

## **Cooma Rotary Club Inc**

***Theme: Rotary Foundation Month***

**17 November – Chris Reeks - Captain NSW Fire & Rescue (Retired)**

### **Coming Meetings and Social Events:**

**24 November – Social Evening**

**1 December – Annual General Meeting**

**8 December – Christmas get together with Bombala Rotary Club**



**BIRTHDAYS** in November – 3<sup>rd</sup> Katrin, 8<sup>th</sup> Ash, 28<sup>th</sup> Peter D – Best wishes

**Guests:** Chris Reeks (Club), Christina Laub (Wolfgang), Trisha Webb (Liz)

## Highlights of the Week:

### Glenys

**Next meeting is the AGM it would be great if all members could attend.**

This week we welcomed back Sara following her trip to Brazil. It was wonderful to see her again.

Last week's breakfast meeting at Rose's was a success with a number of Rotary attendees and visitors. Leo was very pleased to meet the EarlyAct representative and he is sprucing it at all the Rotary Clubs in the district. He was also impressed with the breakfast format meeting.

The Cooma Race Committee have asked us to cater at the races on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, volunteers for the day would be appreciated.

If you are attending the Christmas celebration with the Bombala Rotary Club at Nimmitabel on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December let Janine know by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### Judy

The social meeting for this week, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> will be at the Alpine Hotel.

Please advise by Tuesday at the latest if you will be attending

[j\\_n\\_lucas@hotmail.com](mailto:j_n_lucas@hotmail.com)

### Thought for the week:

The strength of a team is each individual member, the strength of the individual member is the team.



**PLEASE ADVISE JANINE BY **TUESDAY 1PM** BEFORE THE MEETING  
IF YOU ARE A MEETING APOLOGY OR IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST:**

**0401 164 280 or [janffa@bigpond.com](mailto:janffa@bigpond.com)**



### **Guest Speaker – Chris Reeks - Captain NSW Fire & Rescue (Retired)**

Next Wednesday night at the Bowling Club there is going to be a Men's Health information night. The evening will start at about 6pm and it is free. Everybody is welcome.

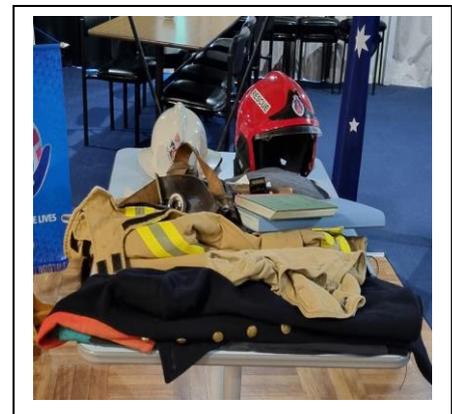


Chris started his career in about 1983 when he turned up at the Bush Fire Brigade. There were no real set rules, if you were interested you just showed up, met with the Captain had a chat and left your phone number.

At the time the resources were pretty basic. There was 1 truck with a tank bolted on to the back. When a full time fire control officer was appointed, there was an improvement in both equipment and training. Training was initially on the fire ground and there were no radios or specialist safety equipment. A total contrast to what is available now.

Chris spent 4 years with the Bush Fire Brigade before joining the NSW Fire Brigade in July 1987 and finished in July 2020. Two of the main differences between the Bush Fire Brigade and the NSW Fire Brigade with that you were issued with a uniform and there was training twice a month.

Trucks used to be sent from Sydney or Newcastle after being refurbished but now the trucks at the Cooma Station are the same as those you would find in a large regional fire station. Uniforms and general safety equipment has changed over time. Uniforms used to be made from wool and are now a more fireproof material. Helmets have gone from hard hat style to now having visors, full head coverage and radios.



Reporting of fires and requesting fire services has also changed. Records used to be done using logbooks and now everything is recorded on computers. To get fire services you used to call a central number in town. This number was monitored by a

number of families who had a landline connected and the word was spread using a siren or word-of-mouth.



Technology has improved communication many aspects. Fires are now reported via 000 and required members are notified by pager or mobile phone. Communication is now to and from the fire station to trucks out on the fire ground through both radio and mobile phones. Crews also have access to maps and hazardous material information via computers in the trucks.

The way fires are fought has also changed from 'putting the wet stuff on the hot stuff', the more the better. These days the idea is to use less water and get to the source of the fire quicker using heat seeking technology and put it out.

The brigade tries to ensure response time for leaving the station to fire call outs is around 3 to 5 minutes.

### MEETING ROSTER

**If your name appears on the roster and you are unable to be there, please organize an alternative for your role**

| Tasks                         | 1 December | 8 December |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Meet & Greet                  | Jeannette  |            |
| Fines or Did You Know         | John Ch    |            |
| Wine Raffle                   | Babu       |            |
| Jiggle the Joker              | Des        |            |
| Property/Banners              | Dave H     |            |
| Meals Manager                 | Janine     | Janine     |
| Meal Service<br>(if required) | Neil       |            |
| Vote of Thanks                | N/A        |            |
| Pastoral Care                 | Dugald     |            |