

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 12/2017

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 10th April 2017

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary clubs of Connecticut, a state in the New England region of the United States. USA. He said that on 6th April 1917, two days after the US Senate voted 82 to six to declare war on Germany, the US House of Representatives endorsed the decision by 373 votes to 50. When the United States entered Europe's Great War in 1917, Connecticut manufacturers provided the military with munitions, clothing, and other goods. From Manchester silk and Waterbury brass to Bridgeport's Remington Arms, which produced 50 percent of the US Army's small arms cartridges. About 63,000 people from Connecticut served in the US or Allied forces.

Our Guests

Julia Spark, a prospective member from Perth, is on a six-months stay in Sydney and is leasing a flat in Hassall Street, Parramatta. She works for an Australian company, Aerometus, which does three-dimensional mapping of cities, a great help to engineers and town planners. Julia once served with the Australian Army Survey Corps. In more recent times she has been a member of the c the Northam Rotary Club. Northam is 100 kilometres east of Perth. Her role in Sydney is to set up an office, which will handle business in both New South Wales and Queensland. Just before Christmas she flew over the 260 hectare area where Parramatta Light Rail will run where a route will be decided by reference to the three-dimensional map which is due to be delivered next week.



Julia Spark

Peter Watson, a pastor in the Churches of Christ, who had worked for the Uniting Church in Bondi Junction and now runs his own training business, Impact Facilities, came as our speaker. Peter had achieved the extraordinary feat of running 3,405 kilometres from the north tip of New Zealand to the south, to raise money for charity, in particular the fight against global slavery. He had drawn together some lessons from his saga which he thought had application to business life. Peter took up running in 2008 after his brother, who had been a runner, died. "When I started, I couldn't even run around the block," he said. But in 2009 participated in the Canberra Marathon. He is now president of the Western Suburbs Harriers.

Induction of Jerry Tan

Jerry was invested with Rotary membership by President Phil. In response, Jerry said it was "really, really pleasing" for him. He had come to Australia 17 years ago, had done study and worked and five years ago started his own business. "I have decided in my life in Australia I should find some opportunity to contribute to the society I am living in," he said. "I have found the right place."



The Centenary of the Rotary Foundation

Bob Rosengreen said he had received an email from the office of the District Governor suggesting that members should make a contribution to the centenary of the foundation this year.

The District Assembly

PE Natalie reminded us of the District Assembly on 6th May and said that all incoming board members should attend.

The Merrylands High School Students

President Phil said the club had informed Merrylands High School that it would sponsor a team of its students to attend the Model United Nations Assembly in Parliament House.

Volunteers for Minchinbury

PP Malcolm passed on a call from RAWCS volunteers to assist Donations in Kind (DIK) at its warehouse at 6 Colyton Road, Minchinbury, to clear it out and have the goods sent to the DIK warehouse at Castle Hill. There will be sessions at 13th May and 13th July, from 9 am till 1 pm. Volunteers are requested to wear protective clothing and gloves.

The Top Blokes Program

President Phil said an application had been made for a \$10,000 grant for the Top Blokes program which was meant to assist students at Parramatta High School, with which our club had an historic association.

Report from President Elect Diwata Gabat of our sister club in Manila

Diwata wrote: "Tired but happy 😊 It was a very productive day for all of us Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay members. We just recently finished our Rotary joint project of RCRM with Rotary Club of Indera Markota, Malaysia and Rotary Club of Parramatta City for the PAWICARE project and water and sanitary project. As well as distribution of school supplies from St Anselm School's students and parents for the Mabato Elementary School students in cooperation of the said clubs. I hope everybody get to experience the exhilarating feeling I felt during this wonderful time. 😊😊 We were met by the very lovely Rotarian Mayor Lalaine Sarmiento at San Narciso then we first went to the beach side for our PAWICARE project, we were given an informative seminar regarding the importance of saving these beautiful tiny and vulnerable creatures by Rotarian Ato. Afterwards, we went to the seashore to help release the last batch of hatchlings. It was a wonderful moment seeing these tiny turtles swimming. I hope and pray that they will be able to survive the sea. Right after the release, we also had the distribution of the flashlights and raincoats for the PAWICARE volunteers. Then, we went to the mountains to visit the Aeta community and check the water pump project. The said Rotary clubs donated an amount of money to complete it. Afterwards, Mayor and her staff showed the areas where water is needed most. Hopefully, we will be able to help them acquire their own water pump per area in God's time. Water is very scarce there and it breaks my heart to see and learn that they need to go down the slope just to get water from the pond for drinking and cleaning. Finally, we went to Mabato Elementary School for the distribution of the school supplies. All the students were very excited to see and receive the super nice school supplies from my students and parents. (Thank you so much!) Seeing their happy faces makes me feel humbled and lucky to have such wonderful and generous donors from Rotary Club of Ramon Magsay, Rotary Club of Parramatta City and RCIM and St. Anselm School family who are willing to help in every way they can. Thank you all so much!"



RCRM club members



PE Diwata Gabat with baby Pawikan

Peter's Run

Peter ran the 3,405 kilometres with a 15 kilogram backpack in 59 days. He started after flying to New Zealand on 11th December last year and he finished in February, having shed up to eight kilograms in the process. He started at Cape Reinga on the northernmost tip of New Zealand. The

first lesson for corporate life, he said, was to know where to start and where you were trying to end up, then fill in the space between.

His first 100 metres was all beach but then came forests and rivers. His first 800 kilometres was through the bush, the last 1400 on roads. Running up to 50 kilometres a day in as straight a line as he could, he had to get across waterways as best he could. One river he swam. For another, huge river, he accepted a ride on a boat. But despite the hardships, the things he saw were a delight. That brought up two other corporate points: enjoy the moment because it is not going to last. When he was crossing a very, very long bridge, so narrow he had to lean over the side when a truck past, a police officer gave him a lift to the other side. That brought him to another point: Don't be afraid to ask for help, or to accept it when it is timely.



Peter Watson – on his run.

Peter stood up to things fairly well but inevitably things got strained. He pulled a leg muscle and had to run with the pain of that. The pain lasted from 6 am till about 1 pm and then he did not feel it. If he had had that injury at home, he said not have got off the chair". He went through six pairs of running shoes, the strain on the shoes increased by the weight he had to carry. One day he was making his way through mud that was up to his knees.

Peter on one occasion ran in the wrong direction and then had to double back, which led him to another point in corporate life: if you want to get advice, get it from someone who has been there and not from someone who is on the road with you. He ran out of water at 4 pm one day and did not find a farm house till 10.30 pm where he got water.

He did get depressed, but brought him to a point relevant to corporate life: if you feel down and out, look back at what you have already done. Being a Christian, he said, he was sometimes angry with God. "But at the end of the day I had actually made it through the day and that prepared me for some of the days later on," he said. And if you felt down, you might also find "something funny to laugh at".

Peter said that finding a place to sleep was important. Don't sleep near a road or railway because of the noise. If you want to sleep in an urban area like Auckland, find a grove of trees where you can secret yourself and be up and moving at 5 am. Out in the country, he found, the most restful sleep was in a graveyard.

The purpose of Peter's run was to raise funds for the work of Destiny Rescue who rescue children from sexual slavery. Donations to <https://give.everydayhero.com/au/running-new-zealand>

PP Ron Edgar congratulated Peter on his "beautifully orchestrated" address.

For Your Diaries

18 April. Board Meeting

24 April. Club meeting

6 May. District Assembly for all incoming Board members

13th May. Volunteers day at DIK Minchinbury

26 June. Club Changeover

13th July. Volunteers day at Minchinbury.