

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

#### Our Toast

Barry Antees proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Palm Springs, in commemoration of Arnold Palmer, the King of Golf, who died in Pittsburg, USA, the day before, at the age of 87.

#### Our Guest

Our guests today included Taylor-Jai McAlister, who has a Rotary Australia Indigenous Health Scholarship which is funded by our Club. She was accompanied to the meeting by Cheryl Deguara, who handles Indigenous Health Scholarships for Australian Rotary Health. Also present were two prospective Rotarians, Amit Patel and Praboda Geengange.



**Acting President Natalie and Taylor-Jai**

## **Natalie Announcements**

Acting President Natalie reminded the club that the Rotary Club of Concord was celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation. The Rotary Club of Sylvania was having a luncheon to rally support for isolated mothers who were otherwise without support. The Rotary Club of Minnamurra was having an emergency services expo.

She said that our club had to ensure that its club goals were entered into RI Club Central. Secretary Joy said that this had already been done.

## **Pride of Workmanship**

PDG Barry Antees undertook to organise a speaker for the Pride of Workmanship evening.

## **Our Sister Club**

PP Keith said our sister club in the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay, was having its presidential installation this week. PP Malcolm had written a letter to the club on behalf of our club. Ramon Magsaysay would be having visiting Rotarians from Malaysia and Japan in attendance at the function

## **Julie's Project**

Julie Owens, our Federal MP and honorary member of our club, has advised of a government project (Try, Test and Learn Fund) to help people get employment. She is having a meeting to discuss the project and has invited our club to send a representative.

## **Dolly's Dreamtime**

The Parramatta Rotary Club had a presentation of Dolly Parton's Dreamtime project when it met on Monday evening. Dolly had sponsored a scheme where pre-schoolers got a regular supply of books to help their brain stimulation and put them on a better footing when they started school. PPs Keith and Malcolm attended.

## **New Clubs**

PDG Barry said he had identified potential for the development of six new Rotary clubs. There would be an information night for three of the potential clubs in the next six months. One of the proposed clubs would be at Flemington Markets. Barry had approached Strathfield Rotary Club to see whether it would be the sponsoring club but the Strathfield people could not do it. Barry thought our own club might be able to fill the breach. The proposed new club would not be based on a weekly meeting. Instead, it would be a series of short breakfast meetings. They would do a lot by email and the internet and would be involved in some major fundraising. The prospective members would be principally interested in networking.

The two other prospective clubs which were being lined up for an information night were at Bankstown, where the previous Rotary club had folded, and at Cherry Hills in the Camden area,

## **Bob's Concerns**

Bob Rosengreen said it was important to recognise that Rotary had an international outlook. He said particular concern should be for the war in Syria, where five million people had been displaced and 500,000 killed, the worst thing that had happened in World War 11.

## **About Taylor-Jai**

Taylor-Jai McAlister, who has Aboriginal blood through her grandfather, grew up in difficult circumstances, in a violent and abusive household. Her parents split up and her mother suffered serious mental illness, and in fact threw Taylor out of the house when Taylor was 17. That was three years ago.

But Taylor, who had responsibility for two younger brothers, one of whom has been diagnosed as autistic, is not one to mope around and bewail her fate. Having grown up in Bathurst, she went to McDonald's Performing Arts High School in North Strathfield with the ambition to be a dancer. But she developed back problems, gave up the dancing idea and focused on her studies.

Discovering her Aboriginal heritage, she has researched her roots. She is a member of the Wiradjurie and Nymboda people. Her tribal lands are at Nyngan in western New South. Her grandfather, she said, had been a member of the "Stolen Generation". He had been embarrassed by his part-Aboriginality and had told people he was "really tanned".

"I thought he was Lebanese, to be honest," Taylor-Jai said. "He was told to tell people he was Lebanese."

Taylor-Jai got a full scholarship in 2014 for her degree. She enrolled at Macquarie University, studying psychology and majoring in philosophy. Setting out initially to be a psychologist specialising in neuropsychology, her studies have taken her in several directions.

Having time on her hands, she started volunteering in social welfare roles, including work for the Starlight Foundation for seriously ill children at Westmead Hospital. She also volunteered and worked five nights a week at a shelter for homeless people. She has a cadetship with the Black Dog Institute which working on a suicide prevention program.

She became involved in the welfare of deaf people and to help them more she started learning sign language. Initially put off by its difficulty, she resumed her work there and has become virtually fluent. She realised there was a serious problem with deafness in Aboriginal people, especially in remote areas where Aboriginal people did not seek help for ear conditions.

Finally, Taylor-Jai and three associates set up a charity of their own for Aboriginal people, to build a gap in literacy and cultural understanding. The charity has been running for two years now.

John Surian was very impressed by Taylor-Jai's presentation and what she had to say. He told her that if she continued this way, she would become "an outstanding asset to the country".

## **For Your Diaries**

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.

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. Million Dollar Dinner at the Epping Club

8 December. Australian Rotary Health Christmas Dinner, Epping Club

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong