

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 26/2017-8

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 29th January 2018

Our Toast

PDG Barry proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Wapaconeta, Ohio, the home town of Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon. Barry said that on a sadder theme, this day in 1986, the Challenger space craft blew up after launch, killing all seven crew. But Neil's memory was a grand one. He was an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Wapaconeta, was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and at one stage had been a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago.

Australia Day Meet with the Premier

President Natalie said that on Australia Day, our club was represented at the Bowman Hall in Blacktown where civic leaders were addressed by the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. It was a most agreeable day, Natalie said with a generous serve of munchies and champagne, a presentation by Aboriginal dancers, some light-hearted fun and the presence of the Australian of the Year, Professor Michelle Simmons, the Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Graham Farquhar, and the Australian Local Hero, Eddie Woo, a Maths teacher at Cherrybrook High School.

Speakers

President Natalie said we still did not have speakers for 26th February and 12th March.

Bob Rosengreen

Bob Rosengreen returned home from hospital on Monday, his operation at the Santitarium Hospital successful. His wife Glenys said in a text message on Monday morning that he was sitting up enjoying a cup of tea. The club signed a card of good will and good cheer for him.

The Australia Day Barbecue

The Australia Day Barbecue in Parramatta Park was successful. PDG Barry said we took in \$4,494 in sales, from which we derived a profit of \$1,991. The result was about \$500 down on last year but he said that because of the high humidity of the day, crowds were down. We donated between \$500 and \$600 worth of unsold food to Parramatta Mission's Hope Hostel, which we could mark down as a donation. He said that as we packed up at about 12.30 pm on Friday, people were still coming up for food and he thought that next year we could extend our trading hours to 2pm.

“My Life in the Underworld”

PP Malcolm gave the club an account of his career at the Sydney Morning Herald where he covered crime, court cases, royal commissions and inquests. He said he had been put onto “Crime and General” rather than politics because he did not have the outgoing personality required for politics. He took that up and over 40 years met many desperados. After all that time, he realised that the safest crooks to deal with were the professionals, who calculated, did not act on impulse and respected the right of reporters, and for that matter, police, to do their job. But for those who crossed them, life could be very difficult, as with two standover men who went into collect from a Gold Coast nightclub owner who happened to be on good terms with Sydney crime boss Abe Saffron.

He had written or co-written several books, on forensic science, history of crime, fraud, murder etc but found that it was important to observe rules, in one case, he had asked a prominent criminologist, Professor Paul Wilson, to co-author a book for him and Wilson had produced a chapter on a child sex offence in which Wilson went into enormous detail and appeared to take on the task with relish. Malcolm ran the chapter despite his unease and in more recent times had seen Wilson convicted of an historic child sex offence and gaoled. He had also seen a fellow journalist, Kevin Perkins, write a book about the well-known thug Tim Bristow in which he portrayed Bristow as some sort of hero, only to discover Perkins, a self-described “knockabout bloke”, was alleged to have been “on the payroll” of the Waterhouse family who wanted to use him to get things into the media that benefited them. The allegation was never proved but did Perkins no good.

Malcolm said he had dealing with Kevin John Gallagher, who had written him saying he had been verbally by police after a murder of a fellow inmate in Parramatta Gaol. Malcolm took his case up, went into Long Bay Gaol, interviewed him, decided he had a case and worked with Yvonne Swift, a nun-lawyer dealing with the down-and-out, to get an inquiry under a section of the NSW Crimes Act which provides for such an inquiry when doubt arises as the appropriateness of a conviction. Gallagher’s defence was that a corrupt police officer, Bill Duff, had got the name “Gallagher” from a gaol informant but it was the wrong man, that Arthur Gallagher had done the murder and had confessed to it. But despite Arthur Gallagher’s confession, the Appeal Court had rejected his appeal. Malcolm had gone in a second time but this time Gallagher suspected him of asking questions on behalf of authorities and for a few minutes Malcolm was in danger of serious assault. He said Gallagher got the inquiry but failed to convince the tribunal of his case. He was released on parole and after Gallagher was convicted of three of the series of 12 bank robberies he planned to commit, Malcolm wiped him.

