



**COMING MEETINGS**

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Jenny Goldie, Environmental Activist

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Pat Cleaver – Monbeef

18<sup>th</sup> March – Andrea Forsythe – Snowy Mountains Regional Recovery Officer

25<sup>th</sup> March – Peter Thompson – Ambulance Officer

**Rotary Club of Cooma**

**Theme:  
Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention  
Month**

**Darren Carr – Cooma Challenge**

**Meeting statistics:**

**Attendance:**

**Guests:**

Johanna, Graham French, Darren Carr, Graeme Jones (Club), Roger Wheatley (Jan)

**Apologies:**

Peter B, Neil, Kevin, Katrin, Sally

**Leave**

Darrell, Brad, Claire, Alan

*For apologies or guests for upcoming meetings, please advise Brenda at 6453 5585 or [blenderandherdefender@hotmail.com](mailto:blenderandherdefender@hotmail.com)*

*Failure to advise of absence will incur a dinner cost.*

**Significant Dates: February**

**Birthdays:**

25<sup>th</sup> Elaine M

**Date Joined Rotary:**

**Rosters for March 2020**

**Attendance**

**Property**

**Fellowship**

**Thought** 4<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>

**3 Minuter** 4<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>

**Intro** 4<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>

**Thanks** 4<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup>  
18<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>

**Market** 15<sup>th</sup>

## Announcements

### Ashley

Welcome back John K, best wishes to Hass on her upcoming surgery.

There is a Board Meeting on Monday 2 March 2020 starting at 5.30pm, location 66 Hawkins Street, Cooma. All member are welcome to attend.

**From this week onwards apologies and guest notifications are to be sent to Brenda at 6453 5585 or [blenderandherdefender@hotmail.com](mailto:blenderandherdefender@hotmail.com)**

We received an invitation from the Snowy Monaro University Centre to join students, staff and board members on 6 March at 10am to celebrate 7 years of providing a place for local tertiary students to study without having to leave the area.

### Hass

Our sympathy to Christine Cuttle and the members of the Bombala Rotary Club on the passing of Past President, Jak Cuttle. His funeral is on Tuesday afternoon at St Matthias Church in Bombala at 2pm.

The final District 9710 Conference is being held at Ulladulla on 7 – 8 March 2020. There is still time to book. One of the guest speakers is Sarah Brown from the Purple House. The Purple House is a health facility built on country for indigenous people so they can receive treatment for health issues without having to travel. She is a brilliant speaker. See attached flyer for more details.



### Mark JN

The District Rotary Youth Exchange Committee received a communique detailing precautions which are in place for Rotary Exchange students currently overseas, particularly for those located in known Corona virus locations.

Our student, Siobhan, is in Northern Italy so is subject to quarantine restrictions. She is not able to attend school for the next two weeks, but she is not too sad about this as she has to spend time on the shore of Lake Como. At the moment she is safe, but the Committee will continue to monitor the situation.

### Glenys

She and Marco recently went to the President Elect Training event. They both learnt a lot about the new things happening in Rotary and about how things will work following the combination of clubs into a new district.

### Terry

This month's market incorporates the Multicultural Festival, and will be a busy event. John Clarke will be the Market Manager for the day as Terry will be away.

## **Peter D**

Many thanks to the Cooma Rotary Club for the assistance provided to the Cooma RFS during the recent bushfire event.

## **John CI**

The club is still in need of new members and a good way to get new members is to invite people to meetings as guests. You don't need to consider only people who would make good Rotarians: you need to look for people who have an interest ways to provide service to their Community.



## **3 Minuter - Des**

The recent bushfires have brought back some memories of earlier times. When he was located at Bogan Gate, farmers used to put some fire restrictions in place around their properties. They would cut fire breaks which were about 20 foot in size along roadsides and sometimes around fence lines. This would protect paddocks from potential fires, especially those which may have been caused by discarded cigarettes.

He grew up in Nimbin and his brother still lives there and at the moment farmers can graze their stock along the sides of the road as long as there is an electric fence erected to keep the stock contained.

Farmers do many things to make sure their lands are protected.

## **Guest Speaker – Darren Carr – Cooma Challenge**

Darren is the CEO of Cooma Challenge and was accompanied by Graeme Jones who is an Employee in ADE and the Office, along with being the Chair of the Work Health and Safety Committee.

Cooma Challenge started 1954 as the Cooma Branch of NSW Subnormal Children's Welfare Association offering schooling for children with intellectual disabilities. Since 1954 the organisation has changed and disability services have also changed. But since their start in 1954 they have continuously provided educational services of one sort or another since starting. It was started by parents who were not satisfied with the schooling opportunities their children were receiving.

In 1959 the Snowy Mountains Authority donated building corner Soho and Cromwell Streets where services are still offered. In 1981 the Federal Government took full responsibility for educating children with a disability. The Organisation still had a purpose and provided work opportunities for many of the children they'd previously educated.

In 1983 they built a facility at Walgarra Street on site of former Cooma East Primary School, now site of Aged Care services. In 1985 the Subnormal Children's Welfare Association changed its name to Challenge Foundation. In 1983 they became Cooma Challenge Ltd. - became a Company Ltd. by Guarantee in its own right.

Their vision still is to provide services and opportunities and services to the community which is locally controlled for the foreseeable future. They provide services across the Snowy Monaro region, as far north as Michelago and as far south as just before the Victoria border.

Services across Snowy-Monaro Region encompass Aged Care and Disability services.

Aged Care in Community for people living at home includes personal care (eg showering), domestic assistance (eg cleaning, shopping). This group is the largest group they work with. They also provide Centre Based Respite at Walgarra Street and Flexible Respite.

The focus in aged care is wellness and reablement this means providing support clients to remain in their own homes and to keep their independence.

The Disability work is much more varied. Focus is client choice and control which include:

- Independent Living Skills, Community Engagement/ Social inclusion, Daily Living
- Group Activities - Art Group, Men's Group
- Transport
- Australian Disability Enterprise - Pamphlet Delivery, Garden Maintenance, Gas Bottle cleaning, Office Work, IT Support, Support Work
- Pathways 2 Employment - works with school leavers
- Group Home - Supported Independent Living
- NDIS Plan Management
- Support Co-ordination to access other services

The future for Cooma Challenge:

- Developing more Group Homes
- Staffing challenges attracting and retaining staff
- Cooma East Primary School redevelopment, hopefully a community project

The key thing for Cooma Challenge is to keep local control even though there are pressures to consolidate. Remaining independent:

- Ensures broad range of services available locally that meet needs of participants
- They don't cherry pick the most profitable services to offer (and undermine local services)
- Relationship with client and their interests paramount

They would like to develop greater community engagement. They would like more of the community to join as members. There is a membership fee of \$11 which means you:

- Can attend the AGM.
- Receive the Annual Report
- Are able to vote in or stand for Board election

