



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 32

President: Sue Ballard

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Looking at the news over the past weeks reminds me that this country of ours is amazingly resilient and vulnerable at the same time. This time last year NSW and Queensland were recovering from drought and bushfire. Now the same areas are experiencing the worst floods in 100 years. This country is so sensitive to the elements. The rain that was so desired is now creating devastation. I watched a news report of a house floating down a river which was once a road. How can we harness this natural resource of water for the drier times? The classic poem "I Love a Sunburnt Country" comes to mind. As vulnerable as this country is, the people are showing how resilient they are. The majority will rebuild, start over, start anew. How can we, in the southern side of the country, help those up north? Does anyone have contacts in the affected area we could ask how we, as a club or a cluster or a district, help them through this? Let me know and I will look into how we can help now or in the near future.

On a very serious note, at the Presidents' Meeting the Code of Contact Rotarians should be adhering to was discussed at length. Alma noted that over the past year, and in particular in recent weeks, there were issues regarding harassment in the clubs. I realise it is often difficult to define if what you say or do is considered harassment, especially considering 20 or more years ago it wouldn't be seen in the same light. Please, think before you speak and consider what your audience would think. What you say and do not only effects what others think of you but what they think of the club and Rotary. Please follow the Rotary Code of Conduct, link below.

<https://my-cms.rotary.org/en/document/rotarian-code-conduct> Code of Conduct

New technology information on district website. Latest updates include tips for setting up and running hybrid meetings. Techs available to give advice. Last week I joined Nunawading for a hybrid meeting to see how it worked. The guest speaker in this case was at the meeting and a few members joined the meeting on Zoom. They had their dinner first then Zoom participants joined the meeting. It worked well. Nunawading are happy for us to share their equipment and will demonstrate and train us to setup and use.

Remember the District Conference on 1st and 2nd May. Virtual meetings.

Assembly coming up. Will be a virtual meeting. Similar format as usual. More details to come.

Remember practise your Waggle! Try the bottom waggle first then the wings. No right or wrong. Remember it's for a good cause.

**Sue**

## MEETING REPORT

Meeting opened with toasts by Pres Sue to RI and Australia, plus a reminder that it is Water & Sanitation Month. We were also reminded that our country is as Dorothea Mackellar said "...of flooding rains..." Sue is following up with clubs around Penrith to ask "what can we do to help?". She talked about the baton relay and reminded us to book into the afterparty using the link in Happenings. (see Sue's report). We had 12 members present. There were no reports apart from Bill telling us that Fellowship will be organising tickets to Peridot, and reminding us that apart from the markets/sausage sizzles, Peridot has given us the only opportunities to fund raise in the last few years. So, we should support them. Warwick needs extra helpers for the next WFM as we are responsible for the egg & bacon stall. Bob W told us that Mitcham Community House are grateful for borrowing some of our BBQ facilities.

The speakers this week were all our club members who had three minutes to talk about one item which meant something to them

**Bob W. An Indigenous painting.** Soon after commencing work with the Good Shepherd Sisters I was asked by the Provincialate Leader if I would volunteer a couple of weekends to computerise the books at an Aboriginal Community Art business at Dareton, NSW, just across the Murray from Mildura. The Board Chair and I flew to Mildura and stayed with the Gallery manager in Dareton and I managed to computerise the accounts and set up a cash register to make their financial transactions easy for them to use. I met all the artists and their families and they took an interest in my family. The Saturday night of the second weekend The Board Chair and I were invited to a bbq on the river bank with all the artists families and I was presented with an Indigenous painting dedicated to Barbara to thank me for my time.

**John B. Searching for YMCA records.**

**Ray . Tai Chi.** Ray gave us a 3 min. silent demonstration of 10 Form Tai Chi showing why he is so fit and flexible at 90 (and a bit!).

**Bob L. A flight sergeant's tropical RAF jacket.** It was the jacket worn by his father, Jack, during the second World War as a navigator on bombers. He enlisted in 1942 soon after Bob's sister's birth. Bob read a brief extract from his father's copper-plate account of a talk in 1945 describing the voyage to Canada on the 'New Amsterdam' to join the RAF. Jack broke his leg and sprained his ankle which prevented him joining the Battle of Britain, and probably saved his life.

**Stuart. Fines rounders bat.** It was presented to the Apex Club of Vermont on its Charter in 1977, by Waverley Apex. It was later "purloined" by the Mt Waverley Apex club. Fines were 20c and the Sergt. at Arms walked around the room collecting fines. Stuart and Bob were Vermont Apex members. Stuart became club president, District Governor and the Zone President. His Apex Zone 13 was almost identical in size to our current Rotary District. Forest Hill Rotary used to have a large round fines box on a handle when the club was 45-64 members. (we found out from Bob W that his nickname was Stuart the Lip).

**Barbara W. An empty pineapple fruit can.** Trip to Norfolk Island, a tiny island in the Pacific, brimming with history, but due to the months' late arrival of the supply ship to the island, many empty supermarket shelves, but we did manage some tinned fruit for our fruit lunches!

