



Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Meeting - 4 December 2013

Michael Boyce - Ideas for Cooma

at the Cooma Bowling Club



Michael is a well respected long term resident of Cooma and is very passionate about the potential prosperity of the town. He is an Accountant with a practice which employs a number of locals.

He started by complimenting the Club on being very successful and for the ongoing fellowship it provides. He said that people involved in things like Rotary who contribute to the wider community are happier people.

He then moved on to talk about "Ideas for Cooma" which was inspired by a recent think-tank which was held in town to look at economic development in Cooma, chaired by Dean Lynch, advised by Dr Kym Houghton and inspired/challenged by Dugald Mitchell. The report produced spoke about Reversing the decline of the working age population (meaning keeping young people in town), the importance of the online university campus, which Michael thinks is a most wonderful thing, and the importance of service industry in Cooma, which has an influence on people wages.

This think-tank inspired Michael to think about what else can provide economic development in Cooma. His first thought was in relation to online shopping. This could be the biggest new opportunity for Cooma because of the competitive advantage we have in being so close to Canberra. This is because Canberra is the best hub in Australia for sending packages. Then there is the fact we have cheap rentals and are halfway between Sydney and Melbourne so accessing a variety of stock is easy. His second idea revolves around events. Cooma is a great location for tourism and to host events. This is borne out by the number of events which are currently held here. These include: the annual show, the Snowy Ride, the Classic Car Show, the National Busking Competition, the Car Hill Climb, the regional football, the dog show and the equestrian events. He feels that we need an Events Co-ordinator/Promoter to support the current events and to provide information and support to those who want to create new events. Thirdly there was the development of Monbeef. Recently they have changed their business model. They have gone to a halal style of slaughtering, they have smaller kill numbers, they have started value adding by producing mince to sell to places like mining towns and supermarkets, they have changed how they get their cattle. They are planning to move towards the production of more commodities. They have also started working more hours and these changes will require a larger workforce which will mean more money being spent in town.

He finished by saying it is up to the business people of Cooma to make positive moves to make the community a desirable place to have and do business.



The contact for making apologies and for notifications of guests for dinner meetings is Les Sutcliffe on 6452 7442 during business hours or e-mail leecooma@bigpond.com

THREE MINUTER

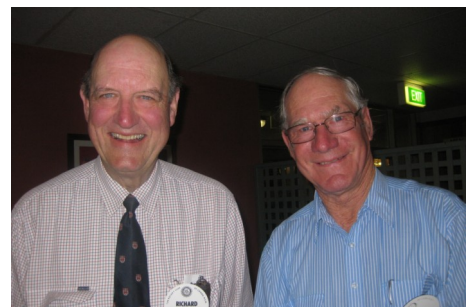
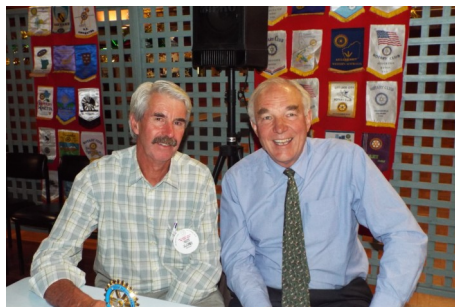
This week John K spoke about his family. His Dad came to Australia in 1927 and 6 years later married Jean Harnett. They brought a property called Avonside and built a house and other out buildings. In 1939 they went back to England leasing Avonside while they were away. During this time war broke out and his Dad joined a Tank Regiment and his Mum joined the Mechanised Transport Corps. In 1944 John was born in England. The family returned to Avonside in 1947. John's initial schooling was by correspondence up to 4th class and then he went to Canberra Grammar which he left in 1961. His jobs included jackarooing at McAughey Institute, wood carting, 3 months on the road moving sheep and helping out at Avonside.

In 1968 he took over Avonside and 2 years later he married Rosemary Hampson. They had 3 children, David who died in infancy, Jenny and Simon. Jenny and Simon attended school at Berridale, Sydney and Canberra. Jenny went on to study vet science and Sydney University and now lives in England with her husband and 2 daughters. She also has 3 vet practices. After school Simon went jackerooing for a while and then decided to study agricultural science at Wagga. He now lives locally with his wife and 3 sons.

They bought another 2 properties, Greylands and Muniong along with leasing the next door property of Kara. Eventually they sold Greyland and finished leasing Kara. In 1990 they started the Avonside Merino Stud. Due to ill health they decided to sell Avonside and move the business to Muniong.

