

Presidents Report

Again a wonderful speaker! Dr. Denis Dragovic on Islamic State was enlightening and passionate in his clear views about the challenges of different versions of Islam. I admired greatly his commitment to explaining to us. Greg, who was helped on this occasion by new member Tim Dark, thanks again for another magnificent speaker.



Great to see many members starting to return from trips, welcome back Richard and Rewa. No doubt there will be many more Rugby jokes to come. It was also wonderful to see Dina and John Van Dyke, fresh from celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Soon it's Maureen and Peter Flude's turn to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in style, both cruising and visiting the US.

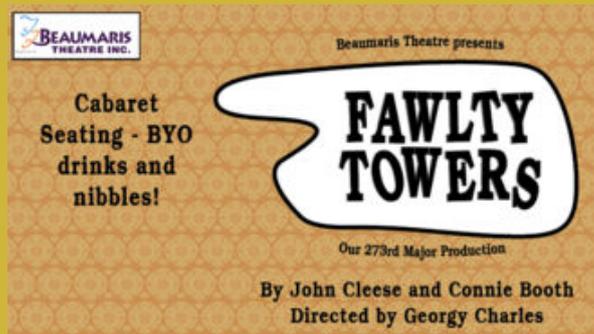
Last week I bought the overseas change jar, and got some contributions from another returnee David Greenall. I will bring the change jar from time to time; we are now up to a jar and a half which I will take to the President's meeting on November 27th. If I haven't bought the jar feel free to give me your overseas coinage and I will put it in.

The Board meeting next week on the 10/11 at Beaumaris Senior Citizens Club, we will be progressing and discussing many of the initiatives we have underway.

I look forward to Fawlty Towers next week at the Beaumaris Theatre Company, 7.30 for 8 pm. We

Next Meetings

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER



Fellowship Night at Beaumaris Theatre,
82 Wells Rd, Beaumaris

7:30 for 8:00 curtain

Thursday 19 November

No formal meeting due to Masters Golf car parking

Thursday 26 November

Speaker: Steve Peacock

Topic: Sandringham Secondary College

Chair: Tony McKenna

AV: Malcolm Parks

Cash Desk: Fred Hofmann & Max Darby

Host: Ken Mirams .

Unless stated otherwise venue is
Victoria Golf Club 6.30 for 7.00

Contents

1	Presidents Report
2	Notices
3 / 5	This Week's Speaker
6	Concourse Christmas Carnival
7	BRAGG Weekend
8	Club Structure / Picture of the day

have to be a TV show for the Conference dinner theme, perhaps this will furnish material.

I look forward to seeing you all then,

Yours in Rotary

Trish

Concourse Christmas Carnival

For the last few years our club has worked with the Concourse Traders Association to hold the Concourse Christmas Carnival. See poster on page 6.

This year the Carnival will be held on Saturday 28 November between 2pm and 9pm.

The event will have something for all the family with fun rides, food and refreshments, Santa Claus, external stalls and entertainment featuring Havana Brown along with some local bands.

I would like to take this opportunity to seek some Rotary volunteers to help on the day. Volunteers will be needed to help with car parking on the Beaumaris Primary School oval, selling tickets for the rides, helping to sell tickets for the raffle, hosting the Rotary marquee amongst other activities.

I am suggesting we split the day into two shifts (1-5pm and 5-9pm) to share the load. Please could you let me know (if you haven't already signed up) to which shift you might be able to volunteer.

Thanks for your help,

Richard Shermon.

Message from Adrian Culshaw



Hi folks, Those of you who have a fond spot for the 70's may be interested to know MLOC (Phoenix theatre in Elwood) have a production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' running 6th - 20th November, with the added interest that Penny is making her stage debut as part of the ensemble!

Tickets now available via

<http://www.mloc.org.au/> .

