

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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

### Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Seoul, South Korea, venue for this year's RI Conference, where our club is being ably represented by PDG Barry Antees. Bob said this year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Rotary Foundation. It was also important to note that this was May, which had significance through history but was the only month not marked down by Rotary as a theme month. May was a month where we could focus our benevolent attention on whatever we wished.

### Our Guests

The club welcomed Pawan and Namita Sapra from the Rotary Club of Gurgaon South City in the State of Haryana, India. Pawan, who has just retired from a career in insurance in India, was visiting Australia. Namita, his daughter, migrated 10 years ago, went into insurance here and became a most competent speaker of Australian English.

The club also welcomed Ian and Jill Cochrane, whose project in Bangladesh, the LAMB Project, has been supported for years by our club. Ian, a retired school principal, and Jill, a psychologist, first went to Bangladesh in 2005 and have visited our club nine times. Today, PE Phil Brophy awarded them Paul Harris Fellowships, which surprised them, but agreeably so.



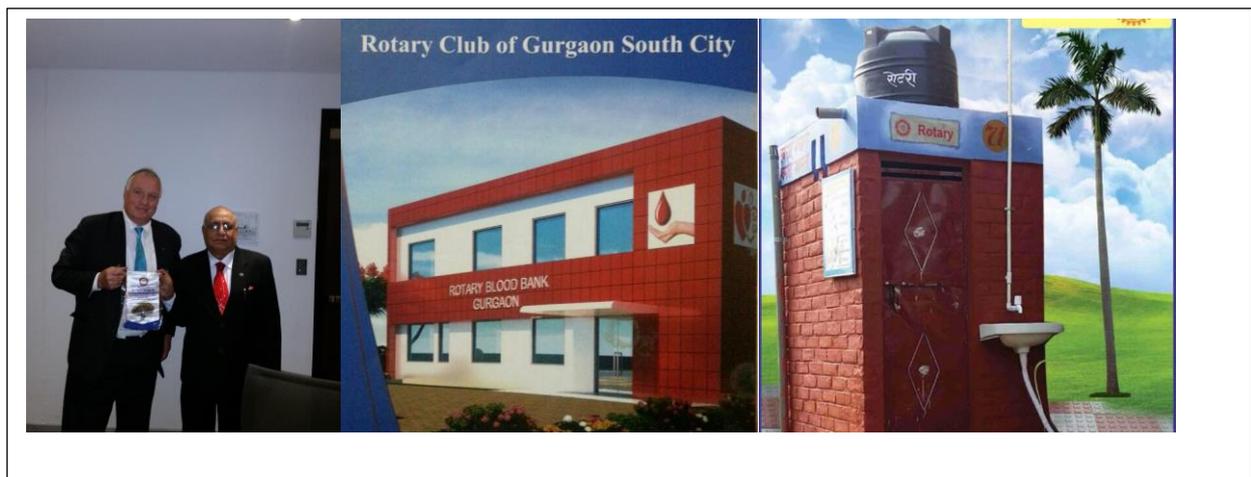
## St Peter's School, Uganda

PP Keith gave the club an update on progress at St Peter's School in Uganda, where two new classrooms had been completed. Kaheba Honda, our roving member, had visited the school and had noticed a lack of desks and stools and this was being attended to by a sponsoring Rotary club in Queensland. There was also a need for other equipment costing about AUS\$3,500 and also a shortage of books. Keith has promised to arrange the \$3,500 to be transferred by the 13<sup>th</sup> May using some previously donated funds already held by RAWCS and by donations that he hoped to obtain.

Keith expects further needs of the school to be advised in the near future.

## Projects of the Rotary Club of Gurgaon South City

Pawan Sapra said the club was involved in a variety of projects to alleviate extreme poverty and ignorance in the surrounding district. Its projects included manufacture of sanitary napkins, toilet provision, immunisation, washing stations for children who were being taught elementary hygiene, swimming, garment manufacture, a blood bank, dentistry and welfare and training of the handicapped. He said the basic need was education. Namita said politicians were not motivated to increase learning in the population because they found it a simple matter to buy their votes.



## The LAMB Project

Ian Cochrane said Bangladesh, with 160 million people crammed into an area the size of Tasmania, had many unenviable records, such as the highest population density, worst poverty, shortest life span and in five of the last 13 years the worst domestic violence. He and his wife had taken on the LAMB project in country's north, which had been started by a group of American Muslims in the 1970s but was now run by Christians, which Muslim and Hindu support. It included a hospital and school. When Ian and Jill first went to the area, it was "total shock", he said, but now it was "like another home".

