

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 14 April 2014

The Fallen

Bob Aitken, PDG and present workmate of DG-elect Barry Antees has sent a message to President Keith that Barry is on the mend, after suffering low blood pressure, much pain and is making up after losing a litre of blood during surgery. Barry has a plaster cast on his right leg, up to the knee and that will remain in place for three months. Barry himself sent a message to Keith that he was checking out of hospital on Monday morning this week. Bob added a comforting message that if Barry's recovery was slower than might be expected, he could join a distinguished group of Rotarians using their motorised scooters to get around the venue at the RI Convention in June.

Our Guest

Turning up as guest of Ben Jackson was Don Thomson, who was a workmate of Ben at the Northcott Society.

Warwick Bramall

Keith informed the club that a former president of Parramatta City Rotary, Warwick Bramall, President 1997-1998, had died after a short illness, on 6 April. Keith and Ralph Cadman attended his funeral on Saturday last week. Warwick was born on 26 April 1944, so he fell just short of his three-score and ten. He is survived by the three women married, four sons and four daughters-in-law.

The Great Aussie Barbecue

The club has received a message about the Great Aussie Barbecue, at Homebush on 1 June, will involve the services of every Rotary Club in Sydney. It would be held between two opening sessions of the RI Convention and 10,000 people were likely to attend the event. Keith said volunteers were needed to man the barbecue, especially in

the middle of the day. If someone was not going to the convention, it was one way of getting a feel for the occasion.

The Billabong House of Friendship

Past President Johnny Ching said that for those not going to the RI Convention, there was the Billabong House of Friendship, at the Dome in Olympic Park, from 31 May to 4 June. There would be an entry fee of \$50 and there would be great entertainers, including Kamahl and the Deltones. There would be a bush dance on the last night of the convention, and a Bridge Climb in support of the campaign against polio.

Craig Alford

Secretary Joy informed us she had received a letter from the Rotary Club of Armadale, WA. To which Craig Alford belongs. Craig embarked last year on "Ride to the Other Side" on a Hustler Super Z lawnmower, a trip from Kalgoorlie to Adelaide to raise funds for the E.J. Whitten Foundation, which is dedicated to prostate cancer research and awareness, Australian Rotary Health and the Rotary Foundation. Craig did the Ride to the Other Side on a unique lawnmower fitted with a sprinkler cooling system and other innovations. Travelling at lawnmower speed, braving heat and giant road trains this surely is a test of patience, endurance, courage and engineering. He has kept going this year, bound for Sydney. He has a support team of about eight people. They have been travelling with him and the team spends nights in various places: in camping, in halls, sheds, private homes, whatever they can find. The team, after overnighing in Wagga Wagga on 23 May, hopes to be in Sydney on May 30 in time for the RI Convention and would love to have some sort of accommodation in Parramatta. They don't need much help. But to be undercover and to have a shower and toilet would be "great".

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

Secretary Joy said that we should be a lookout for 14 to 16 year-olds who might have the potential to enter a RYPEN program, which will be held from 23 to 29 May and will involve an expense of \$300 per participant. The program will be held at the Euro Campus in George Street, Redfern.

Australian Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarship

Secretary Joy advised that a scholarship had been awarded to a nearly 20-year-old Campbelltown-based indigenous student, studying physiotherapy. She had received outstanding results from her first year and had recently started her second year. She will be associated with our Club. It was important to encourage these students, once they had started, to continue, she said. Keith said the scholarship was available to students in a health-related subject who had completed their first year. It was worth \$5,000 a year.

Big Fund-Raising Night

Vandana has kindly offered Ginger Indian Restaurant in Harris Park for a fund-raising night by the club, where members bring partners and guests on Tuesday, 29 April.

