

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 12th September 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of New York. He reminded us of the 9/11 disaster in the United States, where the 15th anniversary of the terror attack has just been commemorated. Nearly 3,000 people had died, including 11 Australians, who were among 372 foreigners killed that day, from 61 countries. Two hundred and ninety-one bodies had been found intact and 21,906 body parts.

Our Guests

Our guests for the day included District Governor Stephen Humphreys, his wife, Judith, and Assistant District Governor Vera Liondas, welcomed to the meeting by Acting President Natalie Cowell. Stephen, a retired pharmacist from the Camden Rotary Club, has virtually a full-time job overseeing 65 clubs in the district and remarks that his governorship year seems to be going "so quickly". He and Judith have been to 24 club changeovers, the number they could attend restricted when clubs chose the same night.

Another guest was prospective member Dr Amit Patel, who works as a general practitioner in a group practice in Blacktown, lives at Rhodes and thinks Parramatta City Rotary would suit him as a club to join. Amit, a Hindu, was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, and studied Medicine at the University College London (UCL). He practised in Britain but wanted a change and did not like the way medicine in the UK was going. So in February, he came to Australia. Rotary, he said, was "on my horizon" because he wanted to get involved in the community. He knew about Rotary because his great-uncle had been member of a Rotary Club in Boston, USA.



Dr Amit Patel

The Vocation Education Training (VET) Awards

PP Keith Henning said the night had been very successful, supported by the three Parramatta Rotary clubs and attended by more than 100 people. Warren Fairfax, president of Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, had done an excellent job in explaining Rotary to those present. Vera Leondas said she was impressed by the event and took note of the wide range of schools involved.

The Cataloguing

Bob Rosengreen said last weekend's audit of the school uniforms had been done successfully within the resources of three people, himself, his 89-year-old father-in-law, Tim, and PP Malcolm Brown. There were about 160 girls' dresses, 100 pairs of shorts and 100 pairs of long trousers. There were about 200 blouses. They were of good standard and a suitable overseas location was being sought for them. There would be problems when part of a uniform needed to be replaced or a new uniform was sought because there would not be fresh supplies.

The Christmas Trees

Bob Rosengreen said he had spoken to Keith Stapley, of the Castle Hill Rotary Club, who had been very up-beat and optimistic about this year's tree-selling operation. It appeared the club would have a good location to sell its trees. Keith had advised that we do not worry too much about how people were going to get access to the site from Castle Hill Road. If they knew where the trees were, they would find ways of getting there.

Our Tally of Charity Hours

John Totonjian reminded us that the district now needed a monthly return of voluntary hours put in by members of each club. That return was to go to Maureen Busst, of Mt Druitt Rotary.

ADG Vera Liondas

Vera, the Assistant District Governor whose area of responsibility takes in Parramatta, said she was about to go on a 12-day trip to Timor with a Rotary group who were doing training in Timor and running a RYLA program. The project, instigated by the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills, was now in its eighth year. The group was also running a RYPEN program and last year they introduced an extension program. Vera said she was going to do a girls' health education program and that boys were interested in it as well.

Our Sister Club

PP Keith said the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay in Metro Manila would be having its changeover on 29 September this year. Our club would not be personally represented this year but a letter of good-will and support had been written from the club by PP Malcolm Brown.



Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay members at weekly meeting September 2016

DG Stephen Humphreys

Stephen said it “never ceases to amaze and humble me” what the 65 clubs in his district could do. He said next year would be the centenary year of the Rotary Foundation and he encouraged all clubs to support the foundation and treat it as their own personal charity. He thanked our club for its years of support for the foundation. RI President John Germ had spoken about the extraordinary achievement of Rotary in being on the verge of ridding the world forever of the scourge of polio. And there were so many other things Rotary was doing, such as fixing school toilet blocks in India which resulted in girls being able to complete their education. These projects were funded by the Rotary Foundation. “A small amount of money from all of us can make a big difference,” he said.

Stephen made special mention of PP Keith Henning, who had recently received an Australian Rotary Health Medal for his “terrific” service for Rotary Health. He described Keith as “an outstanding Rotarian”.



DG Stephen Humphreys and Judith

Stephen said the district had a good team supporting the clubs. The district was not there to tell the clubs what to do, he added. It was only there to help them. Among other things, it had a list of speakers a club could draw on. It also had an updated website and data base which gave greater opportunity of clubs to communicate. But he said it was incumbent on Rotarians to read the dispatches from district and results from the recent dispatch of letters had been disappointing.

There were some notable events coming up, such as the Police Officer of the Year Awards in Sydney on 4 November. On 28 November, District 9685 would be having a Million Dollar Dinner at the Epping Club, the object being to encourage Rotarians to think about making allowance for the Rotary Foundation in their wills.

Stephen said the job in hand now was to make the public more aware of Rotary and what it did. Public image was important, and a feeling that a Rotary club had contact with the local community. Many members of the public did not know what Rotary was about. Membership was important. While numbers of Rotarians was growing in overseas countries, in the West it was in decline. There were almost 30,000 Rotarians in Australia but in the last year numbers had declined by 1,000, including 100 from our district. Stephen said most of us knew someone who might join Rotary.

The simplest approach was to ask them to come to a meeting. A member of the club who was good at salesmanship could be used to good effect. Many new members in the past had joined and had then found themselves "sitting around". When they joined a club, they should be "doing things". Recent changes in Rotary rules had given greater flexibility for clubs to run themselves.

John Surian said that originally, Rotary had been primarily for networking, with altruistic activities as a side-product. It might be wise now to look at getting back to "our core values". Stephen said going back to our origins was important, but in this day and age it was difficult to do things in quite the same way. PDG Barry Antees said a Rotary club in Flemington was "business-driven". John Surian said that a different form of networking might be called for, as between business-orientated clubs or evening-meeting clubs.

The District Conference

DG Stephen reminded us of the District 96785 Conference at the Novotel Hotel in Wollongong from 10 to 12 March next year.

Au Revoir

Acting President Natalie thanked Stephen, Judith and Vera for their attendance and PP Keith handed over a cheque of \$200 for the Rotary Foundation, to be part of Judith's project for this Rotary year.

For Your Diaries

19 September. Club meeting

26 September. Club meeting

26 September. Beginning of the Transplant Games which will be centred in Martin Place, Sydney. The games run till 1 October.

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

10 October. Hat Day for our club - Return of President Phillip from overseas trip.

30 October. Triathlon Pink BBQ, Parramatta Park

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

4 November. Police Officer of the Year Awards in Sydney.

18 November. D9675 Presidents Meeting

28 November. Rotary Foundation Million Dollar Dinner, Epping Club.

8 December. Australian Rotary Health Christmas Dinner, Epping Club

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong