



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 30 President: Bill Marsh

10 April 2024

## BILL'S BY-LINE



The last couple of weeks have seen our club get off to a very sad, and a very busy, start to the last four months of the Rotary Year. On the 12th March our Charter Member and long-time Treasurer, Warwick Stott, died suddenly and most unexpectedly. Warwick's family and the club were shattered as were his myriad of friends in Rotary. Warwick really wanted the club, and himself, to reach 50 years of service. Sadly, this was not to be. On 27 March we farewelled Warwick at a Memorial Service at the Wattle Park Chalet and on 30 June we will reluctantly hand back our Charter. This will mark 49 years of service to our community.

We can proudly remember the fantastic, positive contribution that Warwick and the club have made to so many lives. Service Above Self was not a motto to Warwick, it was a way of life.

On Sunday we attended the Sikh Volunteers Australia presentation at Bunjil Place, Narre Warren. This was a special ceremony where the Sikh Community came together to thank the many volunteers who serve our community. The Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Victoria were both present, along with a host of other community leaders. It was a lovely day as not only were the various organisations recognised but so were the Sikh Volunteers who do an amazing job whenever any of our communities are devastated by fire, flood or any other disaster.

Monday night saw us meeting at Disaster Aid Australia in Eumemmerring. This is a fantastic, grass roots, organisation that works to provide Safe Water and Humanitarian Aid to communities in developing countries world-wide. We were most impressed and appreciative of the time and effort put in by this, primarily, volunteer group to make a serious impact on so many lives in so many countries. There has been an 80% decrease in illness where they have implemented their Safe Water program.

At our meeting on Monday, we will have two of the apprentices who received the Ford Davis Awards last year talk to us about what the award means to them and their future plans. One of their lecturers from Box Hill Institute will also tell us about their program. We may also have as our guest, Gae Robinson, from the Blackburn Bellbird Probus Club. Gae will be returning the regalia that we provided for them when the club was set up many years ago. (One of the many initiated by Stan Harper.)

On Saturday we will have our Blackburn Market and then on Sunday the WFM. I hope that all members who can make it come on Saturday to help out. With no Blackburn Market in January and March being washed out we have had a slow start. Hopefully the weather is kind to us, and we have a super day on Saturday. Sue is organising the roster for the WFM can rattling brigade. Sue will be attending the WFM meeting on Thursday at 5.00pm.

When we run our last Blackburn Market in June, I am very pleased that a local Rotary club will take over from us and keep the market running. This is a great community event and much loved by all who participate and attend. Some people travel considerable distances to attend because the market has such a 'friendly feel' and there is a good range of stalls with excellent products at reasonable prices.

John Bindon continues to amaze everyone with his beaming smile and positive outlook. John hopes to be able to join us on Monday evening.

Take care of each other and stay warm.

Bill

## **NEXT MEETING**

<b>15 April</b>	<b>Ross Barden</b>	<b>Apprentice Awards</b>
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Sue Ballard	
<b>Greeter:</b>	Bob Laslett	
<b>Notes for "Happenings"</b>	Glenys Grant	
<b>Cashier &amp; Recorder:</b>	Bill Marsh	

## **COMING UP**

<b>13 April</b>	<b>Blackburn Market</b>
<b>14 April</b>	<b>Whitehorse Farmers Market</b>
<b>22 April</b>	<b>Michael Sukkar</b>
<b>29 April</b>	<b>Bucatini Fellowship night</b>

*April is  
Environmental  
Month*

# CELEBRATIONS



Let us celebrate our almost 50 years of service to the aged.

Dwell on the variety, extent and range of our Probus programs and the hundreds of families that have been influenced for the better.



## MEETING REPORT

- April 8, 2024

We were pleased to have 5 members in attendance and welcomed partners Judy M and Robbie B.

On a rainy night Brian Ashworth and Cherie Ramsay from the Rotary club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills welcomed us to their Disaster Aid Australia Office. After a discussion of the important role of the organisation and its positive effect in many countries including Ukraine we were treated to a working demonstration of the SkyHydrant ultrafiltration water filter that is installed in rural communities. We were particularly impressed with the 120 safe water installations in schools in Bhutan. After a delicious chicken meal CEO Brian outlined the history of the organisation and his own involvement. His talk was illustrated with many stories and audiovisuals. The changing philosophy of Disaster Aid was apparent as was the importance of partners at the local and national levels. Brian explained that the positive effects are more than just "safe water". The evening finished with a delicious dessert and a flurry of questions.





Brian and Cherie and the SkyHydrant



The ultrafiltration core

Bob

# SIKH Event thanking volunteers



## Forest Hill Community Space

Last week I dropped by the Forest Hill Community Space to see the new piano. Mal invited me to the Sing a long session at 12.30 and what a joyous experience it was. As time drew nearer the musicians arrived and the participants started to fill the chairs. Overall, there were 12 musicians including guitarists, pianists, a flautist, a saxophonist and others. The screen was set up so there was no excuse to forget the words. By start time there were about 70 participants with volunteers bringing out more chairs.

Mal told me most were regulars though each time passersby make their way in to see what is going on. Many live alone and their sessions become a highlight.

The song selection is vast and varied including songs from a variety of eras. Mal laughingly said "we don't do Taylor Swift.....yet". Time flew as I watched everyone singing and enjoying the community involvement. Those who could sing, those who couldn't enjoyed the community spirit. Even traders close to the Space had smiles and some were even singing along.

The piano purchase we were involved in has been a wonderful asset to Forest Hill Community Space.

Sue

## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

Every month for the last 10 years or so we have heard the sometimes lively and sometimes plaintive sounds of jazz drifting down over the stalls at the Blackburn Craft Market. The **Skidaddle** group give their time freely to entertain us while clearly having fun (or is it that they would play anywhere for a free sausage at the end of the morning?). If you haven't met them, they are Richard Desmond (cornet), Dave O'Sullivan (drums), Jim Badger (banjo), Ezra Kawadlo (trombone), Simon Gilbert (guitar), Tony Lee (clarinet), and Rod Evans (double bass). Richard and others also sing. So next time you are at the craft market, go up, say hello, smile, tap your feet, sing along - they'll love you for it. Rod is their low-profile leader and told me they are available for parties, and for gigs particularly their 16-piece big band that plays swing music mostly from the 30's and 40's. You may have seen and heard some of the other bands they play in, which include the Dandenong Ranges Hot Jazz Orchestra, South Dereel City Stompers, U3A Big Band, and the Diamond Valley Big Band, too many to list. Many in the band will be playing at the Port Fairy Jazz Festival in February 2024. As I was listening to them play, I heard one say let's change the key to ..., I didn't realise it but all these guys read music as well..... and there was me thinking they just play it all by ear.

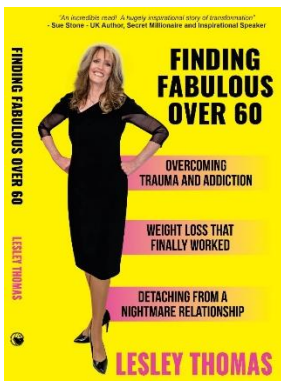
So if you want to hire them please contact: [rode.evans@macrodynamics.com.au](mailto:rode.evans@macrodynamics.com.au)





**THE SKIDADDLE GROUP**

**SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS**





## Come and frequent the Market this Saturday–April 13

Disclaimer: Articles and reports do not necessarily reflect Rotary Club of Forest Hill opinions.