



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

10 September 2012



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

GPO Box 2909
Brisbane Qld 4001

Meets 4th Floor
(Edinburgh Room)
of the Brisbane Club
Post Office Square
241 Adelaide Street
Brisbane

MONDAYS

12.15 pm – 1.45 pm

OFFICERS

President	Alistair Smith
President Elect	
Imm Past President	Basil Veal
Vice President	Keith Watts
Secretary	Michael Stephens
Treasurer	Dougal Henderson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Cameron Bishop

District 9600
Club Number 17787
Founded 29 May 1923

District Governor
Dai Mason

Rotary International President
Sakuji Tanaka

President's Message

Welcome Rotarians and friends,

It was good to see an active meeting on Monday for the presentation by Past District Governor Eric Wood. I had been hoping that Eric would speak about the mechanisms around applying for a foundation grant, something in which I feel the club should be involved. Eric did however direct us to the website, and I will be making some further investigations in this regard to ascertain what will be involved in running a project. Instead Eric's talk focused on the Weewak Hospital in PNG, as discussed in more detail elsewhere in the bulletin.

It is apparent that significant work will be required to bring the hospital back to a reasonable standard and I would be interested in views from members whether they think the club should assist. Following on from members comments in the meeting, there are obviously concerns around security, that the hospital is in such a bad state renovations may not sufficiently address the issue, and also that there will be insufficient local engagement to avoid the hospital falling into a similar state of disrepair in future. In view of that, I wonder whether the club would be better served running our own project, but obviously feedback from members is always appreciated.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Kelly for his efforts in organising the sausage sizzle for Saturday, along with the assistance from those who have volunteered to cook on the day. I would also like to thanks Stan Francis for looking into the desks and chairs from the Mabel Park State School.



Date Claimers

4 WAY TEST

Of the things we think, 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?





President's Message – continued

I will be absent from Monday's meeting, but Bas will be standing in for me in my absence, and I look forward with seeing you all when I return the following week, and in the meantime I will leave you with a photo of our guests from Peru from last week's meeting.



Yours in Rotary

President Alistair

Rotary Meeting – 3 September 2012

The Chairman was Greg Sellars. P Alistair welcomed our guests. He exchanged banners with Kate Wilde from Solihull in the UK, where Land Rovers are produced, and Ulrica Schmidt from Hamburg. Alistair also welcomed Arturo Basadre and his partner Danna Venturin from Rotary Huanaca in Peru. Arturo is a graduate in Business Studies who has come to Brisbane with the aim of improving his English and eventually hopes to enrol in a Master's programme in Business. He has experience in IT and Office Administration. He is currently seeking part time work. If any of our members can assist in this regard please phone him on 0415373797 . P Alistair had as his guest his partner Louise Grayson. Our speaker was PDG Eric Wood from the RC of Pine Rivers who is currently the Chairman of our District Rotary Foundation Committee. Eric's subject was the Wewak Hospital in Papua – New Guinea.

In the Rotary Spots a call was made for volunteers to assist in providing manpower for a BBQ and sausage sizzle for 250 people in New Farm Park from 10am to 2 pm next Saturday the 8th Of September. The Family Fun Day is being run by Anglicare as part of a recruiting drive for foster families.

A call for volunteers to collect surplus school equipment from the Maple Park State School for delivery to DIK and eventually New Guinea was answered by Stan Francis, who offered to hire a trailer at his own expense. He will contact other Club members for assistance when he knows the extent of the job.

PDG Eric Wood gave a power point presentation of numerous slides he took, as part of a recent inspection tour of the Wewak Hospital with a PP of our Club –Architect John Blake. The Hospital had originally been built by the Australian Administration in 1961. Since the Australian Administration has left, the physical facilities have been permitted to run down, as there has been no maintenance or money spent on the buildings for 40 years. The complexities of the political system and institutional systemic corruption were part of the problem .The illustrations showed the decaying and filthy conditions in a Hospital with 14 nurses that has 250 beds and that caters for the needs of a local population of 25,000. There were holes in the walls and ceilings, filthy and stained toilets, and dirty sinks in kitchens and treatment rooms. There was little or no medical equipment and soiled and dirty floors, walls and ceilings, with the potential dangers of exposed asbestos. Eric said that there was a stench in the whole building. The nurses were forced to sleep on the floors of humpies made of cast off materials in the grounds of the Hospital.

