

As with all of life there comes a time to make changes to fit the present circumstances.

In my case I am no longer in a position to organise, to cook, to facilitate the holding of the Cooma Combined Churches Men's Breakfasts. This is not for unwillingness of The Salvation Army to accommodate us, as a combined Churches independent gathering, but rather it is because of my unavailability from the start of this year, 2014, to continue in this task without a successor.

It was agreed by Cooma Ministers Association today that that the self supporting Cooma Combined Churches Men's Breakfasts will cease. In doing so they acknowledge all those who have contributed to making the breakfast meeting times possible; a pleasurable and inspiring experience to look forward to each month, always with strong public invitation to men in town and district to fully participate – and they have.

We have had a huge variety of life-commitment subjects expressed by all those who were our guest speakers over many years. It has helped us appreciate that there are many ways of bringing glory to God in serving him for the common good. There is no doubt that meeting together over the meal has been good also for us to share in one's personal faith journey in Jesus Christ, as head of the whole Christian Church.

The Men's Breakfast started as an initiative of Cooma Corps of The Salvation Army when the new Citadel and its accompanying Functions Room was opened in August 1991 under the command of Envoy Ian Ross. Later Pastor Michael Reading continued leadership of the Breakfast meetings by incorporating the use of Christian Men's Network talks recorded on video from USA. He was succeeded by Mr Stephen Rendell when, instead of video talks, he drew on a wide range of speakers locally and afar. This was the pattern that I continued during my term. In this pattern, we have been greatly enriched by the amazing breadth of experience and/or enterprise from the men of Monaro for the betterment of this world. An annual highlight was to invite women to join us for the December Breakfast.

Finally, I acknowledge the frequent cooking support given to me of Mr Darrell Gaukroger and Mr George Bowden and the consistent website and publicity contribution as a gift of Mr Stephen Rendell. The food preparation items and accessories have been passed over to The Salvation Army and all left-over funds will be assigned to Cooma Minister's Association towards the provision of teaching material in Public primary schools. It has been a great privilege to serve all those who have come to the Breakfasts and I thank you for your participation in this enterprise.