

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 30th May 2016

Police Officer of the Year

The night was very successful. President Malcolm was asked to do a report for local media. He reported:

Detective Senior Constable Natalie Burston, 35, of Parramatta Police was named Police Officer of the Year in the Parramatta Local Area Command on Monday night for her excellent police work, in particular her handling of an emotionally disturbed man who was making serious allegations about his extended family.

The award, in the Awards Dinner organised by Parramatta Rotary at the Novotel Hotel, was well received by those present, including Acting Deputy Commissioner Geoff McKechnie, Parramatta Local Area Commander Superintendent Wayne Cox, many Parramatta Rotarians and police.

Detective Burston, who also won the award in the Community and Customer Service category of the awards, told the gathering she lived in Parramatta and had “a real passion” for the area, where she had been stationed since March 2010. “I think it is a going place, I think it is a really exciting time,” she said.

Winners in the other categories were Jodie Ghosn for the Civilian Employee of the Year category; Detective Senior Constable Xcristos (Chris) Keskeridis as Investigator of the Year; Sergeant Kaan McGregor in Leadership and Policing Vocation and Constable Cristal Cowie in the Emerging Constable category.

Detective Burston, who joined the NSW Police in 2005, has had a busy life, looking after a 2-1/2 year-old son, and a daughter whom she gave birth to in April. Detective Burston is presently on maternity leave and will resume duties in January next year.

Detective Burston, who went to Orange High School in the state’s central west, began her police service at City Central and then moved to the Redfern Region Enforcement Squad, where she met her husband, Christopher, also a police officer.

At Parramatta, Detective Burston started on general duties and was designated a detective in 2013, where she embarked on investigation of serious crime. Her husband, also a detective senior constable, is serving with the Property Squad at the State Crime Command.

In the case that brought her to the close attention her superiors, Detective Burston was handed the case of a man who was making allegations of physical and sexual assault on his son by his estranged wife and her new partner. He was very disturbed and often abusive.

“I saw him numerous times in the course of eight months to progress the investigation,” Detective Burston said. “The investigation was completed and no charges were laid,” she said. “I managed to quell the situation”.

Detective Burston is well aware of the problems of child sexual abuse. She volunteered to help Superintendent Cox in fundraising for a ball for the Bravehearts Foundation, a child protection charity, last year and through her efforts raised \$60,000.

Rotary District Governor Graham Wilson, whose District, 9675, encompasses a lot of Parramatta, said the Police Officer of the Year Awards had started in South Australia in 1978 and has taken off. Now there were “literally hundreds of clubs round Australia reporting on the work of police”.



Pictured are Susanne Underwood, president, Parramatta Rotary Club, Acting Deputy Commissioner Geoff McKechnie, Parramatta Police Officer of the Year Natalie Burston, and Parramatta Local Area Commander Superintendent Wayne Cox

Assistant Commissioner McKechnie said policing was “a thankless task” and a lot of people did not care about what police did or how they did it. He thought the Rotary Police Officer of the Year Awards, were an excellent way of raising community awareness of the role the police were playing.

Superintendent Cox said the Parramatta Local Area Command was a challenging one, which a huge multicultural element and expanded growth prospects. Dreadful incidents such as the murder of police employee Curtis Cheng, showed how volatile things could be.

There was to be emphasis on domestic violence, violence against women and alcohol-fuelled violence. Crimes were reducing, he added, and for the police, “generally speaking they are doing very, very well”.

Andrew Pearce’s Praise

Dearest Parramatta Rotary Club, I just wanted to express my deepest thanks for the support that you show the Parramatta Police through the Police Officer of the Year awards last night. As a husband of a Police Officer, I see glimpses of the harsh work they do willingly and with the love of the community at heart. All too frequently, this passion is met with derision, disrespect and abuse. It is so refreshing to have such positive feedback for the Officers. We both had a fantastic night and want to wish you all the very best, especially with your Shelter Box Project - what an excellent cause. Thank you for your efforts and for a great night.

Shelter Boxes

Ben Jackson, a very competent Master of Ceremonies on the Police Officer of the Year night, announced at the end of the night, after a raffle had been conducted, that we had raised \$2,000 when we had only expected half that amount. It was enough, he said, to buy two shelter boxes for disaster relief.

District Governor Graham Wilson said, there were 12 to 15 active deployments of shelter boxes throughout the world. He said he had once thought that shelter boxes would not be needed in Australia but in fact they were, when shelter box teams were the first on the ground after the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria.

Congratulations

President Malcolm and wife, Inger, are excited at the arrival of a new grandson last week. Little Benjamin is the first child of daughter Grace, and her husband Kerry, and was born in Darwin on 27th May. The new grandparents are planning a visit to Darwin in July.

President Malcolm also celebrated his birthday on Sunday 29th – Quite a week!

Presidents’ Meeting

At the District Presidents’ Meeting on Friday, May 27, we were advised that applications for district grants were still open. A grant could be between \$2,000 and \$10,000, matching club fundraising on a dollar-for-dollar or dollar for two-dollar basis.

We were reminded of the Emergency Services Awards at the Dockside Pavilion at Darling Harbour on Saturday, July 23, 6.30 for 7 pm. The organisers need to fill 35 tables, at \$95 a ticket.

Australian Rotary Health has announced a new District Chair, Faye Nour, president of the Rotary Club of Wetherill Park. It has also announced that the future focus of Rotary Health will be on mental health.

There have been several changes to Rotary rules, one being that weekly meetings are no longer mandatory for Rotary Clubs but there have to be at least two meetings per month.

Susan Hayward, District Chair of Community Services, has been elected District Governor-Elect for 2018-19. Clubs have been asked to send copies of their club bulletins to the District Governor, also to the district secretary and to Sue.

We need to look at IT, especially the Clubrunner link, and there is need for training sessions to help clubs handle it. We also need to get our information up-to-date for the district database.

Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal

On a glorious Sunday morning we assisted in the annual Red Shield doorknock appeal. About a dozen collectors assembled at Bob Rosengreen's home and then dispersed into the surrounding district to knock on doors.

A total of \$3,825 was collected on the morning.

Thanks to Bob and Glenys Rosengreen for their hospitality.

For Your Diaries

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 Billy Jovcevski, Aust Rotary Health PhD researcher in field of Alzheimer's disease.

13 June. Public Holiday – No meeting.

14 June. Board meeting at the Australian Rotary Health office in Parramatta

20 June. Regular meeting

27 June. Changeover Dinner – Oatlands Golf Club

2 July. District Changeover