

NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2002 Time: 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm
VENUE: THE OLD BANK CAFÉ, 161 SHARP STREET, COOMA
SPEAKER/TOPIC: Kerrie Nairn: Turn that Stone into a Gold Nuggett
INTRODUCED BY: David Epstein VOTE OF THANKS: Dugald Mitchell

APOLOGIES OR GUESTS: Please advise Darrell Gaukroger on 6452 3302 by midday of meeting.

Non-apology & non-attendance means you pay for the meal.

Apology, Non-attendance & no make-up means you pay \$2

SERGEANTS FAX-A-FINE: Send to Graham French on 64526102

MAY ROSTER: Attendance: Dave Holgate & Alan Dodd Property: Lou Moore

Be Early. If not at meeting arrange for substitute. At another venue arrange to bring necessary property.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK BY: Ken Dane

Next Week: Wolfgang Laub

It is not what you get out of life that matters, but what you put in.

LAST WEEKS MEETING:

An excellent guest speaker for Rural Urban night. Richie Taylor who obtained a degree in Veterinary Science, then worked in a farming advisory service before returning to Nimmitabel and joining the farming business in 1990. 100% of the business income is derived from grazing livestock, and said that if it is not viable they would go broke, so his topic on Agriculture and the Environment was appropriate. He identified 3 environmental issues to be looked at and dealt with. Firstly: the agriculture resource base – soils, water & pastures on which agriculture is based. It is in the farmers long term interests to preserve these resources. Most Monaro land holders have 3 basic land types, 1st highly productive used for improved pastures. 2nd is marginal where light soils & thin top soils where new pasture is not economic. 3rd is in between with native grasses, introduced clovers with a history of fertilizing and grazing. Secondly: Agriculture's role in conservation, biodiversity, natural eco system & the rural landscape which have been topical with the introduction of SEPP 44 and the Native Vegetation Conservation Act. Thirdly: The environmental impact of Agriculture on the world. The classic example being greenhouse impact on global warming. Agriculture is responsible for 20% of Australia's green house gas emissions. To make farming profitable the return has to increase as costs increase. If it is not profitable to fertilize, control weeds, rabbits etc, the outcome for economy will be bad. High quality pastures, in intensive agricultural systems have shown less methane than in low quality roughage, better growth rates, faster turn over and less greenhouse emissions. Richie's final three points were: 1. Farmers need to be prepared to assume full responsibility for the care of soil, pastures and water on their farms. Most already do this. Those who don't must be forced to do so by legislation. 2. The community must accept responsibility that in most cases sustainable agriculture will, and in almost all cases already has, altered the natural ecosystem. To preserve large areas of these systems requires rezoning land from agriculture to conservation. These conservation areas may tolerate some extensive agriculture, and may be looked after by existing land owners, but would need to be paid by the community. 3. Agriculture must spend considerable resources on researching and implementing sustainable farming systems, that have less impact on the rest of the world.

NEWS:



Rotary Markets: Team 19/5/02 John & Heather Jacoby, Allan Dodd, Mark Revelant, Gordon Haylock.



Board Meeting: this meeting.



Raglan Gallery: all residents are invited to the Launch of the Regional Gallery at the Raglan 3pm Friday 17 May 2002. Refreshments & drinks provided. This is aimed at increasing of the Raglan and funds for a \$ for \$ grants application to Ministry of Arts on 26/4/02.

ROTARY INFORMATION:

Attendance Last Week: 33 members out of 42 = 80% (port?) **Guests:** Ritchie Taylor (Club) besides 33 members guests. **Apologies:** Robyn C; Kevin D; Claire N; Ken P; Neville L; Steve S
Leave of Absence: Col A; Phill B Richard W