

**ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY Inc. DISTRICT 9675**

[www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://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 19 May 2014**

**Our international evening – June 3rd**

The club's evening for our international guests at Vandana's Ginger Restaurant on Tuesday, June 3, is shaping up to be a great event. President Keith said there were now about 18 international visitors going to attend. Sadly, five members from our Philippines sister club, Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay, would not be attending, only the club president, who would be coming with the president of another Philippines Rotary Club. But it was expected that there would now be two couples from the United States and one couple from Singapore. Keith had also made inquiries with some other Rotary high-flyers from other districts, and an invitation had been extended to Bernd Eggers, president-elect of the Halberstadt Rotary Club of Germany. Bernd was a guest at our meeting.

**Police Officer of the Year**

Keith said the night went very well, there had been good comments from the audience of nearly 90 people who attended and there was going to be some publicity in the local media – see Parramatta Advertiser this week.

The overall winner for 'The Police Officer of the Year' was Kylie Hedges.

The five category winners were Jeffery Ludkin – Customer Service; Rosemary Kariuki-fyfe – Civilian of the Year; Glen Bradley – Investigator of the Year; Kathryn Betts – Leadership in policing vocation; and Daniel Pinter – Emerging Constable.

## **The Fallen**

DG-elect Barry Antees will be in a wheelchair till August but is increasingly active and had been to a presidents' meeting in Sydney on Friday last week and to a board meeting of Rotary Down Under on Monday.

Our first chance to publicly support Barry Antees in his role as District Governor is the District Changeover Luncheon.

### *Invitation to Rotary District 9675 Inc Changeover Luncheon*

*DG Garry and Robyn Browne  
DGE Barry Antees and Megan Upton*

*cordially invite you and your partner*

*to join them at District Changeover on Sunday 29th June, 2014  
12 mid-day for 12.30pm start*

*at Liverpool Catholic Club  
Corner of Joadja & Hoxton Park Road, Hoxton Park*

*3 Course Meal (including table wine and soft drink)*

*\$60 per person*

## **The Great Aussie Barbecue**

This would be on during the RI Convention and our club would have to ensure its barbecue trailer, fully serviceable, was there for the occasion. Two volunteers were also required.

## **Red Shield Appeal**

Bob Rosengreen lists Steve, Malcolm, Ron and Keith and himself as starters for Sunday and would love to have more to help. We are to convene at Bob's home at 570 Pennant Hills Road, West Pennant Hills at 8.30 am.

## **Bernd Eggers**

Bernd, 53 years old, a graduate from Hanover University, an insurance broker and member of the Halberstadt Rotary Club, sent greetings from his president, Stefan Wolf, and we exchanged club banners (pictured above). Bernd is in Sydney for the RI Convention and to have a holiday. His club was chartered in 1992 and has 37 members, including three women. Bernd is presently the club's Foundation Officer as from July 1 will be president-elect.

Halberstadt, about 200 kilometres south-west of Berlin, is only 50 kilometres away from where the Iron Curtain divided his country. He was born on the western side and from his bedroom window used to see the lights of the border at night. When the wall came down, it was because of the pressure of the people, he said, and reunion of the two Germanys took about nine months.



Halberstadt, a very old city with 40,000 inhabitants, was the headquarters of Volkswagen and had what was hailed as the longest concert the world had ever heard. On September 5, the birthday of the avant-garde composer John Cage, it had started on the organ at the church of St Burchadi and was scheduled to be played, “as slow as possible”, for 639 years. The blurb Bernd circulated said that the church, built in around 1050, had been in the wars and for 190 years had been used as a barn, hovel, distillery and a sty.

### **A Note on Polio**

The disease has been eliminated from Australia but is making a comeback elsewhere in the world and might well come back. It is a horrible affliction and on Friday this week I am attending the funeral in Albury of my best mate from infancy, Neil von Schill, pictured below with his nephew, who contracted polio at the age of three. There was some alarm about me, but I did not get it.

Polio went on to dominate Neil’s life, first as a victim, then as a fighter for fellow sufferers. Neil von Schill, in keeping with the Teutonic/Scottish heritage implicit in his name, fought back all his life. Handicapped by a wasted left leg, which required him to wear a calliper throughout his childhood, he went on to graduate from university, enter the teaching service, marry, become a school principal and campaign for the

handicapped. He was for 11 years vice-president of the Physical Disability Council of New South Wales, for 12 years secretary of the NSW Polio Network and a Canberra lobbyist for Polio Australia.



Neil completed his schooling, and we remained mates, involved in long discussions about the meaning of life. He later became a Justice of the Peace, graduated from Bathurst Teachers College and started out at Nyngan Central School in the state's far west. In 1970 he took on a one-teacher school at Corinella, near Forbes, and in 1975, after graduating in Arts from New England University, became assistant principal of Hay School in the state's south-west. There, he married a secretary, Gail Clifton, and adopted her daughter, Beverley. Neil became deputy principal at Broken Hill North Public School, then principal of Culcairn Public School.

But polio stayed in the body and its symptoms return. Suffering again, he decided something more needed to be done, for the sake of others. In 1990, Neil became secretary of the NSW Polio Network, looking after the interests of thousands of survivors. "Half a million Australians have had polio," said Gillian Thomas, vice-president of Polio Australia. "There are no new cases in Australia but it is still overseas and could be reintroduced. Neil was dedicated to helping his fellow polio survivors." In 2004, von Schill was elected secretary of Polio New South Wales and set about organising and coordinating polio networks.

In 1995, when the effects of polio made the physical demands of teaching too painful, he retired and devoted himself full-time to polio sufferers and the handicapped. In 2007, he was involved in bringing all polio networks in Australia together for a national conference: "Designing the Future". "All the interstate networks decided to form Polio Australia," Ms Thomas said. "He went down to Canberra for us to lobby, to have services put in place so that the condition for late [recurring] polio sufferers could be diagnosed and properly treated."

In 2000, Neil became vice-president of the Physical Disability Council of New South Wales and in 2011, because of his years of dedicated service, was elected Life Member of Polio New South Wales. But that year he suffered a serious debilitating stroke and had to resign from his many positions, which by then included the Country Conferences Post-Polio Network. In his last infirmity, living in Albury, fondly supported the many he had taught and helped, he gave no vent to self-pity. He died in Albury on May 16.

### **Dates for Diaries**

25 May. Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

1 June. BBQ at Sydney Olympic Park – Rotary International Convention

3 June. Special Club Night for Rotary International visitors – Ginger Indian Restaurant

30 June. Changeover – Ginger Indian Restaurant.

5 July. Bunnings BBQ

### **Malcolm Brown**