

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 7/2017

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 6th March 2017

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Gravesend in Kent UK. The club, founded in 1927, has about 20 members. The club has raised 400,000 pounds over the past 24 years by running a bike race. Bob told us a little about Gravesend, a city in northwest Kent on the south bank of the Thames. The town was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Graveham, because that was where the graves ended after the Black Death. Bob told the story of an American Indian maiden, Pocahontas, who married an English colonial, John Rolfe, in 1614, went to London to get baptised (as Rebecca Rolfe) had a son, Thomas Rolfe, died and was buried at Gravesend. John Rolfe returned to Virginia and helped develop what was to become a thriving tobacco industry.

Our Guests

Dr Geoff Lee, MP. Present as our guest speaker was Dr Geoff Lee, the NSW State Liberal MP for Parramatta, in office for six years, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney and Multiculturalism, and an Honorary Member of our club. Geoffrey, it was put to him in the meeting, should now be a minister for state, but Geoffrey replied that politics was politics and his main task was to represent the people of his electorate as effectively as possible.

Miriam Biuititamana. PDG Barry Antees was accompanied by one of his 14 grandchildren, Miriam, who is one of eight children of Barry's daughter and her Fijian-born husband. Ever-so-shy Miriam is aged 12 and does home schooling.

Renga Chidanbaranathan. Present at the meeting was Renga, Past-President of the Granville Rotary Club and Assistant District-Governor-elect. Renge was present to tell us about the International Women's Day event at his club on the following evening and invited members to attend.

The PhD Scholars' Night

President Phil made one final call for people to register for the PhD Scholars' Night at the Oatlands Golf Club on Monday evening next week. PP Keith said there would be 50 people turning up but sadly a lowly representation from our club.

Centenary of the Rotary Foundation

Bob Rosengreen it had been decided at the last board meeting that the club should do something significant to mark the centenary of the Rotary Foundation, and he thought it should be centred on Prince Alfred Park across the road from the Novotel, where Rotary's founder Paul Harris had planted a tree. The tree was still there and was an important symbol. Bob thought Rotary should stage a fund-raising event in the park, which would raise money and public awareness of our club. PDG Barry thought we might be able to sell saplings from the tree to raise funds. Geoff Lee thought it might be a good idea to ask council to germinate the saplings. Barry undertook to talk to council about that when he approached them to talk about the George Street Walk project.

Dr Geoff Lee, MP.

Premiership. Geoff started by speaking of the departure of Premier Mike Baird, which was for him "very sad, personally and professionally". Voters had shown elsewhere that they wanted a leader who made decisions, he said, but when Mike Baird started making decisions, and Mike was a "great conviction man". But when he put decisions into effect, there was a poor reception. Geoff was working with Gladys Berejikian, who was far more consultative. But whatever the leadership style, he said, the government's commitment to Parramatta had not changed. Never before had a government had such vision, he said, or willingness to invest, and all this would come into fruition in the next five years.

Parramatta Light Rail and Parramatta Hospital upgrade. Construction on the \$1.5 billion light rail project would begin next year. There would also be a \$1 billion investment in Westmead Hospital, which presently handled 62,000 emergency cases a year, which in 10 years would rise to 125,000. The money would go into the acute services building. There would be many more jobs in the construction phase, and many more jobs in running the hospital.



Dr Geoff Lee with Pres Phillip Brophy

The Powerhouse Museum. The museum would be shifted from Ultimo to Parramatta and would be sited at the carpark area of the old David Jones store, beside the Parramatta River. In answer to PP Ron, who pointed out that the site was a valuable cultural and heritage area, Geoff said consultants had examined 10 potential sites, narrowed the list to four and selected the David Jones site. It was accessible to the million people a year who would be expected to come to the museum after it was opened in 2023.

Parramatta Square. Geoff said Parramatta Square was being developed. Council had acquired 80 percent of the tenancies. The National Australia Bank would be moving its state headquarters to Parramatta, which meant moving 1,800 staff here. There would be 4,000 people who were working in the CBD who would be working from Parramatta Square. A 40-storey building would be built

there, representing 63,000 square metres of space. Parramatta would also have a “vertical primary school”, the Parramatta Public School, for 1,000 pupils, and a “vertical High School”, the Arthur Phillip High School, for 2,000 students. The old Kings School site would become a new school. The Rose Hill Public School would have a major upgrade to cater for 1,000 pupils. By the time Geoff finished his second term as an MP, in two years, 7,000 people would have moved to Parramatta.

