

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 6/2017

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 27th February 2017

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Port Vila, capital of Vanuatu, which had been operating for 45 years and linked with many other clubs in Australia and New Zealand. It had been very active in humanitarian missions. Bob said the Vanuatu Government had imposed harsh conditions on volunteers coming to do humanitarian work in that country. For those coming in and doing the work without official permission, there were threats of fines and even imprisonment. PP Malcolm said that at the RAWCS quarterly meeting he had attended in Canberra at the weekend, it had been announced that there was soon to be a meeting between RAWCS and the Vanuatu Ambassador to try to resolve the issue.

Our Guests

Mustafa Madraswala. President Phil said the club was honoured by the visit of Mustafa Ali Hussain Madraswala, from Rotary District 3271, a member of the Rotary Club of Karachi Sunrise. Mustafa, a Paul Harris Fellow, told us he had originally been in the Rotary Club of Karachi Defence which had chartered his present club. Karachi Sunrise did not meet over breakfast, but over "High Tea". It now had almost 20 members and had taken on a project of supporting a previously neglected school for 500 children, which had been in a "pathetic condition".

Aaron Kamarajan. Also present was a prospective new member, Aaron Kamarajan, ethnically Indian, from Malaysia via New Zealand. Aaron was a pharmacist by profession who had run a medical distribution business in New Zealand but had sold it when his wife was transferred to Australia. He had been 20 years in New Zealand, and 2-1/2 years in Australia, and was now focusing his attentions on investing, which in his case meant numerous trips to South East Asia. Aaron had belonged to a Rotary club in Malaysia and had been looking round for a suitable club in Australia.

Jerry Tan. The club welcomed the return of Jerry Tan, who had his first visit to the club last week. His speciality in LED lighting was quietly endorsed by club members.

Taylor-Jai McAlister And there was our speaker, Taylor-Jai McAlister, who had been on a RYLA training course. Taylor-Jai ("TJ" to her friends) was studying neuropsychology and sign language at Macquarie University, was aspiring to do a PhD and wanted ultimately to specialise in help to the indigenous people of Australia and to the deaf. She was working with the Black Dog Institute and focusing on suicide prevention among indigenous Australians. TJ was a proud member of the

Wiradjuri tribe which once owned most of the land from central to southern New South Wales. Her homeland was in Nyngan in far western New South Wales.



Mutsafa, Aaron, Taylor-Jai, President Phil, Jerry

PhD Scholars Night

PP Keith said he did not have enough registrations yet for the PhD Scholars night. He urged members to get cracking. All people attending will need to register on line before next Monday 6th March <https://www.trybooking.com/252842>

The RAWCS Quarterly Meeting in Canberra

Chuffed. PP Malcolm, who is chairman-elect of District 9675 RAWCS Committee, said he had heard a number of excellent presentations by Rotarians about their projects. There was ample use of computers, including the CHUFFED program, which allowed Rotarians to choose an appropriate project and how much they wanted to give. One such project involved the Children of Rameschhap, Nepal. Another was “Kill the Chill”, which was for the homeless children of Kathmandu.

Mini-loans. Ross McConnell from the Rotary Club of Brindabella spoke of the microfinancing system where money was supplied, in as little as \$25 lots, to agents in the receiving countries and parcelled out as mini-loans, which once repaid would be lent out again, on a repeating basis. Rotarians throughout the world could each donate \$25 and if all the times that money was loaned was added up, it would become loans many times the value of the original contribution. A program called KIVA was a mini-financing organisation which did not itself charge interest, though the agents handling the money could charge interest and for an indefinite duration an indefinite system. The agent was responsible for collecting the loans. A control on non-repayment was that the client who did not repay would not get another loan. In fact, Ross said, there was only a small proportion of bad loans in the system.

