



Peace Through Service

Guest Speaker: Robert Shearer - Local Opera

Intro: Neil B

Thanks: Mark J-N

Earlier this year Neil heard an interview on ABC radio with Robert and thought that it would be terrific to invite Robert to speak to the Rotary club as Robert had quite a story to tell. So this week we heard some of Robert's story he is a singing teacher, a singer and a composer. He grew up and started his education in Ipswich, Qld before coming to Cooma. He started composing music as part of his Masters degree at the Australian National University. A lot of his music has been written in Cooma and he tends to write a lot of vocal music, he has written the score for a short film and some choral music, the most recent being Anthem for Doomed Youth which was performed at the Remembrance Day performance this year. The way he writes music is he sits down, usually with a poem that has called to him or sometime he is given a poem and someone says "here do this". It doesn't come to you in a rush, like Hollywood would have you believe - you don't walk over to the piano and go eureka I have it. Composing usually comes down to the way you would speak something and figuring out how that would work musically. Words musically follow the contours of how you would speak them.

Robert shared with us an Art song, which consists of a piano part which has its own melody and other instruments whose melodic line must make sense with the original melody. Robert started writing Art songs and then moved into opera writing. He described the difference between opera and musical theatre, which is musical theatre is generally based on one melody and an accompaniment to it. A composer comes up with a chord progression and an orchestrator comes up with the orchestration. In an opera you have to come up with every single part that goes into it. Generally this means it takes more time but it also means you can get more nuance in to it. Traditional opera consists of recitative, which is the whole section, followed by an aria which contains about three lyrics with everything based around those three lyrics. Modern opera writing is like writing a giant film score, there is no definition of verse - chorus, there is no definition of recitative - aria, it all blends into one thing. What he looked at when starting opera writing was how do you make 'someone bellowing their guts out' effective and to mean something. Especially if you are dealing with a subject matter that is gritty or very intimate. For example a love scene in an opera is very hard to pull off as it is like two people standing at either end of a football field shouting at each other and trying to convince the audience that these people are whispering sweet nothings to each other. To do this you use orchestration, you take everything back to basics. Subtlety in opera is difficult but making things grand is easy.

A piece he has recently finished working on is the Dark Side of Midnight which was a play originally written by Tessa Bremner, based on the life that her family had had during the Partition in India. Tessa had originally worked with Benjamin Britton, Leonard Bernstein and John Williams, all of whom are exceptional composers and if Robert had known this before he started writing the music he probably wouldn't have started. The opera remains relatively true to the original story but without modifications it would have been about 4 hours long - not something that most people would want to go and see. What they ended up with was a very nice 2 1/2 hour piece. Which charts the lives of the 5 unique people involved in the story. They added an Epilogue to the piece as it originally had a very abrupt ending. Which was John's been shot with the last line being he is dead and it was felt that this was a bit much for the audience to deal with. They ended up writing the Epilogue over the course of three days, Tessa had arrived back from Austria and she quickly came up with the lyrics.



Robert Shearer

Then Robert quickly came up with the score about two days before they recorded it.

Robert, with Tessa, is currently working on an opera for young people to play in, sing in and to watch. It is based on the stories of Beatrix Potter. He is hoping to attract community sponsorship so they can make it look as professional as possible. He anticipates that the younger children will work with an experienced Director and some experience opera singers. It is also anticipated the Cooma Youth Choir will provide the vocals and the music will be provided by two flutes, two clarinets, two guitars, a string quartet and a harpsichord. He is also heading overseas mid next year to take part in an internship in the UK composing Art songs. We wish him every success for the future.



