



**ROTARY CLUB  
OF WAGGA WAGGA**

part of the solution



ABN: 42 569 872 625

# ~ 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>

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

<p><b>RI President:</b> Jennifer Jones</p> <p><b>Dist. Gov 9705:</b> Geraldine Rurenga</p> <p><b>Area Three Gov:</b> Elaine Almond</p> <p><b>Club President:</b> David Wynne</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>&gt; Is it the truth?</li> <li>&gt; Is it fair to all concerned?</li> <li>&gt; Will it build goodwill &amp; better friendships?</li> <li>&gt; Will it be beneficial to all concerned?</li> </ul>
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**BULLETIN NO: 34**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

## MARCH IS WATER & SANITATION MONTH

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

**Duty Roster:** *We don't have foreknowledge of future apologies when drawing up the Duty Officer listing, **SO IT IS IMPORTANT** that you arrange a replacement if you can't fulfil a listed duty, and advise the Bulletin Reporter*

Date:	30 <sup>th</sup> March	6 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup> April
	<b>Dr. Nitin Verma</b> (East Timor Eye Project) (By Zoom)		TBA
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	Philip Cross Geoff Treloar	<b>NO</b>	Vicky Donoghue Ellen Brasier
<b>SHORT &amp; SWEET:</b>	Vicky Donoghue	<b>MEETING</b>	David Kennedy
<b>FINES-MASTER:</b>	Terry Mecham		David Friedlieb
<b>INTRODUCE SPEAKER:</b>	Alok Sharma	<b>EASTER</b>	TBA
<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>	David Payne		Tiffany Purvis
<b>BULLETIN REPORTER:</b>	Peter Olson		Don Pembleton
<b>MEETINGS:</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>		

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

**Registration For Meetings:** Members are required to register their attendance (and that of any guests) **BEFORE NOON ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING** using the link in the email that they receive each week. Failure to respond to the email by the deadline will mean no meal will be ordered for you. Members who have problems with registration should not hesitate to contact Graeme or Vicky.

**Visitors** who wish to join us please contact Club Sergeant Graeme Callander (graeme.callander43@gmail.com), or phone Vicky on 0407 586186 as early as possible.

## Upcoming meetings:

**This Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March** we will hear (By Zoom) from Dr. Nitin Verma, renowned Ophthalmologist, and founder of the East Timor Eye Program, with an update on this great project.

There will be **NO ROTARY MEETING on Thursday April 6th** (Easter long weekend.)

## MEETING REPORT Thursday 23th March: .

### Attendance

This week's meeting, held in our Book Shed, was called to order by President David, who, after the invocation, proposed a toast to all Service Personnel in memory of the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. The meeting was held around the many pallets of stock which have been readied for the forthcoming Book Fair.



### Administration Matters.

- **President David** opened the meeting by congratulating **Alan Lean** and his team, and all involved in the Shine Awards last week. It was a wonderful event, as always, and a welcome return after the years of the Pandemic A special mention was made of the Bulletin team's excellent reporting of the event
- For our **Health Updates**, Jane Heazlewood remains in good spirits whilst undergoing treatment, and Alf Barzen is unwell this week, so we wish him a speedy recovery.
- President David is attending the **Combined Presidents Meeting** next week, so if anyone has a question about other clubs activities they would like brought up, then talk to him.
- Brad Quilliam, the **Australian RAWCS** Supervisor is giving an hour long **talk on the Flood Response** at the Garden Centre at the Botanical Gardens on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. If any member is interested and able to attend to represent the club, please talk to President David for details.
- **Regionalisation Project Update** - President David has been assured that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes, and the plan is that the pilot project will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Elaine Almond also concurred that this was the information given at PETS Training weekend, though no details of exactly what work had been done was forthcoming at this stage.
- **Peter Olson** reported that the **PETS weekend** he and Elaine attended was very informative, covering lots of topics including Governance, Insurance. There was a particular focus on fundraising via environmental projects, info which he will be passing on to our President Elect, John Heazlewood. He also noted that there were 100 members 'lost' from Rotary last year, which has an effect on clubs/districts in a multitude of ways.
- Alok reported that the three **Scholarships** funded by our club **for Medical Students in Wagga**, have been received very well within the community, and within the last 3 weeks, there have been two very encouraging applications received. There is always an effort ongoing to encourage more Doctors to the Riverina area, and Alok reported that there are now 80 medical students in Wagga and 2 Sydney Universities that run Medical Degree courses that can be completed in Wagga
- **Alok finished by telling us his son Varoon was completing the Coastrek walk in Sydney raising money for the Heart Foundation and if anyone would like to sponsor/support him, here is the link. <https://www.coastrek.com.au/s/43105/50084>**  
Varoon has almost been a member of this club for his entire life, helping at our fundraising events, going to East Timor/India to help with our RI Projects around his schooling commitments.



