

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?

Club Meeting 22nd August 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Henley-on-Thames which apparently has a nearby Rotary club, being Henley Bridge, which might indulge in friendly sporting competition. Bob thought, based on that example, that we might have challenge matches with the other two Parramatta Rotary clubs in cricket or some such sport. Perhaps, he thought, we might have our challenge matches in the Parramatta shopping boulevard where we could attract attention.

When the Earth Moves

Bob showed us a video of sink holes opening up across the globe, swallowing buildings, cars and people. The video told us that they were a rare event before 2010 but were now occurring with alarming frequency. The current theory was that because of changes in the sun's output of positive/negatively charged particles, the world was spinning faster and the "skin", being the earth's surface, was suffering fractures.

On the subject of earth movement, Bob also suggested we get a video by last year's Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, who is outspoken on the subject of domestic violence.

Pride of Workmanship

Acting President Natalia Cowell said that the Pride of Workmanship evening had been confirmed for Oatlands Golf Club on October 31 and she had put together a draft flyer that John Stamboulie would distribute. John had also asked that a media release be put out. She said the award was intended to give recognition to employees who had worked well but whose efforts went unrecognised.

Membership

PP Malcolm said Gerard Hayes from Northcott was on a week's leave but he would continue to make contact with him. He had had an inquiry from Amit Patel, who seemed keen to join the club, and has since advised that he will be attending the club meeting next week. He proposed that we look to having signs erected in public places advertising Rotary but Keith said that had not worked, nor had newspaper advertisements. The best method of recruitment was personal contact. Mary Ann Mascarenas, who has attended two meetings, said members of the Office of State Revenue, where she works, might have an interest in Rotary.

School Uniforms

Bob Rosengreen has been in touch with Miriam Jacka, director of Donations in Kind, who says a place in the Castle Hill DIK warehouse will not be available till Saturday morning, 10 September. He asks any club member who could spare a couple of hours that day to get in touch with him to sort out the school uniforms donated to us so that an inventory can be prepared for the shipment. There are five boxes and about 25 bags, each weighing about eight kilograms.



(The job that awaits)

RYPEN

Keith said the club was looking for candidates for RYPEN, a Rotary program for the personal development of young people aged 14-16 years. The cost was approximately \$200, which is paid by sponsoring Rotary club. Applications closed at the end of the month.

Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholarships

PP Keith said he had received a note from ARH advising that our indigenous scholar, Cheryl University, who had gone skateboarding, broken an ankle and as a result had had one her exams postponed.

Today's program consisted of some members sharing photographs of significance to them.

John Surian: What's in a Name?

John showed us a picture of himself and his grandchild, and therein hung a story. It happened that there was a Frenchman called Jacques who went to sea many years ago, jumped ship in the New Hebrides, fell in love with the place, and summoned his love, Arlette, from France to join him. Arlette, a beautiful woman, was greeted on her arrival by a near-naked Kanak who took her into the jungle to meet Jacques, who in this narrative shall be known as Jacques 1. Jacques 1 and Claudette married and had a daughter, Arlette, the first white girl born in Vanuatu, as the New Hebrides came to be known. The couple had "a topsy-turvy relationship", John told us. They had two more girls, and decided to come to Australia.

Jacques 1, who had no skills, decided to become a crocodile hunter in northern Australia. He survived that, though in one encounter with a crocodile, he managed to put a bullet through the bottom of his boat and it started sinking in a crocodile-infested river. Arlette ended up in Surfers Paradise with her little girls. One of these, Claudine, walked up to a French gentleman who happened to be there and spoke French, immediately endearing herself to him. The man, Jacques Landgraf, who we shall call Jacques 11, agreed with Claudine that he should meet Claudette. It was, seemingly, love at first sight. Jacques 11 and Arlette brought up the three girls. There seemed to be a happy relationship, though Jacques 1 came into the scene from time to time.

Jacques 11 in telling his story to John on a later occasion said he had been born in France in 1937 but when the Germans occupied the country he had had to live in caves and barely went to school. When he came of age, he decided to join the French Foreign Legion and was despatched to Libya. The French Foreign Legion had a rule, Jacques said, that a medal was only awarded to a man who had killed someone. Jacques had many medals. They were against a formidable foe. The Arabs had a technique of burying themselves sand, breathing through tubes, then rising from the sand at a signal and ambushing legionnaires.

