



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | Meeting 20 October 2014

Our Guest

President Ron brought along a most likely young man, Lance Adams, a Year 10 student at Jamison High School near Penrith, who is doing work experience in Ro's architecture office.

Our Toast

The club raised their glasses to the Rotary Club of Cardiff, capital of Wales which president-elect Malcolm Brown visited during his recent tour with the Sydney Welsh Choir.

Member Matters

We were also pleased to see the return of David Ross, back from assignment in the Riverina, and DG Barry Antees, now well into his governorship of District 9675 and in his words "having a ball".

We regret to hear of the resignation of Mark Cadman from the club. We extend our fondest wishes to Ray Reed, who was hospitalised with a bone fracture, then developed pneumonia which became very serious. He is now back home and would be most happy to have messages of good will from fellow Rotarians.

Vandana Setia is on leave till February next year. Malcolm Brown, whose choir tour took him to Ireland, Wales and England, is now back on deck.

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

Secretary Joy reminded members of the joint District Conference at Canberra on November 14 – 16. Members going are Joy, Natalie Cowell and Malcolm Brown. We will be staying at the Crowne Plaza.

To register go to the following website

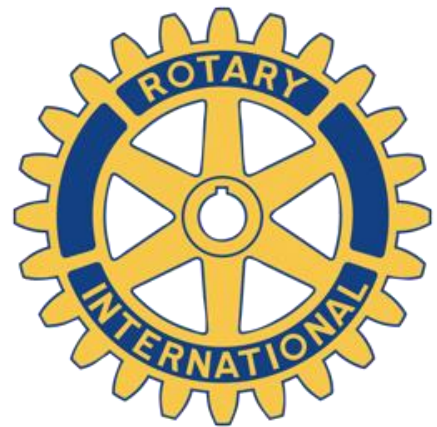
<http://www.rotaryd9710.org.au/2014-district-conference.html>



at a Time

On November 17, Bob Rosengreen will launch “One Girl at a Time”, a project which relates to the proper instruction and preparation of girls in the Philippines in matters relating to women’s health.

One Girl



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 District

DG Barry said District 9675 was coming to grips with the threat of the Ebola virus but the help offers was mainly financial because of the hazards facing those becoming directly involved on the ground. Blacktown City Rotary Club was funding a school in Sierra Leone and part of that school was now being used as an Ebola centre. Funds were being raised isolate children from the disease. Turramurra Rotary Club was also supporting a school in Sierra Leone and was now raising funds to give the school proper sanitation and prepare it in other ways to limit the spread of the disease.

Barry said polio which was “within a whisker” of being eliminated world-wide stubbornly kept its presence in parts of Asia and Africa where intervention by medical teams was restricted by civil strife. That applied to northern Nigeria and the turbulent border regions of Pakistan. The campaign in Afghanistan was going well, but one of the problems was the increased mass movement of people fleeing violence in the region. There had been a temporary truce in Syria to allow medical teams to get into the polio “hot spots”.

Barbeques

Ben Jackson said last weekend’s barbecue at Bunnings North Parramatta had gone well and had returned \$778.62 in profit, which was consistent with the normal return of between \$800 and \$1,000. Trade was not heavy but consistent and had been helped along by customers who said “keep the change”. It was also helped by Natalie’s enterprising son who offered \$4 sausage sandwich/drinks packages for \$3.99.

Ben said he was going to book four more barbecues spots for next year. He also spoke in

defence of barbecues as a club activity, pointing out that they: (1) Showed the flag; (2) Gave members a chance for camaraderie and (3) Raised funds.

My Career/Your Career

Ben said that the My Career/Your Career seminar would be held this week, in which people in the workplace spoke about their calling and the potential for people suffering a handicap to be gainfully employed in those fields. Two members participating are President Ron, and Steven Burfield. As President Ron remarked, what seem to be barriers might turn out in the final analysis not to be barriers at all.

Police Officer of the Year

Past president Keith is to meet Joe Allen from Parramatta Club who is coordinating the event for next year in cooperation with the three Parramatta Rotary Clubs.

Q&A Session on the Future of Parramatta

Emerging from the board meeting on Tuesday, President Ron is planning a major event in February or March next year when there will be an open forum on the future of Western Sydney, focusing on Parramatta. He wants the University of Western Sydney, the Business Council and Parramatta City Council to be involved.

