



**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

Facebook: - <https://www.facebook.com/waggawaggarotary>

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

RI President: Holger Knaack
Dist. Gov 9705: Michael Moore
Area Three Gov: Martin Brown
Club President: David Payne
Club Secretary: Ellen Brasier



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: 34.

Thursday 11th March, 2021.

MARCH IS ROTARY WATER & SANITATION 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 18 th March.	Thursday 25 th March.	Thursday 1 st April	
PROGRAMME:	Club Social BBQ Lake Albert Foreshores	TBA	No Meeting (Easter Break)	
ATTENDANCE:	Karel Bijker	Karel Bijker Vida Smart		
SHORT & SWEET:	Paul Galloway	Margaret Keys		
FINES-MASTER:	Paul Galloway	Bryan Short		
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	Not Required	David Wynne		
VOTE OF THANKS:	Not Required	David Kennedy		
BULLETIN REPORTER:	Vida Smart	Don Pembleton		Nil
MEETINGS:	Nil	Board Meeting		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.

After standing to toast Rotary and Australia, President David welcomed 32 members to this week's meeting, as well as our guest speakers Cath and Ron Frew, Honorary Member Ian Gibson, PP Daya Govender and his wife Christine, Geoff Treloar and Jenny Masters (guests of Peter and Vida Smart), Ken Sargeant (guest of Don Pembleton), and almost forgot to welcome his own guest....his lovely wife Fran!

Administration Matters.

- President David will be attending the **District 9705 Conference** in Bathurst on 19 – 21 March.
- The **Rotary Aussie Peace Walk** will take place in Canberra the following weekend (27-28th March), and President David will be attending on the Sunday. If you wish to attend, register at: - <https://aussiepeacewalk.com.au>.
- Members are reminded to ensure that their **Working With Children** clearance is up to date. There are several members who need to attend to this. Please inform Secretary Ellen when you have updated your clearance.
- The **Engineering & Science Challenge** was conducted recently, with Rotary volunteers assisting. This year it was held in Kyeamba Smith Hall over a two day period. Day one saw over 150 secondary students participate, and in a change from the past, day two saw approx. 200 primary students gather to undertake the challenging tasks. Bryan Short reported that the days were most successful and very enjoyable.

Short & Sweet.

Peter Smart stepped up and delighted the meeting with his version of '**Romance and the Third Reich**'....an interesting recount of how his love life, career, and service in the military reserves all intertwined.



1986 was a landmark year in the life of a young Peter Smart.... he joined the British Army Reserves (as a Dr/Captain), and got engaged to Vida. Two weeks after they were reunited (Vida had been in the USA), Peter departed for a three-week 'tour' to Hong Kong. Not great timing!

Even worse timing meant that very shortly after getting married, he was deployed to Germany! He (and Vida) enjoyed one day of 'passionate leave' before he left for his three-week assignment. He spoke of his experience on the Berliner train whilst travelling to Berlin to perform an autopsy, and admitted that his military etiquette was based on what he might have learned watching the TV show MASH.

Fines-Master Session.

John Heazlewood asked all those present to cast their minds back to things that are **Gone But Not Forgotten**..... and to pay up where appropriate!! Here are some worth mentioning: -

1. Pipe smoking, roll-your-own ciggies, smoke filled rooms
2. Public phones with A and B buttons, telephone exchanges (with female operators), and party lines
3. TAA, Ansett, PanAm, ANA. and Concorde.
4. From school days: Ink monitors, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Readers Digests
5. From the laundry: electric wringers, spin dryers (without a lid!), the clothes prop in the yard
6. Elevator operators
7. Train/tram/bus conductors, the Spirit of Progress,
8. Prickly Pear, Vacuum windscreen wipers, dip switch on the floor of the car, doubling the clutch

"Life's just not the same any more!"

Daya Govender PP.



President David invited PP Daya Govender to say a few words about returning to Australia from the USA in the middle of the COVID crisis. The pandemic brought extra urgency to their desire to return home, and they worked hard to secure seats on one of the few repatriation flights organised by the Australian Government. Even when tickets were secured, the doubt and worry that they might contract COVID or even register a 'temperature' (and then be excluded from the flight) in the lead-up to departure was quite stressful. They were very nervous on the long drive to Los Angeles for the flight. Would they become infected at any of the places they stopped?

Daya described the eerie emptiness of LA airport, and the rigorous controls and checks they underwent in order to board the flight. Passengers were issued with a black bag which contained all the things they would need during the flight (masks, sanitiser, snacks, a bag for garbage), they boarded in groups of five, and were seated so that there were vacant seats between passengers. The nervousness continued right until the plane touched down in Melbourne, as the possibility of the plane being turned around was always in the back of the mind.

And then it was off to the Crown Metropol Hotel for two-weeks of quarantine. Expressing nothing but praise for how the whole quarantine experience was managed, it was very evident that Daya and Christine's positive attitude towards their 'incarceration' helped them to deal with it. They also came prepared with games and pastimes, and even played ping pong using their 'flip flops'. Highlights included observing the nearby construction sites, and a whopping 15 minutes of fresh air per WEEK!! Meals were delivered in brown paper bags which were left at their door, and they soon discovered the delights of ordering deliveries from UberEats, which would be left at their door by the security guards.

