



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Meeting

statistics:

Attendance: 28 of 37 = 75%

Visiting Rotarian:

Guests: Roger Wheatley (Jan P)

Apologies: Geoff B, Helen B, John C, Mark C, Alan D, Elaine S

Leave: Brenda C, Brad C, Joe V

We also missed:

COMING MEETINGS

May 23 Pride of Workmanship
May 30 John Mercer
June 13 Noel Trevaskis
June 20 Sarah Kaempfer
June 27 Changeover Dinner

Please advise Darrell (Ph 0407 411 422, 64521159, dqcooma@bigpond.net.au) of apologies for the coming meeting, also if you are bringing a guest. Failure to advise of absence will incur a dinner cost.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

Birthdays: Hans (Claire) 1/5, John K 7/5, Alyson 19/5,

Joined Rotary: Bob King 13/5/54, Margaret E 24/5

Thought of the Week: Marco

A lie can travel half way round the world before the truth has laced up its shoes.

**Rotary Club of Cooma
Inc**

May Theme:

Youth Services

16 May 2018

Guest Speaker – John King

MAY

PROPERTY: Penny, Darrell
ATTENDANCE: Dugald, Richard H
FELLOWSHIP: Peter, Elaine S
3 MINUTER: 16/5 Glenys
 23/5 Joe 30/5 Hass
INTRO: 16/5 Geoff
 23/5 30/5 John Ch
THANKS: 9/5 Mark JN 16/5 Marco
 23/5 20/5 Claire
MARKETS: Sue, Alyson, Mark C, Neil,
Penny, Glenys, Brad
COFFEE VAN: Mark JN, John Ch

If you are rostered on for the markets and know ahead of time, PLEASE find a replacement, giving plenty of notice.



INFORMATION

The District Conference for 2018/19 will be held in Cooma on 5-7 October. Some of the speakers will be Kerry Kornhauser - End Trachoma Project, Martha Jabour - Homicide Victims Support Group, Stephanie Woollard - Seven Women Project, Tino Babao - Food Plant Solutions, and Geoffrey Graham - Dinkum Oz show.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dave

Volunteers are required to support the Red Shield Appeal 2018.

We need people to sit at collection points at Aldi, Coles and Woolworths for stints of 2 hours, from Monday 21st May.

We also need others to take part in the annual door knock on the 26th and 27th May.



Sue S advised she had received a call advising Claire N was in hospital following a fall. The hospital was transferring Claire to Canberra for surgery. Our thoughts are with Claire at this time.

3 MINUTER - Sandra

Sandra was born to a farmer and his wife in the wheat belt of Western Australia. She has three sisters and had a happy childhood with much freedom and love.

Her Dad decided to sell the farm as it was not usual for daughters to inherit property and he also didn't want to send his three youngest children away to boarding school as had happened to the eldest. So the family moved to Geraldton where Sandra undertook her secondary education. She was doing really well at her studies until she met Terry. She did complete Year 12 but it wasn't as good as it could have been – distractions you know. The first job she got after leaving school was as a wet chemist for a mining company. She married Terry and they brought a caravan planning to travel.

At this time, the price of gold was going up so the gold mines were reopening and Terry, who was a plumber, got work at Mount Magnet, the area was dry, hot and barren. Sandra was not working so she and another wife spent time travelling around armed with a metal detector to see if they could find some gold – they didn't find any. They spend about 6 months at Mount Magnet before heading back to Geraldton where Terry was offered another job with the same company at Mount Newman in the Pilbara region of WA. It was more barren, redder and hotter than Mount Magnet but it was also cold.



In the van in the mornings it was so cold the floor would freeze your feet. Sandra always got up first and turned the heater on and then when it was warm Terry would rise for a day at work. They were here for about a year and made a good life there.

It was then back to Geraldton again before heading off to Port Headland on the coast, it was still hot and barren but you had the ocean.

This is the end of the first part of the 38 years of marriage for Sandra and Terry. We have joined them in the latest phase of their adventure-filled life following their move to Cooma in September 2017.



