

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 02/2018-2019

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 9th July 2018

Our Guest

Our guest today was James Lee, a family lawyer practising in Parramatta. James, who grew up in Balmain and attended Sydney Grammar School, graduated in Law from the University of New South Wales in 2014. James said his family originated in Croatia which had still not recovered from the civil strife of past decades, with houses not rebuilt and churches carrying the holes where shells had landed.

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Zagreb in Croatia. Croatia had been badly affected by World War 1 but had now contributed to peace by beating Russia in the World Cup soccer, being held in Russia. In the wake of the nerve agent scandal in the United Kingdom, where one person had died and others been badly affected, it saved a lot of angst not to have Russia and England confronting each other on the soccer field.

PP Phil Brophy, the incoming International Director of the Club, proposed a toast Rotary District 3360 in Thailand, which encompasses the area of Chiang Rai, scene of this week's cave drama. He said the combined efforts to rescue the boys' soccer club and its coach exemplified the way Rotary operated.

The Changeover

PP Natalie, the incoming Service Director, said there were some problems on the night at Oatlands House, one being that it was very cold and the decision to announce the Paul Harris Awards outside the building was a mistake because people could not hear what was being said.

President Malcolm, who remains Membership and Public Relations Director, said that despite other problems, being the jam-packed program and the level of noise inside the venue, the night had been a financial success. The net profit had been \$352.71. But the raffle held on the night had brought in \$900. Online donations had brought in \$156.60, bringing a grand total of \$1,409.60, which was being dedicated to End Polio. Because of the Bill Gates Foundation commitment to match funds raised for this cause on a 3/1 basis, that represented a contribution of \$4,227.93 to the campaign to rid the world of the scourge of this disease.

The Meeting Venue

The club met in the Coffee Emporium in Phillip Street, Parramatta, to assess whether this would make a good venue. It was felt that one way to reinvigorate our club was to change the venue and make it more sunlit and accessible.

President Malcolm said that Yollanda Samprani from the Novotel had written a very nice note inquiring about our future plans for patronage of the Novotel as our meeting venue. A decision has to be made whether we return there, which would require us to sign another six-months contract, or go the Coffee Emporium.

Reinvigorating Rotary in Parramatta

PDG Barry, who remains the club treasurer, said there was need now to form a consultative committee to consider practical steps aimed at enhancing the presence of Rotary. John Stamboulie said there was no problem about the other two Parramatta Rotary clubs, they were all thinking the same way. But he thought the Rotary Club of Parramatta City should be leading the way.

Barry said if there were to be significant changes in the way Rotary operated in this city, it would have to be done in stages. Barry said Rotary in Parramatta needed to change its presentation to the world at large (its exterior position, he called it). Websites needed to be closed down and there had to be a common Facebook page. Because of the present multiplicity of web pages, there was "a confused message" going out. We needed a working committee to start on the image Rotary wished to project. There had to be a change of culture to make Rotary more attractive. We needed a committee to do the "marketing and branding".

Bob Rosengreen said Parramatta was the location of the Rotary International headquarters for Australia and the Pacific and that had to count for something if we were to talk about the presence of Rotary in Parramatta. It was "a very big plus" for Rotary as far as the newspapers were concerned.

The meeting decided that the committee to look at changing the image of Rotary should comprise Barry, Natalie, Administration Director John Stamboulie and Youth Director Jerry Tan.

Police Officer of the Year

Our club has filled one table at the Police Officer of the Year event at the Novotel on Monday, 30th July. President Malcolm said he had started a second table. He said that Paula Jesse, who had organised the changeover, had put her considerable prowess into the organisation of this event. John Stamboulie urged everyone to support the event.

All Ears Cambodia -RAWCS Project

PP Keith Henning said the All Ears Cambodia project, for which our club had agreed to be a conduit for donations, was still on the books as a RAWCS project, but no money was coming in in the way of donations.