Malcolm said he took up the case of Thomas Hudson, a Central Coast drug dealer who had been charged with the murder of Elizabeth Margaret Bromfield, allegedly cut up by a chain saw and disposed of underneath the F1 Freeway. Hudson and his co-accused spent nine months in custody but were acquitted at trial and Hudson then claimed that Bromfield was alive and well under a Witness Protection program. In one of his interviews, Hudson had told him that at one point he had decided to set up some gangsters he did not like, and had the police stake out a Commonwealth Bank. The crooks were to do the robbery, using a stolen car, then race back, get into his car and be driven off. Hudson waited for half an hour expecting to get the word they had been captured, but instead they came racing back with loot. They told him they had gone to the Commonwealth Bank but could not find a place to park, but had found a spot near the Westpac Bank. So they had knocked that one off instead.

Malcolm spoke about Tim Bristow, who had been born with a silver spoon in his mouth, son of a wool broker. He had gone to Shore School and had played in the Gordon side that won the Sydney

First Grade Premiership in 1960. But he had been kicked out of Rugby Union and Rugby League because of his behaviour, had been kicked out of the police force for the same reason, had also lost his private investigator's licence and had spent the rest of his life as a hoon, at one stage being the bouncer at the Newport Arms Hotel. At the end of his career he had handled security at top-class Sydney bordello, had cooperated with the NSW Crime Commission and boasted to old ladies about his prowess. But he could be quite vicious, kicking a man senseless as he once did and walking away from him, and he could be an enforcer, using his mate Lennie McPherson as a backup as he went onto building sites to intimidate left-wing unionists. At one point, Bristow took Lennie to a major home developer to do a favour for the principal by persuading someone to leave premises. Then as payment had taken a brand-new Mercedes car, which the developer had to reluctantly let go.

Malcolm also spoke about Reginald Varley, who had been convicted of the manslaughter of Alan David Burton. Varley claimed he had been stitched up by the police and Malcolm had spent some time with him, ultimately coming to the conclusion that the police and Varley had colluded to kill Burton and that Varley was furious that he had had to take the fall himself. He spoke about the Whiskey Au Go Go fire in Brisbane in 1973, the campaign for co-perpetrator Peter James Finch, the Carl Williams saga in Melbourne, how information supplied by an informant named Hodson had been leaked by police to Williams. He had done an article on the murder of Hodson and had discovered that that 10 kilograms of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of amphetamines had been stolen from a secure police exhibit room. Malcolm was speaking about the amateur murderers, such as Phuong Ngo who decided to get rid of a political rival, John Newman, by murdering him, and of the "lunatics" such as the Nazi "Fuerher" James Saleam who posed such a threat Malcolm had to fortify his house, get police protection and take advice from Special Branch.

Joke of the Week

Seeing we are still on the real-life theme, PP Malcolm recounts the birth of his first child, Stewart, at the West London Hospital in 1979. Stewart was really reluctant to enter the world so Malcolm decided to relax Inge by reading a terrible joke from a book by John McCallum about life with his wife, Googie Withers. McCallum on his account read Googie an ancient story about how an Egyptian mother decided to punish her wayward daughter with a plinth. He thought Googie would recoil with horror at the thought. But Googie thought for a moment and calmly replied with a question: "Plinth Philip or Plinth Charles?" When I had finished that passage, Inge laughed and laughed and at that moment she started delivering. I was going to tell Stewart years later that he had been born as a result of a raunchy joke, but by the time he was old enough to understand it he already understood the processes that had brought him into the world in the first place.

For Your Diaries

14th February. Address by Noel Trevaskis at Rooty Hill on ways to improve Rotary.

16th February. District 9675 Presidents' Meeting at Toowood Lounge Sans Souci.

18th February. PETS training at Bankstown Sports Club.

19th February. Joint meeting with Parramatta Rotary Club.

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

<https://www.trybooking.com/31182>

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

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

18th March. New Members' Breakfast, Camden Golf Club.

19th March. Club meeting, to be addressed by Louise Skilbeck of the Top Blokes Foundation.

26th March. Evening transfer meeting, the occasion of a PhD Scholarships night.

8th April. PETS training at Bankstown Sports Club.