

FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 43

President: Bill Marsh

7 June 2023

BILL'S BY-LINE



On Monday we held our Youth Citizenship Awards evening. The first in three years as a result of COVID. How good it was to get back to something approaching normal. The five recipients and their families meant we had 41 at the meeting. Our biggest gathering for some time. (Full report later in newsletter.)

The Convention has been and gone and from all reports it was a resounding success. Congratulations to all involved in putting together such a mammoth undertaking. Members who attended will report back at our meeting on 19th June. Sadly, my wife and I missed the whole gathering as a result of coming down with COVID. Really bad timing as we had been looking forward to our first Convention. Perhaps we can use it as an excuse to go to Singapore for the next Convention.

At the weekend we will have our Blackburn Station market on Saturday and WFM on Sunday. A busy time for all members. Remember to put in as much time and effort as you can keeping in mind your own health and well-being. We will be serving egg & bacon as well as sausages so let's hope for a fine, cool morning that will bring out the locals in need of a nice warm, tasty snack. At this stage I think all members who are available will be attending at some time during the morning.

Here we are, almost at the end of this Rotary Year. For 2023-24 our club will have three Presidents sharing the role. Sue Ballard, Bob Laslett and Bill Marsh will run for 4 months each. As we get older we seem to get busier (or perhaps slower) and we hope this format will ease the load on any one person. Our Changeover evening will be on the 26th June.

Enjoy your week in Rotary.

Bill

*June is
Fellowship Month*

MEETING REPORT

Youth Citizenship Awards report.

The Youth Citizenship program is unique to our club. Run each year in June, it is designed to recognise a Year 8 student from each of a number of local Secondary schools for their achievements. These include that the student has:

- made worthwhile or unique contributions and put effort into their school community
- achieved success through application and determination
- is an example for other students, and / or has mentored students
- is a volunteer in the general community as well as at the school
- has been involved in, or initiated, a worthwhile environmental project.

The spirit of the award is to salute and reward possibly an 'unsung hero' who is a great contributor, a quiet achiever and one who is perhaps not often acknowledged.

This year five Year 8 students were chosen by their five schools to receive this award. Teachers wrote a citation for each child to explain their choice - and there were some marvellous achievements and contributions listed.

The program culminated in a celebration - an awards dinner and presentation night on Monday, June 5, which was enjoyed by all who attended. The Forest Hill Rotarians hosted all the families and their nominating teachers from the five schools.

After a delicious meal, which catered for all tastes and was served efficiently by Bucatini staff, President Bill Marsh began formal proceedings. Rotarian hosts introduced their guests - students, families and supporters. Some hosts, impressively, managed to introduce their table members without referring to notes!

District 9810 Assistant Governor, Catherine Elfick, then congratulated each student on their contributions to the school, colleagues, and the community. She went on to list the various Rotary programs available to those aged from about nine years and in Primary school up to adults about 30 who attend leadership programs. Earlyact, Interact and Rotaract clubs were also explained. Catherine also distributed a QR code to facilitate viewing the District 9810 Youth Program website to make it easy for families or teachers to access the programs.

Presentation of certificates began and each student in turn was called to the front to hear their teacher read out their citation as written by the school.

AG Catherine then presented each with their award and prize which consisted of a framed certificate, the laminated citation, and a voucher, along with an information 'goodie' bag.

The following students received awards and are to be congratulated on their efforts:

Himani Chhillar, Box Hill High, citation read by **Sharmaine NG**

Saachi Trivedi, Blackburn High, citation read by Vice Principal **Caroline Gachon**

Abbey Tempany, Forest Hill College, citation read by **Judy Marsh**

Rory Carrington, Kingswood College, citation read by **Katrina Renard**

Olivia Middenway, Vermont Secondary College, citation read by **Jerome Cole**

Photographs were taken throughout the evening, and a variety appear in this issue.

Thanks to all involved for another excellent and successful RCFH event.

Glenys Grant







COMING UP

12th June – No Meeting

19th June – reports on RI Convention by attendees.

26th June – RCFH Changeover Meeting

CELEBRATIONS



It's almost time to celebrate the birthdays of Glenys G and Robbie B who will share the day on 20th June.



SPROUTINGS

We were all so busy with our Youth Achievement Awards event, we almost forgot it was **United Nations World Environment Day** on Monday 5 June.

Not only that – this year is the **50th year** since its inception.

What is the history?



The year 1972 marked a turning point in the development of international environmental politics: the first major conference on environmental issues, convened under the auspices of the United Nations, was held from June 5-16 in Stockholm (Sweden). Known as the Conference on the Human Environment, or the **Stockholm Conference**, its goal was to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment.

Later that year, on 15 December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution ([A/RES/2994 \(XXVII\)](#)) designating June 5 as World Environment Day and urging “Governments and the organizations in the United Nations system to undertake on that day every year world-wide activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment, with a view to deepening environmental awareness and to pursuing the determination expressed at the Conference.” The date coincides with the first day of the landmark Conference.

Also on 15 December, the General Assembly adopted another resolution ([A/RES/2997 \(XXVII\)](#)) that led to the creation of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the specialized agency on environmental issues.

Since the first celebration in 1973, World Environment Day has helped UNEP to raise awareness and generate political momentum around growing concerns, such as the depletion of the ozone layer, toxic chemicals, desertification and global warming. The Day has developed into a global platform for taking action on urgent environmental issues. Millions of people have taken part over the years, helping drive change in our consumption habits, as well as in national and international environmental policy.

This year, 2023, celebrates **Fifty years of World Environment Day**.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on 5 June since 1973, **World Environment Day** is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world.

In 2023, it is hosted by Côte D'Ivoire.

Solutions to plastic pollution

More than **400 million tonnes of plastic** is produced every year worldwide, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled.

An estimated **19-23 million tonnes** end up in lakes, rivers and seas annually. That is approximately the weight of 2,200 Eiffel Towers all together.

Microplastics – tiny plastic particles up to 5mm in diameter – find their way into food, water and air. It is estimated that each person on the planet consumes more than 50,000 plastic particles per year –and many more if inhalation is considered.

Discarded or burnt single-use plastic harms human health and biodiversity and pollutes every ecosystem from mountain tops to the ocean floor.

With available science and solutions to tackle the problem, governments, companies and other stakeholders must scale up and speed actions to solve this crisis.

This underscores the importance of this **World Environment Day** in mobilizing transformative action from every corner of the world.

Did you know?

- Some **11 million tonnes** of plastic waste flow annually into oceans. This may triple by 2040.
- More than **800 marine and coastal species** are affected by this pollution through ingestion, entanglement, and other dangers.
- A shift to a circular economy can reduce the volume of plastics entering oceans by over 80 per cent by 2040; reduce virgin plastic production by 55 per cent; save governments US\$70 billion by 2040; reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent; and create 700,000 additional jobs – mainly in the global south.

Source: [UNEP 2023](#)

[Faith in a global agreement to combat plastic pollution by 2024](#)



Photo: Courtesy Ian Moody

Last year, 175 UN Member States endorsed a historic **resolution to end plastic pollution** and forge an international legally binding agreement that will be ready by the end of 2024.

This is the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord. It is an insurance policy for this generation and future ones, so they may live with plastic and not be doomed by it.



RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

Jeremy & Mary Ann Furness are locals from Croydon. They sell children's books, oil paintings on gum leaves, and knitted toys in markets at Nunawading, Yarra Junction and of course the Rotary Blackburn station markets.

Jeremy started **writing and illustrating** his Barry the Bike series of children's books over 10 years ago. It is one of the very few children's books that feature classic motorcycles, cars, and trucks. Go to Barry the Bike on Facebook to see all the books in the series.

Mary Ann started **oil paintings on gum leaves** as a 15 year old inspired by paintings by her grandparents. Her grandfather was William Beckwith McInnes who won the Archibald Prize seven times. These gum leaf oil paintings are as unique as they are beautiful. She paints on specially prepared Tasmanian Blue Gum Eucalyptus leaves which when painted are sealed to ensure a long life. She has been a professional illustrator for the last 40 years working for some of the world's leading publishing houses but now Mary Ann runs Wattle Gum Studios nestled in the Croydon Hills.

Mary Ann started **knitting toys** as a girl and now has turned that pastime into a commercial venture with her beautiful, cute range of animals, fish and birds.

Jeremy and Mary Ann can be contacted on 0403 310 032 or mafurness@bigpond.com or via Instagram mafurness_arts. But better still, come and talk to them at one of their regular markets to see the full range of their talents.



SOME OF OUR BLACKBURN MARKET STALLHOLDERS



Come to the Market this month- June 10th