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BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WAGGA WAGGA Inc. - CHARTERED 1930

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Area Three Gov: Martin Brown
Club President: David Payne
Club Secretary: Ellen Brasier



Rotary Opens Opportunities

THE FOUR WAY TEST:

Of the things we think, say or do: -

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill & better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

BULLETIN NO: 47.

Thursday 10th June, 2021.

JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

Club meets at the WAGGA WAGGA COUNTRY CLUB, **6:00 PM for 6.30 PM** (unless stated below).

Duty Roster: -Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot fulfil your rostered duty. Also inform the Bulletin Reporter.

Date:	Thursday 17 th June	Thursday 24 th June	Thursday 1st July
PROGRAMME:	Changeover Dinner (6.30p for 7pm)	Social Night At Book Fair HQ Copland St.	TBA
ATTENDANCE:	Karel Bijker Marion Moran	Karel Bijker	Karel Bijker Ellen Brasier
GREETER:	Mary Ann Kelly	N/R	Peter Murray
SHORT & SWEET:	N/R	N/R	Alok Sharma
FINES-MASTER:	N/R	N/R	David Cannon
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	N/R	N/R	Brad Bland
VOTE OF THANKS:	N/R	N/R	Peter Smart
BULLETIN REPORTER:	Peter Veerhuis	John Heazlewood	Vida Smart
MEETINGS:	-	-	-

Invocation: For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks.

Unable to attend a meeting? **Please lodge an apology with THE COUNTRY CLUB OFFICE ☎ 6922 6444** by **2.30 pm Wednesday** (or pre-record it in the book provided at the meeting attendance table – IN BLOCK LETTERS).

Also, for catering purposes, **please advise if bringing a guest to a meeting**

Forthcoming Programs

Thursday 17th June - Our Changeover Dinner, with partners, will be held at the Country Club.

6.30pm for 7pm start. \$50 per head . Come and welcome in our new President Alan Lean.

Thursday 24th June. The Country Club is unavailable, and our meeting will be a **Social Night at the Book Fair Headquarters** , Copland St

MEETING REPORT 10th June: -

Attendance:

With winter well and truly upon us, this week's meeting saw a longer-than-usual apology list, numbering fifteen members. Amongst those absent was President David. Alan Lean, (President Elect) stepped in to fill the breach due to the absence of several past presidents. We welcomed quite a number of guests this week: Alan Lean introduced Des and Denise Goonan, while Peter Veerhuis welcomed his wife Joan, Joan Saboisky, Peggy Adamson, Marea Worsford, and Shayan Ibrahim, who were in attendance to support the Club's guest speaker Maqboola Ibrahim, and also Midya Bari and Renas Khalif.



Club Business

- **President David Payne** is currently out-of-action undergoing medical treatment. Congratulations on a great year David, especially when launched in the shadow of Covid; and best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- **Changeover Dinner:** Sgt Graeme called on anyone who had not yet submitted acceptances for the changeover dinner to do so urgently. Also, anyone with dietary requirements needs to notify asap please. Anyone who has not yet paid can do so at the door on Thursday. EFTPOS is preferred. Please note that the Changeover Dinner start time is **6.30pm for 7pm** Thursday 17th June.
- **The next 'lazy Sunday lunch'** for any members who are interested will be held on 4th July at 1pm. The venue will be the Victoria Hotel. If you need more details, talk to Lyndal.
- **Pro Patria update:** Following a very successful visit to the facility by our club last week, Alan Lean reported that he has been invited to participate in a meeting with Pro Patria board members and the chairman of RSL NSW, to try to solidify the RSL's support for the project. It is great to see that our club's support is seen as valuable in this process. Incoming chair of the Community Service Committee, **Peter Smart** met with Jason to further clarify how our club might be of service to Pro Patria in the future, and reported that he now has much better understanding of the whole concept. He sees it as an extremely worthwhile project and is fully supportive of its vision.



Barbeque Volunteers Needed

Our Club has agreed to provide cooking and servers for the **Multicultural Council BBQ**, which will be held at Henschke School on **SATURDAY JUNE 19th from 11am to 4pm**. Terry is seeking to fill a roster. Please make sure you contact him or speak to him at Changeover dinner to volunteer your time.

