

COMING MEETINGS

19 June Youth Week
Sacha, Interactors, RYPENers

26 June Changeover

Rotary Club of Cooma

Theme:

Rotary Fellowships Month

12 June

John & Jeannette Clarke
The Western Front

Meeting statistics: 28 of 38 = 73.6%

Attendance:

Visiting Rotarians:

Guests:
Sacha (Club), Nima Brown (Neil), Roger Wheatly (Jan), Alicia de Tonasso (Sandra), Helen Bowland (Geoff)

Apologies: Brad, Ash, Peter, Alan

Leave: Mark C, Dave B, Brenda

We also missed:

ROSTERS FOR June 2019

Attendance	Katrin John Cl
Property	Dave H Wolfgang
Fellowship	Ash Sue
Thought	19th Youth Night 26th Change Over
3 Minuter	19th Youth Night 26th Change Over
Intro	19th Mark JN 26th Change Over
Thanks	19th Katrin 26th Change Over
Markets	16th June Terry, Sue, Alyson Food Van Ash, Brenda, John Ch, Jan Coffee Van Mark J.N, Brian, ?

Please advise Katrin (Ph 0415 862 840, katjehac@gmail.com) 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: June
6th Kevin, 8th Brian J, 14th Marco,

Date Joined Rotary:
1st John K, Elaine S, Sue S,
27th Neil, Mark JN,

Announcements

John K

A memorial is being held for Ken Dane in South Nowra on Friday 21 June at 1pm, final car-pooling arrangements are made.

District 9710 changeover lunch is on Sunday 30 June at 12pm for a 12.30 start. It is being held at the Gold Creek Station and is \$40/per head. You can register at <https://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/store/district-changeover.html> closing date is 23 June.

The second of four Dead Reds events is taking place Friday 21st June starting at 6pm - 8pm at the Altair Motel. Wear something Red. There tickets are available at \$25 a head and all profits will go to the Hospital Auxiliary.

This is an event to introduce people to Rotary as well as being able to have a fun evening.

If you would like to enter your bottle of wine, which is 10 year old, or more you must be prepared to sample it - spit bucket supplied! Bottle entry free. Nibbles and glass of sparkling or flat included in ticket price.

The Rotary shed and the Lions shed have a shared power box and recently someone turned the power off to the Lions shed and they suffered quite significant stock loss. To ensure this doesn't happen again the Lions have installed a padlock on the box, arrangements will be made to get a copy of the key.

Neil

During the recent Bowel Cancer Awareness Month 155 kits were provided to the Berridale, Jindabyne and Hooks pharmacies. Of these 155 kits, a total of 118 were sold meaning \$330 will be provided through the club to Bowel care, with Hooks pharmacy sending their monies direct.



Thought of the Week – John Ch

The senses deceive from time to time, and it is prudent never to trust wholly those who ave deceived us even once - Rene Descartes.



3 Minuter – Neil

It was with great delight Neil is finally able to introduce to the club, his wife Nima. Neil expressed his heartfelt thanks to all club members who supported him while they were waiting for the processes to be finalised to get Nima to Australia. They came home via Tibet, Nepal, China and Melbourne, a bit of a scenic route – Neil told Nima's family this was so she couldn't find her way back home 😊.

While they were in Nepal they visited Mustang District, which is in the Western Province, it is a beautiful area and was like a second honeymoon. He advised everyone to take the time to travel and if they have the opportunity go to Nepal.



Guest Speakers – John and Jeannette Clarke – The Western Front

World War 1 occurred between the periods 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. Australian forces were involved in confrontations at Gallipoli 25 April 1915 to 9 January 1916 - 26111 casualties and 8141 deaths; Western Front from 5 May 1916 at Armentieres – 114,000 casualties, 46,000 deaths, gassed 16,000. The forces were involved in major battles at Fromelles, Somme, Bullecourt, Messines, Passchendaele and Villers–Bretonneux resulting in a total of 7,500,000 allied casualties and over 500,000 civilian casualties.

Anyone that has made a study of Australian history, dipped the toe into war history, or questioned family history will have almost certainly come across information relating to the Western front and the more you find out the more questions you have.

For many years, John's big question was why historically was I brought up on a constant diet of Gallipoli. Whenever we celebrated Anzac Day, the only focus appeared to be on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in my ignorance Gallipoli appeared to be the pinnacle of the Australian effort in World War I but when you consider the sacrifice of the Western front Gallipoli was only an entree of what was to come.

The reasons appear to be that the first celebration of Anzac Day took place on 25 April 1916 and it was gazetted as a half-day holiday that has continued every year since. It was the first major battle since Federation and the Australian public knew a lot more about Gallipoli because while there was censorship there were journalists like Keith Murdoch and Charles Bean writing for Australian newspapers. There were too many other major battles to choose one over the other and the carnage of the Western front was such that nobody in the years following the end of World War I would have wanted to be reminded of what happened in those terrible years.



Tyne Cot Cemetery is the world's largest Commonwealth war cemetery holding 11,953 graves. The largest number of Australians is found in this cemetery. The cemetery sits in the heart of the most horrific battlefields of the war, that being Passchendaele.

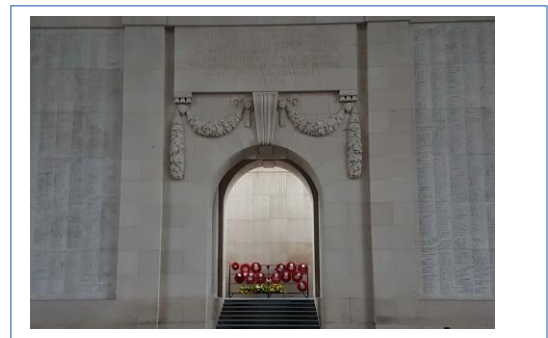


They were able to visit the grave of Jeannette's great-uncle Will in Grevillers British Cemetery and leave him a letter informing him that the family know his story, treasure his letters, diaries and other memorabilia. A very proud addition to this letter was a photo of his name being projected onto the Australian War Memorial wall during the centenary celebrations.



At the Menin Gate Troops marched through the town's eastern gateway down the Menin road towards Hellfire Corner. The names of 54,338 Commonwealth servicemen who have no known grave are listed on the interior walls, with the total number of Australian's missing being 6,176.

Every day at 8.00 pm since 1927, the Last Post ceremony has been conducted by the Ypres Fire Brigade in all weather, with the exception being during WW2. The ceremony recommenced the day Ypres was liberated. The main street is closed off for the duration of the ceremony, as it is possible for thousands to attend on any given day.



While waiting to lay their wreaths they met family who are descendants of a British soldier killed that day, one hundred years ago. Every person has a reason for being present at this very moving ceremony.

John and Jeannette both had an interest in their grandfathers Great War histories. When they discovered that these gentlemen walked through the battles fields in close proximity to one another on the Western Front the desire to walk in their footsteps jumped onto the bucket list. This item was ticked off when they were able to visit the sites in August 2017.



John and Jeannette saw so much and experience so many emotions it was hard to condense their talk down to the few point of greatest interest.