



Rotary Club of Cooma Inc

Meeting - 28 May 2014

at the Cooma Country & Bowls Club

GUEST SPEAKER - Jarrod Sopniewski



ROSTERS FOR JUNE:-

Remember that you can organise a swap with someone if you can't do your roster!!!

June Rosters		
Attendance		Rob S
		Graham F
Property		Darrell G
		Jim H
Fellowship		Margaret E
		Claire N
Mkts	15 June	John K - Co-ord
		Wolfgang L
		Tom B
		Neil B (BBQ trailer)
		John C
		Ashley C
		Mark C
3 Minute Talk		
	4-Jun	Katrin H
	11-Jun	Jim H
	18-Jun	David H
	25-Jun	n/a, Changeover
Thought of the week		
	4-Jun	Darrell G
	11-Jun	Katrin H
	18-Jun	Margaret H
	25-Jun	n/a, Changeover
Thank you		
	4-Jun	Richard L
	11-Jun	Dugald M
	18-Jun	Claire N
	25-Jun	n/a, Changeover
Introduction		
	4-Jun	Tony S
	11-Jun	Les S
	18-Jun	Des T
	25-Jun	n/a, Changeover

FUTURE PROGRAMS

4 June -

Simon White

Hillross Financial Adviser

11 June -

Margaret Hassall & Darrell Gaukroger

Inside the Convention

18 June -

Frances Robertson

Young People in Community Service

25 June -

Our Changeover Dinner

This Weeks Attendance: 70.6%

Visiting Rotarians: nil

Guests: Rebecca , Jarrod Sopniewski, (Club)
Judy Trute, Jenha, Rhys & Abbie Sopniewski,
Elizabeth Laught, (Des)
Helen Caldwell (Geoff)
Jan John-Natley (Mark)

Apologies: Tom Belgard, Brenda Campbell-Brown, Margaret Hassall, Les Sutcliffe, Tom B, David B, Brenda C

Leave: Peter D, John V, Alyson HJ, Graham F, Mark Cooper

Make ups - Margaret Hassall - International Convention

We Also Missed: - Joe Vescio

The contact for meeting apologies and for notification of guests is Les Sutcliffe on 02 6452 7442 or email leecooma@bigpond.com by 10 am Tuesday



Our leadership team for the night - Acting Sergeant, John C and Acting President, Neil

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:-

John C - **ROMAC and our INTERACT Club** - John reported that our Interact Club organised a visit from Sandra Mahlberg to talk to them about ROMAC. Sandra brought with her Rebi, who is the mother of a 14 year old boy with a blocked bowel. This boy weighed 27 kg when he arrived in Australia and during the operation he lost 6 kg of waste matter from his bowel. Rebi expressed her enormous gratitude to Rotary and ROMAC for giving her son a chance at life.

Darrell - **John Jacoby**, a past member of our club, is in hospital with growths on his lungs and brain. Our thoughts are with John and his wife Heather. We wish him all the best. They called in at the April Rotary markets and it was good to see them but this news is very sad.



John K - John has been contacted by the **Land Newspaper** who are planning a feature article about our Cooma Markets. John has been interviewed for the article and Katrin has sent photos. We look forward to seeing this promotion in the paper.

- The Board has approved John's request to purchase a **Wishing Well** to help us raise funds at the markets and other events. There is space on the well to advertise Rotary activities. A similar well raised \$1,600 during Easter on the coast.

Katrin - Hass has just banked another \$55.35 which are the proceeds of her **5c Collection**. As yet a project for these funds has not been decided and Hass is open to suggestions.

- Hass applied for a **\$6,000 grant** for our local project at the MEIS from the Rotary District Grant Fund. This application has been successful and hopefully the Board will agree to match this grant \$ for \$ so that we can achieve great things at MEIS. Well done, Hass!

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK - "Admission of ignorance is often the first step in our education."

THREE MINUTER - There was no 3 minuter but Marco did read out a very entertaining story.

Items from the April Board Meeting -

- We have decided to accept another Youth Exchange Student for later this year.
- The Board has agreed for Claire to once again organise the Christmas Lights Competition.

GUEST SPEAKER **Jarrold Sopniewski**
Premier ANZAC Memorial Scholarship

The Scholarship - This scholarship started in 2008 and is open to students from all over Australia. It provides a two weeks, all expenses paid trip to a theatre of war where Australian armed forces have fought. Jarrold was one of approximately 4,000 applicants from all over Australia and was selected to go to South Korea. His group consisted of the Minister for Veteran Affairs, two teachers (who also went through a careful selection process), two RSL Councillors and 10 students.



The Scholarship Trip started at Hyde Park in Sydney where the group attended a Remembrance Service. Throughout the year people attending these services are given a star with the name of a soldier who died in one of Australia's war zones. At the end of the year these stars are cremated and the ashes are scattered in one of the countries where Australian soldiers have fought and lost their lives for their country.

The first stop in South Korea was Seoul, a city of 13 million people which now has a thriving tourist industry. Here the group attended Remembrance ceremonies throughout the city. They learnt how strategically important the mountains and how terrible the conditions for soldiers to endure, including -20 degree nights. All members of the group were very moved by these experiences. The comparison with Australia's life style and the gratitude of the Korean people made a big impression.

The ceremonies and stories helped to make war very real for the students. The battle at 504 Hill at Gapyeong was an example of the dedication, bravery and perseverance of our soldiers. At this battle the Australian and New Zealand troops were grossly outnumbered. It was cold and dark and the fighting was 'crazy'. It was difficult to tell friend from foe, so they would call out in English and if there was no answer, they would shoot. Eventually the Australian, New Zealand and American troops won the battle and saved Korea. There are banners everywhere which say "Korea will always remember your sacrifice". At one memorial the students met **an old Korean soldier** whose only English word was 'Australia'. This man fell to his knees in front of the students with tears of gratitude in his eyes. Jarrold felt very humbled that this gentleman would kneel down in front of a couple of students to express his gratitude.

The group had a private ceremony at one of the memorials to scatter the ashes they had been given in Sydney. This symbolic tribute for the sacrifices made by our troops was one of many highlights.



The scholarship group also visited **the Demilitarised Zone** between North and South Korea, which showed them another aspect of conflict. It was a scary, high security area where the wrong move could get you shot. An inspection of the Joint Security Area where North and South meet to discuss peace options was an eye opener. The poverty of the North was hard for the students to compute. One of the soldiers they saw received a 'wage' of 100 grams of food per day and he was one of the lucky ones. Families of people who defect from the North to the South are severely punished. The South Koreans live in fear of potential attacks from the North.

At the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan, which was commissioned in 1951, the students were given the name of a soldier. They researched this soldier's history, told their fellow students about him and then placed a flower on the grave.

The headstone of JP Daunt made a strong impression on Jarrod because of his age. He was only 17 when he died, just a kid not much older than him, with family, friends and a mother back home waiting for him.

To Jarrod ANZAC means

Courage Endurance Mateship Self Sacrifice

Jarrod ended his talk by asking us to stand while he read the Oath. This was followed by one minute's silence.

Congratulations to Jarrod for a very inspiring and well presented talk.

It was certainly one of the best we've had.



The Photo Gallery