A Letter from LAMB School Project in Bangladesh

Hi everyone. First of all, let me apologise to everyone I offended with my political comments. In 2005, Jill and I escaped an angry mob of about 200 men, who were waving clubs etc. as they thought that we were American. As a result since that time, I have chosen to wear a baseball cap of the Australian flag. I am quite upset that this cap is now too dangerous to wear. About a week ago, I reached the stage of tiredness that no amount of resting or good sleep seemed able to overcome. Many of you would have picked that up from the last Bugle. However, I have now pushed through that barrier, and have regained more energy and my sense of humour.

Jill and I are so proud of our grand daughter Jasmine. She has now raised over \$1600, enough money for six additional Chaklabazaar children to start school in January. Jasi and Archie were selected as the State Primary school representatives on a committee called "Kids for Kids". Another two were chosen from a private school, and also from a church school. The first group to get organised, select their target charity for kids, and then raise \$1000 got a free I-pad each. Greenwich Primary won this easily! Our son David and his wife Jackie talked to Jasi about not accepting the I-pad, as it might look like this was her motivation in raising then money. Unlike a typical 10-year old, Jasi readily agreed, despite not owning an I-pad and really wanting one. Instead of keeping it, Jasi has donated the I-pad to a raffle to raise even more money for Livingstone School. Jill and I are so proud of the three of them for their stand. It has integrity written all over it.

The buses have finally got to me again. Using the "Might is right"

principle, they swerve through traffic at dangerous speeds, and only slow down for the speed humps at the entrance to and exit from our village of Rajabashor. If you don't get out of their way, you will be hit. It's just a matter of time before the next casualty. The other annoying thing they all do is blast their horn just as they pass you. If we weren't a little deaf before we came, we would be if we stayed much longer. The trucks are less dangerous but equally noisy. The motorbikes are third on the packing order.

We are now in the last two weeks before we head home. All of the teachers seem really grateful to our team for being here, and all are asking us to come again. Bimal and Parul are also very keen. As a team, we are yet to talk about it. I'd rather finish this time first, and then pray about it before discussing it together.

With the library shelves having finally arrived at the school, the Library team of Fletcher [IT/Library], Elsie [English], Margaret [Music] and the two Bangladeshi teachers who are being trained to run the school library after we leave, are busily setting up the library system. They are also busily sorting books and visual aids in the process. The books range from those with just pictures and things to squeeze, to a two volume PhD written by some nobody last millenium. It's the widest ranging group of books in the whole of Rajabashor village, and even the suburb of Parbatipur. It could well be the only one.

Eventually, the school library will rival any in northern Bangladesh. Bimal's vision is to make the school an Education Hub for the whole area, where students from other schools, for a membership fee, access the Livingstone School library, computer room and Science laboratory. Most schools around have none of these.

I find it very amusing to hear the random way in the which the gong which ends each period at the school. Forty minute lessons vary from 35 minutes to 48 minutes. I finally discovered that the lady, who belts the gong with a wooden mallet, can't read the time. When she thinks it must be about time to end a lesson, she looks through the window at the nursery teacher, until; she get her attention. The nursery teacher then nods her head if it's time. The gong then sounds. As Nursery classes finish at 11 am, periods after that can vary enormously.

The other funny thing this week concerns the painting of the school. In Australia, painting stops if it rains. At our school, the painting didn't seem to even pause. I wonder how long the paint will last?

It was not so amusing to learn, however, about the reason one

member of staff failed her own academic exams. She was at, or near the top of her class just before the last exam. All students were "encouraged" to give money to their teacher, in order to prevent any late problems which emerged. She was the only one who refused to do this, and, as a result, the only one to fail the exam. She had to repeat that subject this year as a result. It must be really tough for these teachers to maintain their integrity with such blatant practices. I am really proud of her.

Our treat for the week has been Roz [Science], who has taken up the challenge of cooking from the limited ingredients that we can buy over here. Her cinnamon scrolls are to die for.

Thanks to Lion and our friend Mick Faber, we brought 20 second hand laptops with us this year, in computer bags which each held three laptops. Once the laptops have been loaded with the necessary Bangladeshi software, each of the teachers will receive their own laptop to use for their lesson notes. The teachers also have been given their own pen drive, in case any laptop crashes.

Our American friends, Nancy and Steve [alphabetical order] have corrected Bimal's projections on the new secondary school building. In an email to me, they said that that just the ground floor would be completed by the end of 2015, with the first floor being completed a year later. Their achievement in building has just been amazing. American overseas aid is really very generous.

