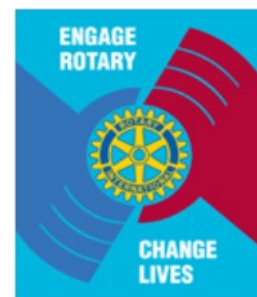


# Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Meeting – 5 February 2014

Helen French—The Inside Story of Felting  
at the Cooma Bowling Club



Everyone has a different idea of felt and encountered it in the form of piano keys, Akubra hats, saddle rugs, billiard table covers, motorcycle gloves and even sandbag covers. Felt has been around for a long time, the oldest use of felt was discovered in a wall hanging in Turkey dating from between 6500BC to 3000BC. There are many stories of how and where felt was discovered but in an ice preserved burial chamber in Siberia there were stockings, boots and hats discovered along with a number of other artifacts. In the 4th century BC the Chinese were referring to the Central Asian Steppes as the land of felt. Felt has always been used for human survival. A long time ago sheep used to shed wool in clumps, this lead to these clumps being placed on horses backs as a form of saddle. The agitation and sweat from the horse lead to early felt. It was light and durable and well suited to a nomadic lifestyle. Yurts, which are large tents made from felt still house Mongolian nomads today. The Romans and Greeks used felt from tunics and breast plates.

In the last 30 years felt has moved from just being a utilitarian fabric to being used in artworks. Wool is the easiest fibre to felt as it has overlapping scales and waves called crimp. Felt is made by adding moisture, heat and agitation, this makes the scales open out and interlock which causes shrinkage, then they retighten to form a tight unwoven fabric. The base fibre you start with determines the end product. Felt making is not a static as techniques continue to develop and the product continues to be used for different things.

Helen's favorite fibres to work with are alpaca, mohair and silk.



## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: John K

Attitudes are contagious - is yours worth catching

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](mailto:leecooma@bigpond.com)

## THREE MINUTER

Margaret E presented the 3 Minuter this week. In her youth Margaret was a professional skater. One scary experience was when she was going to a rehearsal and got on the wrong train and ended up in the Russian zone. Her and her friend decided the best thing to do was to get off at the next station, they put their scarves, over their heads and they took off their lipstick and stockings so they would look like peasants. The station master helped them and they got the next train back to the American zone.

As a skater you were only employed for the length of the show so between one contract and the next Margaret worked as a waitress and as a photographer. One night she was waiting at the stage door for a friend who was running late when she was approached by a man who asked if she was a skater and if she wanted to come and do a show in Spain. All she knew about Spain was that Franco was in charge and it was a catholic country. Little did she know that she was to meet her future husband on that trip. She was on a train when a man approached her asking if he could have the stamp off her airmail letter as he collected stamps. This was just a ruse as he didn't collect stamps but wanted an excuse to talk to her. He asked what she was doing there and she told him she was skating in an ice show. He showed up at the stage door and was waiting, she wasn't sure if it was for her or her friend. Turns out her was waiting for her. They went for coffee after the 10.30pm show, she ended up falling in love. She wrote and told her mother she was falling in love and getting married. Mum rushed over to Spain to try and stop the wedding. They were married in the Catholic church so the marriage would be recognized in Spain. As she didn't speak much Spanish so it was arranged that she would say "Si Padre" at a certain signal. They ended up back in Australia running an importing business and when they retired they went back to Spain for 4 years before returning to Australia because their children were living here. They settled in Cooma 23 years ago.



**Rotary Theme of the Month:**

**World Understanding Month**

## Announcements

Congratulations to Ken D for being awarded Citizen of the Year for 2014.

Also congratulations to Dugald for being acknowledged for his work in relation to the Cooma Dialysis Unit.

Allyson HJ called for donations for the Wine Auction to be held at the Sir William Hudson fete. The fete is on 30 March, she also needs a volunteer to co-ordinate the wine raffle.

**This Weeks Attendance:** 66.7%

**Visiting Rotarians:** None

**Guests:** Helen French (Club)

**Apologies:** Geoff B, Brenda CB, Katrin H, Joe V, Elaine S      **Leave:** Tom B, Peter A, David B, John V

**Make-ups:**

**We Also Missed:**

February Rosters	
<b>Attendance</b>	Tom B
	Kevin D
<b>Property</b>	Les S
	Peter D
<b>Fellowship</b>	Margaret E
	Claire N
<b>Market</b> <b>16 Feb</b>	John K - Co-ord
	Alyson - PA
	Joe V
	Des T
	Mark C
	Ken D
	Peter D
	Graham F
<b>3 Minute Talk</b>	
<b>12-Feb</b>	Graham F
<b>19-Feb</b>	Darrell G
<b>26-Feb</b>	Brian J
<b>Thought of the week</b>	
<b>12-Feb</b>	Alyson HJ
<b>19-Feb</b>	Brian J
<b>26-Feb</b>	Mark JN
<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>12-Feb</b>	Claire N
<b>19-Feb</b>	Marco R
<b>26-Feb</b>	Elaine S
<b>Thank you</b>	
<b>12-Feb</b>	Wolfgang L
<b>19-Feb</b>	Richard L
<b>26-Feb</b>	Dugald M

Upcoming Speakers
<b>12 Feb</b> - Darrell G - Rotary Friendship Exchange USA
<b>19 Feb</b> - Jane Cay @ Birdsnest
<b>26 Feb</b> - Dr Kylie Fardell - Army Medicine
<b>5 March</b> - Sandra Mahlbery & Yvonne Robson ROMAC

## MEMBER HAPPENINGS February

### BIRTHDAYS

Elaine M - 25 Feb

### JOINING DATE

None reported

### ANNIVERSARIES

Des & Judy Trute - 5 Feb

Claire & Hans Neumeyer - 7 Feb

David & Kathy Byrne - 27 Feb

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