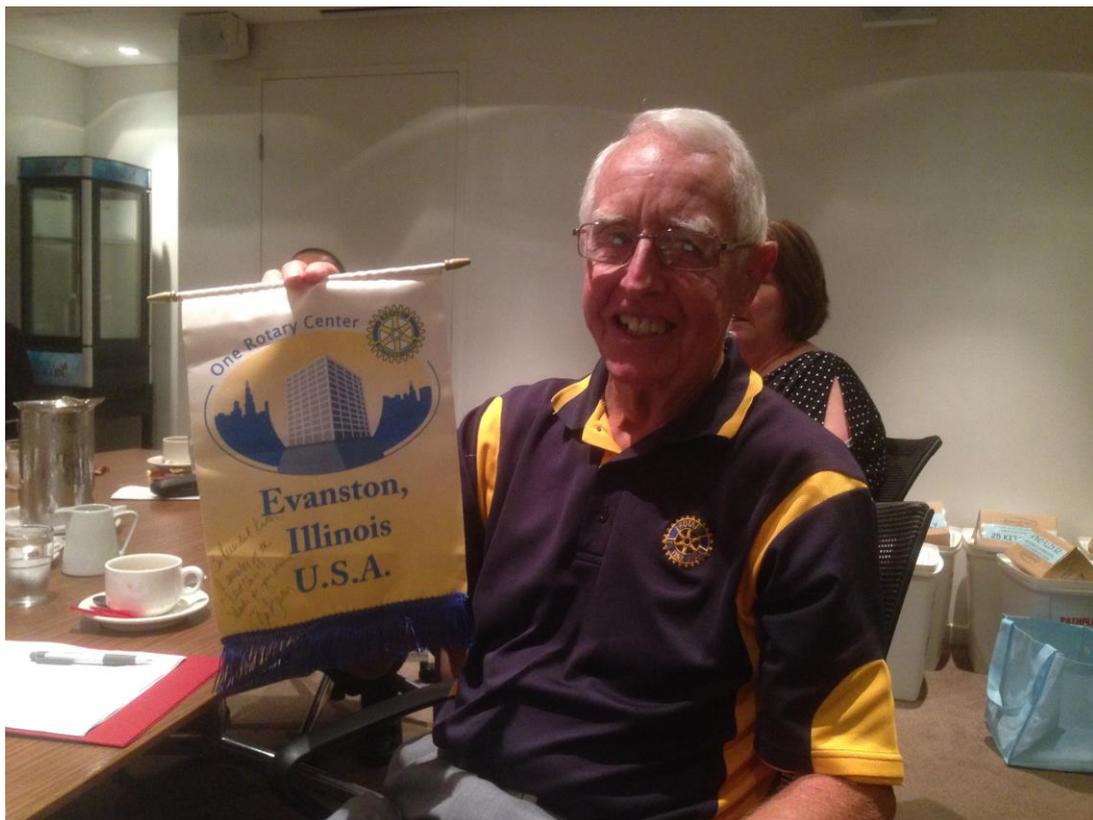
The event, starting at 6 pm, will replace the normal club lunch meeting for that week. There is room for 50 people, we all pay \$50 and we hope to produce a profit which is to go to completing a building project in St Peter's Junior School, Northern Uganda. So let us try to make it a good night. Invite your friends.

