

Cambridge Courier

**Information about our next Rotary Meeting:
Wednesday 21st September 2022**

Speaker: DG Ineke Oliver

Topic: Official DG's Visit

On Duty: Speaker Host, Introduction & thanks: **Ross Ledger**

Set up/Pack up: **Peter Pearse**

Coming up soon

Wednesday 28th September

Speaker: Shauna Kinney

Topic: tba

Speaker Host, Intro & thanks: **Peter Wagner**

Set up/pack up: **Max Puddey**

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

- *We will be conducting a Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 15th October. Please volunteer when the call is made.*
- *There will be a Council Fair at Lake Monger on Sunday 23rd October. We may decide to man a stall for that.*
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NEWS FROM LAST WEEK

Our very own Member Brian Downing was Guest Speaker today and his topic was Haunting Horn of Africa – dealing with the numerous problems that exist in four countries in that part of the world: Eritrea, Tigray, Somalia and Ethiopia. From 1983 to 1985 the worst Ethiopian Famine of the century affected about 8,000,000 people with 1,2 million dead and almost 200,000 children orphaned.

In 1985 the World Bank commissioned a small team of consultants to identify projects that could benefit people of Ethiopia and adjacent areas. A team that comprised of 2 Australians, 1 for Livestock and Brian for Ecology as well as locals for liaison and safety issues and a military escort providing protection. Strangely the same problem in 1984 has again erupted in 2022. With so much unrest in the region, corruption is rife. Brian warned of organisations like Rotary donating to these areas unless they had experienced people on the ground. Gifts like Shelter Boxes are not appropriate as the people are nomads who drift the countryside. Another example is a water hole that was donated to the village for the use of the cattle but the Government took over and charged the villagers for the water.

The Government also took over the sale of all cattle, which in turn, led to corruption and the local villagers suffering. Over the years, there has been many fund-raising efforts for this area and during the famine, Bob Geldof held a very large concert. It would be interesting to see how much of the benefits reached the starving people compared to donations siphoned off by the evil people.

Brian closed his talk by a quote from Ghandi: "The rich dare not appear bearing gifts of food and money before the starving masses, instead they should bring seeds and tools that the masses can become self-supporting".

Brian answered numerous questions and was suitably thanked by Rotarian Stan Robbins.



Toothache is a pain that drives you to extraction!

Birthdays: Rory Beattie (23 Sep)

Wedding anniversaries: Frank & Eileen Nathan (27 Sep)

Rotary anniversaries: none this time