



# Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | [www.parramattacityrotary.org.au](http://www.parramattacityrotary.org.au)  
Meeting 17 November 2014

## Our Toast

Bob Rosengeen was inspired by the story told at the Districts 9675 and 9710 Joint Conference in Canberra last weekend, of a boy throwing several out of thousands of stranded starfish back into the ocean, saying he is at least saving them. He proposed a toast to "all the Rotary Clubs in the world" who collectively are throwing many starfish back into the sea.

## Our Guests

Walter Bock, from the Burwood Rotary Club, introduced by Bob Rosengreen, is a well-known Rotarian. Born in north Germany, in 1939, he came to Australia in 1959 on the Castel Felice, a migrant ship which has brought many wonderful Germans to Australia. Walter, has initiated many projects, including the monster car raffle and supply of computers to the Philippines. He has also introduced 149 new members to his club. He has taken on a new project, Days for Girls, which involves the education and supply of requirements to girls in third world countries who need to handle their menstrual cycle properly. In the Districts 9675 and 9710 Joint Conference in Canberra at the weekend, he ran a very successful stall publicising the project.

Also present, and participating in the Days for Girls project, was our Assistant District Governor, Pip Lovely, from Granville Rotary Club and a third participant, PP Vera Linondas, also from the Holroyd Rotary Club.

## 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?



# Club Updates

## The Districts 9675 and 9710 Joint Conference

Club members going to Canberra for the event included our DG Barry Antees and Megan, PP Keith Henning and Glennis, PE Malcolm Brown, Secretary Joy Gillett, Bob Rosengreen and Glenys, David Ross and Karen and Natalie Cowell, as did our exchange student Frederik Andersen. With PP Chris Joscelyne as Master of Ceremonies, the event, on the theme of "Our Youth, Our Future" went swimmingly. Former Federal Minister Dr Brendan Nelson, now director of the Australian War Memorial, kicked off with an inspiring speech on remembering past sacrifices. DG Barry and DG for District 9710 Rowley Tompsett gave great leadership, as did the Rotary International President's Personal Representative, PDG Kenneth Linkhorn. There was a series of wonderful presentations, including such subjects as "Giving Cambodia a Sustainable Future", "Breaking the Poverty Cycle in Uganda" and "Rotary's Positive Impact on Young Lives". Rotaract was featured and there was an excellent speaking contest for young people.

### Dates for Diaries

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

**22 November,** Pre PETS 1 (President Elect Training), Liverpool Catholic Club.

**28 November.** Christmas Party at The Olive Greek Restaurant and Bar at Harris Park.

**29 November.** Christmas Tree Sale preparation, 9 Glenhope Rd, West Pennant Hills

**1 December.** Annual General Meeting

**5 December.** Christmas Tree sales begin

**7 December .** Rotary Clubs Group K Christmas Party at Cabarita.

**8 December.** No luncheon meeting – transferred to 10<sup>th</sup> December event.

**10 December.** Australian Rotary Health Christmas Dinner – Epping Club.

**23 February 2015.** Houses and mountainsides are to be lit up to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Rotary.



## Member news

Ray Reed is recuperating at home and is improving daily. He had a setback recently which resulted in a couple of days hospitalisation – a very painful twisted bowel – not related to his hip fracture.

Ralph Cadman is also back on the road again after a cataract operation last Monday. He is due to have the second eye attended to on 1st December.

The Rosengreen family are keeping the medical world busy also. Glenys is continuing her fortnightly chemotherapy sessions and Bob will be having a hernia operation on this coming Monday.

## Group K Christmas Party

Assistant District Governor Pip Lovely said there would be a Christmas Party for the Group K Rotary Clubs (Parramatta, Parramatta City Parramatta Daybreak, Granville and Holroyd) at Cabramatta on 7 December. The address was 51 Dorking Road, the party would be on from 4 pm till 8 pm and entry costs were \$5 each

## A timely reminder for all members

If you are not attending a regular meeting you must apologize to Secretary Joy no later than 9.30am on the day of the meeting.

If you fail to apologize you will be charged for the meal cost as the Club has to pay.

Also, if you are bringing a guest, please let Secretary Joy know so that a meal can be ordered.



## Our Sister Club in Manila

They held their annual installation and handover ceremony in Manila on Thursday evening. It was, by all accounts, a very successful evening with 6 Rotarians from their Malaysian sister club attending.

On the weekend they travelled out of Manila to participate in one of their service activities.

The following is an email received by PP Keith describing the project activity.

*Hi! Keith,*

*We missed you in our club induction this year. However, even if you didn't come you're still be in our hearts. A day after our induction, our members together with some Malaysians sister club we went to Zambales to release 80 pcs of sea turtles in the sea shore. As I'd said earlier this is our new project in relation to save our environment and*

*preserve endangered species which nowadays they're already diminishing due to lack of knowledge about the importance of these creatures in our environment*

*At the same time, we also distributed reading and writing materials to some children in their day care center. It was a long tiresome drive but upon we reached the place all were enjoyed seeing fisherfolks happy to meet us.*

*It was a very nice project hope we can develop this and educate people to preserve this creatures as these are endangered species.*

*Hope to see you next time in Manila . Our regards to everyone.*

**YOURS IN ROTARY SERVICE,**

**PP Mina**

## Days for Girls

Walter Bock said the Days for Girls project was now six year old. It was dealing with a problem “as old as time itself”, which was how girls handled their periods. In many countries of the world, it was poorly understood and taboo as a subject to talk about. Girls with their periods were sometimes confined to cattle shelters, not allowed to go to school and subject to other disadvantages.

Vera Liondas said the object of the project was to give girls in underdeveloped countries information and equipment such as sanitary pads that would “empower” them to handle periods through “quality substantial menstrual management and knowledge”. At present, in many parts of the world, girls did not know what was happening to them and they felt shame and alienation. If they had to stay away from school, their education suffered.

In many parts of Africa, Vera said, there was a shortage of water that would allow girls to keep themselves clean and their hygiene suffered as a result. Girls were denied an education because schools did not have facilities for privacy

and decent sanitation. Girls lost months out of their schooling and many left because they could not handle the menstrual problems.

In some cases, school inspectors were handing out hygiene pads in return for sexual favours. If they did not have such equipment, girls tried to deal with the cycle in other ways, by using cloths, blotting paper, and even cow dung. The result was that they would suffer infection.

Pip Lovely showed the club a pack made up for distribution to third world countries, containing sanitary pads, washable fabric, soap and other items. The project involved producing and distributing these kits. Rotary clubs could be involved by producing components, making donations or bringing the issue to public attention. Vera said she had taken the project to Cambodia as part of a RAWCS enterprise. Kits were being made in the Third World countries.

Walter said the project had started in America six years ago but Australians had taken it up with relish and the country was third in the world in the number of Days for Girls chapters. With kits costing \$10 or \$11 each, a girl in a Third World country could be

sponsored and could stay at school for three years. In the Philippines, a kit could be produced for \$5. He said a batch of 250 had gone to the Philippines on Friday last week – admittedly a drop in the bucket when compared with need but a start. The Departments of Education and Health in the Philippines were cooperating and local people could be involved as “health ambassadors”.

Vera said there was still a lot to be done and she was interested to know what the prospects were for the project to extend to the Aboriginal communities in the outback.

