



Rotary
Club of Melbourne Inc.



Rotary Club of Melbourne

*invites you to join us for the launch of
Peter Fitzsimons latest book*

“The Battles of Fromelles & Poizieres: In The Trenches of Hell”

On 19 July 1916, 7000 Australian soldiers – in the first major action of the AIF on the Western Front – attacked entrenched German positions at Fromelles, in northern France. By the next day, no fewer than 5500 were wounded and just under 1900 were dead – a bloodbath that the Australian War Memorial describes as ‘the worst 24 hours in Australia’s entire history’. Just days later, three Australian Divisions attacked German positions at nearby Pozières, and over the next six weeks they suffered another 23,000 casualties. Of that bitter battle, the great Australian war correspondent Charles Bean would write, ‘The field of Pozières is more consecrated by Australian fighting and more hallowed by Australian blood than any field which has ever existed . . . Yet the sad truth is that, nearly a century on from those battles, Australians know only a fraction of what occurred. This book brings the battles back to life and puts the reader in the moment, illustrating both the heroism displayed and the insanity of the British plan. With his extraordinary vigour and commitment to research, Peter FitzSimons shows why this is a story about which all Australians can be proud. And angry.

Peter FitzSimons is a journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald and Sun-Herald. He is also a regular TV commentator, a former radio presenter (very successfully, with Mike Carlton on Radio 2UE) and is also a former national representative rugby union player.

Peter is the author of over 20 books - including Gallipoli, Tobruk, Kokoda, Batavia, Mawson and the Ice Men of the Heroic Age, Ned Kelly and biographies of Nancy Wake, Kim Beazley, Nick Farr-Jones, Les Darcy, Steve Waugh and John Eales.

Peter is Australia’s biggest-selling non-fiction author of the last ten years.

Date:

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Time:

12.30pm for 12.45pm – 2.00pm

Venue:

Grand Dining Room
Hotel Windsor
111 Spring Street
Melbourne

Cost per person:

Rotarians & Guests \$45.00

Non Rotarians \$60.00

includes a 2 course meal

RSVP:

Friday 23rd October 2015

Via the Trybooking link below

<http://www.trybooking.com/JFOM>