



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 08

President: John Bindon

18 August 2021

## MOVING FORWARD



During this 6<sup>th</sup> Covid lockdown, many are feeling isolated or sad and, for some people, those feelings are intensified by various other struggles and experiences. Though we are not currently able to gather for Club meetings and fellowship, various technologies still provide us important opportunities to meet and communicate with one another.

I realise the frustration that PP Sue would have experienced in her year as President, with programs being deferred or cancelled.

It has been interesting over the past months watching how things have unfolded both here and overseas. Everyone is experiencing COVID in an unusual way. We will beat this, but it will take time and patience.

As Rotarians we must be immensely proud of our organisation, right at the beginning we injected money into research for finding a vaccine. We have had the World Health Organisation call on us to help show them how we are tracing when we are immunising people against polio. Many Rotary clubs around the globe are working in their communities in many ways giving support to those that need it most.

During this, our 6<sup>th</sup>, lockdown we need to look after and support each other, more this time than last. We have tasted freedom, we have relished being back together, we have started to do wonderful things in our communities. But to our disappointment this has been abruptly stopped. We must maintain contact with our members and our communities.

With Monday night's meeting on zoom, we enjoyed the company of past members and it was great to see Merle Smith, and her son Gary, joining us after her time in rehabilitation.

Stuart Williams made an exceptionally good presentation on his trips around the world, and he took us to some exciting places. It is good when members can step in and fill a casual program spot at short notice.

After the business part of our gathering, members enjoyed good fellowship while on zoom.

While we are thinking about others, I saw this interesting article in the newsletter for Disaster Aid Australia.

On the '**International Day of Friendship**' it is a time for our volunteers and supporters to appreciate and promote the friendships developed through Disaster Aid Australia's activities.

Friendship means empathy, compassion, and concern for other people.

Valuing and celebrating friendship foster these characteristics and gives a more selfless and grateful outlook on life.

Through working alongside our Disaster Aid International partners, we have developed friendships in Britain, Malaysia, Canada, the USA, Czech Republic, and India.

By helping people in the Philippines, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Timor Leste, and many other developing countries we have built strong friendships with our delivery partners.

Some Ways to celebrate:

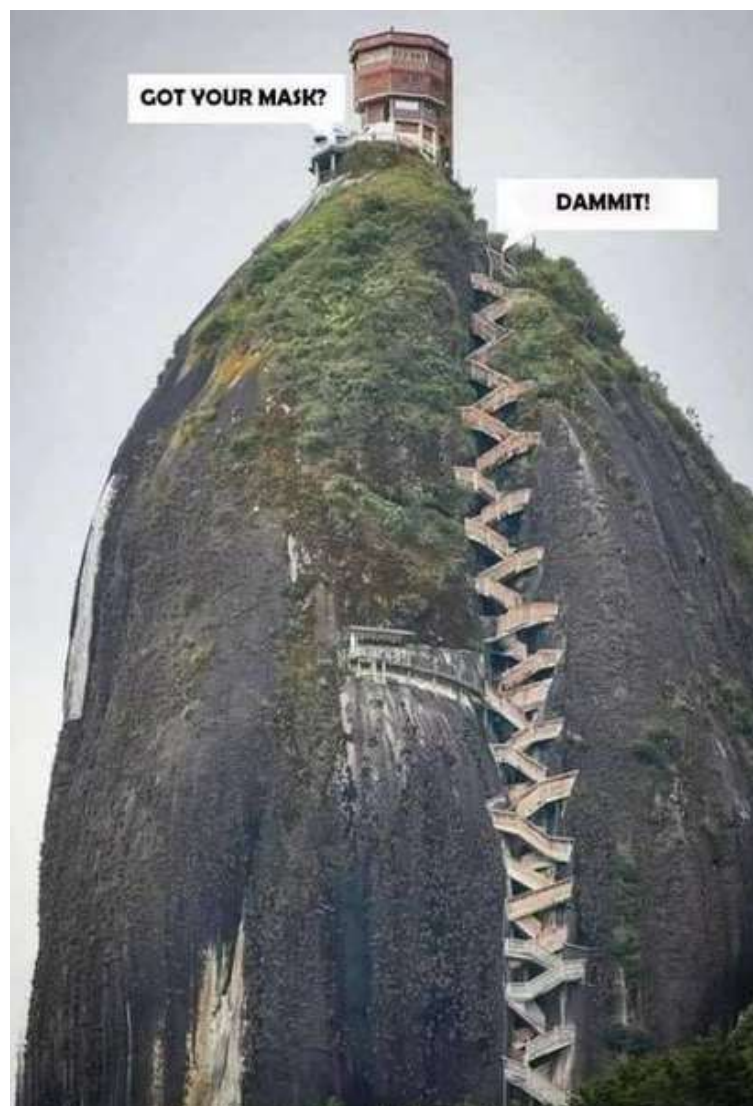
- Contact a friend and have a chat.
- Reach out to someone to whom you have not spoken for some time.
- Think about what unites people instead of what separates us.
- Volunteer, and help others.