Short & Sweet

David Cannon's exploits in deepest darkest Africa were worthy of a guest speaker spot! On 30 October 1974, the 'Rumble in the Jungle' took place in Kinshasa, Zaire. One billion TV viewers around the world instantly knew the result as they watched Ali knock Foreman out in the 8th round. David was 25km from Kinshasa in an overland truck, camped on the side of a hill. He didn't find out the result until he reached Nairobi 3 weeks later.... no internet, no satellite phones, no radio. Zaire (now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo) was one of the most backward and poorest countries in the world. Travelling 25km per day, the going was tough.... no roads, just muddy trails.....getting bogged up to 10 times per day, living on tinned food, no meaningful communications, elephants and lions a constant problem, and some very short fuses from the 18 participants in the truck. This was just one short leg in a long 9 month journey.....London to South Africa.... with 18 other people. Bogged in the Sahara, robbed in Nigeria, stoned in Kenya, partying in Kigali (Rwanda), and mistakenly bathing in the local hippo and crocodile pool in the Cameroons were other highlights! (Note-taker's comment: Sounds more like an episode of *Survivor* rather than a holiday!!)



Finesmaster

Don Pembleton started by fining Alan Lean for 'waxing too lyrical' in his introduction. Gary Roberts won the lucky door wine & was asked to contribute a percentage of the value of his prize. Don then dredged up the 'pay-if-you're-not-wearing-your-Rotary-pin' fine, and caught the majority of members. Don then managed to extract funds whilst at the same time presenting interesting origins of some common phrases...these are some highlights.

Rule of Thumb: comes from a 15th century English law which allowed a man to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. (Married men were fined)

GOLF: was invented in Scotland.....supposedly comes from **G**entlemen **O**nly **L**adies **F**orbidden

Good night, sleep tight: comes from Shakespearean times when mattresses were secured on bed frames using ropes. The tighter the ropes, the firmer the mattress was to sleep on. (Sound sleepers targeted)

Mind your P's and Q's: In English pubs ale is ordered by Pints and Quarts, So in old England when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell 'Mind your pints & quarts and settle down!'



Guest Speaker:

Our speaker was **Maqboola Ibrahim**, and Peter Veerhuis introduced this impressive young lady to the meeting. She gave those present an insight into the hardships she, her family and the Yazidi people have endured. Since her arrival in Australia some 4 ½ years ago, Maqboola has not only learned English, but has attained TAFE qualifications enabling her to become an interpreter and help others in her community. What an amazing role model she is! Bryan Short thanked Maqboola on behalf of the Club.

Maqboola spoke quietly, but her story is very powerful. Some members might have had difficulty hearing all the detail, so her presentation has been included in its entirety at the end of this bulletin so it can be understood and appreciated.



Changeover Dinners:

- Tuesday 29th June 2021 Wagga Wagga Sunrise Rotary Club
- Monday 5th July 2021. Coolamon Rotary Club

PLEASE BLOCK-OUT THE FOLLOWING DATES IN YOUR DIARY: -

- **June 19th 2021** **Multicultural Council BBQ - Henschke School 11am to 4pm**
- 12/16 June 2021 Rotary International Conference (Taipei)
- 17 June 2021 Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Changeover Dinner
- July 4th 2021 'Lazy Sunday Lunch' Victoria Hotel 1pm
- July 7th 2021 Lilier Lodge Barbeque
- September 22nd Lilier Lodge Barbeque
- 25th November 2021 Wagga Rotary Shine Recognition Function

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

(20th to 26th June)

Birthdays: Peter MURRAY 20/6

Rotary Anniversaries: Peter VEERHUIS 20/06/1991, and Wagga Wagga 1972-1981
Alan LEAN 26/06/1986

Wedding Anniversaries: Nil



≈ *KOOKABURRA* ≈

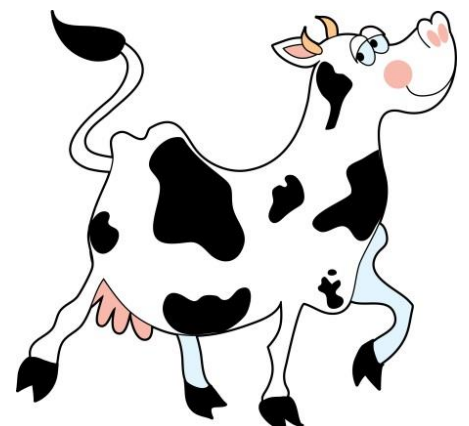


In Ireland, the 99-year-old Mother Superior lay quietly. She was dying. The nuns had gathered around her bed trying to make her final journey comfortable. They wanted to give her warm milk to drink but she declined.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen. Then, remembering a bottle of Irish Whiskey that had been received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, they lifted her head gently and held the glass to her lips. The very frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop.

As her eyes brightened, the nuns thought it would be a good opportunity to have one last talk with their spiritual leader. "Mother" the nuns asked earnestly, "Please give us some of your wisdom before you leave."

