

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 16 December 2013

Our Guest

Mike Jaduram, a Fijian-born New Zealander of mixed Indian-German ancestry, was introduced to the club by his long-time friend, DG-elect Barry Antees. Mike has been in Rotary for 42 years and has been a charter member of three Rotary Clubs. In 1998-99 he was DG of District 9920, which comprises 49 clubs, 33 in Auckland and the rest scattered through Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, Raratonga, Tahiti, Christmas Island, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati and Tonga. He said that his present club, Auckland Harbourside, started with 15 members each from the Chinese, Indian and Pakeha [European] communities. It now had 16 different nationalities and was 25 percent women. The club celebrated Indian and Chinese New Years, which were profitable events for the club, each raising \$15,000, and had a new event, "Best of British". A pharmacist by profession, he had had to do a great deal of travel in his DG year, and he had initiated the position of Assistant DG in New Zealand. He was visiting Sydney to accomplish a number of tasks, one being to persuade an elderly man of Baulkham Hills to celebrate his 77th birthday.



President Keith with PDG Mike Jaduram

Christmas Tree Sales

Sales have gone well this year, despite roadworks inhibiting access to our sales site in Glenhope Road, West Pennant Hills. As of Monday, we had sold an estimated 376 trees and we were ordering another 100 to see out the selling season. The sales results are stronger than last year and we are looking forward to a profit of up to \$11,000. Among other things, we had to get a new supply of stands. Bob Rosengreen said a good idea for next year was that we publish in our brochures and on the internet a prominent mobile phone number because a lot of potential buyers wanted to check first.

My Job/Your Job

DG-elect Barry and Phil Brophy received certificates of appreciation from the Hills Community Aid for volunteering as speakers at the My Career/Your Career seminar for handicapped people.

Barbecues

President Keith reminded us of the Bunnings barbecue on 4 January from 8 am to 4 pm. President-elect Ron Edgar has taken on the job of organising the Australia Day barbecue. There was also a request from organisers of the Women's Triathlon to run a barbecue in Parramatta Park on 16 March next year. The event being so big, we might need to bring in help from other Rotary clubs.

International Convention Hospitality

Keith said that on the Tuesday of the convention next year it was proposed to host visiting Rotarians in an event of our own, probably in the Novotel Hotel. He was hoping to get some prominent guests, such as Robert Opira, who is a past Foundation Peace Scholar. He would like to have some guests from the Livingston Club in Uganda, and Bob Selinger, a Rotarian volunteer from USA. Keith said he also wanted to have as guests members from our Philippine sister club, Ramon Magsaysay.

Barefoot Bowls

President Keith reminded us of the inter-club Barefoot Bowls day at the Parramatta RSL Club on Monday, 10 February. The organisers would be wanting advance notice of the number. Keith, with tongue in cheek, urged all potential participants to get out over Christmas and practice. There would not be a Parramatta City Rotary lunch time meeting that day.

Salvation Army Hamper

The club passed round the hat for a Christmas hamper for the Salvation Army, two of whose members, Major Alwyn Robinson and Steve Burfield, are stalwarts of the club. In a couple of minutes we raised \$177, which was presented to Alwyn.

The Centenary of Gallipoli

The big event is coming up in 2015. Keith said he had had an approach from Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club to participate in some way. Keith thought that an appropriate direction would be to engage schools in some way, perhaps to sponsor a debate between selected schools in the Parramatta area, or to sponsor an essay writing or art competition on the ANZAC theme. There could be a \$5,000 minimum Federal Government grant to run such a program. We had till 31 January next year to put a proposal in, and Keith thought that it would probably be better to have all three Parramatta Rotary Clubs involved.

What's Christmas All About Then?

Steve Burfield, who is shortly to move from the City to a base in Auburn to carry out his role as public relations and fundraising manager for the Salvation Army in the Greater Western area of Sydney, had been asked by his soul-mate Glenn Gardner to speak at the lunch. Steve thought it might be appropriate to put to the members what their own perceptions were of Christmas. Ralph Cadman was in quickly, pointing out

that for so many of the marginalised in society, Christmas brought no joy. Ron Edgar, whose wife is a medical scientist, said that for some reason medical emergencies which required her attendance multiplied at Christmas time. "It is a really weird phenomenon," he said

Mike Jaduram weighed in on the positive side. He said that in Fiji, where all religions tended to flourish, Christmas was a genuine celebration. "TO me, it is the most important thing in the world," he said. Barry Antees said his mother had produced a book on the family genealogy going back centuries and had a photo of himself, which happened to be one of him doing an impersonation of a Frill-Necked Lizard. The larger family, he said, was now widely dispersed and one of the sadder aspects of Christmas was the distances involved in getting families together.

I gave a couple of anecdotes relation to nice things that happen at Christmas time, such as my daughter at age five, hearing a conversation between myself and my wife on having no money to go and have tea and scones, quietly slipping \$20 into her mother's purse, the money being a gift her grandmother had given her. I also spoke about an event in 1994 when, having demonstrated extraordinary incompetence with a motor vehicle on the outskirts of the Strzelecki Desert, turning up exhausted and bewildered at a grazier's home and getting a cordial invitation to come in, have a beer, meet the wife and watch the cricket.

