Canterbury Tales

Rotary Club of Canterbury
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Volume 30 – Issue 20 – 19 November 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
Fridays 6pm to 8pm
3WBC
94.1 FM

The Aussie Pride Badge



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President's Message

Last Monday, Tony Kjar, one of the regular riders with the Canterbury Rotary Bike Riding Group, shared some of the challenges he experienced when he visited Svalbard archipelago for 10 days earlier this year in February. Svalbard is only 900 kilometres from the North Pole and is an unincorporated area with a population of about 2,600 people administered by Norway.



Tony Kjar

Tony advised that the trip was enjoyable and educational, although rather challenging. All their supplies had to be transported in and all solid wastes, including body wastes, had to be taken out as well! They had shelter from the elements in huts with minimal amenities and with no heating. The food was pre-packaged and prepared by adding hot water with the 'cook' wearing a simple head lamp to see what he was doing.

Their clothing had 6 layers to provided insulation to maintain their core temperatures, with the inner layer keeping you dry and the outer layer providing protection from the windy environment. It is very important not to become wet in such a icy cold environment.

The temperature was -30 degree Celsius and there was only 4 hours of 'daylight'. They travelled through high winds and storms during the 'night' and only used a GPS occasionally.

They used snowmobiles and sleds for transportation, which readily become bogged and were prone to tipping over. Tony said that he was just a passenger and held on tight! They carried minimal equipment and spares. One of the major threats to their safety was the polar bears so they had education and training to deal with this menace - guns had to be taken whenever outdoors. They had a couple of dogs to alert them to any polar bears, but none were encountered.

The group of 9 were from Russia, Austria and Norway, with Tony the only Australian. Only the organizer, Lorenz and his 13 year old son could speak English. Tony acknowledged that Lorenz, who is a medical doctor, was indeed the leader, navigator and protector of them all. Lorenz attributes the development of some of his guiding and leadership skills to the experience he gained during his 3 month stay in Australia involving the outdoor bushwalking and education program at Trinity Grammar. Given the opportunity Tony would go on the trip again.

You can read more details about the Svalbard archipelago and the trip later in the Bulletin.

Speaker and Activities Program

Monday November 23	Speaker: Etienne de Lavaulx, ***"The History and Music of the Zither"***
Monday November 30	Annual General Meeting and Club Forum
Monday December 7	Speaker: John Hopkins, ***"Are Sales Professionals Born or Trained?"***
Monday December 14	Christmas Festivities

Sunday Market 7am – 1pm

November 22 - Jenni Nankervis, John Braine, Val Cunniffe
November 29 - Lynn Steel, Malcom Short, TBA
December 6 - Breanna Ban, David Chudasko, Steve Wylie
Decmber 12 - Max Holland, Brett Riley, Peter Mangiapane

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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President's Message - Continued

Thanks

Firstly, thanks to David Robinson and Helen Hartnett for organising our wonderful weekend at Beechworth for the Food and Wine Festival. Good food, wine, fellowship and fun were certainly demonstrated. A little exercise was even undertaken by some. A few berries were picked and a visit to the old gaol was also completed. The Sun God certainly shone and a drive in the wonderful North East, considered by others to be "God's own country" was certainly appreciated by all.

Thanks are also extended to the members and friends who assisted Michael Chong, the Rovers and the Guides in organising and manning the visit to the Box Hill Miniature Railway for members of the Interchange Inner East group.

Vale to Shirley Granger

It was with much sadness that we acknowledge the advice that Shirley Granger died, at the Alfred Hospital, on the 16th November. The last few years have had many challenges and Shirley has faced these with courage and tenacity.

Shirley will certainly be remembered as a very special lady, a stalwart for her contribution and support to Bill in his professional, family and rotary lives. Her contribution to Rotary is acknowledged and much appreciated. Shirley will certainly be missed.

All our sympathies are extended to Bill and the family.

Kristkindl Festival - Assistance Required

Could Club members please check their diaries and tell Michael Chong if they are available to assist with the Kristkindl Festival in Maling Road, Canterbury in the late afternoon and evening of Friday 4th December, 2015. Thanks to those who have already advised that they will be available.

Join us next Monday with our speaker Etienne de Lavaulx who will entertain us with the History and Music of the Chord-Zither.

Nora

The Next Speaker - Etienne de Lavaulx



Etienne de Lavaulx is a French born musician who plays classical guitar and chord-zither. He started playing the classical guitar and then discovered the chord-zither in 1973. He now demonstrates this unusual instrument around Melbourne, playing at concerts, shows and festivals. His repertoire includes numerous well-known classics and contemporary pieces and original compositions.

The chord-zither became very popular from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s. It is sometimes known as Mandolin-Guitar or Guitar Zither. Around 1870 some German settlers in America set out to design an instrument which would use numerical notation and be easy to manufacture. Thousands were sold throughout the world, including in Australia, with door to door salesmen offering tuition in the form of a correspondence course.

The Beechworth Food and Wine Festival

Club members made their way to the newly renovated Golden Heritage motel in Beechworth for pre-dinner nibbles on the back verandah from 5pm. Dinner followed at the Hibernian Hotel for the twenty-two who enjoyed the delightful weather of this well-planned event. At 8pm, the group took a guided tour of the old Beechworth gaol, that operated from 1856 until 2004. A gruesome place that had been occupied by Ned Kelly, Ned Kelly's mother and more recently, Carl Williams !

Many were up early to walk into town for breakfast together, with the coach leaving shortly after 10am. Morning tea was at the Milawa cheese factory, with many lovely cheeses to sample, an art gallery to explore, and time to chat with our great friends. We arrived at the Christmont Winery in the King Valley for lunch at 12:30pm. It being the La Dolce Vita Wine and Food Festival, the King Valley wineries were packed, yet we had a huge section of this beautiful restaurant, overlooking the vineyards and the rolling hills, reserved for our group. Fine wines combined with a delicious, yet affordable lunch and great company, made it an afternoon to remember. We all waved goodbye to Alan Stevens as he flew off to meet his other commitments, as our coach took us to the Gapsted Winery. Here we met up with Keith and Ghillie Thompson for afternoon tea. The warm sunshine and view over the grapevines was exquisite.

Arriving back in Beechworth at 6pm, we all headed down to the lake for a barbecue tea as the sun set across the water.

Sunday was a free day, yet most of us headed to the Beechworth Berry Farm to pick more delicious strawberries than we could safely eat. This was on the way to a Lions Farmers' Market in the quaint little town of Yackandanda. Another winery stop for lunch on the way back to Melbourne concluded the most perfect of weekends. Helen Hartnett and David Robinson were the wonderful organisers, and we all thank you *most sincerely* for all your good work.

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Photos from the Beechworth Weekend













Interchange Inner East - Box Hill Miniature Railway Event

A thank you email that we received from one of the families at the event:

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Canterbury, the Girl Guides, the Glen Iris Rovers and the staff/volunteers of Interchange for a wonderful day at the Box Hill Miniature Train Day. Christina delighted in having her nieces and nephew with her to enjoy everything on offer. Loads of fun!
Thank you,
Carmen, Christina & Dom Tassone.







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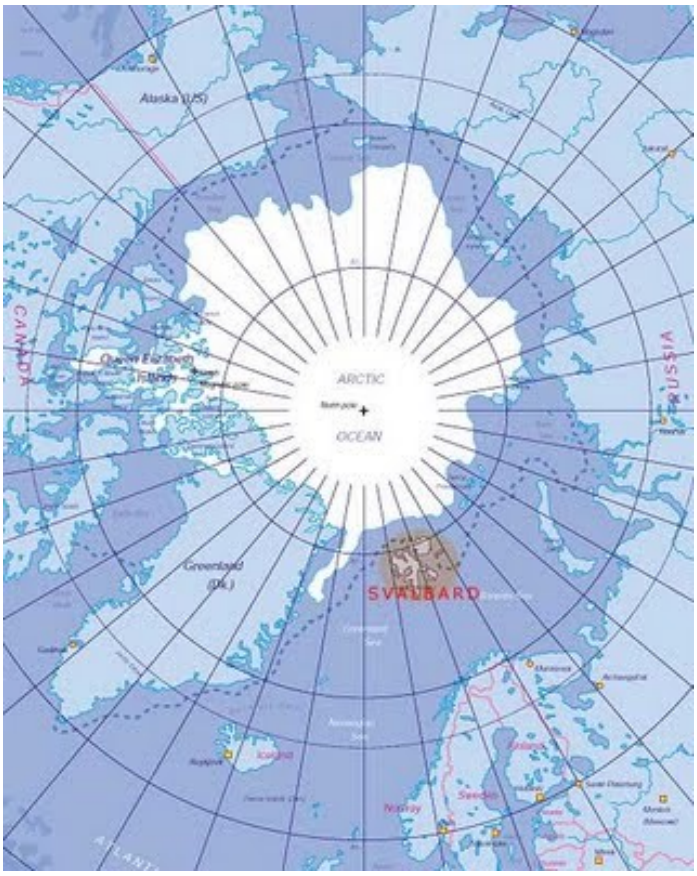
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More About Svalbard and Spitsbergen

