

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

COMMUNITY NETWORKER No 20/2018-2019

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 13th May 2019

Our Toast

PP Phil Brophy proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of New York, a large and very active club founded in 1909.

Our Guests

The club welcomed three guests: Suren Singh, Elaine McRory and Sabha Delshad



Elaine McRory

Sahba Delshad



Suren Singh

Suren Singh said had been in Sydney for about six years and in the last week had been working around Parramatta. He had made inquiries who she might contact to join Rotary and had been put in touch with Barry Antees. By profession, Suren is a community manager but at present she is job-hunting.

Elaine McRory came to Australia from her native Ireland 22 years ago just to see what was here and three weeks after arrival met her husband-to-be, Paul O'Keefe. Elaine was put in touch with Barry Antees but was quite astonished that he went out of his way to see to follow-up. "We had a great old chat," she said. She is happily married and has daughters aged 15 and 12. Elaine is general manager of an aged care facility at Guildford she said she believed passionately in the work but believed there were many gaps in aged care. "I believe that Rotary will assist me in putting strategies in place to make it easier for those people," she said.

Sahba Delshad works in Parramatta for Multicultural New South Wales, a NSW Government agency. "It would be nice to learn more things about Rotary," she said. She is also applying for a Rotary Peace Scholarship.

The Mothers' Day Classic Barbecue

The barbecue on Sunday, 12th May, was run successfully, with President Malcolm, PE Barry Antees, John Stamboulie, former member John Totonjian, Keith Henning (when not running), and, Keith's son-in-law, Ian Wilson participating. John said we made between \$1,300 and \$1,400 out of day, which was a similar result to our other fun-run barbecue.

The Blood Drive

PE Barry said the club would be embarking on a drive to get members to donate blood and plasma. Prospective member Melissa Souza was poised to take over the coordination. Our club could then put out a challenge to other Rotary clubs to match us, he said. Non-donors could still come and take photographs to put on social media.

The Lift the Lid Event

PE Barry said preparations were being made for the Lift the Lid event on 10th October at the Novotel. The main fund-raising event would be High Tea. Barry said we would want an MC or entertainer for the day and the team was putting its thinking caps on. The hotel was "on board" and staff would be instructed to wear an outstanding hat all day. The organising committee would brief the staff prior to the day on the mental health event and make it a fun day. We would set up an information booth for people who came and went with members of the club being rostered on and to accept donations.

The June Concert

At the board meeting on 12th May, PE Barry raised concerns that we need a proper risk assessment for the school hall at Northmead High where the Sydney Welsh Choir and school concert band are to perform. He felt there needed to be an independent consultant to do this. From the proceeds, half will go to the school P&C and half to Rotary, and of that the Parramatta City and Parramatta Daybreak Rotary clubs will take a half-share each.

Police Officer of the Year

John Stamboulie told the board meeting that the Police Officer of the Year event was in hand and that more information would be available in a couple of weeks.

Graffiti Removal

PE Barry Antees said he proposed to make graffiti removal part of the club's program. He was recommending that the Club apply for a district grant to get a graffiti removal trailer. This was approved by the Board. He hoped to be able to get out with a team, possibly organised on a roster basis, once a month to do the cleaning. He had 30 people already lined up to participate and he thought it was an ideal thing for people to have a "hands-on" Rotary experience. He added: "We need to upgrade the club with new funds and new ideas. If we stick with the same-old, same-old, we will end up doing nothing."

Human Rights and Development

Sabha Clara Delshad, born of Persian Jordanian and Palestinian parents, has dedicated her life to human rights and development. She came with her parents to Australia when they migrated in the 1980s, and grew up in Wagga Wagga where people of other ethnicities were few and far between. "It was a racist town," she said. "I was set on fire and called a 'black bitch'." Her parents had already suffered persecution because they belonged to the Baha'i faith in Iran, with adherents being attacked. Girls as young as 14 were publicly hanged in Iran. She decided she wanted to help people who were at a disadvantage in society. She studied natural medicine for a few years to help people in developing countries. Then she became involved in public health to help larger groups of people. She spent eight years working in Australia in sexual and reproductive health. She worked with Aborigines, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ people, people suffering from AIDS, migrants and refugees and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