**Ron. A painting of a Minton porcelain cup.** William Johnston was born in Melbourne in 1911 and was given a small Minton cup by his grandmother when he was eight years old which started a lifelong love of collecting antiques. He kept that tiny cup all his life. He steadily built up a fine collection of English Georgian, Regency, and Louis XV fine and decorative arts while trading in antiques. He kept them in his London home and his home in East Melbourne, 'Fairhall'. When he died he left his entire estate to the people of Victoria. In Nov 1990, 'Fairhall' was opened to the public as the Johnstone Collection Museum. Robbie first visited when it opened and has been a volunteer there every Monday for many years.

## **Warwick. Floods Can Affect Farmers**

In 1956 the eastern part of NSW was flooded, and I was a student at an agricultural college at Richmond where the local farmers had no ability to send their milk to dairy factories due to the impassable roads. Therefore, the farmers saved the cream, tipping the skim milk down the Hawkesbury River which was about 4 miles wide. After a number of weeks with the cream becoming more stinking, they were able to get it off their farms. As students we were press-ganged into working in the dairy factory where the authorities added bicarb soda to neutralise the stink, then made it into export quality butter and shipped it off to England.

**Glenys. A photo of three different time capsules.** 100-year anniversary commemoration using a professional type of Time Capsule. RCFH could suggest this to the 9810 Whitehorse Cluster. Cost to each club is about \$100. Council have shown interest. Their permission requirements include a list of site alternatives, type and size of capsule and length of time pre-exhumation. The Cluster then would need to decide on contents. Content alternatives were presented with pros and cons on deterioration, as researched by the Smithsonian and other Institutes. Our Rotary cotton mask is a perfect inclusion.

**Barbara S. An aluminium 150-year-old walking stick.**

**Sue. “Unhappy Exiles” by Marion Starr.** It is the journey in 1791 of the Pitt and the Kitty from the Thames to Port Jackson. On board were 3 of my ancestors Ann Brooks Snr age 49, her daughter Ann Brooks Jnr age approx. 14 convicted of possession of stolen goods and John Cox age 29 a private in the NSW corps. The women’s quarters designed to hold 10 people was 6 foot by 7 foot contained 27 women. They were allowed 15-20 min on deck a day weather permitting. It soon became apparent the women needed to have protection from crew and male convicts. Ann Jnr partnered with John Cox. Their first son was born during the journey. They arrived in Port Jackson in 1792. A month later Ann Snr died. John Cox served at Sydneytown then was at Norfolk Island for 12 years with Ann and their children. Eventually moving to Tasmania where they got a land grant at Longford where Ann died age 61 and John died age 81.



**Bill. The School Bell.** Bill spoke about a true ‘gentle man’ he was proud to have as a friend. Ian was the last Principal Bill worked with. Ian had the original school bell his father presented to him when he began teaching in the 1930’s which he passed on to Bill when he retired. The sight, and sound, brought back some great memories for some members and was a completely new look at the country school for others.

The Sergeant raised \$32.70 (weren't we so glad to have him back after his fruitless exercise on Norfolk Island with Barb?) All answers to this question to be emailed to Bob W. The raffle raised \$49 with the white wine going to Warwick, the red to Sue and unfortunately(?) the chocolates being the only prize left went to Stuart.

My latest Food Technology magazine told me that the five Australian favourite flavours of ice cream are chocolate, cookies & cream, salted caramel, mint, berry, & coffee. The American favorite is vanilla ! (boring). There is a huge increase in sales of vegan ice cream, low fat ice cream and low sugar ice cream. The marketing people just love this modern, social media driven world.

My sayings for the week are

"It is better to have questions that cannot be answered than doing science according to answers that cannot be questioned".

"The authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual." Galileo

**Ron**

**March is *Water & Sanitation* month.**

## **NEXT MEETING**

29<sup>th</sup> March - Partners Dinner at Bucatini

## **COMING UP**

5 <sup>th</sup> April -	No Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> April -	Blackburn Market
11 <sup>th</sup> April -	Whitehorse Farmers' Market
12 <sup>th</sup> April -	Kevin Walker – "Schizophrenia – hope & recovery"

## **CELEBRATIONS**

Two recent celebrations.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Stuart celebrated joining Rotary in 1988.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. John Mc P celebrated joining Rotary in 1982.



## SPROUTINGS

I've just attended the most exciting webinar, run by Monash University, on **iNaturalist**.

The Speaker was Dr Luis Mata.

If you are interested in the **iNaturalist** idea, read what the app does, download it onto your phone and help the scientific community by using it as often as possible.

With the City Nature Challenge coming up soon this will be put to great use. **Glenys**

**iNaturalist Australia** [inaturalist.ala.org.au](http://inaturalist.ala.org.au)

### How It Works:

**Record** your observations, **Share** with fellow naturalists, **Discuss** your findings.....

**Contribute to the Atlas of Living Australia**

**iNaturalist Australia** is the product of a membership agreement between the iNaturalist Network and the Atlas of Living Australia and CSIRO.

It commenced in 2008 as a social network for sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature. The primary goal is to connect people to nature, and the secondary goal is to generate scientifically valuable biodiversity data from these personal encounters.

