



## Peace Through Service

**Guest Speaker: Frank Rodwell - Old Snowy Times Pt 2**

**Intro: Ken D**

**Thanks: Alyson H-J**

Frank was part of the Snowy Scheme for about 36 years. When he first came to Cooma in the 1950's he lived at Dodds Hotel which was owned at the time by the Duncan's - parents of Paula and Carmen. And a lady called Winfried Atwell played piano in the lounge. The Snowy Scheme was initially touted to deal with Australia's water issues and was brought to a head by the drought of 1942/43. This was further complicated by the advent of WWII which cut the supply lines from England to Australia - we could no longer be dependant on the 'mother country' for support. The government put together a survey team and a proposal for the creation of the Snowy Scheme. It was decided they needed an engineer to head the project and the man put forward was Bill Hudson. When he was asked to go to Canberra to see the Prime Minister regarding heading up the scheme, Bill allegedly said to his wife I am going to ask for £2,500/year to do the job. When the PM offered £5,000/year Bill could not refuse. T.J.J. Munroe was Bill Hudson's senior engineer on the project and his first job was to have a look at where the work was to be done. The Commission had given him the plans at Head Office in Sydney. The work was to be done in the mountains and Cooma was chosen to be the site of the Headquarters. At the time logistics were difficult, for example to make a trunk call (STD) you had to book a time and wait to be connected. Mr Munroe said when looking at the plans the sheer enormity of the job was hard to comprehend. There were to be 7 underground power stations and no geological work had been done. But the more he looked at the plans he was convinced that here was a wonderful opportunity to build something of great importance to a whole nation but knew we were only going to get one chance to get it right. He went back to Sydney and tried to convince his bosses to wait 12 - 18 months, to give time to see what was out there and if there could be a better way which could save time and money. The bosses agree but needed Canberra to agree too. The PM said get it started now so there was no arguing and they got to it. It is of interest to note that the original design was not what we ended up with. There was change and the emphasis was to get Jindabyne and Eucumbene built. The Department of Public Works got the job and they held what were known as 'what if' meetings and out of these meetings it was decided to raise the dam wall, have a shorter tunnel and flood the old Eucumbene township location. But the politicians decided they wanted a smaller dam with less power stations so they could start generating electricity sooner - the power generated was used to power Canberra. It had been estimated the job would take 25 years to complete and cost £400 million. The 1st dam to be built was to take no more than 4 yrs and it was to supply power for the next stage. The Public Works Dept said it could not be done so the Commission advertised world wide and employed an American team which completed the job in 23 months. The scheme was visited by the Queen & Prince Phillip, Prince Charles and the Queen Mother.

Frank finished with a poem which describes the scheme's place in Australia. Isn't it strange how Princes & Kings & clowns who cavort in saw dust rings & people like you and me are the keepers of eternity. To each is given a tin of tools, an hourglass & a book of rules. And each must build ere his life has flown a stumbling block or a stepping stone.



Frank Rodwell



Alyson H-J & Frank



Ken D, Frank & Lou M

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## PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

## 3 Minuter

This weeks 3 Minuter is by President Richard. He was born in Adelaide in the early days of WWII. From that time he remembers things like black outs, gas producers on the back of cars and ration cards which you needed for just about everything including food and petrol. He grew up on the family property in south east South Australia. He recalls shooting, working with sheep and cattle. Then at the appropriate age he went to boarding school where he found a ready made family of brothers, which was great as he was the only one at home. He enjoyed rowing and rugby but disliked the drudgery of study. After school he returned to the family property for the next 20 years or so. During this time he learnt about dealing with sheep & cattle, cereal crops, oil seed crops and vegies. It was an interesting time he recalls hand milking cows on frosty cold mornings sitting on a three legged stool, finding a dead ram in a well through the smell in the garden watering system, shooting a brown snake in the shearers water tank and not being able to get it out, dealing with union organisers as a young overseer and importing the first New Holland windrow into Australia. Later in life he had the opportunity to visit the New Holland factory in Pennsylvania USA and saw engine functioning hay bailer on an Amish property which was horse drawn and running on steel wheels.

