



Peace Through Service

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Britt - "Curators in action: collecting from a war zone"

Intro: Katrin H

Thanks: Peter D

This week's guest speaker was Rebecca Britt, Acting Head Curator of Military Heraldry & Technology at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). A recent exhibition created by Rebecca was Love in War and her upcoming one is on the Afghanistan conflict. A brief background on the AWM is that it is a museum which was born on a battlefield. Founder Charles Bean was an official war correspondent and historian during WWI. He realised the need for somewhere to document the war so future generations could have an understanding. He had the support of senior military staff and also of the men. This meant soldiers would go to war with not only their weapons but also with artefact tags. This carried on in WWII but not in Korea or Vietnam. The AWM decided this would not happen again, so working closely with Defence arrangements were made for teams to go to Afghanistan to document and experience life in war.

The team flew from Australia to Afghanistan on board a Hercules, they were accompanied from start to finish by an Angel (an experienced and fully armed Australian soldier). While they were there they never forget they were in a war zone. On arrival they were issued with a kit consisting of body armour, helmet & ballistic glasses, they underwent first aid training and were issued with a first aid kit, that always had to be with them.

To gain an understanding of what it was like to be a soldier they took part in a mock patrol looking for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and firing weapons. They lived with the soldiers on base and Rebecca shared a room with 7 other people. Down time was spent in the roomy corridor SKYPEing home, playing video games or using Wi-Fi. The base at Tarin Kot has retail shops, take away shops and coffee shops. It was a bizarre sight to see a fully armed soldier walking around with a frapichinno. In talking with soldiers the team found there were mixed messages surrounding the easy access of contact with home. Some found it a good thing to be able to make contact with family and friends and others found it to be distracting from the task at hand.

The tasks the AWM team were to undertake included interviews with soldiers to document their experiences and leaving the NATO base to go to the Afghani base to see vehicles which had been chosen to be tracked and used for display after their decommissioning. Photos of soldiers in full kit also formed an important part of the job at hand. It was important to have photos of how the vehicles looked while they were in service so this could be recreated for later exhibitions, the same goes for the kits the soldiers wore. They also went to the lab where disarmed IEDs were taken for analysis. This analysis could help to identify who had made the device. There will also be some of these on display in future exhibitions, to see them creates a whole new level of understanding about how dangerous they are.

Following their time at Tarin Kot the team went to the Kandahar Airbase. This is like a major city as 30,000 people live and work there. You are not allowed to move around alone and you need to wear hi-vis as the dust reduces visibility and also creates health risks. There is a Level 3 Trauma hospital on the base and one Australian medic said that medical advances are one of the few good things to come out of war. A Level 1 hospital is for minor needs and a Level 2 is where you are taken for major injury. Rebecca said the trip was one of the most amazing experiences of her life and gave her a greater understanding of the type of work Australians are doing there.



Rebecca Britt



Pres Richard & Rebecca



Peter D & Rebecca

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

3 Minuter

The 3 Minuter this week was by Claire N who shared a couple of memories from a trip to China. The first was of visiting the Great Wall of China. The construction of the Wall started over 700 years ago and went through many dynasties. It measures 5660km long and passes over mountains, through deserts and grasslands. It was constructed to keep enemies out, now it raises revenue. In 1987 it was declared a cultural heritage site which attracts 1000's of tourists each year. Claire travelled by taxi from the hotel to the cable car location. You then take the cable car to the top of the wall. She thinks the car she was in was the same one used by President Clinton on his visit to the wall. The car was lovely and clean and safe. As you are walking along the wall you see watch towers or signal towers about every 500m. In the past if the enemy were approaching signal fires were lit to inform the authorities in Beijing. Those who were on watch ate and slept on the wall in guard houses. When the wall was being built the workers and their families camped by the base of the wall. Survival during winter was difficult. The other memory was of a walled village. This was how the Chinese used to live. There was a security gate at the front and small roads inside. The houses were all built up against each other, like terrace houses. In the street there was one toilet and one washhouse which was shared by about 15 houses, imagine having to go to the loo at night. These houses are handed down through generations. The women who greeted the visiting group were all about 90 years old, with no teeth. The women charged visitors \$10 each to have their photo taken with them.

Photo Gallery



Rebecca, Pres Richard & Allison



Neil B & Darrell G



John-Natley Family



John C & Marco R



Ken D & Margaret E



Dave H & Tom B

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Wolfgang L

The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

**WE MEET WEDNESDAYS 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM
AT DODDS HOTEL, COMMISSIONER ST. COOMA**

**ROTARY'S THEME OF THE MONTH
Magazine Month**

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

What are you doing 1 - 4 June 2014? How about going to the 2014 Rotary International Conference being held in Sydney. Plans for 11 - 13 October 2013? Merimbula is calling you to attend the District Conference.

Margaret H said there are, so far, two matters for the agenda for this week's Club Assembly: membership and the major project/s for the birthday celebration. Please advise her asap if you have any other matters you would like put up for discussion.

Dave H said the April market had an unpromising start with a grey cold morning. The sun did appear, so did the customers. The town band & a ukulele group from Jindabyne (Jukes Collective) added live entertainment. There were 59 stalls including 4 freebies (Charitable groups). The takings produced a profit of \$2117. Many thanks to our willing staff.

Being the eve of ANZAC Marco R shared with us a poem he had seen on a plaque during his travels, it is titled "For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.
Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.
They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their face to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.
But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;
As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

This Weeks Attendance: 23 out of 37 = 62%

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Rebecca Britt (Club), Alison Britt (Katrin H), Jan & Tamara John-Natley (Mark J-N)

Apologies: Brenda C-B, Ashley C, Kevin D, Jim H, Alyson H-J, Patrick K, Lou M, Elaine S

Leave: Chris A, Peter A, David B, Steve S, Matt T.

We Also Missed: None **Make-ups:** Margaret H, Elaine S, Ken D, John K, Wolfgang L, Darrell G

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PEACE THROUGH SERVICE

ROSTERS	April	May
Attendance	Neil B Dave L	Geoff B Joe V
Property	Claire N Les	Ken D Dugald
Fellowship	Margaret E Claire N	Margaret E Claire N
Markets	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA John K - MR Wolfgang - V Patrick Darrell Elaine M Ken D	David H - Co-ord Alyson H-J - PA Dave L - V Brian J Ashley Brenda Hass

SOME SIMPLE RULES ABOUT ROSTERS

GENERAL

Members rostered on and not able to attend are to make arrangements with another member to take their place.

MARKETS

Those nominated to tow the caravan or chuck wagon are to be at the Rotary shed no later than 7am. Ensure you get the key to the shed from David Holgate PRIOR TO THE EVENT so the equipment can be set up early. If you are unable to tow the van or chuck wagon PLEASE ASK SOMEONE WHO CAN, or advise David Holgate before the event. Others nominated should be at the park by 8.30am.

Next Weeks Program	Three Minuter	Thought of the Week
Club Assembly	Club Assembly	Club Assembly

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	YEARS OF SERVICE
Des T - 15 April Geoff B - 17 April	Dave & Trish L - 20 April	Steve S - 3 April 1998 - 15 years

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