

Rotary

Club of Epping



28 March
2022

Co-Presidents' Corner

Austerity Night



Celebration of Harmony Day with Mahboba Rawi



In celebration of Harmony Day, we invited Mahboba Rawi, OAM to talk to us about the situation in Afghanistan. This was our Austerity Fundraising evening for Mahboba's Promise.

The delicious meal was prepared by Ian Bittner and his partner Sunny followed by home-baked desserts donated by Anne Robinson, Heather Pinto, Monica Saville and Toula Serna

A very special thanks to Ian and Sunny who made a gargantuan effort at preparing and cooking the meal on the night. The planning and implementation of the operation was executed to military precision. They had thought of everything, and the feeding of the crowd went without a hitch. Ian, we truly appreciate your time and energy. You're an organiser "par excellence"!

The Rotary Club of Epping has had an enduring relationship with Mahboba's Promise, an Australian charity which raises money for

the impoverished women and children of Afghanistan. In her talk on Monday, Mahboba spoke about the developments in Afghanistan since August 2021, when the Taliban overran the country and installed themselves in power. She explained how many people lost their lives, thousands fled the country on foot and many became displaced. Many of the displaced people ended up in Kabul and its environs. Mahboba's Promise found itself caring for and supporting thousands of displaced families, because this small grassroots organisation found itself alone in the field. All the foreign NGOs had left the country, including the United Nations. They continue to support many of those families and have plans to distribute 15,000 food packages to needy families in time for Ramadan which commences in April.

Two of the organisation's Hope Houses (orphanages) were taken over by the Taliban. These are located in Panjshir and Takhar. Panjshir was a stronghold which resisted the Taliban fiercely. As a result, many of the toughest battles were fought there. All orphans in Panjshir were relocated to the Kabul orphanage. It took months of negotiations to get the properties back, but they are in a ruined state.

Mahboba's Promise applied for evacuations for over 100 of vulnerable Afghan people, particularly those from Panjshir. The Australian government approved the evacuation of 17 people. 16 females and one young boy with his family. This family of 7 are now residing in Brisbane and the remaining orphan girls are under the protection of Mahboba, as their legal mother. Mahboba was joined at the dinner by 6 of her girls who currently go to local schools and are happily adapting to the Australian way of life. They are as protective of her as she is of them.

Mahboba is devastated by the new rule to disallow girls from education beyond primary schooling. She says people are going underground with courses for girls, but there's a risk of being caught. The economic situation is dire and despite being one of the poorest nations on earth, poverty is on the increase.

If you wish to donate directly to Mahboba's Promise, you can do so at <https://mahbobaspromise.org/>

Toula

Next Monday - Pride of Workmanship Awards



Join us to celebrate our local businesses at

PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

Monday, April 4th, 6:00pm for 6:30pm start

The Epping Club, Rawson Street, Epping

\$40 for a Two Course Dinner

Partners and friends are welcome

RSVP

Deretta Andrews secretary@eppingrotary.org.au

Club Program

Friday, April 01, 2022	Launch of Community Garden	Community Event	North Epping Primary School
Saturday, April 02, 2022	Paramatta Walk	Trevor Organising	Paramatta
Monday, April 04, 2022	Pride of Workmanship	Acknowledgement of local businesses	Epping Club
Monday, April 11, 2022	David Furse-Roberts	Political History	Epping Hotel

Monday, April 18, 2022	No Meeting, Easter Monday		
Monday, April 25, 2022	No Meeting, Anzac Day Dawn Service		

Community Garden – Mulching in the Rain

In readiness for the Community Garden Launch on **Friday May 1**, Peter organised a small group of volunteers to help prepare the garden for display on Friday. With the help of Alan and his trailer, a couple of loads of mulch were procured and spread all around the garden.

Many thanks to Peter for organising and for Alan, Janet, Trevor and Michael (from NEPS) for helping out. It's lovely to see the garden so well presented.

I wish to thank ALL the volunteers who worked on this project. It has been truly inspirational example of what can be achieved when a club gets together.

I wish to extend special thanks to **Alan Cunningham** who has been a rock of support. He spent many hours doing physical labour and the use of his tools and trailer were much appreciate

A true friend





[Link to Community Gardens on our Web Site](#)

In preparation for the launch of the Community Garden on April 1, banners are being prepared and will be displayed at North Epping Primary School. The banners will include a QR-Code, which will lead to a page on our website. There you will find the story of the Community Garden, elegantly penned by Trevor McAlister.

Why don't you scan this QR-Code and follow the link to the story.

Toula



Blast From the Past!

On Wednesday night Geoff and I attended a concert of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Town Hall. We bumped into Warren, who was our caterer at Boronia Grove for many years when our club meetings were held there. He is now employed by the caterer who has the contract for all the Town Hall functions - weddings, dinners, balls etc. He said the room hire fee is \$20,000 and some people spend as much as \$120,000 on flowers alone for their functions!

He asked after our club and sends his best wishes to our members.

Monica Saville

RIM ARTICLES

Please send RIM articles to Alan at alan.baker.om@gmail.com _or_ rob@tosswill.com

Articles should be submitted by Thursday afternoon

Unsubscribe

If you wish to unsubscribe, please press the link [Unsubscribe](#)