

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 36/2017-8

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 23rd April 2018

Our Toast

PDG Barry Antees proposed a toast to the Rotary Clubs of Christchurch, where he had just been. The city had suffered two devastating earthquakes that were still being felt. There were empty spaces where buildings had been, and developers were unwilling to invest. The cathedral had been badly affected. The city's Rotary clubs had suffered loss of members and their revenue bases had diminished.

Donation to Interplast

President Natalie said the meeting last week with Parramatta and Parramatta Daybreak Rotary clubs had been very successful, where we had heard from the DGN, Di North speaking on Interplast. At that meeting Christene McSeveny, President Parramatta RC suggested that the three Parramatta clubs should pledge to donate a total of \$1,000 to Interplast. At our club's Board meeting this week it was agreed that we consider our pledge when we meet next month to allocate money to charitable causes. That was carried. PDG Barry said he was most enthusiastic about the project.

The District Assembly

President Natalie reminded us of the District Assembly at Greystanes High School on Saturday at 9 am. PP Keith said our club needed to have a good representation. It was planned so as to give a basic education to incoming board members. PDG Barry said he would be attending the conference to talk about the Rotary Inter-Country Committee, which he heads, and about graffiti removal.

DGN for 2020-21

President Natalie said the DGN for 2020-21 had just been announced. He was Warwick Richardson of the Rotary Club of Wollondilly North.

Emergency Services Awards

President Natalie passed on an invitation from Dot Hennessy to attend the Rotary NSW & ACT Emergency Services Awards at the Bankstown Sports Club on Friday, 1st June.

MUNA & NYSF

The next MUNA will be on 19th May at the NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St. Sydney. Our club is supporting a team from Merrylands High School. Everyone is invited. The session goes from 9 am to 4 pm. Let PP Keith know for catering purposes if you wish to attend.

Applications for the NYSF close on 31st May. This is for Year 12 students and they have to nominate themselves. Applications required to be with our club by 10th May to ensure endorsement to District selection committee.

Dream Cricket

President Natalie said the Dream Cricket project was up in the air, following a change of personnel at Northcott. At the committee meeting, PDG Barry said it was possible for a Rotary club to form a direct relationship with a district cricket club to bring Dream Cricket into being. There were plenty of schools with disabled children, not just Northcott. He said Rotary's job was not that hard, consisting of catering and perhaps assisting in a supervisory role. High school kids did most of the activities.

Joy's Troubles

Secretary Joy has applied for and been granted two months leave of absence because of a medical issue. The club wishes her a speedy return to good health.

Amit Patel

The club regrets that Dr Amit Patel, having a new appointment, must leave the club. He will be going at the end of July.

Speakers

Malcolm said he had invited the president-elect of the Parramatta Rotary Club, Conrad Saldanha, to speak to us next Monday. He said he himself would speak to the club on 28th May, reporting back on the RAWCS trip he will have done to the southern Philippines.

Membership

At the board meeting, it was decided we should devote 21st May to the question of membership. PDG Barry said he understood how some people felt, that after putting all the effort they did into the club, they did not seem to be getting anywhere. It was also appreciated that by asking people to take effectively two hours out of the middle of their day was "a big ask". John Stamboulie said that most club websites were out-of-date, which was not a good look at all to prospective members. PP Philip said the real question was whether our club should be shut down. John Stamboulie said the message had to go out to our membership that unless they turned up to meetings, the club would fold.

Police Officer of the Year

John Stamboulie said the Police Officer of the Year Awards would be on 30th July. Dominic Treacle, the NSW CEO of the PCYC, would be Master of Ceremonies. At the Board meeting, John said that the Police Officer of the Year awards were an excellent way to increase Rotary membership. He said it was a showcase event, well attended, with a great deal of local community involvement through our

association with the PCYC and the fact that we were giving substantial money to it. The event was getting better and better each year. He said that inviting a non-Rotarian to such an event was a good way to get that person interested in Rotary.

PDG Barry said that the ARH PhD Scholars Night, Police Officer of the Year and Pride of Workmanship were usually held about three months apart so that was sufficient space for someone to come to several of those events. PP Keith said the club still had to put its back to the wheel to make these events successful. He was very disappointed by the lack of members' participation in running the last ARH PhD Scholars' Night.

Fees

PDG Barry said some members still have not paid their Rotary fees for the year.

Bunnings

PP Keith said he had spoken to Bunning about future barbecues and had written asking that our club be rostered between July and mid-November.

Building a Kitchen in the Solomon Islands

PP Malcolm, who joined a RAWCS team to go to the Solomon Islands for two weeks from 11th March gave a presentation to the club based on the following report:

The 67 girl students at the Visale Rural Training Centre, 39 kilometres north-west of Honiara on the Solomon island of Guadalcanal, left the 10 visiting Rotarians in no doubt as to how the visitors were valued. Sporting the very best Melanesian smiles, they gave us each a garland of flowers and sang beautifully, under the benevolent gaze of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, led by Sister Anna-Marie, an order of nuns long established in the country.

The project, to build a kitchen at the centre, was being done under the RAWCS banner, in association with Palladium, a private company delivering projects on behalf of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Palladium provided the materials, delivered to the site from Honiara along a very potholed Kukum Highway.

