

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675

www.parramattacityrotary.org.au

Rotary Four Way Test

The Four Way Test' challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask of 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 17 March 2014

Police Officer of the Year

President Keith reminded us again of the Police Officer of the Year award presentation on 12 May. Nomination forms were available on the club's website. Joy Gillett has said that there are two nominations so far for the award.

Australian Rotary Health Evening

Keith reminded us also of the Australian Rotary Health evening on 7 April. More than 20 people had indicated they would be present but so far nobody from our own club had said they would be there, which was an odd situation for a club that was putting on the event.

Triathlon Pink Barbecue

The Triathlon Pink barbecue at Parramatta Park on Sunday was a success, with good work from volunteers, including Johnny Ching's daughter, Kimberley. There was a turnover of \$2,000 and profit of \$1,225. The club was able to give nearly 200 buns and eggs to the Parramatta Mission, a donation of a bit over \$100. The drinks and sausages left over would be available for our next barbecue.

St Peter's Junior School Uganda

Keith said he received a message from Robert Opira, director of St Peter's Junior School in Uganda. Robert, a Rotarian who has studied at Queensland University, doing post-graduate work as a Rotary Peace Scholar, was developing his school. Our club had already contributed to the project, including funding of a bus. But now Robert had several classrooms finished except for roofs. He needed \$2,750 for that

and was writing to Rotarians seeking funding. Keith said that a private donation of \$500 for the project had already been despatched.

If any member would like to assist donations should go to Vandana Setia. They would be channelled through Rotary Australian World Community Service (RAWCS) and were tax deductible.



School Principal with new desks - Unfinished classrooms in background.

Joy Gillett

Joy will be away from this week for three weeks in the United States, representing Rotary

Apologies and Guests

Apologies to Joy Gillett on 8837 1900 before 9.30 am on Monday morning. This still applies during Joy's absence overseas – a member of her staff will take apology.

This is the latest time apologies can be accepted as numbers must 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.

The International Convention

Volunteers required.

The International Convention was coming up at the beginning of June. Keith had received a message from Walter Bock who was seeking volunteers to work around venues at Parramatta, including the Parkroyal, Novotel and Parkside Apartments

However since the meeting the request has been changed.

The only venue for where volunteers are sought is Lidcombe Railway Station. We are to direct Rotarians onto the right train at Lidcombe Railway Station. This is for the first day and possibly a couple of hours on the second day. To Walter the first day is Sunday, the proper start of the Convention.

Now that means if you can nominate one or possibly two people to do that job, that is all I am after.

Sunday BBQ

There would be a barbecue for visitors to the convention outside the ANZ Stadium on Sunday, 1 June and our club might be required to send someone to assist as we have offered the organisers the use of our BBQ trailer.

International Evening Tuesday 3rd June

Our club would be putting on a special dinner for visitors on 3 June. The guests would include visiting Rotarians from Zambia and from our sister club, Ramon Magsaysay, in the Philippines. They would be doing a presentation of the community projects they had on board.

Our Visiting Rotarian

The club welcomed Dashrath Prajapati from the Rotary Club of Mansa, in East Punjab, India. It was part of District 3051. Dashra spoke to the club through the agency of Ranjana, speaking Hindi, and presented plaques to President Keith and District Governor-elect Barry.



Dates for Diaries

- 5 April. BBQ Bunnings.
- 7 April. Australian Rotary Health PhD Scholars Evening.
- 11 April – 7 June Bowelcare Project
- 13 April. District Assembly. Liverpool Catholic Club. **All incoming Board members.**
- 12 May. Police Officer of the Year.
- 25 May. Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.
- 3 June. Special Club Night for Rotary International Convention
- 30 June. Changeover.

Progress in the Philippines

President Keith received the following email:

Hello! Pres. Keith, Attached is the picture of the chairs to be donated for the mangyan school children. These were supposed to be turned it over to Sister Valenton months ago, but because of different schedules of each members our trip to Mindoro was always reset. Hopefully, by this month we could deliver these chairs. The chairs are already in the custody of sister Valenton in Mindoro.

