



COMING MEETINGS

September 19 Neville Locker
Local History
September 26 Ross Williams
Snowys Place

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.

Meeting statistics:

Attendance: 24 of 34 (70.5%)

Visiting Rotarian:

Guests: David Abraham (Club), Roger Weakly (Jan) Lyn Brown (Richard), Sandra & Tony Mortimer (Jeanette)

Apologies: John Ch, Alan D, Katrin, Margaret H, Richard H, Ashley

Leave: Brenda, Mark C, David B

SIGNIFICANT DATES

September dates:

Birthdays: 2nd Alan D, 7th Jan, 15 Allan S, 19th Claire, 25th Darrel

Date Joined Rotary: 13th Katrin

If you are rostered on for any activities and you cannot fulfil the duties, please organise a substitute or contact Ashley Constance for meeting duties or Carlo Botto for market duties.

SEPTEMBER ROSTER 2018

Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Theme:

Membership and New Club

Development Month

12 September 2018

David Abraham
Family Migration to Australia

Property		Neil, John Ch
Attendance		Dave H, Allan S
Fellowship		Peter, Ashley
Thought	19th	Geoff
	26th	Jeannette
3 Minuter	19th	Jan
	26th	Marco
Intro	19th	Carlo
	26th	Kevin
Thanks	19th	Neil
	26th	Elaine Mooney
Markets	16th September	
		Carlo, Sue, Alyson/Robyn Ash
		[Food Van] Brenda, Jeannette, John Clarke
		Coffee Van Mark J.N, Brian



Welcome Sandra and Tony Mortimer to the Cooma Rotary Club and to the Rotary International Family.

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.

Register at:

<https://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/store/district-conference-registration.html>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

John K

The District Conference Committee have been working like Trojan's and have done a great job. There are some amazing Guest Speakers attending, register so you can come and hear them. Form A's have been handed around, please complete them if you think of anyone who might like to become a Rotarian.

Glenys

The "Volunteer" list has been handed around and is also on the last page of this week's Bulletin. If you think we have missed any tasks, let us know. If you are not on the list and would like to be email me as any other volunteers are welcome.

Many hands make light work!

Mark JN

All food at the District Conference is being catered. Those who have registered to attend have paid for their meals. If you are volunteering but not attending and would like to eat contact myself or any of the Committee members to let us know so food can be provided and costs advised.

Ashley

A save-the-date notice. We will be holding a film night in early November 2018 featuring **Bohemian Rhapsody** – The Story of Queen and Freddie Mercury. This is a fundraiser for the End Polio Now Project.

Elaine

The October Duck race tickets are now available for sale. Volunteers are needed to sell at various locations please complete the form to indicate availability. A table has been booked for the Neil Diamond Tribute Night being held at the Bowling Club on Saturday 22nd September from 7pm.

There is a group of 14 so far, if you are interested pay at the bar, cost \$20 plus booking fee.

Penny V

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist at the Busking Event in November is welcome to attend a meeting at 5.30pm next Wednesday at the Bowling Club.

Neil B

Richard arranged for SMEG books to be available for sale by Lorraine at Cooma Power Equipment. So far about \$900 has been raised for local projects. These books will also be given as gifts to the Conference Guest Speakers and will also be available to buy at the conference.

Thought of the Week - Marco

Tomorrow is the day that lazy people have the most to do.

The only person who got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe.



3 Minuter – Richard B

When Richard attended school in 1957 names regularly included Abraham, Mack, Smith, Jones and Brown. With the onset of the Snowy Mountains Scheme joining these names were some much less common such as Ellerown, Sonsabarina and Stistol. Prior to this, there were Chinese people on the Australian gold fields. This shows Australia has been a multicultural country for many decades.

GUEST SPEAKER – David Abraham

David chose to share with us a letter written by his Uncle Les about his father. My name is Leslie Raymond Abraham. I was born at Bombala NSW in 1925 and registered as Leslie Raymond Sayig at birth. My surname was

changed in the 1960s by Deed Poll. I am the third child of George Abraham and Olga Abraham (nee Williams - name changed from Resuk).

My father came to Australia in 1897 aboard the ship "Annand Behic". His Certificate of Naturalization No 17/266 is dated 6 August 1903 - it states he was 24 years of age - that he was a native of Syria and that his occupation was storekeeper's Assistant. He came from a small town called Mushghara which is in the country now called Lebanon. His name was George Abraham Sayig - but I suspect that because of language problems he was called George Abraham. He had two brothers and three sisters, who were all younger than Dad and who, like my father, left their native country and settled in the United States of America.



My father's first job in Australia was painting in the dock areas of Sydney. It was not long before he moved to Macksville NSW where he worked on a Banana Plantation, which I think was owned by some of the Bookallil Family who were his cousins. He moved to Cooma and worked on a farm near Bunyan - also owned by the Bookallil Family. I am not sure when he branched out into selling clothes - but he used to walk throughout the district with his merchandise on his back before upgrading to a horse and buggy. He moved around the Monaro District visiting grazing properties and often retold his stories to our family of his experiences with the local people and the gold miners at Kiandra.

