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Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's theme for 2021-22,

***Serve to change lives,***

is urging members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving other is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

**Future Events**

- 31 Aug BY ZOOM – Fiona Demark – Coach & Motivational Speaker
- (TBC) Dr Subhasis Talapatra - Skin Cancer & Prevention @ Hermitage 6PM
- (TBC) Tina McPherson - ODI Record 2nd Best Bowling Figures @ Hermitage 6pm
- (TBC) Wendy Lotter – Aboriginal Education & Walks @ Hermitage 6pm
- (TBC) Lucille Ellem - Dingo Sanctuary Bargo @ Hermitage
- (TBC) Tony Glenn - Caravan Trip - Mackay and Pinnacle @ Hermitage 6.00pm
- (TBC) Sharelle Quinn - Last Qantas 747 Kangaroo Flight @ Hermitage 6pm
- Sept/Oct "Picnic in The Park" Meeting on a Saturday. Spit Roast on The Gib.

**Please Note: Apologise by Friday noon, attendance is the default position**

**Venue:** Zoom meeting held this week due to NSW statewide Lockdown – 18 members online



**Journalist:** Ian Langford (and what a great job he did, thank you Ian! – *from the Editor*)

**Welcome:** President Will Eddowes opened the meeting at 5:35pm and welcomed all members who had logged on. There were no guests present although at one stage Robyn Liberale looked over Luciano's shoulder and waved.

Will Eddowes referred to the passing of past member of the Club Jørgen Nielsen who died last week. Those that were in the Club at the same time as Jørgen remembered some of the work he did for the club. This included his IT work on preparing redundant Defence PCs for use in Fiji in the Koroipita village which members had help build during a number of RAWCS trips. His wife Rita seems to have a good support network around her neighbourhood and from Inner Wheel.

Robert de Jongh recited the Invocation and then Rod Aistrope was asked to present the International toast.

#### INTERNATIONAL TOAST

A short history of Afghanistan over the past 50 years is one of virtually continuous warfare with civil wars between tribal groups and their power hungry leaders, invasions from Russia and the USA with its many allies against most of the tribal groups and the Taliban against everyone ending on top - at the moment. It is estimated that from a population of 33 million, up to 3 million civilians have died during those 50 years to terrorism, vengeance or as casualties of war.

Given the substantial difference between running an insurgency and administering a country with so many different tribal loyalties and whose people have enjoyed freedoms for the past 20 years which the extremists will now take from them it would be amazing if this is the end of it and peace will settle for long.

For now though the fear and uncertainty is manifest in the clamour to get out either by crossing the borders or attempting to get on a plane.

The only certainty at the moment is the restriction on normal freedoms and anything remotely western such as Rotary.

There were 3 Rotary Clubs in Afghanistan at the start of this year but it is probable that they are at least suspended but probably gone at least for now.

The Clubs were in Herat, Jalalabad and Kabul in their own District number 56.

The Rotary Club of Kabul City was Chartered in 2013 and had 9 Members led by President Rameen Javid.

None of their web sites had been updated for over 3 years so we don't know what they were doing but we can be sure they were all serving their long suffering communities as best they could.

With heavy hearts we can only watch as the tragedy unfolds and we see the probable end of Rotary in Afghanistan I ask you to spare a thought for our fellow Rotarians and their safety.

Would you please raise your glasses and make our International Toast to the people of Afghanistan and the President and Members of the Rotary Club of Kabul City.

Our club, post meeting received a response from their president:

*From: Rameen Javid  
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 5:43 AM  
To: Rod Aistrope <pres20rcbm@gmail.com>  
Cc: Will Eddowes <wedowes@bigpond.net.au>;  
Trevor Fair <trevorf@oxleypartners.com.au>  
Subject: Re: International Toast*

*Greetings from Rotary Club of Kabul City!*

*Thank you very much for thinking of us! We r touched by ur gesture. You are correct to assume that our meetings will be delayed for some time. However I am determined to continue helping people in need and when the time comes i will call on all friends to lend a helping hand.*

*Thank you again*

*Rameen Javid  
Founder and Charter president  
Current president  
Rotary Club of Kabul City*

**Notices:** President Will called for reports.

**Welfare Report** – Rose Conley.

- Rosemary Kelly – Frank Kelly is back home after a nasty bout of a rare strain of pneumonia. He is getting stronger each day.
- Mary Ramsay – John is recovering very slowly.

