

## COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 18/2017-8

### 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, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

#### **Our Toast.**

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Stockholm, Sweden, from whence the Abba group came 40 years ago and made us realise the importance of music to nationalism. We were also celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Countdown and before that there was Bandstand. "Music did fill certain parts of our lives and probably we didn't concentrate enough of our thoughts on music as we have through various stages in our lives," he said. Music had many positive effects, including helping us to handle pain. The Rotary Club of Stockholm was founded in 2003 and is the only Rotary club in Sweden that conducts its proceedings in English.

#### **Our Guests**

The club was honoured by the attendance of our District Governor, Stephen Britten, who comes from a Rotarian family. He was introduced by PDG Barry. Stephen's parents belong to Holroyd Rotary Club. Stephen, who went to Merrylands High School, as did his two immediate predecessors as District Governor, is himself a member of the Breakfast Point Rotary Club. For the past 30 years, he had been legal adviser to Penrith City Council.

Our other guest was prospective member Ian Goldthorpe, who is quite positive towards us but thinks Parramatta Daybreak might be more suitable to his needs.

#### **Aust Rotary Health Dinner – 'A Night with our Researchers'.**

Secretary Joy said the ARH dinner was on 19<sup>th</sup> October and she would like to book two tables to accommodate our members attending. An attendance sheet was circulated. The function will be a transfer meeting for our Club – no Monday meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

PP Keith said he was still looking for candidates, being in the 19 to 25 age bracket, who could attend the next RYLA camp being held from 2- 7 January 2008. Nominations to our club will close on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Pride of Workmanship Awards**

PP Keith said the Pride of Workmanship awards night was Monday, October 23. Applications will close on 3<sup>rd</sup> October so it was necessary to get a kick along. All details and nomination forms can be found on club website. RSVP date for dinner bookings is 15<sup>th</sup> October on <https://www.trybooking.com/315913>

## **Ghost Stories**

PDG Barry said his ghost stories project would not be a goer for this year as the NSW Drama Consortium, whom he had approached, had not yet come back to him so he was postponing the project till next year.

## **DG Stephen's Dream**

Stephen Britten said that, like Martin Luther King, he had a dream. Part of that was that 65 million people who had been displaced through conflict would no longer be displaced. Another was to alleviate the suffering of 795 million people who did not have enough to eat. He dreamt that by the year 2030, people throughout the world would have safe water and hygiene. As it stood now, there were 21 million people who had adequate sanitation because of Rotary.

"I have a dream that nobody dies in childbirth and that cancer screening is available to all," he said. "I have a dream that polio will be eradicated that we are on the way to medical solutions to such diseases as cancer and malaria. I have a dream that literacy and education bet available to all."



Stephen said that though membership numbers was a problem – the district having lost 83 members, or just over five percent of total membership, in the last year – Rotary had a lot going for it. It had persisted with the polio eradication campaign for 30 years where other organisations might

stick with a project for two or three years. It had 34,000 to 35,000 clubs throughout the world and through the policy of deliberately diversifying occupational categories of members, clubs had unique skills. To address the membership issue, we should be looking at programs such as training on how to deal with new members.

Stephen said it was important to tell people what we did in the world. If we provided teacher education in East Timor or put equipment in a local hospital, the community should know that. The Rotary Foundation focused on promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mother and children, supporting education and promoting local. He said that in conflict, 90 percent of the victims were civilians. Rotary refuses to accept conflict as a way of life," he said. "Through our service projects, members are taking measures. There were issues of lack of education and literary and unequal distribution of resources."

Stephen said Rotarians should be proud of what they had done because Rotary had made a difference. There were some five million people alive now because. In the past 100 years, Rotary had contributed \$3 billion to life-sustaining projects. But there was still much to be done, including the issue in Australia of trachoma in remote Aboriginal communities. The present project was to end trachoma by the year 2020. Another project was addressing the problem of myopia in young people. If Rotarians supported the Rotary Foundation, he said, they were supporting all these causes. He said our club should seek to work cooperatively with other clubs, and it was well placed to do this in Parramatta.

Bob Rosengreen thanked Stephen for his inspiring speech and said it had triggered things in his own mind.

#### **For Your Diaries**

25<sup>th</sup> September. Club meeting – Guest speaker Shelley Whittington from Destiny Rescue

9<sup>th</sup> October. Australian Rotary Health 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.

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

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.

6<sup>th</sup> November. Closing date for RYLA nominations to Club.

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.

2<sup>nd</sup> December. Start of Christmas tree sales on Castle Hill Road.

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