



Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Meeting - 9 April 2014

Doug Alcock - Graz Prophet Consulting



Doug is a freelance agricultural consultant who spoke about how consulting fits into agriculture and the way things have changed.

He was employed by the Department of Primary Industries where he would provide advisory services to farmers. Part of his role was to persuade people to voluntarily embrace change. He found that part of getting the message of research and development out there was communication.

This area was not something farmers wanted to pay for so about 60 years ago the Government stepped in to provide the services, employing people with specialist expertise. These people were the District Officers and their job was to be a conduit between researchers and farmers.

How it used to work was:

- It was determined there was a need for research in a particular area;
- Then this research would be developed;
- The District Officers would then take this information out to the farmers;
- They would provide feedback to the researchers from the farmers;
- And they would do a bit of administration work on the side.

The District Officers and the Researchers had a shared role of developing ideas and sharing this information with the farming community. These services have declined over the last 20 years leading to a significant loss of technical expertise.

Recently the technical extension role, that is going and talking to the farmers, has been replaced with a

facilitation role in the Local Land Services, it is now quite a generic public service job. The Department of Primary Industries are now focusing on research with less direct connection to the farming community. The outcome of this may be mixed messages coming out to farmers and going back to researchers.

When Doug left the department he chose to keep doing tasks like contract research, providing on-farm advice, producer training, farm systems modelling which provides information to farmers, policy makers and academics, running courses and some speaking engagements.

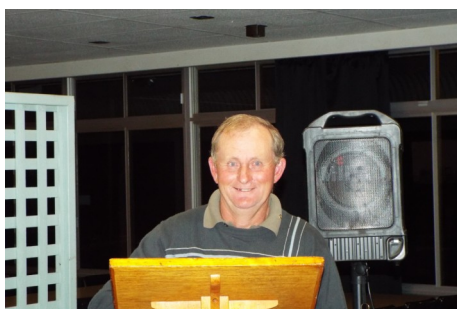
Up to this point it is working out ok for him.



Thought of the Week - Tracy A
We don't just have the responsibility to reach our full potential -
We have a responsibility to do so.

Rotary Theme of the Month: Magazine Month

This week Rob S told us a story of a man who had been marooned on a desert island for many years, which was away from the busy trade routes. He had plenty of fresh fruit and fish to sustain him. One day when fishing off the beach he noticed a body coming towards him. From the water emerged a beautiful girl. He looked at her and she looked at him, then from one sleeve of her wet suit she pulled out a pack of cigarettes and offered him one. He took it with relish as he hadn't had a smoke in ages. Then after a bit of small talk from the other sleeve of her wet suit she pulled out a bottle of whiskey and gave it to him. He thought to himself that life really doesn't get better than this. Then after a bit more small talk she got up closer to him and started to open the front of her wet suit. She said since you have been here so long by all alone you wouldn't have had an opportunity to play around and he said to her don't tell me you have a set of golf clubs in there.



We received notes of thanks from the Shelter Box providers for a \$2,000 donation.

Also from the Sir William Hudson Nursing Home for our assistance at the fete, they raised about \$14,000.

Remember: Next weeks meeting is at the Bredbo Hotel with the Tuggeranong Club.

We will meet at Centennial Park at 6pm to car pool down, the cost for the night is \$20.

Projects being supported by Cooma Rotary include:

- End Polio Now
- ROMAC
- Shelter Box
- Monaro Early Intervention Service (MEIS)
- New public seating in Cooma
- More trees at Rotary Oval
- Outdoor workout equipment



Easter Bonnet And Hat Parade



EASTER SUNDAY

20 APRIL 2014

at the Rotary Markets in Centennial Park

Join in the fun

Create your original Easter bonnet or hat



Judging - 11.30



PRIZES - Adult (female & male) - Student

No entry fee - receive an Easter egg just for entering!

April Rosters	
Attendance	Richard L
	Tracey A
Property	Wolfgang
	Patrick K
Fellowship	Margaret E
	Claire N
Market	John K - Co-ord
	Alyson - PA
	Marco (BBQ trailer)
	Elaine S
	Robb S
	Tony S
	Les S
	Darrell G
3 Minute Talk	
16 April	Tony S
23 April	Les S
Thought of the week	
16 April	Tom B
23 April	Geoff B
Introduction	
16 April	Margaret E
23 April	Graham F
Thank you	
16 April	Ashley C
23 April	Mark C

Upcoming Speakers
16th April - Ian McGufficke Combined meeting with Tuggeranong at Bredbo
23rd April - Gary Nairn Life after Politics

MEMBER HAPPENINGS April

BIRTHDAYS

Des T - 15 April

Geoff B - 17 April

JOINING DATE

None recorded

ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Trish Libauer - 20 April

This Weeks Attendance: 76.5%

Visiting Rotarians:

Guests: Doug Alcock (Club), Monica Alcock (Doug A), Narelle Davis (Peter D)

Apologies: Tom B, Mark C, Peter D, Kevin D, Elaine M.

Leave: Alyson H-J, Joe V, John V

Make-ups: John C (Woden, Tuggeranong)

We Also Missed:

**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**