

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 8/2017-8

### 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?

#### *Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017*

#### **Our Toast**

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Pasadena, California, the site of the launching of NASA's Voyager mission on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1990. The spacecraft looked back at the solar system and took the first-ever pictures of the planets from a point beyond Neptune. Today, Voyager 1 is the furthest man-made object from Earth. It is now in interstellar space and is still delivering data about this uncharted territory.

#### **Our Guests**

President Natalie welcomed guests Ian Goldthorpe and PDG Keith Roffey. Ian, 71, has just retired as an Environmental Health officer with the Western Sydney Health District. He has always wanted to be a Rotarian but has till now not had the time but for family reasons he would prefer to have a meeting in the day rather than the evening.

PDG Keith Roffey, who has served a term as national director of Donations in Kind (DIK), a division of Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). Keith said he had been attracted to Rotary's international outreach after attending a meeting of the Rotary Club of Padstow and he realised he could increase his life outside his work. He respected Rotary's ideals and its humanitarian focus.

#### **Mental Health**

Natalie said we had been offered a Mental Health First Aid Course to expand personal development. It was normally available for \$400 but for Rotarians it would be \$35. It would be held at Parramatta on 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October and could be booked on-line.

#### **The New Rotarians Training Day**

President Natalie said there would be a training day for new Rotarians on 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Sydney Fire Station.

#### **The Inspirational Youth Awards**

President Natalie said the Governor's Partner's Project would be Inspirational Youth Awards which would recognise young people who had the ability to change the world but had been limited by circumstances. The candidates would be in categories 14-16 and 17-19.

### **The National MUNA**

This year's MUNA contest was held on 18-20<sup>th</sup> August in Canberra. It was won by a team from St Patrick's College, Strathfield. The team was sponsored by the Strathfield Rotary Club.

### **The Orange Day Project**

President Natalie said she had had a joint presidents' meeting with Joe Allen and Christene McSeveny to work out possible collaborative projects. Christene had been particularly interested in the Orange Day project, which involved taking a portable laundry to homeless people, where their clothes could be washed and ironed. She was looking at a system where employers would be encouraged to support the project by allowing employees leave from work to volunteer.

### **Transfer Meetings**

President Natalie said she was looking at the possibility of having transfer meetings with other Rotary clubs where high-level people would be invited to speak to Parramatta business people.

Next Tuesday would be a transfer meeting where we would be attending the Youth Vocational Awards presentations at Northmead High School.

Natalie was also advised that the Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October meeting would be a transfer meeting to 19<sup>th</sup> October in order to attend the ARH function 'A night with Researchers'.

### **The Graffiti Removal Day**

Barry Antees said a flyer was being distributed for Graffiti Removal Day. Owners of private properties would be approached to see whether they needed graffiti removal kits.

### **The Sydney Welsh Choir Concert**

PP Malcolm said he and Joe Allen were working hard to get numbers for the concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Malcolm was organising newspaper publicity, PP Keith said that only 22 tickets to that point had been bought on-line but Malcolm said that most of the tickets would be sold towards the due date and on the day.

### **RAWCS**

PDG Keith Roffey said there were more than 60,000 charities in Australia. RAWCS was a coordinating body that provided tax deductibility status for clubs that chose to use its services to fund their projects. RAWCS charged a 2.5 percent administration fee on all donations, which was exceptionally modest. The RAWCS board had decided that it could work more efficiently through a corporate structure. It now had a national board of 11 and was obliged to ensure strict rules of governance and accountability. It was necessary to ensure the viability of RAWCS, he said. RAWCS focused on communications both internally and externally, on volunteer training, national standards, partnership and publicity.



PDG Keith Roffey with Pres Natalie

“The vision of RAWCS is to assist disadvantaged communities,” he said. All RAWCS projects were nationally registered. RAWCS had 382 overseas projects registered in 2016/17. It had 136 teams in the field., involving 950 volunteers, in 46 countries. “They are the lifeblood of RAWCS,” he said. The projects involved such things as child health, sanitation, literacy and international peace and conflict resolution. “Our emphasis is on changing lifestyle and saving lives,” he said. Through its division, Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM), it had provided eight million mosquito nets to malaria-affected countries over 10 years and as a result the incidence of malaria had fallen by 80 to 85 percent.

RAWCS operated through its divisions, DIK and the Australian Rotarian Benevolent Society (RABS). DIK had sent huge quantities of hospital beds overseas. Its focus was on health and education. RABS had 39 active projects. “The poverty and illiteracy in this country is as bad as in other countries,” he said.

### **For Your Diaries**

29<sup>th</sup> August. Rotary Vocational Youth Awards at Northmead High School. This will be a transfer meeting, from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday evening.

2<sup>nd</sup> September. Sydney Welsh Choir Concert at St Kevin’s Church, Eastwood.

18<sup>th</sup> September DG Stephen Britten visits club

12<sup>th</sup> October. Hat Day.

14<sup>th</sup> October. Mental health first aid course in Parramatta.

14<sup>th</sup> October. New Rotarians training day at Sydney Fire Station.

23<sup>rd</sup> October. Pride of Workmanship evening.

24<sup>th</sup> October. World Polio Day.

29<sup>th</sup> October. Graffiti Removal Day.

17<sup>th</sup> November. District AGM will be held at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

20<sup>th</sup> November. Rotary Foundation Dinner, Blacktown Workers’ Club.

17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Rotary International Peacebuilding Conference was being held at the Sydney Town Hall, with heavy involvement of the Sydney Rotary Club.