

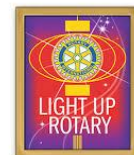


ROTARY CLUB of

WAGGA WAGGA KOORINGAL

ABN: 72 322 824 525

Chartered - 23rd July, 1969



District Governor 9700

DAVID KENNEDY

Blayney NSW

Australia

Initiated First World Peace Community

President – GREG GUTTler 2014-2015

RI President
GARY CK HUANG
Taipei Taiwan

PO Box 8019, Koorringal NSW 2650

waggakoorringalrotary@gmail.com

www.waggakoorringalrotary.org

JULY

Rotary New Year Resolution

'This year I'll be more aware of the need to promote Rotary, not just when I'm asked, but whenever the situation presents itself.' Ref RDU Mark Wallace

MEETING 45 - 04 **16 July, 2014**

Attendance Members - 24 Apologies - 8 Leave - 2 Absent - 0 Make ups - 4

Guests Chris Ellison

Visiting Rotarians Lance Gillespie (Narrandera), Doug Bell (Junelee)

International Toast **Rotary Club of Durban, South Africa** was chartered in 1925, has 19 members and meets at 5:30pm on Tuesday evenings in the Berea Bowling Club.

The first Rotary club in South Africa was Johannesburg in 1921. This club was followed by others in Capetown, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and elsewhere. By 1929, there were 12 clubs in South Africa forming part of District 55.

Another toast to Rotary and Rugby: the playoff teams in the Super Rugby have been decided with the top two teams having a rest. The Sharks are based in Durban and have been runners up four times.



PROGRAM TALE OF TWO SERVICES

Guest Speaker **Wing Commander, Chris Ellison - Commanding Officer**
RAAF School of Technical Training, Wagga Wagga



Wing Commander Ellison gave an interesting and informative account comparing his parallel lives in two services – **The Royal Australian Air Force and New South Wales Rural Fire Service**. He has been in the RAAF for 20 years and the fire service for 22 years.



Chris joined the Air Force through the **Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA)** in 1992, graduating as an aeronautical engineer. Although he tried being a pilot, he proved to be a better engineer posted to RAAF Richmond.

At **RAAF Richmond**, home of the C-130 Hercules, he pulled down these aircraft to piece parts, providing deeper component maintenance and would then rebuild them. For every pilot, there are seven other servicemen behind the scenes keeping the pilot and aircraft in the air. Maintenance is now outsourced by RAAF with some work contracted to industry. RAAF is more operationally focussed.

Next, he was posted to **RAAF Fairbairn** in Canberra as the Officer in Charge of flight line maintenance for the A26 Dassault Falcon 900s used to transport dignitaries such the Governor General, Prime Minister, members of the Australian government, other heads of state and visiting dignitaries to destinations within Australia and overseas.

He even had a larger seat belt devised for the King of Tonga.



Above - Dassault Falcon 900 used to carry Australian and visiting dignitaries and VIPs



Left – C-130 Hercules

In time, he returned to **Richmond** as a logistics manager for C-130J Hercules fleet doing productive work for all sorts of military and humanitarian purposes such as fodder drops. He was then appointed Senior Engineering Officer for 12 C-130H and 200 maintenance and supply personnel.

Chris was identified as Officer In Charge Maintenance for latter months of 2007 and deployed to the **Middle East** after practising manoeuvres to dodge missiles near Woomera in central Australia. With the assistance of 35 staff, Chris maintained three aircraft while in Qatar, Baghdad, Iraq and Kabul, Afghanistan often completing two tasks a day while stationed there.

With a limited selection of spare parts available, RAAF relied on the US for immediate assistance. This was a war on an industrial scale – a massive base supporting all manner of aircraft – tankers, B1 strategic bombers, Orion patrol aircraft, C17 transports.

During this time, he acted as escort officer for the Chief of Defence and the Minister of Defence visiting the troops in the region at Tarin Kot, Kabul, Kuwait City and Baghdad.

When the first Australian soldier, Trooper Darren Pearce was killed in Afghanistan, Chris was part of the support team which had a second aircraft overhead while the other was on the ground. It was paramount to provide love, care and attention in repatriating the Australian serviceman.

Chris admired the logistics operations of the Americans as there were 7 000 people carrying out all sorts of operations.

The Aussie sense of humour came to the fore when Australians held Hawaiian Shirt Friday but the serious Americans were not impressed.

Chris was selected to attend **Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, USA** where he was one of 70 international students among the 550 enrolled. He graduated as the highest performing international student. Australian, British and Turkish colleagues marked ANZAC Day together. It was definitely no holiday as he needed to rent a house, buy and register a car, as well as obtain a Social Security number to be able to live in the United States.

