



**COMING MEETINGS:**  
 6 February - Trivia Night  
 13 February - Geoff Bowland,  
 Small Towns of Italy  
 20 February - Sandra Mortimer  
 following the  
*Site Visit to Salvation Army Store*  
 27 February - TBA  
 Tuesday, 5 March - Michelago visit  
 with Tuggeranong club

**Rotary Club of Cooma**  
**Theme:**  
**Vocational Service Month**  
 30 January  
 Richard Brown – The Quail Family

*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.*

**Meeting statistics:**  
**Attendance:** 19 / 30 = 76.5%  
**Visiting Rotarians:**  
**Guests:** Sally Thornton (Katrin), Roger Wheatley (Jan), Sacha Gilbert (Club)  
**Apologies:** Neil, Brad, Mark C, Alan D, Mark J-N, Glenys, Terry  
**Leave:** David B  
**We also missed:**

**ROSTERS FOR FEBRUARY 2019**

<b>Attendance</b>	Darrell Sandra
<b>Property</b>	Jan Dave Holgate
<b>Fellowship</b>	Ash Penny
<b>Thought</b>	6th Terry 13th Jan 20th Kevin 27th Marco
<b>3 Minuter</b>	6th Richard Hopkins 13th Tony 20th Glenys 27th John Chapman
<b>Intro</b>	6th John Clarke 13th Penny 20th Ash 27th Neil
<b>Thanks</b>	6th Katrin 13th Geoff 23rd Dave Holgate 30th John King
<b>Markets</b>	20th <b>February</b> Carlo, Terry, Sue, Alyson, <b>Van / Bbq</b> Ash, John Clarke, Brenda, Jeanette <b>Coffee Van</b> Brian, John Chapman, Tony, ?



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**JOHN K:-  
NIJONG CRICKET NETS**

There have been some delays but things are now ready to get underway. Craig Wilson will start on ground works on Friday and holes will be drilled early next week for the posts. We will be ready for a concrete pour for only one pitch on 11 February and a few helpers will be required.



**DARRELL:-  
AUSTRALIA DAY BARBECUE**

It was a very hot day so the coffee van wasn't quite as popular as usual. The gross income for the day was \$ 1355 and with meat costs, etc, deducted we had a net result of \$ 941.



**DES' PROGRESS**

Des' progress has not been good because he has had a fall after his operation and was feeling very down. He phoned Darrell yesterday to give him this week's Thought of the Week and seemed a bit happier. He hopes to be out of hospital on Friday.



**JOHN C: -  
WALK TO LONG PLAIN WITH RICHARD SWAIN**

This will happen on Saturday, 2 February, 10 till 2. An email has been sent with all the details. Remember to bring water, lunch, etc. The access is easy 2WD and a short walk to see the impact the brumbies are having. Another trip will probably be organised for those who can't make it this time.



**THREE MINUTER - PENNY**

Penny is having meetings before Rotary every first Wednesday of the month at 5.15 to update members about the Mama Wimbi Project.

**MAMA WIMBI PROJECT** A story of one of the families which has benefited from the Mama Wimbi Project - A young 14 year old girl and her brothers aged 6 and 4 are living with their grandmother and their mother who has mental health issues. The girl has had some schooling but there was not enough money to continue. The father had moved away looking for work. So the family spent their days doing nothing or begging. The grandmother was hospitalised because of her diabetes and as the family couldn't pay the bill she couldn't come home. The girl started regularly attending the Mama Wimbi sewing group and learnt how to sew. She and one of her brothers will be attending school next year. A young man who has just finished school at the age of 21 is also attending regularly. He didn't have enough money to finish his education sooner.



**LETTER OF THANKS RECEIVED BY JOHN K DURING THE WEEK** from Balranald NSW

**Clare Christmas Tree**

Dear John,

On behalf of the Clare Christmas Tree organisers Carla Pippin, Ainslee Scott and myself we would like to say thank you to the Cooma Rotary Club, the township of Adaminaby and the Combined District Drought Relief Committee for their extremely generous donation towards our community which had a two-fold effect providing some welcome Christmas cheer to families in the Clare area and also providing a flow on by supporting local businesses in Balranald.