Inside the project was a 150-bed hospital specialising in the health of women and children. In a nearby hospital there were two or three patients to a bed and patients had to pay for everything, including use of a bedpan. At LAMB nobody was turned away and there was a sliding scale of fees, based on capacity to pay. Some people were treated free. There were operating theatres and a nurse training centre, an English school for 135 children up to Year 10, and a disability unit which had been given \$120,000 in funding. The Cochranes proudly showed photographs of Proman, a boy suffering from autism who had made remarkable progress since taken on for training.

Training was so important, Ian said. In a school near the LAMB Project, there were 214 children and of those only three had parents who had even been to school. He said that in 2018, when the LAMB school was 10 years old, it would become financially independent.

### **Police Officer of the Year**

This year's Police Officer of the Year event is in the competent hands of John Stamboulie. It will be held at the Novotel, Parramatta, on 30 May.

### **District Assembly**

PE Phil Brophy asked President Malcolm to deputise for him at the District Assembly at Greystanes High School on Saturday, 7 May. Malcolm received on Phil's behalf a Rotary tie and a new Rotary banner

RI Governor-elect John Germ in his video address to the meeting said that in the next year, RI's 30-year quest, for the total eradication of polio, would be completed. The wild virus was only in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and that should be eliminated soon. Germ said that Rotary should get maximum recognition for its achievement, to spread the message of Rotary and attract new members. Nobody, he said, "should ever be asking what Rotary is."

DGE Stephen Humphreys reinforced the need to attract new members. Rotary had an impressive list of achievements but many people were unaware of it. Some people in the community had no idea what Rotary was and others had only a vague idea.

Tony Bennett, speaking on Public Image and Awareness, said many people under 40 did not know what Rotary was. But if every member started spreading the word, there would be community awareness. He said what members should work on was an "elevator statement", being an account of what Rotary was in a very few words.

He said there should be more work on meetings themselves. They should be more interesting so that people who did turn up would be inclined to come back. They should not be "just something to turn up to". If anyone wanted some clues as to what would make meetings more interesting, he said, they should look at what the Rotaractors did.

Tony said there could be more attention to special events. Already we had them for Police Officer of the Year and Emergency Services Worker of the Year. But what about Education, Local Government and District Health? How many clubs, he asked, should have a special event to mark Mother's Day.

Communications were very important. Any communication a president got from the district should be passed onto clubs, and if communications were not coming from district, presidents should ask why. It was important to use social media and each club should engage someone who was competent in this area. It was important to get a prospective member who had discovered Rotary on the internet the simplest and easiest means of getting in touch with the club.

Chris Evans, speaking on the subject of Governance, said it was important for a club to clearly define its vision and mission and the functions of each director. There had to be recognition and management of risks, integrity and transparency. He addressed issues such as Records Management, Insurance, Privacy, Workplace Health and Safety, Mentoring, Conflicts of Interest and Sex-based Harassment.

President Malcolm attended a special workshop led by Stephen Knightley, on public relations and membership. Stephen said that in the last 50 years, Rotary had suffered a 20 percent decline in

membership, and that in five years Rotary International would be meeting the crisis point where the best recruiting drives could not offset the attrition in membership.

Stephen went through a series of measures that could be taken to avert such disastrous events. Some were quite simple, like having a Rotary business card printed, which could be given out and was far better than a pamphlet.

It was important to retain people who joined and left. The fact now was that 50 percent of new Rotarians left within three years. "We want Rotary clubs where new members stay," he said.

Rotary clubs should be looking at "flagship events" which involved large-scale participation and publicity. One such event was in the Illawarra where the event, Ride for Rotary, had captured the public imagination. The first year had attracted a modest number of participants but had raised \$3,500. But last year there had been 45 riders and it had raised \$12,500. This year it was hoped to attract 70 riders and raise \$20,000. "We are hoping we will raise \$70,000 every year," he said.

President Malcolm said during question time that for flagship events, it was necessary for several clubs to combine because individually they were often too small. Stephen accepted that and said the Illawarra "Ride for Rotary" had multi-club participation.

Stephen also agreed with Malcolm's point that some members just wanted a place to go each week to meet and socialise, with perhaps some participation in barbecues of whatever, and that they were perfectly entitled to do that if that was what they wanted, because after all Rotary was a voluntary thing. Stephen said Rotary could never be in a position where it could commandeer the service of individuals.

#### **For Your Diaries**

**16 May.** Regular club meeting.

**17 May.** Board meeting of the Parramatta City Rotary Club.

**23 May.** Regular club meeting.

**27 May.** District Presidents' meeting.

**29 May.** Red Shield Appeal.

**30 May.** Police Officer of the Year Awards. There will be no lunchtime meeting today. We will meet at Novotel Hotel and the cost will be \$65 per head.

**6 June.** Regular club meeting.