

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 14/2017

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 8th May 2017

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the new French President, Emmanuel Macron. Macron was born in Amiens, the site of one of the battles of the Great War 99 years ago, in which Australians participated. It was where he formed his party *En Marche!*, which means “Forward”. Bob said that Macron was going against the trend in world politics where world leaders were extending their nationalism. It was refreshing to find someone who was pro-Europe and at this stage Macron had some good ideas.

Our Guests

President Phil welcomed out guests, Kelly McJannett, CEO of FoodLadder, Bart Polder, a Rotarian from the Netherlands, and Zuhid Masood and his wife Fouzia Jehan, who are Rotarians from Pakistan.

Kelly has been named as one of the 100 Women of Influence in the Social Enterprise/Not –for-Profit category. Kelly, who spoke to our group about two years ago, had originally been in communications and public relations. But she had seen systemic problems in Third World countries and had as a result co-founded Food Ladder. She has now managed to marry. She is just back from her honeymoon. Her husband, Josh Zoeller, is an architect who first met Kelly when they were at primary school in Mona Vale. In fact, they performed together in a Year Six play, in which they were King and Queen. They then drifted apart and only met up years later. The rest, she said, was history.



Bart Polder

Bart (full name Batholomeus) is a specialist dentist who has been teaching post-graduate students at the Novotel Hotel in Parramatta. He came from the north-east corner of his country where the land was four or five metres below sea-level. The main focus of his area is on agriculture. Bart was soon to finish his stint in Sydney and move on to Singapore.



Zahid Masood & Fouzia Jehan

Zahid and his wife came at the end of March and are staying with their daughter in Carlingford, who has been here for two years. Zahid is a writer, with nine books to his name, and is an acclaimed poet. He has had literary figures to speak at his club. The club is involved in civil projects, including polio vaccination. It supports an old aged centre in Lahore and organizes free books for schoolchildren. Fouzia is a psychologist.

The District Assembly

Club members attended the Rotary District 9675 Assembly at Greystanes High School on 6th May. It was a productive event, addressed via video by incoming RI President Ian Riseley, from the Rotary Club of Sandringham in Victoria. He said our mission now was to make Rotarians “shine” and “making a difference by building stronger and more active clubs and serve in better and lasting ways”.

DG Stephen Humphreys said it was important that in doing this we be identified clearly as Rotarians. “We need to ensure people understand more about what Rotary is doing,” he said. A survey had shown that 35 percent of the world’s populations were unaware of Rotary’s programs and only 41 percent of people were familiar with Rotary at all.

Chris McDiven from the Rotary Club of Sydney said there would be an International Peace Conference, sponsored by Rotary, at the Sydney Town Hall on 17th March next year. Ian Riseley had launched the conference in Canberra in April and it would be attracting peace activists and international visitors.

Trees

PDG Barry Antees said he had made inquiries about selling seedlings from the Paul Harris Tree, planted in Parramatta Park in 1935. But arboreal experts had told him that the tree was too old to produce seedlings. However, Parramatta City Council has informed him that it has a plan to plant 6,000 trees through Parramatta and it would welcome some voluntary help. Barry said that Ian Riseley, the incoming Australia RI President, has said that all Rotarians should plant trees.

The George Street History Walk

PDG Barry said he had had a positive response from council on the George Street History Walk and he was pursuing the idea.

The Rotary Youth Science Forum

PP Keith Henning said he was pursuing the inquiries of two schoolgirls who wanted to participate in the Rotary Youth Science Forum. One was from PLC Croydon but she lived in Eastwood. The other was a student at Fort Street High but she lived in Auburn. He would be organizing interviews for the girls by a selection panel.

The Exceptional Woman of the Year

PE Natalia Cowell said nominations were still open for Exceptional Woman of the Year. Anyone who knew of an exceptional woman (not a Rotarian) was welcome to nominate her. The presentation dinner would be on 15th October.

The Rotary Emergency Service Awards

PE Natalia said the period for nomination for Emergency Service Awards had been extended.

News from Ralph & Sandra Cadman

During April, Ralph and Sandra Cadman, as part of an extensive Asian trip, visited Japan. They were joined by their daughter, Jane and her husband Mark in Japan. Jane was an outbound exchange student from our Rotary District in 1990 to Gifu, which is close to Nagoya. She has since visited Japan several times alone and with her husband Mark.

