

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 10/2017

### 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?

*Club Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017*

#### **Our Toast**

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to The Rotary Club of Worcester, England. Worcester is the birthplace of Sir Rowland Hill, who streamlined the postal system by introducing the concept of a standard uniform rate for mail items. Prior to 1840, letters in England had been picked up from post officers and the received charged according to how far the letter had travelled. Sir Rowland introduced the “penny black” and the “twopenny blue” and from that starting point, the volume of mail grew quickly and doubled every 10 years. In the early 1920s the volume in Britain had risen to six billion items a year and in London in the financial area there were 12 deliveries a day. The uniform postal rate was transported to the colonies and in 1838 the first pre-paid stamped letter sheets were introduced in Sydney. By 1849, uniform postal rates were established by agreement between the colonies. In 1901 the colonial mail systems were merged into the Postmaster-General’s Department.

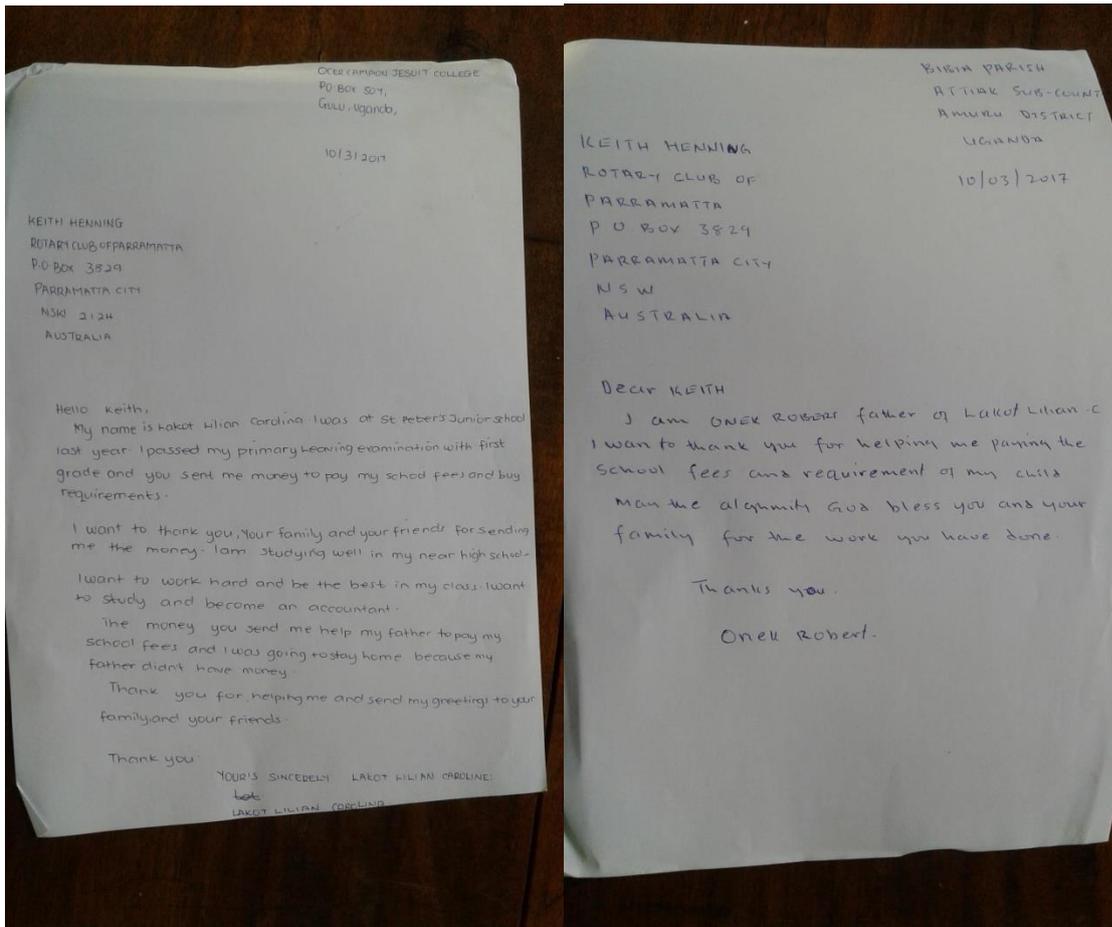
#### **Vera Liondas**

The Assistant District Governor, Vera Liondas, always a welcome visitor, graced us with our presence and was welcomed by President Phil, who then adjourned the formal proceedings to allow us to take a walk to Prince Alfred Park, across the road, where Rotary’s Founder, Paul Harris, planted an Illawarra Flame tree in 1935.

#### **Letters of appreciation from Uganda**

Earlier this year the Club provided funds to enable one of the best students from St Peters Junior School to progress to secondary education as hr father should not afford the first term school fees.

The following letters of appreciation have been received from the student and her father.



## The Paul Harris Tree

In 1935, 30 years after he founded Rotary, Paul Harris did a tour to visit Rotary districts in the Pacific region. That included a four-week tour in Australia, visiting the principal Rotary clubs. His final visit to a Rotary club meeting was to Parramatta, where in memory of his visit, he planted the 'Firewheel Tree', a tree of friendship. The tree stands there to this day, robust and vigorous, with a small plaque at the bottom pointing out its significance.



## **The Inaugural RAWCS Tribute**

The dinner, organized by Walter Bock, of Burwood Rotary Club, was the first of its kind and drew club representatives from across District 9675, including PP Malcolm from the Parramatta City club. DG Stephen Humphreys praised the concept, and also reminded us of the District Assembly in May, which was geared towards incoming members and aimed to increase the understanding among members of Rotary. Clubs, he said, would function much better with a better knowledge of Rotary.

Keith Roffey, manager of Donations in Kind (DIK), which is a division of Rotary International World Community Service (RAWCS), said RAWCS had the capacity to have a “transformational impact” on the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. RAWCS had now become a fully incorporated body with a board of directors, to direct and streamline the service from Australia. There was need for greater accountability and outcome reporting. RAWCS needed to liaise with the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, it was represented on the Council of Non-Government Organisations and was registered as a charitable corporate body.

Keith said recognized the increasing desire of the corporate sector to express its sense of community through working with Rotarians. DIK had received 1,000 hospital beds from the Sydney Local Health District last year. This year it had received another 600 and in next 12 months there would be another 3,000. There would be \$1.5 billion worth of medical equipment available in Australia in the next 12 months. Entrepreneur Dick Smith had made \$1million available for the work of the Rotary Benevolent Society (RABS), another division of RAWCS, in Australia. But he said that all the good work Rotary did needed some community acknowledgement and publicity.

The meeting heard an excellent address from Brian Coffey, a Rotarian from Maitland, who had gone into Rotary and been thoroughly inspired. He was now a district governor-elect. Brian told some truly inspiring stories, one about an island boy who had been born with deformed feet and could only crawl. RAWCS took him on board, arranged a very complex operation and had the boy walking for the first time in his life. He told the story of William Cullen, a victim of horrific domestic violence. The Rotary Club of East Maitland had banded together to help him. Brian said that Brian had met him at Rotary and told him he was the police officer who had smacked his father in the mouth. Brian said that was most regrettable but he was making a difficult arrest. William said he was not complaining but congratulating Brian, because nobody had ever dared do that before. The club supported William by organizing surgery to his face to repair the damage inflicted by William’s father and William was now a most enthusiastic Rotarian.

## **For Your Diaries**

1 April. President Elect training

3 April. Club meeting Novotel

18 April. Board Meeting

6 May. District Assembly for all incoming Board members

26 June. Club Changeover