

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 10/2017-8

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?

Meeting, 4th September 2017

Our Toast.

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Bolton in Lancashire, which had just installed its first woman president. The club is a foundation club in the Rotary movement in Britain. And Bolton had a link with Australia in that it produced Sutcliff Mort, who built Mort's Dock in Sydney where our finest ships were built.

Our Guests

Our guests included four Year 11 students from Merrylands High School: Aidan Turner, Danny Diquattro, Serra Su Koyunlar and Dhita Bush, and their teacher, Gareth Lewis. The students had come second out of 19 teams in the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in Sydney, where it represented Brazil. It had had gone on to compete against 26 other teams in the national MUNA conference in Canberra, where it represented Saudi Arabia. Gareth had done a stint in the RAAF before taking to school teaching. We also welcomed back prospective member Ian Goldthorpe.

The District Youth Awards

President Natalie thanked members who attended, including Jerry Tan, Malcolm Brown, when the awards were presented at Northmead Performing Arts High School.

The Trivia Night

President Natalie said she had gone to the PCYC Trivia Night, along with her husband and son, PDG Barry, John Stamboulie and his partner Felicity. She said the PCYC was going to move from its present location and move to premises in George Street, Parramatta. They later hoped to get accommodation in the new Parramatta stadium.

The District Conference

PDG Barry said bookings for the District Conference in Mudgee in March next year were about to open. The "early bird" cost for the weekend was \$185.

Rotary Leadership

There will be two Rotary Leadership courses on 9th and 10th September at RDU House in Parramatta.

Parramatta District Networking Group

Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club has asked us to publicise their inaugural Parramatta Business Networking Group which is an initiative by Rotarians. It is being held on Wednesday 6th September.

The Sydney Welsh Choir Concert

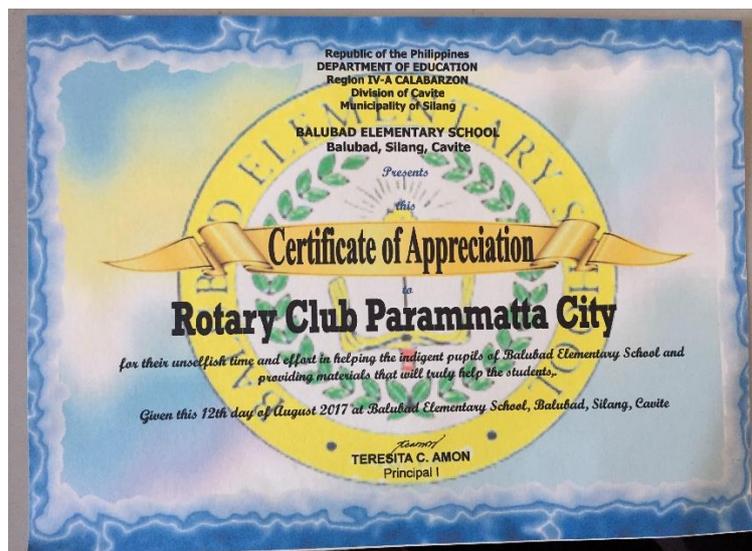
The concert held at St Kevin's Catholic Church, Eastwood, was successful despite depletion of both choir and audience numbers by the flu epidemic. But the numbers were too small for us to do more than cover our costs and take a minuscule profit of \$700 which is to be shared with the Rotary Club of Parramatta Daybreak. As discussed at our board meeting this week, we could still continue the concert program but must find smarter ways of marketing, perhaps next year doing it in conjunction with a school and having the school band or choir perform with the choir. Possible candidates for a school were the Northmead Performing Arts High School and Merrylands High.

LAMB Letter

PP Phil Brophy said the club had pledged its support for an autistic boy, Proman. Now LAMB had identified two more autistic children and, as a result of the program developed for Proman, it was now possible to deal with them appropriately rather than just write them off as "naughty".

