



**ROTARY CLUB
OF WAGGA WAGGA**

part of the solution



ABN: 42 569 872 625



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

Web: - www.waggarotary.org

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Postal Address: - PO Box 246, Wagga Wagga, 2650

<p>RI President: Holger Knaack</p> <p>Dist. Gov 9705: Michael Moore</p> <p>Area Three Gov: Martin Brown</p> <p>Club President: David Payne</p> <p>Club Secretary: Ellen Brasier</p>		<p>THE FOUR WAY TEST: Of the things we think, say or do: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it the truth? • Is it fair to all concerned? • Will it build goodwill & better friendships? • Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
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BULLETIN NO: 29.

Thursday 4th February, 2021.

FEBRUARY IS ROTARY PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION 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 & inform our Bulletin Reporter.:-

Date:	Thursday 11 th Feb.	Thursday 18 th Feb.	Thursday 25 th Feb.
PROGRAMME:	Julie Mecham Domestic Violence Issues	Tumbarumba Bush Fires Twelve Months on. Scott & Maria Anderson	Ron & Cath Frew Tumbarumba Rail Trail
ATTENDANCE:	Karel Bijker Marion Moran	Karel Bijker David Kennedy	Karel Bijker Bryan Short
GREETER:	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)
SHORT & SWEET:	Bryan Short	David Wynne	David Kennedy
FINES-MASTER:	Gordon Saggars	Ellen Brasier	Paul Galloway
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	Gordon Saggars	David Cannon	Bruce Barber
VOTE OF THANKS:	Tony Hutchinson	John Heazlewood	Alan Lean
BULLETIN REPORTER:	John Heazlewood	Don Pembleton	Ellen Brasier
	Book Fair C'ttee (8:00 PM)	Nil	Nil

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 same 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.

MEETING REPORT: -

Attendance.

The meeting opened at 6.30 PM with 30 members in attendance (68%), plus Shishir Bhengra (guest of Elaine Almond) and Joan Veerhuis (guest of Peter Veerhuis). President David Payne was an apology so immediate Past President David Friedlieb welcomed all, especially Allan Duffus who has been unwell. He also advised us that our Guest Speaker tonight would be Hobart based Dr Nitin Verma, via Zoom!

Administration Matters.

- ◆ **Coolamon Rotary Club's** fifty years celebration dinner – Monday 1st March:- cost \$ 25.00 per person. RSVP 21st February to Pres. David Payne.
- ◆ Our meeting 11th March: District 9705 Zoom presentation “**Membership Matters**” – at 6:00 PM! (please note – the normal meeting commences at 6.30 pm as usual).
- ◆ Our meeting 18th March: The Country Club is not available due to the Annual Pro-Am dinner. We are looking for member's ideas, as well as a suggested alternate venue....

Short & Sweet.

Without realising that tonight's Zoom speaker would be based in Hobart, Vicky Donoghue scanned her computer for odd Tasmanian place names focusing on Bottoms, Butts, Mossie Nipple Bend, Little Hell, Grannie's Gut, Tinkle Creek, Ding Dong Rainforest, Edge of the World, Wine Glass Bay, the Road to Nowhere and Nowhere Else! Very clever Vicky!



Fines-Master Session.

Philip Cross targeted those having birthdays including Karel Bijker plus Lyndal Seymour (50) and Rajinder Singh. Peter paid for Sheila Murray, Philip for Merryll, Peter V for Joan, Nepal for Dipa and Alok for himself. Those members with membership milestones such as Gerry Page (37 years), Philip Cross himself (29 years) and Rob Sharkie (46 years) paid up for the privilege. Induction milestones included Gerry Page, Philip Cross, Rob Sharkie who all paid up without murmur. Wedding Anniversary milestones included Kennedys, Barbers, Veerhuis', Roberts' and Duffus'.



Raffle Winner.

Joan Veerhuis drew the raffle – and guess who won? Once again, the winner (who will drink anything other than wine) was Bruce Heydon!

Key-Note Speaker.

Doctor Nitin Verma, based in Hobart, was introduced by Alok Sharma. He commenced his presentation to us by way of “Zoom” as follows:- “East Timor had a violent and bloody birth when they won their referendum for independence on 30 August 1999.” They rejected a “special autonomy” within Indonesia – The United Nations sent a multinational force to restore order and security and to end the humanitarian crisis.

Doctor Verma first visited Dili, the capital of Timor, in response to the carnage and trauma. On the behest of the then leaders Drs Xanana Gusmeo and Ramos Horta the East Timor Eye Program was born. The aim of ETEP was not only to supply the much needed Ophthalmic and Optometric services, but also to train the local doctors and nurses in these fields and make the country self-sufficient in these areas. From the very beginning, the plan was to do the job and then to leave the local people to continue on their own. The exit-strategy was an important aspect of the aid package.