In 2012, he was posted to a staff position at **RAAF Wagga** before assuming command of RAAF School of Technical Training in 2014. The School of Technical Training caters for over 300 young men and women aged 18 to 22yrs providing technical training. In addition to their technical training, the RAAF invests a great deal of effort in developing, mentoring and guiding the management of welfare and values, equipping students with a strong ethical and moral framework to make courageous decisions in their technical and social lives.

Chris has been a member of the **NSW Rural Fire Service** since 1990 giving it longer voluntary service than his career in the RAAF. His father, a captain at Glenbrook-Lapstone at the base of the Blue Mountains encouraged him to join. His first major fire was in the **Blue Mountains** in 1994. This proved to be scary, exciting and a fascinating introduction to fighting massive fire and lasted a couple of weeks.

In 1997, when in Richmond Chris started with the **Yarramundi RFB** fighting fires sufficiently large enough to call in the RAAFies from Richmond.

He was posted to Canberra, joined **Queanbeyan RFB** and was involved in fighting the Canberra fires of 2003.

Then it was back to Richmond and **Yarramundi RFB** where the brigade handled incidents involving storm damage, car, structure and bush fires, some as a result of hazard reduction. Having been second in command for a number of years, he was elected captain in 2011 only to be transferred by the Air Force.

After joining **Lake Albert Rural Fire Brigade** in February 2012, Chris fought fires around Wagga-Mates Gully, Wokolena and Oura in January 2013, attended the Blue Mountains fires in October 2013 and the Humula/Carabost fires in January 2014.

He remarked that both organisations shared some common traits – providing practical help, making a contribution and having the opportunity to meet and work with people while having fun along the way.

Chris commented that he couldn't have achieved what he has without the support of his family including his three children.



AIR FORCE

Food for thought - *'You do not rise to the occasion in combat, in fire fighting or account management, you sink to the level of your training.'*

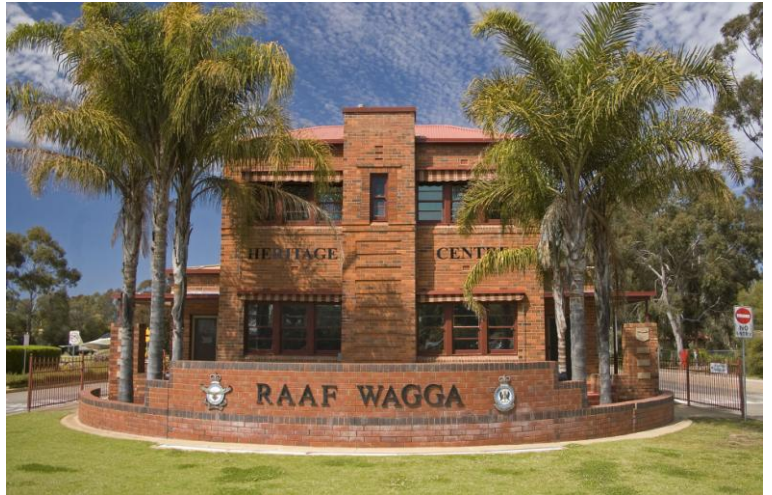
Do not expect the combat fairy to come and bless you with the combat wand and suddenly make you capable of doing things you've never rehearsed in life.' Wing Commander Chris Ellison

During question time, Chris told members that RAAF Wagga needed needs the correct balance of maintenance to update facilities while maintaining the character of the base. Efforts are still being made to locate missing items from the heritage centre. The F1-11, currently in storage requires special attention and shelter when put on display.

RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre may have been originally known as the Wagga Wagga RAAF Museum but was officially, RAAF Museum – Wagga Annex. It is a [heritage centre](#) located at the [Wagga Wagga RAAF Base](#) at [Forest Hill](#). The heritage centre has indoor and outdoor displays of aircraft, memorabilia and photographs relating to the RAAF in the Riverina.

Wagga Wagga RAAF Museum was officially opened in June 1995 from items from the RAAF Base Wagga and items which were donated by the community.

The museum was closed in 2001 for refurbishment with memorabilia temporarily relocated to the Point Cook RAAF museum. Plans to reopen the museum were quietly scrapped after the RAAF adopted a new policy in 2003 which stated that the RAAF would only fund a RAAF museum at Point Cook.



A campaign ran locally during September and October 2008 in an attempt to reverse the Australian Defence Force's decision.

On 13 December 2008, it was announced that the museum would reopen in 2009. The heritage centre was officially opened on 12 October 2010 and is open three days a week.

REPORTS

Youth: Gavin Davies

- National Youth Science Forum will take place at Grenfell on 20 July, this weekend.
- Youth Exchange – PP President Phillip Tome encouraged members to buy raffle tickets to support fundraising for Courtney Smith being sponsored by the club.
- he also advised that a fundraising dinner will be held at the Country Club on Friday 5 September and asked members to invite some friends to attend.

