

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 20th April 2015

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Versailles, the city where the peace treaty was signed, ending the four years of bloodshed known as the Great War. When the war started, a lot of troops went away, Bob said, thinking of it as a great adventure and it would be “all over by Christmas”. The peace treaty marked a turning point world history, Bob said, and was something we should contemplate as we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign.

Bowel Care

The Bowelcare kits have been collected, thanks to the timely intervention of Ralph Cadman.

The Gracefully Aging

Secretary Joy had celebrated her birthday the day before the meeting. PP Keith thought it inappropriate to say how old she was so we will keep information discrete about Joy's 64th birthday.

Our Guests

The club welcomed back exchange student Frederik Andersen, fresh from a three-week tour of Australia and a week away with his host family. The club also welcomed Kathleen Rome, introduced by Ben Jackson, and her mother, Christel. Kathleen had visited us last year and spoken about her aspirations to attend the National Youth Science Forum last January. “She has obviously had a very positive experience and I am personally excited to hear what she has to say,” Ben said. Kathleen had applied for and been accepted for the International Youth Science Forum and now faced the big task of raising the necessary funds.

Frederik's Travels

Frederik, 17, our exchange student from Denmark, wearing his Parramatta High School uniform, told us about a wonderful three-week tour of Australia he had had with 34 other Rotary exchange students, which took him first to Canberra, then to Melbourne and on to Adelaide. The group went inland by coach, to the opal-mining centre of Coober Pedy where Frederik found himself sleeping underground. "It was different from anything I have ever tried before," he said. The group came face to face with our Aboriginal brethren and were warned to stay away from them, which is perhaps a little harsh, especially when the reaction of some of the students was to turn and run when they approached. Those Frederik did speak to were open and friendly.

The group set off then for Uluru. The coach driver promised a reward to the first person to see the rock. When a large rock was sighted, there were many mangled attempts to pronounce then name, but it was not the rock at all. The real rock did come into view, and Frederik saw it in different perspectives, when it was rain-soaked and by helicopter. There followed a trip to Kings Canyon and afterwards to Alice Springs, where the group came into intimate but non-lethal contact with a snake or two.

The students flew from there to Cairns, where they were introduced to the glories of the Great Barrier Reef and the joys of snorkelling, off to Airlie Beach and some close encounters with some large fish, and to a station which Frederik said was "almost twice the size of the whole of Denmark". There was then some other entertainment, mainly creative cross-dressing and as beauty contest. Frederik for some reason did not win.

After visiting the Sunshine and Gold Coasts, the group slipped across the border to Byron Bay. Then it was back to Sydney where Frederik and other Sydney-based exchange students found themselves acting as "tour guides" for the out-of-towners. Following the trip, Frederik went on a week's holiday with his host family, the Poschls, to Coffs Harbour where he saw the Big Banana.

Kathleen's Scientific Wonderland

The National Youth Science Forum had been formed 30 years ago and Rotary was a founding partner. It was for Year 12 students who were interested in science, technology or engineering. Kathleen, one of 400 students selected from 1,200 applicants, found herself in company with a host of brilliant and inspired youngsters, including students from overseas countries such as Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Brazil, Fiji and South Africa. The program was intense, crammed into two weeks of January, but Kathleen, who chose the earth sciences/environmental stream, was determined to take in everything.

Kathleen's group went to a research school of earth sciences, which inspired Kathleen because of her interest in geology. She visited the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, and to a national park at Canberra where the students were introduced to natural tonics and remedies used by indigenous Australians. They went to the Grains Corporation where they extracted DNA from grain. They were also shown a particle accelerator which had made further discoveries in science possible.

Kathleen attended many debates and formal presentations, and all sorts of applications of science which might not occur to ordinary people, such as using archaeology to find victims

of World War 11 and send the remains back to their families. She said nobody who attended such a gathering, with its abundant opportunities for networking, could fail to have profited. The National Youth Science Forum had already established a track record. Peter Nixon, the chairman of Vodafone, had been a student at the forum years before. She said she was now looking forward to the International Youth Science Forum which would occur in July-August. "It is a great chance to represent Australia," she said.

Ralph Cadman thanked both Frederik and Kathleen who had "done us proud" with their presentations.



(Kathleen and Frederik)

Letter from Our Sister Club,

Hi Keith,

How's everything back there in Parramatta? I do hope all is well. On our end, everything is going fine. President Sol's term is already near its conclusion that is why I guess everybody is a bit more relaxed by now. By the way, our next president will be Pres. Leo Vedan. The better half of Marie. He was unanimously voted to lead the club this coming Rotary Year 2015-2016. He intends to have his planning session with the club members at Subic in Olongapo City hopefully by mid May. The members are pretty much excited as it will be an opportunity to most members to have a 2 purpose vacation

with their family; a planning session plus summer vacation rolled into one. Please do send my regards to all your fellow members.

Take care and God Bless,

Jouie. (Jouie Gabat, a past president, Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay, Philippines)

Letter from St Peter's Junior School, Uganda

Dear Keith,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. The school is doing well and we are breaking for holidays on Friday 17th April 2015. Everything has gone really well in school this term because of my daily presence in the school. I look forward to continuing being physically in the school in 2015. As I wrote last time, we are seeing a number of challenges ahead of us especially now that our children will sit for national examinations in 2016. We have already started serious preparation for national examinations and parents are very supportive to the preparation and we are grateful for their support.

There are two pressing challenges that we need to address in the school. First, we have realized that our children are not having enough time to read their books especially after school. Therefore, we are thinking of making the candidate children stay in boarding in the school compound in 2016. In this regard, I have started extension of the classroom for Grade 7 and dormitory for the candidate children and hopefully I will finish by end of the year. I am planning to ask my rotary friends in Queensland to support us with solar lighting once the children are staying in boarding. I think this will greatly enhance learning and performance of the children.

Secondly, there is a piece of land measuring 70 X 35 meters bordering the school to the east and the owner has sold it to the school sometimes back and we paid half of the amount. However, it has taken longer than agreed time to finish the remaining balance and the owner is now asking for the balance which we do not have at the moment. I am thinking that if you could lend a hand and raise for us USD 2,500 so that we can pay the remaining balance to enable the school to fully own the piece of land. This is the piece of land we plan to use for school poultry project and also as play-ground for children. There are other challenges facing the school that we are discussing with parents and we will find ways of addressing them locally. I appreciate your support on this one particular challenge.

Thank you,

Robert Opira

Dates for Diaries

27 April. Michael Moffatt, 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. The venue has been changed to the Rooty Hill RSL Club, 55 Sherbooke Street, Rooty Hill. It is an 8.30 am start. All members of our club's incoming board are urged to attend.

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.