Richard was a representative of the United Farmers & Graziers Association of SA, Wheat & Grains Committee, SA Oil Seeds Advisory Committee and SA Oat Marketing Committee. He was also involved in the Australian Vegetable Growers Association and particularly the Sweet Corn Committee. He was the inaugural chairman of the Naracoorte Art Gallery, he held this position for 10 years and was part of the National Trust of SA for another 10 years.

He is married to Laine and has 3 children and his father's death in 1975, prior to death duties being abolished, lead to his becoming a Public Servant in 1980.

He finished by thanking Cooma Rotary for giving him the privilege of serving in the post as President.

## Photo Gallery



Frank Rodwell



Lea &amp; Katrin H



Elaine S &amp; Maree



Maree &amp; Margaret H



Neil B &amp; Dugald



Claire N &amp; Geoff B



Graham F &amp; Marco R

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Graham F

3 things that have been of interest work, success and happiness.

The only place that success only comes before work is in the dictionary. What is success - it is what people want.

What is happiness - happiness comes from liking what you get.

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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**  
**Literacy**

**THIS WEEK'S NEWS**

Combined meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on 17 April any items you want on the discussion list need to be to Steve S by 3 April so the agenda can be organised.

Steve S received an email from Keith Armstrong regarding the Rotary 5 Peaks Challenge is on 21 April 2013 for all those bicycle riders in Rotary and also the invitation is extended to their friends, colleagues and acquaintances. For more information, and to register, go to [www.rotaryrides.org.au](http://www.rotaryrides.org.au)

Margaret H announced the 5 cent challenge raised \$166.00, which means footstools can now be purchased.

Margaret also called for a meeting of the 60th Anniversary committee on 3rd April at 5.00pm.

We bid Lea a fond adieu as she leaves us for 3 weeks to go on Safari to see some more of the wonderful things Australia has to offer.

Thanks to Steve S for all the work you have put in on the grant application and thanks to Marco for offering the use of the truck to be a travelling billboard.

Peter D announced we had received a letter from ROMAC calling for interested persons to nominate for Board Positions (Secretary, Treasure etc).

Peter also presented a Certificate of Appreciation received from Shelter Box to President Richard.

Elaine S on behalf of Dave H said this months market attracted 43 stall with \$1659.00 raised on the day.

Our shift at Blazeaid starts this Saturday and there is still a need for more volunteers.

The Country Music Muster is on over the Easter weekend and volunteers are needed for this too.

For details or to offer your services contact Elaine on [ainee.pv@hotmail.com](mailto:ainee.pv@hotmail.com) or phone 6452 5925.

The Country Music Muster this year is supporting the Community Chest who are having their official launch on 7 April at 2.00 pm at the Raglan Gallery on Lambie Street, Drinks on Arrival plus High Tea and entertainment. Tickets are \$20/per head and are available from The Fabric Salon and Blaxland, Mawson & Rose.

**This Weeks Attendance:** 27 out of 42 = 64%

**Visiting Rotarians:** None

**Guests:** Frank Rodwell & Lea (Club), Maree (Kevin D)

**Apologies:** Brenda C-B, Ashley C, Jim H, John K, Dave H, Dave L, Ken P

**Leave:** Chris A, Peter A, David B, Des T    **We Also Missed:** Joe V    **Make-ups:**

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

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## PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

<b>ROSTERS</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	Katrin John K	Neil B Dave L
<b>Property</b>	John C Geoff	Clair N Les
<b>Fellowship</b>	Margaret E Clair N	Margaret E Clair N
<b>Markets</b>	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Peter A - MR John K - V John C Les Elaine S Peter D	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA John K - MR Wolfgang - V Patrick Darrell Elaine M Ken

## 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.

<b>Next Weeks Program</b>	<b>Three Minuter</b>	<b>Thought of the Week</b>
<b>Guest Speaker: Medical Students from ANU</b>  <b>Intro:</b> <b>Thanks:</b>	<b>27 March - Peter D</b>	<b>27 March - Elaine M</b>

## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	<b>YEARS OF SERVICE</b>
Margaret E - 13 March  Dave H - 18 March  Sonja spouse of John V - 6 March  Yvonne spouse of John M - 31 March	Tom & Kath B - 24 March  Richard & Lainie L - 30 March	Ken D - 10 March  Brenda C-B - 25 March

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