National Youth Science Forum

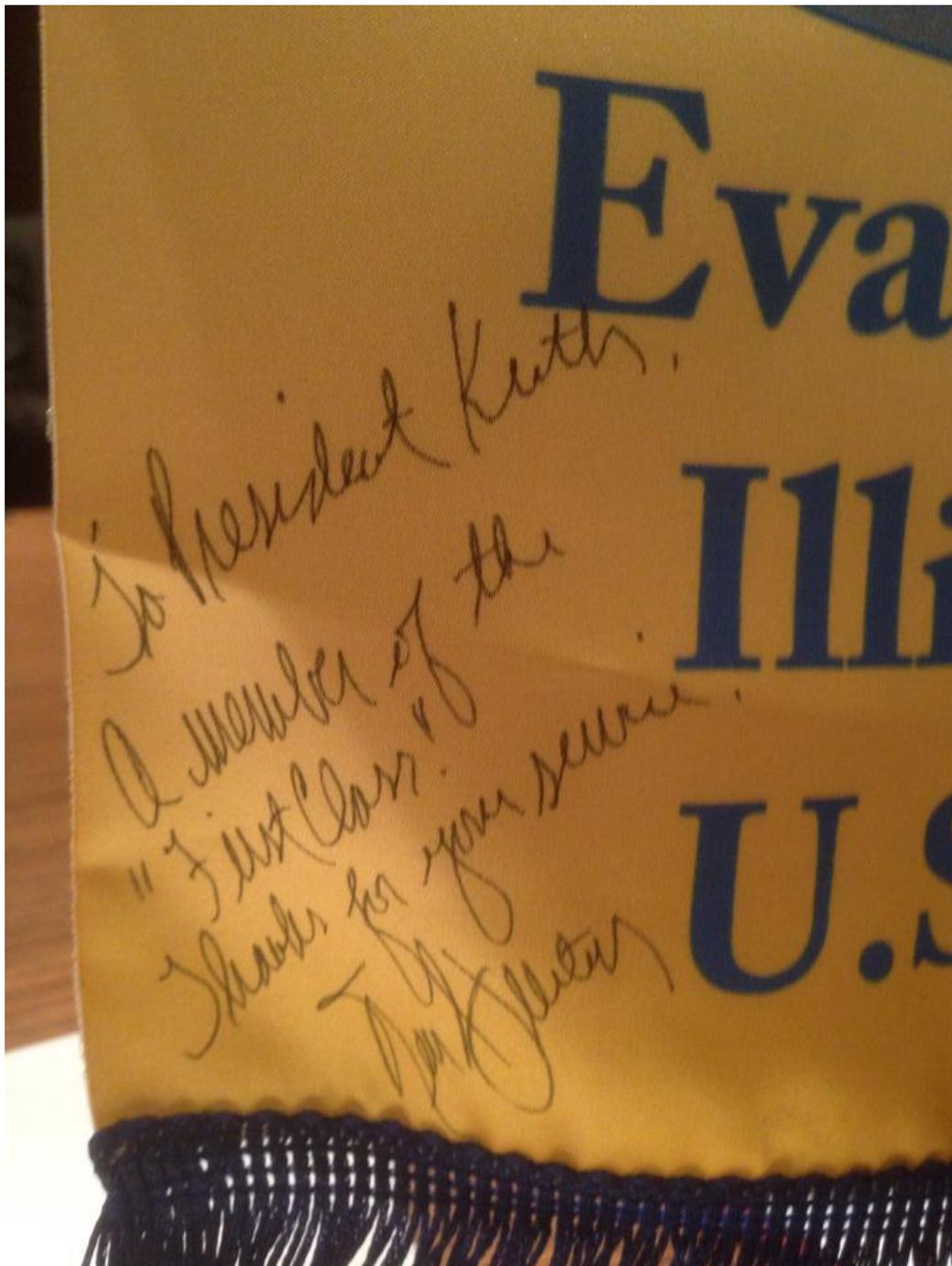
Ben Jackson said he contacted two young women who were very interested in attending the National Youth Science Forum. He had obtained their contact details and now it was up to the club to make a decision as to whether it would support them or not. "We can point them in the right direction," he said.

Joy's Journey

Secretary Joy has returned from her Australian Rotary Health trip to the United States. She saw many and wonderful things, including the sights of New Orleans, and made a point of going to the Rotary International headquarters in Chicago. "Having worked for Rotary most of my life, never having been there, it was great to see it," she said. There, she met RI President Ron Burton, who obligingly signed a pennant for our very own Keith.



Keith with pennant



The message from RI President Ron Burton

Dates for Diaries

28 April – NO LUNCH MEETING

29 April – Fund Raising Dinner – Ginger Restaurant

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

5 July – Bunnings BBQ

Problems in the Ukraine

The scholars have brushed off suggestions that the present Russian incursions into the Ukraine have no parallel with Hitler's move on Czechoslovakia in 1938. But there are uncanny parallels, one being Vladimir Putin's claim that Russians are being persecuted and need to be protected. Another is the tendency of the other powers to hold off, trying to reach a negotiated agreement and prepared to sacrifice a piece of territory without a fight. The moves in East Ukraine and the Russian build-up on the borders parallel what happened in Crimea. The Ukraine is not powerful enough militarily to withstand the might of the Russian forces. So what is going to happen?

Vladimir Putin has not, to my knowledge, spoken to roaring crowds about the ascendancy of the Russian people. He has not displayed any ambitions to conquer the world. But there are at least suspicions that he would like to recreate the old Soviet Empire and once again rival the United States as a world power. He is the strongman. When he was obliged to step down from the presidency in 2008 for constitutional reasons, a colourless Dmitri Medvedev, took his place, while he as prime minister called the shots. Now his mediocrity kept the seat warmed till Putin was able to resume the position in 2012, maintaining virtually intact a one-man dictatorship in a regime marked by increased repression.

Despite pronouncements that the Cold War is over, there is still a polarisation between the "East", represented by the Russian Federation, and the "West", represented by the United States and Europe. After the Mass Surveillance Disclosures of last year, when the United States and all the nations it had been spying on were furious, the leaker, Edward Snowden, found refuge in Russia just as the Cold War spies such as Burgess and Maclean did 60 years before. The poor Baltic States, Poland and the Ukraine, pulled hither and thither through history - invaded, occupied, repressed, liberated - by their powerful and restless neighbours, are once again under threat. If the Russian Federation keeps going, and the "West" decides to make a stand, the future is most uncertain.

Malcolm Brown