



# Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675

[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://www.parramattacityrotary.org.au)

Meeting 14/2015 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## Our Guests

The three Parramatta Rotary Clubs combined tonight. Our guests were a sizeable number of police, led by Acting Assistant Commissioner Daryl Jobson and Superintendent Wayne Cox, commander of Parramatta Local Area Command (LAC). Friends and family attended, and entertainment was provided by the NSW Police Wind Ensemble.

## Our Toast

Joe Allan, Past President of Parramatta Rotary Club, proposed a toast to the Police Service, the Rotary Clubs of Parramatta and the Parramatta LAC.

## A Rotary Welcome

James Dyer, president of Parramatta Rotary Club, welcomed guests. He said the Police Officer of the Year Awards was “probably the most important annual function organised by the Combined Rotary Clubs of Parramatta”.

## From the Assistant Commissioner

Acting Assistant Commissioner Daryl Jobson said the success of the police operation in Parramatta could be seen in declining crime statistics for the Parramatta LAC. The work Rotary had done in organising the event “demonstrates that community spirit is alive, and that the community is very aware of the work that they do”. There was “an enduring relationship between Rotary and police”, which underpinned the guiding ethos of both organisations which was “service above self”. The 152 sworn officers and the unsworn officers in the LAC had shown “a devotion to duty”.

## 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?

## A word from Barry

DG Barry Antees said: “From time to time we look at ourselves and ask: where would the world be if we were not here? And from a local perspective you would not have nights like this. Looking further afield, Rotary had virtually eliminated polio from the world. This year less than 100 people had contracted it. From a state perspective, it could be asked: Where would we be without the NSW Police?”

## Policing in Parramatta

Superintendent Wayne Cox said policing in Parramatta was “challenging and demanding but rewarding”. Parramatta was going through a major level of change in infrastructure. The city was being touted as the second CBD of Sydney, which involved a lot of infrastructure and business and extra policing. All that put extra focus on policing.

Superintendent Cox said the Parramatta LAC had a range of crimes and incidents, one being the horrific murder of an Indian national in Parramatta Park, which had achieved a global perspective.

The Parramatta police had responded with exemplary professionalism. “What I am really trying to press upon you is that anything we do in Parramatta is not [necessarily] steady routine,” he said. “You really have to think about those front-line police who respond to these incidents.”

He said there were two ongoing problems in the Parramatta LAC, being stealing from dwellings and break-and-enter of business premises. The Western Sydney Wanderers were “a weekly challenge” which brought a lot of attention to Parramatta and tested the police who were handling it well. Beyond that was the spectre of terrorism, which always had to be taken into account. “Anything that happens in the state is reviewed in the context of terrorism,” he said. With that taken into account, police on the street had “everything to do”. Superintendent Cox said the police stood on a line “between good and evil” and it took a special type of person to do that. The local police, with the excellent support from unsworn staff, had shown they were up to it.

# Policing Awards

There were six awards presented. Five categories had three nominees each and there was an overall award for Police Officer of the Year. We start with the Police Officer of the Year.

The Police Officer of the Year award went to Sergeant Kathryn Betts, a supervising sergeant in the Parramatta LAC. In that time she had established herself as a team leader with the respect and bearing. Acting Inspector Ainsley Hodges, giving the citations, said Sergeant Betts was “a leader by definition ... she uses her influence to achieve results”. She was knowledgeable and hard-working, and with her personable nature, she inspired her team to do better, and that rubbed off on her colleagues. Nothing is a problem,” Inspector Hodges said. “Her performance exceeds what is expected.”

Constable Alexander Tockuss won the award in the Customer/Community Service category. Inspector Hodges said Constable Tockuss had started in the Parramatta LAC in 2012 and had shown himself to be a good operational police officer. He was enthusiastic and proactive police officer with an enthusiasm for police work. He was known as an “outside cat” because it was difficult to get him off the radio and into the police station. He had provided operational support to his police mates and was a role model for younger police officers.

Jennifer Holt was won the award for Civilian Employee of the Year. She had joined the Police Service in 1977 and had taken up her present position in the Parramatta LAC in 2013. Her role was “intrinsic to the financial management and property management” of the LAC. Giving tactical and strategic advice on corporate governance, she had demonstrated “unwavering support to the command, displaying at all times a “can do” attitude to her work.

Detective Constable Benjamin Richardson won the award for Investigator of the Year. He had started in the Parramatta LAC in 2003 and shown himself to be “a dedicated and talented investigator”, well regarded by his colleagues. He had a high work rate and was willing to assist fellow officers. This year he had been involved



*Above: Sergeant Kathryn Betts – Police Officer of the year*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**29 May.** Special Meeting of Presidents, Liverpool Catholic Club.

**31 May.** The Red Shield Appeal.

**1 June.** Kaheba Clement Honda, mental health professional and prospective member, will speak about life and conditions in the Congo.

**15 June.** Kylie Warry, communications specialist, speaker, author and trainer will address the club. She is the author of a book, *The Enlightened Communicator – Avoid the Common Communication Traps for Betty Connection at Work and Personally.*

**19 June.** Farewell Dinner for Frederik Andersen. Peronis Restaurant Harris Park

**28 June.** District 9675 Changeover Luncheon, Campbelltown.

**29 June.** Our Changeover evening to welcome Malcolm as Club President. This will be at the Oatlands Golf Club, 6.30 for 7 pm. The meals will cost \$55 per person.

in numerous serious and complex investigations. One of these had involved a complaint of sexual assault, which he found was groundless and had resulted in the complainant being charged. In another, Strike Force Warre, the operation had resulted in seizure of a large quantity of prohibited rugs, firearms and cash, and the arrest of offenders.

Acting Inspector Ainsley Hodges won the award for Leadership in Policing Vocation. She had been attached to the Parramatta LAC for four years. She had become the team leader in General Duties and for the past 12 months she had acted as duty officer for the command. She had been very active in the command senior management. Her performance in acting with ease in these higher duties had been remarked on and she had inspired police officers who had reported to her. Last year an emergency had developed involving a mentally ill man and a siege and she had done an outstanding job in coordinating the Tactical response Group and local police to handle it.

Probationary Constable Adrian Tranti won the Emerging Constable Award. He had joined the Parramatta LAC last year and had demonstrated a maturity in his performance worthy of someone of higher rank. He was enthusiastic, proactive, a “real go-getter”. On March 15 he had pulled over four members of a bikie gang and had obtained valuable information that would “undoubtedly assist other police in their investigations”.

## News from Rotary Club of Livingstone, Zambia

PP Keith received an email from PP Margaret Whitehead this week. Livingstone Club is the **co-ordinator of the project which manufactures the Rotary shirts sold at Rotary’s International** Conventions and some of their members visited us last year. They are gearing up for this year’s convention which starts very soon.

“We are very busy trying to get organised for Sao Paulo - visas, yellow fever jabs, etc done. Today I have to look for some more suitcases in town. We are lucky that flights to Brazil allow 2 x 32kg baggage each, so we can take plenty of shirts between the 3 of us. The shirts are still being made, with the occasional hiccup, such as yesterday when the electricity went off at the workshop because the managers of the women's centre had not fed enough units in the meter and it was a public holiday! However I hope we will have a good enough number to make good sales. Our new cream and brown fabric was very popular at our district conference.”