



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | Meeting 22 September 2014



Message from President Ron

This is our second meeting without Malcolm and Keith. Oh, the tales they will have to tell! And, slides to show! Speaking of which, did I mention that I had been to South Africa recently? Ok, moving on.

At last week's meeting we had the opportunity to have an open forum to discuss how we may better utilize the collective intellect and skills of our membership in raising funds for projects that we contribute to and/or sponsor.

The consensus was that Barbecues are not a favourite past time for members and that we should explore selling the Barbecue Trailer and concentrate on activities that will provide a more professional profile and opportunities for networking and sponsorship.

We also discussed the focus of our meetings and concentrating on a pattern whereby one meeting each month would be reserved for open forum and discussion of projects and reviewing our progress and direction.

Another meeting each month would be for an invited Key Note Speaker to provide a perspective on a topic related to series of themes (for example Social Justice, Community Engagement, Education, Urban Development etc.) Suggestions please!!!!

We would all be expected to invite guests from the business/philanthropic community to attend and, perhaps, to add to our membership.

The remaining meetings would be focused on members making presentations about their professional lives or any other interests. These are the meetings that will make way for Transfer meetings and Long Weekends.

Did I mention that I was in South Africa recently?

Christmas Tree Sales

A sub-committee has been formed to manage and promote the sale of Christmas trees this year. Selling of trees will commence on Friday 5th December and it is planned to finish on Sunday 21st December.

The roster for selling will not include Mondays and Tuesdays and in the first week, Wednesday and Thursday. Members, including non-attendees, will be contacted shortly to confirm their slot on the roster.

A number of options to increase sales are still under discussion. One option discussed was the 'drafting' of members of organisations that Rotary will support from the proceeds of the sales to provide assistance at the sales point or to promote the sales through their contact networks.

It was agreed that the promotion of the 'Trees to the Lobby' delivery and installation service to businesses for home delivery of trees will be promoted through a drop into PO boxes at Parramatta and Parramatta North post offices in November this year. An additional fee will allow for removal after Christmas.

The next meeting of this committee will be held towards the end of October on a date to be notified.



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?

Hat Day

Officially, this 10 October but we will have our own Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Monday 13 October. What I propose is that we all pay a \$10+ donation (yes, plus the normal lunch cost!) and wear a hat – no hat fee is \$20+ donation.

If you invite someone named Alice there will be a special award!

Pink Triathlon

Will be held on Sunday 12th October. We are providing Barbecue services for the day - John Stamboulie will provide further details and include you on the roster.

Bunnings BBQ

The next scheduled BBQ at Bunning is Saturday 18th October. Ben Jackson for further details.

Your Career – My Career

The date for this event has changed and is now Wednesday 22nd October. Ben Jackson is facilitating this and he will be hassling you for support on the day – he will brief us with further details at the next meeting.

Australian Rotary Health – Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner at The Epping Club is on again this year on Wednesday 10th December. This will trigger a Transfer Meeting. Joy Gillett will provide us with further details as they come to hand.

We will have our own Cordial and Cake Christmas Party on Monday 15 December.

National Youth Science Forum

The club has two successful nominees for the NYSF in January 2015. Both will be invited to address the club when they return.

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

DGs Rowley and Barry Antees 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 members and DG - Barry Antees



OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

St. Peter's Junior School, Northern Uganda



PP Keith Henning sent me this reminder as he was exiting the country to provide us with an update on the current situation with St Peters: -

"You may recall that we received a grant from District last year to assist with the completion of classrooms at the school. We also had a special fund raising event to help.

I have been asking for a progress report from Robert Opira, the school founder and director, and it's arrived today. I haven't had time to put anything together for the Club bulletin so hope you will be able to summarise the contents and include a photo or two in next week's bulletin.

FYI. - Patience is a child at the school who I have sponsored for a number of years."

This has been a labour of genuine love by Keith that promises to provide a lasting endowment and genuine philanthropy by Keith and his amazing family. I have included the full text of Robert's email to Keith below: -

*"Dear Keith,
Sorry for taking long to respond to your request. I have been away from Gulu to Amuru district which is my home district. Amuru is located west of Gulu and that is my birth place. Since the war ended, we have not built houses in the village and we are preparing to build in December 2014 so that we maintain a home there.*

The work has gone well, but there has been delay because the person contracted to make windows and doors has spent too much time making and has not finished in time. Since I have



also been away, he relaxed to do the work. The work will be completed by end of September 2014.

From the picture you will see the roof completed, and wall plastering done. We have purchased the chairs and desks as well. What is remaining is only putting the windows, doors and painting the walls.

As soon as we finish the work, I will send you the full report and accountability.

Patience is fine and has coped up with the loss of her mother. She is living with the elder sister. Her performance dropped slightly as she lost her month prior to exams but she has improved.

I have been so worried and depressed because my mum has been in very poor health for the last two months and that is the reason why we want to build houses at home so that if she dies we bury her at home. She has heart problems which are not curable.

I am sure you will enjoy your travel to Europe for the next three weeks. I wish you save travel

About the school website, the person who has been doing it for us is no longer available. As you suggested sometimes back, I think when you return from Europe, you could help us so that it is done from Australia.

Thank you.

Robert Opira

Dates for Diaries

10 OCTOBER

"Meet Frederick Dinner!"
Peroni's, Harris Park (tbc)

12 OCTOBER.

Triathlon Pink Barbecue,
Parramatta Park.

18 OCTOBER.

Bunnings Barbecue, North
Parramatta.

26 OCTOBER.

Graffiti Removal Day (Graffiti
Replacement Day - 27 October).

Register at
www.graffitiremovalday.org.au

14-16 NOVEMBER.

Joint District Conference
Canberra