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~ *CROW ABOUT* ~

**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> 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>		<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: 9.**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.**

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

Date:	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept.
<b>PROGRAMME:</b>	<b>ZOOM MEETING</b>	<b>ZOOM MEETING</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>			Karel Bijker Bruce Heydon
<b>SHORT &amp; SWEET:</b>	David Kennedy (1)	David Kennedy (2)	Howard Mendel
<b>FINES-MASTER:</b>	David Wynne	Gerry Page	Gordon Sagers
<b>INTRODUCE SPEAKER:</b>			Nepal Ghosh
<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>			David Cannon
<b>BULLETIN REPORTER:</b>	Vicky Donoghue	Vicky Donoghue	David Kennedy
<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 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.

## President's message.

Nĩ hão, a special thank you to PP David for hosting the meeting last week & from reports received did a sterling job, well done David.

It appears we may be in restrictions for a few weeks, so we will continue the zoom meetings until then.

Anyone who wishes to advise members about a planned activity or action, should let me know. Please assist Vicky with any general information to help her put the bulletin together.

We have been asked to support an Australian Rotary Health PHD Scholarship in association with the other 11 clubs in our zone.

The scholarship has three parts. The uni provides \$30000, ARH also give \$30000 and the clubs provide the rest.

These figures are approximate, but the contribution from the clubs will be no more than \$3000 total over the 3 yrs (ie \$1,000pa ) if the 12 clubs in the zone, joins us.

The scholarship is then advertised, applicants interviewed, and the scholarship awarded.

We would stipulate that the study would be towards helping people who have suffered traumatic experiences, as that is the aim of Pro Patria, it has been suggested that it could be called the Pro Patria PTSD Scholarship.

Comments from members would be appreciated so I can reflect the members' views at the next combined members meeting.

I would like to make a brief comment re developments involving the Pro Patria project.

The creation of a local community trust remains a preferred option of the Carmelite Sisters for the monastery & hopefully we can support this development.

Look forward to catching up by zoom next Thursday.

## **Zoom meetings are just modern seances**

### **MEETING REPORT: -**

With President Alan being an apology for the evening, PP David Friedlieb welcomed 26 members to our online meeting, which commenced promptly at 6.30 after a few minutes of re-acquaintance with the protocols of ZOOM.



'There's someone who wants to join us.'  
'Elizabeth, are you there?'  
'We can't hear you.'  
'Can you hear us?'

### **Administration Matters...**

- Members might like to consider donating their 'dinner fee' to Foundation for the week/s we are unable to meet. This could amount to a considerable 'extra' contribution by our Club to a worthy cause.
- Mike Murray's "**Long Run**" .....supporting Prostate Cancer Research. If you have a bob or two lying around you can Google "*The Long Run/Mike Murray*" and make a donation. Alternatively, you can pledge by sending an email ([michaelmurray3081@bigpond.com](mailto:michaelmurray3081@bigpond.com)) or giving Mike a shout on 0476 613 536. As usual you will receive a tax deduction letter. Mike thanked the Club for its donation of \$300.
- DG Leo Farrelly was due to visit to our club this evening, but COVID restrictions have prevented this. His visit has been rescheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- With the cancellation of the Wagga Eisteddfod, the Club's donation towards trophies will be carried over to a future date.

- Our BBQ team has been nominated for NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. The announcement of winners will take place via ZOOM on 26 October 2021 at 12.30pm.
- Members are advised that Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August is our official last day of having Elders as our book receival partner. Graham R is having signs made which will advise the public of the new location. Changes will also have to be made to our website and social media profiles. The new location for drop off was eloquently described by Graham as “Riverina Model Cars Plus, off Copland Street, down a lane beside 000 Plumbing”. (Also known as Unit 7/23 Copland Street).
- There are moves afoot for the District’s Rotary Clubs to combine to promote the role of women in Rotary during Seniors Week next year. A submission for some funding from the 2022 NSW Seniors Festival Grant Program is being prepared. The project is being led by the women of South Wagga Rotary, and it is envisaged that it will also involve other community organisations. WWRC women should get involved!! More details will be provided as they emerge.



- From Philip Cross (whose microphone wasn’t working....)

Following my advice to members a few weeks ago regarding the sudden deaths in India of Rajiv Bhatia’s parents within a few months of one another, I sent Rajiv and Alka a letter of sympathy from President Alan and our members sending our condolences to their families. Rajiv and his Rotary Club have been so supportive of our Darkness to Light project in India since 2005.

In response, Rajiv replied saying

*“Kindly convey our thanks to your President and Members. The vacuum created in our life cannot be filled but with support of friends like you all, we are able to move on.”*  
*Regards, Rajiv*



- Please let President Alan know your thoughts on commencement time of Zoom meetings. Should they be earlier?? later?? or is 6.30 good??

