

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 16th May 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Kiev in the Ukraine, a country with a tortured history, which achieved independence briefly in 1921, before being swallowed by the Soviet Union. Rotary was established there 20 years ago. There are now also 40 Rotaract clubs and Ukraine has the most active Rotaract movement in Europe. In the recent Eurovision song contest a Ukrainian had won first place, just ahead of Australia, with the Soviet entrant in the third position.

RAWCS Eastern Regional Meeting

Keith Henning and Bob Rosengreen attended the regional RAWCS meeting on the Central Coast last weekend, where they heard about projects in India, South Africa and elsewhere, the need for Rotarians, especially Project Managers, to be properly educated on how to use the RAWCS website, and the triumph of Haram Ramachandran, a Rotarian from D9685 who was a victim of severe burning, and who only remained alive because his wife refused to turn off his life support system. He, and his family, had received outstanding support from the members of his Rotary club during his years of incapacity. During his rehabilitation period he had initiated some RAWCS projects and was repaying the humanity by dedicating himself to RAWCS projects in Sri Lanka and contributing to the Rotary Foundation.

RAWCS District Meeting

President Malcolm visited the RAWCS District Meeting at Sutherland last week and learnt a lot about it. Keith Roffey, RAWCS national manager for Donations in Kind, said that next year RAWCS would be obliged to vacate its depot at Minchinbury and would need some volunteers to help clean up. He was looking for something bigger but Rotary did not have the funds for a commercial leasing arrangement. Keith's job was to look at Donations in Kind on a national basis to see whether a streamlined system could be organised so that needs in one area could be met by another. He said he had recently been offered 650 hospital beds and storage there was a challenge. It could not be knocked back. RAWCS was very focused on medical equipment and educational equipment such as desks and blackboards. Keith has to get some groups ready to prepare the beds for shipping.

The meeting was informed of other projects, such as a school in Vanuatu which has taken the time and attention of Victor Fenech, from the Rotary Club of Liverpool Greenway. Jack Elliott from Parramatta Daybreak Rotary stressed the need for all Rotarians to be IT-savvy and put a motion that a team of two or three IT experts be appointed in an education role. That was carried. Robert Favelle, project director for the Village Aide Program, told the story of a 15-year-old girl dying of leukemia in the Philippines because her family could not afford her further medical treatment. He had paid \$1,000 out of his pocket to help the family with existing hospital bills. I asked why RAWCS should be contributing to the earthquake relief in Nepal when the international community should be funding it. The answer I got was that \$4 billion had indeed been sent there but months had gone by swallowed up by debate among Nepalese authorities on how it should be used.

The New Board

PE Phil Brophy, running Tuesday's board meeting because president Malcolm was late, having got lost walking his dog, confirmed his new board for 2016-17. Joy as secretary, Keith would remain treasurer, John Totonjian would run Club Services, Don Thomson would continue with Youth, John Stamboulie would run Vocational, Natalie would continue with Community Service, Johnny Ching would have part of the Community portfolio with special interest in Christmas trees and Bob Rosengreen would continue with the Rotary Foundation and International projects. President Malcolm would handle the bulletin, public relations and media.

Distribution of Largess

President Keith said at the board meeting the club had up to \$18,000 able to be distributed, including the \$509 profit from the King's School Concert. It was decided the money should be distributed thus:

FOLIA \$1,500; Australian Rotary Health, \$4,000; Parramatta Mission, \$500; Northcott, \$500; Rotary Foundation, \$2,500; Sister Club in Philippines, \$1,000; St Peter's School, Uganda, \$2,000; Salvation Army, \$500; Westmead Hospital Neurosurgery, \$500; Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, \$1,000; Gethsemane Centre, \$1,000; Dinner on the Table \$500.

Membership matters

Bob Rosengreen gave a considered view on how relevant it was for us to continue to focus on membership. He said that perhaps the time had passed for large Rotary clubs. "I don't think the future is going to change and we are suddenly going to turn the world backwards," he said. He thought that perhaps regular weekly meetings might no longer be necessary and perhaps fellow Rotarians could be met at RAWCS conferences.

PDG Barry said Rotary had always been project-driven. Some major community initiatives such as Rotary Health had started as club initiatives. Barry thought meetings might be held at projects and the projects themselves might be a means of generating membership. "We need to get involved in some local projects where we can roll our sleeves up," he said.

Discussing the issue at the board meeting on Tuesday night, President Malcolm said that in his view regular club meetings should remain the foundation of the club's operations because 50 percent of club membership was simply camaraderie. Without club meetings and having the club's activities purely project-orientated, there would probably be a diminishing of membership.

The Red Shield Appeal

This will be held on Sunday, May 29. PDG Barry has taken on the organisational role and has liaised with Captain Sharon Sandercock-Brown, officer-in-charge of the Salvation Army's Parramatta Corps, who will be speaking to us next week and will be given a gentle nudge about joining our club. We need as many volunteers as we can on May 29, meeting at Bob Rosengreen's home at Pennant Hills West.

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 30th May. Bookings and all details at <https://www.trybooking.com/LCCC>

For Your Diaries

23 May. Regular club meeting.

27 May. District Presidents' meeting.

29 May. Red Shield Appeal. Meet at Bob Rosengreen's home 570 Pennant Hills Rd, West Pennant Hills

30 May. Police Officer of the Year Awards. There will be no lunchtime meeting today. We will meet at Novotel Hotel 6.30pm for 7pm.

2 June. Combined meeting of presidents and presidents-elect for the three Parramatta Rotary Clubs at the Parramatta RSL Club, starting at 6 pm, Vera Liondas, AG for our zone, said: "would love to have the current Presidents and Presidents Elect of the three Parramatta clubs to meet to exchange where each is up to, your future directions and possible collaboration amongst the clubs."

6 June. Regular club meeting. Speaker - ARH PhD scholar, Billy Jovcevski

13 June. No meeting. Public Holiday

20 June. Last regular meeting of Rotary year.

27 June. Changeover evening – Details to be announced later