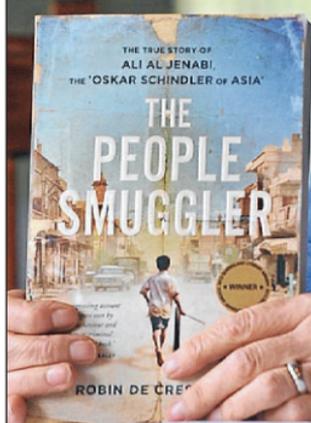


**HUMANIST  
VIEW:**  
Author of  
*The People  
Smuggler*  
Robin de  
Crespigny  
in Wagga  
yesterday.  
Picture:  
Addison  
Hamilton



– For further information visit  
[www.thepeoplesmuggler.com](http://www.thepeoplesmuggler.com)

# Voice for asylum seekers

►WAGGA

By Caleb Taylor

AMID rhetoric that includes terms like “queue jumpers” and “boat people”, author Robin de Crespigny’s book *The People Smuggler* puts a human face to asylum seekers.

Ms de Crespigny was speaking at a Sunrise Rotary Club breakfast in Wagga yesterday about her book, which profiles Iraqi people smuggler, Ali Al Jenabi, who provided safe passage from Indonesia to Australia for more than 500 Iraqis.

The author said she wanted to give a voice to asylum seekers and people smugglers, who were often vilified by political leaders and media commentators.

“We are told they are out charging in excess of \$10,000 to give asylum seekers safe passage to Australia, which is nonsense,” she said.

“If you had \$10,000 then you

could buy yourself a suit, briefcase, plane ticket and claim asylum at customs.”

Ms de Crespigny said misinformation was rife, even challenging terms like “queue jumpers.”

“There is no queue,” she said.

“Australian representatives have a quota to fill when visiting United Nations refugee camps, which is done by a selection process.”

Mr Al Jenabi was born in 1970, just south of Baghdad.

In 1991 he was caught by Saddam Hussein’s army during the Shiite uprising and imprisoned in Abu Ghraib for four years.

He escaped to Iran with his family, submitting an application for asylum in Australia, which was rejected.

He sought passage with a people smuggler but was betrayed, an act which left him in Indonesia.

He became a people smuggler, offering safe passage to Iraqi people fleeing from prosecution, often allowing children and families to travel for free.