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 6 June 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Pocklington and Market Weighton. This was particularly pertinent since the toast was to be drunk on June 6, the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings. He said there were some 2,000 Australians involved in D-Day, mostly with the RAAF. Australia's No 10 Squadron, formed in 1939, operated out of Pockington and flew bombing missions on D-Day. There were another nine Australian squadrons out of a total of 306 operating of Great Britain. Pocklington, with a population of 8,337 in the 2011 census, had a history gong back more than 1,000 years and at the time of the Doomsday Book in 1086 it was the second largest settlement in Yorkshire. But somewhere in the more recent past the town's Rotary club must have had problems with membership numbers and joined with another club.

It was also considered appropriate to drink a toast to the late, great Muhammad Ali.

Our Guests

President Malcolm introduced Blagojce (Billy) Jovcevski, whom received an ARH PhD Scolarship in 2012 to allow him to undertake PhD research in biotechnology at the University of Wollongong. Billy was born in 1989, of parents who migrated from Macedonia. He attended Wollongong University where he did a science degree, majoring in biotechnology. He expects to complete his thesis in September on the functions of proteins in the onset and the control or prevention of neurological complaints such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases. He hopes then to get a position in the United Kingdom where he can continue his research.

Our other guest was Paige McKinnon, who completed a journalism degree at Macquarie University, graduating in 2008, spent some years working in the corporate sector and joined secretary Joy at Australian Rotary Health in 2016 as media and communications officer.

President Malcolm's Report

President Malcolm said the Police Officer of the Year report had gone off very successfully and inspired the wife of a serving police officer to write enthusiastically about how police officers, so often denigrated, were at least here being appreciated for the work they did.

Malcolm also mentioned a symposium for the settlement of Syrian refugees, to be held at 11 am at the Parkroyal Hotel in Phillip Street, Parramatta, on Friday, June 24.
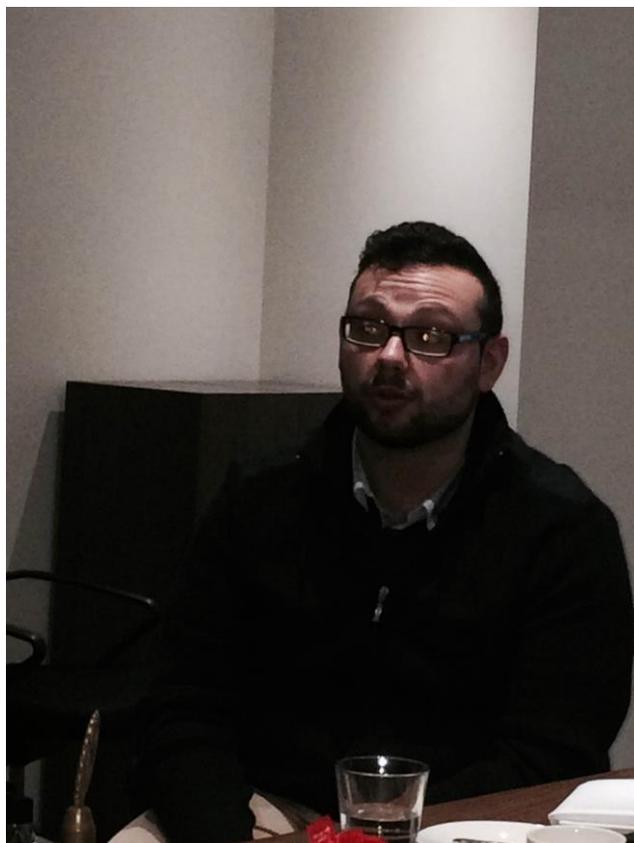
He said he was being proposed as chairman of the RAWCS District Committee, which required a fresh approach and someone with IT skills to bring its operations forward into the modern age. Malcolm said he did not have IT skills and was reluctant to take it up.

Another applicant for a Rotary Youth Science Forum, Paula Jesse, was to be passed on to our Youth Director, Don Thomson.

PDG Barry Antees, attending the RI Convention in Seoul, has sent back a report saying things are going well.

The Neurological Question

Blagojce (Billy) Jovcevski said his studies, which had taken him to Oxford for six months in 2013, was dedicated to understand the role proteins played in the development or diseases in the nervous system, and in the light of this how proteins could be modified and used to prevent the onset of these diseases. It was known that proteins folded into various shapes and it was these shapes that determined their function. The problem was when these folds were imperfect and the proteins did not work as they should. When this happened there was likely to be clumping in the nervous system which obstructed the passage of signals and had potentially catastrophic effects on the individual.

Billy Jovcevski

He said one focus of study was into proteins that performed a guardianship role and helped the system worked. When these proteins themselves had trouble, then other trouble followed. If these proteins could be modified, on the other hand, they could be even more effective in preventing the clumping of defective proteins. He said as a result of the research it might be possible to develop drugs or treatments for the neurological conditions such as Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease or Motor Neurone Disease.

Billy said he was beholden to the club and the David Henning Memorial Foundation that had given funds to ARH to create the scholarship and enable him to continue his initial research "I will never, ever forget that," he said.

Vera's Gathering

This was held at the Parramatta RSL Club on June 2, called together by ADG-elect, Vera Liondas. PE Philip Brophy reported back to the club that one of the main points to come out of the meeting was that to be effective, the three Parramatta Rotary clubs should at cooperatively a lot more.

The area which originally contained the three Parramatta clubs, plus Granville and Holroyd, has now been abolished and Parramatta is in a new area which takes in Blacktown and goes beyond Penrith. The centre of the area is probably Blacktown but for practical purposes the collaboration between our clubs should in the normal course of events be restricted to Parramatta

For Your Diaries

13 June. There will be no meeting today because it is a public holiday.

14 June. Board meeting at the Australian Rotary Health premises 4.30pm.

20 June. Regular meeting

24 June. Symposium for the resettlement of Syrian refugees, 11am at the Parkroyal Hotel, 30 Phillip Street, Parramatta. Tony Shepherd, former president of the Business Council of Australia, will be speaking. There will be a buffet lunch and the symposium will finish at 2 pm. RSVP admin@cmrc.com.

27 June. Club Changeover at the Oatlands Golf Club, 6.30 for 7 pm

2 July. District Changeover at the Smithfield RSL Club, 25 Neville Street, Smithfield, 6.30 for 7 pm. RSVP by June 27. Cost is $35 a head. Booking on www.trybooking.com/embed.aspx?eid=200628