



FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 06

President: John Bindon

04 August 2021

MOVING FORWARD



Unfortunately, much of July was spent in what was Victoria's fifth lockdown, with many activities and events being cancelled or postponed as a result. It's good that we were able to be back together again on Monday.

We welcomed two special guests, Past District Governor Shia Smart, who was our guest speaker on membership, and our new Assistant Governor Catherine Elfick, who was checking us out in preparation for the District Governor's visit to us next Monday.

Shia was speaking to us about Rotary membership, as this subject is very important to us as we need to improve our numbers so that we can remain a viable club.

This year I have taken on the role of Community Service, as it is one of Rotary's Avenues of Service and it encourages Rotarians to offer service to their communities. Every Rotary club and every Rotarian must assume, a responsibility to find ways to improve the quality of life for those in their communities and to serve the public interest.

Organisations that I have worked for have benefit greatly from Rotary, but I ensured it was a two-way process, as I would allow Rotary District Committees to have their evening meetings at my workplace, and Youth Exchange, and Group Study Exchange conducted their training and orientation days at the weekend.

I want to see our club in a good working relationship with community groups, so that both parties have a good understanding of their work.

Community Service:

- Encourages and fosters the ideal of service to the personal, business and community life of every Rotarian.
- Provides opportunities for every Rotarian to exemplify "Service Above Self".
- Provides a chance to respond to the needs of a local community.

Effective Community Service projects:

- Are relevant to the community
- Serve as a learning experience for Rotarians
- Help identify a Rotary club's role in its community
- Respond to real issues
- Offer more than a "quick fix"

- Improve community members' lives
- Incorporate the abilities of those who are served
- Recognize the contributions of all participants
- Are supported by members of the Club

One of the comments that we often hear at conferences and training sessions is that Rotarians want to learn more about what other clubs are doing. Sometimes, hearing about another club's project can inspire an idea for a new project in our own club.

We look forward to our meeting next Monday night with our new District Gov. Dr Daryl Moran, and our Assistant Gov. Catherine Elfick.

John B

Note: Stuart will be liaising with Bucatini. Please contact him for dinner meeting attendance and visitors by 8.00pm on Sunday prior to the meeting. Any changes after this time to be notified directly to Bucatini.

MEETING (GAMES) REPORT

The Rotary Forest Hill Games welcomed our two guests, Shia Smart who will provide the after-event information session and Catherine Elfick our new Assistant to IOC 9810 Chair Darryl.

Our starter Bill commenced the Games welcoming our Pres John who led us in two toasts to the success of the Games and told us that he has been out looking for spots for our posters with placing one outside Blackburn library and another at Brentford square and he will try again for other spots when current restrictions ease. Our 9810 Stall promised at the Royal Melbourne Show is not happening as the Show has been cancelled. Former IOC 9810 Chair David Tolstrup told John that we get only a few members from advertising and that Box Hill Central has 55 members including a satellite club.

Cyclist Ron had a lot of trouble with the Olympic Flame and ensuring the trackside information television was working then had to ride around the track back to his starting position and so had cold soup.

Starter Bill commenced proceeding with a bang and Secretary/Cyclist Stu rode in to say that he phones Bucatini Sunday night with numbers so if any member needs to apologise or bring an extra after that they need to contact Bucatini direct.

Para Olympian Treasurer Warwick shot off the blocks advising that not all committee chairs have provided their budgets and as we may not have as many of our usual projects, we could look for others as our income should remain roughly the same as usual.

International High Jumper Bob L has Olive Oil (no Popeye?) bottles for sale at \$12 with proceeds to assist Hope Katolo school for young athletes in Africa.

Vocational Equestrian rider Barb S dismounted and had nothing to report from the track and Pres John who is a long-distance walker and checks on our Community while walking had nothing further.

Stu in his lycra suit (luckily we hadn't eaten as yet!) told us that Glenys our freestyle swimmer from Blackburn Lake referred to us a lady she knows with an un-needed motorised wheelchair plus some other stuff and Stu contacted Ian Teese at Eastern Emergency Relief to see if they could do a pick-up which happened today.

Warwick scooted back to suggest that second-hand disability equipment maybe much more in demand with the pandemic and to thank those three volunteers on shifts for our Whitehorse Farmers' Market Games event on Sunday. Warwick as usual will help out in the administration room where he provides entertainment for the counting house ladies as Warwick being a former Veterinarian, whenever he leaves the room, he tells the ladies to "Sit" "Stay!"

Ron had finished his ride and told us that next week is our DG visit then next we have “Generosity Collective” – volunteers collecting second-hand clothes for the use of ladies fleeing domestic violence.

Our table tennis champ Bill put down his bat to advise that Peridot has been deferred and he will check on movies/dinner for Friday night FH sportspeople and email out.

Javelin thrower Bob W updated our RYDA commitments plus our “Shine on” nomination and new awards date. He then threw out some tales and invited spectators to enter into the spirit of the Games telling us of their sporting (or not) achievements and raised \$33-15 for the IOC.

Shia who is our Rotary Region Assistant Coordinator for sporting regions 9810, 9820 and 9790 provided us with an entertaining information session directed on how to attract and retain new members to our club.

We need to not only promote ourselves but also have happy members who provide a value to our community with meaningful projects.

People don't join as we often don't ask. Rotary is largely unknown with a preconceived idea that Rotarians are old. Also, people may not be able to commit to our regular weekly/fortnightly meetings. They may not be interested in our projects or may already be a member of another local organisation. Cost and other priorities (time etc?) may be issues plus what can we offer them and what benefits (what is in it for them) We need to explain that we are involved in projects, locally, Australia wide plus internationally.

Our club new member avenues are those we may have approached a while ago but who couldn't join then, guest speakers, local businesses who support us, Over 55 Retirement villages and those attending our Blackburn Station and Whitehorse Farmers' markets.

We need to promote what we do, seek volunteers for particular projects, seek other organisations to, say, run our bbq etc.

Satellite clubs are gaining acceptance and those in retirement villages etc could gain from outside volunteering.

Our club needs to create an action plan and open discussion to create a structure of how to attract members. We need to look at different projects that may attract more people such as a further environment project after our one at Forest Hill Secondary College.

Catherine (who is a long-distance runner living in the Hills) suggested is there any way we can advertise where we meet as although Bucatini has rejected us having any on site advertising, there may be other ways?

A most thought-provoking presentation and discussion led by champion sprinter Shia and Ron gave a vote of thanks plus a box of after training treats for her.

Our raffle raised \$49 less costs and so we had two draws with Bill and Bob L being the lucky winners.

Pres John closed the event.

Bob W

August is Membership Month

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.

NEXT MEETING

9th August -

Club Visit by DG Dr. Daryl Moran

Meeting Roster

Chairperson:

Bob Laslett

Greeter:

Glenys Grant

Vote of Thanks:

Bill Marsh

Note taker for Happenings:

Ron Brooks

Recorder:

Barb Williams

Cahier:

Bill Marsh

COMING UP

16th August -

'Generosity Collective'

23rd August -

Wendy Cooper – Eastern Palliative Care

30th August -

Bucatini Partners' Dinner



Guest Speaker, PDG Shia Smart, President John Bindon and Assistant Governor Catherine Elfick

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Rob Grant as he celebrates his birthday today.

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



Amazing to think this drawing was done by Australian artist May Gibbs a hundred years ago during the Spanish flu.



SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLES

Businesses and people showing the Rotary Spirit

Our club is seeking the names of businesses or workers who have shown humanitarian spirit during the challenging times we have been through. Over the years our club has presented many Vocational awards, often for Pride of Workmanship. COVID 19, huge storms, people unable to work are just some of the things that have tested people and it has been pleasing to see many businesses rising to acknowledge community need.

Rotary is known for, "Doing good in the World", and we would like to reward businesses who have done just that.

Please contact Bill Marsh, Stuart Williams or President John Bindon if you have seen businesses and workers doing fabulous and much appreciated things. Please give a brief description of the activities you observed. The Rotary Club wishes to raise its community profile, and acknowledging and rewarding local businesses hopefully will assist our profile raising.

On Monday 2 August Eastern Emergency Relief collected some furniture and a motorised wheelchair from a house in Croydon. Our club played a small part in this activity. A colleague contacted Glenys

Grant asking if Rotary could utilise a furniture donation. Secretary Stuart contacted past member Ian Teese, who volunteers at EER to see if they could use such a donation. They do not usually handle wheelchairs but did have a contact they could move the chair onto. We are a community service club and community service comes in many forms.

Thanks Glenys, thanks Ian and the truck crew and a huge thanks to Eastern Emergency Relief who do an amazing job assisting families who find themselves in perilous situations.

Stuart W

SPROUTINGS

On Wednesday July 28 at 11.00pm AEST I joined the webinar run by ESRAG on the **Global Footprint Network (GFN) – Net Zero Rotary**. It was good to see a familiar face, Ron Brooks, in the audience.

The presentation discussed 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. Also how we can use these tools to bring ecological limits to the centre of decision-making.

Toronto based Public policy consultant Nilam Bedi, who helped draft the Rotary Foundation's Environment policy statement, introduced the subject.

Economist Eric Miller, Director of the Ecological Footprint Initiative at York University in Toronto, followed. Eric manages GFN projects including the production of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts. He spoke on some of his fascinating work and future programs.

The webinar formal program finished about midnight. Most of the audience left - then the chat began, finishing an hour or so later... So many interesting programs happening around the world.

What an interesting group ESRAG is!

Here are two talks coming up you may be interested in:



World Rivers Day
A presentation by Salvador Rico
ESRAG, WASHRAG,
RAGCED, RAGFP, EPS



ESRAG Biodiversity – Planetary Health
Wednesday August 11, 2021
1:00pm UTC (6:00am PDT) via zoom



Pruning Native & Indigenous Plants – Online Seminar. Monday August 9, 7.30 - 9.00pm AEST

Bookings essential: [here](#)

The following Information is from Whitehorse Council:

Whitehorse Clothing & Electronic Recycling Hubs and Trailers

'Have you seen our clothing and electronic waste (e-waste) drop-off trailers and hubs?

