



Canterbury Tales

Rotary Club of Canterbury
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Volume 30 – Issue 3 – 16 July 2015

Meeting

Mondays 6:00pm for 6:30pm
Bass 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 Monday*

Graham Bishop

Mobile 0412 154 540

rotaryclubofcanterbury@gmail.com

Advise Graham of a long absence

The Rotary Radio Show

David Proud
Fridays 6pm to 8pm

3WBC
94.1 FM

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President's Message

Last Monday, it was a pleasure to have Helen Jurcevic from the Women's Friendship Group (WFG) return to the Club to provide an update on the [Walk for Water Program](#). Helen was accompanied by her husband, Joe and school friend Glenys Reardon.

Helen provided an update on the progress that the people of the village of Kanthi, Kenya have made following WFG's funding initiative of extending the water pipeline directly to their village in 2012. This initiative enable women, and more often children, who used to have to complete a 16km round trip to participate in other village activities. The children can attend schooling for the first time in their lives. What a life changing event it must have been for the women and children not having to face the physical dangers of attack by men and animals and at times even rape on the track. There was the burden of carrying the heavy water containers and that water had to be purchased at a higher cost too.

At the end of pipeline the villagers constructed a "Water Kiosk" building made of local bricks with two outlets for dispensing the water. Also a 10,000 litre water tank was erected to catch the 'liquid gold' that fell as rain - sheer optimism, as they only receive an average of 330mm of rainfall annually.

Initially, following the availability of water, the villagers decided to establish a greenhouse to grow tomatoes for themselves, with the excess of their crop sold to invest in worthwhile community needs. Some of this money is now used to pay for the teacher for their nursery school, which was built in January 2014.

More recently further funds have been used to establish a medical dispensary which is due to open next month providing medical supplies and medication. A qualified nurse with midwifery skills has been engaged. The mud bricks for the medical dispensary buildings have again been made by the village people and then rendered to complete the construction.



Helen Jurcevic talking about Kanthi Village

Speaker and Activities Program

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Monday July 20 | Visit by ADG Therese McKenney
Speaker: Dean Barnett - Member Behind the Badge |
| Monday July 27 | Visit by DG Julie Mason
Partners Night: "Christmas in July" |
| Monday August 3 | Speaker: Cherrie Osborn
"District 9800 Basic Education and Literacy Project" |
| Monday August 10 | Speaker: Joe Eidelson
"Digital Recording of Personal and Family History" |

Sunday Market 7am – 1pm

July 19 - Kyle Wightman, John Richards, Stephanie Mauer

July 26 - Annette Brownscombe, Brett Riley, Sue Clifford

August 2 - Rob Simpson, Michael Chong, Ross Merolli

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



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Canterbury Tales
Rotary Club of Canterbury

President's Message - Continued

Helen told us that the two main things she has observed with her association with the Kanthi people is that education will lead them from poverty and that they need to be asked what do they need to improve their lives and not impose the ideas and desires of what their overseas supporters think they may need. You have to admire the drive, the tenacity and the initiative of these people to make the most of the opportunities that they are given.

The question was asked, how has the Walk for Water and other projects been funded? Helen advised that to date approximately A\$50,000 has been sent directly to them. This money has basically been by donations and in the initial stage by a fundraising walk and film session. The donors can follow the progress on the website www.walkforwater.com.au.

Helen founded the [Women's Friendship Group](#) in the Manningham Municipality about 4 years ago. The group had an initiative aimed at overcoming social isolation for older women, especially from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The group is subsidised to ensure that there are no exclusions for outings and activities due to financial reasons. This group has 36 different countries/cultures represented and meet regularly for fellowship and to pursue diverse interests such as craft, exercise and fitness and social justice. The 35 craft members make rugs and football scarves, from donated wool, for the needy of Manningham Municipality. In addition, their skills are utilized to make fingerless gloves for wheelchair bound patients of Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre. The Kanthi Walk for Water project is part of the Women's Friendship Group's social justice program.

One would think that Helen's time would be taken fully up with the WFG local activities without the work involved in this international project with all the communication challenges of dealing with the Kenya Government bureaucracy, the customs service and a completely different time zone. Helen also has a husband, 3 children and 10 grandchildren to occupy her time!

Helen was awarded a well deserved OAM in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for her commitment to the group. Her drive and direction has ensured that the multicultural group members, who previously experienced loneliness and social isolation have been able to alleviate the negative effects through the friendships, group inclusiveness and the community that has developed. Members have reported enhanced health and wellbeing, improved social connectedness and higher self esteem. Recent research by students at Deakin University who studied the impact of the Women's Friendship Group model on the group members have identified and confirmed these same benefits. It is anticipated that this model will be replicated more broadly in other metropolitan and rural municipalities in the near future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members were advised that Russell Hoath has resigned from the Club. Russell's outstanding contribution over many years was acknowledged, we will all miss his smiling welcome at the Front Desk. His organisational skills to make the meeting and the catering run smoothly were exceptional.

The Board will discuss options for covering the Catering and Front Desk functions and members will be advised about how this will be organised at the next meeting. I cannot stress enough that members must ensure that the Club is aware of their absence from a meeting. You can do this in multiple ways before 10AM on the Monday of the meeting:

- send Graham Bishop an SMS on mobile 0412 154 540.
- send an email to the rotaryclubofcanterbury@gmail.com link in this Bulletin.
- click the [Notify Meeting Apology](#) link in this Bulletin and tick the 'unable to attend' button.
- click the [Register for Meeting](#) link in this Bulletin and tick the 'unable to attend' button.
- contact Graham Bishop to set a 'non-attendance apology' for all meetings unless otherwise notifying that you will attend.
- go to our [web site](#) and follow the link about meeting attendance.

Please remember that the Club has to pay for the meal of those that do not notify their absence from the meeting.

Next Monday ADG Therese McKenney will be with us and Dean Barnett will be telling us about the Member Behind the Badge.

Wishing everyone a good week, whether at work or play. Safe travel for those heading off on holidays, especially those travelling overseas - where hopefully the weather is warmer than in Melbourne.

Nora

"Bitter Pill" Seminar a great success

On Wednesday 17th June the Parkview Room at the City of Boroondara held a close to capacity crowd of guests keen to learn about a too little-known drug abuse challenge – the abuse of prescription drugs.

The audience was exposed to an impressive team of experts. A video message was delivered by Kim Ledger, father of the late Australian actor Heath Ledger who lost his life from the accidental misuse of prescription drugs. Victoria Police were well represented and Coroner Pareso Spanos delivered some stark and sobering statistics. After a Questions and Answers session a "Bitter Pill to Swallow" resource facility was launched as a contact facility for everyone seeking advice and support with a prescription drugs abuse challenge.

The event was mounted by a partnership between the Rotary Club of Camberwell, [Boroondara Cares](#), Victoria Police, City of Boroondara, [Scriptwise](#) and [Inner Eastern Health](#).