**If you would like the opportunity to find friends in other countries, why not become involved in Disaster Aid Australia.**

Stay safe and I hope that you are able to find some interesting things during lockdown.

Yours in Rotary

John Bindon



I have lost track of the number of times I have left my mask in the car when racing into the shops!!!!

**Note: Stuart will be liaising with Bucatini, at some time in the future. 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 REPORT

Speaker:- Stuart Williams on his travels.

Zoom meeting attendees: John Bindon, Bill & Judy Marsh, Glenys Grant, Stuart Williams, Bob & Judy Laslett, Ron Brooks, David & Carol McNamara, John & Marg McPhee, Merle & Gary Smith, Warwick Stott, Sébastien Debuire (tuning in from France), Barbara & Bob W.

John B opened the meeting, then introduced Stuart to talk of his travels.

Stuart in early age was interested in other countries, but not till later years was he able to travel overseas. He showed pictures and spoke of the following countries he has visited – Thailand – intricate temples, reclining Buddha, walking with the tiger; Russia – St Petersburg Hermitage, Catherine's Palace; China – The Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors; Italy – statue of David; Sth Korea - DMZ; Cambodia; Australia – Uluru, Sydney Opera House; Norway – Fiord; Sweden – The Vasa ship in Stockholm; Solomon Islands – where he went on a work party; Singapore; USA – Alaska Glacier Bay. Many varied places of interest, enjoyed by all.

Glenys G gave the vote of thanks to Stuart and also thanked Bill M for all his work enabling us to see all of Stuart's pictures.

John B would like all the Committee plans to him by the end of the week. Acknowledged we are in difficult lockdown for another 2 weeks, until 2 September.

Secretary, Stuart – nothing to report except contract with Box Hill Institute, a 10-page document, which wasn't signed last year. Sue and Barbara S to contact Institute.

Treasurer, Warwick – nothing to report and nothing from Whitehorse Farmers' Mkt.

International, Bob L – Melanie, Hope Katolo would like a dining room – to be investigated. Olive oil still for sale, contact Bob L.

Foundation, Bob L -nothing to report.

Community, John B – has spoken to a couple of organisations in the community.

Youth, Environment, Glenys G – was to be a meeting tomorrow re wild life garden, but due to restrictions, has been postponed; Youth Achievement Award invites to be sent out.

John B spoke of contacting community newspapers.

Stuart W has written a piece for newsletter re: Stuart McDonald of Healesville Club, who passed away on the weekend.

Blackburn Market, John McP – hope to have market in September.

Program, Ron B – attended Rotaract changeover on zoom, on weekend. Speakers, some are willing to do zoom, others prefer to do in person. Read in newsletter to see next week's speaker.

Bill M – Harvey Lane from Nunawading contacted him re: Peridot Theatre night, which is postponed due to lockdown.

John B closed the meeting, fellowship on zoom was enjoyed for a little longer.

## 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

23<sup>rd</sup> August- Sébastien Debuire – 'My Life Since Youth Exchange'

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85347632836?pwd=WmFzM1FSaEo1TG80aERXQ0xyblM0UT09>

### Meeting Roster

Chairperson: **Warwick Stott**

Vote of Thanks: **Bob Laslett**

Note taker for Happenings: **John Bindon**

### COMING UP

30<sup>th</sup> August - Bucatini Partners' Dinner via Zoom

6<sup>th</sup> September - Lesley Thomas "Finding Fabulous Over 60"

13<sup>th</sup> September - Club Birthday

20<sup>th</sup> September - Anna Burley "Days for Girls"

### CELEBRATIONS



*Celebrate all of the good things you have and don't stress over what you don't have.*

*Get out and enjoy but stay safe and stay healthy.*

*Get vaccinated.*



### ROTARACT CHANGEOVER 2021

Last Saturday afternoon I attended the Rotaract Changeover along with about 50 other people, mostly much younger than me. It was exciting to hear all the projects the youngsters are involved with in their five Rotaract clubs. Of course, attendance was made so easy as it was a Zoom meeting. And it was an opportunity to hear DG Daryl speak again. We should encourage and support these young people as hopefully some of them will be the future voice of Rotary.





