

COMMUNITY NETWORKER

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY, DISTRICT 9675

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?

Meeting 4 November 2013

Our guests

Joy Gillett introduced Miriam Jacka, a full-time volunteer working with Donations in Kind (DIK), one of the major RAWCS projects. She has been in that role for the past six years. Miriam, wife of Past District Governor Larry Jacka, is serving her second term as president of Winston Hills Rotary Club. She is also chair and District Project manager for RAWCS school projects in Cambodia.

President Keith

Keith reminded Rotarians of a number of ongoing issues, one being the necessity of club members to upload their photos into spaces on the Parramatta City Rotary website. It was not appropriate to have eight or nine empty spaces where faces should be.

He said that at the Joint Presidents' Meeting on Friday night last week, Parramatta City Rotary had been awarded a pennant and a citation for being Number Two club in the district for per capita contribution to Rotary Foundation in 2012-13 Rotary year.

Keith said another important issue raised at the presidents' meeting was the District Conference at Olympic Park on 1 March next year, which will last one day and would be essentially a business convention. "It is an opportunity for Rotary to get its connections and go and benefit from it," he said. "Hopefully, we can do some networking." It was hoped that from the night, where we intended to have 1,000 people, half of them non-Rotarians, Rotary might get some new members.

Keith said that one of the discussion points at the meeting of Parramatta Club presidents was a combined meeting for such events as presentation of the Pride of Workmanship Award and Police Officer of the Year Award. Keith had turned down

the idea that the clubs should do a combined POW immediately, rather than we should leave 12 months to have it properly organised.

On the agenda were the Barefoot Bowls event tentatively scheduled for 10 February next year and the Bunnings Barbecue at North Parramatta next Friday. And there would be a Rotary Foundation dinner on Monday 18th.

Keith conveyed the club's congratulations to Ralph and Sandra Cadman who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next Saturday.

Our PhD Scholar

Joy Gillett said that our Rotary PhD scholar, Tonelle Handley, had sent a message saying she was "absolutely thrilled" to be awarded her three-year post-doctoral scholarship worth \$250,000., and that achieving the PhD would not have been possible without the support of Rotary.

Fundraising

Glenn Gardner said the Fundraising Committee had got down to some serious thinking. The target was \$20,000 this Rotary year from a couple of "big ticket" items. The Christmas tree sales were important. Vandana had offered her restaurant for a fundraising event.

There was a plan for a couple of businessmen's dinners in which high-profile speakers would be invited. There would be a mark-up on the price of the meal and if, for example, 100 people came and there was a \$20 mark-up, it would be a good return.

Glenn said another idea was to do a deal with Novotel or some other venue to have all its functions there such as the pride of Workmanship Award and in return get some concessions on price. He said that for the Pride of Workmanship and Police Officer of the Year Awards one idea was to get more business people there, possibly to double the numbers attending. If people paid full-fee for the night it might be possible to make some money out of the events.

Other ideas entertained including running a football-tipping competition.

My Career/Your Career

Ben Jackson reported back that the My Career/Your Career Transition to Work at Northcott had been successful but there were lessons from it, one being that the speakers had to be properly briefed for the "out of left field" questions that might come from the floor.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Keith said nominations for RYLA were due on Monday next week. The applicants, who had to be aged between 19 and 25, had to be assessed and the money paid by Friday next week, 15 November.

Rotary Training

I reported back that I had attended a Rotary training program at Liverpool Catholic Club on October 31, receiving advice on ethics, communications skills and mentoring.

The Ethics section, led by Bruce Farquharson, veterinarian, District Training Officer, from Camden Club, went through the points of the Rotary Four-Way Test enshrined in Rotary from the time Herbert Taylor gave it to Rotary International in 1943. Probably the most valuable part of the discussion was examination of cases of conflict when adherence to ethical principles must be weighed against other factors.

The Communications section was led by Jake Weragoda, secretary of Rotaract Australia, who stressed among other things the use of positive language: “Have you considered” as opposed to “I can’t”; “I suggest” as opposed to “I think”; “What we can do” as opposed to “We cannot do it.”