Robert and Mark J-N

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

3 MINUTER

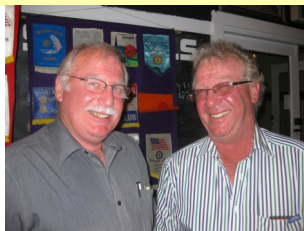
This week our 3 Minuter was presented by John Clarke who decided he would do a country 3 Minuter for those who grew up in the country and experienced reptiles. John's first experience was through his younger brother who had an obsession with anything creepy or crawly and he used to bring everything into the house, from spiders to snails to lizards and even snakes. He doesn't quite remember what their parents reaction was but he thinks they were probably quite uncomfortable. His other brother had quite an obsession for hunting rabbits and he would chase a rabbit down wherever he could. One day he came home with the story of how he chased a rabbit into a hollow log and he stuck his hand in to the log to try and retrieve it and the rabbit kicked him. Later that night he asked their father to dig out a splinter he had and their father dug out a hypodermic tooth. The parents were somewhat concerned about that so they rang up the local doctor and the doctor said "if he has survived this long he will probably be ok, just keep an eye on him". He doesn't think his parents slept a wink that night. On another occasion, John's father and himself took a young cousin of John's down to one of the back paddocks and left him playing in a creek. When they went back they saw that he had found a small lizard to entertain himself with but on closer examination they discovered it was a juvenile tiger snake. For the record, a juvenile tiger snake's venom is substantially more deadly than the adult. John can't remember what his Aunt's reaction to that event was, except for when he was considering this little story, he could not recall ever taking his cousin out again, in fact he can't actually remember his Aunt and Uncle or cousins ever visiting again.

As a parent John is sure that you have often given advice to your children that's come back to bite you. He will never forget one phone call he received from his son asking is it ok if I stand on the lounge. Before John could launch in to his parental 101 of lounge is for sitting and floor is for walking he added because there is a snake in the lounge room. John thinks snakes are really quite sensitive and reasonably timid creatures because on another occasion when his daughter was confronted by a snake in the kitchen and one of the attributes she has is a strong command of the English language and very quickly the snake decided to depart the scene. At another time something involving his wife Jeanette, we noticed there was a snake frequently hanging around under the clothesline. Jeanette was rather nervous about that kind of thing and she did her usual little dance about the place whenever she thought there was a snake present. After a while they were able to ascertain that it was a tiger snake and they did manage to relocate it. John's brother realised that tiger snakes were usually in pairs and if you found one there was quite likely another one around, anyway some time later they found yet another tiger snake. The reason the tiger snakes were in the vicinity of the clothesline was that the clothesline was constructed over an absorption trench. The trench was covered in rubble, had some old tin over it and had a few holes in it, so that every time Jeanette did the washing water came in and it got rather cool for the snakes and they decided to come out to where it was a bit warmer.

Photo Gallery



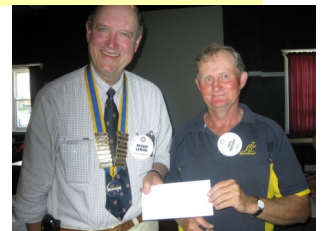
Joe V, Brian J and Dave



Lou M and Ashley C



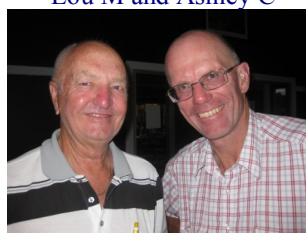
Peter D, Yvi, Claire N and Dugald



Pres Richard and Neil B



Wari and Chris



Darrell G and Peter D



John C



Ken D and Peter A

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Steve S

Brevity is the soul of lingerie.

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

**WE MEET WEDNESDAYS 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM
AT DODDS HOTEL, COMMISSIONER ST. COOMA**

**Theme of the Month for Cooma Rotary:
Family**

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

This weeks meeting is the Christmas Party at the Alpine Hotel, it will feature a presentation on the PNG trip. Don't forget the later start - 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE 2013

Here is an opportunity for Rotarians to travel to Indiana USA with Rotary Friendship Exchange:

As you know, D9710 Rotary Friendship Exchange group will be hosting a group of 10 to 12 Rotarians from D6540 Indiana USA after the International Conference in Sydney in June 2014. They would like our district to visit them in 2013. Most people would make the trip as part of a longer trip, perhaps to the US.

