



**COMING MEETINGS**  
26 June Changeover

**Rotary Club of Cooma**  
**Theme:**  
**Rotary Fellowships Month**  
**19 June**  
**Sacha and RYPENers**

**Meeting statistics:** 23 of 36 = 63.8%  
**Attendance:**  
**Visiting Rotarians:**  
**Guests:**  
Sacha, Amanda & Georgie Sturgeon (Club), Zara Farrell, Kia Chatterton (Interact), Siobhan West, Jake & John Barnes, Tristian Revelant (RYPEN), Christina Laub (Wolfgang), Helen Bowland (Geoff), Steve & Irene Shirvington, Babu Jesudas (Richard H), Alicia Detokimaso (John C), Tiarne Brown, Emma Hopkin, Chloe Trevanion, Tyla Marek, Rachel Hunt (Sacha)  
**Apologies:** Peter B, Tony B, Peter D, Kevin, Katrin, Margaret, Sandra, Jan, Sally  
**Leave:** Mark C,  
**We also missed:**

**ROSTERS FOR June 2019**  
**Attendance** Katrin  
John Cl  
**Property** Dave H  
Wolfgang  
**Fellowship** Ash  
Sue  
**ROSTERS FOR July 2019**  
**Attendance** Darrell / Nadine  
**Property** Dave H / Mark J N  
**Fellowship** Neil / Elaine S  
**Thought** 3rd Peter B  
10th Sally  
17th John K  
24th Geoff  
31st Richard H  
**3 Minuter** 3rd Nadine  
10th Dugald  
17th Katrin  
24th John Cl  
31st Wolfgang  
**Intro** 3rd Social Night  
10th Katrin  
17th Glenys  
24th Marco  
31st Darrell  
**Thanks** 3rd Social Night  
10th Kevin  
17th Des  
24th Elaine M  
31st Sue  
**Markets** 21st July Terry, Sue, Robyn  
Van Ash, Neil, Brenda, Nadine  
Coffee Mark JN, Brian ?

*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.*

**Significant Dates:**  
**Birthdays: June**  
6<sup>th</sup> Kevin, 8<sup>th</sup> Brian J, 14<sup>th</sup> Marco,  
**Date Joined Rotary:**  
1<sup>st</sup> John K, Elaine S, Sue S,  
27<sup>th</sup> Neil, Mark JN,

## Announcements

### John K

We received a report from Balranald regarding the monies raised by the Adaminaby township and the Cooma Rotary Club. In part of the report received, it was said, “the support has been a godsend, and the vouchers were gratefully accepted and used by the community. They would like to hold the balance of the vouchers not used and make use of them during the next financial year”.

The Club sends their condolences to Jan and Roger on the passing of Roger’s mother.

### Terry

This month there was 34 stalls, 5 of which were charity based. The total profit was \$1,522.36. The stalls provided \$770, the food van \$521 after expenses, the coffee van \$267 and the wishing well \$55.25. Considering the weather, it was a good market.



### Guest Speakers – RYPEN – Jake, Siobhan and Triston

They attended a two and a half day course to learn about leadership, which was held in Mogo. The first half day was when each of the participants arrived. Over the two days activities included, getting to know each other, participating in group tasks and a bush dance. There talks from the founder of R U OK, a young lady who was involved in a car accident who spoke about consequences and the final talk was from a vision-impaired lady who shared the difficulties of living life without sight. She also showed some of the aids a visually impaired person uses. The experience was very different to their everyday life. It was an opportunity to meet new people and experience different activities.

Siobhan is our 2019/20 outbound exchange student who will be spending her year in Italy.



### **Guest Speaker - Sacha**

Eleven months ago on 21 July 2018, Sacha introduced herself to the Cooma Rotary Club. She had arrived at Canberra airport where she was greeted by her first host family. She didn't realise she was about to embark on her greatest and scariest adventure in her life to date. They got in the car and started the drive back to Cooma, where she realised that this was for real.

Those first days in her new home were horrible, she thought that she would not be able to cope with being away from her family for so long, she thought she wasn't strong enough. Now at the end she realises she was stronger than she thought.



On her third day in Cooma, her host mum took her up to Nanny Goat Hill to see the vista of the town where she would be living for the next twelve months and she was enthralled. The first town outside she visited outside of Cooma was Nimmitabel and decided the name and the town was so cool that she was going to name her first born after it.



There were her first encounters with baby kangaroos and wombats, with whom she fell instantly in love with as they were so cute. Then there was the first experience of a major event without her family, five days after arriving she turned 17, but new friends and family made the day special.

The first day of school was terrifying, she thought that nobody would want to be her friend and it would be so hard to break into already established friendship groups. Over the year, she has made five very close friends and a large number of other friends.

She has realised how different she now is from that person on that day. She is stronger and more confident. She has learnt to be open to the world and to be open to all experiences as you never know what you will gain from them.

A month after arriving, there was the first meeting with the other exchange students in the district. Once again, the fears kicked in but after meeting them, those fears abated. There was the realisation that these people were sharing a unique experience with her and they would be all in this big adventure together.

One of the things Sacha really liked about being an exchange student was the many friends and memories you make together.

The saddest part of exchange for her was Christmas, not being in the cold with snow or her family but it was also a happy time as she got to experience a different type of Christmas and her host family made her feel very welcome. She also had to get used to missing major family events like birthdays but this was all part of the journey.

There were many different experiences like bush walking, learning to ride a horse, learning to surf, trekking up Mount Kosciusko. Going to Sydney, visiting Bondi Beach, and going to Melbourne. The travel highlight was going on Safari and seeing Adelaide, Alice Springs, Uluru and the beaches of Queensland.

She finds it hard to believe her time in Cooma has gone by so quickly. She extended many thanks to her new friends, her host families and to the members of the Cooma Rotary Club for making her feel very welcome and part of the Cooma community.

Sacha leaves for home on Saturday 29 June.



On behalf of the Cooma Rotary Club, we wish to say it was a pleasure to host such a wonderful young woman and watch her change throughout her time with us. Best wishes for safe travel home and for what new adventures await you. – Janine.