



**BULLETIN 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

**Where we meet**

Meets Thursdays 12.15 for 12.30  
Southern Cross Yacht Club, Mariner  
Place, Lotus Bay, Yarralumla

**President** Elizabeth Scrivener  
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**Secretary** Phil Hawke  
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**Contact**  
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley  
Griffin Inc  
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**Apologies**  
Please contact Pres Elizabeth before  
12 noon Thursday of the meeting or  
earlier

**Last meeting details**

20 members present  
0 make ups  
66% attendance

**This week's international  
toast**

Ross Brown  
Next Week– Fiona Carthew

**Rotary Grace**

For good food, good  
fellowship, and the  
privilege to serve,  
through Rotary we give  
thanks.

**Bring Them Home – Vietnam Deceased**

Brigadier John Essex Clarke spoke to our club last week about Operation Aussies Home led by Jim Bourke. Jim led a small band of Vietnam veterans determined to bring home 6 missing Australian servicemen left behind in the war. So far they have found the remains of Lance Corporal Richard "Tiny" Parker and Private Peter Gillson and they were brought home in June.

After more research with the help of the Australian Defence Force and some government backing, the veterans have now resumed the search for Lance Corporal Gillespie also.

John tells us that Jim Bourke's motivation for the quest is unfathomable. Jim was a north QLD bushy, a drover, knock about labourer, scholar and then joined the army. The nickname he earned there was "Bindi" because he got under everyone's skin and was painful! Jim's first experience in leadership (apart from minor contacts with the VC) was to remove the dead American soldiers by helicopter; a gruesome first task.

During another operation that John was also a part of, Jim was shot in the face and they didn't see him again as he was sent back to Australia for a while. When Jim returned to Vietnam it was to a training team run by the Vietnamese Army. He discovered that they exploited the public, were involved in prostitution and the like and he was enraged. Jim spoke up about it but was threatened with death. He was protected by the locals and then sent home. Understandably, Jim was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder so he retired from the Army, worked for NEC in sales for a while and then broadened into IT.

Jim continued to be restless about the servicemen left behind in Vietnam and took up the torch to find them. So many men were disgraced about leaving mates behind and the Australian officials were stopping people from trying to return to find them. Jim returned on his own a couple of times and found out that 2 Australians had been buried so he believed there was a good chance of finding the remains. This started Operation Aussies Home whom without any help from the Australian and Vietnamese govt. officials originally, went over to Vietnam to find these two soldiers. They area they were looking for was a locally owned plantation so they paid the locals for access.

They scoured their memories of the landscape of the battle where these men were lost and looked for the slightest depression in the ground to depict a trench. Professor Clive Williams went over to join them as his platoon was there. He went over the ground and remembered a certain rock they hid behind while waiting to get the dead. On the last day of their second visit they found an American boot (which Aussies wore as they were better than the Australian boots), a map case and then the dog tags and they new it was one of the mates they were looking for.

Both governments since have supported them as they see the good that it brings the families to have closure and where perhaps a little embarrassed by their original neglect. With the support of their fellow Australian's hopefully all will be brought home for a final resting place. Jim Bourke has written a book aptly named "Bourke's Odyssey" to tell his full story.



## Coming Events and Speakers

13<sup>th</sup> February – Board Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> February – Keiran Rossteuscher from the Canberra Rotaract Club

21<sup>st</sup> February – Tony Powell National Film and Sound Archive

23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February – PETS Milton-Ulladulla

28<sup>th</sup> February – Tod Ruhl

## This Week – Canberra Rotaract Club

This week Keiran Rossteuscher and Emma Hodis from the Canberra Rotaract Club will join us. Keiran is the current President of the Rotaract Club of Canberra; he has lived in Canberra for the last 6 years after moving down from the Southern Highlands to study at the University of Canberra, and has been a member of Rotaract for more than 2 of those. Outside of Rotaract he is Youth Worker with the YWCA of Canberra.

Please read on below for a Rotaract event this Sunday.

Hello Rotary Clubs,

This coming Sunday, 17th February, the Rotaract Club of Canberra is hosting a BBQ lunch to introduce potential new members to the club. We have just had RYLA and a stall at the Community Connect Day of the Multicultural Festival, and are using this momentum as an opportunity for people to come and meet other Rotaractors in a social context rather than at a meeting, which can be a bit intimidating to begin with.

We would like to extend this invitation to Rotarians so that you may come to meet the Rotaractors and bring along anyone that they know who might be interested in becoming involved in Rotaract (anyone 18 - 30 years is a good start). Especially as we have had quite a few visits to some of the clubs in the last couple of months this might be an opportunity to get someone to come along, even if the Rotarians themselves are not able to attend. So if there is anyone you know that might be interested please encourage them to come along.

Rotaract will be supplying a very basic BBQ, and people are requested to bring along any extra nibbles and drinks that they would like to have whilst there. Other details:

Where: Weston Park, Yarralumla (Rotaract sign will be out near the particular park we select)

When: 12 noon - everyone leaves, Sunday 17th February

Contact: RSVP not necessary, but if needed you can contact myself, Keiran, 0400 451 480 or [keiran.ross.etc@hotmail.com](mailto:keiran.ross.etc@hotmail.com)

We hope that we are able to see many future Rotaractors (who could become future Rotarians!).

Regards, Keiran Rossteuscher, President  
Rotaract Club of Canberra

## Door Roster

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Keith Gray and Sharon Green

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Phil Hawke and Peter Holley

If you can't do the door duties please arrange your own replacement.

## The Rotary 4-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"



Pictured here are current members Sharon Green, Birgitte Moltke and Dorothea Polonyi. Dorothea has just announced that she will be leaving us later in the year for the green hills of Bega.

**Bulletin editor**

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Pictured above is Phillip Hawke with his guest last week Ben Hall "the bushranger".