Contact Steve Shirvington or Ross Power on rossp@iken.com.au to give names or seek further details.

The 5 cents challenge is going well we are up to \$90 but please keep bringing those spare 5 cents. Thanks to those who don't know the difference between notes and coins.

For those who ordered Christmas Cakes - they will be available for payment and collection on the 19th December.

Neil B has had a successful run of fund raising activities with the sale of ski items and honey and eggs. He presented a cheque to President Richard for \$1,940 which will go to the Angel Orphanage in Nepal. He is also wanting to help the local community there develop micro-businesses.

David B asked if anyone knew of someone who might be interested in attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) to be held at Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre, Tamworth, NSW from the 27th April to the 4th May 2013, unfortunately the person who was going to attend has had to drop out so we have a vacancy.

Chris A had a successful trip to PNG. He had a good flight with perfect views of the Cooma Bolow and the surrounding area. He met with senior leaders to discuss the school council along with modifying the water project to build a dam and provide piping to water tanks.

Steve S is seeking information, stories and pictures with names, from the past 60 years of Rotary in Cooma to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Club in December 2013. Thanks to Peter D and Wolfgang for your contribution.

Margaret H reminded us to please check the Bulletin to see if you are on Market duty.

David B was pleased to announce that the Perpetual Dave Holgate Award for Leadership was presented last Tuesday at the Snowy Mountains Christian School awards night.

Marco was presented with some Monaro Wool to sell for a fundraising opportunity - it raised \$120.00 for the club.

This Weeks Attendance: 34 out of 39 - 87%

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Robert Shearer (Club), Maree (Kevin D), Yvi Henderson (Claire N), Wari Renabi (Chris A)

Apologies: Tom B, Jim H, Patrick K, Dave H, Dave L, Tony S, Matt T.

Leave: Joe V.

We Also Missed: None

Make-ups: None

**The Rotary Club of Cooma
The Secretary
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Cooma NSW 2630
Phone: 042 138 150
E-Mail: coomarotary@home.netspeed.com.au**

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

ROSTERS	December	January
Attendance	Lou Chris	Lou Patrick
Property	John V Mark C	Tom Elaine M
Fellowship	Margaret E Clair N	Margaret E Clair N
Markets	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Peter D - MR Dave L- V Les Tony Elaine M Brian J	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Tony S - MR Wolfgang - V Mark C Joe V Richard L Claire N
SOME SIMPLE RULES ABOUT ROSTERS		

GENERAL

Members rostered on and not able to attend are to make arrangements with another member to take their place.

MARKETS

Those nominated to tow the caravan or chuck wagon are to be at the Rotary shed no later than 8am. Ensure you get the key to the shed from David Holgate PRIOR TO THE EVENT so the equipment can be set up early. If you are unable to tow the van or chuck wagon PLEASE ASK SOMEONE WHO CAN, or advise David Holgate before the event. Others nominated should be at the park by 8.30am.

Next Weeks Program	Three Minuter	Thought of the Week
Christmas Celebration PNG Presentation - Peter D Intro - Chris A Thanks - Steve S	None	None

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	YEARS OF SERVICE
Mark and Janine John-Natley - 15 years on 14 December	Les S - 4 December	Matt T - 2 years on 1 December
Tony and Carol Slater - 43 years on 20 December	Mark J-N - 9 December	Richard L - 14 years on 7 December
Chris and Kim Adams - 12 years on 24 December	John C - 10 December	Elaine M - 8 years on 16 December
Brian and Alyson Hulley-Jeffries - 38 years on 28 December	Judy Trute wife of Des - 5 December	
Darrell and Marilyn Gaukroger - 12 years on 30 December	Jeannette Clarke wife of John - 8 December	
Lou and Elaine Moore - 5 years on 31 December	Elaine Moore wife of Lou - 18 December	
	Carol Slater wife of Tony - 21 December	
	Lainie Lawson wife of Richard - 30 December	

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