Along with being a full time farmer John was involved with:

- Junior famers
- Berridale P & C (Life Member)
- Berridale Bush Fire Brigade (Life Member)
- Berridale Anglican Parish
- Managed a \$95K landcare project
- Member of NSW Serrated Tussock Taskforce
- Chairman NSW Farmers Monaro District Council
- Helped write the Monaro Grasslands Management Plan
- Chairman Monaro Stud Breeders
- Joined Cooma Rotary Club in 2011



THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Patrick K

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.

Rotary Theme of the Month:

Family Month

Announcements

The Annual Rotary Club Christmas Party is being held on 18 December at the Bowling Club. 6.30pm for a 7pm start. The cost is \$25/head and partners are very welcome to attend.

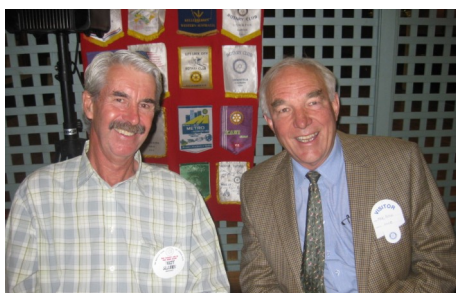
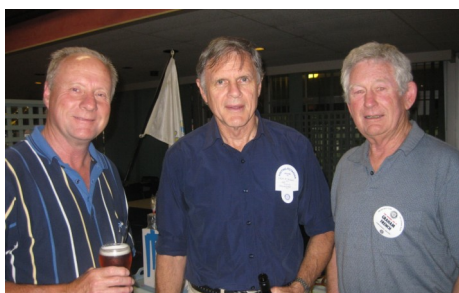
Claire N and the Cooma Visitors Centre are organising a competition to “**Light Up Cooma For Christmas**”. It is open to homes and businesses in Cooma and you must register with the Visitors Centre to be eligible for any of the prizes on offer. A map will be produced to show where all the participating homes and businesses are. Judging will be held on 21st and 22nd December.

John K reported the amount of \$2,100 was raised from the Maffa sale.

The club received a letter from the Sir William Hudson care facility expressing their thanks for the donation of the foot-stools and television. They have been greatly appreciated.

The club also received a card from Mary Brown, Brenda’s Mum, thanking the club for the hospitality extended to her during a recent visit.

Julia Pedler in her role as Assistant Governor gave a short address. She said having visited Cooma a number of time in the past she was very comfortable giving her first address to us. She is not sure how she will go when she is down in Bombala, as she doesn’t yet know anyone down there. She mentioned 2 upcoming events, the first is the next version of Humanity in Motion book is being produced and they are after article of 300-400 words plus photos. Secondly she mentioned the National Youth Science Forum 2014, there are 140 participants from Australia, New Zealand, Sth Afric and Canada. Special dinner functions are to be held on 9th and 23rd January. All are welcome to attend, you need to book online by 15th December.



This Weeks Attendance: 75.8%

Visiting Rotarians: Michael and Julia Pedler - Canberra Sth, Colin McQueen - Collingwood

Guests: Jan Sutcliff (Les S), Michael Boyce (Club)

Apologies: Geoff B, Neil B, John C, Katrin H, Joe V, Alyson H-J

Leave: Peter A, John V

Make-ups: None

We Also Missed: None

The Rotary Club of Cooma

The Secretary

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December Rosters	
Attendance	Des T
	Joe V
Property	Tom B
	Graham F
Fellowship	Margaret E
	Claire N
Market	John King - Co-ord
	Alyson - PA
	Darrell G
	Brian J
	Mark JN
	Dave H
	Patrick K
	Wolfgang L
3 Minute Talk	
11 Dec	Wolfgang L
18 Dec	n/a
Thought of the Week	
11 Dec	Elaine M
18 Dec	Claire N
Thank you	
11 Dec	Marco R
18 Dec	n/a
Introduction	
11 Dec	Tony S
18 Dec	n/a

Upcoming Speakers
11 Dec - Tamara John-Natley - Before Italy
18 Dec - Christmas Party

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

BIRTHDAYS

4th - Les S

9th - Mark J-N

10th - John C

5th - Judy Trute spouse of Des

8th - Jeannette Clarke spouse of John

21st - Carol Slate spouse of Tony

30th - Lainie Lawson spouse of Richard

JOINING DATE

7th - Richard L

16th - Elaine M

ANNIVERSARIES

14th - Mark & Janine J-N

20th - Tony & Carol S

28th - Brian J & Alyson H-J

30th - Darrell & Marilyn G

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