ROTARY GRACE

○ Lord and giver of all good
We thank You for our daily food
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways
Help us to serve You all our days.

Calendar

17 September:
Dean Prangley

24 September:
TBA

1 October:
TBA

Roster

10 September 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman P Gresham
Set Up/Away G Sellers
Raffle B Veal
Visitor Register P Caragata
Attendance G Whitmore

17 September 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman TBA
Set Up/Away TBA
Raffle TBA
Visitor Register TBA
Attendance TBA

24 September 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman TBA
Set Up/Away TBA
Raffle TBA
Visitor Register TBA
Attendance TBA

1 October 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman TBA
Set Up/Away TBA
Raffle TBA
Visitor Register TBA
Attendance TBA

Please forward any dates or articles of interest that you would like to see included in future Bulletins to the Bulletin Editor at

secretary@brisbanerotary.org.au



Rotary Meeting – 3 September 2012 (continued)

There were no sheets on the beds-most of which had been donated by DIK in Brisbane and Melbourne. There was no hot water or soap as we know it. Some of the staff had not been paid for several years.

Partly due to these appalling physical conditions at least two mothers die in childbirth each month, and on average one newborn a week dies in this Hospital. This must be just the tip of the infant mortality iceberg in PNG, as only one in ten births are "lucky" enough to occur in Hospital – the other 90% are born in the bush. To counter this appalling needless loss of life PDG Eric proposes to raise \$180,000 within District 9600 which will be matched by \$90,000 from the Rotary Foundation. This \$270,000 should be sufficient to send three teams of 10 volunteers up to Wewak for two weeks. Each team will have qualified tradesman to supervise the volunteers, who will initially refurbish the Accident Department, which is where all are admitted, and the Children's and Babies Ward. All going well he hopes that the first team can leave in February 2013.

PDG Eric made an appeal to our Club for donations and also for volunteers to help clean up and renovate the Wewak Hospital. Our members queried Eric on the need for security for the contents once the buildings had been upgraded. He assured them that ongoing security would receive high priority. Chairman Greg Sellars thanked our speaker and urged our Club to consider offering financial support for this most worthy project.

Because our speaker had gone well overtime, SAA Cam Bishop had to curtail his section to a welcome for our guests and a few fines. Despite Cam's best endeavours the meeting finished very late at 2.10 PM. The raffle was won by Gerald Holtmann. A total of 25 attended the lunch.

Seeking new horizons

By John Davis, past governor of District 9800 (Australia) and district Rotary Foundation committee chair



John Davis

After two years of working with the Future Vision pilot, we are certainly aware that change and sustainability are important concepts to Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

But some may ask: Why change a formula that on the surface appears to be producing results? Is it simply change for change sake? Most certainly not. As an organization, we are not attracting young adults in the numbers we would like. Is our organization too rigid and inflexible to attract these young professionals, who wish to make a difference in the world? If we are to reach them, we need to demonstrate that Rotary can make a visible difference in the lives of others.

Vocational training teams are designed to do just that. Using the vocational and professional skills of team members, particularly in countries where resources and infrastructure are limited, the teams improve the facilities and living conditions of the people living there.

As a Rotary district, we wanted to know what we could do to improve conditions in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The lifetime risk of maternal death at child birth is 1 in 30, and the percentage of deliveries with a skilled birth attendant is less than 30 percent. The first step was to send an investigatory group to the country, partly funded by a Future Vision district grant.

With the information from that visit, Districts 9800 and 9550 submitted an application for a global grant to fund five vocational training teams over a three-year period, with the focus on maternal and child health. The teams will provide refresher courses for midwives working in Timor.

Two training teams have now been sent, the first in November 2011 and the second in May 2012. The third team will leave this month. The teams are working under the endorsement of the Departments of Health of the Timor government and the United Nations Population Fund, and the refresher courses are closely aligned with the United Nation's emergency obstetric care program.

The global grant will also provide much needed basic medical equipment. This surely is how Rotary can meet the challenges of a changing world, and be a force for good in its second century of service.

Source: <http://blog.rotary.org>