Service: Kevin Pascall

- Clean Up Wagga Wagga Day is Sunday 3 August and members are required to collect rubbish along Koorinal Road.
- Assistance will be needed to provide a BBQ and sandwiches for the Wagga Wagga Cycle Club on August 17.

Membership: Sid Clarke

- advised that the goal for increasing membership was to gain 8 members this year
- acknowledged that Lance Gillespie was attending the meeting.
- asked members to bring a prospective member to the Fellowship night on 30 July for a social evening of billiards and dinner.
- informed by President Greg Guttler that Greg Johnson will be inducted when he attends next.

Foundation: Phillip Tome

- encouraged members to consider donating \$100 to become a Centurion this Rotary year.
- advised that *last year's goal of 10 centurions was exceeded* with about half the club membership donating to The Rotary Foundation. It would be satisfying if we could maintain or increase this percentage in the coming year.



Fundraising for Major Projects – Sunflower House

- Co-ordinator Richard Pottie advised that the donation from Beyond Bank (formerly Wagga Mutual Credit Union) is forthcoming and that work will be able to begin about October for a finishing date in December.

Treasurer: Wayne Hooper

- advised members to ignore the first erroneous statement and to pay using subsequent invoices.
- **Please pay by the end of the month of July.**

President: Greg Guttler

- welcomed guests and reminded members of next week's program and roster.

DID YOU KNOW?



CONGRATULATIONS to these Rotarians from Junee RC who were awarded **Paul Harris Fellowships** in recognition of their involvement in their community and their Rotary club, in the spirit of **'Service above Self'**.

Junee

Graeme Guelfi

Junee

Lola Cummins

This means there have been 13 presentations of PHFs to Group 5 Rotarians.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the coming months, there are many worthwhile fundraisers taking place, so here is an 'earlybird' alert giving time to add to your calendar.

Biggest Ever Blokes' Lunches are simply HUGE Big Aussie Barbie's for men in regional areas across Australia and have raised significant funds for Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. They were founded by Chris McPherson who gathered together a group of men that had all been affected by the disease, and with their passion and enthusiasm they created the first Biggest Ever Blokes Lunch in Shepparton, Victoria.

Ref Prostate Cancer website



Biggest Ever Blokes' Lunch - Wagga Wagga

RSL Club Dobbs Street
12 noon
Friday, 5 September

\$900 per table of 10
or **\$95 each**

Tickets from 2WG booking office

for information contact -
ggorrell@bigpond.com

Guest Speakers – Sam Kekovich & Dr John Tickell
for more information contact - ggorrell@bigpond.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

IMPORTANT DATES to CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday !

23 Jul **Koorungal Rotary** **45 years**
 24 Jul RAAF Wagga celebrates 74 years

23 Jul	Meeting - 'The Haven' - Shane McMullen + special presentation
30 Jul	Fellowship (5th Wednesday) - Billiards & dinner at the RSL Club
31 Jul	Payment of semi- annual and meal dues
03 Aug	Service - Clean Up Wagga Wagga Day
06 Aug	Meeting - 'Dept of Ag' - David Croft
13 Aug	Meeting - DG David Kennedy's visit – Ladies' Night
17 Aug	Service - Catering Cycle Club
20 Aug	Meeting – 'Future Hope - MS ' Amanda Norman
27 Aug	Meeting – 'Dept of Fair Trading' - Kim Jenkins

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MEETING	45-5	45-6	45-7
COMING UP	23 July	30 July	06 August
Program Topic	The Haven	Fellowship	Dept of Ag
Guest Speaker	Shane Mc Mullen		David Croft
		5th Wednesday	
Set Up	Doug Willers		Doug Willers
Toast to Australia	Gavin Davies		Digby Foster
Grace	Bill Shaw	BILLIARDS	Brian Roberts
Fines Session	John Roberson	& DINNER	Dennis Bishop
Introduce Speaker	Reg Miegel	RSL Club	Doug Willers
Vote of Thanks	Jack Morgan		Barry Elliott

2014 – 2015 - Dinner Program Co-ordinator, Doug Masterson
 Bulletin Reporters - Phillip Tome & Ted Wolfe / Photographer - Dennis Bishop

REMINDERS

MEETING Wednesdays - Wagga Country Club, Plumpton Rd - 6:00pm for 6:30pm
Apologies – Ken Post on 0418 693 648 by noon on Tuesday.
Absence without an apology will require payment.

Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Koorungal - waggakoorungalrotary.org

**Thank
you**

**to Wing Commander Chris Ellison
or the summary of his presentation.**