

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 17/2018-2019

Rotary Four-Way Test

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 25th March 2019

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Mumbai. PDG Barry Antees, who has visited the club, said it had about 150 members, it was a lunchtime club. It had a lot of wealth business people, including Kalyan Banerjee, who was president of Rotary International in 2011-12, and owned a string of chemical countries in India, with branches in the Middle East and Asia. The club had many projects in India.

Our Guests

The club had three guests, including Melissa Dsouza, Mumbai-born, who has an MBA in Marketing from the University of Mumbai. Melissa is newly-married, and has come to Australia with her Indian-born husband, Mario, who is a network engineer with the Australian Stock Exchange. Melissa is looking for a job and is a prospective member of our club. "I have decided to join Rotary to make myself more productive in some way," she said.

Another of our guests arrived unexpectedly. She is Desolie (Lee) Molloy, who after two years of widowhood has decided she should re-enter the mainstream of society and believes Rotary is the way to do it. Lee has been a resident of Toongabbie for the last 34 years. She said had some trouble finding us but was told she was most welcome.

A third guest was Marcus Woods, who specialises in lawn and garden care and carrying the shopping for PP Natalie Cowell.

Women's Day

President Malcolm said he and his wife, Inge, represented the club at the Granville Rotary Club's Women's Day event at the Granville Diggers' Club on 12th March.

Rotary Club of Penrith Valley Charity Golf Day

PP Keith Henning represented our club at a charity golf day sponsored by the Rotary Club of Penrith Valley, to support research on head and neck injuries and traumatic stress. The club raised \$16,000 for its chosen charities.

Mentoring Program

PDG Barry has given us details of his mentoring program which is an excellent way of keeping numbers up and keeping the enthusiasm going in new members. President Malcolm said that

perhaps this could start with the very first expression of interest by someone in becoming a member.

Aust Rotary Health PhD Scholars Night

Keith Henning said that as of Monday he had 55 registrations for those attending and he needed a minimum of 60. President Malcolm said he had registered himself, his wife, and four others. Keith said the District Governor, Sue Hayward, DGE Di North, DGN Warwick Richardson and the chairman of Australian Rotary Health would be there. Three PhD students would give expositions of what they had done, two involving research on mental health and one on Parkinson's Disease. An indigenous scholarship holder would be present, and the Master of Ceremonies would be our own Barry.

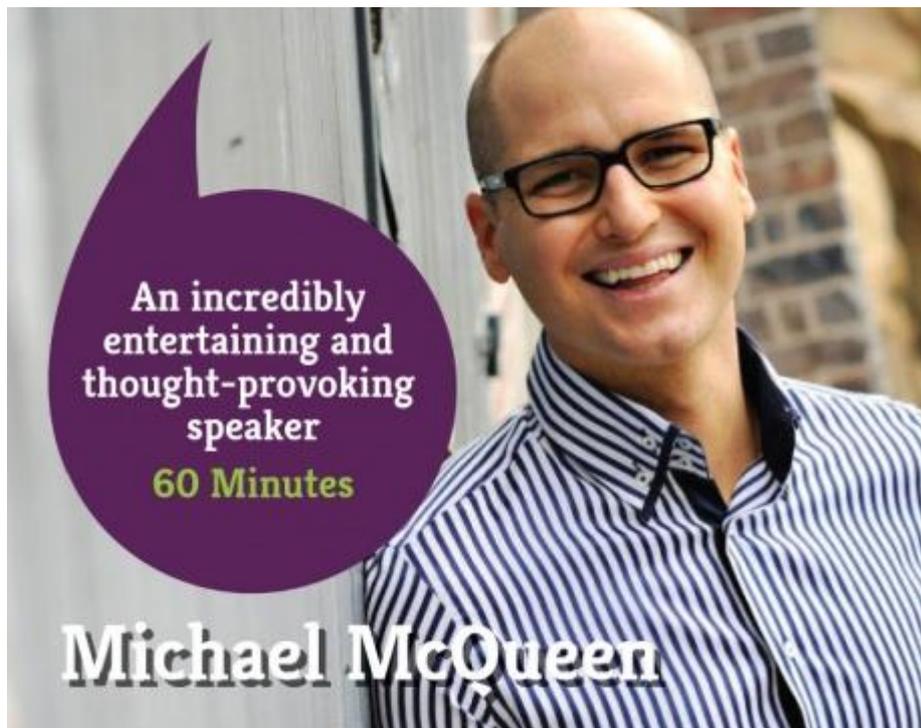
RAWCS Award

President Malcolm said he had been given a personal citation by RAWCS Eastern Region for the work he had done last year in a RAWCS project in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines.

Bowel Care Program

PP Natalie said she had distributed bowel screening kits to four pharmacies. The bowel screening kits would be available in pharmacies from 1st April till 31st May.

The Kids Waiting for a Better Offer



Michael McQueen, an innovative thinker, futurist and inspirational speaker, who addressed the District Conference, impressed PDG Barry for Barry to take two of his DVDs and some of his books. Barry played one of the DVD's at the meeting.

