

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 29 February 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Verdun, in France, which started on February 21, 1916, and lasted 303 days to become the longest and most costly battle in human history. More than 300,000 were killed in the battle. It was important to remember this, Bob said, in the light of the fact that the Australian Government had just announced it would spend \$195 billion investing in our national defence. Thirty-three munitions trains a day brought ammunition sufficient for two million rounds to be fired in the first six days. Two million were fired in the next six days. Eighty percent of the casualties by the 1.5 billion shells fired in World War 1. One lieutenant wrote in his diary that the world had gone mad. He was killed on 23 May 1916 Troops who tried to desert were court-martialled and shot. General Robert Nivelle who succeeded General Petain as commander of the French Second Army at Verdun issued an order forbidding French troops from surrendering. The war wrecked the economies of Britain, France and Germany but there were other prices to be paid. The ground was so churned up in the battles that many shells failed to explode and, Bob said, one-third of those were still in the ground. Five to eight percent of the unexploded shells contained mustard gas or some other noxious substance. Hundreds of people had been killed trying to clear the land of the unexploded bombs.

Our Guest

The club welcomed Graham Wilcox, an amateur genealogist and historian, when taking time off from his day jobs in real estate and telecommunications. Graham, some of whose forebears came on the Second Fleet, putting them and their descendants in Australia for 196 years, has a rich vein of history to tap into. He has written a number of books, the latest being on one of the descendants, Sir Arthur Rutledge, who he discovered single-handedly brought Queensland into the Federation of colonies in 1901 and thereby ensured that Australia would be one nation. Sir Arthur was Graham's great-grandfather. And through a connection with a migrant family called Field, which was one of the original families, Graham turned out to be a distant relative of president Malcolm.

The King's School Concert

President Malcolm put to the club that the concert, organised for April 17, is a major commitment and we must now promote it. The Futter Hall, which is the school's major venue, has the capacity to seat 1,200. Malcolm said we are unlikely to do that but we have costs for the hire of the hall, provision of a sound expert and a minor fee for the choir, so we must get people in. Barry Antees mentioned some possibilities, such as marketing the concert to Probus clubs and similar organisations, and the club agreed that a committee should be formed to include Malcolm, Bob Rosengreen, Dob Thomson and Barry. The Club will promote the conference at the District Conference at Nelson Bay this weekend.

The Pink Triathlon

John Stamboulie said he would send an email out if we were welcomed at the Pink Triathlon in April.

Fiji Lights

The club decided that though there were great needs in Fiji, the idea of providing emergency lights to the country was too difficult because of the logistics of distribution.

The PhD Night

PP Keith Henning mentioned the PhD scholars night on Monday, 14 March. It will be at the Oatlands Golf Club and will replace our normal meeting.

Guest Speaker Graham Wilcox – on Sir Arthur Rutledge, his great grandfather



Graham Wilcox (right) with President (Cousin) Malcolm

Graham said that most people did not realise that the federation of Australia in six states was a close-run thing and that it might have ended up a federation of four or five states with at least one slab of the country, being Queensland, not participating. The difference, he said, was Arthur

Rutledge, born at Castlereagh on the Hawkesbury River, who became a Wesleyan minister and went to Queensland. He felt he could do more as a politician than a clergyman and he entered the Queensland House of Assembly as Member for Enoggera. Sir Henry Parkes in New South Wales were adamant that the colonies should be federated and was prepared to compromise with a union of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. But Rutledge had a broader vision, and for the time saw problems even in maintaining the unity of Queensland, where the issue of blackbirding had arisen and there was a rift developing between north Queensland the South. Rutledge believed that if the colony broke up the entire nation would as well, and he left Enoggera to resettle in Charters Towers in the north and represent that seat in the House of Assembly.

In north Queensland, Rutledge became concerned, among other things, about apparent German intentions to colonise New Guinea and saw that would be a problem because Germany would be a dominant force in the Torres Strait. Quixotically, he ordered the government representative on Thursday Island to sail to New Guinea and take the country for Queensland. That did not happen but it did raise the question of defence which was an important factor in considerations about federation. Rutledge and a close colleague, Sir Samuel Griffith, the chief justice of Queensland, worked on a draft constitution. The 1890s was a very hard period. The colonies were beset by depression and a savage drought, and thousands of men left home and went on the Wallaby Track. Sir Henry Parkes died in 1896 and there were problems with the federation movement. Rutledge campaigned for federation and just got Queensland over the line. Brisbane voted 60 percent no. There were marginal votes in central Queensland but voted 77 percent in favour of federation and it was that region that carried the colony over the line. The north Queensland vote, Graham said, was because of the trust the people had in Sir Arthur.

For Your Diaries

4 March - 6 March. District 9675 Conference at Nelson Bay.'

7 March – Guest speaker - Teresa Faulkner, Hills Community Aid, 'Domestic Violence'

8 March - International Women's Day Celebration at the Granville Rotary Club, Auburn Tennis Club, 181 Chisholm Road, Auburn Tennis Club, 6.30 pm, to which we have been invited.

14 March - PhD Scholars night at the Oatlands Golf Club This will replace our normal club meeting for that day.

15 March – Board Meeting

3 April – Triathlon Pink BBQ, Parramatta Park.

4 April - Launch of 'Voice of Remembrance' booklet at the Parramatta RSL Club. The meeting will be 6.30 pm for 7 pm and this will replace our normal club meeting for that day.