

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 39/2016

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

##### Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to Rotary and Medicines Sans Frontiers, which was founded in France in response to the Biafran War. "We often see them in areas of major conflict," Bob said. "Rotary has been close to them". Medicines Sans Frontiers, which had won a global award for excellence, last year had 30,000 people working in war-torn areas of the world. Ninety percent of the organisation's funds came from private donations and the rest from corporate donations. This organisation, Bob said, was one he would not hesitate to donate to at any time if he had the funds available.

##### Our Guest

President Phil welcomed Elizabeth Trehwella, chief executive officer of the Fitted for Work program, based in Phillip Street, Parramatta, dedicated to women who had suffered disadvantage and who were looking for work.

##### Joint Rotary Zone Meeting

President Phil reminded members of the joint Rotary Area meeting at the Blacktown Workers' Club on 10 January. Members who were attending were asked to book on-line and do so early. He encouraged the idea of the clubs in the zone – the three Parramatta clubs, plus Mt Druitt, St Marys and the two Blacktown clubs, to get together to get a sense of the broader picture.

##### Australia Day Barbecue

President Phil said we would talk about that when we held our first club meeting for the year on 16 January.

##### Christmas Trees

President Phil said it was necessary, once Christmas tree sales had finished on Wednesday this week, to clean the site at Keith Stapley's place up and leave it neat and tidy. He suggested we might get in and do it on Thursday, and also to give the Stapley's a couple of bottles of wine. We had so far sold 449 trees and were likely to fall short of last year's total of 490.



Bob Rosengreen with some satisfied patrons

### Ian Riseley

PDG Barry, District Governor 9675 in 2014-15, asked to speak about the highlight of his year as District Governor 9675, said the highlight was meeting Ian Riseley, who is to be the International President of Rotary in 2017-2018, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham in Victoria. Ian was “a tall, well-built, strong-looking man”, a vegetarian and very friendly. He was very supportive of Australian Rotary Health. Efforts were being made to get Ian over to the Somme next year to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle there in the Great War. Rotary Australia had made links with a lot of French Rotary districts around the Somme Valley and a commemorate plaque had been erected. Facilities had been established for people who wanted to make a pilgrimage.

### St Peters Junior School, Gulu, Uganda.

Some photos of activities at the school’s recent end of year ceremony. Here is ‘Presentation Day’ African style – a mixture of cultural activities!





### Letting in the Ladies

PDG Ray, who was District Governor 969 (as it then was) in 1989/90, said his term coincided that the introduction of women to Rotary membership. "Suddenly I had 40 Rotary clubs to administer, of which 36 were very opposed to it," he said. It was a time for the democratic processes to take over, he said. But he found that a lot of the opposition came from older members who were resistant to any change. It was a phenomenon he had seen all over the world, that no matter how good an idea was, it would be resisted. But at the time Rotary was faltering and needed an injection of membership. Women who were the partners of Rotarians were known as "Rotary-Annes", which women did not like. But slowly, Rotarians realised how better Rotary would be with the addition of women. Ray found himself as DG spending a lot of time "placating the angry horde, but a lot of men who had opposed the new development now realised they were wrong. Ray's wife Maureen, who was present at Monday's dinner, had been a tower of strength to him and had helped him with his arguments and decisions.

PDG Barry pointed out that our secretary, Joy Gillett, who the first or possibly second woman to join Rotary in our district. Joy replied that she was "absolutely welcomed" into the club. About two years after she joined, one member told her he had voted against the introduction of women but he was glad she had joined. But even recently she had gone to all-male clubs where she had not felt really welcome. But she herself, working for Rotary as she was, had been against women becoming members and now she had no issue with clubs that decided to be all-male or clubs that decided to be all-female. She was comfortable in male company, even to the extent she felt more comfortable with men than women.

### PDG Ray's visit to America

PDG Ray said that apart from the women membership issue, he had some very good times, and one of them was meeting Royce Abbey, from Melbourne, who was then the world president of Rotary. Maureen and Ray had had a lot to do with him. They were also hosted by the governor of the Rotary district of Atlanta, Fred Culbert, and were staying with him for a few days. Fred told Ray he was going to Thomasville in the deep south of America and asked Ray and Maureen to accompany him. While attending a dinner involving high-ranking people the *maitre d* was a very big, black man who was "a joy to be with". Fred Culbert had grabbed his arm and told him that that would never happen

in Atlanta. Still, Ray, said, it was “highly racial” and a visitor had to be careful who he spoke to because people were very touchy on the subject of race

While Ray were there Royce Abbey had asked Ray and Maureen to visit a cotton plantation and Ray saw “almost unbelievable” squalor in the way the black workers were accommodated. There was a difference in the living standards between black and white which was “almost unheard of”. It was an education to him, but he had to accept it and move on.

### **For Your Diaries**

8-14 January District RYLA camp

16 January. First club meeting for 2017.

23 January. Club meeting

26 January. Australia Day BBQ in Parramatta Park.

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

10-12 March. District Conference at Wollongong

13 March. ARH Scholars Night