I will put \$5 in the sergeant's collection for the first person to tell me what this says at next Monday's meeting (face to face or Zoom)



Ron Brooks

## ROTARY LOSES A CHAMPION MAN

Stuart McDonald was unique and probably will never be replaced. Stuart loved life and loved making an impact.

I got to know Stuart as an Apexian. Healesville Apex was a dynamic, involved and fun club and Stuart was at the centre of every activity in which they were involved. Stu's life seemed to revolve around community service and he fitted work around it. He was a dedicated forest management worker and even carried a business card signed- 'Gnome of Toolangi Forest'. During many fire seasons Stu spent work shifts sitting in "Fire Observation Towers".

A single man, Stuart devoted most of his "non- paid hours", to his passions. He did fit in time to punt, play golf and support Collingwood Football Club. He didn't crave the spotlight and made his considerable contribution as the support man. He worked on committees and forums and was often the efficient and thorough secretary.

Once joining Rotary he made his impact in Youth Exchange. Stuart had an unswerving belief in young people. Youth Exchange provided young people with the challenges to develop their resilience, offer them leadership positions and to grow world peace, co-operation and understanding. Stuart was fair but tough, witty and often cynical, hard-working and very dedicated. Stuart's determination meant that Rotary District 9810 had the best prepared out-going exchange students in the world. For over thirty years we had a hard-working, enjoyable, professional and caring YE committee. Much of that due to Stuart's involvement. He spent most waking hours on YE business. He was on the phone day and night connecting with countries all over the world.

Stuart did not just work at the local level, he worked hard in all forums in Australia and the world. He had connections in every country that exchanged students. He was respected world-wide. He visited all the countries with whom we had reciprocal YE programs. At a RI convention home-hosted dinner in Toronto; when the Rotarian from Brazil found out I was from Australia, Stuart Mc Donald's name came up. Stuart was admired the world over.

At the recent retirement dinner for Rotarian Rae Church, Stuart mentioned that Rae had accompanied him to Melbourne Airport on over 100 occasions, at all hours, day and night. Rotary Youth Exchange was Stuart's life. He was from the school of thought that volunteering is voluntary but once you commit to a role, you do it as a professional. Stuart crossed every T and dotted every I. It made it easier for all who worked with him.

Stuart's legacy will be that he assisted, supported and made life meaningful for so many people. A little man with a very big heart. Youth Exchange kept Stuart alive and Stuart kept the idea of

personal growth through YE, alive. So many young people, the world over, have lost a friend and champion of their dreams and ambitions. Stuart McDonald will be sadly missed.

Stuart Williams

## HOPE KATOLO

Hi Stuart,

I would like to express huge gratitude to you for once again organizing the Rotary Footy Tipping fundraiser for Hope Katolo Nursery School. We are so grateful to all of the time that you put into this fundraiser and the funds and awareness that it brings to the nursery school. As you said in your recent message, the footy tipping has also been a lovely distraction for those participating over the last couple of seasons.

Your support and encouragement over many years has been so appreciated. Next year I will surely win as the Bombers will be set for the GF, for sure 😊.

Kind Regards,

*Melanie Haley, Leanne Pinfold and Georgina Malanga*

## Hope Katolo Nursery School, Kenya

### SPROUTINGS

This week I thought you might like to have some information about Whitehouse City Council's project to sustainably redevelop one of our heritage houses and its orchard.

**For information and project updates** [strathdon@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:strathdon@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

**Strathdon House and Orchard**, is situated at **449-465 Springvale Road, Forest Hill**. If you are not sure where that is, it's beside the police station, opposite Mock St.



Built in 1893, 'Strathdon' is a 2.5 hectare site that includes a homestead and orchard from Whitehorse's early settlement. It operated as an orchard until the 1930s and was acquired by Council during Bicentennial celebrations as an asset of historical and cultural significance.

Through consultation with the community, Council has developed a precinct plan for 'Strathdon's' development. The plan celebrates the rich history of the site while transforming 'Strathdon' into a community precinct that will host educational programs in sustainable living as well as opportunities for the community to rest and relax, play in nature and attend community events.

