

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



STOP AND SEE

A New Holland Honeyeater has worked out that under our back pergola is a veritable feast of little critters about entree size for Honey Eaters for the snapping up if one is sufficiently speedy of wing. I have been aware of him going about his "snack-time" business for weeks, possibly months. The other day I took the time to sit and watch with growing fascination his helicopter-like movement. Zip right, spin and zoom left, then straight up like an express lift to the top floor, a quick hover, a booster thrust forward, snap – one bug less under the pergola. How often would we be amazed if we took the time to "stop and see" and discover something wondrous right before our eyes? Let's leave the honey-eater to his zipping and turn our attention to the people with whom we have contact.

Maybe as we start this new year and look forward to what will hopefully be a better year, we need to change our focus. Spend less time looking to the distant and hazy horizon to a closer and more timely focus on the people we see daily, weekly and recognise with wonder the uniqueness of each one.

Of course, we need to take the time to stop, genuinely inquire, and share some actual time for that to happen.

A famous king (David) who trusted God but sometimes messed up was able to say to God, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it." (Psalm 139:14)

I wonder what would happen if when we meet someone, in our minds, we changed those words to, "Thank you God for making (Fred, Mary, This person) so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it." And then went on through caring conversation discovered just how wonderfully God had made that person.

OK, so maybe you don't believe God made the person you see before you. Would it hurt to treat them with the care, concern and dignity they are due as a fellow person? Who knows what might happen? What friendships will grow? What consideration will be given? How much fuller and gently and livable our community could become? And maybe God would chuckle and think, "Yeah! I knew Fred was a good person, worth knowing; now you do too. Enjoy your new friendship."

Enjoy a happy and blessed New Year,
Kevin.