Regards, Adrian

Mirboo North Golf Club

BRAGG Weekend

Friday February 5 – Sunday 7 2016

See details page 7

Note; As part of our arrangement with Hocking Stuart discounts on agents fees are available to RCOB members.

hockingstuart

hockingstuart.com.au

Hocking Stuart Sandringham

62-64 Station Street
Telephone: 03 9521 9800

Beaumaris Community Bank® Branch
32 East Concourse
Phone 9589 5366



This Week's Speaker:
Dr. Denis Dragovic
Topic: Islamic State



Denis Dragovic is both a practitioner and scholar in the field of rebuilding states after conflict. As a practitioner his career has spanned over a decade including as a consultant to various UN agencies and a senior leader with international NGOs in conflict and post-conflict environments in the Middle East, Africa and Asia including leading one of the world's largest aid programs while in Iraq. He holds a PhD in political theology from the University of St Andrews, UK, where he studied the role of religious institutions in post-conflict statebuilding and a Masters of Foreign Service from Georgetown University. He is the author of 'Religion and Post-Conflict Statebuilding: Roman Catholic and Sunni Islamic Perspectives', numerous policy and literary articles and is a regular commentator in the media on Islamic State.

He led the efforts to release the first kidnapped aid worker in Iraq.

His talk was extremely detailed and informative. Denis kindly provided his notes so that we could ensure that we fully captured the complete message from such an excellent speaker.

I'll begin this speech on Islamic State strangely enough by quoting a Chinese philosopher and

general, Sun Tzu.

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Where do we stand in our fight against Islamic State? We're not at risk of losing every battle as I think that we know ourselves and our limitations...to a degree. But we're not near winning every battle, either, because we don't understand our enemy. Not only do we not understand our enemy but we don't even know what to call it. This isn't some semantic debate, what we call the enemy shapes how we see it and in turn shapes our strategy towards it.

I call them Islamic State. I'm often criticised for that. It is not the politically correct terminology. Our government refers to them as Da'esh, journalists use ISIS or ISIL. Our former Prime Ministers used to call them "Da'esh death cult". Their argument is a simple one, Islamic State is neither Islamic nor a State so why acknowledge them as such they say. - Just an aside, ISIS and ISIL and Da'esh are acronyms which include Islamic in them so it always baffled me why Islamic State is bad but saying Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is good!!! If they're not Islamic and not a State, what are they?

Our policy over the last year has treated them as a terrorist group. Terrorist groups are not a part of society, they terrorise to force a political change, and they rule through terror, they don't provide services, they're not integrated within the community. As such military might can seek them out and destroy them. This is where understanding the enemy becomes important as it affects the strategy.

Rather than a terrorist group I see them as a rogue state. A state, whether it's rogue or not, has a governance structure that provides services, runs hospitals, schools, and provides food. A state has loyalists and communities that support them. Bombing a state leads to considerable destruction and collateral damage including potentially mobilising the population against the attackers. The repercussions of using the military against a state are far greater

than using the military against a terrorist group. If we see them as a rogue state the appropriate response is to undermine them. It is more CIA and less military. It is more long term patience with fewer immediate results.

Islamic State is trying to do what we did in East Timor, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Afghanistan, that is to build a new state infrastructure. What we should be doing is what they did to us. We need to be weakening them from within. Cutting off the financing sources, supporting alternative centres of authority, using misinformation to weaken any unity etc. Even without doing anything, history would suggest that they will not survive.

Rebuilding states is a very difficult thing to do. We went into Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries and tried to recreate them in our image because the general mentality of our military, foreign policy specialists and politicians is that our way is not only the best way it is the only way. So you get thinking along the lines of, if only they had democracy, if only they had a decentralised federal state, if only they had an independent judiciary. So with this type of thinking we go forth and recreate, sometimes for better sometimes for worse.

So we went into Iraq and sometimes did some great things and sometimes some silly things. One of the silly things we did was to say to the Iraqis "you need democracy". So what do our mistakes in trying to establish democracy have to do with IS? Well, the issue is that we have tried to go into countries ignoring their local cultures, traditions, religions and history and instead impose a stock standard idea of what a country should look like. An approach that we have learned doesn't work. » It didn't work because you can't recreate societies in your own image. Each has its own values shaped by their traditions, their own hierarchies shaped by their history or culture. The lesson I've learned is that development must be led by communities, whether it's in Australia or overseas.