## The redevelopment of the House and Orchard Precinct began in May.

Plans are to transform it into a vibrant, multi-use community precinct and include:

- Refurbishment of the homestead (including two public meeting rooms);
- Replanting the apple orchard from successfully grafted stock;
- Installing a new 'packing shed' to host educational programs;
- Landscaping, including front and rear gardens, the creation of a nature play area;
- A self-guided heritage walk;
- Sustainable programs and buildings that are environmentally sensitive;
- An educational kitchen garden;
- Quality open space that has historical significance, self-led and active recreational opportunities, and demonstrated best practice in Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD);
- Opportunities to learn how to live sustainably, reducing living costs and grow food.

As a healthy living and sustainability hub, Council is seeking further community consultation regarding future programs to be offered at 'Strathdon'. Via a survey they asked for feedback from the community. I completed both the survey and an expression of interest so we can receive progress and information updates.

So why is this 'recycling' of the old homestead, orchard and kitchen garden important? These are some of the historical details from the website <https://vermonthistory.weebly.com/strathdon-house--orchard.html>:

**Vermont -The story of a Community.** An archive of the history of Vermont.



*View from Overway pines across Strathdon front garden looking south to Tainton's circa 1941. Image from the collection of Charles Matheson. Source: (Gilfedder et. al, 1992)*

**'Strathdon' Orchard** is the last remaining fruit orchard in the City of Whitehorse with plantings dating from the early 1920s. The property was originally native bushland composed of *Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Eucalyptus radiata*.

In 1894, Jack Fankhauser married Elizabeth Maling (of the Maling Rd family). They constructed a three-bedroom brick cottage with a timber kitchen, small laundry and bathroom. The homestead was extended in 1915, and again in 1934.

### **Vegetation at 'Strathdon'**

The original native vegetation surrounding the 'Strathdon' orchard was diverse and featured a variety of native grasses, orchids (particularly greenhood orchids), Bracken and Maidenhair ferns, egg and bacon peas, heath and a rich understory of trees including Wattles, Prickly Moses, tea-trees and Wild Cherry.

Various fruits were also cultivated on the orchard, among them: lemons, oranges, figs, plums, gooseberries, raspberries, black and red currants, cherries and apples. Other ornamental plants grown on the site included: roses, cannas, cosmos, columbines, daffodils, delphiniums, petunias, phlox, poppies, snapdragons, snowflakes, sweetpeas, violets, wallflowers and a native clematis.

In 1988 Nunawading Council purchased the property.

In **2020** - The Whitehorse City Council announced plans to transform 'Strathdon' into a community precinct.

The most recent Council survey asked what the community wanted in the way of environmentally sustainable programs.

These below seem to be amongst those most strongly advocated for so far:

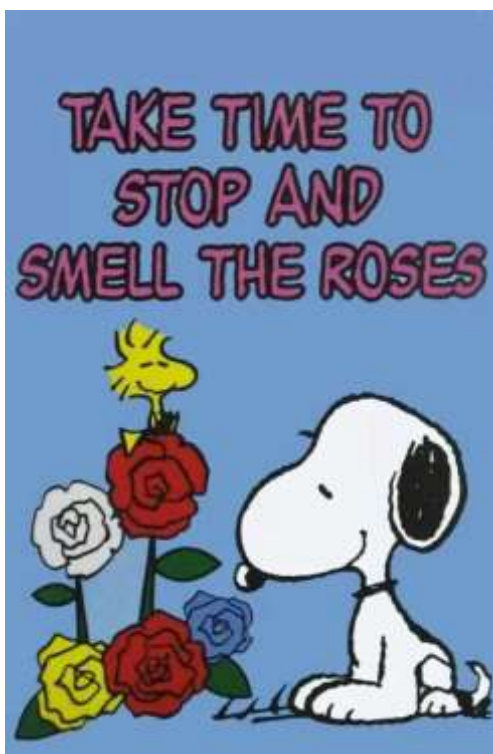
1. Nature and environmental programs
2. Creative activities inspired by our environment
3. Reducing waste and composting at home
4. Repair, Reuse and Recycling everyday items
5. Cooking, eating and produce swaps
6. Gardening and using water wisely
7. Reducing energy usage.

A further survey question was: How do you see community members taking part in the creation and care of a kitchen garden for educational purposes? Answers included:

1. General kitchen garden maintenance including weeding and pruning
2. Assist organised groups of children or disability groups working in the garden
3. Kitchen Garden Planning "companion, sacrificial and rotational" planting
4. Planning recipes and seasonal ways to learn from and use the kitchen garden and orchard
5. Harvesting and documenting seeds to develop a seedbank.

What an interesting project! I'll keep you posted. 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 want to hire them please contact: [rodevans@macrodynamics.com.au](mailto:rodevans@macrodynamics.com.au)

