

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 33/2016

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?

Pride of Workmanship Awards Evening 31st October 2016

President Phil welcomed members and guests and reminded us of the commitment Rotary has to the development and reward of commitment to work and the recognition of those who did so but were not normally recognised. It was consistent with the values of Rotary, which were formulated early last century when a group of businessmen met to work out how they might contribute to the community and encourage ethical standards, peace and harmony throughout the world. Phil thanked PE Natalie Cowell for her hard work in making the night possible.

Our Guest

The guest speaker for this, the Pride of Workmanship awards night at Oatlands Golf Club, was Brian Wexham, accompanied by his wife, Kerry. Born in London, Brian was an experienced executive and non-executive director with an extensive background in media and advertising, spanning more than 30 years. He spent 15 years with *The Times* and *Sunday Times* in a variety of executive roles. He spent several years in Cape Town, South Africa, working with a media company. In 1986 he took up an appointment as director of *The Observer* in London and was on the main board of the newly launched *Today* newspaper. He headed up development of *The Observer's* enterprise division which embraced film production, book publishing and launch of new magazines. In 1990 he moved to Nairobi, Kenya to take up a new publishing job. Brian was author of several books. In 2006 he was appointed chief executive officer of the Institute of Trades Skills Excellence. He became CEO of SkillsOne Television and founded and director of National Skills Week. In 2013 he was nominated chair of Workskills Australia



Nominees for Pride of Workmanship Awards

- **Candice Graham – Employer ‘Fitted for Work’**
- “It is with great admiration that I nominate Candice Graham for the Pride of Workmanship Award. Having managed Candice for the last 2 years I have had the privilege of seeing her grow into her current role as Program Assistant with us here at Fitted for Work. Fitted for Work is a not for profit organisation that assists women experiencing disadvantage to get

and keep work by providing a range of free services designed to build a women's confidence and self-esteem and deepen her knowledge to get work. Candice is a hard worker, mature beyond her years approaching her work with personality and positivity. After beginning with the organisation in 2014 as a volunteer it didn't take long before Candice's commitment to the organisations vision and mission and potential as leader was noticed by management which led to the organisation creating a paid role for Candice which was one of only 3 paid positions within our Parramatta service at the time. In the last 2 years Candice has accepted more and more responsibility, taking on all opportunities and challenges I have pushed her way with enthusiasm. Admired and highly respected by the organisations volunteers, staff and management Candice is a role model to all young women of today. Sharing in the organisations goal to effect change for women experiencing disadvantaged or challenges or barriers to secure work, Candice herself last year mentored two young high school girls to realise their true potential and explore career options upon leaving school. I nominate Candice for not only being a professional, hardworking, committed and positive employee but for also being a genuinely lovely person who is pleasure to manage and work alongside each day. "

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- **Davina MacKenzie – Employer 'Northcott'**

- "Davina MacKenzie has been nominated because of her 'Can do Attitude 'and always doing her very best. Davina is a passionate, caring, knowledgeable employee who always offers to assist, sees a need is proactive and just gets the job done. She lives the mission of Northcott to build an inclusive society through the Vocational Skills Program, by ensuring that the customers develop skills that will see them transition into society smoothly and with confidence. Davina is equitable with everyone that she meets and always displays a passion for her role but never works for praise or to build status. In her current role as Assistant Co-ordinator Davina is proactive in developing these staff into an educated and confident team focused on providing the best standards of service to their customers. Davina offers and mentors staff in their roles. She is a positive role model with strong leadership qualities for all the staff. Davina has extensive experience working with people with disability. She is highly regarded in her field especially regarding people with Cerebral Palsy and Autism or Aspergers. She always shows great willingness to share this knowledge with others. Davina lives her passion for disability and developing youth. She is also the President of the 'Blowfly Cricket', which is a cricket team especially for 5-18 year olds with Autism and Down syndrome. She is also the Fundraising co-ordinator for her children's Band. She is a highly committed, professional and knowledgeable individual who inspires all around her and who thoroughly deserves recognition for her work."

- **Kristin Ripsher – Employer 'Cowell Engineering'**

- "Kristin has started at the bottom and worked his way up to Director's personal assistant in a short period of time. His diligence, manners and punctuality are second to none. He is now a known character in our industry. Nothing is a problem to this lad – remember he's 19 years old! We have thrown him in the deep end with clients and problems that need solving. He has great energy, and puts Cowell Engineering first. You show Kristin how to do something once and he picks it up perfectly. Kristin has created his own clientele and following in the business and many of our clients compliment him. We are proud to have Kristin as part of our crew and he well deserves this award."

