

Pictured: Ambleside Homestead, FTG

# Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully Inc.

INCORPORATED REG. NO. A0023463V  
DISTRICT 9810 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA  
CHARTERED GULLY, VIC 3156: 16<sup>th</sup> May,  
1963

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24th November 2022

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

|                   |   |   |  |   |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Date & Time:      | Thursday<br>1 <sup>ST</sup> December<br>[6.00 for 6.30] | Thursday<br>8th December<br>(6.00 for 6.30) | Thursday<br>15th December<br>(6.00 for 6.30)   | Thursday<br>19 <sup>th</sup> January<br>(6.00 for 6.30) |
| Venue:            | FTG<br>BOWLS<br>CLUB                                    | BUNNINGS<br>SCORESBY                        | PAUL & JILL<br>WILSONS<br>HOME                 | FTG BOWLS<br>CLUB                                       |
| &Program          | XMAS<br>HAMPER<br>PACKING                               | XMAS<br>COMMUNITY<br>EVENING                | CLUB XMAS<br>PARTY                             | ROTARY<br>RESUMES                                       |
| Speaker:          |   |   | Catering<br>arrangements<br>to be<br>confirmed |   |
| Vote Of<br>Thanks |   |   |  |   |
| Scribe:           |   |   |  |   |





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **FRAN'S FANFARE!**

*I must admit that last week's Speaker Ray Pearce really opened my eyes to our local history. I found the whole thing fascinating and the fact that it had happened over a comparatively short period of time was even more surprising to me. How far we have come in that short time is a miracle and a tribute to the tenacity and resilience of those of yesteryear, who did not hesitate to embrace progress in spite of the hardships they endured.*

*In another way we in our club are experiencing our own challenge and hardship with our dear friend Paul Mac's continuing fight to recover from his serious and life-threatening conditions. We can only pray with all our concerted might to fight with him with our love and prayers. We need his wisdom, experience and indomitable sense of humour to go forward with our Rotary lives.*

*My grateful thanks to those members who have expressed their endorsement of the Bins for Blokes project. I have a majority Vote in favour of it and will therefore pursue it.*

*Any members who opposed it are invited to tell me their reasons for doing so.*

*See you Thursday!*

*Fran*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**

**Rotary Youth Leadership Award**

**8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**

**Bunnings Community Evening**

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**

**Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**

**Knox Historical Society**      **Running BBQ**

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**

**Club Xmas Party (last meeting for 2022)**

**19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023**

**Rotary Resumes**

**3-5 Mar 2023**

**District Conference in Canberra**

**25<sup>th</sup> Apr 2023**

**Anzac Dawn Service at Quarry Reserve**

# THE WEEK THAT WAS

## Minutes of Weekly Meeting of 24 November, 2022

The meeting was opened at 6-30pm by President Fran, with Fran & Brian M, Rosie Massey and Gary B on Zoom.

Present in person – Christine A, Graeme A, John F, Graeme Harrison, Martin Howard, Rob H, Mike S, Alan T, and Paul W. Guest – Joan Howard. Speaker Ray Peace (Knox Historical Society).

Apologies - Paul M (in hospital). Rosie has a large card to be signed by members, and flowers will be sent when appropriate.

### Announcements:

The President welcomed partner Joan Howard as well as the speaker, Ray Peace (Knox Historical Society)

**Rotary Toast:** followed by a prayer by Major Rosie Massey for Paul McAloney who is in hospital.

**Men's Lunch:** Fran has disseminated more information about Bins for Blokes. Given that no financial commitment or major support effort is needed, she wishes all members to consider approving our adoption of this project by the Club, and advise her by email of your decision ASAP.

### Speaker – Ray Peace, of the Knox Historical Society.

Ray has been a member of the Knox Historical Society for decades, and is a researcher for them. He has written many books and articles for them and about Ferntree Gully, and is a wealth of information, used by Councils and other organisations.

**Pre-settlement** by whites, the area around FTG was “a land of plenty” for the many Aboriginal tribes, but half of their population was wiped out by smallpox transmitted by the whalers in the very early years. The many tribes even had an assigned meeting ground for settling tribal scores and disputes between them.

**The Native Police Corps** operated out of the area from 1837 to 1853, when they were disbanded and most were sent to other regiments as trackers, the rest going to Corinderck, the Aboriginal settlement at Healesville. The police building was bulldozed in the 1960’s.

**Early Pioneers** were headed by James Clow, John Wood Beilby (owner of the first freehold land in FTG), and Thomas Dobson in 1854.

