



Engage Rotary - Change Lives

Guest Speaker - Lucy Nesci - A Feast of Poetry

Intro: Katrin H

Thanks: Elaine S

Lucy has a passion for poetry. The Feast of Poetry is a local competition which started 10 years ago. It came about following Lucy having some of her own poetry published, which gave her enough confidence to write a play which was performed by the Cooma Little Theatre in 2005. Since then she hasn't had the opportunity to do much as The Feast of Poetry consumes most of her time.

From the start she decided this competition had to be treated like a business and it had to be as professional as possible, this included getting well known writers and poets to be judges. Lucy first had the idea about local poetry because she thought it could be of benefit to the region and encourage local writers and schools to expand their writing experiences.

Katrin and Anne were two of the first people to encourage Lucy to go through with the idea instead of saying "you're crazy, forget about it". Another person who provided support and encouragement was Liz Murphy, who was an author and later became Poetry Development Officer for NSW. Liz opened many doors and it is possible the whole concept might have failed without this support. Lucy made herself known to writers, poets and publishers and then worked on many organisations for sponsorship.

It was the work of the first committee which really shaped the Feast of Poetry into what we have today. There are competition sections for both adults and children with a range of prizes. As entries are received from all over Australia a couple of local residents thought it was important to have a couple of sections for locals only, these are a local students bush section sponsored by Elaine S and the other section is sponsored by Sue which is called the Monaro Poetry Prize.

Work on the competition starts about February each year and ends in December. It starts with sending the entry forms out, then getting them back, having the works judged, getting the annual book published, holding the Feast of Poetry weekend when the prizes are awarded. It is just like running a normal business.

A highlight of this year's competition is that we have gone international as they have received an entry from Thailand.

This year the 1st - 3rd of November is a huge weekend in Cooma, it has been dubbed Cooma's Feast of Festivals. The Feast of Poetry is being joined by the Australian National Busking Championships, Cooma Motorfest, the Snowy Ride and Tamara's fundraising dinner. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Cooma to a wider audience.



Lucy & Adrian Bell



Pres Hass & Lucy



Elaine S & Lucy

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Engage Rotary - Change Lives**Rotary Theme of the Month - New Generations****This Week's News**

This year the District Conference is being held in Merimbula/Pambula from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October - all are welcome to attend Pres Hass has a variety of information if you are interested in attending or further information is at www.rotaryd9710.org.au - you will have a Whale of a Time.

Pres Hass has information on the Police Officer of the Year Award. Local clubs are being encouraged to nominate a local police officer to be considered at State level for this Award.

Darrell G has recently returned from Indiana and was pleased to be able to present a couple of banners from the clubs he had the pleasure of visiting.

There will be a bike ride coming through Cooma on 10 October, finishing at Merimbula in time for the conference - the ride is to publicise the End Polio Now campaign. Pres Hass has more details.

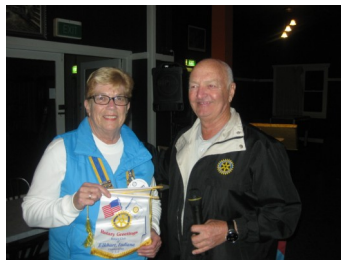
Adrian Bell, Principle of Monaro High School presented a \$300.00 cheque to Tamara John-Natley who accepted it on behalf of the Cooma Rotary Club. The presentation resulted from a visit earlier this year by Akram Azumi, current Young Australian of the Year. The donation will be directed to the End Polio Now program.

This week Pres Hass received notification of the completion of the Cooma Fitness Stations.

Pres Hass received a letter from Dr Hilary Lindsay, a former Rotarian, who is seeking assistance on behalf of her sister who lives in Cooma, a Mrs Welch. Mrs Welch has recently lost her husband and has no male relatives who can assist with maintenance around the home. Dr Lindsay was hoping our Club might be able to hold a working bee at Mrs Welch's home to help refurbish the kitchen which needs painting and the stove replaced. Mrs Welch is happy to pay for any necessary materials. If you can help please contact Elaine S.

Photo Gallery

Peter D, Dave H & Marco



Pres Hass & Darrell



Adrian Bell & Tamara



Margo, Elaine S & Brenda



Taya, Will & Georgie



Rebecca & Les



Margaret E & Darrell



Patrick & Katrin

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Tony S

**By the time a man realises his father might have been right
he has a son who thinks he is wrong.**

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

3 Minuter

The 3 Minuter this week was presented by Elaine M. She says she is what could be called a “true blue” local. She was born in Cooma in what is now know as the Bunkhouse Motel, which was previously the local maternity hospital. She grew up on the Monaro during the first decade of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. It was a very interesting time to be at school here. Her classmates consisted of many nationalities, she said it was wonderful.

Her parents had a property at Rock Flat and her first 3 years of formal education was by correspondence from Blackfriars correspondence school. The lessons arrived weekly by post, she would do the work in a couple of days, ready for them to be posted back. The rest of the week was spent doing the things she liked around the farm. Her education was completed at Brigandine Convent, which is now St Pat's, where she completed her leaving certificate and was destined for teachers college. She recalls that Roger Norton was in the year below her and she learnt a lot about horse racing from him.

She didn't get to teachers college as she was asked to come down to Gibson King to do some work, as she knew how to type. During her time there she realised that a law degree was calling so she studied by correspondence once again ending up with a Law Degree. She continued to work at Gibson King for the next 25 years becoming a partner in that time. Then she left and started her own firm. She always enjoyed her work as a solicitor and was elected as a councillor to the Law Society of Australia.

Elaine was also a member of the Soroptimist Organisation, which is an international organisation for professional business women. She joined in 1970 and after holding a variety of offices at local and regional level was elected president of the South West Pacific region.

In closing she said she did not consider growing up and working in a country town was a disadvantage, in fact she feels it provided her with many opportunities she might not have had if she had grown up elsewhere.



This Weeks Attendance: 73.5%

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Rebecca , Adrian Bell, Lucy Nesci, Will Fitzgerald, Taya Evans (Club), Peter Evans, Margo Fitzgerald, Georgie Constance (Ashley C), Tamara John-Natley (Mark J-N),

Apologies: Neil B, Tom B, Geoff B.

Leave: Peter A, John V. **We Also Missed:** Joe V. **Make-ups:** John C (Woden), Darrell (USA)

**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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ROSTERS	September	October
Attendance	Dugald M Kevin D	Elaine M Claire N
Property	Peter D Graham F	Marco Elaine S
Fellowship	Margaret E Claire N	Rob S Tony S
Markets	John K- Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Dave H - Res Neil B Joe V Les S Tony S Robb S	John K - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Tom B Geoff B David B Breda CB John C Ashley C

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 John King 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 Mark John-Natley before the event. Others nominated should be at the park by 8.30am.

Upcoming Program	Three Minuter	Thought of the Week
Guest Speaker: 18 Sept - Oliver Cay - Farming on the Monaro Now & Into the Future	18 Sept - Marco R	18 Sept - Les S
Intro: Geoff B Thanks: Tom B	25 Sept - N/A	25 Sept - Des T

Upcoming Guest Speakers - 25 Sept - Maureen Manning - District Governor

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	JOINING DATE
Alan D - 5 Sept Claire N - 19 Sept Darrell G - 25 Sept Helen spouse of Graham - 2 Sept	John & Rosie K - 12 Sept Alan & Catherine D - 26 Sept	Katrin H - 13 Sept

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