

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 35/2017-8

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?

Meeting 16th April 2018

This was a combined meeting of Parramatta City, Parramatta and Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Clubs to meet and hear from Di North, our District Governor Nominee, from the Rotary Club of Illawarra Sunrise.

Our Guest

DGN Di North, introduced by President Natalie, joined Rotary in 2008 and served as newsletter editor for 3 years and then club secretary for 3 years. Di became President of the Rotary Club of Illawarra Sunrise in 2014. Di served as District Secretary from July 2016. In 2013 Di became the District Chair for Interplast raising money to sponsor two surgical missions – one to Fiji in 2015 and one to the Solomon Islands in 2016. Di was accepted to be a Rotarian Observer on an Interplast surgical mission to Tonga in February 2017. Di has been married to David, for 43 years. Di and David have two sons and they are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren. Di has been a registered pharmacist since 1973 and has worked as a pharmacy manager, owner, rural locum, hospital pharmacist (specialising in Palliative Care) and is now working as an oncology pharmacist in a private clinic in Wollongong. Di has been a presenter at many Pharmacy Conferences speaking to community pharmacists about Palliative Care and Oncology. Di's other interests include participating in fun runs. Di has now competed in 27 Sydney City2Surfs as well as other charity fun runs. Di has played wheelchair basketball and was an accredited basketball scoretable official working at NBL and wheelchair NBL level, having officiated at grand final games. Di was a scoretable official for Sydney 2000 Paralympics in both basketball and rugby.

Food Ladder

PDG Barry Antees told the combined meeting that Parramatta City Rotary was working to get Food Ladder going as a project. He described the project as a food-production system which relied on solar-powered greenhouses. It would be staffed by Aboriginal people to provide healthy food for their communities, and any surplus from the organisation would be ploughed back into running the system. Our club was still waiting to hear back from Food Ladder but it would cost. The club was looking to raise \$250,000 through grants and donations.

MUNA

PDG Barry told the combined meeting that the club was in a good position in regard to the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) program. The team from Merrylands High had come second in the last District competition and the school had approached us to sponsor a team again in 2018. Chris

McSeveny, president of the Parramatta Rotary Club, said MUNA was something where “we really need to get engaged”.

Glasses for Aborigines

Joe Allen, President of the Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, said one of his club’s projects was collecting spectacles for the indigenous community.

Jack Elliot

News from Parramatta Daybreak Rotary is that their long-term member, Jack Elliot, who has just turned 91, is looking better and his memory is improving.

Pride of Workmanship

Joe Allen suggested that the next Pride of Workmanship awards, instead of being run separately by each club, should be a combined clubs event, held at the Parramatta RSL. Conrad Saldanha, president-elect of Parramatta Rotary Club, said he was in favour of the idea and that his club could change the date it intended for its awards to fit in with the other clubs.

Some numbers from Rotary International Annual Report 2016-2017

Promoting Peace

Violence costs 13.3% of the world’s GDP

1.6 million deaths are caused by violence each year.

1 in 113 people was displaced by conflict and persecution in 2015

1 in 3 women is physically and sexually abused in her lifetime

Interplast

Di North said she had become interested in Interplast when her first-born grandchild, Hayley, had a cleft palate. The advantage Hayley had was that she was born in a United States hospital and the surgeon was there 10 minutes after the birth, pronouncing that surgery had to be done. Di said there were all sorts of problems for a baby born in that condition. The baby could not suck effectively and as a result many babies throughout the world were undernourished. Without that intervention, children grew up with that deformity and disability, meaning that in some societies they were hidden away and when brought into public were shunned, or otherwise ridiculed or abused. She had responded herself by committing herself to Interplast, which had sent a team to Fiji in 2015 and to the Solomon Islands in 2016.

An American plastic surgeon had founded the American version of Interplast. When he went on a mission to Ecuador he had taken a plastic surgeon from Melbourne with him who had said: “This is a brilliant idea, let us go with it! Interplast had been started by Rotary in Victoria in 1982 and had since spread its operations through the Pacific and Asian region, as far afield as Mongolia. The teams were professionals on holidays or who had closed their practices specifically to go on the projects. Some of the countries might be visited once in five years. Others had much more frequent visits. Fiji got three visits a year.

Conditions in developing countries could be difficult. "You cannot say in a developing country, 'You are going to hospital', she said. "You cannot say, 'I am taking over the operating theatre for a week'." Visiting professionals often needed visas and they had to take most of their own equipment including anaesthetics. The equipment weighed a lot and the concessions the teams once enjoyed from some airlines, to have the freight for free, were no so readily available. Some companies, like Johnson & Johnson, supported the projects, but they still cost a lot of money. A team might spend \$45,000 on a project. Sometimes it was a lot higher.



DGN Di North

But the rewards were what the teams could do, as with a grossly deformed child in Labasa, Fiji, one of five children but put up by adoption by his mother. The boy was given remedial surgery. The child would then be able to grow up and be a normal functioning member of the community. The teams did a lot of that. In a two-week trip to the Solomon Islands, the team did 58 operations. The team was also able to train local staff. It had trained up one surgeon, Dr Scott Siota, a Solomon Islander who had trained in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, but had now reached the point where he could do reconstructive surgery himself with an Interplast surgeon watching.

Di said she had gone with a team to Tonga last year as a Rotary observer. She was aware of other demands, for speech therapists, and for surgeons and therapists to treat people whose had had been burned and whose fingers had fused together in the aftermath. The point Di wanted to make was that these developing countries had no higher incidents of cleft palates or other such problems than anywhere else. It was just that treatment had not been available. Throughout the world, an average of one child in 700 was born with a cleft palate, but in Australia cleft palate surgery was done at three months of age.

In developing countries, people could reach adulthood with those deformities untreated. One woman who had been attacked by her husband with a machete and suffered serious injuries to her head and hands had had to wait four months for treatment. One child, bought from an island, had been born with his stomach and intestines outside his abdomen, covered just by a thin layer of skin. The surgeons very carefully opened up the body and put the organs in their place, then stitched the abdomen up. Di said that originally Interplast had collaborated with the Australasian Society of Surgeons. But it had now grown far too big just to be handled by Rotary and many professional organisations had joined the program. But Rotary still provided 20 percent of the funding.

The District Assembly

DGN Di urged presidents-elect, incoming board members and any other Rotarian to attend the District Assembly at Greystanes High School on 28th April.

End Trachoma

DGN Di said that she was very interested in a project, End Trachoma 2020. She pointed out that Australia was the only developed country in the world where the disease was a problem, because of the Aboriginal people living in Australia's dusty interior.

Thanks to Di

Christene McSeveny and Liz Macintosh thanked DGN Di for a most interesting talk. It did underline, said Liz, the slogan that Rotary could "make a difference".

Poignant Pictures



For Your Diaries

23rd April. Weekly meeting at Novotel

24th April. Board Meeting, ARH office, Hunter St, Parramatta 4.30pm

26th April. 60th Birthday Rotary Club of Holroyd. Holroyd Centre, Miller St, Merrylands, 6pm for 6.30pm. \$60. RSVP by 18 April to Sofia O'Donoghue odonou@bigpond.net.au

28th April. District 9675 Assembly – 2018-2019 Incoming Directors to attend. Greystanes High School.

19th May. MUNA, Parliament House, Sydney, 9am

12th -18th November. Waterline Challenge.