

COMMUNITY NETWORKER

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY, DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

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 9 December 2013

Annual General Meeting

President Keith declared the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the club open and the following positions were filled over the next six minutes:

President elect for 2015/2016: Vandana Setia

Secretary: Joy Gillett

Treasurer: Phil Brophy

Board: Malcolm Brown, Natalie Cowell, Ben Jackson, Bob Rosengreen,. John Totonjian.

Ron Edgar is president-elect for 2014/15 and all other positions will become operative at the changeover meeting next year.

Matching Grant donation Dr Gosh Charitable Trust, Kolkata, India.

President Keith read out an email from our Indian Rotary Club partner referring to the donation, through a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, to the Dr. Ghosh Charitable Trust Kolkata, of a Critical Care Ambulance, Bio Chemical Auto Analyzer, Tread Mill Test & Holter machine. This was commissioned on 2nd December by Past R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee & Binota Banerjee and other dignatories and trustees of Dr. Ghosh Charitable Trust.



Rotary International Convention

President Keith reminded us about the need to register for the Rotary International Convention before 15 December but the word is that registrations from the district have come to about 40 percent of members so it appears we miss the rebate. Keith said that when the convention took place, our club would organise a function for our sister club in the Philippines and invite some other international guests.

Barbecues

There will be a Bunnings barbecue on 4 January from 8 am to 4 pm. A number of members volunteered to help but more would be most welcome. Shifts will be organised so individual volunteers will not be required for the whole day

The Australia Day BBQ on Australia Day is coming up. President Elect Ron Edgar agreed to coordinate this activity.

Clean Rotary

Bob Rosengreen, following a conversation in Vandana's restaurant, said he believed that a change in world culture to reduce corruption could well be led by the Rotary movement. President-elect Vandana concurred and Ray Reed said: "It must be made clear by Rotary to anyone associated with our project that we will not accept anything like [bribery]."

Mercy Ships

SBS Television this week showed a program about a Mercy Ship visit to the West Coast of Africa, where visiting medicos dealt with horrible cases of medical neglect. It was of particular interest as it was a project supported by Rotary, and anyone watching could hardly have failed to be moved, even if the little girl who had a massive tumour cut from her face was still unable to use the affected eye.

Australian Rotary Health

DG-elect Barry said the Australian Rotary Health dinner at the Epping Club had been very successful, with a superlative performance by Steve Bradbury. President Keith and Mark Hancock had been specially mentioned for their contributions to the funding.

Christmas Party and Theatre Night

A vote of thanks was carried for Natalie Cowell for arranging the excellent meal at Ribs'n'Rumps and the show at the Riverside Theatre.

Meeting 16th December

This will be our last meeting of 2013. It will be a special Christmas lunch and partners are invited.

The speaker will be our own Steve Burfield and his topic will be 'What does Christmas mean to you?'

If you are bringing a guest or partner please let Joy know before 9.30am on Monday – otherwise there may be insufficient meals provided.

District Rotary Training

Malcolm Brown attended a second Rotary training session at the Liverpool Catholic Club, where Bruce Farquharson, of the Camden Rotary Club pointed out the value of clear instructions and the need for club training officers to coach members on the art of presenting cases simply and expeditiously.

Tony Benner, of the Rotary Club of Sydney, who is chairman of the district committee on public relations and marketing, expounded on the value of consensus, which was particularly important for incoming presidents. He said that when a project was proposed, it was sensible to get people from the public who knew the value of the project to give a presentation. It was also necessary for the president to suss out who among the members supported the project and get them to speak publicly in support.

Alek Jankowski, also of the Rotary Club of Camden, spoke about the SMART principle in presenting the project to the club.

This was: S=Specific; A=Measurable; A=Achievable; S=Reasonable; R=Realistic and T=Time.

It was important, he said, to have focus. Otherwise the Pareto Principle came into effect, where, “Eighty percent of unfocussed effort produces 20 percent of results. And procrastination, he said, was the “enemy of efficient planning.”

The Marriage of Heritage and Progress



Ron Edgar

Ron Edgar said that Parramatta, where we were based, had always posed some interesting challenges for town planning, having been established originally as a seat of government and a farming community and having many buildings of heritage value. There are practical limitations to planning, such as a 12-metre limit to the height of buildings in the centre of the city to protect the scale of the most original streetscape. Also, the vistas between the World heritage listed Old Government House within the Governors Domain and the historic view lines to the coast and Port Jackson have a significant influence on the scale and form of development across the CBD. Various other allowances had to be made for aesthetics, such as the view-lines between the church spires of All Saints, St Patricks and St Johns. But in other areas, developments that had no obvious impact on heritage might still have relevant impacts, such a vibrations from building work and changes to the geology of the

foundations resulting from construction of underground car parks having an affect on the water table causing differential settlement and cracking in older buildings. These have had an impact on the historic Lancer Barracks, producing cracking and uneven settlement.

Ron said the services of his firm, FORM Architects, were used far afield, such as in Victoria where advice was sought for development of a new community centre and golf club, in conjunction with Greg Norman, in Marysville after the bush-fires, and in Cooktown which had seen a huge downturn because of airline difficulties and the decline of visitor numbers and establishment of sustainable industries to employ the skills residing in the community. There were multitudes of conflicts to be taken into account. There was very little that was just straight planning. In Haberfield, it was proposed to convert the old, disused post office into a pizzeria, but a band of local residents strenuously objected to changing the nature of an historic building despite the Post Office licensee having relocated 5 years previously. The architect needs to be as flexible as the changing demands on buildings, such as the Uniting Church taking over the site of a petrol station that was, also, the site for the original Holroyd Council Chambers and the construction of an observatory at the University of Western Sydney, in response to a comment from the university's Chancellor that he wanted that "astrological centre" at the university, just as there was an observatory in Parramatta Park in the 1800s.

Wherever the commissions come from, Ron has to be ready for them. SCEGGS Redlands at Cremorne wanted a master plan for redesign of its buildings and the development of new science facilities. The original school building, the Liggins Building, had to be restored and the school given a new covered quadrangle. Projects come from anywhere, one from Alexandria in the inner city, and other from Wahroonga. Kuringai Council had taken a particular project to court in an appeal case and had lost they then appealed and lost again wasting much money and time for all involved. There were many arguments about heritage value, a lot going to the Land and Environment Court. Every project, whether from a houses at Lilli Pilli, Seaforth, Mosman or Ashfield, present different sets of challenges, and like the English batsmen in the present test series, he always had to be ready for the googly. DG-elect Barry thanked Ron and congratulated Ron on his address, which pulled together the processes or creativity and responsiveness to what was already there.

Dates for Diaries

The next Bunnings barbecue will be on 4 January next year, following by Australia Day barbecue on 26 January in Parramatta Park. The Club is also booked to provide barbecues at Bunnings 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 are 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.

President Mandela

Like everyone else in the world, I could only marvel at Nelson Mandela, who rose Christ-like from immense suffering – 27 year imprisonment because the Apartheid regime objected to him – to forgive and implore his African countrymen to make peace and pursue democratic reform. He had done 27 years for his beliefs. Nobody could touch him. If he had not died for the sins of others he had certainly suffered for them. He could do what he wanted. Had he pursued a vendetta of revenge, he would undoubtedly have had a following. But he rose above it.

But what a vast difference between him and Robert Mugabe, of Zimbabwe, who gained supreme power, brushing aside the challenge of the more flexible and consultative Joshua Nkomo and proceeding with his illiberal and oppressive regime. Under Mugabe, Zimbabwe went backwards. The Europeans who remained were in danger and their farms were taken over and in many cases sent “back to the bush” through neglect. When Mandela moved his country forward into a modern, civilised community – despite the vast areas of need – Mugabe’s Zimbabwe went back to pre-colonial times.

And what happened when the person at the pinnacle stepped down? Mandela did five years as president and stepped down in a perfectly orderly manner. Mugabe was beaten in a democratic election in 2007 by Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for Democratic Change simply brushed that result aside as well. Mugabe turns 90 next year but nobody in the power structure below him, which survives because of his patronage, wants him to go. And when he does, inevitably, die, there is likely to be another violent power struggle.

I met Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Sydney some years ago. He is another giant on the South African political scene. He was jolly and laughing at a lot of things. But a couple of months before I had seen him on television responding when he saw someone in the crowd about to be “necklaced”, with a burning tyre around their upper torso. He simply strode into the mob and ordered that it stop. It is people like that, Mandela and Tutu, who represent the greatest promise for the future. But there are so few of them, and those in the past who have taken a similar line, like Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to make an official visit to Israel, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was awarded the 1994 Nobel Prize for World Peace, have paid with their lives.

Malcolm Brown