



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 39

President: John Bindon

25 May 2022

MOVING FORWARD



President John is having a stint in hospital at the moment. This will involve surgery, chemo & radiation treatment and rehabilitation.

Despite this, John has continued to be cheery and positive about the future and sends his best wishes to everyone.

Our thoughts are with John at this time and we are working to cover the hole he has left in the club's life.

We are looking forward to welcoming him back in a couple of weeks.

Get well quickly, John.

Notes from this week:

Peridot's next show "War of the Worlds" begins at the Clayton Community Centre on September 22nd. We will book tickets for the show on Friday 23rd September. I will collect numbers shortly.

I attended the Presidents' meeting on Friday and the President Elect on-line session on Sunday. It doesn't matter how long you have been in Rotary, or how many times you have been President, you always learn something new (or something you have forgotten about!!!). It is also a great time to hear about some of the activities being undertaken at other clubs.

In the not-too-distant future we should spend some time discussing how our club operates. After 47 years of 'Making a Difference' are we happy with the way we work? Are there other modes of operation that may be better? Weekly meetings or some other timing, Hybrid meetings, Zoom meetings, etc. I would encourage members to consider what they enjoy about our club and where they think we might improve and to come along to the meeting prepared to air their thoughts and to listen to the thoughts of others. We may decide to stay as we are or we may decide on some minor changes, or perhaps we may decide on some major changes. We can only reach this point if everyone contributes positively, with the club central to their thoughts, and then commits to supporting whatever decisions we make.

We are still looking for a PE for next year. Perhaps a shared role? We also need someone to take on the Fellowship role. Again, perhaps shared.

Ken Miller is our DG for 2022-23 with Ian Ballantine taking on the role in 2023-24.

Catherine Elfick will continue as the AG for our area in 2022-23.

Much in Rotary seems to be in a fluid state at the moment and we will need to wait until things settle down. Much of the uncertainty stems from the falling numbers in Rotary. While population is increasing, numbers in Rotary are decreasing at about twice the rate.

As the saying goes – “we live in interesting times”.

Regardless of the changes around us, Rotary continues to make a positive difference to the lives of thousands around the world.

Bill

MEETING REPORT

President Elect Bill Marsh welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then informed us that President John Bindon has begun intensive treatment and is likely to be absent for at least 2 weeks, but possibly longer. He asked that if anyone hears from John that they inform him and he can let the rest of the members know. In this way we can help John get the rest he needs. Also, Kathy Donaghey has had an accident and is recovering from surgery to her leg and hip in John Fawcner Hospital in Coburg.

Bill has also asked all members to think about how the club should proceed in the future. Many clubs have changed the way they operate and what the meeting structure looks like. Consider all possibilities and ideas and be prepared to discuss at a future meeting.

He is also looking for someone to take on Fellowship in the next year. Also looking for a President Elect for the following year. Will consider 2 or 3 people sharing the position. This has been done well at other clubs. Please contact Bill as soon as possible.

Reports

Treasurer: Warwick has asked that any money to be reimbursed needs to be done as soon as possible. Also, Centurion contributions to be made as soon as possible.

Farmers' Market next month, we are on egg and bacon stall. Volunteers have made themselves available.

International & Foundation: Bob is waiting to hear about the Fiji Eyes project and will update when available.

Secretary: Stuart has arrived in Thailand. (and we assume missing us all. Editor)

Vocation: Barb nothing to report.

Youth and Environment: Glenys says that the Youth Citizenship Award night is being organised. So far five schools have nominated students and we have 4 of the 5 citations received. Still waiting for the last. We need to know who of the members and partners will be coming that night for catering and seating purposes.

Glenys has attended a number of Council and local meetings and helped at the Blackburn Lake indigenous function.

Programme: Ron states next week is a social dinner in main restaurant. Following week is Youth Citizenship Award night. No meeting the following week as it is the Queen's Birthday holiday. Remember dinner bookings go through Barbara Williams.

RYDA: Bob W reminded us the next day is 29th May in Springvale. We will be presenting Anat her 'Shine On Award' certificate at the end of the sessions. Following RYDA day is in June in Lilydale. Anton, from RYDA, will be presenting RYDA information session at District.

Community: Sue said the Century Deakin Award will be presented on Wednesday and as John, Bill and Glenys are not available asked for another volunteer. Barb S will attend.

Guest speaker tonight was Ron presenting on the topic 'Expo Dubai 2020'. Delayed because of Covid the expo finally began late last year ending in March. Expos were a French initiative to showcase innovation, design and inspiration around the world. In Dubai a whole new suburb was created in the desert complete with transport, water, electricity and all infrastructure required. While most countries had pavilions or rooms the size and popularity of the expo meant Ron and Robbie managed to only visit a fraction. About 190 countries were represented. Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building was built for the 1880 expo held in Victoria.

