



COMING MEETINGS

16 January
Lions/Rotary Bowls Night

23 January
Cards/Trivia Night

30 January
Richard Brown – The Quail Family

Rotary Club of Cooma

Theme:

Vocational Service Month

9 January
Richard Swain – Feral Horses

Meeting statistics:

Attendance: 29 of 36

Visiting Rotarians:

Guests: Richard Swain (Club),
Richard Wheatley (Jan P)

Apologies: Brad, Elaine M, Allen S,
Mark C

Leave: David B, Brenda

We also missed:

Please advise Darrell (Ph 0407 411 422, 64521159, dgcooma@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.

ROSTERS FOR JANUARY 2019	
Attendance	Darrell Wolfgang
Property	Sue Dave Holgate
Fellowship	Ash Jeannette
Thought	16th Bowls Night 23rd Geoff 30th Des
3 Minuter	16th Bowls Night 23rd Mark Cooper 30th Penny
Intro	16th Bowls Night 23rd Card/Trivia Night 30th Peter
Thanks	16th Bowls Night 23rd Card/Trivia Night 30th Tony
Markets	20th January Carlo, Sue, Alyson, Mark J.N Van / Bbq Ash, Neil, Terry, Glenys, John K Coffee Van Mark J.N, Brian, Tony

ANNOUNCEMENTS



It is with sadness we farewell long time Cooma Rotary Member, Dave L. He was a Paul Harris Fellow who designed and built the current Rotary BBQ.

There will be an event to remember Dave at the Cooma Car Club on Friday 18th January starting a 4pm. Anyone who knew Dave is welcome to attend.

John K

A small delegation of Cooma Rotarians travelled to Balranald on Friday 21 December 2018. They were warmly welcomed by the locals, and feted at a local pub (20kms out of town) enjoying fellowship and a good feed.



With the funds raised from Adaminaby, RAWCS and other donations we provided \$12,000 worth of vouchers to people in Balranald. Then a further \$6,000 to the people at the far end of the Shire in a very small town called Euston.

Many expressions of appreciation were sent to all the people that assisted in the raising of the funds to provide support and lift the spirits of those in the drought affected communities.



Thought of the Week - Peter D

Good plans only fail if they have bad luck, but bad plans need good luck to succeed.



Three Minuter – Neil B

Neil went on a trip to Nepal in late November 2018. This was not just a holiday but it was the opportunity for him and Neema to take part in a cultural wedding.

He had a wonderful three weeks being part of the Sherpa culture. At the wedding, he was supported by two mates and a close female friend who stood as his family at the wedding. Family is very important in Sherpa culture and at wedding the Bride's family sing to the Grooms family and then the roles reverse. A sign that it was a great event was that the grog bill was higher than the venue rental and food combined.

While he was there, they managed to celebrate a birthday, have a honeymoon, fly over Everest and held a cultural funeral memorial for Neema's parents.

It was a full-on three weeks but he feels very blessed.



Guest Speaker – Richard Swain

In 1966, Richard’s Dad came to the region and lived at Carruthers. He was in charge of the restoration of the main range due to the damage caused by stock. The family settled in the area and Richard was born here.

During the mid-1800’s the Summer Leases started in the mountains but by the mid-1900’s people realised the mountains could not cope with hard hooved animal. To stop siltation it was necessary to remove stock from the mountains.

In 1944 the Kosciusko State Park Act, was created to try to protect the natural resources, flora and fauna of the region.



Ricard attended a conference in November 2018 at which 91 scientists attended and listened to the presentation of 21 peer-reviewed studies of the effect of horses on mountain areas. Horses have an impact not only on native flora and fauna but also on water supplies. Water is our heritage not horses.

The original inhabitants considered the health of the land and the health of the people when making life decisions. The area locals were famous for songs, dance and ceremonies. They did not need the Bogong moth as a food source due to the variety of foodstuffs readily available.

The moths were a delicacy eaten at corroborees attended by local and visitors.



The word Monaro or Maneroo means cleavage and it was where the yam (munjang) fields were. They were considered a super food. The name Nimmitabel means a rock and it is a teaching place where peoples learnt about how everyone has an effect on the land and water.

As part of his Adventure Tourism work Richard spends about 150 nights sleeping in a tent and taking people on tours of the wilderness. One of his trips is to the Murray River, where you hike for three days and then paddle for seven to get to Bringenbrong Bridge. He has seen areas which have been decimated by the presence of horses. The native flora and fauna no longer inhabit areas and the peat bogs which were the natural filters for the Murray River have been so damaged they will take a very long time to restore. With these filters gone the quality and quantity of water has reduced.

The same damage has been done to the Murrumbidgee River. And at this point, there are 31 native species which are endangered due to the overpopulation of horses in National Parks and other areas.



These changes to the environment have occurred due to the lack of connection to the land. This lack of connection allowed the Brumby Bill to get through the New South Wales Parliament. We need to realise that water is our lifeblood and should be protected because without water we have no future.

More photos from Balranald

