



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

11 November 2013



## The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

ABN 75 152 438 499

GPO Box 2909  
Brisbane Qld 4001

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

**MONDAYS**

12.15 pm – 1.45 pm

### OFFICERS

President	Graeme Whitmore
President Elect	Graeme Whitmore
Imm Past President	Alistair Smith
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  
Trevor Taylor

Rotary International President  
Ron Burton

### President's Message

I am the latest in the 'Round Robin' series of Past Presidents standing in for President Graeme while he is away. I found it encouraging that there were three full tables of members attending – a total of 20.

Members are reminded about the Rotary World Congress to be held in Sydney next year and hosted by the Rotary Club of Sydney. I strongly urge you to attend, even for one day, as you will find some very inspiring speakers.

In The Rotary Foundation newsletter distributed to all members by email, you will find an announcement of the District 9600 Foundation seminar to be held at St Columbans College, Caboolture on Sunday 10th November. Seminar starts at 9am with registration beginning at 8:30am. There will be a special presentation by the Vocational Training Team that has just returned from PNG. This seminar is particularly appropriate for all members but new members in particular.

With regards to Polio Plus, there are still 7 countries in which Polio is endemic. They are Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Ridding the world of the scourge of Polio is not just a matter of throwing money at the problem, unfortunately religious, political and cultural issues block progress being made. In Afghanistan the Taliban have stopped vaccine administration because they say that it will make the young women infertile. In other countries World Health workers have been threatened and even harmed as they carried out their job.



**What's On?**  
11 November:

Associate  
Professor Derek  
Richard

### Date Claimers

10 April 2014  
30th Charter  
Anniversary of the RC of  
Taipei Tatung  
Hotel Taipei Regent  
Details on their website  
<http://www.regenttaipei.com>

1-4 June 2014  
Rotary International  
Convention, Sydney

### 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 (cont.)

Most recently, it has been reported that some 22 cases have been reported in Syria as a result of the Civil War going on there.

The Bill Gates Foundation has pledged \$US200Million on a matching basis to fight the war against polio and in fact since our Club hosted the World Congress in 2003 more the half a billion dollars have been directed towards polio eradication. The World President in 2003 said in his keynote speech that all that was needed was another \$US100Million to finish the job and he got that amount pledged from delegate's right there. We will get there, but it will be a struggle.

We are assured by Bas Veal that he has speakers lined up for the rest of the year. This is great as I think we are all getting a little tired of TBA as a weekly speaker. How about some ideas for next year?

**Brian Carss**  
Acting President

## Rotary Meeting Report 4 November 2013

The Chairman for today's meeting was Secretary Michael Stephens who welcomed Acting President PP Brian Carss to speak to us. As there were no guests or speaker to welcome PP Brian spoke on Rotary's fight against polio and the stimulation and inspiration he got from hearing such people as Ted Turner and Bill Gates speaking at Rotary World Congresses. His full report is presented elsewhere in this Bulletin.

In Rotary Spots Michael Stephens reminded members that there would be a General Meeting on the 18th of November to vote on the audited financial statements. He also informed us that our new members Kevin Cocks and Dinah Zhang were both on leave of absence due to injuries, Kevin with a broken ankle, and Dinah with disk damage. I am sure we all wish them both a speedy recovery.

PP Wal Bishop informed us that he had sourced our Christmas cakes and puddings direct from the supplier and asked for all orders and money to be in by next Monday. He also announced that he still had 22 cases of wine left and he was prepared to sell them for the bargain price of \$150 per case.

Denise Schellbach thanked members for their generosity in donating a bag of toys to the two girls in her care from ROMAC. She hoped to bring the girls to our meeting to introduce them to us next week. She also mentioned that ROMAC currently was helping a 6 year old from East Timor, and a 3 year old from Nauru, both of whom are in Brisbane for open heart surgery that is unavailable at home. Denise reminded us that she would need our help to man the Eddie's Van during the Christmas school vacation. She thanked Cam Bishop and Michael Stephens for their generosity in donating their obsolete iPads to her two burns girls. Michael Stephens urged us to support Denise's work with Eddie's Van when help was needed.

Tony McKinnon our Purveyor of Entertainment is back and informed us that he was planning a Christmas lunch or dinner with our partner's and called for suggestions and ideas.

There was no guest speaker and members enjoyed an extended period of fellowship.

SAA Cam Bishop let Chris Muir off a fine as the last member to enter the room. He kept to the Melbourne Cup theme with a joke about a priest blessing horses at the races, and the difference between a blessing and the last rites. Hardy Brothers were given a lot of good publicity as they manufacture the Melbourne Cup at the Wallace Bishop factory in Brisbane.

### ROTARY GRACE

O 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

**11 November 2013:**  
*Associate Professor Derek Richard*

**18 November 2013:**  
*Fellowship*

**25 November 2013:**  
*Job Talk - TBA*

## Roster

**11 November 2013:**  
**President** W Bishop  
**Chairperson** M Kelly  
**Set Up/Away** A McKinnon  
**Raffle** A Gillespie  
**Visitor Register** S Francis  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

**18 November 2013:**  
**President** K Watts  
**Chairperson** S Dunlop  
**Set Up/Away** C Muir  
**Raffle** D Schellbach  
**Visitor Register** B Carss  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

**25 November 2013:**  
**President** B Veal  
**Chairperson** P Caragata  
**Set Up/Away** G Burnett  
**Raffle** D Zhang  
**Visitor Register** P Anderson  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