Sister Club – Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay, Manila

PP Keith Henning tabled reports and a certificate received from our sister club in the Philippines. These followed their successful Handover and Installation celebrations held recently.



World Polio Day.

Bob Rosengreen and Keith Henning will be coordinators for our contribution to World Polio Day on Wednesday, 24th October.

Dream Cricket

At our board meeting, President Natalie said we should organised a Dream Cricket day of late February or early March next year. PBG Barry said we should coordinate with the Northcott Society. The club could put in a barbecue. There would be up to 90 kids there and it had to be kept in mind that some of them had special dietary needs. Barry said we could approach Parramatta Cricket Club for support. There was a possible venue at Merrylands.

Merrylands High School and The MUNA Contests

The team, debating in parliamentary premises, was exposed to the hurly burly of politics, including moments of humour – as when a member of the team representing North Korea put on a Kim Jung un mask – and skulduggery, as when one team sent a scornful note to another but pretended the note came from the Merrylands team. At one point the South African team referred to US President Donald Trump as “a reptile”, bringing an immediate rebuke from the US team. There were also notes passed between teams urging votes for or against resolutions.

Aidan Turner, from the Merrylands High team, said that researching and representing the viewpoint of other nations was an enormously rewarding educational experience for all the members. His team was arguing against other “countries” on issues such as the death penalty. There were shouts of “hear, hear” and “nay, nay” from the audience. “You have really got to know your subject,” he said. “We [the team] got together every week to talk about our position and to practice.” When the debates began in earnest, the Merrylands team were able to call on “Points of Information” and say: “That is not true”. He had gained such inspiration from the experience that he wanted to be a journalist, or a film producer or director, to try to tell the deeper stories that are so often hidden or obfuscated by their treatment in the media.



Danny Diuquattro said that when he was younger he tended to be shy. “This really helped me because it forced me to socialise and debate really serious issues,” he said. “We came second somehow. That gave us the chance to go to Canberra. We thank you guys for supporting us to go down there. It was an awesome experience. When we go down there, we meet so many people, from Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia...There was not a person there who was mean. It was a very supportive environment. We basically supported each other.”

Serra Su Koyunlar said: “I found out so many things I did not know about the world. That was a very good aspect of it. We [young people] are the future and we should know more.” She had made such

an impression representing a Brazilian in the Sydney competition that afterwards a man had come to her and started speaking Portuguese. She said that in her researches, she had found that Saudi Arabia was trying very hard to modernise so in her choice of clothing as a Saudi Arabian she tried to reflect that. Serra, who intends to study Medicine and became an anaesthetist, said she had been so inspired by the experience that she had applied for a leadership position in her final year at Merrylands High.

Dhitta Bush said her role had been to get good information that her team members could present. She came up with timely information that helped her team members out of tight spots.

Barry Antees said the activities of the MUNA were relevant to the International Peace Conference that would be held by Rotary International next year in Sydney Town Hall in March next year. He said to the team: "You have come here to show us that over the years the work we have done for MUNA has been really worthwhile. You have fed that information back to us and we will be very strongly affected by what you have said today."

For Your Diaries

11th September. Strategy meeting for the club.

18th September. Normal club meeting with the presence of DG Stephen Britten.

25th September. Meeting – Guest speaker Shelley Whittington from Destiny Rescue

9th October. Hat Day.

14th October. Mental health first aid course in Parramatta.

14th October. New Rotarians training day at Sydney Fire Station.

19th October. Aust Rotary Health Dinner – 'A Night with our Researchers'. Dooleys Catholic Club, Auburn 6.30pm

23rd October. Pride of Workmanship evening.

24th October. World Polio Day.

29th October. Graffiti Removal Day.

17th November. District AGM will be held at the Liverpool Catholic Club.

20th November. Rotary Foundation Dinner, Blacktown Workers' Club.

17th March 2018. A Peace Conference was being held at the Sydney Town Hall