Once again, thank you for you continued support in this project and the school children of the mangyan minorities will always be grateful knowing there are other foreign clubs like RC Parramatta City supporting in their struggle to have a decent life.

My warm regards to you and your family and also to the members of RC Parramatta City.

Yours In Rotary Service

First Class President Mina Bonita

RC Ramon Magsaysay





Teaching English in Da Nang

I gave an account of my experience in Da Nang as a volunteer teaching English to university student over a period of three weeks. The students were at Da Nang University, Dong A University and the University of Technology. The students were very bright and keen, but suffered because they have had to learn their English from books and lag far behind in speaking the language. Their teachers might have spent a short time abroad but themselves are not fluent. Yet English has become so important in the world.

Texts for study had been set by the University of Washington in Seattle but appeared to be ridiculously complex. One study on “intelligence” said: “Most people have an intuitive notion of what intelligence is. Yet no universally accepted notion of intelligence exists, and people continue to debate, exactly, what it is. Fundamental questions remain. Is intelligence general ability of several independent sets of ability? Is intelligence a property of the brain, a characteristic of behaviour, or a set of knowledge and skills?” The text then went on to differentiate cognitive functions and empathy.

I tried to discuss that with them but could not get beyond the first sentence, so I started singing them songs, which they repeated and sang. They greatly enjoyed it, though they keep up the Vietnamese habit of not pronouncing the last syllables. I tried to teach them “Danny Boy”, and they sang: “Oh Danny Boy, the pie the pie are calling”... Their teacher, who had left me alone with them, pointed out that it did not help with their lessons they were supposed to be doing and they were facing exams in seven weeks. So I reverted to trying to penetrate this linguistic fog to get at these obtuse concepts. I told the teacher that the texts were not appropriate for people learning a language. They were more appropriate for people, already totally conversant with English, taking up Psychology. She shrugged her shoulders and said that the texts had come from “above” and they were stuck with it.

I did get along with a lot of the students. Some of the girls got around me and said they would take me to a restaurant for a special treat. I thought I would go to some exotic place. I had seen baked Sea Horses on one menu and wanted to see what that was like. But instead they took me to Lotteria, which is an equivalent to McDonald’s, and they all had an ice cream.

I got on very well with one of the girls, Hồng Vân Nguyễn (English name Leanne) whose father fought with the Viet Cong but who herself goes to a Catholic church in Da Nang. I told her I might be able to get some funding to bring out a few selected students to Australia. They would learn English intensively for perhaps four weeks and be accommodated by a Rotarian family. I did not make a commitment but have spoken to Neil Adamson, of the Rotary Literacy Project. It has not gone further. However, Leanne has kept in touch and sent the following email:

Dear malcolm,

i am very happy when i received your mail. i'm sorry for reply later because these days i am kind of busy. i hope you're well.

Well, i'm very interested about all you said in your letter. I know that we are very hard studying but we lack of many skills. Going to abroad where speak English as a mother tongue is a very good opportunity for us who are really bad in speaking and listening English skills. i can understand that you mentioned about selecting some students in Danang to stay for a month in Sydney, is it right? if i can go to Sydney and stay in one of Australian family, listen and speak with them every day, i think my English will be improved very well. Well, if it will be approved by the Rotary Club, can you let me know how I can apply to be a selected student and what the conditions such as interview or not, or how much I have to co-pay?

i am sorry about Malaysian flight. sometime in our life have happens but we never know about it. It is very scary when we think may be the passengers of that flight are one of us, isn't it? But till now we still haven't known any information about that flight. Now I just know to pray for the passengers being safe! Hopefully, the miracle can appear!

i hope we can keep in touch for you all the time because your mail can help me learn more about grammar, vocabulary. It is a good way for me to learn English and also to know about you and your country. i hope that one day we can meet together at Sydney and you can take me to your church. I look forward to seeing that day, ^_^

*All the best,
Leanne*



With a university class

Malcolm Brown