- **Samantha Shinn – Employer ‘Matthews Folbigg’**
- “Sami has been working at Matthews Folbigg for nearly 3 years. From day 1 she has shown a willingness to do a variety of tasks around the office, always with a smile. She fills in on reception whilst juggling secretarial work for a variety of solicitors, all with their own way of doing things, often urgently, and their own handwriting. Sami is definitely not a clock watcher and is often at her desk after hours. This is a rarity these days. Matthews Folbigg wholeheartedly nominates Sami for the Pride of Workmanship award.”

- **Mark Vinchi – Employer ‘Onroad Driving’**
- “Mark Vinchi is worthy of the ‘Pride of Workmanship ‘ award as he is reliable and honest with all his work. In the last eight months, his driving-trespassing rate with his students has been 100 percent. In the last three-and-a-half years he has been working at Onroad Driving School , he has not had any complaints from any of the students and he has a referral rate of over 84 percent. All of Mark’s feedback has been quite positive. He creates for his students a ‘fun’ experience while learning to drive. His creativity and passion towards the job makes him a highly-valued employee here at Onroad Driving School”



(L to R) Mark Vinchi, Natalie Cowell, Director Community Services, Kristin Ripsher, Davina MacKenzie, . President Phillip Brophy, Samantha Shinn and Candice.Graham

Guest Speaker –“Marrying Education with Jobs”

Brian Wexham said that in his capacity as CEO of Workskills Australia he had dealt with successive Federal governments on the need to promote and enhance vocational training and the governments had had a “woeful” record on the subject. It was a “poisoned chalice” as a portfolio. There had been nine ministers for vocational education in three successive governments. The system was so poor now, that despite huge expenditure, people were coming out of colleges now with useless diplomas, gained through the operation of unscrupulous providers. The old TAFE, which was government run, had its faults, but in general had done a “pretty good job”.

Brian said that the statistics for job possibilities and unemployment were staggering. Deloitte had done a report on prospects in Australia and had said that the future lay in areas covering hospitality, tourism, aged care, education and financial services. But there were presently 30,000 vacancies in

the hospitality industry. At the same time, in Gosford there was 18 percent unemployment and in Blacktown it was nearly 30 percent.

He said that last year 100 million Chinese took an overseas holiday and it was estimated it would be double that by 2020. A million Chinese came here last year and they spent a total of \$7.5 billion. That was more than the UK, US and Canada tourists combined. Yet Tourism Australia was spending \$68 million promoting tourism to the United States.

Getting tourists here was only the start, however. Ten to 15 years ago there were many Japanese tourists coming to Australia. They were not coming in those numbers now because they had had "a bad experience" "We have a huge need to have students in tourism and hospitality, he said. He said that recently WorkSkills had had 20 to 30 youngsters from Sydney's western suburbs to Circular Quay to see a cruise ship. Most had not been on a cruise ship or even seen one. Yet on a cruise ship there were 200 chefs, as well as others providing a variety of services, including hairdressing. "Go back to the school careers advisers," he said. "Do they talk about that?" The problem was that at school level people were not talking about job opportunities.

Another area was racing, which was worth \$15 billion in this country. The country had 1500 jockeys but there was a shortage of applications for apprenticeships. That was at a time when there were 20,000 young people in pony clubs across the nation. "Somebody is not connecting passion with career outcomes," he said. Parents were talking about university and school principals the same way, but it might not be "what little Joey wants". Instead, 68 percent of school leavers were going to university, which was seen as a quality outcome. But there were "many, many" success stories for those others, like former Prime Minister Paul Keating, who had been through technical college. Brian said that recently his organisation had had 350 careers advisers to a show at the National Institute for Dramatic Art in Kensington where they had seen a 90 minute show featuring drama, film and animation. As a result WorkSkills was now doing show across the state.

There were endless examples of looming job markets. The Premier of New South Wales had sent he wanted to have 20,000 homes built by 2030. But where were the bricklayers, the tilers? There was \$63 billion worth of development on offer but where were the people wanting to take up the jobs? He said that every second year there was a national skills Olympics and every alternate year there as an international Skills Olympics. The national event put together a team for the international event, which was so huge that in Brazil last year it took up space with a 4.5 kilometre frontage and cost \$US500 million to stage. It would be in Abu Dhabi next year. There had been bidding between Australia and Sweden for the following skills Olympics but Australia had put in a minuscule amount of money compared with the others and had not been considered. "The Government and nobody else seem to take what we are doing in this country seriously," he said.

For Your Diaries

7 November. Club meeting – Guest speaker, Ted Plummer - Sydney Airport's Head of Government & Community Relations

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

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

8 December. Australian Rotary Health Christmas Dinner, Epping Club

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong