

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 1/2017

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 23rd January 2017

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Washington DC. He said the first item on the Four-Way Test was, "Is It the Truth?". He said he would ask the president to write a memo to the Rotary Clubs of Washington DC and reminding them of that, since truth was now a big issue, with Donald Trump telling one news organisation he would not talk to them because they were producing "fake news". A lot of things had changed in the last year, Bob said. Australia had had experience of this, as in the case of the late Dr Michael Chamberlain. People had said many things in commentary on his case which were purported to be the truth. "I think the Four-Way Test is something we need to remind ourselves on in our lives," he said. "It does not seem as available as it was."

Our Newest Member



Amit Patel, recently inducted as a Rotarian and member of our club, was born and grew up in West Yorkshire in the North of England. He went to UCL Medical School in London and did his hospital jobs and GP training in East London. After completing his GP training he returned to Leeds where he

was a GP for four and a half years. Looking for a new challenge Amit moved to Australia in February 2016 to experience life in another part of the world. He started at Kildare Road Medical Centre, Blacktown, in April 2016. Amit decided he wanted to become a Rotarian because his great uncle had been a Rotarian in Plymouth, Massachusetts, from 1980-2001. He looked for a suitable club in Sydney and decided that the Rotary Club of Parramatta City would be “a perfect match”.

The Christmas Tree Sales

President Phil said that in our sales in December, we disposed of 612 trees. Our club sold 486 and the Scouts 126. The profit was \$12,790, after \$2,800 was paid to the Scouts for unloading the trees. We took \$10 per tree to cover overheads. In the end we got \$9,200 and the Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club \$3,500. Phil said the number of trees was consistent with the number last year and with the new venue on Castle Hill Road we did not go backwards, but we did not go forwards either. There were some one-off expenses such as the inflatable Santa and the shade cloth. Members of the Parramatta Daybreak club said they enjoyed working with us and one of the great virtues of a joint project like this was the opportunity to get to know each other.

The District Convention

PDG Barry said that at the District Convention at the Novotel Wollongong in March one of the speakers would be a former child soldier in Africa who had migrated to Australia as a refugee, had become a lawyer and was now working in human rights and was a candidate for Australian of the Year.

The Australia Day Barbecue

Preparations are well in hand for the Australia Day barbecue at Parramatta Park on Thursday, when we will be competing with the Australian Livestock Association who will be selling lamb chops and sausages. Bob Rosengreen has ensured our trailer is clean and has brought in a new surface for the bottom of the trailer that allows ease of handling of materials.

New Members

PP Malcolm said he would be following up with a prospective new member Kama Rajan, who was away for a couple of weeks but had indicated an interest in joining the club.

The Long Lunch

PDG Barry said his idea was that there should be a “long lunch”, comprising a series of tables and chairs running down a closed-off Church Street, where hundreds of people could sit for a meal, supplied by the local restaurants. The event would be once a year and it would be excellent promotion for the restaurants, who would be selling the meals but getting free advertising. It could get civil backing as a project to promote Parramatta. There would need to be consultations with restaurateurs. Parramatta City Council might get behind it, perhaps by providing the tables and chairs.

Barry said the concept had been adopted by the Rotary Club of Bowral-Mittagong. John Surian said it was a great idea and should be pursued. He said there had been a similar meal and wine tasting in the Hunter Valley, called the Lovedale Loong Lunch, so successful that the wineries had set up a company to promote and run it. John said there had been a similar idea with a Legends of Cricket lunch, where tables had been sold at \$2,000 each. Some 400 people had turned up and the take was between \$80,000 and \$90,000 for the day. He said that if the proposed Parramatta Long Lunch was \$100 per plate, then there would be competition between the restaurateurs to buy tables. Barry said

that the Parra-Amble last year had been unsuccessful because the council had not promoted it. John Stamboulie said that perhaps people's expectations had been too high. "It is easy to be disappointed at first," he said.

Barry said that one of the things we saw in society today was that people stuck in their houses or flats did not get the opportunity mix with people. Sometimes they went to a coffee shop to get coffee just because they wanted to have people around them. An event like the Parramatta Long Lunch was another way of getting people to become involved in the community.

News from St Peters Junior School, Uganda – Students results.

Below is an extract from an email received from Robert Opira, Director of the School, and a former Rotary Foundation Peace Scholar.

"Finally results of our pupils are out. A total of 16 candidates sat for national examinations and 2 got first grade, and 14 got second grades. There were no third and fourth grades and also no candidate failed. They all passed and qualified to join secondary school. Mathematics was the worst performed subjects and it spoiled the grades of our pupils."

He is also seeking financial assistance for their top student to enable her to proceed further with her studies. In an email to PP Keith he says "Our best performing pupil Lillian who got Division One is struggling to join secondary school. I met the father and he told me he is not able to meet the cost of her secondary in first term. However he said for subsequent terms he can meet the costs which will be lower.

He explained to me that the war in South Sudan led to decline in his business and thus financially he is not doing well. He comes from Uganda – South Sudan border.

St Peter's Junior School will buy for her a mattress and a suit case for being the best performing child."

The estimated cost for first term is US\$400 to enable her to attend Pope John Paul 11 College.

If any member of the club like to assist this student to further her education please let PP Keith know.

Some of the requirements for students attending secondary boarding schools in Uganda are, to us in Australia, very unusual. PP Keith advises that he has seen the following in the list of items which must be brought on enrolment.

Blanket, sheets and mattress, Cutlery, Rolls of toilet paper, Bucket/Jerry can, Soap - laundry and bath, Hoe with handle, Squeezer for cleaning and drying floors, Reams of paper, Bag of cement.

How well off are students in our society!!!

News from past Rotary Youth Exchange students.

PP Keith has recently heard from some past students who have been hosted by the club.

Pauline Delacroix 1996-1997. Pauline is married with 3 children and has recently sold two childcare centres which she owned. She said "I feel relieved that I sold my business. I enjoy so much the time with my kids today. It has been a long time that my job was too much. Now I have to find where I want to go ...".

Signe Leth 2006 -2007. Signe's recent email said "I hope you are both well. Thanks for the lovely Christmas card and Australia calendar that is now hanging in my kitchen.

In my life things are going well. This spring I will be writing my final paper for university and I have then finished my double bachelor degree and my master degree. Finally. I must say that I'm looking forward to working full time and having a new (more 'grown up' I imagine) kind of life. Besides finishing my degree I'm at the moment still in my position with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where I'm happy to work. In the summer of 2016 my boyfriend and I went for our holidays in Greece which was great. I have attached a few pictures from our trip."



Signe Leth

For Your Diaries

- 26 January. Australia Day BBQ in Parramatta Park.
- 30 January. Club meeting
- 11 February. President-Elect Training
- 17 February. Presidents' Meeting
- 10-12 March. District Conference at Wollongong
- 13 March. ARH Scholars Night
- 1 April. President Elect training 2
- 6 May. District Assembly for all incoming Board members