



**COMING MEETINGS**

19 February – Graham French – Climbing Tasmania’s highest mountain

26 February – Darren Carr – Cooma Challenge

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Jenny Goldie, Environmental Activist

**Rotary Club of Cooma**

**Theme:**  
**Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month**

**Dugald Mitchell – Life in Rotary**

**Meeting statistics:**

**Attendance:**

**Guests:**

Roger Wheatley (Jan), Helen Bowland (Geoff), Graham French

**Apologies:**

Neil, Kevin, Alan, Nadine, Claire, Sally, Johanna,

**Leave**

Darrell, Brad

**Rosters for February 2020**

<b>Attendance</b>		Hass / Helper
<b>Property</b>		Dave H / Helper
<b>Fellowship</b>		Liz / Jeannette
<b>Thought</b>	<b>19 Feb</b>	John C
	<b>26 Feb</b>	Nil
<b>3 Minuter</b>	<b>19 Feb</b>	Nil
	<b>26 Feb</b>	Katrin
<b>Intro</b>	<b>19 Feb</b>	Jan P
	<b>26 Feb</b>	Brad C
<b>Thanks</b>	<b>19 Feb</b>	Sandra
	<b>26 Feb</b>	Kevin

*For apologies or guests for upcoming meetings, please advise Hass [hassall.m@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hassall.m@bigpond.net.au), Ph 0413 309 596.*

*Failure to advise of absence will incur a dinner cost.*

**Significant Dates: February**

**Birthdays:**  
25<sup>th</sup> Elaine M

**Date Joined Rotary:**

## Announcements

### Ashley

Well done to Sandra and Tony for all the work they did during the fire crisis in both Numeralla and in Cooma.

Another suggestion to show support to those affected by the fires is instead of our usual joint meeting with Tuggeranong, is to still have this meeting but invite people from Bredbo, Colinton, Jerangle, Peak View and Michelago to join the dinner. This will leave the Cooma club free to focus on people in Adaminaby and Numeralla with a movie night.

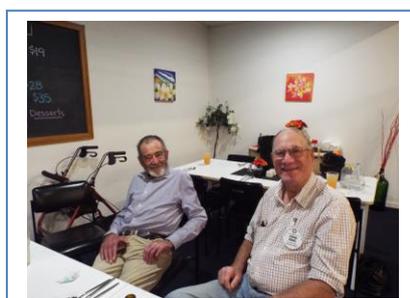
Earlier this week he was speaking with Gail Freeman, Assistant District Governor and Grantley Ingram from Bombala Rotary Club and was advised at least 5 houses were lost at Rockton and the Bombala club is planning a community event for the locals and the RFS.

Best wishes to all absent members.



### Peter D and Neil B – International Portfolio

The planned Field Camp project for Nepal has hit a few snags due to distance and other uncertainties. After speaking with Nima's sister-in-law who said they recently received a stretcher to assist with transporting people who are unable to walk, it has been thought that instead of developing a big project more benefit can be gained through the provision of many smaller items like crutches, wheelchairs or smaller medical items.



### Thought of the week - Marco

Put off until tomorrow only what you would be willing to have left undone when you die – Pablo Picasso

### **3 Minuter – Richard B**

He recently celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, which may not be a big milestone for some people but is was for him as he was lucky to make it to 20 and 40. At his celebrations he gave a speech which started with the most careful selection you have to make in your life is choosing who your parents are. He had the best in the whole world. The next choice pretty soon after this one is that of selecting your wife. In 1977 he met a girl called Lyn and the rest is history. They have 3 children and several wonderful grandchildren. She has stuck by him through many fires, floods and droughts and is still with him today.

### **Guest Speaker – Dugald Mitchell**

Dugald Mitchell is one of the members of longest standing in the Cooma Rotary Club, having joined in 1969, the year he arrived in Cooma. His lifetime of extraordinary service in the life assurance industry was recognised in 2018 when the Association of Financial Advisers conferred on him their Michael Murphy Award. In 1987-88 he was President of the Australian Lifewriters. In 1988 he was instrumental in opening the national office of the Life Underwriters Association of Australia in Canberra. In an active retirement of community service, Dugald is Chair of the Cooma and Monaro Progress Association which serves as another conscience of the local government council. In this role he promotes the proposed Canberra to Eden railway, and he oversees projects to establish a museum in the SMEC hydraulics laboratory, and to improve the bandshell in Cooma's Centennial Park. Dugald is Chair of the Monaro Community Growth Group which welcomes newcomers to Cooma and the Monaro. Community service runs in his family. Susan Mitchell, Dugald's late wife, was citizen of the year in 2008 and was awarded an OAM in the same year. Dugald was awarded an OAM in 1994. On the Monaro, and in Sydney, Melbourne and Scotland Dugald has two sons and two daughters and he has eight grandchildren.

In 1969 he arrived in Cooma to a new job, the local Man from the Prudential after being a farmer and grazier. He came to a new home, with a wonderful wife, who cooked for Rotary for 5 years, 5 small children and very little money.

He was asked to join Rotary, so he did. Ron Kelly proposed him, Ron was the youngest Group Captain in the NZ Airforce and his wife was a ballerina in the NZ ballet.

Dugald's classification is Life Assurance, a profession that has died out in the bush, but 1969 there were 9 such officers on Monaro.

At the time Dugald joined the Club there were 36 members authorised by Peter Schaar. He ran membership with an iron fist, writing letters about Rotary to the Rotarian. Peter had coached the University of Budapest rowing eight before the War and was Resistance leader against Nazis during the war. One day at work Peter was warned the Communists were watching his house. He finished his workday and walked towards the border, crossed and became a refugee.

Through the fifty years he has been friends with many terrific people through Rotary. For the last 20 years Dugald and Darrell would greet people with a handshake and say 'Welcome to Rotary'. Attending

well over 2000 meetings he has been able to keep up with what was happening in Cooma and the Shire, which is important when you live in a town like Cooma.

He built his business on the Four-way Test and feels he would not have been as successful as he was without joining Rotary. The Four-way test – Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? He feels the first two are very important when running a small business.

One of the many projects he has been involved in include the Rotary Youth Project, which started in 1980 and continued until 1990. It was a week long event and covered topics ranging from using a microphone and money management to teenage relationships.

Rotarians look after each other through comradeship and friendship. Rotary has changed over the 51 years he has been a member: it is no longer compulsory to attend meetings; classifications were a key element; the best person for each classification provided expertise hence Rotary! Women joining was a great step forward and has been very successful.

The most successful Rotary Presidents including himself in 50 years in his view have been those who know how to use the Committee system to get the best out of people. Gaines Bagby from the RC of Austin Texas told Dugald, there were 200 members in their Club and about 100 sub Committees. Dugald feels Rotary is a team of many parts and skills.

The two key elements to him are the four-way test and the mateship. Each year he has done something for Rotary. This year Dugald and Liz Martin have quietly been working on publicity of the club.

Rotary has shaped Dugald and his family life over the last fifty years for the better.

He thanked the club for the Avenues of Service Award presented to him last month.

