

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 37/2016

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

#### Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Mekong Club, an organisation dedicated to the abolition of slavery. He said slavery was still a major problem in the world, despite abolitionist movements in historic times in Britain and the United States. There were in fact 46 million people in the world living in conditions of slavery and in Hong Kong it was worse than on mainland China. Bob said Matthew Friedman, chief executive officer of the Mekong Club, was working with Rotary to raise awareness of the problem and to fund an effort to eradicate the scourge.

#### Our Guest

President Phil welcomed Jamal Lazaar, a Moroccan-born engineer who migrated with his family to France as a 16-year-old and has since migrated to Australia. Jamal had been inspired by teachers who tried to bring out the best in people and help them realise their potential. He was now working two jobs, as a building industry project manager and as a writer, speaker and coach in personal development.

#### Christmas Trees

President Phil said out Christmas tree sales at our new site on Castle Hill Road were going very well. We had sold 152 trees in the first weekend. This year's stock was high quality and the bigger trees were being sold for \$80, as opposed to \$65 for more modest specimens. John Stamboulie had done a wonderful job putting out a flyer and making website entries to publicise the sale. People were in fact coming from widespread areas, including one lady from Kirribilli. There was a problem with storage space. It was also important that nobody working at the site should interfere with any bushes or trees there, which were valued by the owner of the property, Rotarian Keith Stapley. We were selling the trees in conjunction with Parramatta Breakfast Rotary, and it was important that people put their names down for each shift so there could be a fair apportionment of the profits between the two clubs.

#### New Rotary Clubs

PDG Barry said there was likely to be a new club at Flemington Markets in February. It was looking "very promising". There were also negotiations about the formation of a Rotary club at Sydney

Airport, the place where 29,000 people worked. It was proposed that the Rotary Club of Sydney form a relationship with the new club.

### **Following Your Dream**

Jamal Lazaar was born in Morocco, son of an officer with the Moroccan Department of Foreign Affairs. He said he had indifferent results at school and had only average results in France. That was till a teacher pulled him aside and said he thought Jamal should strive to become an engineer. Jamal took that advice, qualified and in his early 20s was in his "comfort zone", working on the French Riviera. That was when he stopped exercise and took to smoking and drinking. That was until he went to a company training seminar and the speaker asked: "If you only had this afternoon to live, what would you do?" That question, Jamal said, "blew me away ... I kept asking myself, what was I going to do with the rest of my life?"

The first thing Jamal did was stop smoking and drinking. He started exercising, rang his parents at least once a week, ran his first marathon and applied for a job in Australia as a project manager. He also decided that he could spread the message of self-motivation to others, and for three years he attended self-help seminars and read widely, before embarking on a career as a writer, speaker and coach. He told people that if they had dreams about what they might do, why not go one further step and try to convert those dreams into reality? Most people were afflicted with "possibility blindness" and negative thoughts intruded to obscure their focus on any goal. "You don't have to wait till the end of your life to say, "I wish I had had the courage to be true to myself,"" he said. If people were to stop thinking negatively and start focusing on their dreams, they could "achieve more than they could have possibly imagined". Jamal said it was no disgrace to ask for help. It did not mean you were weak. It meant that you "remain strong". A notable speaker had said that one who was not willing to listen could not grow. "To me," he said, "it is never too late".

Ron Edgar, thanking Jamal for his talk, said it was "Really refreshing to see someone who could look at their life in perspective, especially their youth, and feel so energised by it" to go out and encourage other people.

### **For Your Diaries**

12 December. Annual General Meeting for the club. Guest speaker is Mel Gray, President, Rotary Club of Blacktown City, who will tell of his recent fundraising bike ride.

19 December. Christmas meeting 12.30pm for 12.45pm.

10 March 2017. District Conference at Wollongong