We have collected 3,870kg of clothing and accessories and 1,680kg of electronic waste at our three trailer sites in the past three months.

This service keeps valuable materials out of landfill and recycled

You can find the **trailers** located at:

- Aqualink Box Hill, 31 Surrey Drive, Box Hill **(NEW)**
- Nunawading Community Hub, 96-106 Springvale Rd, Nunawading
- Sportlink Vermont South, 2 Hanover Rd, Vermont South

Locations of the newly installed **hubs**:

- Aqualink Nunawading, Fraser Place, Forest Hill. For opening hours, visit [website](#).
- Nunawading Library, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. visit [website](#).
- Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. For opening hours visit [website](#).

In addition, there are customer service recycling collection points to provide recycling points for various small household items. All household batteries, small e-waste items like mobile phones including chargers, light globes and X-rays are accepted.'

A big thank you to Whitehorse Council Environmental Team

Now we turn to frogs.... Yes**FROGS** Via ABC News.

Posted Thu 29 Jul 2021, 5:00am in [The Conversation](#) By Jodi Rowley & Karrie Rose

'Dead, shrivelled frogs are unexpectedly turning up across eastern Australia. Over the past few weeks, we've received a flurry of emails from concerned people who've seen sick and dead frogs across eastern Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

So what's going on? The short answer is: we don't know. How many frogs have died and why is a mystery, and we're relying on people across Australia to help us solve it.



The giant barred frog is a threatened species that lives in the geographic range of this outbreak.(

Supplied: Jodi Rowley

Why are frogs important?

Frogs are an integral part of healthy Australian ecosystems. While they are usually small and unseen, they're an important thread in the food web, and a kind of environmental glue that keeps ecosystems functioning.

Healthy frog populations are usually a good indication of a healthy environment.

They eat vast amounts of invertebrates, including pest species, and they're a fundamental food source for a wide variety of other wildlife, including birds, mammals and reptiles. Tadpoles fill our creeks and dams, helping keep algae and mosquito larvae under control while they too become food for fish and other wildlife.

But many of Australia's frog are imperilled from multiple, compounding threats, such as habitat loss and modification, climate change, invasive plants, animals and diseases.

Although we're fortunate to have [at least 242 native frog species in Australia, 35 are considered threatened with extinction.](#)

In most circumstances, it's rare to see a dead frog. So the growing reports of dead and dying frogs from across eastern Australia over the last few months are surprising. In this outbreak, frogs appear to be either darker or lighter than normal, slow, out in the daytime (they're usually nocturnal), and are thin.

So what might be going on?

Amphibians are susceptible to environmental toxins and a wide range of parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens.

Frogs globally have been battling it out with a pandemic of their own for decades — a potentially deadly fungus responsible for causing population declines in more than [500 amphibian species around the world](#), and 50 extinctions.

It's also possible a novel or exotic pathogen could be behind this. So, the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health is working with the Australian Museum, government biosecurity and environment agencies as part of the investigation.

Here's how you can help

Please send any reports of sick or dead frogs (and if possible, photos), via the national citizen science project [FrogID](#), or email calls@frogid.net.au.

Jodi Rowley is a curator of amphibian and reptile conservation biology at the Australian Museum. Karrie Rose is a veterinary scientist at the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health -Taronga Conservation Society Australia at the University of Sydney. This piece first appeared on [The Conversation](#).

So, Rotarians and friends, here is a challenge for you.

If you see any dead or dying frogs please report them to these
Researchers.

Australian Museum photo



That's all for this week, *Glenys*

Scan Me!!



RCFH BLACKBURN STATION CRAFT MARKET – TRADER OF THE MONTH

SKIDADDLE PLAYERS

Every month for the last 10 years or so we have heard the sometimes lively and sometimes plaintive sounds of jazz drifting down over the stalls at the Blackburn Craft Market. The Skidaddle group give their time freely to entertain us while clearly having fun (or is it that they would play anywhere for a free sausage at the end of the morning). If you haven't met them, they are Richard Desmond (cornet), Neil Davidson (drums), Andrew Stevens (banjo), Michael Cousins (trombone), Tony Lee (clarinet), and Rod Evans (double bass). Michael and Richard also sing. So next time you are at the craft market, go up, say hello, smile, tap your feet, sing along - they'll love you for it. Rod is their low-profile leader and told me they are available for parties, and for gigs particularly their 16-piece big band that plays swing music mostly from the 30's and 40's. You may have seen and heard some of the other bands they play in which include the Dandenong Ranges Hot Jazz Orchestra, South Dereel City Stompers, U3A Big Band, and the Diamond Valley Big Band, too many to list. As I was listening to them play I heard one say let's change the key to ..., I didn't realise it but all these guys read music as well..... and there was me thinking they just play it all by ear.

So if you what to hire them please contact: rodevans@macrodynamics.com.au

