



Peace Through Service

Guest Speakers: Mick Joffe - Historian and Artist

Intro: John K

Thanks: Dugald M

Our guest speaker this week was Mick Joffe. He is a life member of the Rotary Club of Oberon and he describes himself as an enthusiastic amateur caricature artist and author. He has produced several books including his latest Living Treasures of the Snowy Mountains. He has put an enormous amount of himself into gathering the words of the old people of the area and of the movers and shakers of the Monaro. This new book is a very important collection of Monaro history and Mick has written it in the words of the people who have told the stories. The book contains 198 stories but he feels that he missed at least 400 other people in their 60's and 70's which he could have spoken too. The hat he wears is his working hat and always wears it when doing pictures. He asked Robb S to sit for him so he could demonstrate what it is he does with his art work. He started drawing about the age of 6 and is self taught. He said that when he has drawn someone and interviewed someone it is known as being "Joffed". He said that he would draw Robb with slightly less hair than he has now so the picture still looks like him in 6 months time. The first book he did was called "Yarns and Photos" and this was about the folk on the Hawkesbury River and has interviews with over 200 people and a serious amount of photos. He has interviewed 100 centenarians over his time. These people offer gems as you don't know where the story will go. He started interviewing a lady about a boat shed and ended up talking about her cousin Ned Kelly. Over time he has interviewed about 2000 people. His second book was on Oberon, which is a trout fishing and farming area and it was a labour of love for the Oberon Rotary Club and was an awesome fundraiser. The third book was a titled "Endangered Characters of Australia" and was written over a two year period while travelling around Australia with his wife and 4 redheaded children in a fire brigade troop carrier. This book has a lot of known people including Val and Ron Taylor and Lindy Chamberlin but Mick preferred interviewing the unknown person. Another book is called "Living Relics of Australia" which is stories from people aged 90+. This book includes stories from Nancy Bird, Nancy Wake, Vivian Bullwinkel, an amazing cross section of Australians. The Snowy book was launched in Berridale with 300 people in attendance. He started interviewing in 2009 and now it has just been launched - it involved 5 years of his life and 18 trips to the Monaro. The first story in the book is on the Pendergast brothers who encapsulate the families of the area, with old world values and virtues. He was a bit biased in who he interviewed as he wanted to speak with the oldest people on the Monaro before their stories were lost. He believes in making a fuss of the old now not at the graveside because they can't hear you then. And he would like if someone or someone's else would pickup the baton and speak to others who have Monaro history to share before they pass on. The names in the book mean a lot to many still living in the area but also provide a real insight to life "back when" on the Monaro - not only are there stories but its the humour of the time too.



Mick Joffe



Dugald & Mick



Mick & the new book



Mick drawing Robb



Patrick K & Mick

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

3 MINUTER

The 3 Minuter this week was bought to us by Ashley C. He told us about a diary he had come across written by his Grandmother's brother, Granville Thomas C Clarke. Was one of two children born at Kenilworth, near Springfield, Nimmitabel in the late 1890's. According to his diary he worked on the family property and neighbouring properties until the outbreak of World War 1. At this time, like many young Australian men, seeking adventure, the chance to travel and serve King and Country, he joined up. He was one of the many men who participated in the Snowy River March which originated in Delegate. Along with him was Ernie Corey, who went on to become a MC recipient. On completion of basic training he was shipped to Egypt and then onto the Western Front in France, little did he know what was in store for him. According to the diary he was a typical Australian soldier with a larrikin attitude but he made no mention of the horrors or sights that he must have encountered when on the front line. From notes in the diary and from postcards he sent back he certainly did mention the good times he had in Paris and in England. In 1917 his battalion was defending a small area in Southern Belgium this area was known as Polygon wood and this was the third battle fought over this area resulting in the loss of thousands of Australian and Allied lives. He last entry in 1917 stated he was in good humour but the German barrage were a constant annoyance. The next day Granville suffered a direct hit from an artillery shell and his body was never recovered and he has no known grave. Four years ago Ashley had the privilege of visiting Ypres with the Dennyis family. While he was staying with the Dennyis family they found Granville's name on the Menin gate memorial. Ashley was able to place a poppy and a cross beside Granville's name. To this day Ashley is the closest relative to have visited the memorial site. He is still amazed that with so much time having passed that the French and Belgium's still hold Australians and the Australian soldier in such high regard and with such fond memories. Ashley recalled an incident in Brussels when Thomas D was trying to get directions from an elderly, elegantly dress lady. Thomas was speaking French and this lady kept looking at Ashley and Thomas made mention that his friend was Australian. In perfect English this lady said "Ah the Australians" so obviously we left a long and lasting memory over there.