We understand it would've taken a lot of hard work to fundraise the money you have very kindly decided to donate to our area and we very much appreciate your efforts.

The vouchers were distributed at our annual Christmas Tree which is held at the Clare Hall approximately 130 kilometres north of Balranald. We had an attendance of 80 head with 19 primary school age and below children. The night provides a great opportunity for the locals to catch up before Christmas and also provides the Clare Public School students with an opportunity to perform their annual concert for their families and the wider community.

We really appreciate the support of the Cooma Rotary Club and the township of Adaminaby and thank you again!

Yours Sincerely, Jo Griffiths



Santa leaving the hall!



Local kids singing carols



**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK - DARRELL for DES**

"The definition of diplomacy is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to doing it."



**PROGRAM**

**RICHARD BROWN - THE QUAIL FAMILY**

Australia didn't only ride on the sheep's back. Australia also rode on the horse's back. In towns horses were kept in stables or small paddocks but on farms in the far west they were kept in 200 acre paddocks. It was the job of the young boys to bring the horses in at 4am in the dark mornings.

By sounding the horse bell they could catch one of the horses which was probably hobbled and would then muster the other 15 or 20. These horses needed equipment like saddles, harnesses etc, which is where the story of the Quail family has its impact.

Vintura Francis Quail was born in 1827 in Oporto, a sea port and commercial centre in Portugal . With an obsession for the sea, Francis ran away at the age of 12 and joined an English ship. The captain took him under his wing and gave him a good basic education including teaching him to speak English. He made a number of trips to Australia and in the 1840's he decided to settle here. Realising he would need new skills he learnt the basics of boot making from a friend.

In 1858 Francis married Mary Ann Hudson and they had seven children, three of whom died in infancy.



Times were financially difficult in South Australia where they had settled and as a result they travelled by boat to Melbourne and then to the goldfields at Ballarat and Bendigo. Francis wanted to be self employed and ended up travelling to Kiandra in 1861 by which time the gold fields there were in decline.

Mary and Francis then moved to Buckley's Crossing (now Dalgety) and he gained employment as the ferry man with a punt across the Snowy River. In his spare time he continued to ply his trade as a boot maker.

When the punt was washed away in the big floods of 1870, Francis successfully applied for land at Bobundra where the Quail family resided and the children grew up. For a time the children attended the Buckley's Crossing Provisional School until it closed after which they were home schooled until another school opened at Cootralantra in 1881.

When their son, Xavier William was fifteen, he was apprenticed to Robert Pollock, a master saddler in Cooma. After finishing his

apprenticeship Xavier opened his own business in 1890 in Vale Street (the south end of Percy's Newsagency). Because of the general depressed financial conditions, Xavier was not successful and moved to Nimitybelle where he had conducted a saddler 's shop for the next seven years. During this time he married Miss E.D. Thornton and moved back to Cooma in 1903. Francis Quail was involved in his son's business until his death in 1918.

In 1916 the Quail's moved into a large weatherboard building in Sharp St. In 1921 - 1922 Xavier Quail erected a large stone building on this site. (Peter Davis once inspected this building and found it had a cool, damp cellar where the leather was kept in ideal conditions.) The granite blocks were cut south west of Cooma (behind Zalka Heights) the building was divided into two shops and during the depression one shop was used as the residence for the family.

After World War II Xavier Quail formed a partnership with H.G. Quail and J.E. Lee. When Lee withdrew from the partnership in 1943 the remaining partners continued the business until Xavier's death in 1957. H.G. Quail then carried the business on until 1972 with additional lines of merchandise. The business was sold in 1972 and then in 1980 the building was sold to the St George Building Society.

The information about the Quail family was supplied by Neville Locker in 1986.

Quail saddles were prized and famous throughout the Monaro and further afield. The saddles were very comfortable and safe. Tom Turnbull was the last employee of the Quail's and still repairs saddles to this day.

