



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 35a

President: Sue Ballard

21 April 2021

**A late addition! Sorry, but worth reading.**

## **IMPACT OF ROTARY - GEMS**

My chest puffed out as I read some of the words the people sent our club.

### **Carmina Rossano- Mexico**

I found myself in Australia. I had so many experiences that brought out many different reactions, that allowed me to see me through and decided how I wanted to live my life. I found my essence, my greatness. I got to know Australian values, their mindset and another way of living. This made me want to make a difference in the world, by becoming more responsible, accountable, determined and proud of my nationality. You helped me open my eyes and planted that desire in me. You nourished it through love, respect, laughter and dreams. I spent in Australia one of the best years of my life.

### **Georgina- Hope Katolo Head teacher**

To the Forest Hill Rotary members, I Georgina and the entire Hope Katolo Nursery fraternity wishes to sincerely congratulate you and Rotary for making 100 years as an organization. I want to take this opportunity to give my special gratitude for your continuous support for the school and especially the kids: clean water, sickbay just to mention a few.

Your generosity has made us always feel part of you.

We love you and wish all the best as you continue your future undertakings. Amen.

Love from Kenya.

### **Alberto - Italy**

In Melbourne precisely, that a whole new adventure for me. I was projected into a completely different, and somehow mysterious, world for what was my perception at that time. I met many wonderful people, one was Stuart who not only hosted me at his house as if I was a member of the family, but introduced me to the customs and traditions of a country I did not know and which, since then, has been to me, remained in my heart. "MATE", for me, became a nice way to also call my friends in Italy, a word unknown to most people. In between, I got married, I had 2 children, and for 10 years I managed my community in the role of mayor. Today, at 43, I can only thank you for that month spent with you, and even more, hope one day to return to having close, professional and emotional relationships, with a land that has welcomed me as if I were always an "Aussie". Thank you Rotary, thank you Victoria, thank you Australia and thank each of you for what you have done for me and for what you will continue to do for many young people.

## **Mariana Iparraquirre- Argentina**

I was a Rotary Exchange student 23 years ago. I spent an amazing year in Melbourne, hosted by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill. I was not the same person after that experience, and I owe the Rotary Club many learnings. I learnt about fellowship and the value of friendship. I had a chance to meet people from all over the world, and learnt to be globally competent, and respect and appreciate difference. I gained self-confidence, to speak my mind and to speak in front of others. To this day that ability is particularly useful to me.

I met people that selflessly dedicated their time to impact their communities. They taught me about generosity and commitment. This experience opened my eyes and heart to the world

## **Mizuki Toyoda Japan**

G'day mate! How YA GOIN' MATE ALLRIGHT?? (my Aussie pronunciation still OK??)

First of all, congratulation on the 100 years anniversary of your good club!!!!!!

This is Mizuki Harada (previously, MIZUKI TOYODA) from Japan staying in Melbourne 1996-1997.

Keith Smith, my wonderful counselor, called me SUZUKI TOYOTA (Japanese car companies) because my name sounded like that. I always loved his Aussie jokes.

I am 40 years old now but still remember almost everything that happened during my stay and I will never forget the kindness of the Rotary people who took care of me.

My counselors were Keith & Barbara Smith and I had four host families, Ron & Robbie Brooks, Carol & David McNamara, Bruce & Connie Millotts, Graham & Maggie Taylor.

They were all amazing people; I can never thank them enough.

Also, I appreciate all other members of the club, they welcomed me warmly and many of them took me for events, invited for dinner, etc. including Stuart Williams.

I used to play a music instrument called "Marinba" (big xylophone with metal pipes), one special night at the weekly Rotary meeting, I played at the restaurant (someone remember??). I guess it wasn't easy to arrange a xylophone to the place but club members helped it.

Ron and Robbie Brooks visited Japan to attend my wedding ceremony on 2006.

Because they are the first host family and that period was very tough for me with English speaking, I have special memories with them. Ron, Robbie and their son Nick cared for me so kindly. Robbie is a wonderful chef always cooking something. One day she told me to pick some pieces of "thyme" in their garden but I didn't know what that was and despite her detailed explanation, everything I picked / brought was wrong although I tried 3 or 4 times. I even brought a lime instead of thyme. I still laugh about it with my mother.

## **Leanne Mc Namara**

In January of 1988, just before my final year of high school, I was able to attend the National Science Summer School in Canberra for two weeks thanks to the very generous sponsorship of the Forest Hill Rotary Club. It was such an exciting educational opportunity to spend a fortnight completely immersed in science classes, workshops, debates, expos and hands-on sessions. We were able to use laboratory equipment at the University that made our school science labs pale into insignificance, and we had the chance to meet some pretty influential people in the field. Graeme Clark himself told us about his new-fangled cochlear implant device. We were able to visit and even go behind the scenes of many of the important scientific institutions in the capital. Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre, was opened later that year so it was a pretty amazing time to visit. I still have a very soft spot for Questacon, although I decided on my last visit a couple of years ago that I was a little too mature to free fall down the giant slide- I'm not 17 any more! But as important as those overtly educational experiences were, the social experiences are what I really remember. I was able to meet other young people with similar interests and to discover that I was not the only nerd, not even the only female nerd, in the country.

Rotary was right at the forefront in supporting young women to enter careers in STEM and to network, although I didn't realise at the time that I was networking. I just thought I was having fun with like-minded people. I made many lasting friendships with people from all around the country and I still keep up with the National Youth Science Forum, as the Summer School is now called. After high school I went on to a medical degree and had a clinical job as a doctor for a time, before completing a PhD in the history of medicine. I'm now a doctor of a different kind, a lecturer, and I can even thank Rotary for some of my first public speaking gigs- giving the report back to the club was a truly terrifying experience for a shy and studious girl, but something I now do every day. Other than that speech, I have nothing but fond memories of the Summer School and will be forever grateful for the support of the Forest Hill Rotary club for helping me to broaden my horizons. Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary.

## **Rock Wilkins**

Dear Glenys and the Rotary Club of Forest Hill,

Hope you are doing well and have had a good holiday period. I am just writing to give an update on my progress since we last met. Your financial support back in 2017 and 2018, both with the Scholarship and NYSF backing, has helped me immensely. Not only did I get a once in a lifetime opportunity at the National Youth Science Forum, but your support has helped me excel in the science disciplines in my tertiary education. I am currently heading into my third year at Monash University, planning to major in Immunology as a part of my Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree. I have attached a letter that I received today from the Monash Faculty and thought I would give you and the members of your Rotary Club an insight into how your support has benefited my development, both in academia and in greater life, considerably.

I wanted to take this chance again to thank you for your devotion and support to myself and others like me. It is greatly appreciated and something I will never take for granted.

Yours Sincerely,  
Rock Wilkins and Emma Borland



# 2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION

ROTARY OPENS  
OPPORTUNITIES 

## Rotary Opens Opportunities

Registration is open! Don't miss your chance to connect with Rotary members at the [2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities](#) which will take place from 12 through 16 June 2021.

Enjoy a special rate of \$49 through 7 May 2021. After that, the registration fee is \$65.

You can also join us early at a pre-convention, 10-11 June, for Intercountry Committees, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Exchange officers. Each pre-convention will cost an additional \$20.

The 2021 Virtual Rotary Convention and pre-conventions are open to all Rotary members and participants and include access to the virtual House of Friendship.

Don't forget to visit the [convention event page](#) on Facebook to connect with others and stay up-to-date on event news and program highlights!

[Register today and save!](#)

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One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201-3698, USA