



Peace Through Service

Guest Speaker - Pam O'Brien, Manager Southern National Parks

Her vision of Kosciuszko National Park

Intro: John K

Thanks: Mark C

Pam is one of 4 area managers who look after the Kosciuszko National Park. She has worked for the park services for the last 20 years. She has worked in Jindabyne, Tumut and in the ACT. She shared a variety of photos showing the diverse possibilities to be found within the park. The Snowy Mountains are part of the alpine parks system which include areas in NSW, Victoria and the ACT. It is an amazing place and includes things like:

- Skiing and snow boarding, this pastime created the first ski club in the world which was established at Kiandra;
- The rich history of grazing and horse riding;
- This grazing provided a number of huts which appeal to visitors;
- The diverse range of flora and fauna which include the pygmy possum, corroboree frog and the spotted quall. The flora include ash forests in the western part of the park and daisies in the main section;
- There are amazing cave systems to be explored;
- The rivers, which include the Snowy River and the headwater of the Murray River;
- These rivers and the lakes promote fly fishing in the area;
- The high altitude lakes have flora and fauna which is unique to each of them;
- Exceptional flooding events particularly during wet years.

She said the park is there to be used and Kosciuszko National Park raises more revenue than any other park in NSW. The tourists who visit the park also contribute to the local economy by staying in the towns and people are now starting to visit all year around. The promotion of exceptional mountain bike riding in the area is becoming known by the wider population and new tracks are being built.

Threats to the park include wild horses and fires. The parks department are trying to develop strategies to deal with the problem. Fires are more difficult to deal with due to the terrain and the fact that fires can start through natural causes and become wild fires which will burn in an uncontrolled manner.



Pam O'Brien



Pres Richard, Pam & Tony S



Pam B & Mark C

The contact for making apologies and for notifications of guests for dinner meetings is Les Sutcliffe on 6452 7442 or e-mail leecooma@bigpond.com by 10am on Tuesdays.

PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

3 Minuter

Joe V presented the 3 Minuter this week. He shared with us a couple of anecdotes which happened in 1996 when he went to Italy to visit his parent's village. Joe is into genealogy so he spent a fair bit of time in the local council offices going through the births, deaths & marriages records. He was fortunate to get the office opened on a Sunday, this was because the guy who looked after the records was related to a person who Joe's dad had sponsored to emigrate to Australia. The guy was really helpful and he found records which dated back to the 1700's. They were working through the records and in walked a rather intimidating looking man. He was a municipal policeman, the equivalent of a local ranger but he carried a dirty great pistol and an equally big baton. He started speaking to the council guy in the local dialect, which by-the-by is the only Italian Joe understands. He said "oh no, is this another American or Canadian that's come back here to find their roots". This statement was spattered with a range of colourful words. He continued with they come back here but if their parent's loved it so much then why did they leave in the first place.

The guy who was helping Joe turns around and says two things, I have helped him out with his family and firstly he has understood every word you have just said and secondly he is about your third cousin. The policeman turns to Joe and says "cousin, why don't you come round for dinner tonight".

Also while Joe was in town the village was hosting a major religious celebration based on a vision which occurred in the 1500's of the Madonna. Joe attended with a family member but after being left alone he started speaking with an old man. Joe was asked "which brother's son are you". Joe told him his father was Tony. This man said yes we remember Tony, I went to school with him and he has done many fine things for this village, remember when you get home to tell him Miguel Estranges said hello.

When Joe got home he mentioned that a number of people had been asked to remember to his dad. Joe had forgotten to mention Miguel and when he did his dad said "what were you doing talking to him, he is the head of the local mafia".

Photo Gallery



Les S & Darrell G



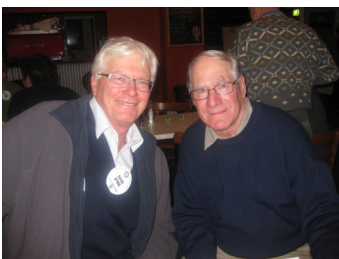
Alyson H-J



Ashley C & Brenda C-B



Dave H & Tony S



David B & John K



Joe V



Kevin D & Neil B



Mark C, Lea & John C

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Darrell G
A closed mouth gathers no feet.

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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
Magazine Month****THIS WEEK'S NEWS**

What are you doing 1 - 4 June 2014? How about going to the 2014 Rotary International Conference being held in Sydney. Plans for 11 - 13 October 2013? Merimbula is calling you to attend the District Conference details are available on Clubrunner.

Bowel Care is a Community Service Program that has been supported throughout many Rotary Districts in Australia for a number of years. No profit is made by either Bowel Care or Rotary, the aim is to reduce the number of fatalities due to bowel cancer, which if detected early in most cases can be cured. Bowel cancer will develop in 1 of 21 people in Australia. These easy to used test kits are now available at Hooks Chemist until 1st June for a cost of \$10 each.

Berry Celtic Festival which is to be held on 25th May. Location is Berry Showground, it kicks off with a street parade at 9.30am with the official opening at 10am. Cost is \$10/adult, \$5/child & 20/family. This event is supported by the Rotary Club of Berry.

The 5 cent challenge is still happening so don't forget to bring your 5 cents to the meeting. You are contributing to something good.

This Weeks Attendance: 27 out of 39 = 69.2%

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Pam O'Brien & Lea (Club)

Apologies: Tom B, Peter D, Elaine M, Lou M, John V

Leave: Chris A, Peter A, David B, Graham F, Steve S, Matt T.

We Also Missed: Claire N

Make-ups: None

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