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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>

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

<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>	 Rotary Opens Opportunities	<p><b>THE FOUR WAY TEST:</b>  <b>Of the things we think, say or do: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it the truth?</li> <li>• Is it fair to all concerned?</li> <li>• Will it build goodwill &amp; better friendships?</li> <li>• Will it be beneficial to all concerned?</li> </ul>
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**BULLETIN NO: 40.**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021.**

**APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH 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 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>PROGRAMME:</b>	Stina Constantine Update	Book Fair Organisation	Book Fair Set-Up Kyeamba Smith Hall
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	Karel Bijker Elaine Almond	Vicky Donoghue Margaret Keys	Karel Bijker
<b>SHORT &amp; SWEET:</b>	Bruce Barber	Karel Bijker	not required
<b>FINES-MASTER:</b>	MaryAnn Kelly	Peter Olson	not required
<b>INTRODUCE SPEAKER:</b>	Alan Lean	not required	not required
<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>	Peter Murray	not required	not required
<b>BULLETIN REPORTER:</b>	Ellen Brasier	Peter Veerhuis	Don Pembleton
<b>MEETINGS:</b>			

**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:** Forty four members and guests stood to recite the Rotary invocation at the invitation of President David. The Bhengra family—Shishir (new member), his wife Laxmi and their daughters Diya and Nikita—were the guests of Elaine Almond, and Jesse Boardman was the guest of Peter Veerhuis. Members also warmly acknowledged the return of Alf Barzen after a considerable absence.

### Administrative Notes:

- **Book Fair Matters:**

- Graham Russell reminded members that this is our major fundraiser for the year and asked that members be prepared to be generous with their time in order to make it a success. Manpower (young, strong and plentiful) is needed on Thursday and Sunday to assist with set-up and dismantling of the Fair. Members are asked to consider if they have any contacts with a football team (or similar) who might be able to assist.
- Due to the impact of COVID regulations, the event will run differently from past Fairs, and there will be lots of jobs/roles for everyone. These will be explained at our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May, which has been given over to organisation of the Book Fair.



- **RYDA**

- This event will run in the week preceding the Book Fair and will take place at the Showgrounds. Our club has been asked to provide volunteers for **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May** from 9m til 2.30pm. Ellen Brasier is coordinating a list.



- **Clontarf**

- With the easing of COVID restrictions, it is now possible to resume members' visits to breakfast at Clontarf on a weekly basis. Vida Smart asked for volunteers and has drawn up a roster. Members who volunteered are asked to note their rostered day in their diary. Should you not be able to fulfil your commitment, please check the roster and organise a swap. This is the roster for term 2

Date	Volunteers
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> April 8.00am	MaryAnn Kelly, Elaine Almond
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> May 8.00am	Lyndal Seymour, Tony Hutchinson
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> May 8.00am	Alan Lean, Terry Mecham
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May 8.00am	Marion Moran, Margaret Keys
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> June 8.00am	Brad Bland, David Wynne
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> June 8.00am	Howard Mendel, Rob Sharkie
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> June 8.00am	Rob Sharkie, Margaret Everett

*Entrance to Mt Austin High School Carpark is on Leavenworth Drive (Entry opposite the Northcott Parade T-intersection). The Clontarf Room can be seen from the carpark as you look towards the school. The BBQ itself is usually outside the Clontarf classroom.*

- **Sunday Lunch**

- Lyndal Seymour advises members that the next Sunday get-together will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (1pm) at the Koorinal Hotel.

## **New Member Induction**

Elaine Almond stepped up to introduce Shishir Bhengra. Shishir was born and raised in Patna India, the youngest of six children. While growing up he was passionate about sport—cricket being his favourite—but he also loved soccer, hockey, basketball and cycling.

Shishir became involved in Rotary when he was 21 years old and joined the Youth section of the Rotary Club of Patna where he became an active member for a few years. One of the main focuses of this club was travelling to small villages to assist with Polio vaccination drives. Education also became his focus, and he completed a post-graduate degree and worked for a multinational company where he met his wife, Laxmi. After their marriage they moved to Manchester England where their two daughters Diya and Nikita were born. Shishir and family moved to Australia in 2013.

Shishir commenced working at Westpac Bank in Wagga Wagga before moving to ANZ in 2015. Outside of work he likes playing cricket, watching soccer and is a big supporter of Manchester United. He is very pleased to have the wonderful opportunity to join Rotary which brings back fond memories and awakens the passion he has always had for Rotary.