Photo Gallery



Steve S, Geoff B, Mick & Lea



Ashley C



Pres Richard & Peter Crane



Les S, Lea & Mark J-N



John C & Geoff B



John K

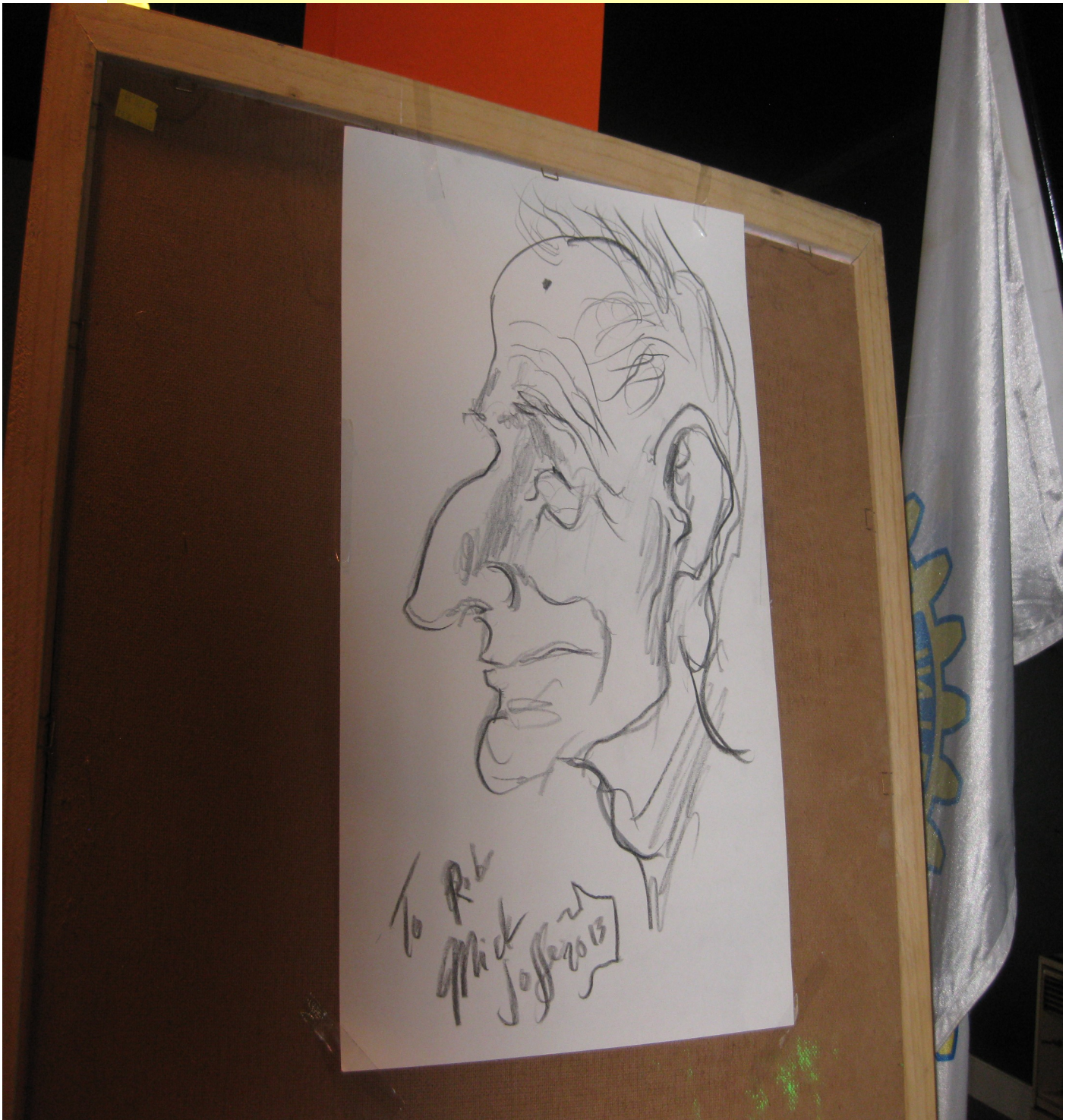
THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Lou M

Sometimes you face difficulties not because you're doing something wrong
but because you are doing something right..

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

Photo Gallery



Robb S by Mick Joffe

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

Photo Gallery



Lea by Mick Joffe

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

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

ROTARY'S THEME OF THE MONTH**World Understanding****THIS WEEK'S NEWS**

Elaine S said the Blazeaid catering had gone well. All teams received positive feedback. Many thank to all those who volunteered this time around. Well done to John K and Elaine S for their organisation and co-ordination.

The 5 cent challenge is still on and going well.

IMPORTANT: If you notice any incorrect details relating to yourself please go on to Club Runner and make the necessary corrections. Personal details are not able to be updated by anyone but yourself. Thank you for making sure everything is up-to-date and correct.

Rare Cancers Kosciuszko Challenge is a fund raising walk from Canberra starting 10 March and finishing at Mount Kosciuszko 8 or so days later taking in 47 highlighted points on the way. President Richard was approached to see in Rotary could provide any assistance but he had to inform then due to our commitment to Blaze Aid we are unable to help. But if you can provide any assistance on a personal level please contact Kate Vines on 4862 2768 or 0418 263 881 for more information. Email - kate@rarecancers.com.au

For the Club's 60th Anniversary a sub-committee consisting of Margaret H, Margaret E, Claire N and Elaine M and Geoff B has been formed to consider ideas that have been put forward. There will be a celebration function in October or November so not to clash with Christmas celebrations. If you are interested in attending a meeting to discuss the ideas put forward there will be a meeting at Dodds next Wednesday night, please let Margaret H know if you are interested in attending

Steve S is still after any photos or other items for the celebration book. He is also seeking any volunteers to go through the Express newspaper archives looking for stories relating to Rotary.

Remember joint meeting with Bombala to be held at the Nimmitabel Country Club, on Tuesday 12th February. Time is 6.30 for a 7.00 start.

This Weeks Attendance: 30 + 1 make-up 31 out of 39 – 77.5%

Visiting Rotarians: Peter Crane (Redlands Sunrise, Brisbane)

Guests: Lea & Mick Joffe (Club) Andrea Coss (Steve S), Maree (Kevin D)

Apologies: Chris A, David B, Mark C, Jim H, Matt T

Leave: Graham F

We Also Missed:

Make-ups: Mark C

The Rotary Club of Cooma
The Secretary
PO Box 14
Cooma NSW 2630
Phone: 042 138 150
E-Mail: coomarotary@home.netspeed.com.au

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

ROSTERS	February	March
Attendance	John V Dugald	Chris John K
Property	Brian Elaine S	John C Geoff
Fellowship	Margaret E Clair N	Margaret E Clair N
Markets	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Jim H - MR Dave L - V Geoff Ashley Brenda Peter D	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Peter A - MR David B - V Hass Les Elaine S Peter D

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 7am. 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
Guest Speaker : Ross Thompson Local Bush Poet Intro - Neil Brown Thanks - Elaine Schofield	12 February - Joint Meeting with Bombala Rotary Club 13 February - No meeting	12 February - Joint Meeting with Bombala Rotary Club 13 February - No meeting

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	YEARS OF SERVICE
Elaine M - 25 February Irene Shirvington wife of Steve - 23 February	Jim & Mary Hatfield - 36 years on 5 February Des & Judy Trute - 47 years on 5 February Claire & Hans Neumeyer - 26 years on 7 February David & Kathy Byrne - 13 years on 27 February	There are no listed Years of Service for this month.

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