Ralph had a long association with Japan through a previous Rotarian and business partner Tetsuo Nobata in Nagoya, lasting from 1971 until 2004 when Mr Nobata passed away. His wife died last year.

The visit was to meet again with the Nobata families, Jane's Japanese school friends and our inbound exchange students, Takako (1983) and Midori (1991). It was a special time all round and close friendships renewed.



Mark and Jane, Ralph and Sandra, Hiroshi and Takako and their two sons, Satoshi and Yuya,



L to R

Mark and Jane, Midori's
mother and father-in-law

Midori and her two sons,
Shungo and Yunosuke,
Sandra, Ralph and Midori's
husband, Takahiro

These ongoing special relationships are an endorsement to Rotary and the Youth Exchange Program.

The Cadman's have had a strong connection with Rotary Youth Exchange for many years, their son Mark is married to Sarah O'Neill, an inbound student from Ontario, Canada in 1990.

Their inbound Danish exchange student, Anette from Copenhagen remains close and they have visited each other. All are happily married with families now.

Food Ladder

Kelly told us about her project, which extended to the most disadvantaged people, all over the world, and was designed to bring them an assured supply of healthy food, mainly vegetables, which in their impoverished conditions people were not growing for themselves and which had declined in quality when they were delivered from a distance. The disadvantaged included indigenous Australians, mainly from the far north. The core of her operation was to provide hothouses where principle of hydroponics could be applied and high productivity could be applied where previously there had been no productivity at all.

Kelly said the service could not come sooner. Each year, six million children throughout the world died before the age of five, and 45 percent of that death toll was through malnutrition. The United Nations predicted that by 2030, sustainable food production would be a major world issue. And lack of sustainable food supply had impacts beyond just welfare. Starving of children meant that their brains did not develop to their full potential and that had huge ramifications. It had been estimated that failure to invest in nutrition cost two to three percent of the GDP in advanced countries and in India that went to 16 percent.

Food Ladder was active in Australia, and a byproduct was employing people who had not had jobs before. There were 600 first-time employees in Katherine in the Northern Territory. Food Ladder integrated with other services, including the Work for the Dole program. It worked with the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In India it had been allowed to work from the premises of the Australian Embassy. It also worked with other non-government organisations.

“We have had NGOs come to us and say we would like to work with you and raise funds to put these systems in,” she said.

In Australia, Food Ladder had partnered with indigenous retailers in an outback community to run a store and to sell locally-grown product, which was fresher and cheaper. In the last six months in a community in Arnhem Land there had been a five percent increase in the consumption of vegetables.

In Ramingining in the Northern Territory last week I spoke to a health conference after I received a letter from a dentist working in that area,” she said. “He could see that long-term food insecurity was causing much of the severe dental disease he was seeing. He was treating breast-feeding mothers who had no access to food. I know that Food Ladder can save lives here. It is overwhelming to me that in a First World country like Australia, people are starving.”

Zuhid asked what the connection was between malnutrition and poor literacy. Kelly replied that among the people she would work with in India, there was no literacy at all. Zuhid said he would invite Kelly to speak to Rotarians in his country. PDG Barry thanked Kelly for her address.



For Your Diaries

13th May. Volunteers' day at DIK Minchinbury

15th May. Club Meeting. Speaker - Deborah Holmwood, CEO of Max Employment

25 May. Rotary – MyJourney – MyRotary, 6pm -9pm. For new members and mentors

26 May. Presidents Meeting

27-28 May, RAWCS Eastern Region Meeting at Belmont

16 June. Rotary Club of Parramatta Daybreak, 25th Anniversary Dinner & Changeover

26 June. Club Changeover – Novotel Hotel

1 July. Parramatta Rotary Changeover Bookings <https://www.trybooking.com/277591>

2 July, District 9685 Changeover. 12 noon. St George Motor Boat Club

10 July. Police Officer of Year event.

15 July. Volunteers' day at Minchinbury.

2 September. Sydney Welsh Choir Concert at St Kevins Church, Eastwood