Now, twenty one years later, East Timor has a full-time overseas trained senior Ophthalmologist, 9 local ophthalmologists, 15 Timorese eye health nurses and 2 optometrists in a dedicated hospital, (The National Eye Centre), which has in-house facilities for making and dispensing spectacles.



“The prevalence of blindness has reduced from 7.7% to 2.8% over the past 10 years. All this did not happen on its own. It was possible by the unstinting support, both financial and moral, of organisations like your Rotary Club and the time, enthusiasm and expertise of colleagues and friends like Dr Alok Sharma. I’ve been fortunate to have had the input from eye health professionals from more than eleven countries and have thus made lifelong friends” he said.

On behalf of our Members, Bruce Heydon moved the Vote of Thanks to Dr Verma for taking time out from his busy schedule to give us his presentation tonight. Among

other accolades, Dr Verma received the Order of Timor Leste in 2010 and became Hobart’s Citizen of the Year in 2013. Bruce included a wish that Dr Nitin Verma might come to visit us in person in Wagga Wagga. He also thanked Alok Sharma for inviting Dr Verma to address us by Zoom tonight. Members and visitors joined Bruce and Alok with enthusiastic acclamation.

NOTE: Our Club’s Total East Timor financial contribution amounts to \$ 110,000 (Our Club took part in an initial visit to East Timor in November 2015. Those members who took part in that initial visit were President Mary-Ann Kelly, President-Elect Paul Galloway, Judy Galloway and Alok Sharma as part of the Club’s Darkness to Light Project).

FEBRUARY IS ROTARY PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH: -

This year, Rotary celebrates 100 years of community service in Australia and New Zealand. To mark the occasion, District 9705 is promoting two major events in Canberra. They are: -



1. Friday 26th March 2021 - The **Rotary Centenary Peace Dinner**. This is a formal dining event with Key-note Speaker: Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson AO. It is to be hosted (commencing 6:00 PM) in the Peninsula Room, National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT. Cost is \$155-00 per person (or \$1,500 for a table of ten). All proceeds will aid in implementing the Rotary centenary project, ‘**Give Every Child a Future**’ – Additional information & registrations at - <https://aussiepeacewalk.com.au/peace-dinner/>
2. Subsequent to the dinner, you may need to ‘walk off’ those few extra kilos; over the 27th -28th March 2021, the **Rotary Aussie Peace Walk**. This is a two-day walk designed to create a colourful festival weekend, focused on peace. Due to COVID restrictions, international travellers are unable to participate this year so entrants are encouraged to choose a country to represent. The event will also be recognised as the 30th Canberra Two-Day Walk. Additional information & registrations at: - <https://aussiepeacewalk.com.au/entries-open-for-2021/>

DISTRICT 9705 CONFERENCE (19th to 20th March 2021): -

D9705 Conference Registrations are now open. Numbers must be restricted this year due to COVID restrictions (400 persons inside the conference venue, 360 at the Conference Dinner & 300 at the Welcome Function) so lodge your registration ASAP. Please click on the following link to go to the Conference website and register: -

<https://rotary9705.org.au/page/2021-district-conference-Bathurst>

POSITIONS VACANT – DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2023/24: -

Nominations for D9705 District Governor for 2023 – 2024 are now being sought. Applications close on 15th February 2021 at 10.00 PM. Interviews will be conducted at Temora on the afternoon of 21st March 2021.

POLIO PLUS – MOVIE AFTERNOON: -

Unfortunately the reported number of poliomyelitis cases in the world increased during 2020. We are requested to redouble our efforts to assist with the RI project – the total eradication of polio from this earth.



An easy and enjoyable way to assist the End Polio Now program is to enjoy an afternoon at the movies with family & friends. A thought provoking, realistic and topical, yet enjoyable movie 'Nomadland' will be screened at Forum Cinema 6 (Trail Street Wagga Wagga) at 2.30 PM Sunday 7th March 2021. It depicts a woman who embarks upon a journey through the American West after losing her job during a recession. The film is nominated as one of the best films of 2020.

The charge is \$20 per person – so why not organise a party of family & friends? Elaine will be seeking numbers next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: -

Two presentations for the price of one!

As stated above, prior to the commencement of our normal weekly meeting, we will screen Rebecca Fry's Zoom presentation titled 'Helping Members Find Their Rotary Why'. This is being broadcast live from the District 9705 Membership Seminar where she is a Key-Note speaker. Rebecca has over a decade of experience in non-profit leadership and development, running leadership programs across Australia and New Zealand. She has served in a number of senior roles including Chair of Rotaract Australia and she currently sits on the Rotary International Strategic Planning Committee.



Following the above presentation, our normal weekly meeting will commence – and we have as Key-Note Speaker, Julie Mecham who will address the topical issue of Domestic Violence – a matter that is very relevant to this month's Rotary theme.