Islamic State is making the same mistake as we did, they are imposing their version of what a state should look like. Some of their actions are much the same as what we did in Iraq and won't matter much, they have a consumer protection" office that prevents price gauging, they are rebuilding infrastructure, setting speed lim-

its on the roads, and providing social services including revamping the education curriculum, incidentally buying Saudi Arabian text books! Incidentally, not quite like a terrorist group are they? They are doing everything a Dummy's for Terrorists advices not to do. While they do something as what we did they are doing some things differently. IS has established a Ministry of Antiquities, which perversely is in charge of organizing the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq and Syria to find artefacts that can be sold on the black market. I don't think that I need to go into detail about their criminal justice system, suffice to say it is gruesome. . Their social norms are also warped, slave markets at which you can buy anyone who is not 'of the book'. Markings on Christian houses reminiscent of the Nazis' treatment of the Jews. And this is why it's important to understand the Islamic in Islamic State.

Contrary to community groups and politicians who say Islamic State has nothing to do with Islam, I think that they have a lot to do with Islam, albeit a particularly warped interpretation. To understand Islamic State we need to go back to their beginning. You get right wing commentators who talk about IS being a product of Obama's failed foreign policy. Left wing commentators suggest that it is a result of the American invasion of Iraq. ~

The reality is that it began in the late nineties. The precursor to IS was established by Ahmed Fadhil, otherwise known as Abu Musab al Zarqawi. Here's a brief history:

Jamat al Tawhid wal Jihad (Organisation of Monotheism and Jihad) against secular dictators

2004 al Qaeda in Iraq — fought Americas, remember Falluja and the four American contractors strung from bridge

2006 Islamic State in Iraq — sectarian conflict, started civil war

2012 expanded into Syria under the name of al Nusra Front fighting Bashar al Assad

2013 ISIL/ISIS but al Nusra refused and they went to arbitration to al Qaeda

2014 Islamic State fighting everyone

Hard to find a consistency - what are they fighting for? Islamic State began against secular regimes including Baathists, yet now the leadership comprises of senior Baathists. Shifting enemy of the organisation is also reflected in the leadership. Started by a young tattooed thug who was caught for petty-crimes and now led by someone with PhD in Islamic theology. What is the common thread? It is a particular interpretation of Islam. We can't understand Islamic State without understanding Islam and Islamic history. Islamic State falls into a belief system that is characterised as Salafist, meaning that they want to follow the path of the Salaf, Muslims of the first three generations, so we're talking about the 7th century.

What makes Salafist Islamism different to the vast majority of Islam is in how they interpret their texts. Let me start with an example from the Christian scriptures: Many of you may be familiar with the story of Moses, he goes up Mount Sinai, spends 40 days and nights there and then:

From Exodus 32:7 "The Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf." I So Moses went down and seeing the mayhem said to those who rallied around him: -

Exodus 32:27 "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'"

28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the Lord today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

This is very clear. Worship idols, stray from the one true God and the response should be death. In other words the death penalty for apostasy. Which is what Islamic State and a number of other Muslim countries have on their statutes. How does Christianity manage to ignore this and many other verses from the Old Testament? ' For the Roman Catholic Church

its view is that the Old Testament should be read " in the light of Christ crucified and risen". Or alternatively,"the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New." This creates a role for the Old Testament but one which is filtered through the lens of the New Testament. There is a similar dichotomy of messages in the Quran, but for Islam it is between those verses which were revealed during the Prophet's time in Mecca and those in Medina. Different interpretive traditions adopt different approaches to these contradictions. Literalists such as Islamic State give the most recent verse primacy over earlier revelations. Others suggest that it is about context. Does the context of the multiculturalism of Mecca resemble the plight of a particular Muslim community or rather the self-governing situation of Medina? That is why we cannot ignore the Islam in Islamic State.

This is highlighted by some recent research: Islamic State emphasizes prophecy and how they are God's chosen people.

Example of Dabiq 42% of propaganda references the end of days.

Jihad appears in 71 per cent of the propaganda. ~

Martyrdom appears explicitly in 32 per cent of the propaganda, and implicitly in 68 per cent. Justifications from the Quran, Hadith or from scholarship appear in 87 per cent of the propaganda. .