The Mentoring section, led by Donna White, president-elect of Como-Jannali Rotary Club, said that mentoring for new members was vital for Rotary Clubs. “It is important to retain rather than get new members,” she said. It was important to know why a person had decided to come into Rotary in the first place and then to mentor that person accordingly.



Mark and Miriam

Donations in Kind (DIK)

Miriam Jacka said a warehouse had become available for the operation, courtesy of the Salvation Army which had been given access to an abandoned property by Blacktown Council. Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) was paying rent to the Salvation Army of a dollar a year for 10 years, which was a godsend, for its major project, DIK. Now in its sixth year there, DIK was able to avoid paying commercial rent which might be \$1,000 a week and receive vast amounts of donated items for distribution to the developing world.

DIK got a lot of its donations from Rotary Clubs all over the state, “from Port Macquarie to Berrima to Wilcannia, Orange, Bathurst, Cowra and Tamworth.” There had to be caution about what was received. Wheelchairs with no seat or backs had to be fixed or they would become “landfill in a developing company”. That also went for hospital beds. It cost money to get rid of scrap metal, and the organisation could not afford to use J.J.Richards in the long term.

All containers sent to Papua New Guinea had to be fumigated because of the timber in them. But once those things were attended to, container after container went to the third world with items that would make life easier for people. Most containers now went to the Philippines, which had been afflicted by floods and tsunamis, but DIK also served Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Fiji, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Timor.

“We need volunteers as well as money to get volunteers out there,” she said. “Many of the items come in four or five days in a row.” With such limited time to properly process the donations, the organisation was always on the lookout for volunteers. “What happened last year we had several come out to see us and have a barbecue,” she said. “We have had a lot of Rotarians out there. They come out and have a look

round and six months down the track they will bring a team out there to work.” She had recently had two Rotary clubs from District 9690 and another club would be coming out in a fortnight. She had two clubs from Newcastle coming out in the first week in December. Orange and Bathurst Rotary Clubs had come down.

Miriam said that getting the material and sending it was only part of the operation. The other part was what happened at the other end. There were corruption problems in Papua New Guinea. The Customs Department wanted more money to clear the containers. A total of 149 containers packed with school desks and chairs sent to Papua New Guinea had been left sitting on the wharves because clearance had not been arranged at that end. There had to be an organisation at the other end to effectively receive the goods.

The organisation did not take used clothing. Companies gave new clothing. One batch of goods comprised 6,000 pairs of ladies’ shoes that could not be sold in Australia because part of the black colouring had leached into the white part of the footwear. Other items include 20,000 Biro pens and there were another 40,000 coming. There were 2,250 p[airs of thongs.

“We have been asked for wheelchairs, walking frames and hospital beds,” Miriam said. “If there is anyone in need of anything whatever and they cannot afford it, we have to give it to them. One woman had come to the organisation and had gone away with a wheelchair for her mother and Christmas presents for her children. “We had a gentleman who was very heavy,” she said. “We gave him a steel bed and for the first time in years, he was able to sleep in a bed.”

Dates for Diaries

November 8th – Bunnings BBQ

November 11th – Club Meeting, speaker Linda Sirol, Succession Planning.

November 18th - No lunch meeting.

- Rotary Foundation Dinner at Epping Club in evening

November 25th – Club Meeting, speaker John Surian. ‘Parramatta Today and in the Future’

Movember

Moustaches are now appearing in the club in support of awareness of men’s health. President Keith’s is the only one so far to have attracted comment.

Apologies and Guests

Apologies to Joy Gillett on 8837 1900 before 9.30 am on Monday morning.

This is the latest time apologies can be accepted as numbers must to be given to the hotel by this time.

If you are bringing a guest please also advise this to Joy by that time to ensure a meal is prepared.

The Club is required to pay for the number of lunches ordered. Invoices for the cost of a meal will be sent to members by Vandana if you do not apologise for non-attendance by the time stated.

The Flood of World Population

Again from Vun Ming, my son’s eccentric father-in-law, a link to tell exactly what the world’s population is at any second. You will note that the rate of births is not matched by the rate of deaths. When it comes to charity for the impoverished developing world, what must be kept in mind is that eventually the sheer numbers might eventually overwhelm all concepts of charity.

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

Malcolm Brown