Ron Edgar was rather more nostalgic, recalling the farm the family had at Prospect, which was torn up to accommodate the M4 Freeway. The freeway went right through the place where the farmhouse stood and the tree the children used to swing on was in a culvert in the side of the road. Ben Jackson said that though the home was intact, one of the family members would not be present. His wider family was coming to Sydney from Adelaide but his stepdaughter had chosen to absent herself, going instead to Japan with her boyfriend.

There were, said Mark Cadman, many different aspects to Christmas, coming at the end of the school year, mixed with the anticipation of children for the material rewards of Christmas, and for the believers the religious celebration. Steve Burfield summed up things a little differently by reading a poem, *What Does Christmas Mean to Me?* By Angela Trehhom:

Forts so grand and snow ball fights,
Plump little men made of snow,
Sledding down hills (oh what a sight),
With cold red faces all aglow.

Lights that sparkle on garlands f pine,
How they twinkle, how they shine!
And glimmering tinsel on the tree,
Hiding presents for you and me.

Time spent with loved ones so dear,
Singing, gathered 'round the tree,
"Jingle Bells" and 'Rudolph the Reindeer, -
Is this was Christmas means to me?

Nay, oh what wonder, Yea, what delight!
As I focus on Christian love;
How Emmanuel, God with us,
Came down to earth from above.

Christmas is just the beginning,
A necessary part of his plan,
He sent the Saviour, the Lord and King,
To die for fallen man.

To die, but the story does not end there,
On that sorrowful hill called Mount Calvary.
Three days later, he arose! My sin's paid for!
The gift of God – Salvation – is full and free.

Jesus' birth, His life, and yea, His death,

‘Whosoever will may come’ is his plea!
My soul’s redemption by His great sacrifice –
This is what Christmas means to me.

Dates for Diaries

The next Bunnings barbecue will be on 4 January next year, followed by the Australia Day barbecue.

The next club meeting will be on 13 January. The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, 18 February.

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.

The Downfall of the Poms

There was some hope, when the Australians lost their three-test series in the most recent UK tour, that some life might come back into the international cricket scene. The English had won tests from time to time, but now they might at last give us a run for our money. But when the English landed in Australia, under the captaincy of the so-far hapless Alistair Cook, the same old pattern reasserted itself, when so often the only question remaining is whether Australia is going to enforce the follow-on, or whether it will declare. Ben Stokes did raise some eyebrows with his spirited century in the Third Test just completed, and he was still going when I left for a meeting on Tuesday afternoon. But when I got to the meeting they were all out. Stokes had lasted another three runs and the rest had gone down the plughole.

The real reason for this chronic Australian ascendancy is in my view the structure of the game in both countries. In England, where cricket, like so many other sports, was invented, it has always been associated with lush green landscape, marquees for cups of tea, and gentlemen. The county competition, though aspiring to high standards, is a similar gentlemanly affair. There are lots of counties and plenty of cricket, but nothing of the fierce rivalry that is seen between the Australian states.

The Australian states are virtually countries in their own right. There has been intense competitiveness from colonial days. But beyond that is the harshness of the backdrop. Even in district cricket in the west of New South Wales where I grew up, there is nothing of the relaxed atmosphere and behaviour of gentfolk. The landscape is tough, the distances needed for travel formidable. But because this is our one true national sport, the ambitious players make those journeys.

That point about being a true national sport is important. It is Australia’s defining sport. It is the same with Rugby Union in New Zealand – giving identity to a country which would otherwise be just a couple of rocks in the ocean. No football code gives Australia its defining identity. It is just cricket. Virtually every Australian schoolboy with an interest in sport knows who is in the Australian cricket team. And with all that for the taking, the movement through the grades and onto Sheffield Shield is a slugfest.

England does not need a sport to define itself. Not a country that has defied the might of the Spaniards, French and Germans and created, at its peak, the greatest empire the world has ever known. Everyone else has an inferiority complex, and that brings aggression. When Michael Clarke told an English batsman to “get ready for a f..... broken arm”, that was not atypical of an Australian confronting a Pommie. Years ago I saw an interview by BBC Television by a highly refined English journalist, who tried to get Australian captain into an interview. Chappell was not in a good mood. The journalist asked why he was so aggressive. Chappell said: “It’s because of the stupid questions you’re asking.” The journalist asked which questions were stupid. Chappell replied: “Try all of them”. The journalist asked: “Well how would you conduct this interview?” Chappell grabbed the microphone, pretended for a moment to be an interviewer, then tossed it on the ground and walked off.

In London I was assigned to interview the English cricket captain, Mike Brearley. It was rather a tall order. The interviewers are normally specialist writers with an intimate knowledge of the game. It quickly became clear to Brearley that I was not in that category, and he became a little testy, but he allowed me to persevere. I had an article published and then wrote to him thanking him. I was then assigned to interview Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg, who had a reputation for pugnaciousness and had been involved in controversy. I got nowhere with him and barely escaped being bashed. To me that is so often the difference between the sides. One lot are gentlemen, the other are not, and the roughheads get out there and beat the socks off their opponents.

Malcolm Brown