

Fellowship of Rotarian PDGs (and friends)

2014 Sydney Convention

2014 Annual General meeting (AGM)

RDU Building – 3 Hunter Street – Parramatta, NSW, Australia

Friday, 30 May – 3:30 to 5:00 (15:30 to 17:00)

2013-2014 officers present – Ray Klinginsmith, Chair, Johrita Solari Vice-chair, Ann Lee Hussey, Secretary, Bruce Baumberger, Treasurer and Philippe Lamoise, Registrar

1. Call to order at 3:30pm – Ray Klinginsmith, Chair

2. Presentation by Bob Aitken, RDU - *Everything You Need to Know About*

Sydney and the 2015 Convention – This presentation was given later in the

meeting due to Bob's late arrival. 1) Bob spoke of the now famous Bridge

Climb; Rotary broke the record with 340 Rotarians each carrying a flag

climbed the bridge. 2) The RDU is an older building that they renovated

through a Rotary House appeal to finance \$730,000. Four floors total. And

serves each year of Governors. 3) Sydney had 10-11 years of planning for

the convention. 4) The NSW (New South Wales) government provided \$7

million to use at the Convention venue. 5) Handicapped access was

provided and is readily available throughout Sydney and on all

transportation. 6) The NSW (New South Wales) government arranged free

transportation on all of the public trains and ferries in a 150K radius of

Sydney. 7) NSW government also provided Rotary signage throughout

downtown Sydney along roadways, at the Olympic Park and at the airport.

8) He discussed easy and fast bus transportation. 9) Everyone is invited to the Aussie BBQ – free to all courtesy of the NSW government and the Bush Dance at the end of the convention. 10) Many Australian homes were offered as Host Homes for convention visitors. 11) The Friendship House is the largest yet for a Rotary convention. The Host Committee raised \$200,000 in sponsorship to provide 400 booths and 100 commercial booths. 12) Spoke highly of the convenience of having the train station beside the convention venue. 13) Airport Transfer – all transport free. 14) Big shout out of appreciation for the Volunteers organizing.

3. **Membership report** – Philippe Lamoise, Registrar – 336 members/178 Districts/40 Countries. Countries with largest membership are Australiz, New Zealand and the USA in that order. Philippe also gave a presentation projected on the wall showing how to use the website. Great tips were shared on maneuvering around the tabs to find Rotary information and member information. Items discussed were the Calendar of Rotary Events, Member passwords, Google map demonstrating global reach of RI and how to use as a communication tool. New ideas for the website are welcomed by the Registrar.
4. **Treasurers' report** – Bruce Baumberger, Treasurer – See Report of Board – unanimous vote to accept financial report as presented. Books are healthy. Bruce also shared the Fellowship Booth schedule asking for more volunteers to man the booth in the Friendship House. He collected \$20 for all of those present attending dinner immediately following the AGM. And he explained that the RDU (Rotary Down Under) House generously provided their facilities for our meetings free of charge.

- 5. Discussion of the AGM and other PDG Fellowship activities at the 2015 convention in Sao Paulo** – Ray Klinginsmith and Bruce Baumberger explained the Board’s thoughts on the reception in the Friendship House and holding the AGM at the convention in Rotary assigned breakout rooms. We will need to register with Rotary early in order to have our choice of day and time for our AGM.
- 6. Dues for 2014-2015** – Ray Klinginsmith presented the Board recommendation to keep annual dues to \$10 explaining all we wish is to cover costs for promotion of fellowship and meeting spaces for reception and annual meeting. Members present voted unanimously to approve Board’s recommendation and dues would remain at \$10 for 2014-2015.
- 7. Election of officers** – the slate of officers recommended by the Board were presented and approved. Co-chairs – Johrita Solari and Bruce Baumberger, Vice-chair Ann Lee Hussey, Floyd Lancia Treasurer, Tom Thorfinnson Secretary, and Philippe Lamoise, Registrar/Webmaster.
- 8. Election of three directors for 2014 – 2017** – 3 Directors, Jason Chan, Geeta Manek and Gulam Vahatney terms expire June 30 2014. Board recommends letting them serve a second term 2014-2017. Members presented voted unanimously to accept the Board recommendation.
- **Discussion of 2014-2015 priorities for the PDGs Fellowship** – see Board minutes. Directors Johrita, Philippe, Floyd, Geeta, Jason and Gulam were all assigned discussion groups by the Chair Ray Klinginsmith. The following topics were assigned, two to each topic:
 - **A) How can the fellowship best enhance friendship and fellowship by PDGs at various levels?** 1) Local activities, 2) District meetings, 3) Multidistrict PETS, 4) Regional meetings, 5) Zone Institutes, 6) international meetings

- **B)** How can the fellowship best assist PDGs to remain actively involve and connected at the international level?
- **C)** How can the fellowship best motivate PDGs to support important Rotary activities, such as PolioPlus, TRF fundraising, international service projects, and membership growth?

Discussion on these topics took the bulk of the remaining time of the Annual General Meeting. Brief reports were given by a spokesperson from each group. More extensive reports will be gathered from the working notes of each group and included in the minutes of the meeting. See Attached Document.

Great fellowship was shared along with snacks and drinks generously provided by the RDU. Dinner followed for those remaining at a nearby restaurant/club.