



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 31 President: Bill Marsh

17 April 2024

## BILL'S BY-LINE



On Monday at our meeting, it was great to hear from Wayne Hao, one of the Ford Davis Award winners in 2023 and Ross Borden, BHI lecturer. Despite being extremely nervous Wayne spoke well and certainly got across just how much he valued the award. It is lovely when the appreciation is so spontaneous and evident.

The Global Grant application for Ethan Newnham is progressing thanks to the very generous support of the Davis family. Roger, Peter and Gary have put up the \$10,000 US to enable the grant to move to the next stage.

Our Blackburn Market was very successful at the weekend. What a difference the weather can make. Saturday was obviously a 'bacon & egg or sausage & onion' day.

My thanks to everyone who helped. Not only did we have many hands – they all knew what they were doing! Great result.

Thanks also to those who helped 'rattle the can' at the WFM. My apologies, particularly to the Rotaractor I was working with, as I had to leave suddenly through illness.

Next week our guest speaker is Michael Sukkar and Ken Maxfield (Camp Getaway) will be making a special appearance. Please let Ron know if you will be attending.

The following week will be a special club dinner in the restaurant at Bucatini.

Please keep John Bindon and John McPhee in your thoughts. They both are bright within themselves but their bodies are a bit battered and in need of special care. Hopefully they will both be back at a club meeting soon.

Take care of each other and stay well.

Bill

## NEXT MEETING

22 April

**Michael Sukkar**

**Chairperson:**

Bill Marsh

**Greeter:**

Barbara Searle

**Notes for "Happenings"**

Ron Brooks

**Cashier & Recorder:**

Bill Marsh

## COMING UP

29 April

**Bucatini Fellowship night**

6 May

**Betty Chetcuti**

**Vegan cooking**

11 May

**Blackburn Craft Market**

12 May

**Whitehorse Community Market**

13 May

**DGE Colin Byron**

**Rotary in the Future**

*April is  
Environmental  
Month*

## CELEBRATIONS



Let us celebrate our almost 50 years of local community service.

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



# Meeting Report – Box Hill Institute Apprentice Awards

## • April 8, 2024

**Bob Laslett**, Acting President, welcomed all attendees, including club members and partner Judy L, also Gae Robinson of the Blackburn, Bellbird Combined Probus Club and Ross Barden, Teacher, Wood Trades, with Wayne Hao, Electrical Apprentice, both from Faculty of Trades, Box Hill Institute.

Bob listed apologies from John Mc, John B, Bill M. The club sends best wishes to these members and partners currently unwell and wish all a speedy recovery.

Acting President Bob began by reading out a moving tribute to Club founding member **Warwick Stott** from **Hope Katolo's** Melanie, Leanne and Georgina.

He then introduced Gae Robinson of the Blackburn, Bellbird Combined Probus Club, which was formed in 1995 by our club and former member Stan Harper.

The Probus club is closing, and Gae presented Ron with their Club's regalia. He then reported he has arranged for the regalia to be handed to a new Probus club. Gae was thanked for attending.

### Reports:

President Bob then read President Bill's report:

- Two successful markets were held over the weekend. Blackburn Market raised \$811.

- The Rotary Club of Mitcham will take over the Blackburn Market and the BBQ trailer from July 1.

- Ethan Newnham's Global Scholarship Grant Application to pursue post graduate studies in brain function research at Oxford University, London, is being sponsored by our club.

It is now supported by the Scholarship Chair of District 9810 as well as the 9810 Foundation and will also be supported by the Davis family.

It is suggested Ethan be invited to attend the final meeting of the club to meet the Davis family members.

*Comment: our club may be closing, but we are remaining active in helping the community in worthwhile projects right to the end of our charter. Congratulations to all, especially Bob Laslett, Bill Marsh and our wonderful Davis family supporters for this latest activity.*

### Other Reports:

#### Program, RonB:

members wishing to attend Lume outing Monday next should contact him.

- next Monday the meeting Speaker is MP Michael Sukkar, with a brief report by former club member Ken Maxfield.

#### Youth, Glenys G:

- Box Hill High's MUNA team is confirmed. Forest Hill College is assessing students for their team. Organising is on-going.

