



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 33

President: Stuart Williams

01 April 2020

## STU'S SCRIPT

At this unusual time, I hope you are all coping and staying healthy. Out of difficulty or crisis, benefits often come. Many of us have discovered ZOOM. We had a RC of Forest Hill get-together on Monday evening at 7pm. Eight were on line at once. Sorry but I did not change into a Rotary shirt. It was good to catch up, share some banter and check out a few items.

Club's finances are ok. No bills to pay. No money to go out - so much has been cancelled.

We will ask you to check out the new constitution. Hopefully we will agree to it and then we will formally approve it and inform Consumer Affairs.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay connected.

We will come out the other end with lots of stories.

Stuart

## MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR TO THE 'CLAYTONS' CONFERENCE

Five of us decided to head to Echuca-Moama even after the District Conference was called off. We thought it was an opportunity to assist the area seeing that tourism was down. I went up with Bob and Barb Williams. Bob and Judy Laslett went in their own car.

We headed off Friday morning and stopped at Nagambie for lunch. We checked out the wonderful Black Caviar statue beside the lake. Then to the excellent bakery. I am sure the shop assistant said the Custard/cream coffee ring was low calorie. Anyway—it was delicious.

Next stop was Tatura. We turned left at the old pub where Ray Smith reside while teaching up there. My daughter Yvette lives there with Mark and their two boys. Mark is a senior manager with Goulburn-Murray Water, at head office in Tatura. He was working from home. The first day they had initiated the policy. We interrupted (to drop in Easter Eggs ) a conference call he was having with the senior management team.

Under a clear blue sky we then took some back roads to Rochester. We hoped to see two painted silos there. Bob and Barb had a friend David living there and we rang him. He was home and in traditional country hospitality style he invited us to stop and have a cuppa. David, is treasurer of the Lions Club of Rochester, is also

the treasurer of the recently opened Rochester Sports Museum which was recently closed due to Corona Virus. He had a key and insisted we see it.

Wow. Something special. The museum is predominately part of the memorabilia collection of John Forbes. For 25 years John was the manager of Puma Sports. Herb Elliott asked John to join the company. Obviously he treated athletes well and many of our sporting heroes gave items to John. His wife threatened to throw them out.

From Sergio Buka's (world record holder for pole vault) USSR track suit, to a Greg Norman Akubra, Adam Gilchrist's wicket-keeping gloves, Melinda Gainsford tops, Merv Hughes jumper, Essendon/ Melbourne/ Swans jumpers and shoes, Shirelle McMahon's uniform. Bob and I wallowed in this stuff. So many memories- all from our life-time. We also watched a video about John who now has major health issues.

David also insisted on showing us the new art work in town. The previous Sunday Rochester opened the Ron Iddles Lane. About five painted panels that told the story of one of Victoria's most respected policemen. Well worth seeing. We then crossed the rail tracks and took photos of the two painted silos. Like many other silos, amazing art work. We dropped David back to his home and headed north to Echuca.

We had cabins at Riverside Holiday Park in Moama. It is on the right as you head across the bridge to Moama. Comfortable cabins right beside the mighty Murray River. The three of us headed across the road to the Moama Bowls Club for dinner. Fortunately, we had booked as they had only that day been instructed to limit patrons to 100. We enjoyed a nice meal sitting 1.5 metres apart. Also dining there were about 20 Rotarians from our District. Friends from Croydon/ Lilydale and neighbouring clubs.

Saturday morning we headed into Echuca to visit the National Holden Museum. An expansive collection of all things Holden, from first to last car. Well worth seeing. Plenty to read and plenty to oh ah about. Morning tea at Echuca's Beechworth Bakery. We, well more correctly, Barbara checked out the shops with extra energy put into bag shops. Along the Port precinct we were blown away by a tri-wheeled motor bike display. Incredible machines, sometimes 2 wheels at front, others, especially the Harley-Davidsons have the 2 wheels at the back. Many have excellent art work and often a tow ball to tow a trailer. Not sure I want to spend \$40,000 on three wheels without a roof.

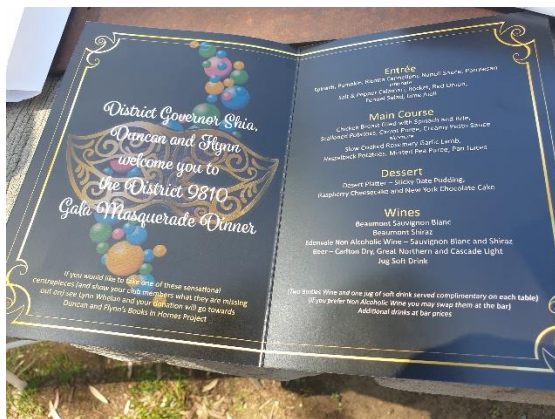
We then headed back across the river to the conference venue for a boxed lunch. The Dungula Centre was beside the river, about 6 km out of town, amongst dry gums and bush. We were fed by Two Tarts. The meal was good. About 83 Rotarians had come up to Echuca. As usual it was great to meet many long term Rotarian friends. (the catering company was called Two Tarts... their food was high quality.) Nunawading and Beaumaris had very large numbers there. Bob and Judy had lunch with us. Judy was hindered by her damaged knee but got on and off buses and boats... a gutsy effort Judy. . I found an interesting art trail that headed into the scrub. At 2pm we boarded two buses to take us to the Port to have a 75 minute paddle ship cruise. The two boats were MV Mary Ann, a very new boat and an old paddle boat- The Canberra. The afternoon was very pleasant....the scenery excellent and some afternoon tea provided. The catering and the river trip could not be cancelled at short notice.

After an hour or so back at our cabins we headed back out to the Dungula Centre for dinner. Our dinner was again in a box, but it was the same food we would have had at the tables inside the building. Our outdoor tables even had heavy white table cloths. Again, it was nice to interact with District friends. The organising committee had put so much effort into planning this conference. A couple of them had to hold back tears. So much planning, for a cancellation. It was nice to compliment them. When the sun went down and the mozzies arrived we headed back to our cabins.

A walk beside the Murray before checking out topped off a good time in Moama. We headed home via Elmore, Heathcote and Kilmore. Morning tea was at Heathcote. It was cool. We hit heavy rain as we turned onto the Western Ring Road. Home for lunch and a bit of shopping for fresh milk. It was nice to be chauffeured by a driver with witty repartee, a good selection of music (some classic country to please his passenger) and some iconic Aussie tunes.

It was different, but so pleased we spent a few hours in the sunshine and interacting with people before we went into self-isolating.

Stuart



*The dinner we almost had!*



*Instead – a boxed lunch!*



*Social Distancing?*

## **JUST IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ME .....**

Something to ponder

Is something lost in translation with metrication?

A miss is as good as 1.6 kilometres.

Put your best .03 of a metre forward.

Spare the 5.03 metres and spoil the child.

28 grams of prevention is worth 453 grams of cure.

Give a man 2.5 centimetres and he'll take 1.6 kilometres

Peter Piper picked 8.8 litres of pickled pepper.

With extra time on my hands I thought I'd look up the meaning of my surname and found that "Williams" means "Bright and Intelligent".

I continued and looked up the meaning of our President Stuart's first name as he shares the same surname and I found that Stuart means "Not Very".

Oh well.

Sarge Bob

### **INSIGHT TALK – BOB WILLIAMS**

I was born at an early age and lived most of my formative life in Burwood and attended the local Primary school and Burwood High.

I played several sports with my Burwood tennis club putting me into the Victorian schoolboy championships at Kooyong and I also played cricket in Burwood then Ringwood where I finished my High school years. I also played in the North East at Tallangatta when employment took me to live there. Golf was my other main sport and I have cycled most of my life.

My dad took me to the Footy grand final in 1955 as I supported Melbourne after they lost to the Doggies in 1954. Then you could simply line up at the ground on the day and buy seats. Dad became an MCC member in 1956 when the seating expanded for the Olympics which we went to. I have the 1956 Olympics guide. I used his Ladies ticket to attend the ground from then on until I became a member myself and now have 50 years membership. I have been to all bar 2 grand finals since 1955 and have many old footy records from the Grand Finals.

With the MCG as my second home I have been to many different events there including cricket, soccer, rugby and shows such as The Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Elton John and Billy Joel etc and later with Barb saw many shows and concerts all over the place with our favourites being Neil Diamond and Bruce Springsteen. We have also been to Tamworth for the Country music festival a number of times

I joined the then Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) in 1963 and later was transferred to the branch at Wales Corner at the corner of Swanston and Collins street where I met Barb and then later, we married in 1970. Then tellers had loaded pistols under their counter and with a couple of other tellers frequenting the pub next door for their liquid lunch it was a wonder there was never any shootings.

While at Wales Corner I also worked three nights a week car parking at the old Gas and Fuel building in Flinders street where Fed Square is now so 60 hour weeks were the go. Also a mate had a window cleaning round in the city so when he went on leave I took on his 6 to 8am job so had three jobs for some of the time which helped when we went to put a deposit on our first home at Mitcham.

Barb and I have two children, Amy born in 1973 and Simon in 1976 and Amy has four boys and Simon a boy and a girl so six grandkids which we love and see regularly.

To help with promotion in those days you took on any role anywhere in the State so rang Barb one Friday in 1977 asking her to get out a map of Victoria and look East of Wodonga to Tallangatta because that is where we will be living in a month's time. So, with two small children off we went where we quickly immersed ourselves in the local community with Barb making hand crafts for sale in a shop there and doing our share of babysitting. I was treasurer of the kindergarten and joined Apex.

We played golf as a family with Amy featuring on the front page of the Tallangatta Herald on the golf course and naturally we still have that paper. Barb played in the Associates comps and was featured in the paper after winning a nine hole championship in 1979.

My transferring to Colac branch also made the paper. Again, Apex and sport featured in Colac and Amy had joined the guides so also commitments with them with more local paper features

From Colac we headed further west to Heywood where I took up my first manager role and again made the local paper. While there as a member of Heywood Apex we helped the local farmers with fencing after the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983 and I still have vivid memories of helping farmers bury their charred cattle and sheep.

More golf reported in the Portland Observer whilst at Heywood where I won a few tournaments and captained their Pennant Golf team.

With the bank's amalgamation with the CBA, the Wales at Heywood merged and I was asked to be manager at Hopetown but after phoning the manager there and him saying it is ok so long as you don't mind the dust storms and mouse plagues we returned to Melbourne, selling our original home we had rented out and moving to where we are now in 1983.

I transferred to Vermont Apex, meeting Stuart and then later joined Rotary.

I was asked to join the committee of Reach Out for Kids at Nunawading where I stayed for 25 years before they also amalgamated.

I was appointed manager at Nauru House at 80 Collins street Melbourne and as the Republic of Nauru was our biggest customer, whenever the President came to visit (which was often) he threw a cocktail party on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor and expected his banker to be there so met some interesting people and great experiences. One was after one of the US moon landings they gave pieces of the moon to other nations, so I got to hold a piece of the moon in my hand (in a snow dome). I also received a Christmas card from the President and another from the Consul General.

Still further amalgamations there and later at Mitcham saw me leave the bank to make use of my accountancy qualification and so a few years at Taralye at Blackburn and finally retired after 15 years with the Good Shepherd Sisters.

My love of all things sport aligned well with my mate Stuart and we attended the 2000 Olympics in Sydney staying with an Apex mate, then also the 2006 Commonwealth Games with Barb where the three of us went to dozens of events. Just before then I had fallen off a roof so was on crutches which enabled us to use the disabled bus (yes it still had four wheels) to some events and for me to see some, such as the swimming, from the pool deck.

I have competed in a couple of Around the Bay events for charity cycling 210 kms with Stuart, John D and Ron and cycled to Sydney with my son. Going to the Presidents' Cup and the Grand prix are a couple of other events I went to.

In all my work and pursuits, I have been fortunate to have Barb supporting as she is the "Wind Beneath my Wings".

## **PRIMARY SCHOOLS' SPEECH COMPETITION CANCELLED**

Hello Everyone,

It is with regret that I inform you that the Primary Schools Contest will not be proceeding for 2020 due to the deadly nature of the COVID-19 virus and the uncertainty of the months ahead.

It is unfortunate, but I am sure we can restart next year in a much better atmosphere.

I would like to thank you all for your friendship and continued support of these young speakers each year, we will catch up at a later date I am sure!

Keep safe and well until that time,

Kind Regards

Marlene

*Marlene Sinclair*

*Rotary District 9810*

*Four Way Test Competition Chair*

*Primary Schools Speech Contest Chair*

*M: 0449 261 388*

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in the Zoom Room. (Look out for an email around 6.50pm Please dress appropriately as we may be joined by several dignitaries.)**