



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 37

President: Sue Ballard

06 May 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Growing up in the 60s and 70s I was well aware my family was not like that of my peers or what was portrayed on television. I was in a sole parent household with a mother with undiagnosed mental health issues where my extended family of my grandmother and cousins played an important role. It made me grow into more of a parent role from a hound age and acutely aware of family units around me. Mine was a different dynamic and environment but most people were unaware on the surface. I watched and learnt from those families I saw around me, different but still a family. My experiences as a child have shown me the definition of family is not static or limited. In many ways Rotary is family with all its complex relationships. And as family we can learn from each other and support projects, etc. A club has interesting family dynamics at play with a mix of personalities who can band together for a united purpose.

Hopefully most of you will be able to share some family time together this Sunday and celebrate the mother's and mother figures in your lives. The closest I had to being a mother was to be a carer for my intellectually disabled cousin who died in September and my fur-baby, Lucy. Happy Mothers' Day to all.

Some of you had the chance to chat with Sharon and Jess on Monday night. Not an easy thing for someone with hearing issues. Thankfully technology helps with this, allowing the deaf to operate successfully without signing. Sharon has an app on her mobile phone which allows in most circumstances the translation of spoken word into text for her to read. While there are issues where more than one person speaks or there are other background noises it is a great tool to break down communication barriers. From what I can see it's an adaptation of a word processing package of the 90,s which allowed someone to dictate documents. It is great to see what adaptations of technology can do. Bob L and I know the struggles a mutual friend has had with communications. Meredith and I worked together for about 20 years. She had the assistance of a machine that allowed her to type in sentences and it would verbalise it for her. It gave her the ability to work with the public as an auditor effectively and efficiently. Look out for the next advancements in technology and inventiveness.

Please note that next week Ray will not be liaising with Bucatini . Please let Stuart know any additional guests, etc. as he will be in-touch with Bucatini.

Sue Ballard

THINKING OF YOU

Everyone at the club sends their Best Wishes to Ray Smith and hopes that this is a very temporary setback and he is back soon. His dynamic personality is greatly missed.

MEETING REPORT

Meeting opened with Bob Laslett as the chair and he introduced President Sue who proposed two toasts; the 1st to Rotary International and the 2nd to Australia. Sue also referred to Anzac Day, as we remembered those who gave their lives serving their country.

Sue also informed the club that Ray Smith was experiencing some health problems.

There were 10 members in attendance with two guests.

Chairman Bob called for reports from the Secretary, Treasurer Vocational Services, Community, and Foundation and International.

John McPhee informed the members that the Blackburn Market would be operating this Saturday, and assistance was required for members to do their normal duties.

Warwick Stott spoke about the Whitehorse Farmers' Market; this coming Sunday and two people would be required for each shift. A roster was circulated for members to give assistance.

Sgt Bob Williams told stories about members as he fined them in his usual way, providing some humour and entertainment at the same time.

Sue Ballard conducted a trivia quiz with members working in pairs to answer questions on family names and relationships, football, family songs and the early history of Australia. Sue would have spent a considerable amount of time preparing the questions and researching the answers.

Vote of thanks was given by John Bindon to Sue, for the work she had put in preparation and presenting the trivia quiz.

The meeting closed just after 8 PM.

John Bindon

May is Youth Service Month

NEXT MEETING

10th May

Guest Speakers: *Adrienne Baucke, Forest Hill College & Belinda Moody, Whitehorse Council.*

Title of talk: "Youth Environment Project at Forest Hill College. "

Chair: Bob W.

Report/Thanks: Bob L.

Desk: Barb W.

COMING UP

7th May - First Friday Film Night

8th May - Blackburn Market

9th May - Whitehorse Farmers' Market

17th May - Conference Report

Chair: Sue

Report/Thanks: John McP.

Desk: Barb W.

24th May - Amy Maddison, PE Reg Smith – 'Hush Gathering of Kindness' program

Chair: Ron B.

Report/Thanks: Glenys G.