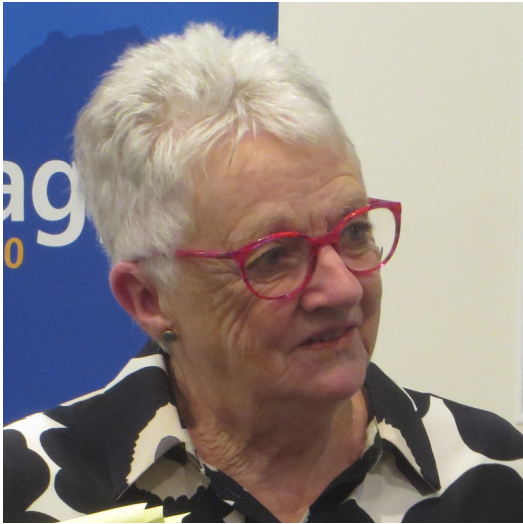
Negative COVID swabs on days 4 & 11 meant that Daya and Christine were 'released' in regulation time.

There was an overwhelming sense of relief as they drove away from the hotel, ready to enjoy the relative freedom Australians have in this COVID world.

Key-Note Speaker

Able introduced by Tony Hutchinson, these two long-time residents of Tumbarumba stepped up and demonstrated to those present what can be achieved when passion meets purpose. Cath and Ron are dedicated members of the Tumbarumba Historical Society and have been heavily involved in the development of the Tumbarumba-to-Rosewood Rail Trail - the first of its kind in NSW. They provided a very interesting brief history of the development of the original rail line which connected Tumbarumba to Wagga. Construction commenced in 1912, paused for 'the War', and the first train travelled on the completed line on 9 March 1921 (almost 100 years ago to the day!). The rail line revolutionised the lives of those who were able to utilise it..... Tumba residents could make a big day of it and travel to Wagga and return after a day of shopping, and Wagga residents could head up to the cooler climate of the mountains for some rejuvenation. The line was also used to transport large quantities of freight and livestock. With improved road infrastructure and less demand for stock movement, the line became 'unviable', and was decommissioned in





1974. Over the ensuing years, the line and its associated infrastructure fell into disrepair. Cath and Ron, as members of the Historical Society were keen to preserve the history of the line, being instrumental in unearthing the personal stories of those who were involved in its construction or who lived along its route. This interest eventually evolved into their enthusiasm for the resurrection of the route as a 'rail trail'. Armed with a \$5.5 million grant, work began to transform the route into a trail which could be enjoyed by people of all abilities. Through negotiation with adjoining landholders, issues of biosecurity and privacy were overcome, and clearing and construction forged ahead. The grant money was used to fence the trail, refurbish and rebuild bridges, provide a sealed surface, plant location-appropriate vegetation, and erect historic display boards and seating along the trail. Much of the labour was provided by members of the Historical Society and the local Men's Shed. The 21.2 kilometre trail was completed in April 2020, and is a testament to the determination and passion of people like our two guests.

David Kennedy thanked our guests for providing such an engaging presentation.

NEXT MEETING: -

Due to the unavailability of the Country Club next week our Club will be meeting for a BBQ dinner on the shores of Lake Albert.

LOCATION: Meet on Lakeside Drive, near the intersection with Lansdowne Avenue.

TIME: 6.00 for 6.30 PM.

WHAT TO EXPECT: BBQ Dinner (\$10-00), Fun and Games.....

EFTPOS will be available to pay for dinner.

WHAT TO BRING: Sensible shoes, rug or chair, insect repellent, sense of fun, coins for fundraising.

In the event of bad weather, there will be a plan 'B'.....keep your eye on your email.



MARCH IS ROTARY WATER & SANITATION MONTH: -



Here are just three examples of club service projects that are creating a lasting impact: -

1. The Rotary Club of Bangalore Metro in India installed a water purification plant in the village of Ramanahalli. Due to extensive mining, the ground water in this rural community is completely contaminated with fluorides and other contaminants. The new water purification plant provides reliable access to potable water.
2. In the rural community of Bharat Pokhari in Nepal, villagers walk 25 km to fetch buckets of water every day. Often times girls spend two hours a day bringing home water before and after school. In partnership with the Rotary Club of Williamson (USA), the Rotary Club of Pokhara installed a water tank in the village giving more than 500 families access to safe drinking water closer to home.

3. The Rotary Club of Suna Migori in Kenya provided a source of clean rainwater to students at four schools and a clinic. At each location, Rotarians provided new latrines and hand washing stations. The project has impacted more than 1500 students and their families, hundreds of patients at the clinic, and increased school attendance especially among girls.

In a subsequent edition of this publication we will inform you of events 'closer to home'. Be sure to read the updated account of our own Club Project/s that have been initiated and coordinated by **Howard Mendel**.

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

- ◆ **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 (Only 9 Weeks to go).**
- ◆ **12/16 June 2021** **Rotary International Conference (Taipei).**

SOME 'HAPPY SNAPS' FROM THIS WEEK: -



Alan extends a hearty welcome to Chris & Daya following their recent 'escape' from USA



David Kennedy extends our thanks to our Key-Note Speakers, Cath & Ron



Paul outlines the arrangements for next weeks meeting



Capt. Peter Smart RMC collects the Door Prize

- Birthdays:** Ellen Brasier (21/3) & Peter Olson (27/3).
- Rotary Anniversaries:** Karel Bijker (27/3/08)
- Wedding Anniversaries:** Nil.



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All Politicians should wear uniforms, you know, like race-car drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors.