

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

Rotary Four Way Test

The Four Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask of 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?

Meeting 13th April 2015

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Paris, which had hosted a conference under the auspices of the president of Rotary International, Gary Huang. The conference had reaffirmed the commitment made by Rotary International at the time of the Berlin Airlift to foster peace throughout the world through Rotary culture.

Bowel Care

A message from Natalie: I am seeking help for collection of the Bowelcare kits as I will be in Melbourne until this coming Sunday. The kits are to be collected from Murray Farm Public school anytime between 9.30am and 2.30pm on Friday or Saturday. I would be grateful if someone can pick them up on my behalf and I will then collect them from you early next week, either at the rotary meeting or another suitable time.

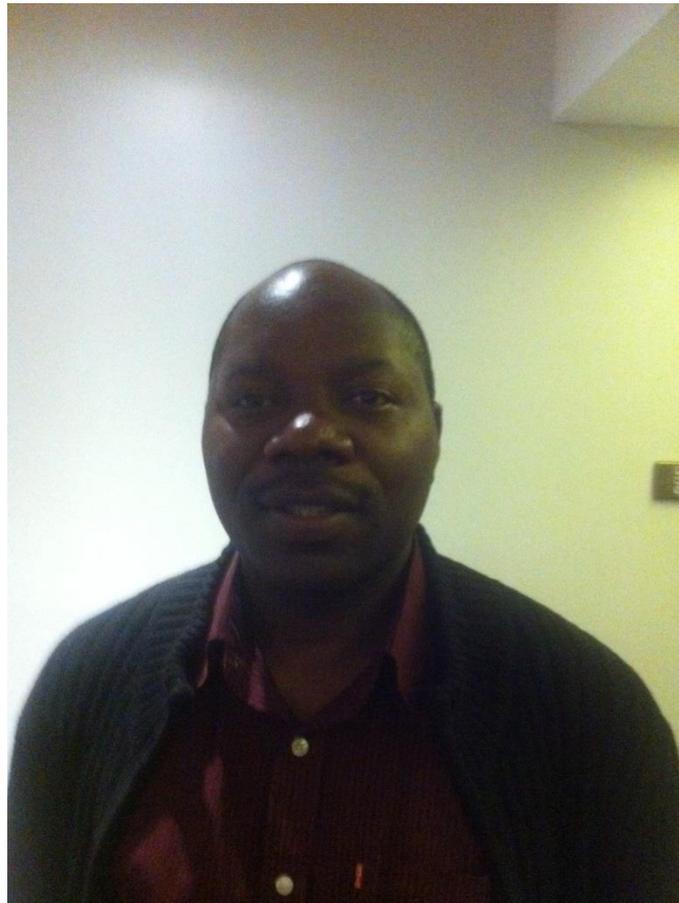
The Fallen

PP Keith informed us that DG Barry was up and about and had "caught a few trains". Barry, who has described his period as DG as "a ball", has suffered grievously through the injury. PE Malcolm suggested that when he is well Barry should be given another year as DG when he can perform to his great capacity as a well man.

Our Guest

The club welcomed back prospective member Kaheba Clement Honda, of Northmead, who is a disability support worker employed by the Heartbeat Nursing Agency, one of the largest suppliers of nursing staff to many NSW area health services, as well as to public health units, private hospitals, mental health facilities and other groups. Kaheba, who is happy to go by the name "Honda", was born in the Congo in 1972. He gained his nursing degree at Bukavu University in the Congo in 1995.

He migrated to Australia as a refugee in 2007. Honda is married to Stephanie, also from the Congo, and has four children. He joined Rotary, he said, because of its dedication to community need.



(Honda)

A Letter from Our Sister Club in Manila

Dear Pres. Ron, Thank you once again for sharing your club activities and accomplishments in this Rotary year. With us here in the Philippines, we are more than glad to hear all the great community sharing you'd done and been doing .Keep up the good work.

The end of this Rotary year 2014- 2015 is fast approaching and I am very proud to share with you in the RC Parramatta City our very remarkable projects we've done .(1). The preservation of endangered species , the likes of the TORTOISE; (2). The success of our co-hosting of RYLA; (3) The sponsorship and livelihood program for PWDs (Persons with Disabilities).

These are the few of our accomplished projects this year. Thank you and our regards to everybody and to Keith Henning.

Yours in Rotary Service,

PP Mina Bonita, RC Ramon Magsaysay

Emergency Containment

President Ron referred to the island nation of Vanuatu which had suffered grievously from a cyclone that had also hit the Philippines. The Asia Pacific area was being hit frequently by cyclones. There had been three cyclones this year, some overlapping in various areas. It raised the issue of more permanent arrangements for emergency relief, not just in the immediate phase but during the two years or so afterwards when people were rebuilding. Ron had been in touch with his professional counterparts, the United Architects of the Philippines, which had formed an Emergency Architects Group and was getting things up and running in Vanuatu.

The Filipinos, in conjunction with Japanese architects were moving to have emergency operations more coordinated in Vanuatu. They were looking beyond immediate relief (such as in the form of Shelter Boxes, a Rotary initiative) to providing accommodation and facilities during the resettlement period. Mobile facilities were being made available that could last for one of two years, and which could go beyond the provision of food, clothing and shelter to "comfort needs", which lifted their spirits.

Ron said that shipping containers were an ideal solution for accommodation, office and shopping space. Anyone who had visited Christchurch in the last few years could see the ingenious way that shipping containers had been converted to suit community needs. An entire shopping centre had been built using them. They had the advantage in emergencies of being used for their purpose – taking relief materials to the disaster area. Then they could be used in the ways outlined.

Ron said that in the Philippines, the architects had converted half a dozen containers for use in emergencies. It was a joint venture with the Red Cross, the Philippines military and government. Ron said it was possible to locate converted containers in strategic locations in the Asia-Pacific region. Even Australia, which had suffered cyclone damage in its north, could make use of them.

Ron said that in the Philippines, the Japanese had been helpful in establishing a master plan for emergencies. There were several principles they acted on, one being to keep people as close as possible to the areas where they had been living and to keep communities together. Another was to resettle people with reasonable comfort in the year or two years it would take them to rebuild. Rotary, Ron said, was in the position of providing funding to help the fit-out of containers.

John Surian, ever the real estate man, started doing his sums" \$2,000 for a container, \$10,000 for a fit-out. What about water reticulation, sewerage, those sorts of things. Ron said the Filipinos had taken on such issues as water containers and removal of waste. John wondered whether French Rotary might be approached for help, seeing Vanuatu was formerly a French possession.

Bob Rosengreen said he thought the idea feasible. From little ideas, big things could grow, he said. The Shelter Box project had developed from an idea expressed at a Rotary Club in England. Idea. Honda, our prospective member, said that in the Sahara, building containers had been used as a base settlement for oil exploration in Niger, so the container idea had been proved in practical circumstances.

Dates for Diaries

20 April. Presentations by our Danish exchange student, Frederick Andersen and Kathleen Rome, National Youth Science Forum participant.

27 April. Michael Moffitt, who has done mission work in Pakistan's troubled tribal region where he has contributed to the administration of a hospital.

2 May. District Assembly for all incoming board members

4 May. PhD scholars evening at Oatlands Golf Club

15 May. Closing date for contributions to the ANZAC project of the Combined Rotary Clubs of Parramatta.

25 May. Police Officers of the Year Award at Oatlands Golf Club