So while many analysts see IS as any other terrorist group with territorial ambitions the motivation behind IS is theological. They are genuinely working to recreate life on Earth according to their interpretation of the scriptures. By recreating the way the followers of Prophet Mohammad lived they are- coming closer to living as God wants them to live and as it turns out they are fulfilling the prophecies.

Hard for us to understand this. We live in a secular world where theology is a university course or a part of history. Have to understand that not all people aspire to live their lives as we do. Until we recognise who our enemy is, which begins with calling them for what they are, we will not meet Sun Tzu's maxim.

SAT
28
NOV

— BEAUMARIS CONCOURSE —

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL



FEATURING

DJ HAVANA BROWN

2 PM - 9 PM | SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28

Bring the whole family for an enjoyable afternoon of
**AFL GAMES, FAMILY RIDES, AFL PLAYER SIGNINGS
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!**

WWW.CONCOURSE.NET.AU

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



IT'S ON AGAIN

Mirboo North Golf Club BRAGG Weekend

Friday February 5th – Sunday 7th 2016

Golf Package

- Two nights' accommodation.
- Two continental breakfasts.
 - Two rounds of golf.
- One Dinner Voucher for use at the Mirboo North Golf Club Friday night
 - BYO Barbeque at the motel on Saturday night

\$120 per person on a twin share basis

Please note, there are 13 rooms which will be allocated on the basis of first in.



Accommodation

Adjacent to the Mirboo North Golf Club clubhouse and practice green is the **1st T Motel** which is managed by the club.

Please register by email to; Robert McArthur bobmcarthur@hotmail.net.au

Non golfers welcome

CLUB STRUCTURE 2015 / 16		UPDATED 2/11/2015	
BOARD		CLUB SERVICE	
President	Trish Smyth	Director	Malcom Sawle
PE, VP	Malcolm Sawle	Auditor	Tony Phillips
Secretary	Roy Seager	Program	Greg Every
Treasurer	James Glenwright	Meeting Attendance	Malcolm Sawle
Foundation	Mike Hede	Communications	David Lea
Branding / PR / Memb'ship	Megan Glenwright	Fellowship	Richard Jones
International	John Beaty	Photographers	Max Darby, Greg Every
New Generations	Kerrie Geard	Almoners	Charmaine Jansz & Geoff Stringer
Community	Chris D'Arcy	Chair /Host /Cashiers /AV	Roster
Fundraising	Heather Chisholm	Youth Protection Officer	Malcolm Parks
On to Conference	Ken Mirams		
TEAM MEMBERS			
International	Community	Youth	Fundraising
Fred Hofmann	Geoff Abbott	David Rushworth	Harry Wolfe
John Sime	Tim Dark	Richard Jones	Heather Chisholm
David Langworthy	Mary Sealy	Tony McKenna *	Roger Frewen
Geoff Stockdale	Richard Shermon	Chris Martin	Geoff Stringer
Ross Phillips	Tony Phillips	Vivienne Zoppolato	David Hone
Malcolm Parks	Lynda Douth	Lois Lindsay	Charmaine Jansz
John Manks	Max Darby	Royal Melbourne Golf	Antony Nixon
Concourse Festival	Ken Mirams	Jim O'Brien	Mike Hede
Richard Shermon	Chris Werner	Adrian Culshaw	Peter Flude^
Kerrie Geard	Branding / PR / Memb.	David Hone#	Clem Quick (Team TBA)
Jim O'Brien	Lynda Douth	Robert McArthur*	MUNA / NYSF
Masters Golf Parking	David Lea		Heather Chisolm^
James Glenwright	Martin Fothergill	Adrian Culshaw (LOA)	
	^ Farmers Market	# Indigenous Project	* District

A Flurry of Activity

Photograph by Stian Servoss, National Geographic Your Shot

This enchanting photo was taken on a day that actually began as a sunny one in Reine, a small fishing village in the Lofoten Islands in Norway. "I was about to pack my gear as it suddenly started snowing—a lot, I ran down to some fishermen working at the docks to get a few shots of them as they were lifting containers of fish from their boat to land ... All of a sudden, I noticed hundreds of birds." The birds appear to be playing in the snowflakes—though they are more likely attracted to the day's catch.

