



# Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully



Chartered May 16th 1964

## Weekly Bulletin

Vol 63 No 23

7th December 2023

President  
2023 - 2024  
Gary Braddock

District Governor  
2023 - 2024  
Ian Ballantyne  
Bentleigh Moorabbin Central  
Rotary Club

Meeting Details:  
Weekly Thursday Evenings  
6.00pm for 6.30pm

Venue:  
Ferntree Gully Bowls Club Glenfern Rd  
Ferntree Gully

### Diary Dates

7th Dec Bunnings Xmas Night & BBQ  
8th Dec Bunnings BBQ  
9th Dec Knox Historical Society BBQ  
14th Dec Club Christmas Dinner  
23rd Dec Bunnings BBQ (Saturday)  
12th Jan Bunnings BBQ  
18th Jan Rotary Resumes  
25th Jan Club Meeting  
1st Feb Club Forum  
9th Feb Bunnings BBQ  
11th Feb Greek Picnic (Ferny Creek)

[www.ferntreegullyrotary.org.au](http://www.ferntreegullyrotary.org.au)



### Presidents Message



TO ALL  
from  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF FERN  
TREE GULLY



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



## **Scribes report for meeting 30/11/2023**

Meeting was opened at 6:32 PM by acting President Graeme Aspinall, he welcomed members, guests and our speaker Stephanie Mapleson.

Then asked all members to stand and offer the toast to Rotary and Australia.

Apologies received from President Gary Braddock, PP Fran and Rtn Brian Mandergeddes, PP Mike Spark, PP Robert Dawson, Rtn Paul Wilson and Kevin Morgan. (Scribes apologies if I missed somebody)

Acting President Graeme asked members to reflect on what President Gary and Nadia Braddock would be going through at this difficult time in their life and that our thoughts and best wishes are with them.

PP Allan Tierney has sent a condolence card to them on behalf of the members of the club.

The speaker Stephanie Mapleson was then introduced whose subject was about the activities and operation of the “Knox Repair Café”.

It all began following a Facebook appeal by an experienced community development worker, Mark Glazebrook who wanted to establish a grassroots, not-for-profit, volunteer group that would repair household items free of charge in order to reduce household hard rubbish in Knox. Approximately 20 strangers met at the Knox Environment Society in Ferntree Gully to whom he introduced the concept of a local “Repair Café”, none of those present had heard of a “Repair Café” before.

The idea for a ‘Repair Café’ originated in Amsterdam in October 2009 by Martine Postma to preserve repair skills in society. It turned out to be a huge success and is now a worldwide movement.

Besides the Netherlands there are Repair Café in Belgium, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, United States, Australia and has even made its way into India and Japan.

From that initial community meeting in 2009, seven people turned up for the second and have remained ever since.

Discussions with the Knox Environment Society led them to agreeing to support the organisation which has enabled them to avoid the need to become incorporated and able to operate as a simple format which they felt was necessary for the early days. Unfortunately, Covid intervened, and they were unable to operate for many months in 2020 and 2021.

Following the pandemic, they began operating a booking system to manage and reduce client contact by using Facebook messages and emails.

In the 12 months ending June 2023, 295 items were repaired and diverted from hard waste, thus also saving diesel and electricity in the transportation of such items to landfill. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill sites (such as methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide).

Currently they have 9 to 18 volunteers operating out of between 2 and 4 venues utilising the bespoke booking system.

They are hoping to scale up the operation by reaching out to other volunteer community groups in the Knox area, presenting at organisations such as Rotary, pop-up stalls at various festivals held in Knox, and by utilising social media, posters, flyers and business cards.

There is a social aspect created by spending time by being able to sit and chat with people who are waiting for items to be repaired.

They have an ongoing need for volunteer repairers with specific skills, particularly with IT, the age bracket for most participants is between 30 to 70. They are also looking for other venues to hold repairs in once a month.

At the conclusion of the talk Robert Hurst thanked Stephanie for taking the time to attend our meeting and inform us about the “Knox Repair Café”.

Other business:

PP Graham A. & PP Christine A. Attended the District 9815 incoming President-elect's session in Dandenong with about 50 to 60 others. The incoming District Governor Colin Byron and his wife from the Noble Park Rotary club, appear to be a very exuberant couple. Graeme and Christine came across a former Ferntree Gully Rotary club member, Gail Traa who is kicking quite a few goals with her Rotary involvement in the district.

The 2024 district assembly will be held on Zoom and the new groupings of clubs in the enlarged district will be introduced, mostly they will be based on geographic location. 20 districts will become 12. Each state in Australia will be a district, New Zealand and New Guinea will each be a district.

In closing acting President Graeme reminded those present of the rather busy time ahead of us in the lead up to Christmas. Such as manning the free sausage sizzle at Bunnings next Thursday night, which is to be followed by our normal all day Bunnings sausage sizzle the next day! And on Saturday the clubs all day attendance at the annual Christmas festival being held at Ambleside Park in Olivebank Rd Ferntree Gully!