**Tulip Time Festival** – Ian Langford.

- After much debate and consideration of numerous options, the Council decided yesterday that there would not be a conventional Tulip Time Festival this year. Depending upon the Health Regulations at the time, locals will be able to see the gardens but council employees will ensure that visitors scan the QR codes and numbers are kept low.
- The Council have told Ian that they will not require any help with gates from The Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong this year. Ian will talk to the staff and see if the Council need any help with any other events such as staff barbecues etc. He will also explore the possibility of the Club holding a Tulip Time barbecue in the garden or in Corbett Plaza some time during the period when the Festival would have been held.
- The Council staff are planning to run some sort of on-line Tulip Time Event where people will be able to view the tulips from home. This idea is still being worked on but see <https://www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au/event/tulip-time-festival/> for developments with this proposal.



**Bowral Classic Cycle Event** – Mary Ramsay.

- Mary reported that she had spoken with the Bowral Classic organisers and they are still deciding whether the event is viable. A decision will be made at the end of this week.
- Mary pointed out that the Classic usually involves cyclists from all over the country and also from New Zealand so it would seem highly unlikely that the event can be run unless there are a lot changes before October. Mary will keep the club informed once a decision has been made.

**Possible Projects** – Will Eddowes.

- Pop In Centre. Will reported that the Centre is buying a small shed for the back yard to replace the old shed at the side. The Club could erect the new shed (in way that it won't blow away!) and transfer the stored "stuff" to the new shed before demolishing the old shed. They are also buying a demountable to be used for a crèche but Will assumes that the purchase includes installation.
- Bush Fire Victim. Will Eddowes and Lynton Kettle will visit a bush fire victim somewhere south of Manchester Square in the Southern Highlands to assess whether we can help or not. It might be to assemble a demountable 2 bedroom house but trades might be required for plumbing and electrics.
- Will reported that a Grandmother who looks after a 4 year old child is moving house but needs a gate installing in the new premises to prevent the child running into the road. Will will assess and report back.
- BlazeAid has been postponed for the time being and Don and Chris Graham are locked down at beautiful Potato Point.

## Foundation – Leigh Robinson

- The Club Rotary Foundation committee met last night and has decided to postpone the Foundation fundraising dinner planned for November to sometime early next year. Southern Highland Wines has been informed and they understand that the current uncertainties make it difficult to plan for a definite date.
- Leigh also reported that he is on the District 9705 Environment Committee. There are 11 members from the district and they will be meeting on Wednesday evening.
- Leigh would like to see the Club be involved in a local tree planting project and will continue to enquire with the Council once the current lockdown ends. He will report back.

## Youth – Robert de Jongh

- Robert reported that the 2021 RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) Camp is due to be held at Wagga Wagga on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. At this stage only Frensham and Chevalier College have indicated any interest but others might be waiting to see what happens with lockdowns etc. (see <https://rotary9705.org.au/page/rypen>)
- Bowral High School has invited the Club to make a donation towards prizes at their graduation function. The Board has agreed to donate \$120 and Robert de Jongh will enquire whether they wish someone to attend or not. Last year due to the pandemic there were no visitors (including parents) allowed to attend and the teachers made the presentations.
- In previous years we have also donated to Bowral Public School and Mittagong Public School. Last year we gave \$120 to Mittagong Public School but Bowral Public School never contacted us and they probably didn't hold an event due to the pandemic.

## Speakers – Denise Coad.

- Next week Fiona Demark will be speaking on Zoom from Melbourne. See her bio that Trevor Fair circulated today and her web page <https://fionademark.com.au/> for more information.
- Other speakers (Dr Subhasis Talapatra, Tina McPherson, Wendy Lotter, Lucille Ellem, Tony Glenn and Sharelle Quinn) announced in last week's Tulip Times are all on hold to see when we can revert to face to face meetings.

## Membership – Luciano Liberale.

- Louie reported that he has a few potential members but he will wait until we are holding meetings again before introducing them to the Club.

## Other Business.

- Will Eddowes reported that the Shed cleaning day has been postponed due to the lockdown.
- Treasurer Jo Chalmers said that she would treat those members who had paid on line for the meeting cancelled last week as being in credit for the next Hermitage meeting. If anyone preferred to receive a refund they should contact her.

President Will Eddowes closed the meeting at 6:25pm.



# *Ideas for Lockdown*



- *Gardening*
- *Projects mentioned by President Will (dismountable home)*
- *5 Best Walks of the Southern Highlands*
  - *1. Berrima River Walk*
  - *2. Box Vale Walking Track*
  - *3. Carrington Falls*
  - *4. Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre*
  - *5. Barren Grounds*

**NETFLIX**

- *Netflix / Amazon / Applet TV*
- *Cook a nice meal for your home or someone else*

