



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 38

President: John Bindon

18 May 2022

MOVING FORWARD



After 7 days of lockdown, it was great to feel freedom, and able to get active again.

I extended my isolation by a day, so that I may not have direct contact with anyone, just to be on the safe side of things. On my first day of freedom, I enjoyed a two-hour drive up and around Yarra Glen, exploring some of the back roads in that region.

Saturday Arts and Craft Market proved to be successful despite the rain, which kept some stallholders away. Thanks to those who worked the two markets over the last week, proving that 'many hands make light work.'

Monday evening it was great to hear the stories of members and their working experiences on the job. When one looks back on their career, you remember the good times, and the things that went wrong.

Throughout my working life I was in the "people business" and remember friendships which were made, and the help you give people in their challenging times.

I have been retired for 25 years and every 3 months about fifteen former staff members meet for dinner, and you hear of things that happened behind the scenes, which at the time you were not informed of, and some interesting stories are told.

We are lucky to have expertise and approaches to problem solving available to us in our club.

Mental health is an issue we all need to be aware of and the importance of self-help, especially when we have a lockdown. I am sure, like me, you have some days that are better than others. It is good to find an activity that keeps you busy, which will help to overcome stress and anxiety etc.

My thanks to all Rotarians who are helping keep our club active which plays an important part in our community.

John Bindon.

MEETING REPORT

Monday 16 May; attendance 10

President John Bindon welcomed us. The meeting was then in the capable hands of Ron Brooks (but he did mention Liverpool).

Weekly reports

Blackburn market- Bill thanked those that helped run a successful Saturday market. Stuart suggested a possible sponsor and other possibilities.

Secretary Stuart will be away until 19 June and Barb W will be Bucatini contact.
Warwick needs help for the egg/bacon stall next month and alerted us to the rise in Rotary magazine costs both online and paper.
International- Bob L requested centurion update moneys to Warwick
Community- JB reported on donations to Mitcham Community House and ALKIRA
Youth- Glenys reported that 5 schools ready for Citizenship awards on June 6
Environment- GG reported on Forest Hill College project
Program- Ron told us of next week's brilliant speaker and topic
Sue told of successful Shine On award ceremony and 12 Deakin awardees
Glenys brought us up to date on the forthcoming library display
Sergeant – Bob W was in fine touch. He raised \$26.75.

Meeting

Tonight's meeting involved members talking on unusual/ different aspects of their working lives.
Bill M spoke of his delight in working with children and highlighted 3 great examples from his long association with primary schools.
Stuart W spoke of learning on the job in some difficult and varied technical college/school teaching environments
Bob L told of a night in a Boston Museum that led to his award in international cooperative education
John B spoke of winning several conflicts he had with a particular individual in the disability field
Sue B after getting clearance from the ATO in Canberra gave 3 examples of sorting out individuals who were trying to defeat the system
Ron B had fascinating tales of what it was like to work in China in 1980 advising on processing waste from distilleries
Barbara S told of having 6 children, teaching art and being a student nurse but not realizing her dream of being a midwife
Bob W with his banking career regaled us with some of the dignitaries he had encountered including his future wife Barbara
Our final speaker was Glenys who outlined her time with what is now the organization called Best Chance. She thought her use-by date had come but it hasn't.
All-in-all, it was a most entertaining evening and we learnt a lot about each other.
President John closed the meeting after unwrapping the raffle winners Barbara S, Sue B and Bill M (courtesy Ron B). The raffle raised \$37.

Bob Laslett

May is Youth Service Month

CELEBRATIONS



Let us celebrate the beautiful country we live in, where we can embrace diversity, hold peaceful elections and even put up with the occasional Liverpool supporter.

Our club COVID count is now up to 25% of our membership.



NEXT MEETING

23rd May – Ron Brooks – Expo 2020

Club roster for 23rd May 2020. (TBC)

Chairperson: Bob Williams
Greeter: Bill Marsh
Vote of thanks: Warwick Stott
Notes for “Happenings”: Sue Ballard
Cashier & Recorder: Barbara Williams

COMING UP

30th May – Bucatini Dinner with Partners.
6th June – Thomas White – Youth Citizenship Awards
13th June – No Meeting (Queen’s Birthday)
20th June – Rotarians Against Malaria (Peter McPhee)

SPROUTINGS

Here is some very encouraging news about our Forest Hill College Enviro project.

The project is supported by our Rotary Club, and we involved Belinda Moody, Tree Education Officer, Whitehorse, and Gardens for Wildlife members, who all gave advice.

Despite all issues with COVID, coping with a cracked brick wall in the planned indigenous garden area and with a pond removal that turned out to also be a removal of ‘nasties’, these environmentally active students are continuing the project. As well - they are so motivated

they have added a further project- a book on the importance of bees! Please read on.



[Forest Hill College](#)

[Yr 12 VCAL class](#)

It has been an extremely frustrating time over the past year having a class of students who were very keen to create their indigenous garden but due to COVID were unable to begin.



When the students began this project they were in the intermediate stage of their VCAL certificates where there was a level of support provided. Now they have moved into their Senior VCAL year, resulting in much of the support being removed from them. To their credit the students have really stepped up and are now actively working on the garden as well as beginning the additional related project.

Photos:1. Advice, 2. Planning, 3. Ivy removal, 4. Pruning of dead branches



2 – additional Project

As this is a literacy class and is predominantly project based. I suggested to the students that they might like to write a picture book that has an underlying environmental message about the importance of bees in our gardens. This was directly related to our garden project supported by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill. which had the brief of attracting Bees, Butterflies and Birds.