BOARD MEETING OUTCOMES

- A draft document regarding selection criteria for short-listing future local Rotary projects was provided to members for comment. Direct any input to Carlo for consideration prior to the development of the final document.
- A decision regarding meetings on all Wednesday s in a month was put to a vote following discussion. The decision based on a count of 21 of 28 attending members was for meetings to be held on all Wednesdays starting 4th July 2018.
- It was decided, by majority vote, that Business Meetings/Club Assembly would be held every 2 or 3 months as deemed appropriate.
- A change to the Meeting Agenda will include the once a month presentation of a board report to occur in place of a 3 Minuter.
- There is still a need for a couple of volunteers to provide assistance and support for Alyson at the markets.
- Jan P has agreed to work with Elaine S to learn what goes on behind the scenes of the Duck Race. This is with a view of moving into the role permanently when Elaine chooses to retire from being coordinator.
- At this point in time, the Spring Ball will not go ahead this year due to a full spring calendar.
- This week Tom Keevers wrote to Mark John-Natley advising of his resignation from the Cooma Rotary Club but advised he has

become a member of the Goulburn Rotary Club.



GUEST SPEAKER – JOHN KING

John shared with us some of the service his Dad undertook during WWII.

Mr King's service began in Cooma prior to 1939 as a member of the Light Horse Troop. During a trip back to England to introduce his wife to her new family, war broke out.

Mr King enlisted in the Royal Glastonbury Hussar Armour Regiment. Following training he gained the rank of 2nd lieutenant. In 1940 the regiment deployed to Libya in the Middle East, they were part of many skirmishes.

The superiority of the German tanks and guns was a surprise to the Allied forces, who, at this stage were quite overwhelmed. The first major battle was mainly tank and infantry. Following this encounter, he received his first Military Cross for performing as squadron leader to the tank forces.



His next battle was at Knightsbridge in 1942 and it was a disaster. The regiment was decimated with only about 50 members surviving. He went on command the Essex regiment. The battle of Alam el Halfa, which occurred the between the first and second battle of El Alamein, was the turning point in the war in North Africa. The desert heat and sand was exhausting. It was a time of much

sadness and Mr King was lucky to survive after having 5 tanks shot out from under him in one day.



A high point of the war was when he met Bernard Montgomery, one of the most brilliant tactical minds of the period, and they became good friends. John still has much correspondence exchanged between the men. Rommel was finally defeated at the 2nd Battle of El Alamein, many Italians were taken prisoner, and Tobruk was finally liberated. The next stop for Mr King was back in England to train tank regiments but became a bit bored due to the Army's orders of 'hurry up and wait'. To alleviate the boredom, he and four others decided to take a course in bomb disposal. They helped to clear any unexploded bombs from around London but when there were only two of them left they decided it was time to retire from that line of work.



John was born just before D-Day but didn't get to meet his father for several months. Mrs King worked as a nurse and ambulance officer and when she was pregnant worked in Churchill's Office. There was one enemy encounter when she was on a train which as

strafed by enemy first she was hurt quite badly but both survived.

Time then moved on to D-Day and the invasion of Normandy. Mr King took charge of modifying tanks. They removed the turret and installed flayers to the front of the tank for bomb disposal and flamethrowers and decking on the top of the tank. The decks were removable and used to get the tanks over the sea walls. Removal of the turrets also meant the tanks could be used for carrying troops; they were the first of the armoured personal carriers we know today. During this time Montgomery also utilised his services in an ongoing manner.

Following D-day Mr King was awarded a second Military Cross. He commanded armoured personal carriers (APCs) known as kangaroos through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. By 1944 he was in command of all the APCs in Germany all the way to Hamburg, took the surrender and become Administrator and an Acting Colonel. He not only had to look after his own men but the starving locals also.



He finally demobbed in 1947 and returned to Berridale and the farm.

The Snowy River Shire Council decided he could become the Defence Officer for the region due to the nuclear threat of the Cold War. He told them the greatest threat to the Snowy River Shire was bush fire and flood. They parted ways soon after.

In 1958 the Berridale Council offices were opened by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and John was there with Mr King and she noticed the medals he was wearing. Mr King told her the DSO was awarded to him by her late father. She said to John he must be so proud of his father and he responded that he was.

“LEST WE FORGET”