### **International Service Report:**

- **Clean Water Project:** Gordon Sagers (Chair of Committee) reported on the tireless work of Howard Mendel on the Clean Water project for Timor Leste. Covid has caused a few speed bumps in its delivery, but we look forward to identifying potential locations for filtration units and liaising more closely with our contacts in Timor Leste when the pandemic constraints ease. Members can be assured that the project is going forward under the unwavering oversight of Howard.
- **Darkness to Light:** Alok Sharma reported that he will be taking delivery of two microscopes being donated by Calvary Hospital this week for the Timor Leste Eye Project.  
 Also, Riverina BioOils has donated \$5225 to the Club, this being the proceeds from a pledge to donate a percentage of profits from the sale of ‘Wagga Wagga’ Canola Oil into India. This pledge arose from a site visit to Riverina BioOils which our Club undertook in 2019.  
 Both of these donations are substantial, and they deserve to be acknowledged with some form of publicity in the local media.

## **Short & Sweet (1).**

Tony Hutchinson took the opportunity to share information about the history of the RAAF Base at Forest Hill, which will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October. Here is a brief summary:

In the late 1930s, an Air Force Committee of Investigation examined possible sites for a permanent facility for a flying training school. In addition to Wagga, the Committee considered other locations in the NSW Riverina such as Junee, Deniliquin and Narrandera; the Committee also considered Echuca and Kerang in Victoria, and Smithfield and Gawler in South Australia.

In 1939, the Australian Government purchased a 300-acre farm known as 'Allonville' at Forest Hill, 10km from Wagga. Established as 'RAAF Station Forest Hill' in July 1940, the base was first home to No 2 Service Flying Training School and formed one of a number of Empire Air Training Scheme bases in the Riverina.

No 31 Squadron formed at the base on 14 August 1942, flying Beaufighter aircraft; in time, the squadron moved to the Northern Territory and the South West Pacific Area to fly operations against the Japanese. In October 1942, No 5 Operational Training Unit would also be established at the base, also primarily flying Beaufighters.

When flying operations at the base were discontinued in the last few years of the war, the base became home to No 5 Aircraft Depot, a maintenance unit. At war's end, the hangars and associated technical equipment were passed to the RAAF's Ground Training School, formed on the base in March 1946; on 01 December 1952, the unit would be renamed as the RAAF School of Technical Training, a name it still bears.

The base was formally renamed as 'RAAF Base Wagga' in 1952 to more closely align the base's activities with the City of Wagga Wagga. In 1961, the local council granted the base the Freedom of the City, an honour which has been regularly exercised since the honour was first granted.

In 1985, two other units would be formed from within the RAAF School of Technical Training:

- the RAAF School of Management and Training Technology, a forebear unit to the current School of Postgraduate Studies, formed in 2003
- the RAAF Clerical and Supply Training School, which in 2005 would be renamed as the RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training.

In January 1999, Ground Training Wing was established at RAAF Wagga. Following the movement of RAAF College to the base in 2008, the two units briefly amalgamated as RAAF College, before again being established as separate entities. In January 2019, following a review of training delivery across Air Force, Ground Academy was formed from RAAF College and Ground Training Wing to provide oversight of all Air Force-managed ground training.

Much of the base's wartime infrastructure still exists; much is also still in daily use. Key wartime facilities still intact on the base include:

- the original brick guardhouse and dwarf gates on the highway
- two large brick hangars (Hangars 88 and 89)
- one large steel hangar (Hangar 84)
- a semi-circular spray of 13 Bellman 'temporary' hangars, believed to be the largest number of Bellman hangars in one location in the world
- the original 1940s Officers' Mess, still complete with open fire
- the parade ground
- a 25 metre firing range (decommissioned)
- a brick 'stop butt' facility into which aircraft weaponry could be test-fired safely.

Let's hope that COVID doesn't spoil the birthday party.

## **Short & Sweet (2).**

A poem was sent in by Hon. Member John Studdert. It was written by 'Jane' of Rotary Club of Mosgiel (NZ) . It is printed here for your enjoyment:

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For many weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this bloody virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

## **Finesmaster:**

Graham Russell was 'unmuted' in order to relieve members of their loose change. He called on two volunteer box carriers to drive very fast and collect the fines, (an activity which Graham classified as 'essential travel').

First on the target list were any 'antivaxers', relatives of antivaxers and/or acquaintances of same. Pay a LARGE fine please!

Graham has been paying attention to the everchanging 'covid restrictions', and lamented the fact that he doesn't know five people 'without issues'.

He also asked us to spare a thought for all those parents who are schooling their children at home. He drew special attention to one lady who said 'If you see my children locked outside today, mind your own business. We're doing a fire drill!'

Graham finished with some up-do-date information about a new virus which is emerging hot on the heels of COVID: The New Nial virus (Type C).

It appears to target those born between 1940 and 1970.

1. Causes you to send the same message twice
2. Causes you to send a blank message
3. Causes you to send a message to the wrong person