The students were excited by this idea and immediately said that they wanted to give these books to local schools to get the environmental message out to the community and also as a way of promoting Forest Hill College. They were eager to take the book writing process from inception to publication which is what we are doing. *

To begin the process the students have analysed a number of picture books, have been explicitly taught about the features in a picture books, literary devices, format, and publishing requirements. We have been lucky enough to have an Australian picture book author mentor the students and support them over Zoom meetings. Currently the students are finishing picture books they have written independently and we plan on beginning our collaborative writing next week.

The book project will involve a number of mini projects being worked on concurrently to bring everything to the final product. We will have students: researching bees, writing the story, editing and critiquing, illustrating, applying for grants, contacting publishers, costing the project and generally working collaboratively on the project.



The students are enjoying the hands-on nature of the garden and the book. We have begun clearing the garden having emptied a very smelly pond and removing it from the garden as well as clearing weeds.

We really appreciate the flexibility the Rotary Club of Forest Hill has shown with our garden project timeline. It has been severely affected by the COVID pandemic but now we feel that we are in the midst of an even more exciting project that we are determined to complete as soon as is practicable.

Thanks for your support

Adrienne Baucke
Yr 12 VCAL Literacy Teacher

I've loaned Forest Hill College my copy of 'Larry the Lorikeet', an environmentally based book publication organised and funded by our Club and published in late 2014.

The book was launched by the District Governor of 9810, our Club President Bill Marsh, and the Mayor, CR Sharon Ellis. All Councillors attended.

By 2015 Larry had been distributed to well over 140 schools in Whitehorse.

..... Oh- how time flies!

Now for some activities you may like to participate in.

Open Gardens, Victoria:

Nioka, Research, Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 May



Garden of ceramic artist Jack Lätti.

A must-see combination of quirky ceramics with bold and colourful succulents and aloes.

Some will be for sale.

Where: 105 Gumtree Rd,

Research 3095

Times: 10am-4.30pm

Entry: \$10 adults, \$6 students,

under 18 **FREE**

Book here via [Trybooking](#).

Enjoy all the outdoor activities: celebrate **Reconciliation Week May 27- June 3**,

Invitation to join community on Sorry Day May 22, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Welcome to Country is at 2pm

World Environment Day is Sunday June 5, 2pm-4pm.

Learn how to 'Propagate Native Plants', with sustainable Gardening, Australia.

This is a hands-on experience and you can take your cuttings or seedlings home.

Hosted by Parkswide Education, Venue: VC, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.

Booking ParksWideEducation@Whitehorse.vic.gov.au or 92626111

More information for you next week, [Glenys](#)

HOPE KATOLO NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE

Hi Hope Katolo Nursery School supporters,

We hope that this email finds you happy and healthy. Leanne, Georgina and I are all well. Georgina has been busily overseeing the construction of a multi-purpose hall, donated by Rotary Forest Hill, and the children are back to regular attendance at the nursery school after an interrupted couple of years.

This email is primarily to update you on student sponsorship for 2022.

Thanks so much to those who have reached out and asked about student sponsorship. Kenya's school year (including nursery schools) was altered due to COVID19, where it was not possible for students to study remotely due to lack of resources. The new school year has only just started and we had graduation of final year students in April. Next year, thankfully, the terms fall back into normal alignment and the first term starts in January.

We had considered setting up sponsorship for the next 6 months, but have decided instead to wait and start afresh in 2023. We have committed to sending sufficient funds to Kenya to pay for uniforms and necessary supplies for the children (in addition to teachers' wages and money for food, as we routinely provide), and have only been able to do this due to savings accumulated thanks to your generosity. Coordinating sponsorship is usually a minimum 2 month task, and we felt that July was really too late to be still talking sponsorship.

With all of that said, we know that some of you are really keen to provide support and others particularly enjoy the connection that comes from having a child to sponsor and sharing your connection with family and friends.

If you fall in the former category, we are always very grateful for donations that can now be made either through

a) direct transfer (100% is transferred but you receive no tax receipt)

Hope Katolo Nursery School

BSB 033349

Account 411858

or

b) Rotary (with huge thanks to Bill Marsh from Forest Hill Rotary for setting up - 1.5% administration goes to Rotary but you receive a tax receipt). The link to donate is here: [Project Search - Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. \(RAWCS\)](#) and then you click on Hope Katolo Nursery School, then Donate Now.

Alternatively, if you are one of our supporters who is particularly keen for a sponsor child for the remainder of 2022, please do get in touch and we will see what we can do!

Stay well everyone and keep your eyes peeled as we're hoping for a movie night in coming months.

Kind Regards,

Melanie Haley, Leanne Pinfold and Georgina Malanga

Hope Katolo Nursery School, Kenya

California lumberjacks working on Redwoods



The things we did in the name of progress!! The diameter of this tree would be 5 – 6 metres.

RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

MAST GULLY NURSERY

Mast Gully Nursery stall is operated by Jenny Lee. She has been part of the Blackburn Craft Market for over 20 years, about 5 years after she started her business on 5 acres of land in Upwey. Jenny runs a wholesale flower business during the week but at weekends you'll find her at markets selling plants. She goes to six different markets including Rotary markets at Nunawading, Doncaster and Warrandyte. The plants started as a hobby which soon grew into a business. She has a large variety of potted plants but specialises in helibores and would love to talk to you at the market about her passion for her self-propagated plants which probably accounts for half her stock with the other half coming from nurseries in the Monbulk area. Just recently she has downsized her block though keeps the same number of plants for sale. While Spring may be her busiest time as people start to think about what new plants they'll plant out, Jenny says she's pretty busy throughout the year. She is thrilled with the new Blackburn Craft Market setup so come and see her next to the rotunda and perhaps listen to jazz at the same time. You can always contact her at donallan@bigpond.com



We will be back soon - COME TO THE MARKET



Market operates on the second Saturday each month (except for January)