



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 05

President: John Bindon

28 July 2021

## MOVING FORWARD



Our Club has a grand history of serving our Community and supporting Rotary projects both nationally and internationally.

For many years the club has made awards to students, of both primary and secondary schools and has received good feedback from parents of those students. For a number of years, the Club conducted a Family Fun Run, which was always well supported.

One of our major fundraising activities has been operating of a peach orchard at Berwick. Having to prune the trees, picking of the peaches and the sales at markets, resulted in the club making over \$100,000 which was distributed to community and international projects.

The Whitehorse Charity Golf Day was yet another successful fundraising function for the Club over several years.

We need to be looking at new ideas, and by increasing our membership, we can move forward with new initiatives, and again become a strong contributor to the community and Rotary Projects

At the same time, we will be recruiting volunteers, to assist us in our projects, these could be people who haven't got the time or the finances to be a Rotarian, but it would give the volunteers, the satisfaction that they are serving their community with an organisation with a distinguished record

We will be planning to distribute notices for community noticeboards, look at using community radio and community newsletters, in attracting potential members and volunteers.

John B

***Note: Stuart will be liaising with Bucatini, when we can return. Please contact him for dinner meeting attendance and visitors.***

## MEETING REPORT

Nine members attended.

Bill Marsh, Chair (and zoom convenor), opened the meeting. He welcomed all.

**President John Bindon** reported

- Shia Smart will be our Speaker next week. Her topic will be Membership.
- AG Catherine Elfick, RC Emerald and District, is invited to the meeting and Board.
- Rotary will have a stand at the Royal Melbourne Show.
- John has asked if members or friends have any contacts at the Whitehorse news.
- a Fellowship night on August 30/Sept. 13 (TBC) is being planned and past participants and others are to be invited.
- Sept 13 is Club's 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- if we get new members from this we must work to retain them.

**Secretary** Stuart Williams reported on the Footy contest.

**Treasurer** Warwick Stott will send out invoices for membership dues this week.

**International:** Bob Laslett reported Fiji is in lockdown, so no progress on that project. He has Hope Katolo Olive oil for sale again at \$12.00 a bottle.

**Community:** John Bindon has designed some advertising posters for the club. These will be distributed locally. Ian Teese will return to the club as a Speaker on September 27. His topic will be Eastern Emergency Relief Network.

**Youth:** Glenys Grant spoke about the zoom Primary Prevention Program training she attended on Saturday. Its aim was how to protect young children from abuse, and grooming; offer resources and pathways of advocacy; and how to protect Children's Rights.

**Environment:** Glenys Grant invited members to attend the ESRA Global Footprint webinar on Wed 28 July.

**Program:** Ron Brooks asked that members prepare talks to be called on when further lockdowns occur. Let him know if you can do a talk. He also outlined the future meetings and speakers, including a visit by the DG on August 9.

**Fellowship:** Bill Marsh asked whether members wished to resume Friday night films on August 6. He also suggested we could hold meals at member's homes as previously done.

President John then gave a well-researched talk on the wonderful YMCA and its war history. John has given us a précis of his talk for publication here.

Thank you, John, for the précis - and for the fascinating facts you brought to our notice.

Questions followed.

Bill Marsh and all members thanked John and the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Glenys G

### **The Story of the Australian YMCA in Theatres of War.**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to tell you the story of some "unsung heroes" of the YMCA, known as "YMCA Representatives".

A YMCA Representative is a person who works as a Welfare/Recreation Officer within the armed services. Reports to and is controlled by the YMCA structure. YMCA Representatives hold honorary officer's status, lives normally within the Officer's Mess, but is not a commissioned officer.

The Australian YMCA services to the Armed Forces commenced with the Boer War, with six representatives, working both in home camps and in South Africa.

A total of 394 YMCA Representatives, served in the First World War. Several Representatives, gave their lives to the work. YMCA Representatives do not receive military honours, but they do receive civilian honours, as you can see here, one receiving an MBE.

Several Representatives were Ministers of Religion, and they were concerned about troops being buried in mass graves, with little or no recognition. They formed themselves into the Burial Party, working in France in WW 1.

They received the assistance of local people, who dug the burial sites. The village people also sold poppies to raise funds, so that the graves could be identified. They averaged 36 burials per day.

William Dunford was a special YMCA war artist in France during WW 1 and completed 67 drawings of YMCA activities.

The YMCA Operated a Hostel, in Cairo known as Anzac Hostel. One of the reports that we have on hand, tells the story of that YMCA Hostel, in Cairo during WW1. In a 12-month period they provided 207,000 meals, 32,500 beds, 7300 hot baths, 100 concerts, 75 religious meetings, 120 cinema shows and 12 entertainment concerts to the convalescing soldiers. Attendance at entertainment concerts range from 500 to 1200. Some of the soldiers' remarks, "An oasis in a desert of dirt", "Absolutely the best feed since Australia", "like Heaven after four months on the Sinai Peninsula", "The best sleep for 15 months", "and if you know of a better hostel I'm going to it".

