

FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 35

President: Bill Marsh

29 March 2023

BILL'S BY-LINE



At our meeting on Monday, it was wonderful to be able to welcome back John Bindon who has been having a tough time recently. As always John was very positive and made light of his problems.

Ron Brooks also was back from his time overseas. The wonders of the internet allowed Ron to keep up with club activities while flitting around the globe and also to continue working on our speaker program.

Members who attended the District Conference gave a report on their visit to Canberra. They highlighted the speakers or activities that they enjoyed or found the most interesting. While we were talking about the Conference, we had the photos taken by the District's photographer running as a slide show. It was a good way to bring everyone up-to-date.

Interest was high and members are already talking about the next Conference in Warrnambool next year. **22-24 March 2024**

Next week we will find out a little more about Jewish Passover and there will be no meeting on the 10th of April.



gg69992110 www.gograph.com

Time is 'flying' and we only have 3 months of the Rotary year to go.

It was time to look at our proposed budget and a number of areas of possible expenditure were highlighted along with some projects that had not been included in the original budget discussions. COVID is still having an effect on our face-to-face contact with schools. A number of Youth programs have suffered as a result. Hopefully we can reinvigorate these in the months to come as Youth has been a major focus of the club for many years.

Enjoy your week. Stay safe.

Bill

March is
Water Sanitation and Hygiene
Month

NEXT WEEK

3 April Ron Brooks Jewish Passover

Chairperson: Bill Marsh

Greeter: John McPhee

Notes for "Happenings" John Bindon

Thanks Barbara Searle

COMING UP

10 April No meeting

17 April Ramana Akula Hinduism

24 April Rev Tina Lyndon Ng Weird and wonderful travel stories

CELEBRATIONS



Let us celebrate the contributions of various faiths to the well-being of our community.



Meeting Report March 27, 2023

The meeting opened on time at 6:30pm. Warwick did an excellent job collecting \$30 from each of us for our meal and meeting. Pres Bill welcomed back John Bindon plus Warwick, Stuart, Barbara, Ron and Bob. Bill had already started the photos of the District conference in Canberra displaying on the big screen before the meeting started. After an excellent meal of ravioli with tomato and mushroom/onion sauce then lemon tart with ice cream we ordered fresh coffee and a hot chocolate. The hundreds of photos were used as talking points by those that went to conference which was generally thought of as good with many excellent speakers but perhaps a bit light on for Rotary content and expensive. Everyone enjoyed themselves and particularly liked getting dressed up (down?) for the gala dinner.



Pres Bill then raised the point that while it had been decided at the start of his year to run down our funds more than in previous years, we have only spent half the allocated budget and only have 3 months to the end of the year. Some of the programs we have supported in the past do not have a Forest Hill participant so this money will not be spent. However, we all agreed we would like to fund Hope Katolo school more as this has been a worthwhile ongoing project where we get photographic evidence of "money well spent" while the school we helped fund in Sudan sits empty. It is complete but has never been opened. Some concern was expressed that the Alma Doepel renovation we are considering funding may end up never being completed, though it was acknowledged that a project taking so long and needing \$5.8 million budget may appear like that before it takes to sea. The conclusion reached was we would prefer to have the Whitehorse cluster clubs fund a cabin with Rotary naming rights for \$30,000 rather than our club funding just one bunk.

Ron thanked those members who donated to the bike ride and said he would wait until after next week's meeting before passing on the money raised to the bike committee for ARH. Remember it is tax deductible.

RC of Healesville plan to have a "Remember Stuart McDonald" function at Box Hill town hall on 1st June. The club will not have a meeting on Mon 29th May as it clashes with the World Convention in Melbourne. Discussion followed on whether we were able/going to host any overseas Rotarians at a club night. Pres Bill will follow up. We have helped fund a Peace Bell in our district – one of many in a chain around the world. The next and last district 9810 conference will be in Warrnambool on 22nd – 24th March 2024. Mention was made of taking part in one of the three Seniors days that Gumbaya Park are running. Details will be circulated. Rotarians Against Malaria RAM have declared October as Awareness Month. They hope that clubs will dedicate the funds raised on one of their market days to RAM and will advertise it accordingly. Bob has some fund raiser bottles of the high-quality Hope Katolo oil to sell.

We are having a speaker from the Hindu Temple in The Basin soon and they suggested we may like to have a vegetarian meal there one Monday night so we can see the famous temple. This received a favorable response. There will be no Sausage sizzle at the next Blackburn Market as it is Easter weekend. And we will not charge market stall holders.

The raffle raised \$31.50(?), hard to understand when it is \$2 per ticket and 3 for \$5!!! John Bindon chose the red wine and Bob chose the white wine as he said he cannot go home with yet another box of chocolates (well stop winning Bob!).

Annual Australian Health Research bike ride.