**Beginnings of Development.** No roads or other amenities and relatively infertile land (no farms, no population!) always inhibited the development of the area, which attracted early tourists for its natural beauty.

**Railway 3/2/1889.** The extension of the rail network from Ringwood to FTG, primarily to carry tall timber down to the port of Melbourne, started a land boom alongside the line. The name FTG allegedly came from the fern trees only being left after the tall timber was cut down for ship masts and spars.

The Shire of FTG came out of the Shire of Berwick.

**World War 1.** 60 locals died out of the then 10,000 population, the heaviest per capita toll of the country. Post-war soldier/settler schemes did not succeed because of the land quality and small lots allocated. *The KHS had an ANZAC book written (and still available).*

**Between the Wars.** FTG started to become suburbia and generate its own history, *including another KHS book about the Royal Hotel murders.*

**World War 2.** A military camp was established at Rowville to defend against the expected Japanese forces. Our area lost 60 men in the conflict.

**Post-War.** Development of the area really took off, the bare land of 1960 on the corner of Stud Road became the Knox City of 1970.

Knox became a city in 1969, with Wally Tew as the first mayor. It is up to around 150.000 now, and the rate of development is slowing. It was large enough to not be combined with other cities in the shambles that was the Local Government reshuffle of the 1980's. It has been multi-cultural since after the Second World War (Ray believes for the better).

**Knox Historical Society.** Started in 1965, it took over the 1890's homestead Ambleside (one of 4 in the area) in 1977 as its museum and headquarters.

## **Reports**

**Treasurer:** No report

**Community:** Christine advised the CFA Fair hours for our volunteers have changed and are now 9am-2pm.

**Fellowship:** no report.

**Youth:** Paul Wilson will advise of the actual time of the RJCA awards on 5/12/2022 at FTG North Primary, when finalised.

**Foundation:** no report

President Fran closed the meeting at 7-32 pm, after which we had dinner in the dining room with more questions being answered by Ray, the speaker.

**Scribe- Mike Spark 25/11/2022**

At this week's meeting I will be seeking volunteers who will be available for our next Sausage Sizzle on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Graeme



*Emma Clark from the Emerald and District Rotary Club will be visiting our club on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Emma will give a presentation of the upcoming District Conference in March 2023, this will be prior to the Christmas Hamper packing.*

**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE**

## REVERSE Advent Calendar

**Make a difference this Christmas!**

|                   |                             |                           |                      |                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1<br>PASTA        | 2<br>TINNED FRUIT           | 3<br>BISCUITS             | 4<br>CEREAL          | 5<br>HONEY              |
| 6<br>GRAVY        | 7<br>COFFEE                 | 8<br>PASTA SAUCE          | 9<br>TINNED TOMATOES | 10<br>MINCE TARTS       |
| 11<br>CHOCOLATE   | 12<br>LONG LIFE MILK        | 13<br>CHRISTMAS PUDDING   | 14<br>RICE           | 15<br>TINNED VEGETABLES |
| 16<br>TINNED SOUP | 17<br>TEA BAGS              | 18<br>VEGEMITE/SPREAD     | 19<br>TINNED TUNA    | 20<br>TOILETRIES        |
| 21<br>DESSERT MIX | 22<br>CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS | 23<br>DONATE TO FOOTHILLS | 24<br>CHRISTMAS CAKE | 25<br>A LITTLE SURPRISE |

A Reverse Advent Calendar hamper begins with box or bag. For 25 days during November, you place one item into the box such a non-perishable food, toiletries, Christmas treats etc – see our attached list.

After 25 days your Reverse Advent Calendar hamper will now be filled and ready to donate to Foothills. Throughout December, we distribute the hampers to people in our local community who are in need or special love and an extra hand up this Christmas time

Simply place an item each day in a box and donate to  
FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE

Any Non-Perishable food items are welcome, please ensure they are within their best before dates.

ABOVE ARE IDEAS ONLY

*We are unable to distribute medications or alcohol in hampers*



FOOTHILLSCARE.ORG.AU



*A big thank you to the club members and partners who attended last Saturday the Community Fair at Ferntree Gully CFA. The numbers attending I'm sure exceeded any expectations that the CFA had expected.*

*Our craft stall was very busy for the four hours it operated, as was the sausage sizzle where free sausages were given away complements of the CFA. Two additional trips to the supermarket for additional purchases of sausages and bread was necessary to meet the demand. A very busy day.*