Parramatta Stadium. Geoff said the Parramatta Stadium, with capacity for 20,000 people, would be torn down and replaced by a stadium that held 30,000 and made it possible to hold international events at Parramatta. It would open in 2019 and would drive the Parramatta economy and provide between \$80 million and \$100 million for local business. There would be plenty of jobs in the building and running of the new stadium. He took the point from PP Ron Edgar that there had been a progressive encroachment over the years onto Parramatta Park and what was left of the park should be preserved.

Parramatta Swimming Pool. There would be a new swimming pool in Parramatta. Geoff said that lamentably the decision to close the existing pool to make way for the stadium had been taken before a new pool had been decided on. The matter could have been handled better, he said, but he thought the most likely place would be in the golf course area opposite Parramatta Park. “We are negotiating with the council and state government and we say we need a permanent location as soon as possible,” he said. Parramatta would be without a swimming pool for two years..

Telopea Master Plan. Geoff said Telopea, which would be served by the light rail, would be redeveloped. There were currently 640 social housing units which had problems, with a few residents making community life difficult. Most of these would be knocked down and there would be new accommodation for 3,000 people in private accommodation and 800 new social housing units and affordable housing for another 3,500 people. It would in effect be a new suburb.

Parramatta Heritage Precinct. The heritage buildings would be restored and opened to the public and 2,700 new homes, including affordable housing and a village centre would be built. It would create 3,000 jobs during construction and 1,000 permanent jobs. He was aware that there had been a vocal residents’ action group opposing the development.

Camellia. In five years there would be a new town centre in Camellia. The light rail would be a catalyst for converting what had been an industrial wasteland into a new centre. There would be new schools and community facilities. “We need half a billion dollars worth of infrastructure,” he said.

PP Johnny Ching thanked Geoff for his speech and reminded him that before he was elected Geoff had been very vocal about how the development of Parramatta should proceed. Everything that was happening now was good and should be better for Parramatta.

Letter from Ian and Jill Cochrane of the LAMB Project, Bangladesh

A last quick bugle before I return to work. Ian is outside (yes with a car, armed guard and two Bangladeshis - his headmaster Bimal and a friend - speaking at a town about an hour away by van. He has been asked to speak to about two hundred Bangladeshi teachers. It is supposed to be a day off today. We had a lovely start. Breakfast out in a nearby village, in the garden of a Swiss couple who have been working here for a few years. She is a gynaecologist, and he is working with disabled adults teaching them gardening skills and employing them with gardening jobs around Lamb. The weather was beautiful, the setting in his garden really pretty, and pancakes to add to the pleasure.

What a joy and privilege to sit with these people, and encourage them: Bangladeshi and *bideshi* (foreigners)

..Last night we were grateful for a good night's sleep. A Hindu village just across the rice fields was holding revival meetings that went nonstop for two nights and one full day- drums, singing, loud speaking and just noise! Windows were closed and ear plugs helped. Jill had been hoping to attend a community Rehab clinic about two hours away but a *hartal*, (nationwide strike) was called and you are not allowed to travel. I am now hoping to go Monday .Plenty of insect spray needed .Last time I went, a few years ago, I came back covered in fleas. But is such amazing work. They have over 2000 children on their books. These are children whose parents cannot afford the few cents for them to travel to Lamb, so Lamb goes to them.

There are many stories that it is difficult to talk about till we get home. Saturday 18th at church will be a chance to share. The bonus money is still not through .Ian has been able to talk directly with a manager from the Western Union who is trying to sort the problem. He was very forceful so we will see. We remember it is not our problem to carry so continue to pray. We have only four more days here after today. They are full, but the weather continues to be kind. That makes such a difference to our energy levels.

We fly to Dhaka Thursday morning, and spend time with some Australian friends who have only just arrived. They are involved in similar work. Then Friday we catch up with some dear Bangladeshi friends from Lamb who are now living in Dhaka. Saturday morning early we fly out arriving Sydney Sunday mid-morning. Now to spend time counselling a dear Bangladeshi friend, then off to the B pastors house for dinner. More curry and rice. Our fingernails on right hand are yellow! Just as well we enjoy the food, but I think a break from rice for quite a while when we get home Talk to you next at church sat 18th .For those who give thanks-- we are very aware of p'ing .Really feel upheld- - grateful for the opportunities- grateful for the weather. For those who pray- that we will do these last days well-wisdom to know how to help in some confusing situations - for the bonus money getting through- goodbyes.

For Your Diaries

10-12 March. District Conference at Wollongong

13 March. PhD Scholars Night

20 March. Club meeting at Novotel

21 March. Board Meeting.

1 April. President Elect training

6 May. District Assembly for all incoming Board members