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

Web: - [www.waggarotary.org](http://www.waggarotary.org)

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

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<p><b>RI President:</b> Holger Knaack  <b>Dist. Gov 9705:</b> Michael Moore  <b>Area Three Gov:</b> Martin Brown  <b>Club President:</b> David Payne  <b>Club Secretary:</b> Ellen Brasier</p>	<p>Rotary Opens Opportunities</p>	<p><b>THE FOUR WAY TEST:</b>  <b>Of the things we think, say or do: -</b>  <b>Is it the truth?</b>  <b>Is it fair to all concerned?</b>  <b>Will it build goodwill &amp; better friendships?</b>  <b>Will it be beneficial to all concerned?</b></p>
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**BULLETIN NO: 4.**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.**

**JULY IS ROTARY CLUB LEADERSHIP MONTH.**

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

Duty Officers' Roster: -

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

DATE:	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> July.	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> August.	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August.
<b>PROGRAMME:</b>	Craig Martin Waste Management	Jeff Edwards Wagga Fire Brigade	Ben Holt Erin Earth.
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	Karel Bijker David Cannon	Karel Bijker Phillip Cross	Karel Bijker Allan Duffus
<b>GREETER:</b>	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)
<b>SHORT &amp; SWEET:</b>	Allan Duffus	Peter Murray	Bruce Barber
<b>FINES-MASTER:</b>	Tony Hutchinson	Paul Galloway	Alan Lean
<b>INTRODUCE SPEAKER:</b>	Brad Bland	Peter Veerhuis	David Friedlieb
<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>	Peter Smart	Vida Smart	Graeme Callander
<b>BULLETIN REPORTER:</b>	Vicky Donoghue	Vicky Donoghue	Bryan Short
<b>C'TTEE MEETINGS:</b>	Public Relations – 6.00 PM. Board Meeting – 8.00 PM	TBA.	TBA.

**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.

## **MEETING REPORT: -**

### **Attendance.**



President David opened the meeting with a toast to Rotary and Australia, then welcomed 42 Members to this week's meeting at the Wagga Wagga Country Club. He extended a special welcome to our Guest Speaker Dr Joe McGirr MLA as well as to other guests Sally Short, Jane Heazlewood, and Alf Barzen's son, John Barzen. This evening it was also Gary Roberts' last visit to the club as a guest, and he joined us this evening with his wife Marylin, as guests of Alan Lean.

Apologies were received from David Kennedy, Gerry Page and Don Pembleton.

### **Administration Matters.**

➤ President David's first order of business was to invite Alan Lean to induct Dr Gary Roberts as a member of our Rotary Club. Gary is well known to most Rotarians. He has been a Chiropractor in Wagga for many years. Gary was Rotary District Governor for 2015-2016, and in the past has been a member of the Rotary Clubs of Murrumbidgee and Koorinal in Wagga, from which he had retired. He found he missed Rotary, and so we are delighted to welcome Gary as a new member of our club. Alan also extended a special welcome to Gary's wife Marilyn who was able to join us this evening for Gary's induction. As is usual for all new members, Gary will join the Attendance Committee.



➤ President David extended the Club's condolences to Marion Moran and Margaret Keys, on the recent loss of their Mother.

➤ Graeme Callander gave the club members the unfortunate news regarding Don Pembleton's motorbike woes. Don was knocked off his bike by a car and sustained a fractured wrist and other injuries. After surgery to insert some metal into his wrist he is now recovering at home. The whole club wishes Don a 'speedy' recovery.

➤ Graeme then went on to update members about the 'Struggle Street' family in Nangus. To remind everyone, the family have a young son who has a very rare brain disease, and they have been struggling to cope in many ways. (They were featured on the 'Struggle Street' TV program). Three Wagga Rotary Clubs, including our own, have been involved in helping the family.

Graeme is asking for volunteers who are able to go out to Nangus on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July, to help CLEAN UP the House/Garden etc. If you are able to go, please let Graeme know ASAP by email.