An old YMCA flag, which was recently found, was used to represent Australia at the signing of the Armistice, in Belgium in 1917. The flag is signed by the Brigadier and other officers and men.

A large number, of documents were found with the flag, giving descriptions of the conditions that the troops were working in. A new document has been prepared telling the "Story behind the flag".

Second World War. A full list of 436 YMCA Representatives who served in the Second World War. 3 Killed on duty. 3 Died on duty. 5 Prisoner of War in "Changi". 4 Mentioned in Dispatches, 3 Awarded OBE, 2 Wounded on duty, 5 Returned home with Poor Health.

YMCA Hostels in major cities, were used for accommodation of service personnel. Melbourne YMCA also used the Trocadero Dance Hall over the road from the Melbourne building.

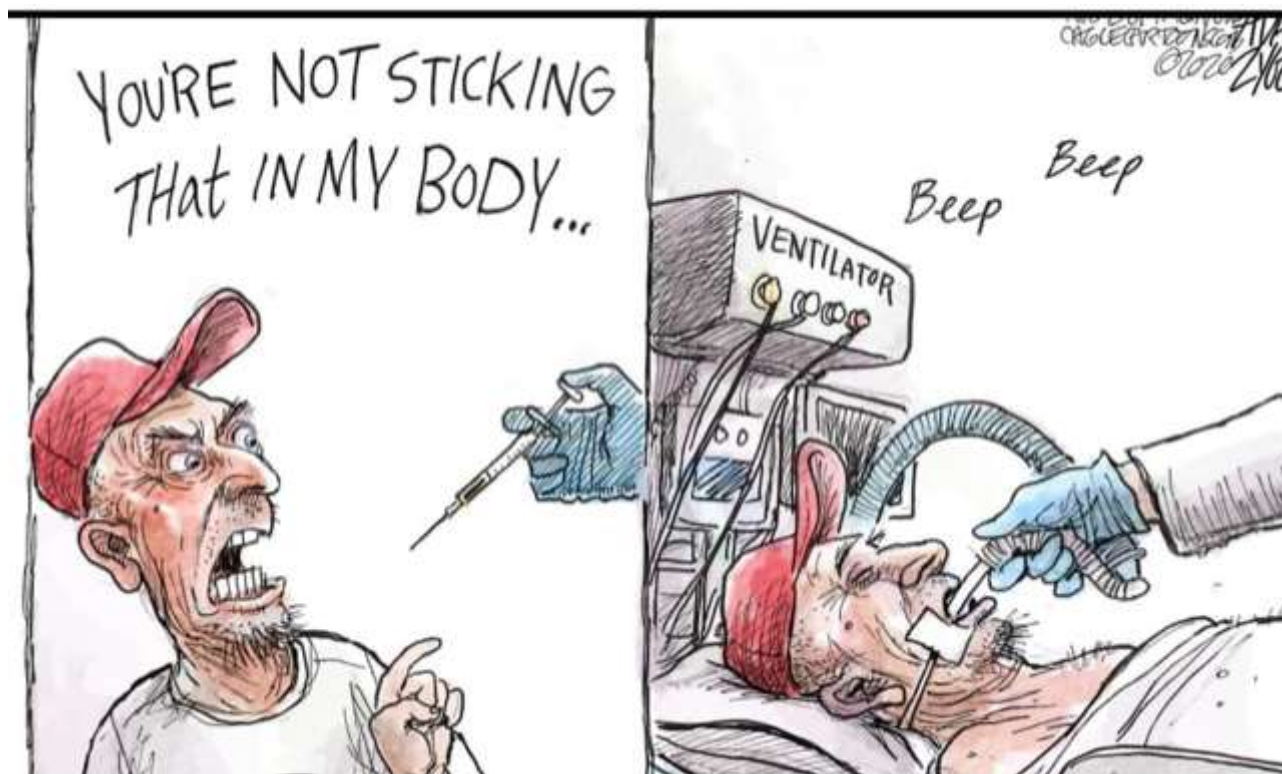
All these events had taken place many years ago, there are people today, seeking information on family members who had served with the YMCA. It is disappointing to hear from them, that when they have contacted the local YMCA, that Association had no idea what they were talking about. An example: A person from Adelaide contacted the Australian War Memorial, for details of his grandfather's service in the First World War. He was informed that his grandfather did not serve with the army, but his name appeared in YMCA records, and to make contact the local YMCA. He was informed by the YMCA that they had no knowledge, of any service, by his grandfather. He made contact again with the AWM, and they gave him my email address, from my records held at AWM. I was able to inform him that his grandfather was a YMCA Representatives served in England, France and Belgium and we had his photo on file. His grandfather was wounded in Belgium, became a POW, died as a POW, and was buried in Belgium. I was also able to provide him with a photo of the grave.

I thank you for the opportunity, to tell you the story, of the "Unsung Heroes", of the YMCA, in the past hundred years.

John B

**July is Literacy Month  
(and the start of the new Rotary Year)**

*While COVID may be impacting many Fellowship activities, remember to check in with family and friends on a regular basis. A friendly face or a supportive word is always appreciated, especially when times are difficult. Get vaccinated so we can all 'get about' again.*



*Vaccination helps us all.*

## NEXT MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> August - Shia Smart Membership

*Note: Board Meeting will follow the Club Meeting.*

## Meeting Roster

<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Bill Marsh</b>
<b>Greeter:</b>	<b>Suzanne Ballard</b>
<b>Vote of Thanks:</b>	<b>Ron Brooks</b>
<b>Note taker for Happenings:</b>	<b>Bob Williams</b>
<b>Recorder:</b>	<b>Barb Williams</b>
<b>Cahier:</b>	<b>Stuart Williams</b>

## COMING UP

9 <sup>th</sup> August -	DG's Visit
16 <sup>th</sup> August -	'Generosity Collective'
23 <sup>rd</sup> August -	Wendy Cooper – Eastern Palliative Care

## CELEBRATIONS



*Lockdown has eased.  
Get out and enjoy but stay  
safe and stay healthy.  
Get vaccinated.*



## INTERNATIONAL

### 1. TRAINING FOR FIJI SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND VOLUNTEERS

Funded by Rotary Club of Forest Hill

This is a project to equip and train Fiji Society for the Blind volunteers.

These volunteers go out to remote communities and screen people to allow us to make informed decisions and decide who can attend the next Taveuni Eye Project.

The aim here is to get a more consistent result from their remote village work.

The kits were put together here in Melbourne and freighted to Taveuni.

They are safely stored in Rotary facilities on Taveuni.

The Covid situation in Fiji is dire at the moment.

The country is in lockdown and no inter island travel is possible.

We are awaiting the opening up of Fiji local travel to allow the volunteers to travel to attend the workshop sessions.

Thank you to Rotary Forest Hill and can I assure you we securely holding the funds ready to proceed with this project at the first opportunity.

Peter Malden

### 2. OLIVE OIL

Fresh stocks of olive oil are available in support of our Hope Katolo Project- please contact Bob L.

Bob L

## SPROUTINGS

Have you heard of Outback Cleanups Australia? It was started by 26 yr old Boe Langford. He and his partner Kimberley Baraiolo travel around Australia, picking up rubbish across every state and territory.

He says they have collected almost 60,000kg of rubbish from remote country areas around the country

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-18/outback-cleanups/100300836>



So next time you are planning the next cross-country caravan trip, think what fun it would be to take at least four wheely bins on the back of a large ute and see if you can beat Boe's record!

(But please - don't invite me along)...

**This is from the Rotary Club of Sydney and the Climate and Peace Group.**

Record heat waves, fires and floods in the Northern Hemisphere this summer have turned the spotlight from COVID back to climate. So how can we retain peace and security as the weather worsens and the sea levels threaten mass migration?

Our next Climate & Peace Webinar on Tuesday August 10th, at 6pm (UTC+10) addresses the security question head-on.

Our speakers include Cheryl Durrant, former head of Australia's Defence Force planning, Prof Lachlan Blackhall, an expert on dispatchable energy and Anika Molesworth, a young firebrand primary producer. So, another terrific line-up, to help us understand what we can do about this crisis.

Date: **10th August** | **6:00 PM AEST UTC +10**  
Presented by the **Rotary Clubs of Sydney.**→

Please register for this webinar via the website:  
[www.climateandpeace.com.au](http://www.climateandpeace.com.au)



**10th August**  
6:00pm AEST UTC+10

## What does Security mean in the climate crisis?

### Defence, Energy & Food?

With Australia's top former defence planner Cheryl Durrant, an expert in dispatchable energy storage Prof Lachlan Blackhall and a fiery campaigner for farming reform Anika Molesworth – you will truly hear why climate & peace have to be considered together.