To have a closer look at some of the sites go onto 'youtube' and visit the Virtual World Expo, Dubai. Very interesting and informative presentation.

Sue

May is Youth Service Month

NEXT MEETING

30th May – Bucatini Dinner with Partners.

Note: Please let Barbara W. know if you are attending.

COMING UP

6th June – Thomas White – Youth Citizenship Awards

Club roster for 6th June 2022.

Chairperson: Bill Marsh
Greeter: Barb Searle
Vote of thanks: Glenys Grant
Notes for "Happenings": John McPhee
Cashier & Recorder: Barbara Williams

13th June – No Meeting (Queen's Birthday)

20th June – Rotarians Against Malaria (Peter McPhee)

CELEBRATIONS



This week we are celebrating the wedding anniversary of Warwick & Chris on the 28th. (Oops! Should I have sent you a reminder, Warwick?)

Also, Bob Laslett joined Rotary on the 26th May 1977. Doesn't time fly, Bob?



SPROUTINGS



Environmentally, it has been a busy few weeks.

As reported before, on April 14 some members of the [Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group](#), including community representatives, Mayor Tina Liu, Cr Prue Cutts, and City of Whitehorse staff, met with an influential and concerned local group, CROWAG (Concerned Residents of Whitehorse Action Group), to discuss a strategy for a better consultation process of environmental issues.

A week later the representatives got together to talk about the proposed ESG meeting agenda and items they wanted to add.

The formal ESG meeting was on May 18. Agenda items included:

1. Sustainability Strategy. Status of current consultation and the planned process.
2. Environment and Sustainability Reference Group membership
3. Urban Forest Strategy and Whitehorse Planning Scheme
4. Standardisation of conditions associated with a Planning application
5. Tree Management Database possibility.

We also discussed and agreed that a modified system be put in place to ensure more of the community are now able to voice their concerns, while at the same time get better feedback via the community representatives.

With these slight changes to the system, it seems we now have a good democratic two-way communication which will ensure both groups, Council and Community, are better informed of each other's environmental concerns; what solutions are being contemplated; what actions are occurring and what actions are needed.

It's also given us a much better understanding of some of the enormous environmental challenges the Council, and ultimately us, will face in the future. Unscrupulous land developers are a major issue - but only one of many concerns.

So now we reps feel more positive that we are better representing the Whitehorse community. If you have any environmental concerns, please contact me or another community representative.

[I also urge you to keep contributing to 'Have Your Say' on the Whitehorse Website.](#)

At the [Whitehorse Woman's Forum](#) Dinner 'Resilient Women' on May 18, we heard from three women on how they have coped with challenges and are helping others.

We were given a Wellbeing Support Card which lists 43 local facilities available to assist women, men, children or families in crisis or dire situations - or just needing some help. These very busy, but always caring, support services cover every type of need. Contact me if you want any more information.



The three speakers all covered different subjects, but a common resilience theme shone through - looking after our own emotional, physical and mental health. I'm sure you all agree - **when we look after ourselves, we can better care for others.**

One of the major messages was that taking time out in the sunshine, fresh air and environment is a great way of doing this. All these speakers advocated that. One said **'Advocating for nature and the planet is important – nature heals us - and we need to take care of her.'**

We can get a release from stress and a sense of well-being by contributing in any way we can to look after the environment.

So Rotary is right on the ball with its newest focus.

On Sunday May 22 an early start to Reconciliation week was celebrated with an event at Blackburn Lake. A Sea of Hands, with handwritten pledges, was planted in the shape of an Aboriginal flag. Below are photos of some of the flags.

We ended up with 180 hands being planted. I lost count at 120+ attendees. These included councillors, interested groups (like some 'Teals') and other community members. Thank you to those Rotarians who turned up from Mitcham, Nunawading and Box-Hill Burwood clubs. (Forgive me if I missed a club).

So many were there, out in the fresh air, enjoying the beautiful area in which we live and our children thrive. No wonder we all try our best to preserve it.



Some of the Sea of Hands.

Some inspiration for the week:

The other day I saw a man in a wheelchair riding along with long tongs and a plastic bag. He stopped, bent in his chair and picked up some small bits of rubbish on the pavement.

It made my day as I'm sure it would have made yours. I congratulated him and he said "Just doing my bit".

Sorry – no -I didn't get a photo - thought of pulling out my phone and taking one, but felt it might be too intrusive.

But yes- that man made my day. Chat again next week, **Glenys**

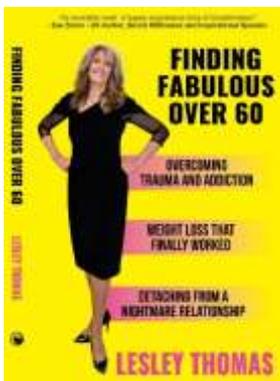
RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

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)