

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 19/2017-8

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 20th November 2017

This was a transfer meeting where our members attended the annual dinner of the Rotary Foundation, 100 years old this year. The dinner, at the Blacktown Workers' Club, was held jointly by Districts 9675 and 9685.

Our Guest

Our guest speaker was Jennifer Jones, president and chief executive officer of Media Street Productions Inc, an award-winning television production company in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland and a past district governor of District 6400, which straddles the Canadian-US border and has 10 Canadian clubs and 40 US clubs. Jennifer has held major positions in Rotary and has presented keynote address and training workshops at more than 100 conferences across North America and more recently in St Petersburg, Panama City, Bangkok, Lisbon, Finland, India, Sri Lanka, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

Making a Difference

Jennifer Jones told the assembly that one of the most important objective of Rotarians was not only to do good works but "tell our story" so that the world at large was aware of what we had done and some would be inspired to join us and continue the work "Telling our story is I think fundamental to our success," she said. She had once been taken to task by a border guard about why she was crossing into the United States. He had asked to her to tell him what Rotary was, and after she had done that, he was emotionally moved and told her she had "made my day". She replied: "No, sir, you have made mine!"

In terms of making a difference, she and her doctor husband Nick had gone to a Pacific nation and had been asked to go to an island where the inhabitants had never seen a family doctor. They found that the children had distended abdomens and other symptoms of extreme malnutrition. They had done a clinic and found that young men complaining of pain were also just exhibiting symptoms of starvation. Through the Rotary Foundation they were able to build a school there and to institute a program where the children got at least one meal a day. They were therefore able to break the cycle and give the children a great start. "That is one little miracle that many of us are involved in because we are Rotarians," she said.

Jennifer said that on another occasion, watching as open heart surgery was being conducted on children – another project made possible by the Rotary Foundation – she had been invited to watch

up close and had seen the heart of a six-month old girl start beating. She had been able to go out and tell the parents that their beloved daughter would be “fine”, that she would now be able to hop, skip and play like all other children.

“So much of what we do is about people we will never meet,” she said. “We have faith in our organisation to know that this money is going to be spent on something that is going to change the world,” she said.

She said that 100 years after the Rotary Foundation began and 30 years after the introduction of women to Rotary, the world was on the brink, for the second time in history, of eliminating a dreaded disease. This was polio, which this year had seen only 14 new cases, in three countries. Soon, she said, we would be able to cross the finish line, and this was due to the efforts of the Rotary Foundation over three decades. If 30 years ago Rotarians had been told it would cost \$1.6 billion and involve the vaccination of 1.6 billion children, people would have said it could never have done. “It speaks volumes for our tenacity that we have got the job done,” she said. It is going to be a goal that changes the world because we are world leaders.”

The Pacific Vaccination Project

Ted Boyce, past president of the Rotary Club of Sydney, told the gathering that the year 2021 would be the centenary of the foundation of Rotary clubs in Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland. To celebrate that, the Rotary Foundation was launching a project that would seek to vaccinate girls and young women in nine countries in the Pacific region against three diseases: one brought about by the retrovirus, another being meningococcal disease and a third cervical cancer. The program, which was due to start late next year, involved raising \$US 3.5 million, in addition to what would be provided by the Asian Development Bank. In the program, 100,000 vaccinations would be carried out over three years. In terms of donations, Rotarians in Australia and New Zealand would have to donate \$18 or \$19 per member to achieve the goal. “We will be seeking the enthusiastic support of all Rotarians for the project,” he said.

Eastern Region RAWCS conference

PP Malcolm attended the Eastern Region RAWCS conference at The Entrance at the weekend, in his capacity as district chair of RAWCS. The delegates heard the heart-warming story of Joel Hart, a boy suffering from muscular dystrophy. The family had to find \$40,000 He had needed a motorised wheelchair. The Rotary Club of the Upper Blue Mountains heard about the problem. It took advantage of Dick Smith’s million-dollar fund which offered help on a dollar-for-dollar basis for people doing it tough and therefore needed to raise \$40,000. It raised \$30,000. Then, helped by good media coverage, the club held a successful fund-raising dinner and reached the target.

There was still \$700,000 left in the fund Dick Smith established.

Another project that took PP Malcolm’s attention at the Eastern Region RAWCS conference was a school that had been established, as a RABS project, at Wyong to allow young people who had become parents to finish their schooling. The school dealt with a lot of young women who had become pregnant as teenagers. A lot of issues were involved, including that of domestic violence and accommodation. It was necessary to create a safe and stable environment, to allow the young people to get on with their studies. Bronwyn Thoroughgood and Jamie Boys, describing the program, said it had had success and that young people were getting ahead. Rotary had provided a bus, which was a huge accomplishment, and could not have been done without the help of Rotary and RABS. “I guess a project like this is for people who want to help but do not how to help,” Bronwyn said.

Program Monday 27th November

Representatives from Dixon Advisory will be presenting. Topics will include recent changes to superannuation and investment topics. Something of interest to all members, whether employed or retired.

Joke of the Week

A cranky older woman in her senior years was arrested for shoplifting at a grocery store. She gave everyone a hard time, from the store manager to the security guard to the arresting officer who took her away. She complained and criticized everything and everyone throughout the process. When she appeared before the judge, the judge asked her what she had stolen from the store. The lady defiantly replied, "Just a stupid can of peaches you old fool." The judge then asked why she had done it. She replied, "I was hungry and forgot to take any cash to the store." The judge asked how many peaches were in the can. She replied in a nasty tone, "Nine! But why do you care about that?" The judge answered patiently, "Well, ma'am, because I'm going to give you nine days in jail -- one day for each peach." As the judge was about to drop his gavel, the lady's long-suffering husband raised his hand slowly and asked if he might speak. The judge said, "Yes sir, what do you have to add?" The husband said meekly, "Your Honour, she also stole two cans of peas."

For Your Diaries

2nd December. Start of Christmas tree sales on Castle Hill Road

Thursday, 7th December. The club will have a Christmas party either at Zahra on the River restaurant in Paramatta or at Parramatta's Port Bar restaurant.

18th December. The club will have its Christmas lunch.

2nd January 2018. RYLA camp at Yarramundi commences

2nd – 4th March District 9675 Conference at Mudgee. Registrations now open.

<https://www.trybooking.com/311829>

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

<https://arinex.eventsair.com/rippc-2018/form1/Site/Register>