President David then confirmed Shishir's membership of our Club and presented him with his Rotary pin and Dinner badge. Shishir's

club mentors are Elaine Almond and David Friedlieb. Members welcomed Shishir with generous applause.



## **Short & Sweet.**

Elaine Almond dedicated this session to acknowledgement of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary in Australia, which was celebrated on 21 April, exactly 100 years since the first Rotary Club in Australia was chartered (in Melbourne). Sydney soon followed (7 May 1921). She challenged some of our more 'experienced' members to recall some Australian Rotary facts, and awarded chocolate prizes for those 'nearest the pin'.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rotary Australia!

## **Fines-Master Session.**

The multi-talented David Kennedy produced a cracker of a Fines session, asking everyone to sing along to a specially worded tune and then pay generously for the privilege. The boxes were heavy and the applause was loud for a very creative and entertaining segment. Perhaps it should have been re-named 'Geriatric Karaoke'!!

**Raffle Winner:** Tony Hutchinson took home the spoils after his name was drawn from the lucky ice bucket.



## Guest Speaker:

Club members Howard Mendel and Bryan Short were our 'guest' speakers, presenting an informative summary of the work being done on water purification in Timor Leste. This project is based on village sized membrane water filtration, developed by Howard, who is a mechanical engineer. Along the way in this project there have been a number of achievements.

These include:

- Approval of our Club to support the project that Howard had been working on for a number of years, and a preparedness to assist with finance.
- Establishing a relationship with the Bairo Pite Clinic Lanud Dili, a NFP hospital established by Dr Dan Murphy, an American, some 20 years ago, to manage the location and installation of the water treatment units. Unfortunately Dr Dan died earlier this year. But his work has been carried on, under some financial stress, by his 2IC Inacio. Inacio is a pharmacist and administrator.



- Our Club has also agreed to sponsor the project as a RAWCS project, with an application to the 9705 District Committee now being prepared. If approved, RAWCS recognition will assist with widespread acceptance, within Rotary and the general community, of the worthiness of the project and help in seeking funding from various sources. It will also make it easier to offer tax deductibility and money transfers overseas. Funding to date has included a \$5000 contribution from a WA

Rotary Club associated with Howard's previous life in WA, private donations from several members of our Club, and our Club has also allocated \$5000 in our annual budget.

Since the formal adoption of the project by our Club, we have run into setbacks such as:

- Difficulty of transferring equipment and money to Timor-Leste
- In March 2020, the first case of Covid arose in Dili and there is difficulty managing the outbreak due to lack of resources.
- Over recent years, we have had a number of Club members visit T-L, but this is currently nigh on impossible.
- In early April 2021, Cyclone Seroja, caused enormous damage to buildings and the torrential rain washed out many roads, cutting off access to rural areas.

On the positive side, four units have been installed and are operational.

Bairo Pite Clinic Lanud has been fortunate to have procured the voluntary services for a couple of days a week of an Australian lady, Magda Nowakowski, whose husband is a teacher in Dili. She is undertaking the project management of coordinating local logistics, locations and installation of our demonstration pumping units. The Project sub-committee has been proceeding on the basis that it is best to establish a number of demonstration sites so that the locals can see how a water filtration unit operates. To this end, there is a unit at the Bairo Pite Clinic Lanud. The clinic services a lot of regional villages, whose residents come in for treatment. While at the clinic they are shown the unit. They can then take the message back to their communities, and if they wish to establish a unit, they can arrange for a H2S test to be done and if it shows unclean drinking water, negotiate an arrangement. The intention is that there will be some cost sharing and a commitment to service the units, such that the projects will be the responsibility of the individual communities.



The philosophy is that we work with groups by invitation rather than intervention – an approach taken by some of the larger NGOs.

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

**15/16 May 2021      Wagga Rotary Club Book Fair**

**22 May 2021              District 9705 Club Development Seminar (Broulee)**

**30 May 2021              District 9705 Technology Training (Young)**

**12/16 June 2021        Rotary International Conference (Taipei)**

**25 November 2021     Wagga Rotary Shine Recognition Function**



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



**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May)*

**Birthdays:** Terry Mecham (2/5), Ruth Jackson (7/5)

**Rotary Anniversaries:** nil

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bruce & Christine Heydon (2/5),  
Peter & Sheila Murray (3/5)

≈ *KOOKABURRA* ≈

