



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No. 09

President: John Bindon

25 August 2021

## MOVING FORWARD



I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well. It was only 12 months ago that we found ourselves in the 2nd lockdown starting in August 2020 and now we are in the same position with lockdown numbers 6.

These past twelve months have been the experience of a lifetime. Thank you for the opportunity to be your President. As COVID-19 reached around the globe, we found ourselves in a world turned upside down. In turn, we were forced to connect in ways we could never have imagined.

We were tested in our ability to adapt. And yet, we have persevered. I have witnessed the members of the club act to care for humanity amid the coronavirus pandemic, locally and globally.

Every day, but particularly during this pandemic, we have demonstrated the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." I have been amazed, inspired, and humbled by all of you within the family of Rotary.

We found new ways to make the lives of others better, new ways to move forward together. Together we will continue to grow Rotary so that we may increase our gift of Rotary in our local and global communities.

August is Membership Month, a time to recognise our members and the incredible work they do locally and globally.

Membership Month is also a great time during which we can seek out friends and colleagues and encourage them to join the family of Rotary; we must strive to improve our membership numbers so that we can remain a strong and active club.

John Bindon.

***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

### Guest Speaker

We were privileged to have Sebastien Debuire (on zoom) who was an Exchange Student in 1993 with the Rotary Club of Forest Hill.

Sebastien spoke on his life after his 12 months in Australia and made a PowerPoint presentation showing the areas where he had lived and studied and told us the languages which he had learnt.

Sebastien pointed out that it took him 6 years to complete his studies, because he said he wasn't a very good student.

With his time in Australia his English improved immensely and with his studies learnt Japanese and German. In his work he needed to speak both French and English.

Sebastien showed us some wonderful buildings in his hometown and in nearby cities.

A discussion took place between Rotarians, guests, and Sebastien of his time in Australia. John and Kathy Donaghey asked Sebastien if he could remember what football team he supported, and he replied, Carlton, as the Donaghey's (Kathy & Melissa in particular) gave him no other choice.

David McNamara and Carol spoke of the time they met up with Sebastien in France and the wonderful time they had together. David made comment that it took him a while to adjust to the speed limits of French motorways as he was travelling at 130 km an hour, and everything was passing him. David referred to the time they took Sebastien to Phillip Island, and Sebastien thought Australia was a warm country, therefore was wearing shorts. While on the beach a call came over the public address system suggesting the person on the beach with shorts, to come inside off the beach!

Ron Brooks spoke to Sebastien about the time that they were hosting Sebastien, and the places they visited and the experiences that Sebastien had.

Bob and Barbara Williams asked Sebastien if he could recall the time he had spent with them at their house at Inverloch. They had the opportunity of showing him the district and the local beaches. Reference was made to a photo Sebastien doing handstands that is still displayed in their lounge room.

At the conclusion Bob Laslett, on behalf the club, thanked Sebastien for the opportunity of seeing and hearing him after so many years.

### **Meeting report.**

Bill Marsh reported that there would be no meeting on the 30th of August as there is a special District Meeting on social media and everybody's encouraged to log into that meeting, details of the link will be sent out. (Included in this newsletter, see below.)

Bill reported that an email will be sent out regarding the budget, and any concerns or alterations be put in writing so that they can be discussed at the next Board meeting in September.

Members wished Bill for the best and upcoming surgery.

Bob Williams referred to the results of the football tipping contest in which Bob Laslett, Warwick Stott and John McPhee were the winners.

Treas. Warwick stated that there were some memberships fees, still outstanding and he would like to be paid as soon as possible.

John Bindon reported that he'd been trying to contact people regarding the Community Committee, but this has been difficult, as so many people are working from home, and unable to make contact.

Glynis reported on behalf of the Environment Committee, stating that expressions of interest were required for Strathdon Orchard, a heritage listed property next to the Forest Hill Police Station in Springvale Road. Glynis will make further enquiries of what is required for our club to be involved.

John Bindon reported that a phone call from the President, Rotary Club of Mitcham, asking if the Forest Hill Club, would be willing to form a partnership with the Mitcham Club for a lunch to be served to people experiencing hard times. The lunch would be at the Anglican Church Hall in Whitehorse Road Mitcham on 28th. November. There was a clear indication that the Forest Hill Club would be willing to participate.

John Bindon

## 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

**There will be no club meeting next week (30<sup>th</sup> August). There is a District Zoom meeting focusing on social media and members are encouraged to join in on the link below. Meeting starts at 7.00pm.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600846997?pwd=bjdzaytaOWNCdkxaanZjaFlyaHpUUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 0084 6997

Passcode: 441964

### Our next Club Meeting will be:

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

At this stage we do not know if it will be 'in person' at Bucatini or via Zoom. More details later next week.

### Meeting Roster - TBC

Chairperson:

Vote of Thanks:

Note taker for Happenings:

### COMING UP

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

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

### CELEBRATIONS



*Congratulations to Judy Marsh as she celebrates her birthday on Thursday.*

*Also congratulations to John & Kathy for celebrating their Wedding Anniversary yesterday.*



## FOOTY TIPPING

Our Rotary Footy Tipping competition concluded last Sunday. This year we had 23 participants and, unfortunately, the organisers threw up regular challenges to tipsters. A few gave up, others had to battle each week just to log in and submit their tips.

In the end Bob Laslett was our top tipster with 134 winners. Warwick (132) was second and John McPhee (131) was third. Sybil continued her consistency and jumped to fourth (130) and our Nunawading Rotarian, Gabby, (129) was fifth.

It seemed, and was, a crazy year. We have a weekly prize if you tip 9 winners. We had only 3 people who tipped 9 winners. Judith Eadon managed 9 winners in the last round. Mark Bailey and Stuart Williams were the others to tip 9 winners.

Hope Katolo will benefit from the competition.

Thanks for being part of the fun. Please invite your friends to join us next year. The football certainly added an interest in the "lockdown times".

Stuart

## SPROUTINGS

It's less than a week to Spring and we have seen a bit of sun in the last few days, which is invigorating. A lot of flowering shrubs are in bud, as well.

A pair of ducks were on our deck yesterday. When our young labrador, Bentley, saw them he nearly broke the glass window in his excitement to go out and welcome them. At least, we think he was only going to welcome them... Until we know for sure his intentions, we are hoping these welcome visitors don't bring their chicks to our garden, as they did last year.

Birds are out in abundance, building nests, aren't they? They really know how to recycle.

We were brushing our dogs outside a bit later in the day and noticed some birds excitedly collecting the loose dog hair floating around. I am guessing it will be used to waterproof and warm the nest for the next lot of fledglings.

The other interesting thing is that one of our bird baths had brightly coloured glass stones in the base under the water. A lot of these glass stones are now missing... do some birds decorate their nests, perhaps with these?



The photo shows a recent addition to the birdlife at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary – a beautiful black swan.

The mate would have been around also, as they mate for life.

*Photo courtesy of BLSAC*

From **ESRAG ANZPI Chair (2021-2022) Ted Waghorne** comes information about the August Chapter meeting just held and some of ESRAG's planned activities.

Pat Armstrong reported on the inaugural Ambassador course commencing at month's end. Graduates will promote environmental action in Rotary Clubs across the region.

Last week the IPCC global climate report was released indicating that there has been a faster increase of temperature than had been previously predicted. The report highlighted changes that are necessary to prevent key tipping points being reached and these will be a key factor in COP26 discussions planned for October in Glasgow. [AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis — IPCC](#)

The speaker, Rob Anderson, spoke about ESRAG's climate action task force collaboration with Project Drawdown that has identified up to 80 areas where changes would have a big impact in reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Rob indicated a number of these could be implemented by Rotarians including installing solar panels, reducing food waste, improved cookstoves in underprivileged countries and eating less meat.**

ESRAG is also close to providing more information about carbon emissions and are hoping to increase tree planting to offset these carbon emissions.

**ESRAG** have created **theme teams** (Biodiversity, Climate, Circular Economy, Pollution, Sustainable Living, and Food Security)\*

Next Chapter meeting is on Tuesday, September 16. Karin Traeger CEO of the Yarra River Keeper Association is the speaker.

*\* If anyone would like to be part of one of these theme teams let me know.*

**NB** There are now **179 ESRAG members in 25 Districts across Zone 8:**  
**9455, 9465, 9510, 9550, 9570, 9600, 9630, 9650, 9670, 9675, 9685, 9700, 9705, 9710, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9980**

**Zoonotic Diseases.** In November of 2019, the SARS CoV-2 virus spilled over from an animal host into a human. The question isn't, why this has happened? **What should be asked is, why hasn't this been such a problem before?** Dr Rick Randolph explores how disrupting the environment increases our risk for pandemic, why this is happening and how we can reduce the odds of this occurring again. Note that this commences at **11.00pm AEST tonight.**

**Registration:** [https://esrag.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltcuyqjwH9deFW\\_ZrDt1OyXM7iV6s9MQ](https://esrag.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltcuyqjwH9deFW_ZrDt1OyXM7iV6s9MQ)



## Boost your health with Spring gardening

“Growing from seed is cheaper, gives you access to a greater range of heirloom varieties, and allows you to hold several years’ supply of food in a standard shoe box,” she says. “Many people start veggie gardening with seedlings because it seems easier, but there are many crops that must be grown from seed, like carrots.”

It’s also a great time to plant herbs, which will help transform your home cooking.



Marcelle says Diggers Club’s heirloom seeds offer access to varieties of vegetables that you’ll never see in the supermarket.

“These varieties are selected by gardeners for their merit, like the first tomato to fruit each year, the longest-storing pumpkin and the most brightly coloured silverbeet,”

### Marcelle’s guide to starting a vegetable garden

- Just start and don’t worry about the results. You will learn through experience and build confidence as you progress.
- Think about the location of your garden beds. Vegetables need around six hours of sunlight, so select a position in full sun.
- Soil preparation is the key. Most soils benefit from applications of organic matter, including decomposed compost and well-rotted manures. However, horse poo is often full of weed seeds and not ideal.
- Plant the produce you purchase regularly. If you buy a bag of carrots each week, then sow a metre of carrot seed each fortnight to help meet your demand.
- Remember, gardening shouldn’t be a chore, but rather a rewarding hobby that also puts food on your table.

**This article was from the RACV Club’s Health and Wellness team.**

Speaking of putting food on the table – do you have a really delicious recipe that uses mainly vegetables? We would love to publish it.

Until next 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](mailto:rodevans@macrodynamics.com.au)

