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

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

<p>RI President: Holger Knaack Dist. Gov 9705: Michael Moore Area Three Gov: Martin Brown Club President: David Payne 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: 6.

Thursday 6th August, 2020.

AUGUST IS ROTARY MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION 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 13 th August.	Thursday 20 th August.	Thursday 27 th August.
PROGRAMME:	Ben Holt Erin Earth.	Alice Burwell Vet Scholarship Winner	David & Kerry Morton (Holbrook)
ATTENDANCE:	Karel Bijker Allan Duffus	Karel Bijker Margaret Everett	Mike Murray Barry Francis
GREETER:	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)	Not Required (COVID)
SHORT & SWEET:	Bruce Barber	Barry Francis	David Friedlieb
FINES-MASTER:	Alan Lean	Terry Mecham	Mike Murray
INTRODUCE SPEAKER:	David Friedlieb	Phil Cross	David Cannon
VOTE OF THANKS:	Graeme Callander	Graham Russell	Peter Wynne
BULLETIN REPORTER:	Bryan Short	Peter Veerhuis	Gerry Page
C'TTEE MEETINGS:	Book Fair 6.00 PM	Attendance 6.00 PM Board Meeting 8.00 PM	Committee TBA 6.00 PM

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.

Thirty five members were welcomed by President David this week, along with PDG John Egan (guest of Ellen Brasier), and special guests Sian Leywood and Christopher Leywood (surprise guests of Howard Mendel). Apologies were recorded from Alf Barzen, David Kennedy, MaryAnn Kelly, Gerry Page, Nepal Ghosh, Paul Galloway, Allan Duffus, Neil Hilpern and Alok Sharma. An apology was also received from this evening's scheduled Guest Speaker, Geoff Edwards, from Wagga Fire Brigade. Unfortunately current COVID regulations prevent emergency services personnel from attending.



Changeover Matters.

Paul Harris Fellow.....Howard Mendel

Citation from President David:

Howard was born in Perth, Western Australia some years ago now, and he was one of three boys.

He was educated at Perth Modern School (alma mater of Bob Hawke) and at the University of WA, where he undertook a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering.

After graduating, he undertook an internship with Ford Motor Vehicles at Geelong.

Howard then went to Malaysia in 1961, working as an Australian Engineer with the Jardine Group before joining the mechanical engineering company McPhersons, in 1965. He met Pamela whilst in Malaysia and they married in 1965.

Pamela and Howard have two children, Sian and Paul.

They moved back to Australia in 1970 with McPhersons, working around Sunshine, west of Melbourne before joining Lysaght Durham in the chemical industry.

Howard later joined Link Pumps, a family owned company that specialises in providing turnkey solutions, hiring unique pumping equipment for varied applications.

With Link Pumps, he was involved in many major projects including providing equipment and planning at Coode Island, Melbourne, after a major chemical explosion and fire in 1991. He was also involved in providing solutions for a major Melbourne stormwater pipe collapse and worked in Yemen with pumps for testing oil storage tanks.

It was during this time, as Australia experienced on-going drought conditions, that Howard started to explore the opportunity for pumps and ultra-filtration to help conserve water.

He focused on projects in the dairy industry where large amounts of chemicals and water are needed for cleaning. He applied his extensive knowledge of pumps and water filtration technology to provide solutions to help minimise wastage and reduce environmental impacts.

Son Paul remembers Howard's never-ending interest in pumps and their use, often pulling up on car trips to wander off into a paddock to look at out-of-the-way pump installations. Out of this flowed his interest (pardon the pun!) in small water treatment plants for people that did not have ready access to clean water—isolated farms and third world communities. He was frustrated by the level of bureaucracy that governments and organisations put in his way when he believed that low cost and simple solutions were readily available.

After retiring, and prior to moving to Wagga about five years ago, he had put together a number of small water purification units and started shipping them to isolated communities in PNG, East Timor and Africa. Howard always hoped that these would lead to one of the locals starting up a small business and repaying a small cost to help the program keep running, but this has rarely been the case.



Nevertheless, he continues on, putting either his own funds into the projects or drawing on a network of willing supporters to keep the program running.

He is forever reading up on better solutions to improve the operation of the units and decrease the cost. He has extensive contacts in China and India and is able to procure components at enviable prices. He constantly reads about the health conditions in third world countries and builds up his network of contacts in Rotary, church groups, Médecins Sans Frontiers and Engineers Without Borders.

Up until about two years ago, Howard had not been a member of rotary, but relied on his Rotarian brother Barry, a doctor in Perth, to assist in the distribution of his units and some funding. On arriving in Wagga to be closer to Sian, he looked around for anyone interested in what he was up to. He put on a demonstration to members of our Club. After this, we invited him to join Rotary, which he did.

Although communications are difficult, he tries to keep in touch with his contacts to make sure his units continue to function as designed. More recently on the East Timor project, he has struck up a very good relationship with a Pharmacy Engineer in Dili, (yes, an unusual qualification—he looks after the installation and maintenance of hospital equipment,) who has been assisting in getting Howard's units out into villages and helping the locals with operation and maintenance.