- Members will notice later in the bulletin **Karel Bijker's Rotary Anniversary** on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Gerry was in touch with Karel this week and Karel wished to be remembered to all. He and Wendy are keen to meet up with anyone holidaying up north through Ballina. His contact details are in the club list though the preferred email address is: [wkbijker@gmail.com](mailto:wkbijker@gmail.com)
- **Terry Mecham** gave an update on **forthcoming Barbeque Dates**;
  - Vintage Car Club – Downside Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> April – (Fundraising for Pro Patria) 10am – 1pm
  - Pro-Patria Open Day - All Day 15<sup>th</sup> April
  - Book Fair – 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May – Book Fair Set-Up Night and Weekend
  - Henschke School – Multi-Cultural BBQ – 24<sup>th</sup> June 11am – 3pm
- **The Book Fair** is only 7 weeks away and President Dave gave a reminder to all members, to look at any avenues to source books by encouraging family, friends, workmates etc to donate those unwanted (good condition) books they've been meaning to get rid of. Any member who is available on Tuesdays is welcome to give a hand at the weekly book sorting at the shed.
- **There is a Board Meeting this Thursday after the club meeting.**

### **Short & Sweet:**

**Neil Hilpern** entertained us with a story from his childhood in Egypt. St Catherines Monastery is located at the base of the mountain in the Sinai Desert where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments, and it is run by Greek Orthodox monks. It is said that angels found the body of the martyred St Catherine (of Alexandria) and took it to the monastery where her Relics now remain for pilgrims and tourists to visit. The monastery was built in 548.



Neil's Father had a tourist bureau and he would lead caravans of cars with tourists through the Sinai, which at the time had no roads, so anyone venturing into the Sinai would have to know where they were going, or would very easily get lost.

Neil first visited the monastery during World War Two with his family and a New Zealand Soldier called Wally. They drove in one car and his Mother and two sisters sat in the Dicky seat whilst Neil sat between his Dad and Wally. When they stopped overnight, the two men slept outside against a windbreak, whilst his Mum and sisters had to sleep sitting up. Neil was small enough to sleep across the parcel seat, so he reckons he always slept the best. To get to the actual monastery they had to climb lots of huge stone steps that the monks had hewn into the landscape.

His second visit was after the war when his Father was in charge of the United Nations Relief of Palestine Refugees, and this time they had a driver and were taking an American couple.

Neil finished his tale by recounting a story his Father told him of one of the trips he's done to the monastery with some male and female tourists, one of whom was a young woman. One of the men on the trip had been filling her up with stories of monks run amok with lust after being cooped up alone for years, and the poor young woman woke up screaming "The Monks, The Monks" in the monastery that night, imagining them coming to accost her.

## Finesmaster:

**Bryan Short** commenced by fining Marion and Ellen (in absentia) for their Birthdays, and Maryann for her 16<sup>th</sup> Rotary Anniversary. A special fine was given to the bulletin editor for last week's pun about the ophthalmologist with the cornea jokes. Since we missed St Patrick's day last week, anyone who had been to Belfast (near the birthplace of St Patrick) or with Irish connections was relieved of coins. To celebrate today's date of 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the following anniversaries were also noted: Pakistan became an independent Republic in 1956 (anyone who had been to Pakistan or India), Titanic won 11 Oscars in 1998 (anyone who saw the movie) and USA achieved Women's Suffrage in 1920. Bryan noted that in the absence of any Americans he would fine any Poms present since they were also slow with giving women the vote. (Special note to Bryan-there WAS an American present, but my lips are sealed as to their identity).



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

30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 23	Board Meeting
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar/2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr 23	P.E.T. Training/'Club Assembly' (Orange)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	NO WAGGA ROTARY MEETING
11 <sup>th</sup> May 23	RYDA day (Our Club is Rostered)
20/21 May 23	Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga – ANNUAL BOOK FAIR.
29 <sup>th</sup> June 23	Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga CHANGEOVER.
12 <sup>th</sup> Jul 23	Lilier Lodge Casserole night.
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 23	Lilier Lodge BBQ night.

## ***BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: -***

(26 March to 1 April )

**Birthdays:** Peter Olson (27/3), Lyn Hutchinson (28/3), Fran Payne (1/4)

**Rotary Anniversaries:** Karel Bijker 27/3/2008

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Nil



≈ *KOOKABURRA* ≈



*Congratulations to Dr. Joe McGirr for his great win in yesterday's election. The jokes about politicians don't, of course, apply to Joe !*

Definitions of a politician:

- \*One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence later
- \*Approaches every subject with an open mouth.
- \*An animal who can sit on the fence and keep both ears to the ground



Peter Veerhuis regaled us with a yarn explaining the political device of a Stimulus Package a copy is attached for those who missed it!



## A FEW SNAPS FROM THE NIGHT



### **2023 Rotary Convention in Melbourne**

#### **Nobel Peace Laureate to speak at convention**

Leymah Gbowee won the Nobel Peace Prize In 2011 along with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Yemeni peace activist Tawakkol Karman, nominated for their “non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work.” Gbowee, who had lived in a refugee camp, worked as a counselor for child soldiers and led a nonviolent peace movement that played a pivotal role in ending a bloody 14-year period of Liberia’s civil war. Join keynote speaker Gbowee at the 2023 Rotary Convention in Melbourne. [Read more about Gbowee](#) and [register now](#) for the convention.