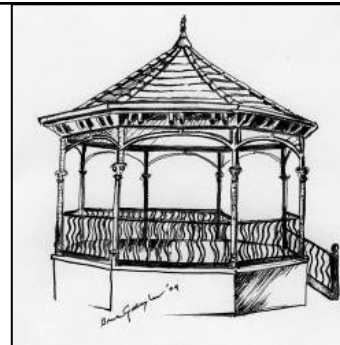


Canterbury Tales

Rotary Club of Canterbury
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President - Rob Simpson

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Volume 32 – Issue 17 – 19 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

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

Editor – Max Holland

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bulletin@canterburyrotary.org



A limited view of life in Afghanistan

Last Monday evening we were treated to some insights into the motivations and the thoughts of one of Australia's well trained military officers. Keith Wolahan is a long time Reserve member since 1996 and having completed A B Comm. LLB (Hons) and a Masters of International Relations, he has also seen active service in Timor Leste and three periods of full time service in Afghanistan. Keith's address to the Club was in three parts; he spoke first of reasons for service, then he spoke of the demographics of Muslim communities and finally spoke of the difficulties we face in dealing with people that have an uninformed and unbalanced Islamic ideology.



Keith Wolahan

In February 2009 Keith was asked to give the eulogy for a friend who was the 11th Australian killed in Afghanistan out of a total over the conflict of 41 deaths. This eulogy was given after he had already seen a tour in Afghanistan. He had not met his friend's family but then had to provide them with an understanding of their son as a soldier. This task inspired him to return for two more tours of duty in this conflict which he undertook as a Platoon Commander of a group of Commandos. In the 2011 Australia Day Honours he was decorated with a Commendation for Distinguished Service for performance of duty as a platoon commander.

Keith showed slides of the extremes of weather and terrain which characterize Afghanistan and make for difficult and dangerous conditions of operating using helicopters. Apparently helicopters have bad operational reactions in these extremes of weather. He explained how most operations were carried out at night as this is when doubtful characters would be moving about, but much of this activity was eventually wound back as there were difficulties in identifying the target personnel. Many of the problems in Afghanistan stem from the problem that as a

land of many regions there is a conflict about imposing central government, particularly as previously there were regional bases of power and patronage.

Another aspect Keith spoke of was the influence the two Middle East powers of Iran and Saudi Arabia, which respectively have Shia and Sunni majorities, on countries such as Syria and Afghanistan. In a country like Afghanistan there are many 'tribal' regions which are partly Sunni and Shia, with no region just adhering to one of these denominations of Islam. Again there are 1.6 billion Muslims in the world and 85% are Sunni and 15% are Shia adherents. On top of this is a lack of education combined with a very high percentage of young people in these Muslim countries. These young people are often then imbued with an uninformed and conflicted Islamic ideology and it is difficult to replace that ideology with a more balanced and informed one, particularly when there is limited access.

An interesting and challenging address which gave rise to a spirited question time.

Speaker and Activities Program

Monday October 23

Rob Simpson will talk about the **2017 Philippines Medical Mission**, and Kyle Wightman will give a presentation and discussion about **"The Energy Crisis"**

Monday October 30

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

Monday November 6

Melbourne Cup Eve Celebrations

Sunday Market 7am – 1pm

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

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

November 5 - Jenni Nankervis, Sarah Prossor, Doug Hawley

November 12 - John Richards, Max Holland, David Zna

November 19 - John Braine, Edward Gwee, Bill Granger/John McCaskill

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

Acting President's Message

Another great evening last Monday when we heard Captain Keith Wolahan give a very interesting first hand insight into his experiences in Afghanistan. He showed what a difficult task it was to make headway and managed to make a couple of jokes of funny situations at his own expense. Fighting and relying upon each other in such close quarters builds a camaraderie that continues well after the theatre of war has passed.

Lola, the ventriloquist frog with the big red lips made Lilli-Ann, as Acting Sergeant appear as a truly skilled performer and perhaps there is a second career for Lilli-Ann lurking in the background somewhere?

The 2017 Philippines Medical Mission

Next week our team from The Philippines Eye and Ear Screening will be back after another VERY successful tour, from what I've been hearing, and our very own President Rob Simpson will be back in charge. Rob will give a background talk to the Club about the experiences and outcomes of the 2017 Medical Mission at the next meeting, with a more comprehensive and formal report on the Philippines Medical Mission to be given at a later date.

John Richards
Acting President

Sisterhood Agreement with Rotary Club of Brooke's Point West, Philippines



The Canterbury Rotary Lunchers

The next gathering of the Canterbury Rotary Lunchers will be at the QPO Café and Restaurant, 186 High Street, Kew on Wednesday 25th July at the usual time of 12:30pm.

QPO has been an iconic landmark in Kew since it was first built in 1880. The building continued to be used as a Post Office up until 1995 when it underwent a complete transformation to become a restaurant. Since then, QPO has seen several reinventions and is now a modern Australian restaurant open for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Fully licensed or BYO wine.

Please let Graham Bishop know if you are coming graham.bishop@canterburyrotary.org or 0412 154 540.