**Speakers:**

Do you know how to calculate your Global Footprint? Read on – this is from ESRA

**Webinar The Global Footprint Network – Webinar time is 11.pm AEST July 28**

Topic: The Global Footprint Network (GFN) has calculated that humans currently use as much ecological resources today as if we lived on 1.6 Earths. According to the GFN the “Ecological Footprint is the only metric that compares the resource demand of individuals, governments, and businesses against Earth's capacity for biological regeneration.” This presentation will discuss the GFNs tools for advancing sustainability, including the ecological footprint and biocapacity calculators, which measure the resources humans use and how much we have available. Can we use these tools to bring ecological limits to the centre of decision-making?

**Global Footprint Network – Net Zero Rotary**  
A presentation by Nilam Bedi  
RC Toronto Eglinton, Ontario, Canada




**ESRAG Biodiversity – Net Zero**  
Wednesday July 28, 2021  
1:00pm UTC (9:00am EDT) via zoom

The Presenter, Nilam Bedi has worked in public policy in Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and Asia, leading the development of environmental policies and programs at various levels of government, the United Nations and research institutes. This includes climate change, land use, water resources, biodiversity, environmental standards and sustainable agriculture.

There is another half page of credentials but that gives you an idea of the calibre of some of the Rotary enviro enthusiasts.

He is a member of Rotary International’s Technical Cadre evaluates Global Grants; member of the team that is reviewing and rewriting WASH Global Grant Guidelines; involved in drafting the Policy

Statement for the 7<sup>th</sup> Area of Focus – “Supporting the Environment”, and Is an active member of WASRAG and ESRAG

His CV also includes being Past President of the Toronto Eglinton Rotary Club (2019-20), Chair of the Rotary Toronto Eglinton Foundation (2017-2019) and co-chair of a Global Grant WASH project covering ten schools in Uganda.

As Chair of the Rotary District 7070 Environmental Action Committee, Nilam is leading the District's foray into the Environmental Sustainability Area of Focus.

*WOW! If I ever get back to Toronto to see family over there, I will endeavour to look him up!*

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### **So - do you know how to calculate your global footprint?**

I received this, tried it out – and was horrified at the result!

Read on ...

Renewable energy is a direct path to reducing your Ecological Footprint and addressing climate change. Can you take transit, bicycle, or walk instead of driving solo once a month? Once a week? Learn more how such steps affect your personal Ecological Footprint and could move the date of Earth Overshoot Day with this eye- opening new tool: [www.footprintcalculator.org](http://www.footprintcalculator.org)

That's all, keep safe, *Glenys*

**Scan Me!!**





## RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

Lesley grew up in Perth in a childhood that had its share of ups and downs and traumas. Navigating the rollercoaster of life, a series of events led her through some rock-bottom moments which she used as a base to make major changes. She has spent the past 48 years in the airline, legal, building, insurance, and advertising industries in flight attendant, administration, project management and advertising sales roles. For the last 25 of those years she has also been on an extensive, and often extremely challenging, spiritual and personal development journey. She has over 15 years of experience working with women in 12 step recovery and the disease of addiction. Sober now since 21 March 2006, Lesley's clean lifestyle has seen her transform into a fit, vibrant 67-year-old woman. Lesley's own spiritual and personal development guided her to write her first book, it poured out of her in just two months. Lesley has two wonderful adult children, lives in Melbourne and is owned by Soli the cat!

Lesley is selling her book at the market and is always ready for a chat about ..... anything ! The book reviews say:

*It's real, it's raw, it's gutsy, it's transformational*

*You will laugh and cry..... and not put it down*

*Through her journey Lesley has learnt and conveys with clarity the skills and tools she uses to give up her addiction, lose weight, and leave a very dysfunctional relationship.*

*"An incredible read! A hugely inspirational story of transformation"*  
- Sue Stone - UK Author, Secret Millionaire and Inspirational Speaker

Are you struggling with an addiction or an unhappy relationship?  
Are you sick and tired of yo-yo dieting and trying to lose weight?  
In her darkest moments, Lesley Thomas prayed to a Power greater than herself for help. Even though the road was rocky, she based her recovery, weight loss, fitness, and absolutely brilliant sense of wellbeing on those prayers being answered and her path being guided.  
Lesley shares with you her story: the highs and lows, the ups and downs, and everything in between.  
It is a story of hope.  
Hope for a better life, for more acceptance and understanding, for better relationships and a sober life.  
Lesley also shares her miraculous healings and how, at 67, she has lost weight and become fitter, stronger, healthier, and happier than at any other time in her life.  
No matter the darkness that you might be feeling right now, this must-read book will show you the way into the light.

**FINDING FABULOUS OVER 60**  
**LESLEY THOMAS**

**FINDING FABULOUS OVER 60**

**OVERCOMING TRAUMA AND ADDICTION**

**WEIGHT LOSS THAT FINALLY WORKED**

**DETACHING FROM A NIGHTMARE RELATIONSHIP**

**LESLEY THOMAS**

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