

## **ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675**

[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://www.parramattacityrotary.org.au)

### **COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 29/2017-8**

#### **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?

#### *Joint Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

Christene McSevery, president of Parramatta Rotary Club, welcomed guests to the meeting, which included representatives of the Holroyd, Granville and Parramatta Rotary Clubs, and our guest speaker the Federal ALP MP for Parramatta, Julie Owens.

#### **Our Toast**

Parramatta Rotary Club PP Liz McIntosh proposed a toast to the beginnings of Rotary in Parramatta 92 years ago, and Parramatta as “the cradle city of Australia”.

#### **Julie Owens**

Julie was introduced to the joint meeting by PP James Dyer, a member of Parramatta Rotary Club. James said Julie had been elected to Federal Parliament in 2004, defeating Liberal Ross Cameron. She was now shadow assistant minister for Small Business and for Multicultural Australia. Julie was well suited to her portfolios, having been a vocal supporter of small business in Parramatta and Australia. She had a special aptitude for music, having been a pianist, which made her “an invaluable asset in dance and arts programs”.

#### **A Stroll Through the Multicultural Parramatta Region**

Julie said there had been a huge upsurge in business being started by people in the local community but these enterprises were not known to the community at large. When she mentioned Al Jannah restaurant in Granville, an establishment now in the Good Food Guide, the person she was speaking to did not know anything about it.

There were some “really interesting business” that had been started, in particular for those who knew food. But without local support, these businesses did not last long enough to reach their potential. But there were many businesses or prospective businesses that could involve local people. “Who knows who the local fashion designers are?” she asked.

Julie gave a slide presentation in which various suburbs focussed on a particular type of cuisine: Turkish and Chinese for Auburn; Lebanese and Nepalese for Granville; “Everything” for Parramatta; Indian for Quakers Hill; Afghan for Merrylands. Merrylands In Granville, you could go to a Beirut bakery and buy Lebanese bread. The Afghans and Africans were moving into Merrylands and the food there was “really good”. In the next few years, Guildford was the place to go to get African food. The Sydney Muruyan Temple on the Great Western Highway at Mays Hill had a canteen where

south Indian food was available. Indian supermarkets could be found at Parramatta and the Asian restaurants there were prominent. Vietnamese bakers, you would find, still showed the influence of the French.



President Christene McSeveny with Julie Owens MP

Julie said there had been a growth in the number of people making beauty products locally. There was “an incredible number” of fashion designers. She herself had women a variety of clothes made in the local community, including clothing made by Masai women from Kenya. A handbag had been manufactured in a garage in Harris Park and had taken off. It was now being manufactured in China and was being sold all over the world. “My message to you is that if you want our community to grow really well, you have to be open to see what is there slightly outside our comfort zone,” she said. “Unless we actually try them and give support to new ones, then we lose really good businesses before they have a chance to succeed.”

Julie said that at the moment these small businesses were not big enough to enter the normal retailing system. Instead, people sold at local markets or to their community. But she was about to launch “Parramatta Friends of Fashion” “I know so many people who want to know when the designer comes and what comes out with the launch,” she said. “There is a real number of people pursuing niche products. She said Parramatta electorate had the most high-tech military producers in the world. Parramatta was the largest food producer in Australia. It was the leading producer of green LED lights in the world.

“I doubt there is a common view about who we are anymore,” Julie said. “Structurally we are governed in a segmented way. We don’t have a mega western Sydney perspective. But we are one of the most creative nations in the world and the diversity of our population makes us even more creative. We don’t sing our praises, and most of us don’t know. There are a number of things we should do. We should have a ‘local first’ strategy. We as a community should be insisting that we do business with local people first. Weavers are people that link people together with easy patterns that create new patterns. We have a lot of weavers in western Sydney.”

She said: “If we go to Sydney or the eastern suburbs for a long time we see there are more professionals there and there is a place for ideas. It is difficult in western Sydney to find a place for

good ideas to run. There are things we could do to start to get things together. We have to be clever at finding way to finance and negotiation in a very fertile market.” In answer to “where do you get a good pie”, Julie had the answer. It was Watch Your Fingers, at Constitution Hill, a business that had provided a recipient of a Rotary Pride of Workmanship award.

Christene McSevery thanked Julie for her most inspiring speech. It was announced that \$1,200 had been raised on the night, to go to the campaign to eradicate polio.

### **Speaker Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Dr Jill McRae**

The Parramatta City Rotary Club will be addressed on Monday by Dr Jill McRae, an expert on international affairs and development and for 15 years was a project manager for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Jill has been a consultant to the World Bank and has worked in what is now the Ministry of National Economy in Oman. At present, she is working with members of Sydney’s Moslem community, and has established an NGO that works to provide medicine and non-food items to victims of conflict in refugee camps in Syria. She will speak to our club about the Syrian project.

### **Joke of the Week**

How a mobile phone caused our esteemed club secretary to switch from nursing to health administration.



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### **For Your Diaries**

26<sup>th</sup> February. Regular club meeting. The speaker will be Dr Jill McRae.

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

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

5<sup>th</sup> March. Regular club meeting. Alex Heighway to speak to the club about surviving a cardiac attack.

12<sup>th</sup> March. Regular club meeting. Alex Palmer will be guest speaker, Alex having been autistic and a client of the Northcott Society, since then an architectural technician with special talents.

16<sup>th</sup> March. ROMAC Anniversary meeting, Parliament House.

18<sup>th</sup> March. New Members’ Breakfast, Camden Golf Club.

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

17<sup>th</sup> March. [Presidential Peacebuilding Conference](#) at the Sydney Town Hall.

26<sup>th</sup> March. Evening transfer meeting, the occasion of our ARH PhD Scholars night. Registrations necessary <https://www.trybooking.com.au/354550>