



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675
www.parramattacityrotary.org.au
Meeting 04/2015, 9th February 2015

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Athens, which he considered appropriate in view of the tumultuous time Greece is going through.

Our Guest

The club welcomed Mark Anderson, Senior Coordinator, Fund Development, for the Rotary Foundation. He is based in the South Pacific and Philippines Office of the Foundation, in Parramatta. Mark has been a Rotarian for more than 25 years and has belonged to clubs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Africa. His involvement in Rotary began in 1972 when he was secretary of the Corinda High School Interact Club in Queensland. He went on a Rotary Youth Exchange trip to Canada, was a Rotaractor, a RYLarian and a GSE member to California. Since joining Rotary in 1987, he has been president of two clubs, has led a GSE Team to Germany and has held many leadership positions at district level. He has been Membership Chair of District 9685 for the past two years. During his career, Mark has had broad experience in sales and marketing with Johnson & Johnson, Mars Petcare and Bayer Material Science. A career highlight was a seven-year assignment in South Africa, as launch manager for Mars Petcare. On this assignment he had a meeting with Nelson Mandela. Mark, a member of the Rotary Club of Beecroft, is a member of the Paul Harris Society and is a Foundation Major Donor.

The Rotary Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask themselves:

Of the things we say or do:

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Club Updates

DG Barry

DG Barry reported back from a district presidents' meeting he attended at Liverpool on Friday last week. He remarked particularly on an initiative from the Rotary Club of Engadine, which has embarked on a project in which primary school pupils create a video. He described one whose theme was health and happiness, or sadness and another where a group of Year Five and Six pupils took over a restaurant, with the restaurateur's permission, to create a series of skits. In one the waiter kept serving bad food and in a romantic tangle the boyfriend of one girl was thrown out and replaced by another. This was apparently based on a theme of treating and speaking to people properly. The video is to be distributed to other schools and other children invited to participate in the project.

Barry said he distributed brochures at the meeting aimed at encouraging Rotarians to raise funds for PCYC clubs across the district. He said that to raise funds, people like himself would dress up in prisoner's uniform and have people put in money to get them out.

He said there was also need to look at the growth tree of

Rotary from its foundation in the district, to see which clubs had grown and flourished, and ones that had not, and to look at areas where Rotary was needed. "There is probably not a suburb or regional area where Rotary is not needed," he said. But Rotary, which had been orientated in the 1960 and 1970s to capital projects like local parks, needed now to connect to the community in a different way. An example was getting a campaign going to rid a reserve of noxious weeds and getting the community involved.

Barry said the meeting had a representation from the Nepalese community, which was raising funds for Nepal and was connected to the Rotary Club of Sydney Darling Harbour. The Nepalese were working with Rotary and there was a potential to create a club. "If you look at the Africans and Koreans and all the communities, if they want to join Rotary later on when they have finished other commitments, we could form core groups based on ethnicity," he said.

If anyone ever had any misunderstanding of what the Rotary Foundation was about, their minds would have been put well and truly at rest by the presentation of Mark Anderson, who described the offer as fundraising coordinator with the organisation as an invitation to “a dream job”. The mission of Rotary International was “to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty”. It all started with a decision by one Arch C. Klumph in 1917, to establish an endowment for Rotary. The first contribution was \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri. We were fortunate, he said, that we had “much more than we need to be content”. Mark said the aim was to have \$1 billion in the endowment kitty by 2017, the centenary year for the foundation of the fund.

Mark showed us figures for income for 2013/14: \$118.5 million for the annual fund; \$33.4 million for the endowment fund; \$33.6 million for the polio fund, and \$15.3 million for other uses. Bill Gates, the richest man in the world, who helped fund the Rotary campaign for the elimination of polio, said: “There’s amazing organisation behind this ...It was due to Rotary that the polio eradication campaign was started.”

Mark went through the Six Areas of Focus, being: Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water and Sanitation; Maternal and Child Health; Basic Education and Literacy; Community and Economic Development. He then went through the mechanism by which grants were made to Rotarians districts for the pursuit of these missions. There were many charities appealing for money, he said, and they were worthy causes, but Rotary had only one official charity, that being its foundation, and by contributing to that, donors contributed to many.

And no club that contributed to the foundation was forgotten, he said. He produced a chart of Parramatta City’s giving, which in recent years peaked at more than \$30,000 in 2012/13. And Parramatta City had done rather well. Per capita giving in 2013/14 was \$246, compared with the per capita giving for the district of \$156. He set various means by which clubs could increase their giving. The reason, he said, was “because you can do good in the world”.

The club thanked Mark for his talk, which was described as the clearest and best presentation of the foundation and its work that had ever come before the club. Malcolm Brown said Mark fulfilled the image of the totally committed Rotarian.

Our Food

Phil Brophy said there was progress on the food front. The hotel would be allowing us to try different salads on three consecutive Mondays and we could decide what we liked.

The Empties

Bob Rosengreen said that if the 20 cents deposit scheme went on drink containers, Rotary stood to make “a bonanza” on being a collection point for empties. Secretary Joy said the scheme was working in South Australia.

News from Parramatta & District Probus Club

The above Probus Club, formed by our club and Parramatta Rotary Club, celebrated its 20th birthday on 9th February.

The club was formed in 1995 during the presidency of John Moxham, and Glenn Gardner was the Community Services director at the time.

Past President Keith was invited to represent the club at the birthday luncheon held on Monday 9th.

The club is very active, has approximately 100 members, of whom 85 were present on the day. They meet at Northmead Bowling Club, the original location for our Rotary club meetings.

It is interesting to note that the first introduction of the Probus idea to Australia occurred when a Rotarian from Scotland

visited our club meeting (then RC of Parramatta North) and followed it up later with a letter and information to our Club. The matter was referred by the club to the District and, as a result, in early 1976 the Probus club of Hunters Hill was formed – the first Probus club in Australia.

The Probus club members were quite pleased to find out that their meeting place was in fact the birthplace of the idea of Probus in Australia.

Dates for Diaries

16 February. Moya Maffey from the- Northcott Society will be our guest speaker

17 February. Board Meeting

21 February. Pre PETS 2 – President Elect Malcolm to attend.

23 February. Kelly McJannett, Director, Food Ladder will be our guest speaker.

26 February. Screening of the Second Best Marigold Hotel in Parramatta, to which Rotarians have been invited as a fundraising venture for the campaign against polio.

2 March. Rebecca Jaeger, motivational speaker, will be our guest

9 March. Terry Davis from Rotary Health to speak about the Anzac ParraAmble

22 March. BBQ catering for Triathlon Pink, Parramatta