### **Short & Sweet.**



MaryAnn Kelly started off this session by reminding us all how much she likes to talk. Yet, despite that fact, she still found it difficult to think of an interesting subject for this section of the evening. So she decided to tell us how COVID-19 had affected her life. We all know that MaryAnn works in the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Theatres. When the Pandemic was declared,

following Federal and State guidelines, the hospital cancelled all elective surgery to free up beds for COVID-19 patients. Further consternation, and yes, in some cases panic, ensued when it was announced that Theatre staff would be trained to work in Intensive Care. MaryAnn hurriedly checked her Leave situation, and having already had some Leave approved, and the ACTUAL COVID situation in Wagga being very manageable, she took time off and thereby managed to relieve all her anxieties.

### **Fines-Master Session.**

MaryAnn then went on to do the Fine session for us. The usual victims were fined. Those with birthdays, wedding anniversaries and Rotary Anniversaries, and of course, this evening's raffle winner—Terry Mecham.

MaryAnn then spoke about the BBQ Team, of which she is a proud member. Her task is usually to turn up, cook, serve, clean up then go home. Meanwhile BBQ legends Terry and Hutch organise all the supplies, transport of BBQ, setting up etc. Recently, MaryAnn volunteered her canteen services for a local football club, and after much effort and time (mostly spent in the supermarket) she has realised just WHAT goes in to the behind-the-scenes organisation of the Rotary BBQ's. MaryAnn then went on to fine ALL the Volunteers in the room. In light of the COVID situation, she then fined anyone who had NOT had their Flu vaccination this winter, and all those who have found time to play golf. Then to complete the emptying of our wallets, she did some sweeping fines that included anyone who had smiled this week and eaten today. MaryAnn also wished herself a happy birthday (which was seconded by all present!) and fined herself!



### **Guest Speaker: - Dr. Joe McGirr MLA**

Margaret Keys introduced our Guest Speaker this evening, our local State MP Dr Joe McGirr, and ended her Introduction with the suggestion that maybe he could suggest 'What could be done' about this year we've had.

Joe commenced his presentation with the response to Margaret, that maybe we should just 'Cancel the rest of 2020'!

Joe's presentation focused on the two main events that have occurred in Australia in 2020.

Firstly, the Bushfires, which created an extraordinary start to the year.



He was overseas when the fires hit this area, so he flew home immediately. The fires were so extensive..... the Snowy Mountains Region lost approx. 800,000 hectares.

The fire in Batlow was very significant for this region. A decision had been made that Batlow was 'Not Defendable', though to this day, Joe is not aware of why that decision was made. On January 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, Joe went to Batlow with an RFS crew. This was the day after the fire swept through the town. It was an incredible sight. Driving on Batlow Road, they passed hundreds of cow corpses in the paddocks. The landscapes were still steaming. It was like driving into Hell. He met and talked to people in Batlow. 1300 residents had left and gone to Wagga, but around 50 people stayed to defend their homes and the town. Approx 45 homes were destroyed, plus many farms around Batlow. He heard Inspiring stories from the people in the town who had stayed to defend their property.

Joe was also proud of how well the people of Wagga responded to the crisis. The Evacuation Centre took in 1000 people, and places were found for them to stay. The showground took pets.

He received a call from Brad Hazzard, the Health Minister asking how he could help, and as a result, masks (air quality was very poor due to smoke) and Counsellors were sent to Wagga.

Joe doesn't want the bushfire victims to be forgotten, as it is still an on-going crisis for many. In the Snowy Mountains, 1/3 of the forest softwood was destroyed and will take 20-30 years to replace. In Batlow, 1/3 of the orchards were lost, and will take 7-10 years to replace.

Government Services are available online, but a lot of people still don't have access to online services, and the challenge of re-building communities is still present, especially since COVID-19 then hit Australian shores.