Meeting closed at 7:35 PM

## FERN TREE GULLY ROTARY CLUB 2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come along and enjoy a night of fun, food and Christmas cheer.

WHERE

The Wilson's

18 Frederick St Ferntree Gully 3156

WHEN

Thursday the 14th of December 2023

TIME

6 to 6.30pm

COST

\$20.00 per head - (Pay on the night)

BYO

Drinks (Tea and Coffee Supplied)

RSVP

by Monday the 11th of December 2023

Kay: 0402 282 557 or Jill: 0414 664 448

See you all there



# Foothills Community Care Christmas Advent Calendar



**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE**

## REVERSE Advent Calendar

**Make a difference this Christmas!**

Here are our suggested items

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

Simply place an item each day in a box and return to one of our donation points to get them to **FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE**

Any Non-Perishable food items are welcome,  
Please ensure items are within their best before dates.  
We are unable to distribute medications or alcohol in hampers

FOOTHILLSCARE.ORG.AU



## What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Unlike a regular Advent Calendar where the focus is on receiving a treat every day, the **Reverse Advent Calendar** takes the focus off receiving and places the focus on giving. A **Reverse Advent Calendar** begins as an empty box or bag. For 25 days during November, you place one item into the box each day (non-perishable food, toiletries, Christmas treat). See our suggested list below.

At the end November, your filled **Reverse Advent Calendar** is donated to Foothills and then distributed by us to people in our Dandenong Ranges and Knox community who are in need of some special love and an extra hand up this Christmas time.

## Next Three Club Events

*In place of our next meeting Thursday December 7th we will be at Bunnings Scoresby with their Family Christmas Night.*

*Our roll will be run the BBQ giving away free sausages and have an activity for the young children which will be organised by Christine. We will need to be set up and ready to go by 5.30pm.*

*Volunteers for our BBQ at Bunnings on Friday Dec 8th are:*

*9.00 - 12.30pm Graeme A, John F, Alan T and Graeme H*

*12.30 - 4.00pm Graeme A, Rob H, Martin H and Paul W*

*At the Knox Historical Society we have a BBQ and the opportunity to now sell drinks at their Christmas Fair. The day is planned to run from 1.00pm - 6.00pm. To set will be from 11.30-1.00pm. Graeme A, Graeme H, John F and Rob H have volunteered, more members are welcome to help our.*

# Club Board 2023 - 2024

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| President     | Gary Braddock      |
| Secretary     | Graeme Harrison    |
| Treasurer     | Brian Mandergeddes |
| Community     | Christine Anderson |
| Youth         | Paul Wilson        |
| International | Martin Howard      |
| Fundraising   | Graeme Aspnall     |

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### THE OBJECTS OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**First** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

**Second** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

**Third** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.

**Fourth** The advancement of the international understanding goodwill, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **truth**?

2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?

3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?

4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

**This will be the last Newsletter for 2023**

**The next edition you will receive prior to our next club meeting on January 18th 2024**



## Volunteers Wanted

The Knox Nocturnals Youth Program, run by the Rotary Clubs of the Knox Cluster and funded by the Victorian Government's Empowering Communities initiative, is going from strength to strength.

The young people who come along to the Friday night program, run each fortnight at the Carrington Park Leisure Centre, Knoxfield, are enjoying the food, the fun activities, the workshops with a Youth Worker and the interaction with the other students and adult helpers.

As the program moves into 2024, there will be the need for more adult helpers to be available, to ensure the burden is not too onerous on those who are giving up their Friday nights to enable this program to run successfully. Hence there is a call to members of all the clubs in the Knox Cluster to consider becoming a volunteer for this program.

Responsibilities of the volunteers can vary between manning the registration desk, helping serve the meal, general supervision, driving a bus to deliver some of the students home or accompanying the bus as a jockey. Volunteers may be available for only one or two nights in a term, or may be happy to attend each fortnight.

Training is required for volunteers, to ensure that the young people involved are in a safe and comfortable environment and to also ensure that Government regulations regarding working with young people are met. It is worth noting that it is not the responsibility of the volunteers to deal with any of the issues that may arise with these young people; the Youth Workers who attend each week have this responsibility and are trained to deal with these issues.

The requirements for volunteers are:

1. A current Working With Children Check.
2. A current Police Check. This can be paid for by Knox Nocturnals if required. The easiest place to visit to get this is <https://www.intercheck.com.au/>
3. An online training module, the link for which will be sent to you once your register your interest.
4. An in-person training session, to be held on Saturday February 3rd, 9 am – 12 noon at the Bayswater Rotary Club rooms in Bayswater.

Further information can be provided by Christine Anderson, ph 0458 366 543 Or visit <https://knoxnocturnals.org>. to find out more about the program or to register your interest to be a volunteer.

## 7 AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND  
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,  
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

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