

# Rotary Connects.....the World

Rotary Club of Parramatta City

May 13th 2020  
Volume 47, Issue 30

Thanks for the input into the recent club assembly where it allows your board to be in a position to make things happen for club members.

I am also gladden by two agenda items that came out of the meeting firstly all members will undertake to seek out from their business and personal networks people of interest who would be a guest speaker, remember they don't have to live in Sydney or for that matter Australia to be a virtual speaker.

The second item was that all agreed that it is everyone's responsibility to look for potential members for our club, two vocations were highlighted one in the field of Accountancy and the other Real Estate, two great vocations that have many multi avenues within each.

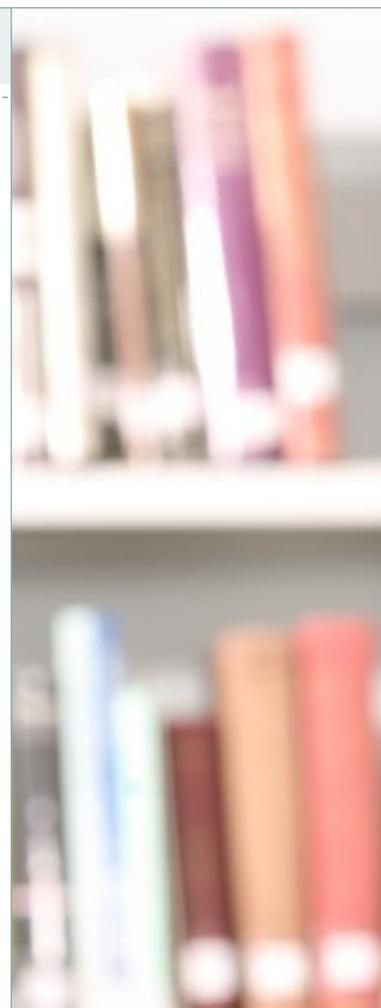


Finally the questionnaire that was sent to all members needs to be completed by Friday , this will assist in developing any new short goals for the strategic plan as it will be reviewed by the incoming Board next month.

I hope to see you at the Monday week's meeting and if you missed any of our previous speakers they are on the Clubs Youtube channel, search under the club's name or [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIv8\\_YX8Tu9KosEkob6MyVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIv8_YX8Tu9KosEkob6MyVA)

As well I encourage to use our facebook page, like it and subscribe to our Youtube channel as well

President Barry Antees



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Notes from meeting

# MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

## 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Club Assembly

The Rotary Club of Parramatta sat in yet another zoom session. Present were president Barry Antees, secretary Joy Gillett, Treasurer Keith Henning, PPs Malcolm Brown, Phil Brophy and Natalie Cowell, John Stamboulie, and honorary member, PP Richard Oakden, from the wilds of Toronto on Lake Macquarie, dialling from a distance. Richard has been receiving reports of club meetings and attests that we have had some “phenominal speakers”. He had gone back through reports on club meeting reports from 1985/86 put together in great style by Dick Smith.

### **A Word on Richard Oakden**

In 1972 in a campaign to start the new Rotary Club of Parramatta North, Don Champion called in to invite Richard to become a Rotarian which he did, having learnt a lot about Rotary from his father in law. Richard is one of the Club’s Charter members, when they were meeting in the Northmead Bowling Club on Windsor Road. He progressed through chairing each of the Avenues of Service committees to presidency eight years later. He was an active till 1991 when pressure of work in a number of companies he had founded forced him to step down from active membership. In 1994, he became an Honorary Rotarian.

Richard was born in New Zealand in 1935, qualified in accountancy and in 1960 came to Australia for a three-month working holiday. One job was helping install the first power cable into Perisher Valley from Guthega Power Station. In 1961 whilst working in Canada, he received and accepted an invitation from an Aussie engineer he had worked with on the Perisher project, to start a company in Melbourne manufacturing overhead powerline equipment which commenced in 1962.

On one of his visits to the Hydro Electric Co. Tasmania, he met a Tasmanian girl, Julie. They married in 1966 and in 1967 moved to Sydney, still working as executive director for Fanner Manufacturing P/L. Richard retired in 1991 and has since been in four new businesses but finally "put his feet up" in 2008. They now reside near Toronto on Lake Macquarie, enjoying bush walks in the rural atmosphere of their Leisure Life Village. They have three children and eight grandchildren spread between Hobart, Terrigal and Nerangba (Qld).

