



**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](http://www.waggarotary.org)

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

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

<p><b>RI President:</b> Shekhar Mehta</p> <p><b>Dist. Gov 9705:</b> Leo Farrelly</p> <p><b>Area Three Gov:</b> Elaine Almond</p> <p><b>Club President:</b> Alan Lean</p> <p><b>Club Secretary:</b> Ellen Brasier</p>	 <b>SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES</b>	<p><b>THE FOUR WAY TEST:</b> Of the things we think, say or do: -</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: 38.**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

**APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH**

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

**Duty Roster** Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot fulfil your rostered duty & inform our Bulletin Reporter. :-

	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>PROGRAMME:</b>	<b>EASTER- NO MEETING</b>	<b>Alan Lean Rotary Overview</b>	<b>Renas Khalef My Story</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	N/R	Karel Bijker Jenny Masters	Karel Bijker Brad Bland
<b>SHORT &amp; SWEET:</b>	N/R	Vicky Donoghue	Shishir Bhengra
<b>FINES-MASTER:</b>	N/R	Don Pembleton	David Friedlieb
<b>INTRODUCE SPEAKER:</b>	N/R	Bruce Barber	Margaret Everett
<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>	N/R	Bryan Short	Allan Duffus
<b>BULLETIN REPORTER:</b>	N/R	Peter Veerhuis	Vicky Donoghue
<b>MEETINGS:</b>		<b>Board Meeting</b>	

Invocation: *For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks.*

**IMPORTANT:** If you're unable to attend a meeting: **Please lodge an apology with THE COUNTRY CLUB OFFICE ☐ 6922 6444 (Ext. 1)** by **NOON on TUESDAY** (or pre-record same in the book provided at the meeting attendance table).

Also, for catering purposes, please advise if bringing a guest to a meeting.

## **MEETING REPORT for 7<sup>th</sup> April : - NOTE – No Meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Attendance.**

Our meeting this week was held at the Bidgee Strawberry Farm, Billagha Street, where we were fed by the Club's own catering wing, led by Tony Hutch & Graham Russell. Strawberry ice cream desserts were available as well as punnets of fresh strawberries. What a great outing!

President Alan welcomed 26 members and our one guest for the evening – Marnie Duffus. Following the invocation President Alan proposed a toast to our hosts Michael and Kylie Cashen and their daughter Lawanna.



### **Club Business:-**

- **Clontarf Breakfast Roster** for the second term was circulated by Secretary Ellen.
- **Volunteers are still required from 10am for the Wagga Anzac Day commemorations.** Duties will include distribution of service sheets and miniature national flags. See Peter Smart
- **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)** is to take place during the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> May. Secretary Ellen is still looking for volunteers for **our rostered day, Thursday 12 May**. The day will run from 9am to 2pm. A free BBQ will be available. Volunteers will supervise the movement of students from room to room. Ellen stressed that volunteers are not responsible for student behavior. There will be a whole week of activity with other Rotary clubs involved on other days.
- **Book Fair.** Note change of date to 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers will also be required as usual on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May to help move books and set up in hall. A busy day!
- **Sad News** Members will be sorry to learn of the death of Peter Veerhuis' sister, Helen. Best wishes from us all Peter & Joan

### **Short & Sweet:-**

Because we were meeting at the Strawberry Farm, Mary Ann Kelly chose to tell us a little of the Marrambidya Wetlands which are located adjacent to the farm. The site of 20 hectares was developed and opened in 2015. It is on the site of the old disused sewerage ponds.

The Marrambidya Wetlands healing place was opened on National Apology Day in 2016 on the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations. Developed in consultation with the local Wiradjuri community, the healing place includes a seating area made from river red gum and is located among native plants. There is a totem pole carved by the Wiradjuri Elders. A fallen scar tree provides the setting for a commemorative plaque.

Mary Ann observed that there is a local aboriginal saying 'Look after the land and the rivers, and the land and rivers will look after you.' The land provided the Wiradjuri people with all they needed.



## Fines-Master:-

Brad Bland's theme was unusual happenings in the world. A little like Ripley's 'Believe it or not.' Some examples:

- British researcher reveals slippers to be the item of clothing most likely to put the wearer in hospital.
- Philippino chilli eating competitions are another high risk activity especially if you eat as many as 300.
- Ontario police searched for a murderer after the discovery of a 900 year old skull. British archaeologists on the other hand let the matter slip when they discovered a 500 year old banana in a Tudor era dig site.
- There were stories involving animals - a parrot in Greece tore up his ticket for obstructing the pavement (sensible bird). Thank you Brad for some insights into the unusual



## Guest Speaker

David Cannon introduced Michael Cashen and invited him to tell us something about their farm. They have established a 40,000 plant hydroponic strawberry farm on a block of land on the Murrumbidgee flood plain adjacent to the recently developed Marrambidya Wetlands.

The strawberries grow on raised platforms at a convenient height for harvest and maintenance operations. The farm uses town water which has the advantage of having been purified and is delivered at a satisfactory pressure. Nutrients are added as required and plants are watered 3 times a day. As Michael observed they get 3 meals a day. Waste water is stored on site and reused to water lawns.

The farm is located on the wrong side of the levee which makes development applications a trial. However approval has been obtained to increase the number of plants from 40,000 to 90,000. The current 4 hectares of plants yield up to 25 tonnes of strawberries each year. The main game is self-picking but up to 20 casuals are employed to pick surplus fruit. Surplus fresh fruit not sold is stored in 2 cool rooms, one at -2c, the other -18c. This stored fruit is used to make strawberry jam, pies or ice cream.



The biggest problem associated with growing strawberries is the Queensland fruit fly which seems to have become endemic to this area. It may be necessary to use nets in the future. Extreme heat or rain is also a problem - they keep the self-pickers away.

The large shed in which we are meeting was built 2 years ago and is much admired. Built on the only area of high ground available it is a great addition to the strawberry growing enterprise.

Neil Hilpern, in moving a vote of thanks, expressed appreciation for the insights Michael had given of their operation and for their hospitality.

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

- **25<sup>th</sup> April** **Anzac Day Ceremonies** – **Volunteers to hand out service sheets etc**
- **9-12 May** **RYDA (Youth Driver Awareness) at Wagga Showground**
- **14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May** **Wagga Rotary Club BOOK FAIR – NOTE DATE CHANGE !**
- **1 December** **Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga SHINE AWARDS**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: -**

(10th April to 16<sup>th</sup> April)

**Birthdays** David WYNNE (10/4), Elaine ALMOND (12/4)

**Rotary Anniversaries:** Neil HILPERN (16/04/1992)

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Nil



≈ *KOOKABURRA* ≈



**NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT:**

**Wagga Country Club on 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Please remember to register your apology or guest by contacting the Country Club **before noon on Tuesday.**



**SNAPS FROM THE WEEK: -**