He established a Mixed Business in the main street of Cooma and in 1921 he married my mother and they lived at the rear of the shop until 1926 when they built a brick home in Cooma. Incidentally, that home is used today by Radio Station 2XL Cooma. My parents had eleven children - seven girls and four boys.

The shop was called the "Busy Bee", it was well known in the district and during the Second World War and subsequent years it was a meeting place for young and old. My sisters Joan, Shirley and Barbara worked in the shop with Dad. The property was next door to the Australian Hotel and was sold to Woolworths in 1955.

My father did not return to Lebanon after his arrival

in Australia in 1897.

I can remember my father when I was very young he worked in the shop - had a huge vegetable garden which he cultivated in his spare time - split his own firewood for my mother's stove. Because we were a large family, on his infrequent trips to Sydney, it became a matter of "whose turn" it was to go with him. In going to and from the shop he drove several different models of cars but my memory is of a "Whippet Sedan" which required the lifting of the bonnet before starting, to turn on the petrol (it was a gravity feed) and repeating the procedure to turn it off when you reached your destination. My father held a driver's license to well into his 80's and if you were ever approaching Mack's Corner at the intersection of Sharp and Bombala Streets and you heard the sound of a car horn, it was my father - he would not stop, but at least he would let you know he was in the area. His last vehicle was a 1937 Dodge sedan, which was driven by my sister, Barbara.

My father was a wonderful person - he was honest and a hard worker and always provided for his large family. We were all educated at the Brigidine Convent in Cooma. Our family home was always a very happy one, to which my mother made a tremendous contribution - just imagine raising eleven children today.

The family met every year and even today we continue to hold our family reunion where over one hundred of us get together for the day. At last count George and Olga had 32 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren.

I can remember Dad playing cards with John Mack (Snr) and frequently visiting "Grandma" Bookallil. He loved Rugby League Football and never missed a local match. He was a household name and legend in the Cooma District, known and respected by everyone.

He died in 1971 at age 95 - although I believe he was 92 and he would be very agitated if you tried to tell him he was aged other than 95. On the day he died a well-known Cooma resident said to me "Your father was a good man and he has left all the Abraham family with a very good name."



Conference “Volunteers”

DAY	Job Description	Name of Rotarian	Time slot required
Thursday	EVERYTHING AND NOTHING!	Glenys, Jeanette, John Katrin	All Day from 8.30am
	Curtains, Lights, Tables, Bar area decorations Floor marking	Terry, Neil Brown, Ash Constance, John Clark, Carlo Botto, Sue Schramm, Penny Vos	All Day from 10am
FRIDAY	Setting up tables Chairs decorations	Glenys, Jeannette, Katrin, Sue Schramm, Penny Vos	All day from 9am Until finished
		Darrell, Richard John C John K	All day from 9am Until finished
Saturday	Registration	Katrin Hackney, Richard Brown, Dugald Mitchell	7:30- 8:25
	National Anthem with Bombala Choir	Darrell Gaukroger	8:15-8:45
	Stage Manager+ helper	John Chapman SM David Holgate (brawn)	8:00am-
	Morning Teas	Mark JN + (mark to organize helpers)	9:00am?
	Drink Station	Penny Vos Sandra Mortimore	8.30am intervals during day as required Filling water and clearing and cleaning glasses
	MEET and Greet	Katrin Hackney, Richard Brown, Dugald Mitchell,	10:25-10:55
	Duck Raffle	Elaine Schofield Jan Payne	10:25-10:55
	Toilet Cleaners Monitors	Jan Payne, Kevin Dunne	1x Every hour
	Set Up for Evening Meal	Jeanette Glenys Sue Penny Katrin Mark John Natley John Clark Terry Maddren Peter Davis Marco Revelant	4:30-6:45
	Sat Evening Clean up reset for Sunday	Terry Glenys MarkJN, Marco Relevant, Kevin Dunne, Carlo	End of evening until finished
Sunday	Registration	Katrin Hackney Allan Spence	
	Stage Manager	John ChapmanSM David Holgate (brawn)	
	Water station	Penny & Sandra	
	Toilets monitors	Jan Payne & Kevin Dunne	
	BBQ	Sue Schramm John King Ashley Constance Brenda Constance Terry Maddren	
	Clean-up	Marco R, Wolfgang L, David H, Darrell G, MarkJ N, Terry M Glenys M Jeannette C, John C, Katrin H, ASHLEY c, Robyn Crooks, Brenda CB, John K, Neil B, Anyone who wants to help	Bins, Decorations, Chairs, Tables, Napery, Cleaning, Dismantling hall, Returning borrowed products LOCKING UP YAH!