

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?

RI Convention Edition, 1- 4 June 2014

Our International Evening 3rd June

President Keith writes: As part of the Rotary International Convention being held at Sydney Olympic Park the Club was pleased to host a number of visitors during the Host Hospitality Night.

Seventeen guests, including 15 overseas visitors, were hosted during an enjoyable evening at Ginger Indian Restaurant (Vandana's place). The food was excellent and the conversation continuous among the 45 persons in attendance.

Guests included overseas visitors from The Philippines, USA, Germany, Singapore and Zambia as well as interstate guests from West Australia.

Entertainment included Bob Rosengreen reciting 'The Man from Snowy River'.



We heard a little of projects carried out by Rotary Club of Livingstone, Zambia and also from DG Karen Tamayo of District 3810, Philippines, where a year of disasters has rocked the country. We showcased some of our projects and Louise Birrell, one of our PhD scholars, briefly outlined her research topic.



A number of club banners were exchanged during the evening.

A couple of light hearted activities and a raffle enabled a number of our guests to win some small prizes. As well, all international guests were given a gift bag with mementos of their visit to Parramatta.



Harold & Karlene Trabold from New York

Special thanks to Vandana for providing us with the venue, Bob Rosengreen for his recitation, Vandana and Johnny Ching for providing raffle prizes, Alwyn for arranging and driving the bus.

Check the Gallery section on the Club's website to see more photos of evening.

Great Australian BBQ

What a fantastic effort. Thanks to Bob Rosengreen and Don Thomson who manned our BBQ for the day. All without outside help.

A fantastic effort.



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8 June 2014



Rotary Club of Parramatta
City

Dear Keith,

The RI Convention 2014 Great Aussie Barbecue was a terrific welcome for our Rotary friends from around the world and I want to thank you and your members for your support to the event. It was no mean feat to prepare and serve 9,000 units of food, and to do that we had 12 trailers, 3 caravans, 2 trucks of food, 2 cool rooms, 25 marquees, 75 trestle tables, 15

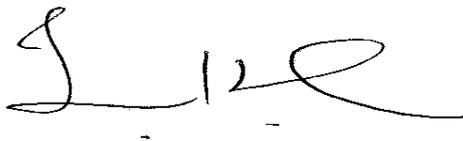
hot server units, 3 hand wash stations, and a utensil wash station. Just as well we had the two coffee vans.

For me, the critical time was the bump-in and set-up, and thanks to your patience and expertise, it went smoothly and we were ready ahead of time to serve the growing crowd of patrons.

The bigger crowd came after the first opening plenary session of the convention, and you handled it with courtesy and efficiency. It was a long day and everyone "stepped up to the plate". I have heard nothing but praise for the success of the Great Aussie Barbecue.

It was very gratifying to watch how the twenty nine participating Clubs from the two Districts worked together. Members not only accepted their assigned roles, but pro-actively filled gaps in our production lines and picked up tasks to keep the flow going; a true example of Rotarians at work.

On behalf of the Great Aussie Barbecue Committee and the HOC Events Sub-Committee, I thank you very much.



An Email from our Sister Club President received 10th June

Hi! Keith,

I am happy to share with you all the awards of distinction I and my club received during the district awards last night.

These awards, without your unwinding support of my term wouldn't have been accorded to me. I would like you to be a part in this honour.

YOURS IN ROTARY SERVICE,
First Class President Mina Bonita
Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay



A message from Rotary Club of Livingstone, Zambia.

Note: Our Club provided banking and EFTPOS machine facilities during RI Convention.

Dear Keith,

We all arrived safely - with all our baggage! on Friday. It was a very long night. A cold wind had just hit southern Africa and the temperature in Johannesburg was -1 degrees C. Not quite so cold here but I got out the electric heater for the first time in several years. Kingsley and I attended the club meeting half an hour after landing and reported on our trip.

Very many thanks for all your marvellous help to all of us. Please thank your club too.

Here attached are our bank details for US dollar transfers. I hope it is OK for your bank to route it through New York. If they have any problem let me know and I will consult the bank about transfers from Australia.

