

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 38/2016

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 12th December 2016

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to a Rotary club in Ghana, a country with some 23 million people, where Rotary had made a major contribution, particularly in giving the people in this sub-Saharan country access to water.

Our Guest

President Phil welcomed Melvin (Mel) Gray, president of the Rotary Club of Blacktown City, who has done a series of marathon rides in New South Wales to raise funds for research into various diseases that afflict Australians, in particular arthritis and prostate cancer, both of which have afflicted him.

Christmas Trees

President Phil proposed a vote of thanks to Bob Rosengreen for all the hard work he had done in making this year's Christmas tree sale a great success. Bob in turn thanked John Stamboulie for the excellent flyers he had produced to promote the sales. PDG Barry said a lot of people had seen the sale advertised on social media. One customer had come all the way from the Toaster at Circular Quay.

PP Keith said that sales nevertheless had been sluggish. So far we had sold 276 trees, including 42 of the larger ones that sold for \$80 each. Last year we had sold 360 trees. There had only been 92 raffle tickets sold, which was also disappointing. This year we were not offering the double-dip, where a ticket gave the purchaser a chance of winning a hamper as well as the car.

New Member Induction

President Phillip inducted Amit Patel as a new member of the Club.

Amit is a medical practitioner, who practices from a Medical Centre in Blacktown. He is from the UK and lives in Rhodes.

Members welcomed Amit to the club.



Annual Meeting

The following positions were filled at the meeting.

President-elect Natalie Cowell announced her new board which will take office next July for the ensuing 12 months:

President: Natalie Cowell;

President-elect: Malcolm Brown;

Secretary: Joy Gillett;

Treasurer: Barry Antees;

Membership, Bulletin Editor, Public Relations: Malcolm Brown;

Rotary International: Bob Rosengreen;

Club Services; Phil Brophy;

Youth Services: Keith Henning;

Vocational Services: John Stamboulie;

Community Services: Amit Patel.

Keith's Treasurership

PDG Barry proposed a vote of thanks for the excellent work Keith had done as club treasurer.

Our Strategic Plan

PDG Barry said the club should think of preparing a strategic plan and vision for the club. The last such plan had been prepared four years ago.

RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award

PP Keith said he had received an application form from our ARH indigenous scholar, Taylor-Ji McAlister, to attend RYLA camp in January. The club would need to provide transport to and from Camp Yarramundi near Richmond on January 8 and January 14. Keith will attend to Sunday January 8 and Malcom will arrange return on Saturday January 14.

Joint Meeting of Zone Clubs

Parramatta City Rotary Club, one of seven clubs in our zone, which includes the other two Parramatta Clubs, Blacktown, Blacktown City, Mt Druitt and St Mary's, has been invited to a joint meeting of the clubs at the Blacktown Workers' Club on January 10.

Mel's Ride

Mel Gray started by complementing our club on the efficient way he thinks we recognise a task, allocate the responsibility and organise for someone to do it. He said it was something he should try at his own club.

Mel, who is 68 years old, had done four previous rides in New South Wales, including one from Bourke to Broken Hill, to raise money for medical research. He himself had suffered from arthritis, having now two artificial knees and an artificial wrist, and about to have his ankles fused. He had also had a bout of prostate cancer, which involved removal of his prostate gland. Prostate cancer was the second-biggest killer of men, yet men tended to shy away from it. Where breast cancer was highly publicised, men tended not to want to know about it, and by the time some of them realised they had it, it was too late.



Mel Gray with President Phillip and Joy Gillett

Mel's latest ride as from Bowral to Blacktown on October 29/30. He rode 167 kilometres in two days, and that included tackling the formidable Razorback Hill, where he had suffered a fall. He had ridden along narrow and inhospitable roads, requiring a car in front and a car behind to protect him, and at one stage had been so exhausted he had had to be lifted from his bike and dumped into the back of a car. For a time a partially blind companion had ridden with him, and when the man's mother had rebuked him for doing so, he had told her he was riding with a man who "cannot walk".

Mel had passed some sad scenes, including flood-ravaged Picton, but had been heartened by community support he had had along with way, particularly from motor cyclists. He had been treated to an Indian night" during his night off. A couple at a golf club had seen the banner and had come forward and handed him \$20. Mel raised \$3,225.50 for prostate cancer research, with more promised. He had pushed the pedals 9,370 times and had ridden at speeds from six to 75 kmh.

John Stamboulie thanked Mel for his address and said our club itself had an enthusiastic cyclist, John Surian, who would be ready to take up the mantle.

For Your Diaries

20 December. Christmas lunch meeting for the club, the last for the year. There will not be any more board meetings this year.

10 January. Zone Rotary club joint meeting at the Blacktown Workers' Club.

16 January. First meeting for 2017.

30 January. Taylor-Jai McAlister to speak on RYLA experience

8 -10 March. District Conference at Wollongong

11 March. ARH Scholars Night