



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | Meeting 1 September 2014

Our Toast

Bob Rosengreen, who thinks deeply about the troubles besetting our world – in particular at the present time when Australia looks about to be drawn into another serious war - proposed a toast to the Rotary Clubs of Canada which started the House of Friendship concept at the Rotary International Convention in Canada in 1924.

Our Guest

President Ron welcomed guest Desmond Patrick (Patrick) Milligan, younger brother of Spike, Patrick Milligan, introduced by Malcolm Brown. Patrick, 88, who migrated to Australia in 1952, is living history, having been born in Rangoon in 1925. Patrick, son of an Irish regimental sergeant-major in the British Army, represented the era of British imperialism, which brought benefits as well as disadvantages to the subject nations. Patrick, who migrated to Australia in 1952 and worked as a newspaper artist, painted privately and participated in theatre, and carried on in a quiet, modest way the zaniness of his brother that lightened the world in a particular gloomy century.

Our Introduction

President Ron welcomed Sze Chuah to the club and presented him with a Rotary badge. Sze, manager of Yellow Brick Road wealth management in Parramatta, 33, was born in Wellington, New Zealand, came to Australia in 1982 at the age of two.

Member information

Ray Reed has been absent for a number of weeks due to a spell in hospital after breaking his femur. He has now moved to Mt Wilga Rehabilitation Centre at Hornsby.

Maureen says that he is on the road to recovery, each day is bringing a little improvement but he is not yet completely mobile.

Glenn Gardner has submitted his resignation as a member of the Club and this was accepted at the recent Board meeting. The Board agreed to appoint Glenn as an honorary member, the status he had previously enjoyed before rejoining the club as a full member in 2013.

Our exchange student

Frederik Andersen, 16, from Denmark continues to settle to life in a very multicultural Parramatta High. He has attended a class on handling stress and is to attempt some exams that are coming up.

Have you registered for Rotary Multi District Conference in Canberra 2014?

DGs Rowley and Barry would like to warmly welcome you to the combined 9675 & 9710 District Conference. Please join us at the National Convention Centre, Canberra from 14-16 November 2014.

To register go to the following website:

<http://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/2014-district-conference.html>

We all need to attend to support our fellow club member and DG - Barry Antees

Club Updates

The Rotary Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask 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?

The History of the Milligans

Patrick presented us with a delightful collection of photos taken of the family. His father, Leo Alphonsus Milligan, and Irish-born sergeant-major in the British Army, was the third generation of his family to have served in the British Army. His mother, Florence (nee Kettleband), was daughter of a British soldier, Henry Kettleband, who had been posted to India. She met Leo when Leo during World War 1 when Leo was performing in a theatre show for the troops. They married and Spike was born in in Ahmednagar, India, in April, 1918. Patrick told us that after a difficult trip to hospital and difficult birth, she told the doctor to "get out of here! I never want to see another man in my life!"

Patrick was born eight years after Spike and from the start the children grew up in the military atmosphere and played war games as children, forming their own army, the Lamanian Army, and requisitioning a German World War 1 machine gun from the mess to add realism. Both went on to fight for their country, Spike in Italy

and Patrick in the invasion of Europe. But well before World War 11 put paid to the era of imperialism, Leo, Patrick told us, realised that that world was disappearing and wanted to capture it by camera. And the photos Patrick showed us demonstrated the joys of colonial life, where little coloured people hastened to satisfy every need of the raj. Even private soldiers in the British Army lived well and in Patrick's home in Rangoon there were servants.