Tony initially set the scene with a comparison about him leaving Tasmania and arriving in Spitsbergen which is the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Both Tasmania and Spitsbergen are islands of approximately the same size. The archipelago features an Artic climate, although with significantly higher temperatures than other areas at the same latitude because of the warmer ocean currents which flow from the North Atlantic into the Barents Sea and Artic Ocean. When Tony left Australia in February 2015 the temperature in Tasmania was 30+ degrees Celsius whereas in Svalbard it was -30 degrees Celsius. He went from 12 hours of daylight in Tasmania to 4 hours of daylight in Svalbard. Tasmania is closest to the South Pole at 800 kilometres whereas Svalbard is the closest to the North Pole at 900 kilometres. Both islands were mapped by Dutch explorers, Svalbard in 1596 and Tasmania in 1642. Tasmania is an Australian State, whereas Svalbard is an unincorporated area administered by Norway. Svalbard is surrounded by many countries including Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Canada, United States of America and Greenland. There is no treaty between the surrounding countries and Svalbard is a free economic and demilitarized zone.

The archipelago is entirely surrounded by the Artic Ocean which makes access very difficult. Its climatic conditions are dictated by the sea currents. It was a whaling base in 17th & 18th Centuries. Permanent communities were established on the largest island of Spitzbergen as a response to the introduction of the coal mining industry at the beginning of the 20th Century. The current population is approximately 2,600. There are no roads connecting the various settlements and the inter-community transport is via snowmobiles, aircraft and boats. The summer months bring more tourists for site seeing, hunting and walking adventures. With the melting ice, cruise ships are now more easily able to bring tourists to the area. Spitzbergen also a airport that has daily flights and was originally built to support research and tourism.



Tourism and Research with related Education are important commercial activities. About 60% of the land mass is wilderness formed by glaciers, mountains and fjords, 30% is barren rock and 10% vegetation. There are 7 national parks and 23 nature reserves. Season based hunting for birds, reindeer and polar bears is a popular activity. The University Centre has about 200 to 300 students specializing in Artic studies and research. The Norwegian Polar Institute undertakes study and research of ice, climate, geology, pollutant studies, ecosystems, environmental monitoring and management. Also, there is a Space and Satellite Station, an Undersea Cable System and a Global Seed Vault which holds about a quarter of the world's seed varieties. There are constant discussions about land ownership and access to the natural resources and these issues will become more prominent as the ice sheet melts and access becomes easier and less expensive.

Tony told us that the Svalbard archipelago has seen rapid environmental changes in the last 30 years. The ice surface area has shrunk by about a third and it is reported that in summer the ice thickness is decreasing dramatically. Partially this is because the greater open water area absorbs the sun's heat, whereas an ice sheet reflects the sun and doesn't absorb as much heat. Also, the new ice that develops in the winter months is now flatter, when compared to the rougher surface formation of the past, and consequently the flat ice melts more rapidly in summer.

There are various levels of concern for these changes in climatic and environmental conditions. Some see that it as advantageous as it will enable easier access and reduce sea travel times through the area which reduces transportation costs and increase tourism. It will also enable easier access to the area's natural resources. As well, the increasing sea temperatures will increase the amounts of krill and consequently the fish stocks will increase which is likely to enable the fishing industry to expand in the area.

Nora

Mock Job Interview Program

Our Club has recently made another donation of $1,500 to the Salvation Army to cover our support for the next Migrant English Pronunciation Classes and Mock Interviews. These classes generally result in our Club's involvement in the Mock Interview program. Currently we are looking for interviewers in the following fields:- customer service; restaurant, café, hotel, hospitality; office, education; translating; car repair; and education and training.

If you think that you could help as a Mock Job Interviewer, please contact Michael Chong Michael.Chong@canterburyrotary.org.