

**COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 19/2017-8**

**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, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

### **Our Toast.**

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Edinburgh, founded in 1912, in a city which produced the great literary figure, Sir Walter Scott. Scott, a survivor of childhood polio, became famous for his exploration and interpretation of Scottish history and for his discovery of the Crown Jewels, which had been locked in a box unopened for 100 years, and were there to greet him when he opened the box in Edinburgh. He got a baronetcy for that, but to stave off financial hardship he took to the pen and produced such masterpieces as Ivanhoe. He went for the Grand Tour of Europe, returned and died of typhus.

### **Our Guests**

The club had as its guests Andrea Torrensan, whose heritage includes at least Aboriginal and Italian, and who is a third-year physiotherapy student at Sydney University. She is an Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Scholar and has had several placements, one at Penrith Hospital, another at St George Hospital. She loves the job.

Also attending was Shelley Whittington, who as a churchgoer heard about the terrible plight of children in the Third World forced into sexual slavery. Shelley was formerly in the fashion business which faced impossible competition from China, which was able to cut costs by observing appalling labour condition. She decided to do something for these hapless children caught up in the sex industry. She is now state manager and business development manager of Destiny Rescue, which is dedicated to getting children out of slavery and setting them on a proper course in life.

Two other guests were prospective Rotarian Sher Khan, who has been in New Zealand monitoring the election there and who is continuing his focus on assisting migrants. With him was Ian Goldthorpe, who likes us, but intends to join Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club.

### **Mental Health Day**

President Natalie passed on a message from DG Stephen Britten that clubs should get involved in Mental Health Day by raising funds at railway stations. The day is 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Barry Antees said we could do it at Parramatta station. Half a dozen members from each of the Parramatta Rotary clubs would be enough.

### **The District Conference**

PDG Barry said that “Early Bird” registrations for the District Conference at Mudgee on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March next year would involve a fee of \$185. Those registering later would have to pay an extra \$20.

### **The Pride of Workmanship**

This is on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and we desperately need more people to participate. Joy said that at the moment we only had one nomination.

### **Paul Harris Fellows**

PDG Barry said that five Paul Harris Fellows had been sold already. He called for nominations for others to receive a Paul Harris Award.

### **Graffiti Removal Day**

PDG Barry said Graffiti Removal Day on 29<sup>th</sup> October would be at a site in Auburn where there was a graffiti problem. The cleaning operations would be from 9 am till 1 pm.

### **RYLA**

PP Keith said he was looking for young persons 18-25 years to be nominated for the RYLA camp at Yarramundi from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January next year. Nominations would close at club level on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Child Slavery**

Shelley said there were more slaves in the world now than ever before. In the next year, 1.2 million children would enter sex trafficking. One child entered sex trafficking world-wide every 26 seconds. Destiny Rescue worked in six countries, including the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. The moment began when Danny Kirwan stated it in 2001. He had been to Thailand with his father and a stranger had offered them a child for \$300 to \$400. He responded by selling up everything and moving to Thailand to dedicate himself to fighting this trade.



President Natalie with Shelley Whittington and Andrea Torresan

Shelley had joined him in the campaign, which aimed to take children out of red-light districts. The organisation made use of undercover agents. The customers went to a bar manager and paid him a fee, after which the customer could take a woman or a child back to a hotel. The Thai Government was doing nothing about it and the children were being exploited dreadfully. They had no future and because of their vulnerability they faced a short life expectancy. When they got these young people alone, the agents would then put to them that they could help them out of this imprisonment. Sometimes the girl would say no. In a lot of cases their parents were prepared to let them continue in slavery and bring in some much-needed income. Sometimes getting the child out required negotiation with the parents.

Once the children were taken out, they were sent to places where there was some rehabilitation and vocational training. Sometimes it took six months to rehabilitate a child. In other cases, it took two years. Children could be taught how to work in coffee shops or beauty salons. In Cambodia a scheme was in progress where girls were making jeans. A scheme had been established by Destiny Rescue for the growing and marketing of mushrooms. But seven out of 10 children who came into the care of Destiny Rescue stayed out of the sex industry.

Shelley said that children could be taken into the trade as young as four years of age. Across the world the average age of a child entering prostitution was 11. In India, there were a lot more boys involved in the trade.

Shelley said the Destiny Rescue had to work carefully because of the sensitivity of governments. It was better to put the rehabilitated child into an existing organisation to continue their welfare had received financial support from Rotary. It had received \$9,000, half of that from the Rotary Foundation. Parramatta City Rotary Club had given \$1,000. Destiny Rescue had church support, including Baptist, Anglican and the Pentecostal churches. The success for the project was in numbers. "This year, we have rescued 500 children," she said.

## **For Your Diaries**

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.

16<sup>th</sup> October. No meeting. The meeting is to be transferred to ARH Dinner on 19 October.

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.

13<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