Claudine grew up, married and gave birth to Daniel Binet, Daniel became a winemaker and married Natalie Surian, the daughter of John Surian. Jacques 11 attended the wedding and sang for them, and it appears then that he filled in John on the family history. Natalie and Daniel had a son, Jacques Binet, who we will call Jacques 111, who became therefore the grandson of a prominent Parramatta real estate agent and son of a winemaker. Another feather in the cap of Jacques 111 is that his great, great, great uncle, Alfred Binet, a French psychologist who developed the first reliable intelligence test. John told us he had had only been vaguely aware of his family history till Jacques 11 enlightened him and he thought someone should write a book about it.

Keith's Family

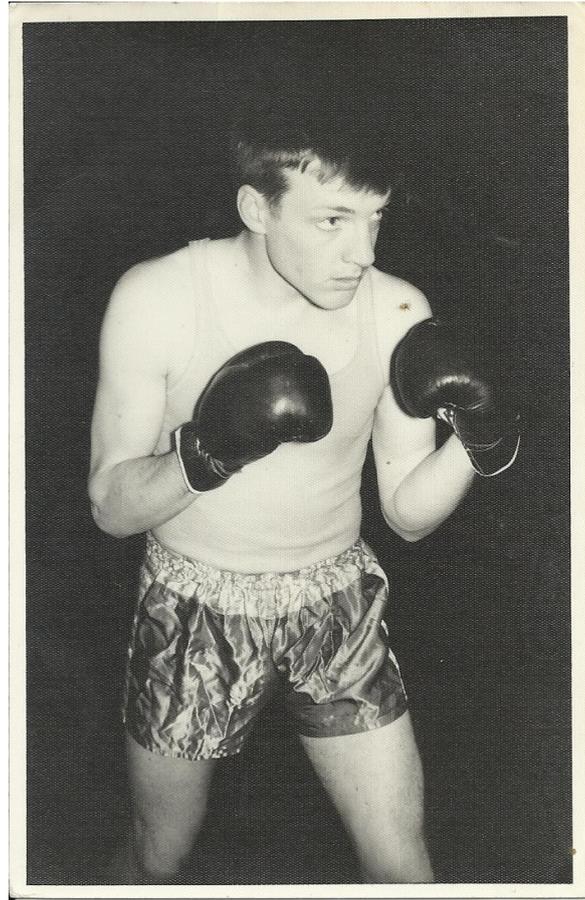
PP Keith showed us a photo of his golden wedding anniversary with Glennis, taken in 2012. He said he was the only child of parents who were themselves only children, so he had no uncles or aunts and no first cousins. But Glennis had made up for that. Her mother was one of nine children and her father was one of six. When there was a family reunion on Glennis's side there were "normally more people than I have ever seen".



Malcolm's Fisticuffs

PP Malcolm said he had come into boxing because he was so badly beaten up at Dubbo High School that he decided to challenge the toughest boy in the school to a boxing match at the next school fete. He joined the Dubbo Boxing Club but the boys there, having no interest in having a nerd in their ranks, beat him up so badly that he had to resume training at home, hanging up a makeshift punching bag from the garage roof at his home and otherwise learning boxing technique from a borrowed library book. He fought at the fete and the police officer refereeing, unimpressed by technique, called it a draw.

Malcolm later presented himself to the Sydney University Boxing Club and started competing as a 19-year-old in boxing promotions in Sydney suburbia. He was moderately successful, but then stepped up a grade and took on an opponent on *TV Ringside*. There, he was despatched to oblivion. He recovered but went back into the ring six weeks later, not long enough to recover from concussion, and was badly hurt, after which a doctor told him he was "a disaster about to happen" and that he should, perhaps, take up tennis.



(PP Malcolm at age 21 – not to be taken lightly!)

For Your Diaries

29 August. Regular club meeting

4 September. Upper Blue Mountains Rotary, is organising a fundraising concert Come Out Swinging at St Marys Rugby League Club. Tickets are \$50pp which includes a light supper. All funds raised go equally to Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and Huntingtons Disease (HD). The centre for research and support for HD is Westmead Hospital

5 September. Regular club meeting

6 September. Rotary Youth Vocational Awards at Northmead High School

12 September. Regular club meeting. To be attended by DG Stephen Humphreys and Judith also ADG Vera Liondis.

9 October. ARH Wine, Food and Music Race Day at Hawkesbury Race Track.

30 October. Triathlon Pink BBQ Parramatta Park.

31 October. Rotary Pride of Workmanship Awards night, Oatlands Golf Club