tips can also be a sign that the tree is under stress and potentially sick.

### #8: Changes to the soil around the tree

If the soil is bone dry or cracked, the tree may be thirsty for water. If the soil is waterlogged and compressed, the earth may not be strong enough to hold the tree in position. The tree may even start to lean slightly. Soil disturbance, such as excavation, can greatly damage the roots and even destabilise the tree. Raising the soil around the tree trunk and roots can suffocate the root system as tree roots need oxygenated soil to grow.

### #9: Root Rot

Another common tree disease is root rot. Damage to the roots is critical, as roots are important to help the tree absorb water and nutrients so it can grow and flourish. This rotting is likely caused by a fungal infection that has entered into the roots, which can be identified by wilted or yellowish leaves in summer. To prevent the spread, it's important to hire a professional to skilfully prune the tree and treat the soil to control the fungus infection.

### If your tree is unhealthy, what should you do?

All of these symptoms are warning signs that your tree's health is threatened. It may not be too late to save it. The faster you identify these symptoms, the faster your tree can be treated and recover.

### Summing up- a tree may be dying if you can see:

Sticks everywhere on the ground; the bark is falling off; there is rot or fungus; the tree is leaning; there are open wounds; no leaves; termites or other pests; or there is root damage.

An arborist has identified **fungal disease** (Number 5) as the reason two of our trees dropped.

The rest of our trees will be checked this week. It's good to be green, and Rotarians are helping green the earth – but let's also be safe and look after our trees so they don't drop.



This photo shows we still have plenty of trees left – and hope not to lose any more! Isn't this one magnificent?

Just in case you are sick of 'tree talk' next week we will change the subject.

*Maybe you would like to answer these questions in the meantime.*

***What is the percentage of fresh water on Earth?***

***Is it all readily available for use?***

Until next week..

***Glenys***

## HOPE KATOLO RAFFLE

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in the Hope Katolo Valentine's Day raffle. We raised a fantastic \$550 for the nursery school!!



Thanks to Dr Rose for drawing the raffle. Congratulations to our Dad who won the bottle of Moët and to Ian Teese, who won the bottle of Chandon champagne for purchasing the most tickets. They were well deserved winners with Dad purchasing \$100 worth of tickets and Ian Teese \$105 worth of tickets.

Thanks again for everyone who participated!!

*Melanie Haley, Leanne Pinfold and Georgina Malanga*

Hope Katolo Nursery School, Kenya

## 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](mailto:hazel@thehazelnuttree.net) and take a look at her website [www.thehazelnuttree.net](http://www.thehazelnuttree.net)



# We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET



Market operates on the second Saturday each month (except for January)