

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 41/2017-8

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 4th June 2018

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Madrid, which was founded in 1920 and endured, despite difficulties, during the Spanish Civil War and World War 11. Bob said the club was brought to mind by a 100-year-old article which said there had been 700 deaths in Madrid because of a mysterious malady, which had afflicted 100,000 people in that city. That was the forerunner of the Spanish Flu pandemic which killed 100 million people world-wide, including 15,000 people in Australia. The problem Australia had with flu last year and the rush now for flu injections brought to mind that the threat was always with us.

Our Guests

Our guests today were Maya Salim, Elton Janhiri and Linda Kanj, Year 11 students from Merrylands High School, and their teacher, Melissa Rutter. The students were part of the Merrylands High MUNA team which "represented Germany" in the debate in the premises of the NSW Parliament. Missing was Nayab Yaqubi, who had been part of the team but was unwell. The students spent a lot of their own time preparing for the event, including giving up their lunch hours.

The Inspirational Women's Award

President Natalie reminded members of the Inspirational Women' Awards where nominations closed on 13th June, the finalists announced on 14th July and the presentation lunch on 26th August.

The Invictus Games

President Natalie said the organisers of the Invictus Games had sent out information on two events where we could support our team.

Bridge Climb

President Natalie said tickets were available for a Bridge Climb on 17th August. Anyone interested should contact her.

Meeting Attendance

President Natalia said any member who could not attend a meeting should inform Secretary Joy by 9.30 am on the meeting day. Joy's email was being monitored and the message would be forwarded through.

The Next Meeting

There will be no club meeting next Monday 11th June because it is a public holiday.

The next board meeting will be on 12th June to fit in with the travel plans of Treasurer Barry. **4.30pm at the office of Phillip Brophy.**

John Surian

John Surian has announced his intention to resign from the club as of 30th June. President Natalie said the club had accepted the resignation with regret and said the club would miss him. John had been a Rotarian for nearly 40 years. "I would like to thank John for his contribution and for his quick-witted sense of humour. We will miss Nancy."

The Combined Club Changeover

The combined changeover with the Parramatta Rotary Club will be at Oatlands House (note, not the golf club), starting at 6.30 pm on Monday, 2nd July. Tickets will be \$90 each. A TryBooking link is being set up. Dress is to be lounge suits and evening wear. PE Malcolm together with President Natalie, Parramatta President Christene McSeveny, Parramatta PE Conrad Sadanha, and Parramatta RC member Paula Jesse, are attending to the details.

Donations

Treasurer Barry said our club had earned six or seven credits for Paul Harris Fellowships. Most of our money went to Australian Rotary Health for research into mental health. Most of the rest went to the Rotary Foundation which was our main charity. "This club has put in \$165,000 to the Rotary Foundation over the years," he said. "If you consider that 75 cents can save one life, then we have saved over 200,000 lives."

The Police Officer of the Year Awards

John Samboulie said he would send out a TryBooking link for people to buy tickets for the event on 30th July.

Amit's Farewell

The club will be giving a send-off to Dr Amit Patel on 23rd July. A separate send-off is to be organised for John and Nancy Surian.

The Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay

PP Keith said our sister club in the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay, had received numerous district awards which were featured in last week's bulletin. Our club had committed itself to give them \$1,000 for projects in the coming year. Our sister club had written to advise that it was grateful for our continuing support and couldn't accomplish its programs without it.

The MUNA debate

Ms Rutter, supervising the participating students, said a broad consensus at the Model United Nations with in-line with Australian values. Germany had very similar values to those of Australia. But if the students had been assigned to represent Saudi Arabia, they would have had a much more difficult time. She thanked our club for our support of the MUNA team. The questions dealt with were:

That human rights and fundamental freedoms should be protected while at the same time combating terrorism.

Maya Salim everyone there was very passionate about the subject. The “German” delegation was arguing in support of the proposition. Germany argued that evildoers, though they had done terrible things, should not be cruelly treated. China did not agree but Brazil was on Germany’s side. Germany had “battles with Saudi Arabia and countries like that”.

That proliferation of nuclear weapons should be prevented on the Korean Peninsula.

Melissa Rutter said the German delegation had been very supportive of the reunification of the Korean Peninsula but against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. They thought that relations with America and Asia would benefit from denuclearisation. “We were stumped as to how this [denuclearisation] could be brought about,” she said. “We have identified the problem and the solution but not how we get from one to the other.” Maya Salim said the United States should remove its nuclear weapons from South Korea so as not to intimidate North Korea.