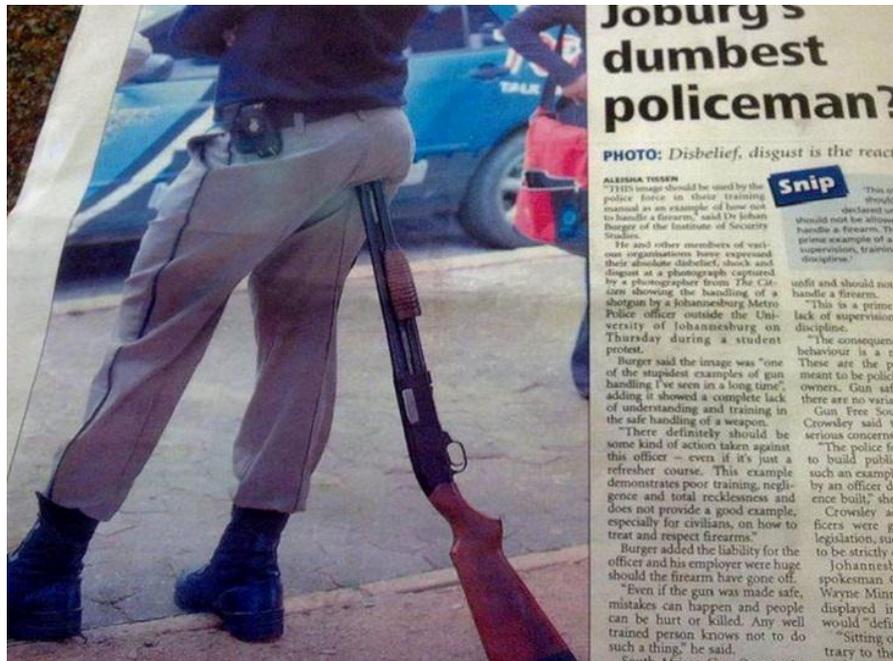
Sabha decided to broaden her horizons and work overseas. She went to an island school in Vanuatu. She helped raise money for a first-aid shelter. She saw in Vanuatu a society where people did not have much material wealth but were all prepared to pitch in and help each other. Sabha also went to East Timor during the last big conflict, when a third of the population were displaced and there were 7.3 births per woman. She helped train nurses to give health education in refugee camps. Sabha had to confront ethical problems during her campaign for human rights. One was that the oil company funding her in East Timor revealed it was going to come into East Timor and ask for concessions on the strength of what it had done for the community. She left after a few months and did a Master's degree in international development, which "changed my life".

After her study, she went to Bangkok and worked among young sex workers and those who had been diagnosed with HIV. "I worked with these people in South-East Asia to build their capacity to advocate their rights," she said. She went to Sri Lanka where she acted as a United Nations expert speaker on gender-based violence. "We know a lot of perpetrators of domestic violence have had that experience," she said. "We developed programs to teach resilience. Sabha then worked in Australia for Relationships Australia and has lectured at university in International Health. Having a strong focus on multiculturalism throughout her career, she recently started working for working for social cohesion and community harmony within New South Wales.

Last year, a tech company from San Francisco contacted her and asked her to come to America. She got leave from the NSW Government and went to San Francisco where she contributed to the discourse of reducing disparity between the rich and poor, race unity and gender equality. She saw in the Bay Area that people were fabulously wealthy. Back in her NSW Government job for Multicultural New South Wales, she works on the topic of multiculturalism in South-West Sydney, New England and Northern New South Wales. Sabha works with government agencies including police, education, health and justice as well as community and religious leaders to identify local

issues and come up with local solutions. For the last few months she has been working with local council, church and community groups in Grafton to create social cohesion. She is now applying for a Peace Scholarship as she wants to advance her learning and networks but is conscious that only 50 such scholarships are awarded throughout the world.

Poignant Picture



For Your Diaries

- 25th May.** Seminars on Community Service and on Membership at the Bankstown Sports Club.
- 1st June.** MUNA event at State Parliament House.
- 2nd June.** Two Rotary training seminars at the Bankstown Sports Club.
- 11th June.** Board meeting at 4 pm at the ARH offices in Hunter Street, Parramatta, where we will set the fees and agenda for the following 12 months.
- 15th June.** The Sydney Welsh Choir concert at Northmead High. Tickets available at www.trybooking.com/494847
- 24th June.** Extended club luncheon where we will have the club changeover.
- 29th June.** Holroyd Rotary Club changeover At the Holroyd Centre, Miller street, Merrylands.
- 1st July.** Launch of the Cash Prize Raffle.
- 20th July.** Xmas in July (Indian style) at Ginger's Restaurant in Harris Park.
- 28th July.** National Tree Day.
- 2nd August.** Presentation night for Rotary Emergency Services at Bankstown Sports Club.