

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?

Changeover Meeting 29th June

The Welcome and the Toasting

Past District Governor Ray Reed proposed a toast to everyone. Then he thanked Immediate Past District Governor Barry Antees for his excellent service to the new district, District 9675. "He represented us in fine style," Ray said. "Barry had a fairly serious accident just before he took office but in his usual manner he pulled up his socks and got on with the job. He represented us in fine style. Barry we all appreciate the respect you showed us as you represented us with all the clubs in the district and we are very proud to have had you as our District Governor".

Ray welcomed some members who had not been with us for a while. One of those attending, Colin Gray, was "almost family to each of us". In proposing a toast to Rotary International, he said: "One of our principles is to promote peace and understanding throughout the world and today this is so important that we feel it should be coupled with a toast. "We have so much what shall I say trouble in the world today and some of it relating to very old feuds and practices and culture that don't belong in our own country and I personally cannot see it taking an important part in our structure that it is aiming to day. Rotary International with its inclination to promote peace and understanding will I am sure carry that job very faithfully and very well."

Bob Rosengreen said in Ray and Barry there were two past District Governors in the one club and that was worth a round of applause. He thought it appropriate on this occasion to toast the Rotary Club of Copenhagen because Denmark had sent us this model exchange student Frederik Andersen and as we had been recently reminded Denmark and Sydney had a strong link through the Opera House.

Past DG Barry Antees

Barry thanked Ray for his kind words and said that on behalf of Rotary International he would like to respond. In 2002, RI had launched a peace and conflict resolution program for students. Each year 60 students would go to a total of seven universities where they do a Masters degree in peace and conflict resolution.

“We now have over 780 students placed in government and non-government organisations,” he said. “The feedback we are getting is that they are contributing a lot to world peace.”

Among those who had taken part in the program was Robert Opira who was working on a school project in Uganda, in close collaboration with Parramatta City Rotary Club.” They are not only doing this in the areas of government in their own countries but are doing a lot to assist in their local communities,” he said.

Barry said the other area Rotary needed to look at was the area of health. The End Polio program had started in 1985 and since then Rotary had contributed to it year after year.” Four hundred thousand people were catching polio in those years [when we started] and one in every 10 or 15 would die,” he said. “Today I can make the announcement that Nigeria this year has had no cases of polio. It is one of the three countries we have had trouble with. But the last case of polio in Nigeria was in November last year. We are approaching the stage where we have 12 months free of polio in Nigeria and we can declare the country polio-free as we did in India in 2011.

“In Pakistan and Afghanistan we are giving polio immunisation through those war-torn countries. Our peace scholars now within NGO’s are able to negotiate with warlords. In Afghanistan we have had one case in six months and in the six months prior to that we had 24 cases. So we are slowly getting there. This year there were 22 cases in Pakistan when last year there were 100 cases.”

Barry said there was testing throughout the world. People infected with the disease did travel. Polio sufferers had gone across the border from Pakistan and Afghanistan. Officials were testing for polio at airports sanitation systems throughout the world. In San Paolo international airport polio had been detected and the virus came from Pakistan. “In Australia where vaccination rates are as low as 71 percent we could have it again,” he said

Barry said that with the contribution of Rotary and with Bill and Melinda Gates in particular “We can achieve some fantastic goals”. The Rotary clubs of Macquarie this year had put on an event and most of the donations had been from non-Rotarians. “We raised \$21,000 that night and with Bill and Melinda Gates chipping in they raised more than \$82,000 to eradicate polio.

Outgoing President Ron

Ron said that when he took office a year ago had had ambitions but now realised that a lot of goals could only be achieved in the longer term. “It is not like Dante’s trip into the Inferno but we do see a lot of things going on,” he said. “It does open your eyes to the breadth of involvement and the altruism on the part of people who have got involved in Rotary projects,” He said. “I thank my club members for that opportunity and I hope I can contribute more over the year and continue my membership.” Ron wished incoming president Malcolm Brown a successful year.,



Ron and Malcolm

Malcolm thanked the club for the honour of making him president. He said Rotary had featured large in his life. It was through his father's appeal to a fellow Rotarian in 1968 after he had bombed out in Law at Sydney University. The fellow Rotarian, who happened to own the local newspaper, gave Malcolm his start and he never looked back. Malcolm thought it would be appropriate to recall the occasion 59 years previously when his father, Sam Brown, was made president of Dubbo Rotary Club. He quoted some of his words from a press report of the event.

"My father in his speech said he would not speak for long and underlined the point that it was not what people said that mattered, but what they did. And he hoped to add to the achievements of the club in its 21 years of existence," Malcolm said;. "He said that in the 51 years since Paul Harris had founded Rotary, it had put "a girdle round the earth, and extended literally from China to Peru. It had 8,700 clubs in 92 countries and a membership of 111,000. His father's words were: "The work of Rotarians throughout the world in this respect has been tremendous, and we promise to add something small to this total achievement and to leave this district perhaps a little better for our passing."

Malcolm said: "I have done a quick search on the internet to discover that there are now 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, from Haiti and Greenland to Nigeria and Singapore. I went to the RI Convention at Homebush last year and sitting there watching the assembly of these diverse nations I saw it as something like a world government, dedicated to the welfare of humanity. Although obviously Rotary does not have the resources of governments, what it does have is the ability to get to the grassroots level of every community. We hear so often that billions of dollars in aid goes to developing countries like Bangladesh but little of it filters down to the poorest people. With Rotary, members are in reach of the poorest people. And Google tells me that the fastest-growing regions include South-East Asia and Africa".

“So it is with pride that I quote my father’s words and set about a year myself as president of Parramatta City Rotary Club. The task is not without difficulty. The Rotary Club of Dubbo was like all country service clubs well patronised and regarded by everyone as a way of networking, becoming known and contributing to the community. This is not the case in the city, where we are in a vast ocean of humanity. We struggle in most places, including Bankstown Rotary Club which battles on manfully with seven members. I think in Parramatta, however, we are being favoured by history. Parramatta is on the verge of a colossal expansion, to become the second Central Business District of Sydney, with a huge injection of capital and population. The Rotary Clubs have got to be in a position to capitalise on this and spread their network. What I am proposing is that the three Rotary Clubs get together and start an advertising campaign on the lines that Parramatta has as great future and people should think seriously about joining Rotary to become part of it. I wish to thank Ron for his excellent year as president of the club and for the board members who have soldiered on diligently, enlivened always by a sense of humour. I wish you well and I hope that when Phil [Brophy] steps into this position in a year’s time we will be able to present him with a club that is continuing to be substantial and viable.”

Malcolm introduced his new board, presented director’s badges to new board members Don Thompson and Steve Burfield, and presented Past President Ron with his PP badge.



The board, 2015-16, with outgoing exchange student Frederik Andersen

The evening’s events featured solos by former opera singer and now music teacher and civil celebrant Christine Beasley and renowned pianist John Martin, together with a teacher/pupil duet by Christine and Incoming President Malcolm.



Christine, Malcolm and John in full flight

For Your Diaries

6 July. Club meeting. Speaker will be renowned journalist and historian Gavin Souter, who will talk about historical matters with particular reference to Parramatta

13 July. Club meeting. 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*

20 July. Club meeting. Speaker will be Gregg Kearns, a local director of Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational evangelical Christian International Relief organization based in North Carolina.

21 July. Board Meeting