

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 July 2014

District Governor's Visit - The Five Clubs

President Ron Edgar, seamlessly taking over the reins, welcomed newly-elected presidents of the other two Parramatta Rotary Clubs and those of Holroyd and Granville to our meeting at Oatlands Golf Club to officially receive the new District Governor, Barry Antees. He also welcomed Past District Governors and our ADG Pip Lovely. Barry, with a moon boot over his mending ankle, was his normal hearty self.

DG Barry Antees

Barry said that we all have our "comfort zones". We had all joined Rotary for a purpose, be it networking, community involvement or fellowship. But there were many examples of Rotarians who had stepped out of their comfort zones and had toiled away at setting up organisations like Rotary Health, ROMAC and RAWCS which had become self-sustainable. "This year I am going to personally ask you to step outside your comfort zone to perform a number of requests," he said.

One of the projects was a "night of one thousand dinners", where Rotarians would invite to their homes or workplaces a minimum of 10 people and outline the work of the Rotary Foundation, using one of four stories contained in a DVD which would be provided.

"In October, we will be sending an emergency services Vocational Training Team to Singapore to teach and to learn from their counterparts in Singapore," he said. "This will be our first Vocational Training Team and the District will be building upon this team's results for years to come as we develop our relationship with NSW Emergency Services."

A Multi-District Conference would be held at the Canberra National Convention Centre on November 14-16 with the theme: "Our Youth Our Future". It would be opened by Dr Brendan Nelson, director of the Australian War Memorial. All clubs would have the opportunity exhibit their projects in the Rotary Expo Hall, giving members a chance to exchange ideas with clubs from within our District and from District 9710.

In April 2015 Rotary members, family and friends would take part in the inaugural Rotary National Blood Drive, where every Rotarian and Rotaractor across Australia would assist the Red Cross by donating blood and encouraging others to do likewise. Also in April 2015 a Rotary Friendship exchange team would be sent to Istanbul to attend an International Peace Seminar..

“Rotary needs more than ever to embrace with Government and business,” Barry said. “We need to be seen not just as a charity, but as a community catalyst to create opportunities for business and government to grow and develop their operations and that of their employees, Rotary has some fantastic projects where staff can develop their team management skills through overseas volunteer projects work selected from any of the RAWCS projects. Utilise the wealth of knowledge from without our Rotary ranks for our members to become business for life mentors to business within our communities. How great would it be if all McDonalds outlets sponsored every junior manager through the RYLA Academy, this is an example of one of our many leadership-based programs available.”

Barry said there were many things that had inspired him in Rotary, but one of the most telling was when he had participated in a mass polio immunisation project in India in 2010.”This one time I yelled out ‘Rotary Polio’, and out of the darkness this baby appears in the outstretched arms of her mother for me to take her child into my arms and allow me to give the polio vaccine,” he said. “I will never forget the trust of this mother to give her baby to man she had never met and couldn’t understand, all because she know two things: I was from Rotary and I was going to save her child from an incredible and horrible disease that can cause death.” This, he said, was lighting a candle in the darkness. If we all lit candles then we would be fulfilling RI President Gary Huang’s pledge given at the RI Convention, that we should “Light Up Rotary.”

President Jerry Duma

Jerry, president of Holroyd Rotary Club, said he had been made president after only two years as a Rotarian and was still feeling his way. He said he would like to congratulate the outgoing club president, Vera Liondas, on the performance of the club. He said that in the last 12 months, the club had donated \$55,000 to a number of causes and still had money in the bank. Membership, he said, was the main issue he would like to work on. “I have some ideas about membership growth and would like to talk to directors about moving forward in this area,” he said. For that, he had received “100 percent agreement”.

Jerry Duma (right) with the General Secretary of Rotary International, John Hewko



President Renga Rajan

Renga, president of Granville Rotary Club, migrated from India in 2007. He is a mechanical engineer and has been a Rotarian for five years. Renga said membership numbers were similarly affecting his club. "Next year we are going to do some programs with the corporate sector and we are going to have multicultural events in Granville, with the aim of attracting new members," he said. The main projects the club supports are Ronald McDonald House and Westmead Children's Hospital.

President Jack Elliott

Jack, president of Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club, is by contrast a very old Rotarian, having been president of Parramatta Rotary Club 30 years ago. He said numbers in the Parramatta Daybreak were small but they were very lively and attended well. One new member was a Catholic parish priest who had been a Rotarian at Silverwater. Another was an accountant who would be inducted in the next couple of weeks.

The club had a major youth project with the Parramatta PCYC. The club had links with five primary schools and with Macarthur Girls High School. It had overseas projects in the Philippines and at Dacca Hospital in Bangladesh. In the last year, Jack had been treasurer of the Eastern Region of Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). "Our income in that period has multiplied many times," he said. "The value of projects overseas which the Eastern Region supports come to \$13.2 million." But everyone still had time to enjoy being Rotarians. "Everybody is happy and we enjoy being there."

President James Dyer

James, president of the Parramatta Rotary Club, said his club also has to confront the membership issue. "We have a couple of projects in hand going down the track and hope we will attract more members," he said. The club had a "Wine Weekend" in March next year where it was going to Canberra. The club had another major function in the first quarter of next year, a "casino night" at a venue to be planned [a large local venue] and would like to invite other clubs to become involved. "We will keep rolling along, coming up with new ideas and instituting them," James said.



James Dyer with outgoing president Christene McSeveney

Dates for Diaries

21 July. Board meeting. 11.30am at Novotel Hotel.

12 September. Northcott 'Walk with Me' BBQ

12 October. Trathalon Pink BBQ – Parramatta Park

18 October. Bunnings North Parramatta BBQ

Malcolm Brown