

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 2/2017

### 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?

#### *Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> January*

##### Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Basel, Switzerland, home of Roger Federer. Roger, product of a Swiss father and South African mother, had not only been a great tennis player but a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF and had raised funds for charity throughout the world. Basel was also an important centre relevant to the world's financial system.

##### The Australia Day Barbecue

John Stamboulie said the club had raised \$2,507.20 profit from the barbecues, comparable with our result last year. From that had to be deducted the cost of new tables for the barbecue trailer.

We did well this year because of an absence of the usual competition. The hash browns did very well, the vegemite rolls not so well. We sold about 60 Big Breakfasts. John said we should take note of what sold and perhaps try something different next year. He noted that because the Parramatta swimming pool's days were numbered, we would not be having a Pink Barbecue in future years.

##### The Alternative Melbourne Cup

PDG Barry said an idea we could work on was an Alternative Melbourne Cup on Melbourne Cup day, when we could line up individuals in horsy-type elongated boxes with horses' heads, and have the participants race each other, perhaps in steeplechase fashion, perhaps going over obstacles. There would be various prizes, such as Best Looking Horse and Best Looking Jockey. A venue might be Prince Alfred Park just across the road from the Novotel.

John Stamboulie said another event venue might be the Parramatta River. He said Parramatta Council was going to stage a canoe race. But someone would have to talk to council before we put on any such event.

Secretary Joy said it might be a better idea for Rotarians to come in in support of an event which had been originated by others. Parramatta City Council had a huge events staff. President Phil said the club had been invited by council to participate in the Australia Day event at Parramatta Park. But PDG Barry said this amounted to [provision of "free labour". What was wanted, he said, was "innovative ideas".

## **The George Street Walk**

PDG Barry put to the club that we should sponsor a “George Street Walk”, where visitors could go down the street – the first planned street in Australia – and read from plaques what the history of the street was. He said corporations could be invited to contribute \$10,000 for each plaque. Through that the club stood to make perhaps \$100,000 or \$120,000.

At the board meeting, John Stamboulie said he thought a lot of the idea. He thought amount was not too much for a large or even medium-sized company doing well. The companies would get their names on the plaques and be marked down as good corporate citizens, “We have got to come up with something else rather than just barbecues,” he said. Joy thought we should get together and thrash out some ideas. Phil said we needed to tell Barry we approved of the idea and send him to council and he had the board’s support in putting the project to them.

John added that he thought Barry’s idea of the “Long Lunch” might be too ambitious for a club with our resources.

## **The Swimming Pool**

Bob Rosengreen said he was concerned about the imminent closure of Parramatta Swimming Pool and thought the club should talk to council about it. There had been no decision on a replacement pool and he thought our club should put up its hand and say we were not happy about it. PDG Barry said it might be an opportunity to organise a community forum to discuss the matter. John Stamboulie said it was out of council hands. The council had probably lobbied itself to have the decision changed. We should perhaps get in touch with our local member (and club member) Geoff Lee to talk about it. President said a letter should be written, signed by members of the club, asking for some accountability. Barry thought there should be a meeting of all three Parramatta clubs.

John Stamboulie said it would be difficult to justify the decision to expand the Parramatta Stadium at the expense of the pool. It had been mooted that the old Parramatta Golf Course at May’s Hill could be the venue for a new pool but this had not been finalised. Bob Rosengreen said the club had a moral responsibility to raise its voice. President Phil said there was consensus around the table that we should do something, especially in light of the fact that a few years ago council had spent millions of dollars refurbishing the pool John Stamboulie said that if through our efforts we could reduce the waiting time for a new pool, then we would have made our contribution.

At the board meeting on Tuesday, President Phil said council had come up with some options for an “interim” pool, one being a “pop up” pool, a water playground, and Lake Parramatta. The pools at Eastwood and Grandville, being in the council’s area, were also alternative venues. The council’s administrator, Amanda Chadwick, had said she was working hard on the project and the council’s investigations would be finished this week. Geoff Lee, on the other hand, was not interested. President Phil thought the club should invite Geoff to a club meeting to have a discussion about it.

PP Keith Henning told the board meeting that we were coming in late in the piece, since the issue had been public for the last 18 months. President Phil thought it was a State Government decision and we should invite both Amanda and Geoff to a club meeting to discuss it, as a “fact-finding” mission.

## **Police Officer of the Year Awards**

At the board meeting on Tuesday, President Phil said the event this year would be coordinated by the Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club. John Stamboulie has been assigned to liaise with the club.

### **The Christmas Trees**

PP Keith told the board meeting that the split of the gross profits from last year's Christmas tree sales, more than \$9,000 coming to us and \$3,500 to Parramatta Daybreak might appear a little "lopsided" but what had to be taken into account was the other expenses our club had to incur, including the printing and distribution of flyers, the creation of signs. There had also been extra work in collecting and banking the money, in addition to the hours of planning prior to the event. Our net profit was \$7,565.

### **PhD Scholars Night**

PP Keith told the board meeting that we now had 10 PhD scholars had been through our system and five of these had finished their degrees. Should PhD scholars want to come to our PhD night in March, those who had graduated and were working should be obliged to pay the \$60 fee, those who were still students would be our guests.

### **St Peter's Junior School, Uganda**

PP Keith said the school in Uganda had an urgent need for another \$560 to enable their top graduate to proceed to secondary studies. It was resolved by the board that the club should send that amount immediately.

### **Max Employment**

PE Natalia said she had been contacted by Diane Hamer from Max Employment who was trying to get a project going for young people who were out of work or disadvantaged in some other way and that she was seeking Commonwealth money for it. She was proposing that these people assist Rotary clubs in project management. The project would be run from six months to three years and we would be paid for our services. She said it was envisaged that a person could become part of our club, where they could be mentored and pick up social and management skills.

John Stamboulie said he was not keen because there were other organisations providing services like this. Don Thompson said that through his work in Northcott he had serious reservations about Max Employment. But Natalie said it was something the club could "sink its teeth into". She thought that such people could come to our monthly meetings, sit among people who had executive positions and learn something, President Phil said we should "give it a go". Natalie said that otherwise we were becoming "so stale". It was decided that the club should write back, saying that we were "potentially" interested.

### **The Rotary Foundation**

Bob Rosengreen told the board that this year, being the centenary of the Rotary Foundation, was important. Our club was one of the strongest supporters of the foundation in our district and he felt we should be able to do something this year.

### **For Your Diaries**

11 February. President-Elect Training

13 February. Club meeting. Speaker Robert Jordan from Ovarian Cancer Australia.

17 February. Presidents' Meeting

20 February. Bob Rosengreen will speak on his Time Line Continuum project.

27 February, Taylor-Jai McAlister, RYLA 2017

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