This year this fund-raising event had three teams each led by a vehicle and followed by a vehicle with a second towing a bike trailer. This made it a very safe ride. I rode in the middle blue team 538.4 kms over 6 days starting in Lancefield and finishing near Nagambie at Kirwan's Bridge. A few in the top team could have ridden up to 40kms further. There were three days running over 100kms. Each night we stayed at the same motel in Bendigo doing loops out in different directions (so how come the strong wind was always in our face?). We had no rain and the weather was relatively cool generally in the 16 to 26 degC range. Each of us were given a special ride shirt to change into every evening which traditionally always starts by having a few drinks and nibbles at the motel run by Club Chardonnay. We went to a different venue each night for dinner but no Rotary club dinners. The profit made by Club Chardonnay goes to ARH so we took our fund raising seriously and had a few drinks!



Start in Lancefield



Finish in Kirwan's Bridge



Silos at Colbinabbin



Silos Rochester



The finish in Kirwan's Bridge, Nagambie

Eastern Emergency Relief Network gets a new truck for its recycling work.

Rotary and Lions clubs in Whitehorse, along with other groups and individuals in the community, have once again worked on a project to help those in need – this time to raise sufficient funds to buy a truck for Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN).



L-R Rotary District Governor 9810 Ken Miller, Gabby Knaepple, President, RC Nunawading, and EERN Secretary Keith Rooney OAM – Founder of EERN, Lions District 201 – V5 - District Governor Graham Bryant



Rotarian attendees



Gabby with EERN new truck

The truck will be used to pick up unwanted goods from households in the community and recycle them to those who need support in setting up a home. Two members of our club attended the launch of the new truck on Saturday March 25.

Here is some information as to how this all came about: (as supplied by Gabby)

- The Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN) started 28 years ago in Keith Rooney's garage. He was concerned about the amount of waste and good quality items going to landfill when they could be made available to those who needed them.
- Gradually EERN grew and transformed into what it is today – two warehouses in Mitcham, 60 volunteers, 113 member agencies, having assisted more than 60,000 individuals and families over those 28 years. It provides a holistic solution, supporting those who need assistance to set up a new home. Items provided include furniture, kitchen items, soft furnishings, mattresses, bedding, whitegoods and other electrical items that have all been tested and meet legal requirements, hygiene packs and non-perishable food.
- Over time, the EERN model was adopted and expanded when the Western Emergency Relief Network was formed and then in 2021, the Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN) commenced.

- EERN has no recurrent funding, but raises some revenue from membership fees, selling scrap metal etc, and relies on very generous support from the wider community including councils and other not for profit organisations and individual households.
- Over the years, constant financial and volunteer support has been provided by Lions and Rotary. The Lions Club of Nunawading and the Rotary Club of Nunawading have been the longest-term supporters, with other Lions and Rotary clubs in the area providing both monetary and in kind support. Members from Lions Blackburn and Nunawading and Rotary Nunawading have been on the Committee of Management for many, if not all of the 28 years EERN has been running.
- About two years ago, the Committee of Management felt the truck needed replacing. It was second hand when EERN purchased it in the 1990's and needed expensive maintenance to keep it on the road.
- So began the long journey of finding a truck that was fit for purpose, was not too costly, and could be delivered in a reasonable timeframe, bearing in mind that COVID lockdowns were prevalent at this time.
- After much research, primarily undertaken by EERN's treasurer Ian Teese, the Committee settled on a Fuso truck with a side door and an all-important lifter at the back for heavy items. The cost was around \$83,000.
- During this time, approaches were being made to Lions and Rotary clubs for funding assistance. Their very generous collective contributions, along with a Lions Grant, made up the greater proportion of the funding. The City of Maroondah provided a one-off grant as EERN services many clients and member agencies from the Maroondah catchment. There were very generous donations by individual donors, who specified their donation was to go to funding the new truck.
- It took around 18 months to get to the target amount.
- Finally in March 2023, the truck was ready and EERN had all the funds needed including enough for sign writing.
- The tailgate has a list of all the clubs and other organisations who have made a contribution to EERN either as longer-term supporters or made a contribution for the truck purchase. The truck was proudly launched on March 25, 2023 to a group of around 70 supporters and interested parties.
- EERNs Committee of Management and volunteers are so grateful to the community for their support in helping EERN to achieve this and for supporting EERN to continue assisting those in need with compassion and respect.



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?”

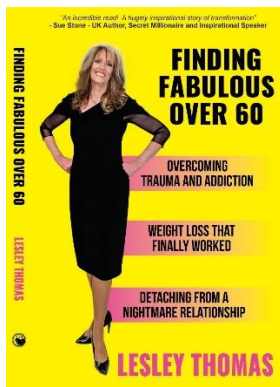
They source as many of their pieces second hand as they can - think preloved necklaces, earrings and bracelets from friends, family and op shops - they're working towards a circular jewellery economy. They purchase all their backings from women-led small businesses in Adelaide and Brisbane. They endeavour 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- April 8