**iNaturalist** helps you identify plants and animals with visually similar suggestions and verification by dedicated contributors. Get connected with a community of over a million scientists and naturalists who can help you learn more about nature! By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research-quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature.

### KEY FEATURES

- Advances science & conservation: all observations created and identified by the iNaturalist community are shared with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility where they are used to advance scientific understanding of biodiversity through open data and open science.
- It gives identification suggestions:
- Keeps a record of all living things:
- Identifies where, when, and what you saw
- Enables citizen science and community science:
- Not-for-profit: • the app is free.
- Controls how your location is shared. Location of species at risk is automatically obscured.
- A global network: iNaturalist is used in every country on earth!

That's the vision behind iNaturalist. So if you like recording your findings from the outdoors, or if you just like learning about life, [join them – and us!](#)



Here is your invitation to join the **City Nature Challenge** and use **iNaturalist** to record observations at any of the events run by the seven local Councils.

**Register:** To register for the following events at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary during the City Nature Challenge email: [blsac@bigpond.com](mailto:blsac@bigpond.com) Participation numbers will be limited.

### Finding and Photographing Moths and other Nocturnal Bugs

**When:** Friday 30 April, 6pm-8.30pm

## Photographic Survey of our Bushland Invertebrates

When: Saturday 1 May, 1.30pm-4.00pm

## Taking Waterbugs Mugshots!

When: Sunday 2 May, 11am-1.30pm

## Bushland Photographic Discovery Walk

When: Sunday 2 May, 1.30pm-4.00pm

## Spotlighting for Possums, Gliders and other Nocturnal Creatures

When: Monday 3 May, 6pm-8.30pm



[Scan Me!!](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

We have just received a couple of photographs showing signs recognizing the RCFH on some of the buildings we have financed at the Hope Katolo Nursery School in Kenya.

Our Thanks go to Georgina, in Kenya, for organising the signs. We hope to have more permanent signs in place eventually.



## BOARD NOTES

**President** Pres Sue mentioned matters about District Code of Conduct. Stressed we need to be aware of Harassment. On-line conference – May 1 and 2. A book is being compiled by the District.

**Secretary** Stuart mentioned that he was unable to participate in the 100 yr Baton Relay due to “a family function celebrating the life of his brother who died in April last year during heavy lockdown”.

**Treasurer** RI and RDU invoices have been paid.

**Youth / Environment** Glenys outlined an excellent project in conjunction with Forest Hill College. The proposal was extremely professional and looks exciting. FH College will attend on 3 May and present it to the club. We have approved an \$800 grant to purchase plants for the project.

**Community** Stuart mentioned difficulty getting answers from Whitehorse Council re location. Vic Rail might be a better option, placing a seat near our Craft Market.

**International/Foundation:** Bob mentioned he has received photos from Hope Katolo showing Rotary Forest Hill signs on our project there.

**Membership** John mentioned a satellite club idea- basing the club at Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre. He is contacting FH management.

**Fellowship.** Bill mentioned supporting Peridot Theatre. Their program will be circulated. We are likely to re-start our monthly movie night at Mount Waverley.

**Program.** We will have a special dinner meeting on 19 April celebrating 100 years Rotary in Australia. Stuart will co-ordinate the meeting. Past members with 5 years of service (or their partners) will be invited. There will be a special club subsidized price for those invited - \$25 a head. Memories and or best wishes will be canvassed from people who have been part of the Rotary Forest Hill journey. Hopefully many of Ray Smith’s photos can be incorporated into a Power-Point program. Possible musical entertainment.

### Other Agenda items:

1. Nunawading Rotary will provide a demonstration of a hybrid meeting (zoom and people attending at Bucatini). We will trial a zoom Board meeting in the near future.
2. PHF selection criteria. Always been the President’s call.
3. We reconfirmed a previous action. Motion: “John Bindon be endorsed by the Board as President for the 2021-22 Rotary year.” Carried.
4. The Board determined that the meal cost paid by members be \$28 until reviewed by the new 2021-22 Rotary Board. Members were asked not to forget to donate to the Rotary Foundation at each meeting.
5. Sue outlined the Baton Relay route. The Board carried that \$150 be approved for First Aid support for Baton Relay”

Next meeting: 19 April, 2021.

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

### Powerhouse Cheese

Barbara Power started making her own cheeses over 10 years ago. With a degree in Microbiology she had a good scientific foundation to base her production. Two years ago, she started up her own commercial business **Powerhouse Cheese** and persuaded her sister, Donna Hall, who also has a Science degree, to leave her native New Zealand and join her in this venture. These two Artisan Cheesemakers use cow's milk in small 100 litre batches of milk from St David's Dairy in Fitzroy. They sell their cheeses at markets every Saturday and Sunday around the Melbourne area or you can order on line for pick up on Monday afternoon. The rest of the week you will find them busy in their cheesery making their standard Blackburn Blue, Whitehorse White and Ash Bree cheeses or producing new varieties like their Bellbird Blue or a surface ripened Rosella Red which may become another standard offering in the future. Certainly, these two talented very local artisan cheesemakers running **Powerhouse Cheese** have a future.

[www.powerhousecheese.com.au](http://www.powerhousecheese.com.au)