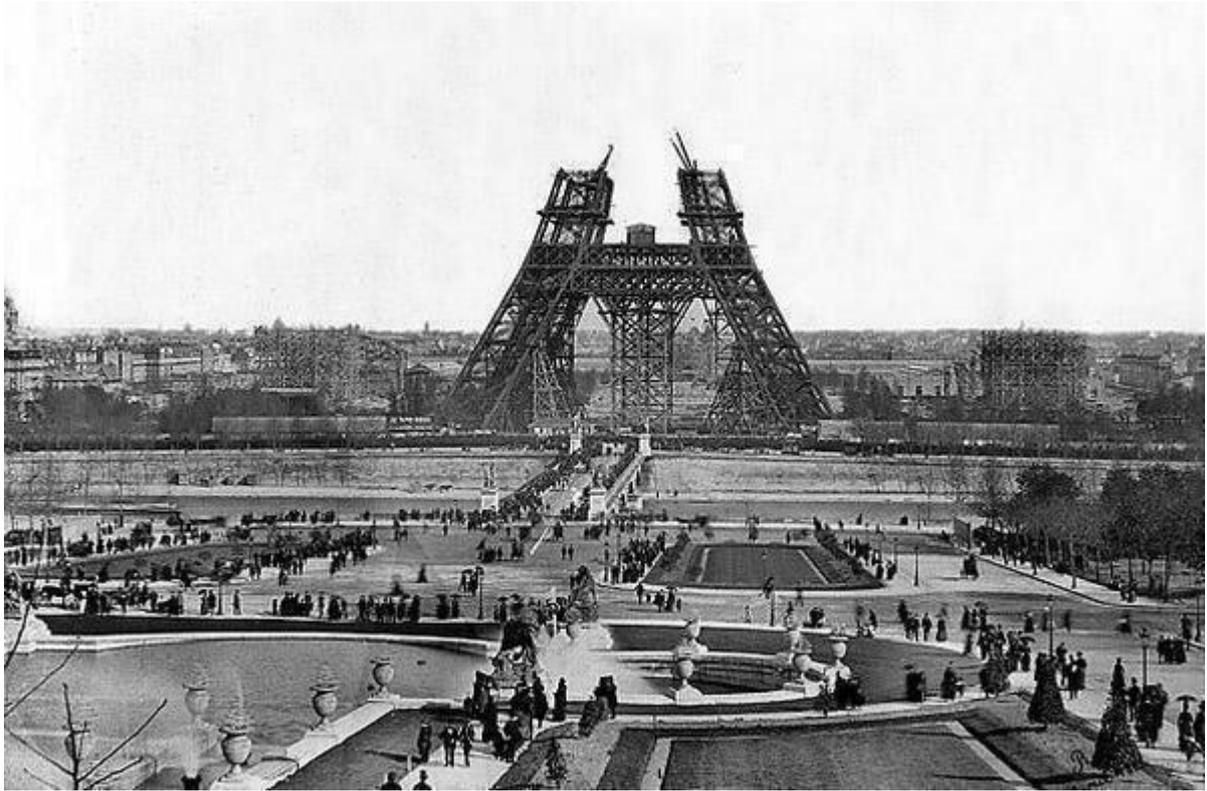
How do we deal with the international human trafficking crisis?

Melissa Rutter said the German delegation said the national policy had been to open its borders to asylum seekers and refugees. It was not going to go back on its commitment and say it would no longer accept them.

How do we tackle climate change?

Elton Jahiri said his country had spent a lot of money trying to find means of reducing carbon emissions. The country was trying to stop coal mining and switching to alternative energy sources. It was very costly and extremely risky investment that a lot of countries were willing to take. Solar panels did damage to the environment because radioactive materials were used to manufacture them. He said he would stand by the Paris agreement but some of the alternative solutions were not working. “We need to find something that works and gives us results,” he said.





Start of some damned construction in Paris

For Your Diaries

11th June. No meeting.

12th June. Board meeting.

18th June. Club meeting – Future directions discussion

2nd July. Changeover meeting where new board takes over.

23rd July. Farewell to Amit Patel.

30th July. Police Officer of the Year Awards.

20th – 28th October. Invictus Games.

12th -18th November. Waterline Challenge.