### **The Changeover**

President Barry Antees, who will continue in that role in 2020-21, said the changeover this year would be “nothing electorate”, rather just a get together, in whatever form that happened to be. Joy said she did not expect there would be a physical meeting at least till the end of July. She was well apprised of the restrictions on movement because of her involvement with netball and she did not expect much loosening till the end of that month. Keith said that even when that happened, there would still be social distancing for some time. He there would still have to be a report on the 2019/20 years and directors should send in report to comprise a book, even if the book turned out to be a thin one. Barry said that the incoming treasurer, Joy Gillett, might receive her badge in a ceremonial way even meeting on-line if someone were in the room with her.

### **Future Meetings**

Barry said the club should consider the format for future meetings. He pointed out that since the lockdown, our zoom meetings had been weekly. Malcolm said he favoured weekly meetings because, being retired, he looked forward to them. He also said that weekly meetings tended to give forward impetus to the club. If they were fortnightly and a member missed the one meeting, then it would be a month between meetings and he felt that was too long. Natalie said she was too busy to attend weekly meetings. Joy said she felt the same. Keith said that if meetings were to be weekly,

we would have to have guest speakers. He thought that if there were no guest speakers, some people would not bother to attend.

# MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

On the question of physical versus e-meetings, Phil said we could resume physical meetings in the foreseeable future, thought we would have to practice social distancing. But it was too early yet to make any definite plans. Barry said that with e-meetings, we could invite people to be part of it. We could use our personal networks to get people involved. Former member Ben Jackson had been to our last physical meeting and he was very keen on the club.

## **Guest Speakers**

Barry said it was hard to get a speaker each week. And for clubs that did have weekly meetings, it was more a “social atmosphere” than anything else. That would be alright for clubs that had been around for a while, but for a club like ours, it would be “a little hard”. He felt that guest speakers was the answer and that every member of the club should look to their networks to find someone who was willing to speak to us, to the extent that we could have a schedule of guest speaker. At present, we did not have in the club an accountant or a real estate agent and that was something the club should have, particularly in a place like Parramatta.

For a guest speaker to come physically, it meant up to three hours out of their day, but doing it on-line would put the guest speaker out by 20 to 25 minutes. That way, we could get guest speakers who could not otherwise make it. We had recently had a speaker from Shelterbox who was speaker from the north coast. Richard said that if we adopt that practice, we could get people all over the world to speak to us. Keith said a guest speaker could be put up on the big screen and available to everybody. Joy thought that might even be a way to recruit members.

## **Our RAWCS projects**

St Peter’s School in Uganda, lone of our club’s RAWCS projects, has run into hard times. Keith said that because of the Covid-19 virus, the government has ordered the country’s schools closed. The staff at St Peter’s were not paid in March and had probably not been paid in April. They were appealing for help. Keith said he would work on that during the week and try to get surplus funds to give them some relief. We were still running for a small excess in our surplus fund.

Our sister club, the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay in the Philippines had also run into problems. People were out of work and not allowed to go to the shops. He did note that people were still getting their food and there did not appear to be much social distancing or evidence of any real change at all in the way Filipinos were living their lives.

## **Poignant Pictures (Travelling companions)**



Guest Speaker  
Virtual club meetings  
Monday May 18th 2020 at 1.00pm

Rani Hayman– ABC Journalist and Producer

Rani Hayman is a Journalist working at ABC News in Sydney, covering stories across TV, radio and online. She previously worked in the broadcasters Darwin newsroom where she covered a range of topics including politics, Indigenous affairs and environmental issues. Rani began her career at the ABC Sydney where she worked as an International Radio News Producer, International TV Producer, and Domestic Radio News Reporter. She is also one of the founding members of the Rotary Club of St George Next Gen and has been part of the clubs development since it was established in 2015.



We now have a permanent GOTO details which I will repeat but for those who want to make this a permanent in your calendars

RC Parramatta City Monday Lunch Meetings

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/584155949>

## ROTARY

### WE CONNECT PEOPLE

Rotary unites more than a million people

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

### WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

We take action locally and globally

Each day, our members pour their passion, integrity, and intelligence into completing projects that have a lasting impact. We persevere until we deliver real, lasting solutions.

## Giving to Our Causes



Promoting Peace



Fighting Disease



Providing Clean Water



Saving Mothers and Children



Supporting Education



Growing Local Economies



**Rotary**  
Club of Parramatta City