These presentations are relevant, and will be of interest to, the wider community so guests will be most welcome – just remember to notify numbers for catering.

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

- ◆ **21/22 Feb 2021** **P.E.T.s Training Session – Temora.**
- ◆ **1st March 2021** **Coolamon Rotary Club – Celebratory Dinner to mark their 50th Anniversary**
- ◆ **7th March 2021** **Polio-Plus Fundraising Movie Afternoon.**
- ◆ **19/21 March 2021** **District 9705 Conference (Bathurst).**
- ◆ **26/28 March 2021** **Rotary Centenary Peace Dinner & Peace Walk (Canberra).**
- ◆ **15/16 May 2021** **Wagga Rotary Club Book Fair (note changed date!)**
- ◆ **12/16 June 2021** **Rotary International Conference (Taipei).**

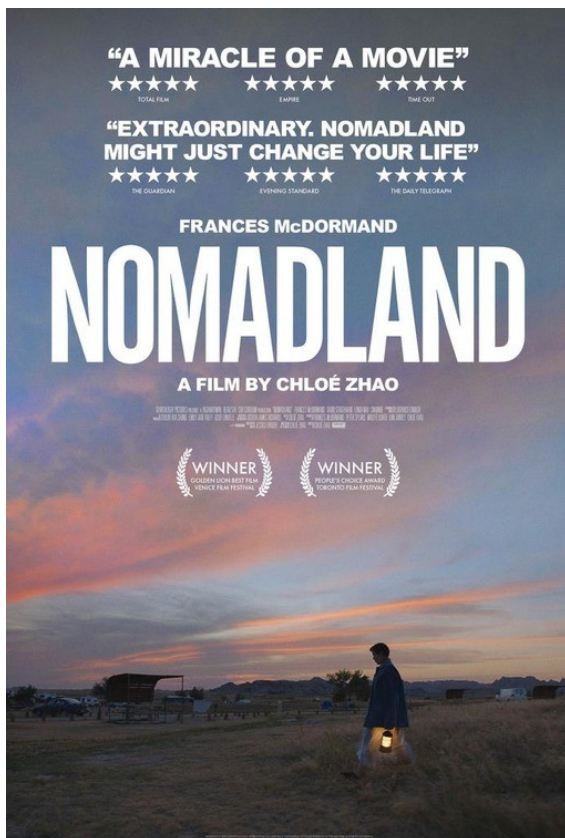
THE 'HAPPY SNAPS' FROM THIS WEEK: -



Joan & Peter enjoying the meeting.



Bill looking for the key to this Green Machine.



Don't miss the movie afternoon.



'Service with a smile' - David says "Pay Up"

Birthdays: Rajinder Singh (10/02) & Sheila Murray (11/02)

Rotary Anniversaries: Peter Chenoweth (15/02/18) + Wagga (2006/15) + Goondiwindi (1980/84) + St Lucia (1986/91)

Wedding Anniversaries: Allan & Marnie Duffus (09/02).

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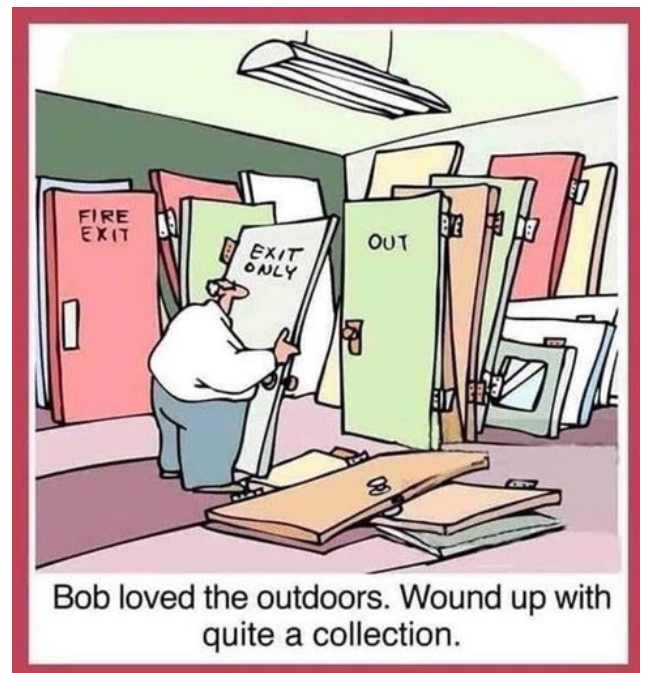


Extracted From Phil's Fines Session: Blast from the past. (pre-sumption) A protective husband walks into a large Book Store. "Excuse me, do you have a book titled 'Man, the master of Women'"?

The Sales girl replied "The Fiction Department is on the other side sir".



Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray



Alcohol does not solve any problems – but then, neither does milk.