Barry Pendle, from Palladium, is team leader of the Skill and Economic Growth Program funded by the Australian Government. He gave us a briefing. He told us our project was one of a number of bilateral programs the government was putting into skills and tertiary education in the Solomons. The work was being done in association with the University of the Western Pacific. There were eight rural training centres in the country.

"We picked this project because it was a girls' school to do business and technology," Barry said. "We have developed a program that provides a vocational path for women and girls. It is a pilot study for a new program called New Directions."

There are more than 600,000 people in the Solomons, spread over 900 islands, and given the huge number of children the team encountered in the small area outside Honiara, there is likely to be a population explosion. The living standards in the provinces are rudimentary. There is no running water, no regular electricity supply, no sewerage. Cooking is done over open fires, bathing and car washing are being done in creeks. Many Solomon Islanders sit all day at roadside stalls selling whatever merchandise they can get together, including betel nuts.

Work is being done to provide hydro-electricity in the country. There is a good timber industry, the tuna industry is huge, there is some mining of manganese and bauxite but the rural industry is on a small scale. The only livestock appears to be pigs. Islanders pay a form of GST but there is no income tax and funds are chronically short. Much of the income for the islands comes from aid.

The kitchen we were to build was always going to be useful to the training centre (motto “Do Integrate Value in Training”). They were being taught life skills, but there was no proper, functioning kitchen to teach the girls cooking and catering, skills which gave better prospects for employment in the hospitality industry – an industry expected to expand enormously as the international tourism market takes the Solomons Islands on board.

Thus briefed, the team went to work, starting with a partially completed concrete wall and setting to work with the wood, the cement, nails, screws, angle grinders, saws and chisels. Seven of the men were competent tradesmen, who had spent their working lives using tools and could quickly adapt to unfamiliar tasks. There were two women, Debbie Daley, wife of PDG Terry Daley, from Rockhampton, who was leader of the team, and Dianne Riseley, a Hervey Bay physiotherapist who was doubling as the team medic.

Robin Bailey, a Hobart-based builder, and his son, Leigh, a Brisbane-based builder, led the construction, supported by Peter Gibbs, a former RAAF technician, from Redcliffe, Qld, Sandy McEachan, a Cairns-based electrician, PDG Ian Mylrea, a Bundaberg-based auto-mechanic, and a very competent Graham Smith. The 10th member of the team was Malcolm Brown, a Sydney-based former journalist, desperate to get some hands-on RAWCS experience which he could use in his capacity as newly-appointed RAWCS district chairman.

Terry, who has had long experience with Solomon Islands projects and has developed organisation to a point where it is a fine art, had got his team together by appealing nationally for volunteers. Most of the volunteers came from Queensland but three other states were represented. It does seem a good model for recruitment, especially when specialised skills are required. But even when he assembled his team, Terry was troubled by late withdrawals.



Fixing the roof on the kitchen at Visale

With those he ended up with, Terry was leaving no stone unturned. There were to be no workplace injuries, anyone unwell was to take a day off, anyone suffering an infection was to return immediately to Australia, we were not to linger at White River on the way because of its reputation for criminality, we were to safeguard ourselves and our possessions at all times, if we did a good job he would say so, if we did not he would say so as well.

On hand were six Solomon Islands youths, who had reportedly been in trouble in their villages and were being diverted to some useful work to enhance their skills and potentially their earning capacity.

We had \$85,000 worth of tools, most belonging to RAWCS. There were two electricity generators. Malcolm was put in charge of tools, but as there were no thieves around he was used to apply his home handyman skills in other capacities.

And there it was, day after day, with “smoko” and lunch breaks, dining at night at the King Solomon Hotel in Honiara, where we stayed, and sometimes out, including a Thai restaurant at the Coral Sea Casino. The ocean at Visale was only 100 metres away, quietly lapping at the shore. It was an historical place. The Visale site was important in the establishment of Christian missionary outreach in the Solomons. The site was also at the centre of the World War 11 Battle of Guadalcanal and in fact the church that originally stood on the site had been flattened by American bombs. A new church had been built nearby and the kitchen was being built on the slab occupied by the original church.

We had a Sunday and the following Saturday off and in typical fashion Terry had it all organised, with visits to the Japanese and American war memorials, the museum, art gallery, the carving school and the markets. We had a very convivial evening with the Rotary Club of Honiara, meeting at the Honiara Hotel.

The two weeks saw the walls completed for the new kitchen and food preparation room, the timber frames erected, the fibroplaster walls and electricity installed, the corrugated roof fitted and the eating area refloored and set up with a new bench. Debbie and Dianne busied themselves with the painting. When we left on 25th March, the complex was at lock-up stage, ready for a team of plumbing students from the university to move in and install the facilities. We each left with an island sash, a string of beads and flashing smiles.

For Your Diaries

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

30th April. Club meeting. To be addressed by PE Conrad Saldanha from Parramatta Rotary Club.

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

28th May. Club meeting, President Malcolm to talk on his trip to the Philippines.

1st June. Rotary NSW & ACT Emergency Services Awards at the Bankstown Sports Club.

2nd July. Club Changeover Meeting

30th July. Police Officer of the Year Awards.

12th -18th November. Waterline Challenge.