Timor-Leste. Jeff Crofts from the Rotary Club of Cairns Mulgrave, District 9970, told the conference about Rotary projects in Timor Leste, which was the ninth poorest country in the world, where 45 percent of the population was under 15 years of age and which was badly in need of support. The

country had two Rotary clubs, one in Dili and the other, recently chartered, being the Rotary Club of Dili Lafaet. The Rotary Club of Dili had wide experience supporting medical facilities in Timor Leste. It had operated during the Indonesian massacres and during the war of independence and provided a free medical service.

Malaria. John Macpherson told us about the activities of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM).

Snakebite. John Macpherson He also told us about a project to get footwear to Papua New Guinea, where 1,000 people died of snakebite a year because people walked around in bare feet. He spoke of an effort that just saved a little girl who had been bitten on the foot by a taipan. What he was asking for was funding to allow DIK to get a container load of footwear to the country. That would be about \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Rotary District 9675 Leadership Training Course

PE Natalia said she had been to a weekend training course which she found “enlightening”. Seventeen other clubs were represented and their meeting styles were different. Natalia wanted to visit four other clubs in the next six months to see how they operated. One would be a formal one and for that it was suggested she attending a meeting for the Blacktown Rotary Club.” I think we have become very insular,” she said. “We sit here, we don’t really get a feel for other clubs and how they do it. We need to do it a lot more.”

The RYLA Camp

Taylor-Jai said she had been a bit hesitant when she started at the camp but she was now glad she had been there. She had gone from working full-time to a situation where she could speak to nobody but people at the camp. But the people there were “positive and happy people” She had met a few like-minded people who had helped her through the camp. “It showed me how cynical and jaded I had become,” she said. She had let the team successfully through a number of challenges. “I am really happy I stepped out of my comfort zone,” she said. “I learned a lot about how to interact with people so it was a very valuable experience in how to improve my leadership skills.”

Secretary Joy thanked TJ for her talk and said that when it came to doing her PhD, she should talk to Australian Rotary Health about a scholarship.

News from Ian & Jill Cochrane in Bangladesh

We have just returned from lunch with friends outside in the bazaar, and are reflecting on all the sad stories we are hearing from so many of our Bangladeshi friends. Life is so hard at so many levels for them. The village poor live one step away from crisis everyday. Any small disaster can tip them over. But even wealthier families worry and struggle. Today we had lunch with a dear family- waited for father to return from the mosque (it is Friday, their Sunday)before we ate. He has just been given a new job at Lamb involving living away from the family four nights a week .He and his wife are very anxious about having no male to protect them(two daughters as well as wife) .We have known the family for over 10 years. Their eldest, 14 year old Protoyee, is an extremely smart and engaging young girl who wants to do medical studies, but it is impossible for the parents to pay the huge costs and bribes, so what will happen to this talented young woman! Jill asked if she could pray for them in Jesus name. He said yes. After prayer we hugged and cried together. Their world is so unfair! Safety is still an issue. Different people have different perspectives. We feel safe and are being extremely careful. We are able to go out into the bazaar and Livingstone school but not

neighbouring towns. After dark we must be in the compound, or arrange for an armed guard to bring us home. We are only out in neighbouring village at someone's place for a meal, so not home late.

We have quickly felt part of the community again, and joining with people and listening and encouraging them. It is such a privilege to be here.

For those who give thanks

- reconciliation begun with Bimal
- for opportunities to sit and share with people.
- the encouragement our just being here gives people
- warm welcome from staff and students at Livingstone and Lamb school
- the weather, it is just beautiful, and even cool at night. Really helps with energy levels

For those who pray

- continued deepening of relationship with Bimal
- wisdom as we listen to people's stories
- wisdom for Jill as she counsels
- for clarity and direction in our work
- wisdom in knowing the best way to use our time

For Your Diaries

6 March. Club meeting to be attended by Geoff Lee MP.

10-12 March. District Conference at Wollongong

13 March. PhD Scholars Night

1 April. President Elect training

6 May. District Assembly for all incoming Board members