

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

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?

Presidential Report

Club meeting 16th November 2015

Board meeting 17th November 2015

Greetings Fellow Rotarians

The club has a reasonable roll-up on Mondays but we slowly haemorrhage members, such as Kevin Wyllie who has decided to sell his business and retire to the central coast. Kevin's resignation letter has been accepted by the board. There is no easy way to get members, though PP Keith points to an article in the latest issue of Rotary Down Under where the Rotary Club of Balwyn Victoria took proactive steps, with a good result. Those of us who remain have to work hard to keep our projects going.

Rotary Youth Leadership Australia (RYLA)

Director Don Thomson is in charge of that and is desperately calling for nominees for the next RYLA youth event, Camp Yarraumndi, near Windsor north-west of Sydney, January 2-9 next year. Applications have to be in by December 4. We all know a young person who could take advantage of it. My wife has found someone she is putting in. Likely candidates might be TAFE young volunteer firefighters, ambulance officers, teachers, former Rotary Youth Exchange students.

Christmas Party

John Stamboulie reminds us of our Christmas Party on December 11 at the Terrace restaurant in Church Street, North Parramatta. It will be 6.30 for 7 pm and cost of tickets will be \$40 or \$45 per head.

Speakers

John Stamboulie tells us there is a difficulty getting a speaker each week. He needs some help and every club member who knows a potential speaker should approach that person, get their consent in principle to speak, then pass their details on to John who can schedule them in.

The St Peter's Junior School Fundraising Night

PP Keith said there had been booking for 50 at the Ginger Restaurant in Wigram Street, Harris Park, on Friday night and the response had only been 24 people. We need to raise the final \$5,000 for the St Peter's Junior School upgrade in Uganda to be completed. We have managed to get nearly \$3,000 of that. We need an extra push to get it over the line. Keith hopes to raise \$1,000 on Friday night.

Christmas Trees

Joy says Christmas tree sales which start on December 11 are very important to the club and we are struggling for numbers. So we need a commitment from every club member. A flyer is being produced for distribution to 5,000 people around Glenhope Road, Cherrybrook, and 280 letters are being sent to our regular customers. John Stamboulie says the price has been raised to \$65 per tree, which is still much cheaper than trees offered elsewhere, and that will help make a little more money and compensate for possibly fewer sales. But there have already been 35 queries on the availability for trees this year.

Bunnings Barbecue

Ben Jackson said we were a little short-staffed for our barbecues on Sunday. He had discussed future dates with Bunnings and had one slotted for January 3 next year. There would be another in April and possibly one in October.

Kathleen Rome

Kathleen Rome, introduced by Ben Jackson, told us about the International Youth Science Forum she had attended in London, from July 22 to August 5. She was one of two students the club had sponsored to go there. She had taken three weeks out of school in her HSC year but it was well worth it. She had made many friends, in Australia and internationally. There had been a series of visits, such as to Stonehenge, Cambridge and a wetland centre in the middle of London. Then there had been lectures and seminars, social events, cabaret and a sporting contest. It had been "one of the most memorable things in our lives".



The group had been living in the centre of London near Hyde Park. One of the lectures was on the need for scientists to interact. With the 400 students present coming from all corners of the world, including Sweden and China, that was not going to be difficult. “We had a passion to exchange ideas and to get close to everyone,” she said. Some of the lectures were indeed intended to expand the mind, such as the practical uses that could be made with bubbles. Kathleen herself is leaning towards a career as an engineer.

John Surian thanked Kathleen for her address, which had been “full of life and enthusiasm”. John had been a Rotarian since 1979 and in that time the club had assisted in the help of many people. But one of the most pleasing was giving incentive to talented young people like Kathleen. The founder of James Ruse High School had had a philosophy that if the cream of the youth were brought together and given incentive like that, then society could only profit. The club was seeing that played out in the lives of people like Kathleen.

The King’s School Concert

The date has been set for April 17. The financial arrangements are that we charge \$20 per ticket, that \$1,500 goes to the school, \$1,000 to Rotary for other charitable distribution, and the remainder to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. The Sydney Welsh Choir will regard this as a charitable event and will not charge a fee. To make this a success, we must try for an audience of 600 people, for which we must engage other Rotary Clubs and the Lantern Club associated with the institute.

The Parra-Amble

Secretary Joy repeated that the event had not been successful this year, that the venue had been poor and to make it a success we should rethink the event. John Stamboulie said a better venue would have been Parramatta Mall.

Pride of Workmanship

The club emerged with a break even financial result from the night. Bob Rosengreen said we should thank the speaker from the Salvation Army, Wes Koni, who had given such an inspired speech on the night. He might be a nominee for a Paul Harris Fellowship. We would also like to thank Glenn Gardner who, with little time to prepare, performed in his normal consummate manner as master of ceremonies.

Working with Children Check

Secretary Joy reminds all members that they should complete a Working with Children Check, for which she can send us the link.

Our International Perspective

It has been pointed out that the RI President-elect for 2016-17 is Ian Risely from Melbourne. It continues to give Rotary in Australia and international perspective which another Australian president of RI, Royce Abbey, inspired when he took Rotary’s club mentality from local initiatives to what was happening on the world stage and what Rotary could do about it, even at club level.

Dates for Diaries

Friday 20th November – fundraising dinner at Ginger, Harris Park

Sunday 22nd November – Bunnings BBQ

Monday 23rd November – normal lunch meeting

Saturday 28th November – Christmas tree preparation 9 Glenhope Rd, West Pennant Hills

Monday 30th November – normal lunch meeting

Friday 4th December – Christmas Tree sales begin

Monday 7th December – No lunch meeting

Wednesday 9th December – Australian Rotary Health dinner – The Epping Club 6.30pm for 7pm

Friday 11th December – Christmas Dinner – The Terrace Restaurant, Church St, North Parramatta.

Monday 14th December – normal lunch meeting and AGM

Monday 21st December – normal lunch meeting – Christmas meeting

Monday 28th December – no meeting

Monday 4th January – no meeting

Monday 11th January – normal lunch meeting - first meeting for 2016