

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 34/2016

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?

Club Meeting 7th November 2016

Our Toast

President Phil proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA, on the grounds that it was the venue for the first campaign speech by presidential hopeful Donald Trump. He had been invited to the club meeting by aq local real estate agent in 1987, and the numbers at the meeting, normally 200, swelled to 500. Donald in his half-hour address attacked Japanese, Iranians, Iraqis, Saudi Arabians. Normal fare for him and by the time you read this he will probably be a presidential also ran. Apparently Donald over the years was a Republican, Democrat, and member of a reform party, anything, it seemed, to help him on his path to power.

Our Guest

PP Malcolm Introduced .Ted Plummer, head of government and community relations for Sydney Airport Ltd, who in the last few months has spoken regularly at Rotary clubs, spreading the word about what the corporation is. Prior to his appointment, Ted, who trained as a lawyer and as an industrial chemist, was a policy adviser to a series of ministers and MPs at State and Federal level. They included Bob Debus, attorney-general, for whom Ted acted as deputy chief of staff, Ernie Page, who was Minister for Local Government, and Federal MP Jeanette McHugh.



Pride of Workmanship

President Phil said the Pride of Workmanship night had been a success, a tribute to the hard work and organisation by PE Natalie. PP Keith agreed but said we could have done better meeting guests and showing them to their tables.

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The Pink Triathlon

Takings were sadly down this year. Our gross was \$1,875, from which we had to deduct \$1,170 for expenses, leaving with \$700. John Stamboulie, who organised the event, said it was less than half of what we had earned in recent years. Surplus food was donated to the Hope Hostel and drinks can be kept till a future occasion. PP Malcolm said the barbecues were just grist to the mill and a future year would be good. The main thing was we had to keep going with it.

St Peter's Junior School, Uganda

PP Keith said the club's project, being St Peter's primary school in Uganda, had been in touch. It had 15 children in Year Seven, which was the final year of the Primary School, and they were doing examinations at national level. The school had established a P&C Association and a School Council. There was a plan in place to have a three-day training session for parents and board members to tell them what their roles were. There was a request to our club as to whether we would support that.



Year 7 students on final day at school

Otherwise, Keith's nine-year-old granddaughter scored a hat-trick in bowling on Saturday. He will not be seeing her for a while. She has just been drafted to shore up the Australian attack on the South Africans. Not to be outdone, secretary Joy said her seven-year-old grandson had scored his own hat-trick, three goals in a soccer match at the weekend, after having not scored a goal since the beginning of his career two or three years ago.

Sydney Airport Corporation

Ted Plummer said Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport was one of the oldest continuously operating airports in the world. The first flights occurred with a New Zealand aviator, J.J. Hammond, took off from what was then the Ascot Racecourse in a tiny plane held together with piano wire. The airport was 30 kilometres north of Stanwell Tops where Laurence Hargrave discovered the wing that produced lift, which gave birth to the era of heavier-than-air aircraft.

One of the principal pioneers for the airport was Nigel Love who had flown in combat in World War 1, and had been sent from Britain to Australia to find a company willing to build Avro aircraft and develop civil aviation in Australia. To the great delight of John Surian, Ted said Love had gone to Raine and Horne in Bridge Street in the City to ask whether they could offer any land to serve as an airport. Raine and Horne had mentioned a "bullock paddock" at Mascot that might do. Love had one look at the site and said: "This is it!" Sydney Airport was born. Love then sold three Avro aircraft to Hudson Fysh who started Qantas. Love built the first plane for Qantas and made the first flight from Sydney to Melbourne.

Today's airport, a little more than a century after Love looked at the site, now accommodates an annual throughput of 41 million passengers. There are 29,000 people employed there and 160,000 people a day go through the airport. The airport accommodates 340,000 flights, or almost 1,000 flights a day. The airport was used by 45 airlines, going to and from 95 destinations, in Australia and round the world. Being at the end of the line, Australia was an endpoint destination. There were improvements all the time. Cost of flights had dropped, more people were taking to the air, and planes were quieter, though there were more of them using the airport. There was still an issue of improving road and rail access and possibly lowering charges on the rail line to encourage patronage. There would be \$1.3 billion invested in the next five years to improve ground transport access.

Sydney Airport Ltd had bought the 99-year lease for the airport from the Commonwealth in 2002 for \$5.8 billion. That made it the 19th largest company in Australia. There were 70,000 direct or indirect jobs associated with the airport, including 29,000 at the airport itself. The airport supported 800 businesses. It generated \$38.8 billion a year for the state economy, which was four percent of the state economy and two percent of the national economy. Of the 29,000 employees at the airport, 15,000 lived close to the airport, so the airport was a significant local employer. For that reason the airport was lobbying for a bus service from the Sutherland-St George area direct to the airport. The airport was a good corporate citizen. In 2011 it had started a program in which \$2.6 million had been invested in the local community. Among those supported were three local Rotary clubs which got \$110,000.

Ted said that the Badgery's Creek Airport had been first mentioned in 1968 but there had been talk about a second airport in 1946. The Commonwealth Government had announced Badgery's Creek as the final selection in 2014. Sydney Airport Ltd had the right of first refusal and expected an offer by the end of the year to build it and run it. There were various considerations in running the airport, including flight paths and access. The runway would be nearly four kilometres long. By the end of its first year of operation, the airport would handle five million passengers a year, by 2030 10 million and by 2070, 82 million. There were huge advantages for western Sydney, which would have the convenience of an airport, jobs for local people and more business. The population of Sydney's west was two million but would grow to three million. Liverpool City Council, were very enthusiastic and taking a leadership position.

John Surian thanked Ted for "a very comprehensive and interesting address"

For Your Diaries

14 November. Club Meeting. Guest speaker - Melissa Abu-Gazaleh from Top Blokes Foundation. Melissa is the 2016 NSW Young Australian of the Year.

18 November. D9675 Presidents Meeting

21 November. Club Lunch Meeting

21 November. 90th birthday celebrations of Parramatta Rotary Club at The Port restaurant, Parramatta ferry terminal. 7pm.

28 November. Rotary Foundation Million Dollar Dinner at the Epping Club

28-30 November. Clean-up and preparation of the Castle Hill Road site for selling Christmas trees.

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

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong