



Rotarlight

Issue #18 November 10, 2015

President's Report



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Well I must say that I enjoyed my trip away looking for new members and thank sincerely VP Jim for acting in my stead. From all reports all members had a wonderful time without me!! It's wonderful to be loved!!

Another great roll up at Tuesday's meeting with a tasty meal and good fellowship. Past club member Graham Sivyer was inducted while I was on leave and Grahame it is wonderful to have you back. Next week we induct Peter Dimond who is also a past Rotarian. Peter comes on board with a wealth of experience and will be a valued member. Peter has already agreed to join the book club committee which is appreciated.

It is with sadness that Chris Thomsen advised the club last meeting that he has prostate cancer and needs immediate medical attention so he has had to retire as Chair of the book sale committee but will provide advice and guidance moving forward. Chris on behalf of the members of our club we wish you a speedy recovery and thank you for all of the professionalism and dedication in launching the book club project which will I an sure become an excellent club project in the future.

Sargent David as usual provided an entertaining segment to our meeting as did our guest speaker Chris on the Somme.

Next week we again draw from within our club and we have Lauchlan providing us with an extended man behind the badge talk. This fellow Rotarians promises to be interesting and not to be missed.

Our last meeting of the month will be at the Crown and our Social Co-Ordinator Kevin is busy putting a fun evening together.

If you missed out on ordering the Christmas cakes or puddings please contact Rotarian Neil to place your order. Our Christmas party is only a few weeks away and promises to be a lot of fun.

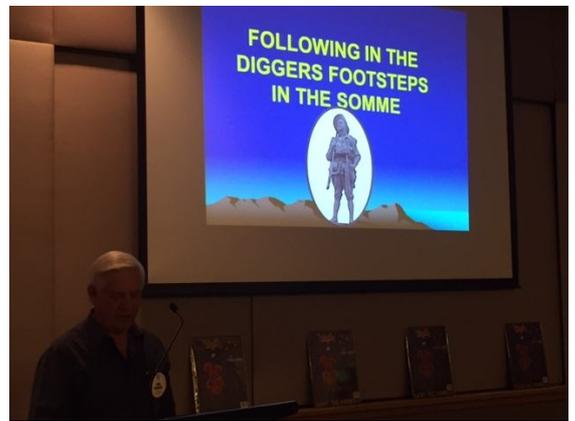
Until next week
Yours in Rotary
Bill Rex

The Battle of the Somme—WW1

Speaker "Chris Thomsen"

P.P. Chris presented an excellent history of the battles, based on research following his personal visit to the area, some little time ago. "The War--to end--All Wars".

The address recalls the shocking loss of life during this war. In introducing Chris for his address, P.P. John commented on the futility of war.



Hostilities commenced on 28th., June 1914, following the assassination of the Austrian Arch Duke and his wife, by a 19 year old Bosnian Serb student Gavrillo Princip. The sequence of events that followed:

Austria--Hungary then backed by Germany threatened Serbia. Russia supported Serbia and threatened Austria-Hungary & Germany. Their Armies were all mobilised.

Germany was fighting on two fronts and sought confirmation from the French to remain neutral. However the French did not adopt a neutral position.

The Schlieffen plan was proposed to provide troop movements by rail to the Belgian boarder. From there great sweeps were planned through Belgian Flanders--around Paris--and then onto the German-Franco boarder where extra German troops would be waiting to trap the French. This plan was to take only 6 weeks to implement. Russian troops would take this time to mobilise. The Germans would by then be in a stronger position.

The plan did not work, since Belgium refused to let German troops pass through its territory---so the Germans invaded Belgium.

Consequently, Great Britain and the British Empire declared war on Germany.

World War 1 was under way.

Initially the German forces advanced quickly but they were halted and decided to "dig in". There was a line of opposing trenches, eventually stretching 475 miles from the Swiss town of Basel, northward past Verdun, Reims and north through the Somme area, French and Belgium Flanders and onto Nieuport on the north coast of Belgium.

While the French held the line in France, the British Empire Forces were in Somme, Nth., France and along the line to Ypres, Nth., Belgium.

The Germans used the dry, higher ground while British Empire forces had to endure the lower terrain which was wet and muddy. The Germans dug under ground chambers, which protected them from Artillery fire.

There were enemy trenches opposing each other between Albert and Bapume on the German side.

The Battle of the Somme commenced on 16th., July 1916 at the insistence of the French. It was planned to take pressure off Verdun. British and French forces conducted the battle. On the 20th., July Australian First Division forces marched through Albert towards the German held village of Pozieres. They dug in and attacked the village after a lengthy Artillery barrage. The village was taken by the 23rd., July and it was virtually destroyed. The Germans counter attacked, shelling the exposed Australian positions in mercilessly. Australian forces suffered very heavy casualties. The First Div., was reduced to half of its strength. On 27th., July, the Second Division relieved the embattled First Div, and it also took heavy casualties while it held Pozieres. There were 17,000 casualties during only 2 weeks of combat. On August 3rd., The Australians moved North and took another stronghold known as "The Windmill."

A Memorial to the Australians reads--"Australians fell more thickly on this ridge than at any other Battlefield in the War". Tanks were used for the first time in September 1916 in a battle on this cite.

The ridge ran from Pozieres to Thiepval and onto Baumont. Hammel was another German stronghold at the Mouquet Farm--The Australians attacked ---the memorial states "Aussies lost 6,000 men trying unsuccessfully to take the fortified farm. It was later taken by the British.

The Battle of the Somme's continued...

After 7 weeks of fierce fighting, the 4 Australian Divisions were withdrawn---the losses were 28,000 men.

The British continued the campaign along a front north-west of Pozieres--their losses were huge---57,000 casualties. 20,000 perished in only one day. There is a memorial erected at Thiepval honouring the British men.

Prior to the Somme Offensive, the Allies tunnelled under German positions and made under ground mines.

When exploded, huge craters formed which still hold buried German Soldiers. The Lochnagar Crater is one of the largest.

The Allies Head Quarters was located at Albert. There is a beautiful Basilica with a golden Statue of the Virgin Mary on top of its spire. One shell hit the Statue, however it did not topple.

Beneath Basilica there is a museum located within old tunnels dedicated to the Battle of the Somme.

The crash site of the Red Baron enemy Pilot credited with accounting for 80 Allied Aero Planes is located not far from Albert. There are remnants of his Plane, in a small Memorial near by.

An Australian Machine Gunner is credited with shooting the plane down.

War graves of thousands of fallen Australian soldiers with names listed are located near the village of Villiers-Bretonneaux. Australian Forces liberated the village. Its School was re-built through donations from school children from Victoria.

The Memorial Museum has the inscription---"Never forget the Australians."

The Somme offensive concluded in November 1916, as winter set in. It was a victory for the Allies and Australians. The war reached stalemate and trench warfare continued until Armistice was signed on 11th., November 1918. Statistics of killed and missing soldiers are shocking. The Allied Forces suffered casualties of 420,000---the French suffered 200,000---the Germans lost between 460,000 and half a million soldiers in the Battle of the Somme. Over all, A U.K. losses were 2,365,000 New Zealand losses were 58,030 Canadian losses were 208,700 Russian losses were 6,700,000 Germany's losses were 7,724,000.

As Chairman, P.P. thanked Chris, for his presentation.

Scribe Ian Cowen.

Foot Note- Scribe attended Primary School at Lithgow during WW11. The Small Arms Factory was located close by. It produced all of the arms used by Allied Forces during the first and second World Wars.

During the first war, A sub-division was built in the western part of Lithgow to house the munitions workers. The streets were named after battle sites from WW1 and the weapons used.

Poiziers St., Amiens St., Suvla St., Bayonet St., Rifle Pde., Vickers St., Musket Pde., Ordnance Ave.

As children, we were very aware of the war effort during WW11. Thousands of men worked 3 shifts 7 days a week at the SAF making weapons. Because of the close proximity of the huge Small Arms Factory, at school we were drilled in air raid evacuation into slip trenches, rain hail or shine, when ever the sirens wailed. We never knew if the alarm was a drill exercise, or for real. Very scary for young children. Often water had gathered in the open trenches. Not much fun in the middle of winter.

Never to be forgotten.



This weeks heads & tails and raffle ticket winners

Programme

Date	Speaker	Subject	Host
17/11/2015	Lachlan Bode	The Rotarian Behind The Badge	Bill Rex
24/11/2015		2015 Debate	Robert Jordan
01/12/2015	PP Harold Busch	Club AGM + "Suns Horizon Program"	

Attendance

Classification	Number
Members	23
Hon. Members	1 Ian Cowen
Visiting Rotarians	3 Adrian Crowe (Surfers Sunrise) Lorraine Pearce Darryl Sulzberger (Coomera Valley)
Partners	
Member Guests	
Visitors	2 Michelle Curnow Peter Dimond
Club Guests	
Total	29

Please confirm your attendance on the club website

Club website: www.broadbeachrotary.org

District website: www.rotary9640.org

Rotary International website: www.rotary.org

Meeting Income

Fines	\$35.85
Raffle	\$63.00
Copper Pot	\$18.65
Total	\$117.50

Door Roster

Date	1st	2nd
17 Nov 15	Neil Hodges	Cec McPaul

Door Roster

Date	1st	2nd
24 Nov 15	Bob Jordan	Jim Hawkins

Anniversaries & Birthdays

John & Pat Curr	6 year wedding anniversary (16 Nov)
Robert Domican	6 years at Rotary Broadbeach (17 Nov)
Paul Taylor	3 years at Rotary Broadbeach (20 Nov)

Club Income

Rotary Foundation	\$486
Member Contributions	(Cumulative \$1,106)
Bunnings Thurs 5 Nov	\$622.25
Bunnings Fri 6 Nov	\$575.10
Total	\$1683.35



When our second child was on the way, my wife and I attended a pre-birth class aimed at couples who had already had at least one child. The instructor raised the issue of breaking the news to the older child. It went like this:

"Some parents," she said, "tell the older child, 'We love you so much we decided to bring another child into this family.' But think about that. Ladies, what if your husband came home one day and said, 'Honey, I love you so much I decided to bring home another wife.'"

One of the women spoke up immediately. "Does she cook?"

Did you ever wonder why earrings became so popular with men?

A man is at work one day when he notices that his co-worker is wearing an earring. The man knows his co-worker to be a normally conservative fellow, and is curious about his sudden change in "fashion sense."

The man walks up to him and says, "I didn't know you were into earrings."

"Don't make such a big deal, it's only an earring," he replies sheepishly.

His friend falls silent for a few minutes, but then his curiosity prods him to ask, "So, how long have you been wearing one?"

"Ever since my wife found it in my truck."

When I was a 20-something college student, I became quite friendly with my study partner, a 64-year-old man, who had returned to school to finish his degree. He confessed, with a wink, that he had once thought more than friendship might be a possibility between us.

"So what changed your mind?" I asked him.

"I went to my doctor and asked if he thought a 40-year age difference between a man and woman was insurmountable. He looked at my chart and said, 'You're interested in someone who's 104?!'"
