

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

**Our Toast**

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Buenos Aires, of which Pope Francis was a member. This led Bob to a reconsideration of the four Rotary Tests, being: "Is It the Truth etc. To Bob's way of thinking this raised a question about the truthfulness of the Catholic Church, or the reporting of it, because in 1951 Pope Pius X11 decreed that priests should not be members of Rotary or be involved in its activities. He wondered if there was confusion or untruthfulness about this, how could we believe anything we read or heard in the media, about China, for instance, or Australian Federal politics.

**Our Guest**

The club welcomed Teresa Faulkner, of Hills Community Aid. Teresa, accompanied by her boss, Ben Jackson, was introduced by President Malcolm. Teresa has worked in the community sector for 14 years. She has been with Hills Community Aid for a year and for eight years before that she worked in south-western Sydney, for the Smith Family and for Fairfield City Council. Teresa, who lives in Beaumont Hills, near Kellyville, has a degree in Social Science from Southern Cross University. She is married with two small boys.

**Warwick Richardson**

PDG Barry mentioned Warwick Richardson, a member of Wollondilly Rotary Club, whose brother, Sergeant Geoffrey Richardson, was killed on his way to an emergency in the Hunter Valley on the weekend. He said Warwick had received a lot of support from Rotary community.

**District 9675 Conference**

PDG Barry, PP Keith, Secretary Joy and President Malcolm attended a most convivial district conference at Nelson Bay at the weekend. The keynote speakers dealt with a diverse range of issues, including the devastating effects of Cyclone Winston on Fiji, the challenges of Sophie Delizio and her family after two elderly drivers almost killed her, the field of mental health and ways of running Rotary clubs and raising money. The younger set, being Rotaractors, were well represented,

their front person being the irrepressible Rebecca Weragoda. And for light relief on the Saturday night we had a magician who managed to take someone's \$100 note and retrieve it from the inside of a lemon.

President Malcolm reported: "Among the notes I took were the date for the charter night for Western Sydney Rotaract Club at the Liverpool Catholic Club on 22 April. I also noted that for the City to Surf race in August some 250 volunteers are needed for the running of the race, that is, its administration. Each volunteer gets \$75 for the club. I noted one speaker talking about "soap aid", where unused soap can be collected from hotels and motels, sent to a central collection point, then dispatched to many needy areas of the world. The effect, we are told, is to reduce sanitation-related deaths by 40 percent.

"We were reminded of our Bowel Care project where the kits are collected from Murray Farm School on March 18 and 19. Our club is one top of that one. The conference got a reminder of polio eradication which is reaching such a low state of incidence that only five new cases have been notified round the world in the year to date. We are reminded not to be complacent. Eighty-five percent of the population vaccinated is appropriate. Seventy-five percent, which is the present rate in Parramatta, is not. The conference received a report on Nepal, where the earthquake of 2105 killed at least 8,500, injured 22,000, collapsed half a million houses and destroyed several hundred thousand more. Rotary has been heavily involved in the reconstruction of the country, building houses and schools. The cost of a new house is between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Our DG, Graham Wilson, mentioned information nights for prospective members, for which district funding is available. Stephen Humphreys, DG-elect for 2016-17, welcomed delegates to the next district conference, which is at the Novatel Hotel in Wollongong on 10-12 March next year.

### **The King's School Concert**

President Malcolm said that promotion of the April 17 concert had now begun and distributed flyers for members to put around to get people to attend the event. The Fetter Hall at the King's School has 1,200 seats to fill. Malcolm said he was writing to our State MP, Geoff Lee, and Federal MP, Julie Owens, asking for help in the promotion. Malcolm said 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.

### **Australian Rotary Health – Scholars evening**

A reminder to members that there will be no lunchtime meeting next week. Instead, there will be a PhD Scholars night at Oatlands Golf Club, 6.30 for 7 pm.

### **Guest Speaker Teresa Faulkner - Domestic Violence**

Teresa, who comes across this frequently in her work, said the first thing to do was to define the term. The consensus seemed to be a situation where one person asserted ongoing power or control in order to incite fear on another. It could be in marriage, but it could be in many other relationships, in sibling, child-on-parent, parent-on-child, de facto, same-sex and other situations. It involved not just physical assault but verbal abuse, financial manipulation and a range of other behaviours. The people involved need not even be cohabiting. What was common, however, was a pattern of consistent power and consistent fear.

"We had one client, a woman with young children, when she wanted to go shopping she would tell her husband how much it cost and he would transfer money into her account," Teresa said. "She

said, 'He has never hit me". We walk through it with her and tell her why it is not OK." Many of the abused women loved their husbands despite the abuse. The social workers recognised stagers in an abusive relationship where the abuser apologised and said he was drunk or under stress, then made up, perhaps with a gift, and then the abuse began again.



Teresa Faulkner

Domestic violence was a hidden crime, but nonetheless a real one, Teresa said. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed that one in three women experienced domestic violence after they turned 15. One million women a year in Australia experienced domestic violence. One homicide victim in five had been killed by a domestic partner. "Last year we lost 79 women through domestic violence in Australia and so far in Australia this year we have lost nine" she said. ".Fifty percent of women victims of domestic violence have children in their care, and it had been found that people who experienced domestic violence as children were more likely to become perpetrators themselves.

Teresa said it was hard for women to leave violent relationships because of their lack of resources and security. Women who did leave left on a temporary basis an average of seven times before they left for good. In some cases women blamed themselves. Sometimes their leaving was accompanied by threats by the partner they were leaving, sometimes a threat to commit suicide, at other times threats to kill the women or her children. The women leaving the abusive relationship were more likely to seek help from family or friends rather than seek it from the professionals. In the United States a survey of women abuse victims found that only 20 percent had sought help from services. Teresa said there were several factors the services looked at, one being the role of drug and alcohol and the risk of physical harm to the woman. The time when a woman was leaving her abusive partner was the most dangerous of all.

In answer to questions on stigma, Teresa said it was possible for a woman to report abuse anonymously. She said the community needed to be educated on the realities of domestic violence. The White Ribbon Day sent a powerful message. She distributed wrist bands to club members reminding them and anyone else that domestic violence was a no no.

## **RYPEN**

The Club has nominated Nicholas Polites, a 14 year old who is in Year 9 at Ryde Secondary College, to attend RYPEN. The camp will be held at Teen Ranch Cobbitty over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **For Your Diaries**

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

18 March – ‘Your Career – My Career’. 9am – 1pm. Northcott Building 1 Fennel St, North Parramatta

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.

17 April - Concert by the Sydney Welsh Choir in support of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

19 April. Board meeting.