- Youth Citizenship Awards invites are going out. There will be no dinner in June this year but awards will be presented at schools.

**Secretary** Stuart W: asked members to please give attendance numbers to Ron B for next meeting.

**Vocation:** Sue B reported on the launch of the new Men's Shed repair shop, Springvale Rd, Nunawading. It will open to the public one day a month.

## Box Hill Institute Apprentice Awards

Sue B, as Chair, gave an introduction to the Club's Apprentice Awards and the Davis family's involvement in sponsoring these over many years.



She then gave an apology for Carpentry Apprentice Award Winner, Ryan Bartlett and introduced **Wayne Hao, Electrical and Air Conditioning Apprentice award winner.** **Wayne Hao** explained that he had been a surgeon in China, and arrived here in 2018 with his wife to start a new life. They live in Mitcham with their two children, 10 years and 18 months. The latter, he explained, was a terror at getting into cupboards.... (Don't we all remember that age where children are nonstop curious?)

It was not an option for Wayne to re-enter medicine, so he was advised that becoming an electrician would give him and his young family a good living.

He initially was held back a little by his lack of English, but he explained that he feels more confident now and is about to commence year three of his course. He works for an air conditioning firm and attends the institute one day a week.

The Award monies will mean he can finish his course with less financial stress and buy tools to set himself up in his trade. He is so grateful to the Davis family and is hoping to meet them in June.





**Ross Bardon**, Wood Trades teacher, who has been attending our Apprenticeship dinners for many years to represent the Box Hill Institute Trades Faculty, then spoke.

He explained why **Ryan Bartlett** was nominated as Carpentry Apprentice Awardee.

Apparently, when he entered the Carpentry Course, he had initially shown a lack of confidence. As he realised his abilities his natural leadership skills emerged and since then he has stood out from his colleagues for those skills and his dedication to the trade.

As with Wayne, he also will use the award monies for trade tools.

Ross explained how many industries, like Carpentry, are now becoming very automated and so teaching has changed. At one stage the course attendance numbers dwindled, but they are slowly building again, because bosses still want good, skilled workers, properly trained in both the trade and safety.

There is also a return to Technical Trade schools as there is a great need for trades and builders in the community. There is also a shortage of trade teachers, so incentives are being given by the Government to attract them.

Ross finished by thanking the club and the Davis family for helping the apprentices of Box Hill Institute for so many years.

He and Wayne are both hoping to come to the final dinner meeting.

Meeting closed 8.30pm.



## REPAIR CAFÉ OPENING

On Saturday 13th April I attended the official opening of the Mens Shed Repair Cafe. It is located in the sheds at the rear of Strathdon House, next door to the Forest Hill Police Station in Springvale Road the Repair Cafe is staffed by volunteers who provide services to repair many different types of household objects with the philosophy to stop the upping of items in land fill.

The mayor of Whitehorse spoke of her support to reduce and repurchase and to get away from the trend of throwing our items that need repair. The Cafe is open on the second Saturday of the month. Repair services may change each month. For more information, please go to the website below.

Website [healthability.org.au/services/repair-cafe/](http://healthability.org.au/services/repair-cafe/)

Please note in the photo of the "ribbon cutting" the ribbon is a reusable fabric design which the mayor unbuttoned.



Sue

## Multicultural Inclusion Day

RC Glen Waverley is holding a fun multicultural inclusion day on Sunday 12 May from 10am-3pm.

The venue is Mount Waverley Youth Centre 45 Miller Crescent. It is free!! Food ,fun, stalls and dance.



## 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.

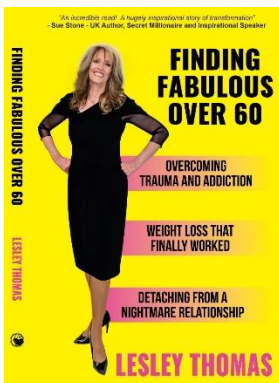
So if you want to hire them please contact: [rode.evans@macrodynamics.com.au](mailto:rode.evans@macrodynamics.com.au)



THE SKIDADDLE GROUP



# SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



**Come and frequent the Market next month—May 11**

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