Michael said that Rotary was "staring down the barrel of a demographic crisis" when it came to membership. Only 11 percent of Rotarians were under the age of 40 and only two percent were under the age of 30. The average of members of most clubs was 65 or more. He asked the obvious

question: how was Rotary to engage the next generation? There had been a lot of talk that the new generation was “disrespectful” and “lazy” and did not want to belong to an organisation like Rotary. But in fact, there was a “massive opportunity” to engage them. “Engagement is a lot easier and simpler with the younger generation than this [our] generation represents,” he said. There was so much negative press in 2004 about young people coming through that I started to take pay attention.” He had then spent more than three years trying to “get to the bottom of this media hype”.

Michael asked what we were trying to do connect with the new generation. “The new generation may be a surprise to a lot of you,” he said. “This organisation is globally-minded,” he said. “But for this generation, it is the reality.” Because of the speed of communication, the world was now a much smaller place. Ninety-six percent of the new generation were engaging on social media on a daily basis. “Previous generations said the world was too big,” he said. “The younger generation actually think the world can be changed. As far as I can see, Rotary is unparalleled in its capacity to impact the globe. From a membership perspective, they [the younger generation] are socially engaged. This generation are getting involve in their communities. IN the most recent survey 76 percent of teenagers engaged in some form of volunteering on a weekly basis.

Michael said the new generation was also ambitions. They wanted to get ahead with their careers. And they could be helped along by Rotarians. “We underestimate the value of our wisdom,” he said. There was a huge reservoir of wisdom in Rotary. If young people wanted to get ahead, mentoring was critically important. A young person joining Rotary could find himself sitting next to a very useful person and getting free advice and information that might cost a non-Rotarian \$200. “Young people are ideally poised to join your ranks but the reality is they are not seeking to join Rotary or any other service organisations,” he said.

Michael asked why the young people were so unwilling. He found there were three reasons. The first was that they did not really know what Rotary was. “Even though the Rotary brand may be one of the more identifiable brands on the planet, most young people have little real idea of what Rotary is, why it exists, who you are,” he said. By and large the perception of Rotary was positive. They knew Rotary did good, but when it came to specifics there were some interesting responses. One was that it was “an exclusive group of wealthy retired men who socialise together and eat bad food”. “If that is their perception, it is not their fault,” he said.,

The second reason young people were not joining Rotary was because they did not feel they were welcome. He himself had been asked why he did not belong to Rotary and his reply had been that nobody had asked him. “How many young people in your community are in that situation?” he asked. If a young person joined and found members around him or her were 60 years of age or more, would that young person really feel he belonged. ? “I remember going to a meeting where everyone was talking about their heart by-pass operations,” he said. “there was not a great deal I could add to the conversation.”

The third reason was that the young people did not know whether they could afford to belong. There were tremendous demands on young people in this age with respect to time, attention and energy. They had no real grasp as to why they should make Rotary a real priority in their lives. “How do we communicate to them the real reasons for belonging to Rotary?” he asked. It was necessary to look at the challenges Rotarians faced when they engaged this group. The first challenge was that today’s young people would be “just a tiny bit unreliable”. The young people were not sure whether they would be available. “If you ask them what they are doing on the weekend they say they don’t know,” he said. “They decide on the Friday night.” “We have a generation coming through who see the future differently. For this generation there are a whole lot of options. In their lives, they might have five or seven different careers. For a generation growing up in an era of rapid change, their view of the future is different. If at your club you are doing a roster, it will be difficult if you have young members, if you are organising a conference, it is incredibly difficult. They are kids waiting for a better offer”.

What More Have We Gotta DO!



For Your Diaries

8th April. Club meeting at the Novotel hotel.

Club Board meeting following the normal club meeting.

13th April. There will be a Rotary training day for District 9675 at NSW Fire Services, 147 Pyrmont Street, Sydney, on 13th April.

4th May. Rotary Foundation Seminar at the Bankstown Sports Club from 8.30 am till 12.30pm.

11th May. Rotary District Assembly at the Liverpool Catholic Club at 8.30am till 12.30pm.

12th May. Our club is to put on a barbecue at the Mothers' Day Classic at Parramatta Park.

25th May. Community Service and Membership seminar at the Bankstown Sports Club 8.30am till 12.30pm

1st June. MUNA event at State Parliament House. Applications for this close on 17th May.

2nd June. Rotary training seminars at Bankstown Sports Club

New Generations and Vocational Service 8.30am to 12.30pm.

International Service and Public Image from 1 pm till 4.30 pm.

15th June. Sydney Welsh Choir concert at Northmead High.

12th August. This is the tentative date for the Police Officer of the Year Awards (POOTY). This will be a joint program of all three clubs. The date has yet to be confirmed with the police.

24th – 25th August 2019. Rotarians Against Malaria convention in Melbourne.

14th October. District Governor Di North will visit our club.