Margaret Whitehead

A Letter from Ian & Jill Cochrane, FOLIA. - Bangladesh

Dear Livingstone School sponsors and supporters,

This year has been an incredible busy one for us, and I'm sorry it has taken so long to get the first News of the year to you all. With 200 students and 17 teachers, quite apart from another nine bus driver and support staff, Livingstone School is growing at a steady rate.

Teachers salaries and Breakfast Fund costs total over \$30 000 this calendar year. I am thrilled to say that almost all of that has been given or promised already. Thanks to all of you, the school remains viable for another year. A special thank you, also, to all of you who were able to donate towards the 2013 Christmas Gift List. This has enabled Livingstone School to buy much needed equipment, including a refrigerator and some cooking utensils for the school.

Jill and I are planning to be in Bangladesh for September and October this year. Let me tell you more about the five retired secondary teacher trainers coming with us. Their names and subject areas they will be training are Elsie Cole [junior and senior English], John Hain [junior and senior Geography], Margaret Barlow [Music and Languages], and Roz Willcocks [junior Science and senior Biology and Chemistry]. Fletcher Cole will set up a complete school library system, using the books already there and the ones we are taking this year, as well as being our computer whiz. I will continue to do all of the Maths training. The trainers come from all over Sydney, except for Margaret who lives in Orange. All of them are volunteers, paying their own way. This is a huge commitment in terms of time, energy and money. Please pray for all of us as we prepare to go. We have already met as a team in May, and will also meet in June and July. There is a lot of organisation associated with this venture.

About six of the Livingstone teachers will be trained to teach senior secondary, as four of the teachers currently have a child at LAMB School completing Year 10 in May 2015. As none of the staff can afford to board their children alone in the capital Dhaka, the need is there to start the first Year 11 in 2016. The plan for secondary is as follows: 2015 Year 7; 2016 Years 7, 8 and 11; 2017 Years 7-9, 11-12; and in 2018, the school will run from Nursery [3 year olds] to Year 12 for the first time. Depending on the progress of the school buildings, the need may arise for having two school sessions to fit them all on site.

Not only will the trainers prepare Livingstone Teachers for the Bangladesh secondary curriculum, but also they will give all teachers a much stronger subject specific grounding, no matter what year group they teach. They will also prepare the teachers to be teacher trainers themselves, as the plans to open Livingstone Teachers College within five years is still on track. This College will not only be the first bilingual teachers' college, but also the first in Bangladesh to include practice teaching into the curriculum. At present, all teacher training in Bangladesh takes place in a totally theoretical context, without any contact at all with students.

The teacher training will take place five days a week for the two months, Saturday to Wednesday. Relief teachers will be hired to teach on the normal school days, Sunday to Wednesday, four days a week. On Thursdays, the teachers will take their own classes to check on the progress of both relief teachers and the students. Friday will be everyone's "day off". Friday in Bangladesh is the Muslim holy day of worship for men, and so a normal weekend is Friday and Saturday.

The proposal is for the secondary school to have three streams of possible study: a purely academic stream for the most capable students; a vocational stream to better prepare the students for the workforce; and a mixture of academic and vocational, which can be tailored to individual students. Work experience will be an essential part of all vocational courses, using local businesses. As a result, Livingstone School will be a kind of mini TAFE. Together with being bilingual in Bangla and English, the vocational skills have the potential to make our students very employable prospects.

By the end of September, eight large classrooms, each taking 30 students, will have been completed, along with three smaller classrooms for groups of 10 students. The toilet and kitchen facilities have already been finished.

We weren't able to get accommodation for the two months at LAMB Project, so we were faced with travelling up to three hours each day, from our accommodation to and from the school. We were extremely grateful for two donations totalling \$6000 for the Women's Refuge, from the \$7286 still needed to complete it. Our accommodation will now be in the Women's Refuge, once it is completed by the end of August. Our accommodation costs will pay the remaining \$1286 needed, as well as paying for our food, electricity etc. One room with a separate entrance upstairs is being set aside as the "Western Room". From now on, Jill and I will stay there each year, as our accommodation costs will pay for the annual upkeep of the Refuge, thus making it financially viable and not a constant money drain on Bimal and Parul. You will remember that the daily rape, as punishment, of women widowed or abandoned by their husbands, often in front of their children, is the reason for the Refuge.