Desk: Barb W.

31st May - Bucatini Restaurant

Note:

Stuart will be doing Ray's job this week. Please contact him for dinner meeting attendance and visitors.

CELEBRATIONS



This week we congratulate Rob & Glenys as they celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.



SPROUTINGS

What a fabulous weekend! So many interesting things to do...

There was the very successful Rotary Multi District Conference, which had so many charismatic Speakers - some discussing environmental issues and solutions.

These virtual presentation sessions were fairly short, which meant they could be interspersed with the chance to get out in the beautiful sunlight and be involved in a Citizen Science global project, the City Nature Challenge.

The Council was also running sustainability talks and demonstrations at Box Hill Town Hall, and apparently those were really engaging as well.

My choice was to attend the first two. You will be aware of the environmental messages at the Conference, so let's concentrate on some of what happened at the City Nature Challenge.

The City Nature Challenge: Globally over 400 cities have taken part, and in Melbourne eight councils ran events to assist with the capture of data. The first four days were used to take the images and the observers were then given the next four days to identify and upload them, via the INaturalist App.

I chose to use my iPhone for the photos – it was fast to use and the image quality was reasonable. With it I managed to capture 57 local observations, four of which have apparently been listed as research material.

Included in the 57 were photos of water bugs, birds, fungi, wildflowers, native bees and possums. Once photos were taken, then there was the fun of uploading them and finding out via the app that the simple water bug I had photographed was actually of the Family Leptoceridae – a very big name for a very tiny bug!

Or that our Larry the Lorikeet is actually a *Trichoglossus Moluccanus*!



Larry the *Trichoglossus moluccanus* and his hollow nest.

Observers are still identifying and uploading sightings for the next two days, so there are no final totals. To date there are **7433 observations of 1,111 species** listed for our Eastern suburbs and **1678 in Whitehorse**.

Whitehorse is slightly behind Manningham in numbers of observations and species identification. There are still two days to upload the identified images to the site- so we could still win!

I should have final figures next week, so will keep you posted.

Here is some good news to share:

Trees:

Do you have a beautiful old Tree that needs some attention? Then read this:

Large, old trees are treasured in Whitehorse and Council is doing its part to protect them.

Whitehorse Council has acknowledged and celebrated these trees in 2002, 2006 and 2016 by recognising them under a Vegetation Protection Overlay.

As trees age, they can require more care, so Council created the Tree Assistance Fund to support the owners of these large trees to care for them properly.

In the first year of the fund, 42 Whitehorse households were helped with works including pruning and removal of dead wood by qualified arborists

trees@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Emission Cutting Targets:

On Sunday, Victoria's climate targets were announced, aiming to cut emissions by 28-33 per cent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030.

Many of our major trading partners and strategic allies are committed to roughly halving their emissions by 2030.

We are trying to match this, and the new targets are just shy of the United States' pledge to cut emissions by 50-52 per cent by 2030.

Age newspaper

Solar Powered Tram:

Have you been into Melbourne lately? If so you may have already spotted the clean energy tram zipping around the city.

Powered by solar, it's spreading the message that this is a start to us powering our homes, communities, transport and big infrastructure like hospitals and schools all with clean energy – and that this transition is already underway!

Keep your eyes out for this colourful tram on routes 48 and 109.



Invite:

Finally, our 2021 **Youth Environment Project** will be talked about next Monday May 10 at our regular meeting at Bucatini.

Speakers are Adrienne Baucke, Forest Hill College Yr 11 VCAL teacher who will oversee the project and Belinda Moody, the Whitehorse Tree Education Officer and Gardens for Wildlife Manager.

Project participants are staff and students at Forest Hill College and RCFH Rotarians, with assistance from Council, Bungalook indigenous plant nursery and Gardens for Wildlife.

This is a true community project aimed at enhancing the environment as well as supporting Forest Hill College and its students.

We hope you will all come and hear what is happening with this exciting Rotary project.

Have a good week, *Glenys*



Scan Me!!

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

