



# Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675  
[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://www.parramattacityrotary.org.au)  
Meeting 07/2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

## Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Kabul City, the newest Rotary Club in Afghanistan, in which good men - and perhaps women if such a thing is permitted in a Muslim country - endeavour to bring humanity and goodwill into such a troubled country.

The mood of the Afghans has apparently been considerably helped by victory in the World Cup in cricket, where the national side, in its Cup debut, beat Scotland by one wicket in Dunedin, New Zealand. Jubilant fans had "flooded into the streets of Afghanistan, dancing, waving flags and firing AK-47s".

## Vale PDG Geoff Betts

Secretary Joy passed on the sad news that past District Governor Geoff Betts, the second chair of Australian Rotary Health, died on Friday last week.

## Our Golfers

PP Keith could hardly be restrained from breaking the news that our team in the Australian Rotary Health Golf Day – being Keith, Peter Bonaccordo (chairman of Signwave of Parramatta), Paul Reid (playing on behalf of DG Barry) and John Surian – won the Rotary club event.

## 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?

## Exchange Student Travails

Secretary Joy passed on a message from exchange student Natalie Poschl, at present in Germany, that life is not so bright as she might have expected. She is homesick and struggling with the language. But she nevertheless “really thanks us for allowing her the opportunity”. Such a reaction is hardly unexpected for a young person in such circumstances but we might add that things will inevitably look up.

## End Polio Now Movie Fundraiser

The End Polio Now Movie Fundraiser, held on Feb 26th 2015 was a most enjoyable movie and very well attended by Zone K Rotarians and guests. It was also a good opportunity to catch up with fellow Rotarians.

## Parramatta and Rotary

In the absence of Rebecca Jaeger, our scheduled guest speaker, who has become seriously infirm and obliged to go to the country, we heard and inspiring address from John Surian on Parramatta and the role that Rotary might be playing. He said that the “gateways” to Parramatta, being the main roads like Church Street leading into the CBD, provided an opportunity for

Parramatta Rotary to advertise itself. “We need iconic addresses of properties that are leading into the gateways,” he said. “How many times do you drive into a country town and see a sign saying ‘Rotary meets at ,,...’? So what I am thinking is to work on that concept.”

John said that Parramatta Rotary numbers were smaller than they should be. At Penrith the total numbers of Rotarians in the three clubs was between 90 and 100. In Parramatta the corresponding number was about 50. “So what I was just thinking was it would be good to work on a project that has a possible presence,” he said. “I was just thinking of something permanent where you could see what Rotary is. You could also see it as a leverage for marketing Rotary in Parramatta.”

John said such a project would need support of the other Rotary clubs, the property owners involved and the Parramatta City Council. You are looking for parks. You are looking for bridges.” A noticeboard, he said, was a “silent salesman and “the best advertising you can get”.

DG Barry said there were plans afoot for the development of Parramatta that would bring people here anyway. There was a proposal to relocate the

Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta and for the expenditure of \$300 million on the site. President Ron mentioned Parramatta Gaol, which had several options for its future use, taking into account that the site had been given to the Aboriginal Land Council. He pointed out that our newest member, Parramatta State MP Geoff Lee had been a driving force for the establishment of an arts precinct” in Parramatta. Bob Rosengreen said the Riverside Theatre had been a success though it was not “dynamic”.

John Surian said there was so much happening with the development of Parramatta it was “hard to get a handle on everything”. He said the University of Western Sydney was to establish a campus accommodating 10,000 students in a building at the corner of Macquarie and Smith Streets in the Parramatta CBD. If the present government won the election and proceeded with the sale of “poles and wires”, a \$100 million school would also be built in the CBD. “We have got some of the best schools in the southern hemisphere,” he said. “We have got a university”. There was also a cultural mix which contained elements, mainly Asian, who loved education.

John said that in the

medical sector, where there was to be a \$900 million upgrade of Westmead Hospital, and in the IT industry, there was huge potential for Parramatta. But there needed to be transit ways coming from the north, south, east and west to facilitate movement of people. “The City of Parramatta will change exponentially,” he said.

President Ron said Parramatta had the potential to become “another Boston”, referring to Boston, USA, which had become an international centre for higher education and medicine, and a world leader in innovation. But there were problems in the disinclination of people to move to Parramatta once institutions and government departments were relocated here. It had already been seen that many people in previous relocations did not want to leave their homes in the eastern suburbs.

John said change would come anyway. The Commonwealth Bank was seriously considering relocating from the concrete jungle of Homebush and settling in Parramatta. Westpac Bank was also seriously considering relocating here. But it was necessary, to prepare for such huge development, to get people out of their “silos” and take a broader view of future development.

“We have to find a way of breaking down the silos so that institutions, buyers, tenants, Rotary and government get together in some form of open discussion. At the moment, everyone is just sitting there with their arms folded.”

## Dates for Diaries

**9 March.** Club meeting with Terry Davies, from Australian Rotary Health.

**16 March.** Club meeting

**22 March.** Barbecue for the Pink Triathlon event.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March.** Club meeting

**28 March.** President Elect Training

**30 March.** Club meeting. Kelly McJannett will speak about Food Ladder, an International non profit organisation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May.** District Assembly - for all incoming Board members.

**4<sup>th</sup> May.** PhD Scholars evening at Oatlands Golf Club

**15<sup>th</sup> May.** Closing Date for contributions to ANZAC Centenary Project of combined Rotary Clubs of Parramatta.

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** Police Officer of Year Awards at Oatlands Golf Club.