

## **COMMUNITY NETWORKER**

### **ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY, DISTRICT 9675**

#### **Rotary Four-Way Test**

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask 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 18 November 2013**

#### **The Tri-District Meeting**

This meeting was part of a “Tri-District” Rotary Foundation dinner at the Epping Club where we were to be introduced by our President-elect of Rotary International, Garry Kwan. Two of the districts were 9675 and 9685, which take in the Sydney metropolitan area. There was another district, DG-elect Barry Antees assured us, and because it was Barry’s assurance, it must be so. The meeting was chaired by Tom Sweeney, from the Rotary Club of Crows Nest West, and we were welcomed by Graeme Davies, DG of District 9685, which extends from Manly to Lake Macquarie and out to Lithgow, has 78 clubs and nearly 2,000 Rotarians, and includes Epping. Graham welcomed Barry Antees and the DG-elect for District 9685, Ian Scott. He also welcomed our Guest of Honour, Rotary International President-elect, Gary C.K.Huang, from Taiwan. During the evening, a number of Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded.

#### **Our Guest**

DG Garry Browne, introducing Gary Huang, said Gary had been a member of Rotary for 37 years, after having been rejected three times for membership. Gary had become renowned for his growth strategy. As DG for District 3450, he had chartered 19 new clubs in Taiwan and Taipei. He was not stopping, and driven by a desire to share the spirit of Rotary and get others to share the experience. He had founded clubs in China and Mongolia. Through such a network of clubs world-wide, he hoped the world would become a better place to be.

#### **Gary Huang**

Gary started by teaching the gathering the Chinese for ‘How are you?’ (Nee-How?) and “I am fine thank you”. (How Shi Shi, or at least as close as I can get scribbling it down phonetically) and said that having mastered that, the assembled Rotarians were fit to travel to Taiwan. He had the honour, he said, of being the first Chinese Rotarian to be taking the chair of President of RI. It had already taken him across the world. In the previous two months, he had spent only two days in Taipei, and otherwise been in

Miami, Russia, Argentina, Mexico, Italy, New Zealand and elsewhere. The next day, he would be going to Melbourne, then to Canberra, and following that he was off to Israel. Gary, who was a DG in 1986/87, was happy to be in Australia which was the venue for the next RI convention.

“I think Taiwanese and Australians have a lot in common,” he said. “Both of us have ancestors who came from somewhere else looking for a better life.” His own family had left mainland China when he was a year old because they opposed the communist regime and wanted a better life for Gary and his sister. Gary wanted to same for his own children, who were now in the United States and bringing up their own families. He thought that being a Rotarian was a bit like a parent. Their children were all over the world who were also deserving of the best chance they could get. “They all deserve to go to school, be safe and grow up to be healthy and strong. We hope for a good future. As Rotarians we want to take care of their children, to make sure they have the best opportunity for life. They deserve the best chance we can give them and that is why we have the Rotary Foundation, so that we can do everything we can for everyone who needs help.”

Gary spoke at length about the world-wide campaign for the total eradication of polio. In the next five years, he said, Rotary would double its donations in the fight against the disease. There were three countries left where the disease was endemic: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. But that could be put right. “When we all get together, we can do anything,” he said.

### **Typhoon Haiyan**

At the board meeting for Parramatta City Rotary, President Keith said the club had \$1,600 to send to the Philippines to help in the recovery from Typhoon Haiyan. Members had promised or given \$600 of that. The money would be used by our sister club, Ramon Magsaysay, for the distribution of packages of food and other items to the severely damaged districts.

Keith had sent the money on Tuesday this week to our sister club. The following day, he received this email:

*Hi Keith,*

*On behalf of the members of Rc Ramon Magsaysay and the filipino people who were most affected by the super typhoon I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the members of Rc Paramatta city especially to you for your effort in helping through your cash donations to our people rest assured we will all exert our effort that your donations will serve the purpose of giving relief goods to areas not yet recieving any aid. Again, a million thanks to you all.*

*Fcp Mina*

*Rc Ramon Magsaysay*



RC of Ramon Magsaysay Rotarians at work preparing relief supplies.

### **News from Indian Project**

Amitav Goswami was presented with a Paul Harris Award by our Club earlier in the year. He has received an email about a project supported as a result of his firm's generosity:

*Dear Amitav,*

*We are happy to report that our six-month skill development course under Tublu Memorial Handicrafts Training Project at Vidyanagar, Amtala (South 24 Paraganas District, West Bengal) has just been completed successfully. This Project came into being in May 2013, with financial support from the Rotary Club of Paramatta City(Australia), through your own kind initiative.*

*Eighteen women from low income families living in the villages surrounding Amtala have now become adept in fine hand embroidery work for which there is considerable demand in the market. They have already started production and can now look forward to a steady stream of income from sale of their beautiful products organised by Karma Kutir. This latest (and third) batch of trainees received their certificates of proficiency on 11 November 2013 .The certificates were awarded after oral and practical tests conducted by experts. Prizes were also given for meritorious performance and full attendance. A number of beneficiaries from the two previous courses were also present.*

*The happy event on the 11th - which included serving of refreshments - took place in District Library of Vidyanagar (Amtala). Several office-bearers of the Library and the Librarian Shri Madhusudan Choudhury addressed the gathering, encouraging the women to become self reliant through their newly acquired skills. Three women from the previous courses recounted their positive experiences following from their training. Dr. Mukul Mukherjee, Shrimati Neelu Kejriwal and Shrimati Ratnavali Chakravrti ( President, Secretary and Treasurer of Karma Kutir respectively ) also spoke briefly, thanking the Library authorities for their whole-hearted cooperation in conducting the training courses and recalling with gratitude the very special contribution made by the Rotary Club of Paramatta city towards economic empowerment of needy rural women of Vidyanagar(Amtala).*

*With our warmest thanks and every good wish for the coming year,  
Khukudi*

*(Mukul Mukherjee)*

### **Dates for Diaries**

25 November. Club Meeting, speaker John Surian. 'Parramatta Today and in the Future'

28 November. District Training Day, Liverpool Catholic Club. . The subjects this time will be Building Consensus, Time Management and Presentation Skills.

9 December. Annual General Meeting of the club. Speaker Ron Edgar

The next Bunnings barbecues will be on 4 January next year, following by barbecues on 5 April, 5 July and 18 October.

### **Apologies and Guests**

Apologies to Joy Gillett on 8837 1900 before 9.30 am on Monday morning.

This is the latest time apologies can be accepted as numbers must to be given to the hotel by this time.

If you a bringing a guest please also advise this to Joy by that time to ensure a meal is prepared.

The Club is required to pay for the number of lunches ordered. Invoices for the cost of a meal will be sent to members by Vandana if you do not apologise for non-attendance by the time stated.

### **Taps on Yudhoyono**

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has reacted with predictable and justifiable fury at revelations that Australian intelligence agencies have been tapping his telephone. It is another chapter in the ongoing uncomfortable saga of Australian-Indonesian relations. The nation of almost 247 million souls is our nearest substantial neighbour which privately, in the deeper recesses of their consciousness, Australians fear, because of its size and periodic belligerence towards neighbours. There was no

protest from the Whitlam Government when the Indonesians marched into East Timor in 1975 and all the way through Australia has been cautious and its protests muted. I remember covering a story where an activist for Irian Jaya, wanting to stir up support for that region's independence movement, was hunted down in Australia and detained by Australian Federal Police.

Joint military exercises are being conducted in spite of the diplomatic furore, but there is unease, and a feeling that one day perhaps the co-belligerents might one day be opposed to each other. The likelihood of hostilities actually breaking out is small, and in comparative terms Australia is militarily strong. And there is a case for continuing military cooperation. But the revelations of spying have done serious damage.

On the asylum seekers issue, when it gets down to the raw bones of it, Australia, a wealthy country with a privileged lifestyle with just over 22.5 million is asking this huge, underprivileged country with its problems of desperate poverty, to help preserve Australia's privileged lifestyle by taking back other hopelessly disadvantaged people trying to get here. The Indonesians have said no, even though those rescued from their sinking boats are in Indonesian waters and Australia could quite rightly have left the problem to the Indonesians. It is a serious, seemingly intractable problem, and Prime Minister Abbott, now in the hot seat, must play his cards carefully.

It is, as always, vital to have good intelligence. Australia and New Zealand are predominantly white enclaves in Asia and to the north hundreds of millions of people who might one day want to unseat us, militant Islamists who might want to blow us up, other extremist groups who might seize national power in Indonesia. But there is no point in provoking serious confrontation in our efforts to prevent it.

**Malcolm Brown**