Over the last six months with COVID-19 everywhere, the number of obstacles he has had to overcome has been huge. However, whenever you drive past his unit at The Grange, you will invariably find the garage door up, with Howard there, tinkering around putting units together, ready for the next shipment.

For someone to continue pursuing this level of service to disadvantaged communities and mankind for decades is a great indication of Howard's character, and makes him very worthy of recognition by our Club as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Response by Howard Mendel:

I do face two problems in public speaking.

1. I often lose words, which means a deathly silence for some time, so I will read this talk.
2. When I get on the subject of safe drinking water, I am unable to stop until it is obvious the audience has dozed off.

Safe drinking water can play a major role in reducing stunted growth and infant mortality in our neighbour Timor Leste (East Timor). Stunted growth caused by malnutrition and disease in toddlers under three years old causes lifetime health defects and loss of productivity in more than 50% of the population being born now.

This means a heavy cost to Timor Leste, for many years to come.

Our program is to help with technical assistance and initial funding. We can demonstrate how a small investment will produce economic and health benefits many times the value of the investment.

the video shows an arrangement of readily available components to produce safe drinking water.

Four sets have already been delivered to Timor Leste, another 12 are in progress to complete this program.

What is most pleasing to me is the increasing input from Rotarians. Donations from the Rotary Club of Bunbury Leschenault and individual members from that club, and this club, are enough to start a program for safe drinking water to over 3000 people.

Nepal (Ghosh, Treasurer RCWW) is carefully accounting for money movements and PDG John Egan created the video, which is likely to be the first of a series.

I have been involved with Timor Leste for well over a decade. In that time the heady days of revolution, high oil revenue, and support from innumerable governments and NGO's, has been more replaced with maturity, self-dependence, and a young population with education and ambition. But it is a tiny country, with much of the people scratching a living from subsistence farming.

In the same period, technology, Australian manufacturing, and Australian government approach to aid have all changed. Now there are obvious difficulties from coronavirus, but there are opportunities that the pandemic brings to this specific program.

I suggest that we should now aim to help Timor Leste communities with their own projects.

Our program is many small projects all based on a few components. These projects, each only a few hundred dollars, have a wide range of applications, but can be easily understood and operated.

The financial and travel effects of coronavirus greatly favour our program, compared to large projects needing millions of dollars and expert expatriates.



Coronavirus has, of course, disadvantages that mean that the key item, the membrane module which we built in the past is now replaced by an overseas unit (US\$45 each), that is five times the output of our previous units. Coronavirus effects to increase air freight cost on pumps from India motivated us to make pumps ourselves. This led to the realization the pumps could just as easily be made in Dili. Probably the only critical component not available in Dili is the Ultrafiltration Module. This can be sent directly to Dili from China or India, so the final product is essentially a Timor Leste production. Another coronavirus benefit to our program has been a change of partners because of expatriates leaving Timor Leste. We are now working through Bairo Pite Clinic. This is a hospital operated by Timorese management and staff. They have been giving medical help to very low-income people for over twenty years. Not only do they have intimate knowledge of local health problems, but they are capable of maintaining quite sophisticated medical equipment. They also have facilities for health care in a number of rural communities. Shortly after installing some of the units we delivered, they reported that other villages were keen to have equipment to provide clean safe drinking water. Bairo Pite Clinic people together with Rotary people in Timor Leste have the knowledge and capability to run a program that can play a major role in reducing stunting and infant mortality in Timor Leste. Thank you for your attention.

Administration Matters.

- President David reminded all members that in these days of COVID-19 regulations, each member has a personal responsibility to protect their own health and that of fellow Rotarians by adhering to all 'COVID-safe' guidelines set by NSW Health and the NSW Government. This includes choosing to self-isolate if necessary, and being attentive to the rules under which the Country Club is bound to operate: registration of details on arrival, hand sanitising, social distancing, not congregating at the bar, being seated, and most importantly **dispersing efficiently** at the conclusion of the meeting..... the Country Club lounge is available if you wish to continue socialising.
- The Vocational Service Committee held a productive meeting at 6 PM. (The Book Fair Committee meets 6 PM Thursday 13 August).

Raffle Winner.

Here's cheers to Rob Sharkie who took the vino this week.

Short & Sweet.



Peter Murray took members on a 'virtual tour' of things and places which should be on all our bucket lists..... How many have you seen/visited??

- Roxby Downs: a town of young people.
- Charters Towers: first stock exchange
- Jumbo Jet, wingspan 70m at Longreach. (N.B. Black boxes are really yellow!)
- Wind Turbine Farm on the Great Ocean Road. Blade length: 70metres; turn at 10-20 rev per min.
- Wave Rock at Hyden, 296km ESE of Perth
- Dog Cemetery at Corrigin, 235km ESE of Perth....instigated by APEX Club.
- Kyogle, NSW, home of a fully computerised and mechanised dairy.
- Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece on display at the Gundagai Visitors Centre
- St Mary's Church, Bairnsdale. Exquisitely painted ceiling. (AMAZING!!)
- Murray McCourts 'Woakwine Cutting'(NW of Mt Gambier, SA).
- The Hanna Cabinet in the Art Centre at Lismore.

Fines-Master Session.

Bill Prest started the session by fining all the grandfathers..... a large proportion of those present had to pay up! He targeted some individual members for indiscretions or just for not knowing the answer to his question. Picking up on the travel theme in Short and Sweet, Bill extracted funds from all those who had not visited Uluru or ridden a camel.

A story which started with a mail order cupboard and ended with a man hiding in said cupboard with the excuse of 'waiting for a train' caused much mirth and donation to the fines box.



Focus on Community Service: *'The Nangus House'*

Our Club, together with other Wagga Rotary Clubs, and the Rotary Club of Merimbula have undertaken to help this family overcome some challenges. One of their five-year-old twins, Cody, was born with rare lifelong medical issues, which will eventually require him to have a kidney transplant. The family's lives revolve around costly medical appointments and therapies. This involves endless travel to Wagga, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne to see specialists. The toll on family life and finances has been great. Dad Ricky works long hours as a transport driver trying to make ends meet, whilst Mum Peta has her hands full juggling appointments and managing the animals on their small acreage. It had been their dream to renovate an old house on the property, but finances have not permitted this as Cody's needs are more important.

PDG John Egan is heavily involved in the coordination of Rotary's assistance. He spoke to the meeting about the poor condition of the building the family currently calls home. A Rotary grant, and many donations from the Clubs and individuals have allowed not only the replacement of the roof as initially intended, but also a 'brick veneer skin' and new windows to be provided. Much labour has been donated. John thanked our Club for a recent donation towards the cost of materials to 'gyprock' the internal walls. A local firm has donated the labour to do the internal plastering once the sheets are up. We hope that with improved living conditions, this family will be free of at least some of their worries.

More funds are needed to complete this project.

This is a **Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) Project.**

For any member who would like to donate to this project:

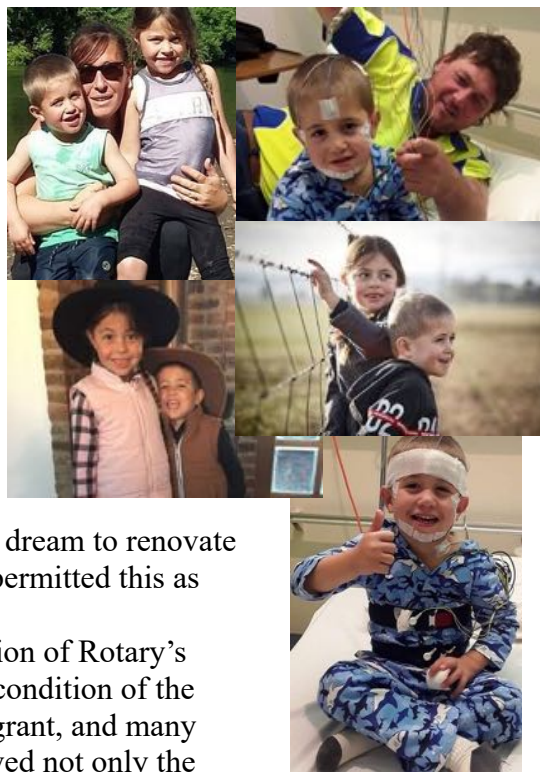
Go to: [https:// rawcs.org.au/donate](https://rawcs.org.au/donate)

Click: [CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO A SPECIFIC PROJECT](#)

Project number is: 44

Year: 2019-20

Then follow instructions



On a Lighter Note:

The meeting was concluded with a presentation by well-known English poet/comedian Pam Ayres. The poem was entitled 'They Should Have Asked My Husband', and if you want to see/hear it again, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4oydSZTAns>

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

13th August 2020

Book Fair Committee Meeting (6:00 PM).

20th August 2020

Attendance Committee Meeting (6.00 PM)

20th August 2020

Board Meeting (8.00 PM)

17/18th October 2020

Wagga Rotary Club – Book Fair.

3rd December 2020

Shine Awards.

10th December 2020

District governor Michael Moore on Zoom.

17th December 2020

Club Christmas function.



THE 'HAPPY SNAPS' FROM THIS WEEK: -



Suitable 'distancing'



Rusconi's marble masterpiece



St Mary's Church Bairnsdale

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: -

(9th Aug – 15th Aug)



- Birthdays:** Peter Veerhuis (9/8,
- Rotary Anniversaries:** Mike & Carol Murray (9/8)
- Wedding Anniversaries:** Wendy Bijker (9/8)

≈ *KOOKABURRA* ≈

Some Corona madness. (Thanks Don!)



DAFFY'S DAILY
By Annie Tempert.



"It's just that I find that having two glasses of wine at once stops me touching my face..."

