



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 31

President: Bill Marsh

22 February 2023

BILL'S BY-LINE



This week's meeting was a very relaxed evening with great company and an excellent speaker. (Ron Brooks just keeps on finding these great speakers, week after week. Thanks, Ron.)

Veronica Sherman from 'Happily Made' led us through how she became involved in Cambodia and the years since returning to Australia. Entertaining and eye-opening as you looked into a lifestyle that you know exists without really knowing too much about it. Look up her website veronicavonx@gmail.com or check out 'Happily Made'.

The club has supported Children First Foundation, Dementia Cafes and Turkish & Syrian refugees in Australia over the last couple of weeks. A donation will be made this week to the NZ Flood Relief Appeal.

Next week we will be hosting two of the three apprentices who won awards this year at our club dinner. There will be one of the Davis Award winners and the Graham Taylor Award winner – the second Davis Award winner could not make the evening. This will be a great opportunity for all members to meet these great young people we have been able to help through these awards.

Following the Apprentice night we will have two weeks without meetings and then we will have Norm Boreham from the 'Alma Doepel' speaking to us.

This coming week 40% of our membership and a couple of partners will be off to the District Conference in Canberra. This promises to be a great couple of days with over a thousand attendees.

No First Friday Film Night in March due to the Conference.

Don't forget the two markets will be on when we return from Canberra so be sure to have them in your calendar.

This morning I am off to the Blue Lotus Gardens in Yarra Junction. A beautiful spot. Well worth the drive if you haven't been before. In fact, well worth it even if you have been.

Enjoy your week. Stay safe.

Bill

February is

Peace and Conflict Prevention / Resolution Month

Month

NEXT WEEK

27 February Apprentice Awards Night

Chairperson:	Bill Marsh
Greeter:	Warwick Stott
Notes for "Happenings"	Bob Laslett
Thanks	Barbara Searle

COMING UP

11 March	Blackburn Market
12 March	Whitehorse Farmers Market
20 March	Norm Boreham The 'Alma Doepel'
27 March	Conference Reports

CELEBRATIONS



Whoopee! President Bill's birthday today. Glen Grant joined our club today in 2010! And Secretary Stuart has his birthday on February 25. Join the party.



Meeting Report 20 Feb 2023

Chairperson Sue Ballard opened the meeting, welcoming nine members and guest speaker Veronica Sherman of Happily Made.

Apologies were listed for Ron Brooks and Catherine Elfick.

This was followed by the usual toasts - to Australia and Rotary International.

President Bill then paid respects to the traditional owners of our land.

He announced there would be no meetings on 6th and 13th March. The District Conference is March 3-5 and the four members who are attending will give reports on 27 March.

- Donations have been sent to Children First Foundation, Umbrella (dementia) Cafe's project, and RAWCS for Turkey earthquake survivors.

- Bill suggested a donation, via RAWCS, be given to the Rotary New Zealand Flood Relief fund. This was agreed to unanimously.

Other reports:

- the Apprenticeship Awards dinner is on Feb 27 and two apprentices will attend to tell their story.

- Sue Ballard will ask them to give us a photo with their toolkits for our publications.
- Bob Laslett and Sue Ballard received PETS training last weekend
- Stuart filed a CAV (Consumer Affairs Victoria) annual return and also submitted an application for discount hall hire for the Bob Hill Town Hall for the International Women's Day breakfast
- the problem of un-presented cheques for Box Hill High students is being resolved.
- Discussion was held as to a better method of payment for these awards in future, more suitable for students.
- Youth reported that emails had gone out to all parents, schools and each contact teacher informing them that the Youth Achievement Awards article could be read in Eastsider News. Thank you replies were received.
- It is hoped that all Youth Awardees photos can appear on RCFH webpage, as only two could be published in the newspaper.
- Enviro reported that RCFH enviro work was commented on at a Whitehorse Enviro meeting.
- a combined RCFH Enviro and Youth, Whitehorse Council and FH College project of Kids Teaching Kids is being discussed. Another meeting is planned soon to discuss more details.
- a Bush Heritage video on Lyre Birds is available and Sue will organise for it to be shown. She will also contact other clubs to ascertain interest.
- Fellowship: Peridot theatre first, then more Fellowship events are planned for after the Conference.

Our guest **speaker**, Veronica Sherman, was then introduced.

Veronica's story.

Early years: born in Sweden- from age 10-20yrs lived in Jerusalem- completed Army service there.

- Moved to Adelaide, obtained Counseling Degree, married, had four children.

Cambodia chapter:

In 2008 the family moved to a village in South Cambodia.

A local woman came in to do some sewing...she brought another. This rapidly grew to 15 women coming into their home, making practical gifts through their sewing, knitting, weaving and handicraft skills. They were taught and helped to sell online by Veronica - and so were earning a small



living for their families.

Melbourne chapter:

In 2011 Veronica and family returned to Australia, settling in Melbourne. Veronica has continued to support the women in the village in Cambodia by creating ethical jobs for them through their making and her selling their beautiful craftwork on-line. This assists in the financial support needed to keep children at school. It also ensures the women retain their self-respect by not having to take on unsavory jobs so that they and their families can survive.

For further information:

WWW.happilymade.com.au,

Facebook- happilymadevillage,

or email at veronicahappilymade@gmail.com.

Veronica also runs a gift shop and 'Monkey Temple'. Contact her to find out more.



John Bindon gave a vote of thanks to Veronica and presented her with a small gift.

The raffle raised \$39.00- Winners were Bob Laslett and Barb Searle.
Bill closed this excellent meeting at approx. 8.30 pm.

Glenys

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

HOOPS RELOOPED

The founder of **Hoops Relooped**, Bec is a local from Nunawading. She has always loved collecting earrings but doesn't love always buying new products. She went through her (extensive) earring collection in early 2022 and found several pairs that she hadn't worn for years but were too good to throw out. She started pulling the pieces apart, re-working them into new earrings, glued on some new posts and **Hoops Relooped** was born!

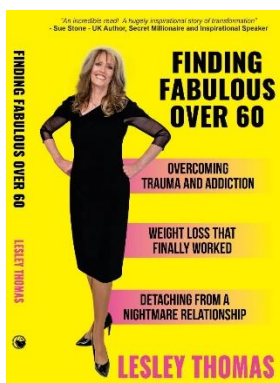
Bec said "We take preloved second-hand unwanted jewellery and turn it into new, one-of-a-kind statement earrings. There is already so much "stuff" in the world, why add more when we can use what we already have?"

They source as many of their pieces second hand as they can - think preloved necklaces, earrings and bracelets from friends, family and op shops - they're working towards a circular jewellery economy. They purchase all their backings from women-led small businesses in Adelaide and Brisbane. They endeavour to be plastic free as much as possible - they ship plastic free; use carbon neutral shipping carriers; and use recycled cardboard boxes, eco tape, and recycled paper bags. Bec sees **Hoops Relooped** as her creative outlet away from work and computers.

They are regulars at many markets in the area (see www.hoopsrelooped.com.au). If you have some jewellery, you would like fixing, changing, updating then contact her via the website to chat about it or email her on hello@hoopsrelooped.com.au



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS





Come to the Market next month- March 11