

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 31/2016

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?

Joint Club Meeting 17th October 2016

The Welcome

Graham Cook, president of Parramatta Rotary Club, welcomed his members and those of Parramatta Daybreak and Parramatta City Rotary Clubs to the joint meeting, held in the evening at the Parramatta RSL Club. Our club was represented by President Phil, PDG Ray Reed and his wife, Maureen, PPs Keith, Malcolm, Bob and Johnnie Ching, PE Natalie.

Our Toast

Kathleen Davies of the Parramatta Rotary Club proposed a toast to the Queen and “to all the fathers in Rotary”.

The Pink Triathlon

We are reminded of the Pink Triathlon at Parramatta Park on October 30. Our duty begins at 5.30 am. President Phil told the joint meeting that our club would be involved in a barbecue at the Pink Marathon and would not be able to participate in the Graffiti Removal Day.

Parramatta Rotary Club’s Ninetieth

Ron Fox of the Parramatta Rotary Club, quoting from a founding member of his club, H.W. “Mick” Shephard, said the club had been founded in 1926, a time when Australia was still suffering from the aftermath of the Great War. The British Empire was intact and the United States was flourishing, but there was “absolute despair” in some people. In the words of Charles Dickens, “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. On November 21, 90 years on, the club would be celebrating its birthday at The Port restaurant at Parramatta ferry terminal. There would be a number of VIP guests, including Alex Shaw, president of Sydney Rotary Club. Invitations had been sent out to a host of clubs sponsored by Parramatta Rotary, including those at Holroyd, Penrith, Katoomba, Bathurst, Parramatta City and Burwood.

Sean Johns

Warren Fairfax, president of Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, introduced Seam Johns, who was chief executive officer of the Fathering Project in New South Wales. The Fathering Project was the

brainchild of a Western Australian surgeon, Professor Bruce Robinson, who had got the project going in that state and now involved 150 schools. The NSW plan was to establish a "Champion Dad's Group" to improve the quality of fathering in children in their formative years. There were more than 1,000 primary schools in New South Wales which could be drawn into the project. "We all realise the good impact of a good father figure in society today," he said. "I know only too well the number of children in schools who don't have a father who have major problems as a result."

The Fathering Project

Sean Johns asked those assembled who had had a professional development course in their job. Most put their hands up. Then he asked who had had a professional development course for fatherhood. No hands went up. He said the Fathering Project was aimed at making "goodish dads better dads" at a time in society when, in Professor Robinson's words, "kids' risks have gone up and dads' ability to perform has gone down."

Sean said that a good father figure had an enormous impact on a child's development. That was borne out by statistics. Children who had a father were 70 percent less likely to drop out of school. People from fatherless households were 63 percent more likely to commit suicide. Eighty-five percent of youths in prison had no father.

The project had won the support of the NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione, who had said was "the biggest single opportunity to change the fabric of a generation".

Sean said there was so much need for dads, even when present in the home, to engage with the children. There were required to "Be There, Unconditional Love, Special Person" BUS for short. It was necessary to get that going in schools. Each school had an average of 750 pupils and 300 dads. Sean was out to get as many of those schools as possible into the "Champion Dads" group. That was aimed mainly at primary schools, which were so crucial to forming children's attitudes, and where it was possible these days for a child to go right through without having a male teacher. Children needed a father figure, he said, even an uncle filling in where a single mother was struggling to bring up her family.

To get the project going, the Fathering Project was asking school principals to allow their schools to become involved and to contribute \$400 to the costs. Otherwise, the project was looking for funds elsewhere, including support from Rotary clubs.

Christmas Trees

At the Parramatta City Rotary Club's board meeting this week, President Phil told us some of the firmer details of the sales this year, which will begin with a clean-up and preparation day on Saturday, November 26. Sales start on Saturday, December 3 and continue till the week beginning December 18. We might continue for a few days beyond that. Details have to be worked out re rostering, possible work in cooperation with the Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, and the arrangement we come to this year with the Boy Scouts. Other details such as shelter, security of the trees at night and signage are all being worked out.

Pride of Workmanship

This event will be held at Oatlands Golf Club on Monday night, October 31. Natalie has worked long and conscientiously on the project but at present there is not much joy, with only three nominees. Ben Jackson will be Master of Ceremonies for the night and there will be a guest speaker, Mr Wexham from Skills One. All Rotarians are urged to get behind this event and give it a push.

For Your Diaries

25 October. Centenary of the Rotary Foundation Dinner, Rotary Club of Mt Druitt

30 October. Pink Triathlon, Parramatta Park, Rotary duty beginning at 5.30 am.

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

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

18 November. D9675 Presidents Meeting

21 November. 90th birthday celebrations of Parramatta Rotary Club at The Port restaurant, Parramatta ferry terminal.

26 November. Clean-up and preparation of the Castle Hill Road site for selling Christmas trees.

28 November. Rotary Foundation Million Dollar Dinner at the Epping Club. **Lunch meeting cancelled**

3 December. Christmas tree sales begin on Castle Hill Road and will continue for at least two weeks.

5 December. No Lunch meeting. Transferred to ARH Christmas Dinner on 8 December

8 December. Australian Rotary Health Christmas Dinner, Epping Club

12 December. Annual Meeting and election of Office Bearers for 2017-2018

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong