



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675
www.parramattacityrotary.org.au
Meeting 22/2015 31st August 2015

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?

Presidential Address

Dear Colleagues,

I do not have too much to report this week. My own brief, the Gallipoli Project, appears to be going well. There have been some very substantial and very illuminating contributions. I was asked to write an overview stressing Parramatta' close link with the defence of the nation, which began in April 1788 when Arthur Philip ventured to the site of Parramatta and saw the Crescent on the riverbank which suggested a good place

https://instagram.com/_n/media?utm_campaign=digest_email&media_index=0&utm_source=instagram&target_user_id=1780899836&utm_medium=email&id=1058260680990331011 to defend. Parramatta has in fact a long history with the defence of the nation, not the least being Lancer Barracks, the oldest continually-serving military establishment in Australia.

Re my brief to connect with other clubs, tonight I am going to attend a meeting of the Holroyd Rotary Club.

As far as the concert is concerned, I have cancelled our tentative booking of the Riverside Theatre on the grounds of cost and have today delivered a letter to the King's School Parramatta to discuss the prospects of staging a concert at The King's School, possibly in conjunction with the school choir, to raise funds for the North Rocks School for Deaf and Blind Children.

Does anyone else have an update to give on their brief?

Today we hear from Craig Jennings, of the Samaritans Purse.

Upcoming Events

September 7 – We will be hearing from Zyrá McAuliffe

September 14 – Archaeologist Dr Michael Bendon will speak

September 18 – District Presidents Meeting

September 21 – We will hear from Eric Stanley, motivational speaker and author

October 11 – Bunnings barbeque

October 18 – Triathlon Pink Barbeque

Malcolm Brown

INTERNATIONAL TOAST

Keith Henning – Treasurer

PP Keith reported that: -

- He had made a successful appeal to 'district' for \$5000 to support St Peters School in Uganda which would be 50% of the cost of a Solar power system, at cost of \$10k, with RC Parramatta City responsible for raising the balance. Keith has also been responsible for attracting a \$1,000 donation from the Pink Umbrella organisation, leaving the balance for us to obtain at \$4,000.
- He went to a RAWCS meeting in Goulburn on the weekend. The Key Speaker had recently returned from Nepal and relayed his experience of being there during earthquake.
 - Medical aid for Oceania & equipment. Supported by Ramsay Health Care.
 - RAMS reported that there has been a 75% reduction Malaria in PNG since their program had been in operation. Mosquito nets are a simple, but critical, effective passive intervention and cost \$1.76 imported to PNG from Vietnam, where they are manufactured.
- He has received invitation to attend hand over dinner for our sister club in Manila (5th October 2015) the Labor Day long weekend. As part of the celebrations the club is planning a trip to site in northern Manila at which they have been sponsoring educational programs.

Rotary Club of Montgomery, Alabama – the home of 'Sister' Rosa Parks on the 50th anniversary of her arrest for refusing to move to the 'black' seats at the back of the bus on which she was a passenger.

Guest Speaker

Craig Jennings – Samaritans Purse – international aid and relief. They have recently set up in Nepal coinciding with the recent earthquake. They were also on the scene in Vanuatu after the recent cyclone. Craig told us that Samaritan's Purse: -

- Try to focus on 'outer' areas first because larger scale aid takes longer to get there. The objective being to assist communities to become self-sufficient as soon as possible after an emergency. In both, Nepal and Vanuatu, Samaritan's Purse are currently in the process of rebuilding schools and water sanitation programs to provide potable water.
- Another area of focus is the development of education programs in Cambodia. In Cambodia – 96% start primary school and only 2% make it to high school. The basic qualification for a teacher is completion of a Primary School education.
- Medical aid has resulted in 5 Samaritan's Purse staff catching Ebola whilst working in Western Africa.

- Basic programs of teaching life skills reinforce culture & sustainability for individuals and communities. Craig gave the example of a family being given 1 piglet, which they raised and sold at market giving them the capital to buy 5 more piglets thereby creating a cycle of improvement of their lifestyle.
- Primary community interface for Samaritan's Purse, in Australia, is the annual Operation Christmas Child program of sending gift filled shoeboxes to kids throughout the world. In 2010 they distributed over 10m gifts to children world wide.

It is very significant to the morale of each child as they only receive it once. The program is fully funded by individual donations who purchase the gifts and pack each shoebox as part of their involvement. On top of that there is a requirement for a donation of \$9/shoebox to cover the costs of shipping and other operational costs. Each box is required to contain gifts that are: -

- Something to love;
- Something to wear;
- Something to play with;
- Something to provide personal hygiene;
- Something to educate.

- The Samaritan's Purse Warehouse is located in Blacktown – from this base they collected and distributed 104,000 gifts in 2014.
- It is vitally important that each gift is hand deliver directly to the kids by volunteers selected by a national Leadership Group in each of the recipient countries. They work in partnership rather than in competition with other disaster relief orgs.

October is the month for collection of 'shoeboxes'. 321k boxes are collected each year in Australia, which is one of 11 sending countries.

Craig was thanked for his presentation by Philip Brophy.

STEPHEN BURFIELD – last meeting today before starting new job with Wesley Mission in Sydney. Stephen will be sadly missed by all of us who have become mates with him. His new email will be fundsmanager@wesleymission.com. Keith thanked Stephen for his friendship, intelligence, and his many contributions over his years of membership.

PPG Barry also thanked Steve's family for their support.