There will be no training on Saturday 25th October, as that is the "ground breaking day", the day when the first sods of dirt are turned over at the start of the new secondary school building. Every person within the grounds seems to have to have a turn holding a spade and turning over a sod, whilst a multitude of photos, taken from several different angles, carefully record every breath taken. Watching paint dry takes on a whole new interest it seems to me!

Our last full day, Monday 27th October, will be spent in training for half a day, with the other half spent celebrating what has been achieved by the teachers over the two months. Prizes for first second and third will be awarded, and the whole teaching staff, together with the van drivers and support staff enjoy the health of the five food groups. All of you will know about vegetable, fruit, proteins, carbohydrates etc. from your schooling. In the Cochrane household, the five food groups are "chips, chocs, chews, nuts and drinks". In Bangladesh, the trainers will have piagu, singara, simosa, gilapi and 7-up, all of which resembles the

Cochrane five more closely than protein etc.

Once we found out that Bimal had bought the second air conditioner on hire purchase, the trainers decided to pay the extra A\$800 for accommodation to cover the cost, and thus save Bimal all of that interest. Bimal and Parul overspent on making the Refuge a nice place for Jill and I to stay in. Unfortunately, this has meant that an additional \$1970 needs to be spent to complete it so that it can be used as a Refuge. The kitchen window has no glass, the two eastern toilets are not finished, and the roof area is unsafe for little children. Rather than face further delay, as a consequence I have arranged for this work to be completed this week, so that I know all is ready for the Women's Refuge to open in November.

Continuing with our teacher trainers, let me introduce Fletcher Cole, the husband of Elsie. Before we left Australia, Fletcher wondered if he would have enough to do in Bangladesh. His skills in fixing every IT problem encountered, as well as training two of the staff to both set up and run the school library has seen him very busy indeed. In addition to that, Fletcher has taken hundreds of photos of our whole time. Everyone in the team would be under far more stress if Fletcher were not here. The only time I have seen him ruffled was having to wait for nearly two hours to be served at the Pizza "restaurant" that the team went to last week.

I can tell that the trainers are getting really tired, with less exuberance when we are together, and some niggles appearing in our conversation. We are also living very closely together, finding out things about each other that only husbands and wives get to learn. Jill and I, however, are so proud of them. We were expecting such signs to appear weeks ago, and here we are with less than two weeks to go. Unless you live here, you cannot really understand just how hard it can be here, and how different each day is to that in Australia. As a team, we have discussed all of the above, and will try to be more gentle with ourselves and each other over the next three weeks.

I want to thank all those who have been praying faithfully for us and our team whilst we have been here. I have slept better than in the previous seven times, and not once have I needed to resort to lying on the bare concrete floor in order to get cool enough to sleep. For the first time ever, I have found the bed comfortable. In contrast, Jill found it very uncomfortable. By the time we all arrive home, however, we will most likely be exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally and

spiritually, with nothing left to give.

Progress score after seven weeks: Tired trainers 4-, Exhausted trainers 2+, Sick o, Constipation o, Diarrhoea o, Conjunctivitis o. It is amazing, and thanks to you who pray, that we have been so well. Roz [Science] and I will always struggle with the heat and humidity, but, apart from that, we have stayed healthy and safe. Dhaka may be a different story.

*For those of you who give thanks: * that laughing still takes less energy than groaning, even though there is less laughter than a few weeks ago; * that all of us have survived another week; and * that there is only two weeks left. For those of you who pray: * for our safety and energy levels in these last two weeks; * that we will still be listening to what God is saying to us; and * that we will finish well.*

With love to you all, Ian [who is still missing what's her name].

Next Speaker

Our speaker next week will be David Borger, former Lord Mayor of Parramatta who represented Granville for the ALP in the NSW Parliament and served as Minister for Roads, Housing and Minister for Western Sydney in the Rees and Keneally Labor Government. He is now an urban designer and planner for the NSW Business Institute.

Dates for Diaries

27 OCTOBER

Regular meeting with David Borger as speaker

31 OCTOBER

District Presidents' meeting at Liverpool Catholic Club

18 OCTOBER

Bunnings Barbecue, North Parramatta.

14-16 NOVEMBER

Joint District Conference
Canberra

21 NOVEMBER

Australian Rotary Health Corporate Golf Day at Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club, Luddenham.

24 NOVEMBER.

Regular meeting where local MP Geoff Lee is scheduled to speak and to be formally inducted as a member of the club.

1 DECEMBER.

Annual General Meeting of Parramatta City Rotary Club.

8 DECEMBER.

Christmas Party at The Olive Greek Restaurant and Bar at Haris Park