Again thanks to your generosity, enough money was raised for paying the full salary of the lady teacher at Chaklabazaar Hindu village. She teaches the children who don't come to Livingstone School. She also teaches a group of the village women to read and write their own language, Bangla. In addition, she teaches the women and older girls how to sew. Now, thanks to you, Bimal has bought six treadle sewing machines for the women and girls to share.

The number of you now sharing this venture with us, continues to grow. Jill and I are so grateful to you all for your generosity and encouragement.

With warm regards,

Ian & Jill Cochrane.

Dates for Diaries

17 June. Joint Board meeting
29 June. District Changeover. Barry Antees induction as DG.
30 June. Changeover
5 July. Bunnings BBQ
12 Oct. Triathlon Pink BBQ
14-16 Nov. District Conference – Canberra

Reflections on the Rotary International Convention

The convention at Olympic Park from June 1 – 4 could hardly have failed to impress anyone with the majesty and scope of Rotary. For this Rotarian, sitting in the Allphones Arena listening to the presentations, it was like sitting in on a session of a world government. It is a government, one organisation with more than 1.2 million members in more than 34,000 clubs throughout the world, dedicated to the simple philosophy of caring for others. It is not a religion. Churches have an international outreach, but by their very nature they are exclusive of non-believers and compel adherents to a certain doctrine. Rotary is a movement where the only qualification is a benevolent disposition towards the community.

Members tend to be business and professional people. Undoubtedly one of the motives for belonging is to network and benefit personally. But that is perfectly acceptable. It is part of capitalist society. But once they have satisfied their needs, the good Rotarians will ask: "What can I do for others?" Rotary, in providing a vehicle for that, shows up the soft side of capitalism. And the very skills that enable an individual to get ahead in business or the professions are then available for use by Rotary. My father once said about Rotary: Whenever the club is called upon to tackle a project, there is always someone who has "got something" that can be put to use. Rotary is not welcome in China, where as I understand it there is only one club, in Hong Kong. It is not welcome in Vietnam. These are socialist societies which in theory are supposed to look after everybody's needs without resorting to charity. Leaving the resolution of that question to others, we are in a capitalist society and Rotary is the alternative way of addressing disparity.

When nations contribute billions of dollars in aid to developing countries, that is all good and indeed indispensable. There is a question as to how much of it filters down to the grassroots but that is a problem for bureaucrats. Rotary, on the other hand, is

right at the grassroots, all the time. And there could be more of it. John Hewko, general secretary of Rotary International, recognised what Rotary had done globally, such as bringing polio to near eradication, but said we could do more. “How many more lives could we have changed had we been bigger?” he asked. “What could we do with two to three million members and 40 to 50,000 clubs?” Gary Huang, RI president-elect for 2014-15, said that after 12 years of stagnating numbers, his ambition was to increase Rotary membership by 100,000 in 12 months. Rotary, with its grassroots outreach to communities throughout the world, harnessing as it did the skill, expertise and resourcefulness of members everywhere, had the opportunity to change lives. It could not change the entire world, but it did not make the individual efforts any less valuable.

Our club has a project with a school in Uganda. The Rotary Club of Newmarket in New Zealand is sponsoring a digital learning program for two high schools in Taveuni Island in Fiji to give the children a chance of competing in the technological world of the future. A Queensland Rotary club is sponsoring a rodeo school for Aboriginal children in Queensland as a way of encouraging them to stay at school. More than 34,000 clubs throughout the world have projects like that, year after year. One project finishes, another starts. So the total of benevolent community projects over more than a century has gone, I imagine, into the millions. And how could that do anything other than make the world a better place?

Malcolm Brown