She raised herself up very slowly in the bed on one elbow, looked at them and said, "Don't sell that cow!"



(Courtesy of Finesmaster Don's spare material)

The Week's Snaps



WINTER VOICES

WAGGA CITY RUGBY MALE CHOIR

MURRUMBIDGEE MAGIC CHORUS

AND INTRODUCING THE 2021 RIVERINA CENTRAL CHOIR SENIOR STUDENTS ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY JULY 10 7.00PM CSU RIVERINA PLAYHOUSE

NOT TO BE MISSED AFTER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF "MUSICAL SILENCE"

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CIVICTHEATRE.COM.AU OR CALL 02 6926 9688



Maqboola Ibrahim - My Story

Good evening, my name is Maqboola Ibrahim. I am 25 years old, and I come from Iraq. I work as translator at schools here in Wagga Wagga! I was born in Iraq, emigrated to Turkey and then to Australia. I've been here 4 years and 6 months. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters.



My family ancestors are Ethnic Kurds from Turkey, but they had to leave and emigrate more than 600 years ago due to a genocide campaign against them by the Ottomans. Throughout our history, there were 74 conducted genocide campaigns against the Yazidi people! The last one was in 2014 by Islamic State - ISIS.

From the time my parents were born, they have had to live through 3 wars in Iraq. The first one was with Iran and that war lasted for 8 years! My mother's father was martyred when she was just 6 years old! She cannot remember her father's face. The second war was with Kuwait which lasted 2 years. After that the economic situation was miserable in Iraq.

The third war was in 2003 when America took over Iraq. I remember I was 7 years old. Everyone was worried because no one knew what was going to happen. We were ready to run to the mountains - living with fear and scared of the unknown future was hard for everyone. As a 7 year old I knew what was happening because there was schooling, and my parents were afraid and trying to protect us.

It was very challenging. People who have not lived in a war do not know how hard it is living day by a day, never having a plan for tomorrow. We left Iraq in 2013 because it was unsafe and because my mum had some health issues and could not get treatment. My Dad decided to go to Turkey. The first step was to find or go to safe place so that our mother could get the treatments she needed. We were able to go to Turkey by bus.

When we arrived in Turkey it was really cold. My Mother's uncle was living in Turkey. We went to their house. After 2 days we went to the UNHCR as refugees. In the City we went to live in, my brother Watban and I were not allowed to go to school! We were both of high school age, but they said we were too big for school. But my two younger sisters went to school.

My Dad started working as a Carpenter, after nearly one year of living there. ISIS attacked our Home City Shingal in Iraq. At that time the total number of Yazidi people living in Iraq was about 550,000 people. Some people ran to the mountains; others could not, & they became victims. In the first day of the genocide about 1300 people were killed. The number of mass graves discovered in Shingal so far is 82. The numbers are miserable, but the pain, suffering and trauma are much worse.

Meanwhile, we were still hiding in Turkey, after 4 years of waiting to go and find a safe place we could call home. Then my Dad received a call. They said "your visas are ready and your flight is in 2 two weeks. I do not know how to describe my feeling on that day - happy and a bit sad as well! Can we be happy and sad at the same moment?

The survivors from the 2014 genocide have been living in camps since then. As much as it is hard and unsafe their home has become those camps as they have been living there for 7 years and some kids have never seen a different place than the camps they call home. One week ago, there was a fire in one of those camps where the Yazidi community live. The fire ate about 400 tents but fortunately there were no death casualties. However, the only place that was left for my people to call home now is gone along with all their legal documents and budgets saved up for the future of their kids. Once again, my people have no shelter and knowing the government, there is no support coming from them. I don't know how much of this to call luck, but luckily it is summer now and not winter, even though there is no sun protection. People would otherwise have frozen to death or been flooded, as they are all officially homeless now.

We arrived in Sydney on the night of Wednesday 19 October 2016. The next day (Thursday 20 October), we flew to Wagga Wagga! At the airport there were many people waiting for us. They introduced themselves to us. I had very limited English could not communicate well. The Multicultural Council and Volunteers helped us a lot! We really appreciated everything you have done and are still doing for us. After a week I started an English language course at TAFE. The Teacher explained what we should do- maybe I looked like I did not understand! She asked me "did you understand?" I said yes! She asked me again "did you understand?" I said no this time. (At that time, I did not even know what the word 'understand' meant!) After two years of studying English as a second language at TAFE I got my Cert III and so I became an interpreter. I'm very thankful to all the teachers at TAFE for their official help. Now I work at two different schools full-time supporting the community and those who speak little English.

As a family, we applied for Australian citizenship and hopefully it will be approved by the end of this year.