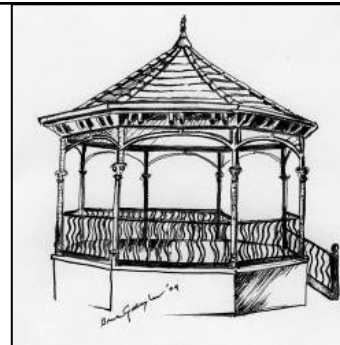


# Canterbury Tales

**Rotary Club of Canterbury**  
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**President - Rob Simpson**

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**Volume 32 – Issue 16 – 12 October 2017**

## Meeting

Mondays 6:00pm for 6:30pm  
 Basscare Centre,  
 2 Rochester Rd, Canterbury  
*Unless otherwise stated in Diary*

## Register for Meeting

Guests and Club Members can  
 Register on the following links  
[Register for Meeting](#)  
[Register and Pay Online](#)

## Apologies

[Notify Meeting Apology](#)

*\*prior to 10AM Friday*

**Graham Bishop**

Mobile 0412 154 540

[graham.bishop@canterburyrotary.org](mailto:graham.bishop@canterburyrotary.org)

*Advise Graham of a long absence*

## The Rotary Radio Show

Fridays 6pm to 8pm

**3WBC  
94.1 FM**

## The Aussie Pride Badge



## Secretary – John Braine

Ph: 0411 1156 129

[secretary@canterburyrotary.org](mailto:secretary@canterburyrotary.org)

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## Victoria Police Family Violence Taskforce

We had another very full on night last Monday. Despite having seven Club members away in the Philippines, the numbers were very strong including partners Karin and Gail, Fabienne from Camberwell, Past District Governor Murray Verso, Norman Bay and Janine Mahoney from Rotary Club of Melbourne and the District 9800 Rotary Action Group on Family Violence. In addition, Norman Gale from the Salvos and Sue (facilitator of the Salvos Pronunciation Classes sponsored by our Club) came with several students from the English class.



*Anthony Mercer*

Our guest speaker was Detective Senior Sergeant Anthony Mercer, a senior professional in the Force for more than 27 years including Homicide, Armed Robbery, the Arson Squad and in recent years leader of the Victoria Police Family Violence Taskforce. He also was for five years part of the extremely respected and admired Purana Investigation Unit into major organized crime in Victoria.

Anthony presented a fascinating account of modern day policing with many insights and explanations which were eye opening to most of the audience. In particular, he quoted statistics and many accounts of real world situations .....the audience was totally immersed and absorbed in his articulate and passionate presentation.

The Family Violence Taskforce consists of eleven team members to cover the whole of the state and in Victoria Police there are 32 officers totally dedicated to Family Violence and 28 dedicated to Sexual and Child Abuse Investigation. The charter of the Family Violence Taskforce is to investigate high risk

perpetrators who have committed serious family violence offences against multiple victims. High risk indicators include choking and sexual assault, harming pets and animals, etc.

There is currently a database of 26,000 perpetrators who have offended against three or more family members..... 6,500 have five or more offences and 1,500 have ten or more offences. Family Violence is the most common call out for police attendance. The Taskforce started in November 2015 and has seen significant developments and allocation of resources in this area over that time. There is now sharing of databases with external service providers and support agencies. Family Violence is also now a key training focus at the Police Academy. Officers are now being equipped with iPads and this will enable them to more readily access information.

As in all areas of crime, there is always interest in the court system and whether our police are being supported by the judiciary in regard to sentencing and appropriate findings. Anthony of course was appropriately discreet when asked about this but did concede that it can be frustrating for law enforcement officers when barristers successfully argue that multi offenders be tried separately for each offence. The recidivist nature of their repeat offending is then not fully available for consideration. The majority of Family Violence perpetrators have extensive prior criminal histories..... including armed robberies, assault and drug offences.

## Speaker and Activities Program

Monday October 16  
 Monday October 23

Speaker: Keith Wolahan, *"My Afghanistan Experiences as a Commando"*

Speaker: Janet Hay, *"The Rotary Store in Camberwell & Random Acts of Kindness"*

## Sunday Market 7am – 1pm

October 15 - Malcolm Short, Max Holland, Regina Yuen

October 22 - Nevena Andric, Val Cuniffe, Annette Brownscombe/Helen Hartnett

October 29 - Steve Wylie, Maria Tomanoska, Chris James/Kathleen Stapleton

**Contact Tony Simpson for all roster changes and requests, Home 9417 3995, Mob 0488 380 899**

**Please be on time as if you are late, our Club pays \$50 penalty for each half hour or part thereof.**



## Canterbury Tales

Rotary Club of Canterbury

### Victoria Police Family Violence Taskforce - Continued

Anthony's was an outstanding and fascinating presentation to our Club by a dedicated and articulate professional Senior Detective. The interest was evident from the many questions which he answered frankly and capably. We are indebted to Anthony and Victoria Police for the time that was so generously given to our Club on Monday evening.



Norman Gale

### The Salvo's Pronunciation Classes

Earlier in the night, we also were privileged to hear from Norman Gale from the Salvation Army, a good friend well known to many of our members. He talked about the great work being done with migrants and new residents in the Pronunciation Classes led by Sue, who also attended along with several students. The Salvos also are close to the coalface of Family Violence, homelessness social isolation, drug problems and educational disadvantage....the five pillars of service which are the key issues being confronted by Boroondara Cares Foundation and the eight Rotary Clubs in Boroondara.

Norman talked about a range of programs led and conducted by the Salvos and the needs they have for volunteers and other resources. In conjunction with Boroondara Cares Foundation, our Club is leading the OWL Program to assist isolated people of all ages find a sense of purpose and get *On With Life*. Camberwell Rotary are similarly leading the charge of addressing homelessness in Boroondara. It was great to see Fabienne Nicola there on Monday.....she and our Carmella Dimasi are planning areas where the Community Service teams of both Clubs can support each other in these two key areas. The Salvos is an important part of that as they have programs and activities in both homelessness and social isolation. As a result of Norman's visit, the plan is for members of both Club's Community Service Committees to visit the Salvo's Bowen Street, sit in on the Pronunciation Class briefly and then be shown the range of activities (e.g. men's cooking classes) where we might be able to assist.

### Acting President's Message

My, what a wonderful night we had last Monday with two wonderful speakers: Detective Senior Sergeant Anthony Mercer, who heads the Victoria Police Family Violence Taskforce, and Norman Gale from the Salvation Army.

Norman Gale talked about the English Pronunciation Classes that our Club and the Camberwell Rotary Club are financing, together with a brief mention of some of the other Salvo's projects. He brought along four of his students and pointed out how important it is to have the correct pronunciation of words, in the subtle contexts and meanings to fit into our Australian society and the employment environment.

John McCaskill was Chair for the evening and indeed excelled in attracting Anthony Mercer as our guest speaker. Anthony was an 'out of the box' speaker who gave us an overview of just how prevalent family violence is in our community and the problems police and associated people, such as social workers and psychologists, have in making headway with this issue. Anthony used the example of one perpetrator that was initially believed to have been violent to 7 former partners based upon available records. On further investigation this perpetrator was found to have been violent to 17 former partners plus numerous other related contacts including children. Anthony spoke of the problems police have of getting these types of cases to court and obtaining convictions. I think we all were shocked at the extent of the problem and were very glad we have people of the calibre and stature of Anthony Mercer and his co-workers who are addressing the problem of family violence in a practical manner to make our state a better and safer place.

Lilli-Ann Krieglger kindly stepped into the role of Acting Sergeant and did a sterling job, even if I have to declare I was on the winning table for the dice game. It's the flick of the wrist by our three dice throwers that made the difference!

Since returning from overseas, Me Te Madakbas had an unexpected hospitalisation and is subsequently recuperating from lung surgery. Our best wishes are with Me Te and we look forward to his recovery and to seeing him again as soon as his health allows.

We are maintaining the high calibre speaker momentum and next Monday we will welcome Keith Wolahan who will talk about *My Afghanistan Experiences as a Commando*. I look forward to a big roll-up for Keith's talk.

John Richards

### The Next Speaker - Keith Wolahan



Keith Wolahan is a Melbourne barrister. Keith was educated at the University of Melbourne and Monash University. While at the University of Melbourne he completed part-time officer training at Duntroon. He later completed a Master of International Relations at the University of Cambridge.

Keith is a Reservist who has undertaken a series of overseas deployments. Captain Wolahan was deployed as a platoon commander with the 2nd Commando Company in Afghanistan. In 2011 he was decorated with a Commendation for Distinguished Service for performance of duty in action with the Australian Defence Force.

Keith will talk about his experiences as a Commando in Afghanistan.



## President's Message from the Philippines

The following is an email received from our Club President Rob Simpson on Thursday morning:

We have just completed 2 days of screening with over 800 screened for eyes. On the first day, the students, Han, Maria, Nevena and Jenny said it was the best day of the lives.

So far we have completed over 100 cataract and pterygium operations and over 3400 children screened for ears with approximately 30% requiring treatment.

The first day here at Palawan, we had a most enjoyable day at the turtle sanctuary with the students releasing 4 week old turtles into the ocean. We also did some snorkelling and swimming. The food has been some of the best on any mission, and this first resort, Crystal Paradise, has to be one of the best in accommodation in the Club's 21 years of missions.

Today we move further south to Quezon. Everyone sends greetings to all those at home.

Cheers

Rob Simpson



## **Boroondara Cares Foundation**

### ***CHANCES GOLF DAY***

**Box Hill Golf Club, Melbourne**

On Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 the Boroondara Cares Foundation will celebrate the CHANCES Scholarship Program's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with :-

### **A GOLF DAY AT THE BOX HILL GOLF CLUB**

**Chair of Boroondara Cares Board, Elida Brereton, explained:**

*"It is impossible to not be happy when I hear from students who have received a CHANCES scholarship about the difference this has made to their academic results, their self esteem, and in fact to their lives."*

*As Chair of Boroondara Cares Foundation it gives me pleasure to observe measurable and uplifting outcomes for students rewarded for their perseverance and positive attitude despite financial constraints; a CHANCES scholarship does change lives."*

Date: Monday 23 October

Time: 11.00AM

Location: Box Hill Golf Club

Street: 202 Station St, Box Hill South VIC 3128

Cost: \$95.00

**The above includes light refreshments being available prior to the event followed by dinner in the club dining room.**

Booking Contact Details:

Noel Halford

0419 018 901

noelhalford@gmail.com