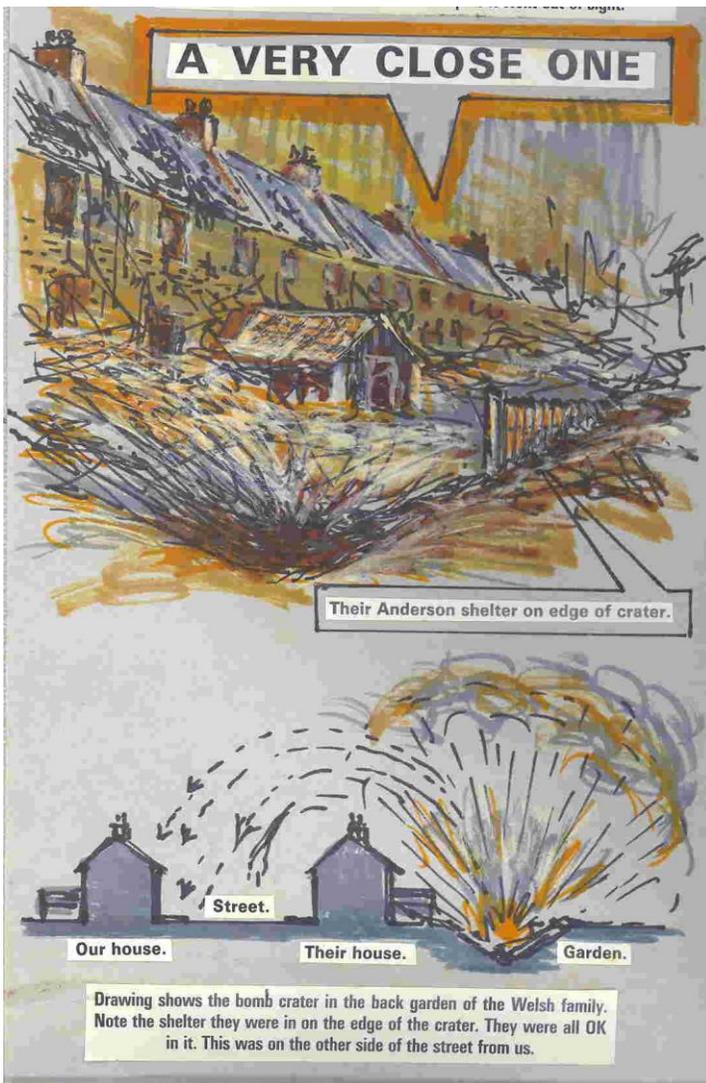
Patrick told us how his father got into show business. He had done a little theatre in London and his commander in India told him to work up a vaudeville show to entertain the troops who were isolated without other diversions. Both Patrick's mother, who mainly played the piano, and father, who also doubled as a trick rider, answered the call. It might be noted that with parents like that, is there any wonder that their sons had a little zaniness too! In the 1930s, with the onset of the Great Depression, the British Army was reduced in size and Leo, out of a job, took to journalism, and industry that later absorbed the attentions of Patrick. But there was a



Above: The Lamanian Army, with Spike on the left and Patrick beside him.

Right: Patrick's father and mother in vaudeville.





Above: Spike in the bathtub.

Left: Patrick's illustrations of the Blitz

war to go through first. The father was recalled for active serve and so were Spike and Patrick. Spike was beginning to show the quirky humour that would make him world famous. Here, he is photographed in a bathtub with his military helmet on.

Patrick, who trained as an artist, captured with his pen the devastation of the blitz raids on London.

Patrick finished his presentation to us with a rendition of one of Spike's zany stories, The Singing Foot, which showed the resilience of the breed, in that the owner put a bullet through it to shut it up and was left with only a limp.

Upcoming speakers:

8 SEPTEMBER:

Dr. Reg Mitchell, a retired academic medical statistician who will give a talk on community health.

Dates for Diaries

10 SEPTEMBER.

Paint Parramatta REaD morning from 10am until 11:30am outside St. John's Church, Parramatta

12 SEPTEMBER.

Northcott "Walk With Me" Barbecue.

21 SEPTEMBER.

UN Day of Peace.

12 OCTOBER.

Triathlon Pink Barbecue, Parramatta Park.

18 OCTOBER.

Bunnings Barbecue, North Parramatta.

14-16 NOVEMBER.

District Conference Canberra