St Peter's School, Northern Uganda – RAWCS Project

PP Keith said St Peter's School was a continuing project. There was now \$4,000 in the RAWCS account. There was a proposal now by the school administrators to start a social enterprise to hire out some tents and equipment for events and similar functions. The profits from this activity would provide funds for the school. PDG Barry said it may be possible to get some funds for the project by making an application to District for a grant from District Designated Funds.

Linen Exports

President Malcolm said he had been notified of a plan to export a container load of rejected hospital sheets to East Timor. The sheets had been used in Australian hospitals but after thorough washing were found still to be stained and were to be shredded. It was felt by the proponents of this scheme that the sheets did not carry any risk of spreading disease and that a third-world country like East Timor would dearly love them. A 44-foot container with these sheets was due to go to East Timor in October, but for the future these sheets would first be sent to Sydney and a team of volunteers was needed to fold them.

Members of our club felt that even if the risk of spreading disease could be discounted, it was not "a good look" to be sending sheets to East Timor that had been rejected for use in Australia.

Northmead Concert

President Malcolm, who is also a committee member of the Sydney Welsh Choir, said he had been discussing the prospect of a combined concert with the Sydney Welsh Choir and a choir from Northmead Performing Arts High School on 25th November. But he had discovered that negotiations between Joe and the school principal, Narelle Vazquez, had not taken the matter beyond the possibility stage. Malcolm had tried ringing the principal, to discover Ms Vazquez was on leave till 13th August. The acting principal, Fiona Clifton, did not return his telephone call and now it was school holidays. Malcolm said he had written a letter to Ms Clifton last week and hoped she would read it in about two weeks. Otherwise we would have to wait for the return of Ms Vazquez. He thought 25th November was not a great date because it clashed with end-of-school activities and exams, and he felt it might be possible to postpone it till next year.

FOLIA – Celebration Dinner



PP Phil said the Folia Celebration Dinner would be held on Saturday, 11th August, at the St Stephen's Church Hall, Normanhurst, at 7 pm. It was the last hurrah for Ian and Jill Cochrane, who were closing down the Bangladesh project. The LAMB Hospital project would still exist but would no longer have a charitable contribution from Australia. Jill Cochrane had said she wanted to "go out with a bang."

Phil sent us this message from the Cochranes: "This is our final dinner and we want to make it the best yet as we thank God for you, our supporters, and for all that has done to The HALB Hospital. Join us in a laugh and bid in our fun action and enjoy a three-course Bangladeshi-style dinner. Proceeds will support children with disability in Bangladesh. You will also have the opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation Tickets are \$50 each and are available until 5th August (unless sold out earlier) online at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=383331>.

Joke of the Week

A circus owner runs an ad for a 'lion tamer' and two people show up.

One is a semi-retired gent in his 80's by the name of Tony and the other is a drop-dead, gorgeous brunette with a sensational body in her mid-twenties.

The circus owner tells them, "I'm not going to sugar coat it. This is one ferocious lion. He ate my last tamer so you two had better be good or you're history. Here's your equipment - a chair, a whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?" The gorgeous brunette says, "I'll go first."

She walks past the chair, ignores the whip and the gun and steps right into the cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge towards her. As he gets close, the gorgeous brunette throws open her coat revealing her beautiful, perfect naked body. The lion stops dead in his tracks, then sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her feet and ankles. He continues to lick and kiss every inch of her body for several minutes, then lays down and rests his head at her feet.

The circus owner's jaw is on the floor! He says, "That's amazing! I've never seen anything like that in my life!"

He then turns to Tony and asks, "Can you top that?"

Tony replies, "Possibly ... but you've got to get that lion out of there first."

For Your Diaries

20th July. RYPEN applications close

23rd July. Farewell to Amit Patel. This will begin at 6 pm at the Sicilian Restaurant 292 Church Street, Parramatta.

30th July. Police Officer of the Year Awards. Novotel Hotel 6.30pm Bookings
<https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=386027>

11th August. Final FOLIA dinner. St Stephen's Church Hall, Normanhurst. 7.00pm
Bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=383331>.

20th – 28th October. Invictus Games.

12th -18th November. Waterline Challenge.