Coronavirus has a 1% mortality rate with good hospital care. Fortunately, Australia has first rate health care. Joe was aware of what was happening in Italy when they were in the middle of the COVID crisis, and they ran out of beds very quickly. Italians also did not test for the virus until patients were in ICU, which means when they were infectious for the 3 weeks prior to that, they had infected potentially hundreds of people.

Australia acted early to close our borders to China, and the Government listened to scientific advice and developed appropriate guidelines. This all helped to control the pandemic fairly quickly. Joe does not believe that we will have a vaccine for at least 12 months, so it is important to maintain all safety measures and strategies. Economically, we will be in a depression with a fair amount of debt. Joe does not believe one should 'borrow money to pay for groceries or living expenses'. To save lives, fight the virus, is an 'OK' use of funds, and Australia is in a better financial position than most countries. Our Debt to GDP ratio is better than anyone else's in the world, which gives us a reasonable outlook. Nevertheless, it will be a tough few years for the population repaying the debt.

Despite Government support, a lot of local businesses have not survived, which is



distressing. There are many lessons that have been learnt through this situation, not least the status of our relationship with China, the fragility of our supply chains, and cash-flow of businesses (eg Virgin Airlines).

Finally, stress and anxiety have been high in general and relationships have suffered. The situation has been tough on kids in school. Some parents and kids have coped better than others with education being home-based.

Joe closed his presentation with an update on what has happened to Question Time in Parliament. Usually it is somewhat of a free-for-all, with 93 people in a small space, and 10 questions allowed, (5 from Government, and 5 from Opposition). Now with COVID-19, only 23 people are allowed in the chamber at a time, and only 5 questions can be asked from Opposition/Cross bench, with no Government questions allowed.

The outcome was that Question Time became.....Sensible—something Joe feels he can't often say about Parliament Question Time.

Joe then took questions from our members and gave clear and concise answers.

Brian Short provided the Vote of Thanks and a certificate acknowledging his help in immunising 10 children against Polio.



*Thank you to Vida for the comprehensive notes. All who were present would agree that Dr. Joe never disappoints as a Guest Speaker!*



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

- |                                        |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>       | <b>Public Relations Committee Meeting (6:00 PM).</b> |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>       | <b>Board Meeting (8:00 PM).</b>                      |
| <b>17/18<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b> | <b>Wagga Rotary Club – <b>Book Fair.</b></b>         |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020</b>    | <b>Shine Awards.</b>                                 |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>   | <b>District governor Michael Moore on Zoom.</b>      |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>   | <b>Club Christmas function.</b>                      |



**THE 'HAPPY SNAPS' FROM THIS WEEK: -**



Margaret needed a slight adjustment.



Dr Joe had our full attention!



A socially distant thank-you.


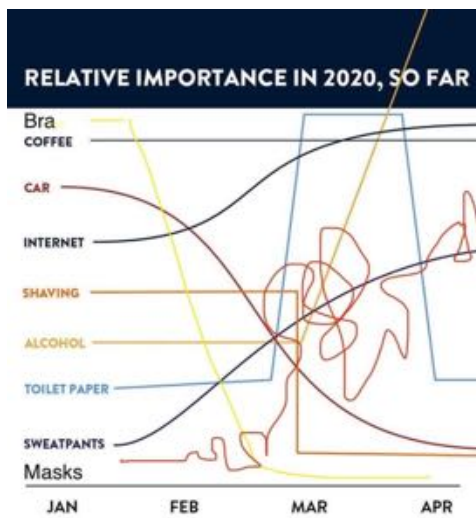
## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: -

(26<sup>th</sup> Jul – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug)



**Birthdays:** Alan Lean (28/07).  
**Rotary Anniversaries:** Nil.  
**Wedding Anniversaries:** Neil & Shirley Hilpern (28/07).

## ≈ KOOKABURRA ≈



**Chairdrobe**  
(n.) The art of piling clothes on a chair to be used in place of a closet or dresser; see also floordrobe.



Men don't care what's on TV. They only care what else is on TV!