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|  | 2014-2015Weekly BulletinRotary Club of Forest Hill |  |
| Number 4: 28th July 2014Club address: PO Box 116, Nunawading 3131**Website:** [**www.foresthillrotary.com**](http://www.foresthillrotary.com)Meeting location: Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, 3132Meeting time: Monday 6.15 for 6.30 pm |

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| **CLUB PROGRAM** |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Chair** | **Thanker & Meeting Report** |  |
| **28th July** | **The Work of a Primary School Principal – Andrew Popov** | **Bill Marsh** | **Bob Laslett** |  |
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| **4th Aug** |  **“Pompey Elliott” - Ross McMullin** | **R.C.Box Hill****Central** |  |  |
| **11th Aug****18th Aug** | **Eastern Suburbs Real Estate - Lachlan Williams****Bestchance child family care – Chris Thompson, Geraldine** | **Stuart Williams****Glenys Grant** | **Gary Baltissen****Graham Sharman** |  |

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONSJuly 28 Christine Stott Birthday DUTY ROSTER

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|  | **July** | **August** |
| Cashier  | Jenny Coburn | Ron Brooks |
| Recorder | Glenys Grant | Chris Tuck |
| Greeter | Bob Williams | Stuart Williams |
| Emergency  |  | Ray Smith |

ATTENDANCE

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| **APOLOGY** – **IF A MEMBER IS NOT GOING TO COME TO THE MEETING or you intend bringing a guest****Please contact Ray Smith by** **10.00 am MONDAY** on9878 4891 orrcssmith@optusnet.com.au  Any cancellation after 10.00 am should be made direct with the management of Bucatini Restaurant on 9873 0268 |

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John McPhee will be absent from 14th July to 13th Aug

# Warwick Stott will be absent from 21st July to 28th July inc

**BILL’S** **BLURB**

Wow! Another week has gone like a flash. As they say, "Time flies when you are having fun" and that is what we need in our Rotary lives - a bit of fun mixed with the hard work. Another very interesting speaker on Monday night. Tony gave us a real behind the scenes view of the fur trade during its heyday and the events leading to its demise. The committees are beginning to settle into their work and some great projects look like they will be set in place. We hope to have all of the budgets set after the next committee meetings so that they can be passed by the Board and then begin their implementation. Some good news about the ADCD project. Although the work in Fiji did not come to fruition Ken Wall has another project in Malawi underway in which we can invest. Like the Fiji project this one also involves children at school. The Foundation and International committee will have to decide if this is the path they want to follow.

At the Board Meeting the motion to nominate Jenny Coburn for the position of RI Director was passed unanimously. This is a tremendous commitment of time, energy and enthusiasm and we wish Jenny well as her nomination proceeds through the system. Our Membership committee is planning a Membership Evening in October to which we can invite people we think might be interested in joining Rotary. The committee is working very hard and I am hopeful of some good results as the year moves on. On Friday we have the presentation of awards for the art work in "Larry the Lorikeet". This should be a fun morning and then on the 18th August we will have the launch of the book at the Whitehorse Library.

Friday evening we have the District Membership seminar. From this I hope we come away with a few more ideas for our own committee to follow through. Enjoy your week and don't forget to "Light Up Rotary".

Little known fact: Until 1913, children in America could legally be sent by parcel post.

 Pres Bill

# LAST WEEK’S MEETING

On a chilly evening, we gathered at Bucatini to hear PP Tony Kosky of the Rotary Club of Melbourne share a fascinating insight into the Fur Industry and to his family involvement in it. We began with Sergeant Stuart inviting us to take some time to reflect and think of those who have suffered so much with the MH17 airline disaster this past week. Secretary Ron reminded all that when we are rostered to do the “Vote of Thanks”, this includes notes on the meeting; Guest Speaker and other highlights including amount raised by Sergeant – which incidentally this week was an amazing $40.85 [well done Stu!]Ron also reminder that when emailing – **please, please** ensure that the Subject Title matches the content of the email! With 11 members including a huge welcome back to Bob Laslett, we welcomed Robbie Brooks, Roger Coburn and our Guest Speaker Tony. I think Bob was feeling he must have been gone for some time when the Guest Book was put in front of him! Chris Tuck chaired the meeting and it was our pleasure to hear some of the letter he received about the Rotary Club of Forest Hill from PDG Merv Ericson. Jenny invited all members to respond to the email she sent requesting names for our upcoming Membership event. And our Sergeant Stuart certainly covered a breadth of topics perfect for fines. What is it about food with bananas, mince and pumpkin; surgical slugs and who would have thought the average number of times a smartphone is checked per day is **125!** And of course, today 21st June is the 45th Anniversary of Man Landing on the Moon.

**Our Guest Speaker: “Like Red Roses… Mink is so Special”**

As furs were worn for warmth, the fur trade is arguably the oldest trade in the world. Tony shared the history of his family in the fur trade with his uncle arriving in Geelong in 1912 where he made fur rugs; ultimately bringing his 4 brothers and 2 sisters to Australia. Moving to Chapel Street, Windsor, they set up a factory and shop. World War I was the opportunity to make sheepskin jackets for Australian soldiers in Europe. In the 1920’s and 1930’s, despite the Depression, the fur trade thrived, as every girl just had to have a fur stole or jacket. With World War II, change came and the fur was deemed to be a *non-essential* and so the shop was closed. The family survived by shipping sheepskins to Russia. Tony joined the Family Business in 1960 and immediately went to London to undertake his apprenticeship in the industry. At this time, the fur was regarded as an older persons garment, but in the 1970’s, the *fun furs* became popular with 70% of sales at that time to clients less than 40 years of age. This time saw the conservation movement come to the fore, which virtually stopped the fur trade with extensive controls over the industry being introduced. Two key fur animals which were highlighted were the kangaroo and the seal. Tony spoke of the need to protect our rural community and farmers with kangaroo shoots, however these were not encouraged due to the “nature of the animal being on the coat of arms, and one of national pride”. The seal was one which became protected, yet the Inuits had killed it for many years. He spoke of the seal eating 3 tonnes of fish per year and with no culling, this has dried up the stock of food and fishing industry at Dogger Bank in the North Sea. The fur trade virtually disappeared overnight. In the 1970’s and 80’s, over 700,000 Red Fox had been exported per annum, with the red fox being a pest in Australia. In the 1990’s, this had reduced so significantly to 20,000 per annum. He spoke of furs being strong in new countries, such as China, Russia, Eastern Europe and for Afro American communities. At the time Tony commenced in the industry, it was a Jewish dominated trade, however in the 70’s and 80’s, this changed to Greeks and now it is Asian dominant. China and Russia produce most of the wild furs and Scandinavia produce most farmed furs.

And the questions posed:

Q: What is the most valuable: Sable, which is a species of marten which inhabits forest environments. However, the Mink is valued highly, Tony related it to “Red Roses – it is so Special”. Ladies simply love a Mink.

Q: Why do people wear fur outside, rather than inside like sheepskin?

People tended to wear fur, just as the animal does with the fur on outside.

A most interesting evening where we heard about a topic which many of us remembered, yet knew little of. Tony’s family has generated a significant Export Industry…..and export income for Australia, thank you.

 Notes by Jenny Coburn

# WEBSITE

Do not forget to check out our website, [www.foresthillrotary.com](http://www.foresthillrotary.com) and send Ron Brooks any information and suggestions.

# REASONS FOR JOINING ROTARY

**Leadership Education:**

Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people who happily mentor, motivate and influence aspiring leaders.

**FUTURE EVENTS.**

* Combined meeting with RC of Box Hill Central Mon 4th Aug
* Club birthday and DG visit Mon 15th Sept.

  RI Convention date and venue

**HOPE KATOLO WATER TANKS**

Some photos from Kenya showing the new water tanks we funded at the Hope Katolo Nursery School. These tanks now mean that the nursery has fresh water all year and no longer has to rely on carrying water 6 km from the local river. see what else we can do to make life better for this amazing little school.

**PERIDOT THEATRE VISIT**

The next production is “House Guest” a bloodier than average thriller by Francis Durbridge (who wrote all the Paul Temple series for the BBC). 16 club members will be going on Fri 15th Aug.

**STAMPS**

Please cut out all the stamps you get on your snail mail leaving an approximate 1cm margin and give to Ron Brooks. They are worth nothing to you but Rotary sells them

Over $89,000 since starting in 1991/92 and $7,091 in 2013/14.

**Harvey World Travel Offer**

Harvey World Travel, Forest Hill Chase, offers to the Club $30 for any booking up to $10,000 and anything over $10,000 1% plus 10% insurance.

Thanks to Glory Britto for making this offer available to the Club.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

The Melbourne Theatre Company is presently showing “Glengarry Glen Ross” at Southbank Theatre. It’s a very funny but actually very close to the truth performance about the behaviour of four real estate salesmen. Times are bad so the company they work for has set up a monthly sales competition with the winner getting a car …………. and the loser getting fired ! Shades of “Death of a salesman” also about the demise of a past his prime salesman. A highly recommended night out.

**FROM THE BACK PADDOCK**

Currently Australia exports 70% of its beef production and 30% is consumed locally. The USA has just replaced Japan as out largest export market. Due to the drought in Northern Australia, Australia has exported record quantities of beef in the last few months.

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS**

Membership Workshop 6:30pm for 7:00pm Fri 25th July, Mt Waverley Community Centre Mel 70 E1. Club Membership chairman and President should attend but all are welcome.

**Club officers & Committees 2014-15**

**President** Bill Marsh

**Vice President** John Donaghey

**Secretary** Ron Brooks

**Treasurer** Warwick Stott

**President Elect** Bob Williams

**Sergeant** Stuart Williams

**Foundation & International** Chris Tuck

 Members: John Donaghey, Bob Williams, Stan Harper

**Youth Service** Glenys Grant

 Members: Ray Smith, Graham Sharman

**Community & Vocation** Bob Laslett

 Members: Stuart Williams, Gary Baltissen, Ron Brooks

**Membership & Publicity** Doug Berwick

 Members: John McPhee, Warwick Stott, Jenny Coburn

**Fellowship** John McPhee

**Primary Schools Speech Night** John McPhee

**Programme** Ray Smith & Gary Baltissen

**Bulletin Editor** Ron Brooks

**Web page** Ron Brooks

**Facebook** Ron Brooks

**On to Conference** Stuart Williams

**Historian** Stan Harper

**Almoner** Graham Sharman

**Public Officer** Bill Marsh

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| Bulletin articles to the Editor at ronbrooks1@optusnet.com.au by **5 pm Wed**If you do not wish to receive this pubcation please contact the Editor |
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