



Toowoomba Meeting 24/02/2020

Members Present	21
Apologies	17
Absent	3
Raffle Winner	No. 34 Greg James

Sergeant Alan Twiddle

Meeting opened at 6.00pm with The Four-Way Test – Read by Sergeant and members toast to “Rotary International”.

Welcome by President David Snow.

Guest Speakers: Dr Rebecca Vonhoff

Members Guests:

President Notices:

- RFDS – Transfer station – 2 meetings with council held – will be delayed by council elections – reached out to local member to extend grant period.
- Ernie Potts late apology – sister passed away and travelling to Rockhampton.
- Salem project – Raised garden beds update.
- While Rotary Theme “come when you can” “come as you are” reminder it is important to have apologies in by Friday 5.00pm for catering – the club will be paying for 10 extra meals this week due to late apologies/absences.

Directors Reports:

- Chris Clark – Dubs on the Hill 8 March 2 shifts 4/6 people required. Jeff Collard & Greg James to run in Chris’s absence. Start set up 8.00pm to pack up finish 2.00pm. Please email your availability to Chris.
- Trailer road worthy being completed – currently weight has been assessed as 1 ½ t too heavy. Looking at options.
- Clive Armitage: Update on position of farmers in SA. Highlighted only 1 of 26 applications for refugee status he is aware of approved. Looking for direction/assistance of how he can help improve and assist.

Secretary’s announcements:

- **Burke & Wills meals** – they will cater for special requests – please submit via secretary – also these meals are specially prepared and if you do not attend they go to waste. Standard arrangements are permitted as long as apologies are received by 5.00pm Fridays.

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Sergeant's Session:

- **Notable fines:** Rotaries 115th birthday.

Guest Speaker: Dr Rebecca Vonhoff

Married to a Canadian medical doctor with three children. Local girl who moved to Canada for love but has returned home to offer her children the wonderful life experience of growing up in this region.

PHD in German history and has worked for the Australian/Courier mail and Chronicle newspapers in Australia and is currently running for local council.

Presentation is about her experience as Foreign Correspondence the "The Globe & Mail" Canada's national newspaper established in 1844.

Has an appetite for robust news and sought opportunity to work for the Globe and Mail but it was difficult to get a start. Entering a charity bike ride on the newspapers team – 250km offered opportunity for conversations with many employees. With much persistence finally got a start at the bottom.

Worked her way up to Deputy Foreign Editor 7 years and acting Foreign Editor 6 months.

Worked with many outstanding and renowned people. Many award winners.

Job centred on three key areas:

- Ideation
- Safety of reporters
- Getting the story

Had to develop strong relationships with reporters – adopted collaborative style and also needed to be able to read personalities.

Had to learn to manage high risk – reporters operated in hostile environments – undertook specialised training.

A particular highlight of her time with the paper was the reporting of Joanna Slater on the refugee crisis in Europe in 2015. Story was told through the eyes of individuals.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm with singing of the National Anthem.