**2 December 2013:**  
**President** G Whitmore  
**Chairperson** A Gillespie  
**Set Up/Away** S Francis  
**Raffle** M Winders  
**Visitor Register** P Ryan  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

*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*



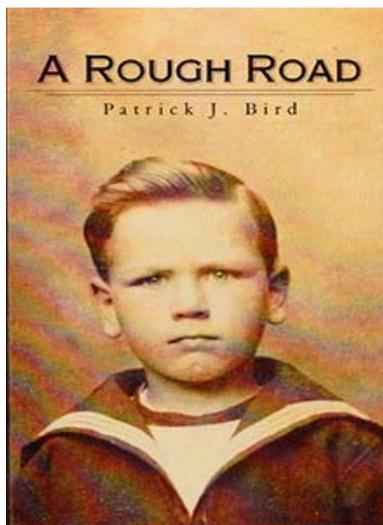
## Rotary Meeting Report (cont.) 4 November 2013

Cam himself won the raffle at the first draw, but generously did not accept the prize. Don O'Donoghue won the redraw, but as Cam did not have the pack of cards with him, he won the bottle of Sarabah Estate 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon. A total of 20 members enjoyed the lunch.

### Traveling down a rough road with polio

By Patrick J. Bird, polio survivor and author of *A Rough Road*  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

During the polio epidemic of 1940, I contracted polio and became ensconced for 19 months in a "reconstruction home" far from my family. I was only 4 years old, and since all the other children were at least twice my age, I was initially placed in a room by myself instead of one of the dormitories.



Enduring loneliness, painful treatments, and lengthy, frustrating rehabilitation sessions, I learned to overcome my fears and to prevail physically and emotionally through my interactions with a colorful cast of hospital staff. There was the friendly giant orderly Johnny Cant and the light-hearted Nurse Kelly. They were joined by the no-nonsense physical therapist Ma Gillick, an evangelical swimming instructor Mr. Cooney, and the imposing and frightening Dr. Strasburg and his mean assistant Nurse McCormick.

Perhaps most important to my "reconstruction" however, was the arrival of roommate Joey. An adventure loving, bedridden youngster with spina bifida three years my senior, Joey introduced me to the joys and tomfoolery of boyhood and inspired me with his physical and mental toughness. There were infrequent — but significant — visits from my mom, who was sure the Blessed Virgin would cure me, and my pop, who feared in his heart that he would have a cripple for a son.

My rough road ended the day I left the home, more than 70 years ago. I arrived home in New York City with a strong right leg but atrophied left leg. Think of a baseball bat with a bulbous knot, my knee, and a small floppy foot stuck to the end. In spite of this, I've had a full life. I competed in gymnastics, winning the Big Ten championship at the University of Illinois, where I attended on an athletic scholarship. I earned a bachelors and masters at Illinois, and then a doctorate from Minnesota, coaching gymnastics at both schools. I married, had three children, and am now a retired Dean Emeritus from the College of Health and Human Performance at the University of Florida.

It's sad to think that so many children in pockets around the world are being crippled by this preventable disease. Through the fantastically successful efforts of Rotary and its partners, we can and will end this disease soon.

### Remembering Jonas Salk on the anniversary of his birthday

By Kurt Sipolski, freelance writer, polio survivor, and resident of Palm Desert, California, USA  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

Years ago, I founded and published a magazine for homeowners and designers, San Francisco Gentry magazine.

It was easy to target advertisers. While homeowners don't necessarily eat out more than renters, they sure as heck hire builders and landscapers more often.

One time, I called a fire contractor to sell him an ad. I had used him when an apartment in a building I owned caught fire. After refreshing his memory of who I was, he replied, "Oh, I remember. You're the cripple."

I was so astonished, that all I could think of to say was, "Technically, I suppose, because I had polio, you are correct. But I don't like your connotation of that word, and I won't call again."

It did and does remind me of how far we have come in the United States in terms of viewing the disabled. Today marks the birthday of Jonas Salk (1914-1995), who developed the first vaccine against polio. It made me think of the strides we have taken since that period.

Salk's vaccine was cleared for general use in 1955, and was eventually followed by Albert Sabin's oral vaccine. The disease then and now has helped unite many behind a single cause, kill this virus that is targeting our kids.

The March of Dimes was founded by a ton of dimes landing on desks in Washington D.C., and helped not only to end the disease in the United States, but to benefit the families of polio survivors. My mother, a widow, very gratefully used it for all my therapy and operations and later became president of our local chapter in Illinois.

Unfortunately, many polio survivors who lived successful and productive lives now suffer from post-polio syndrome, which mimics all the discomfort and weakness suffered when the disease first struck. The neurons are shot after decades of use and overuse. I know it is terribly discouraging.





## Remembering Jonas Salk on the anniversary of his birthday (cont.)

Thank God, there are only a few cases of polio left in the world. And with the help of Rotary, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the other partner organizations in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we are closing in on finally exterminating this virus. Even facing death in some countries, polio eradication volunteers are out there bravely getting the job done.

Actresses like Archie Panjabi and Mia Farrow and Ksenia Solo have lent their names and donated their time to the cause. Ms. Solo has optioned the rights to adapt my book to the screen. The film will highlight the unspoken courage of a million mothers who suffered just as much as their kids, only in their souls.

It is one thing to help a cause when someone immediate to you is affected, but entirely magnanimous to help others purely because no one else is helping them.

Cases of acute flaccid paralysis are being investigated in war-torn Syria, and the polio virus has been found recently in sewage in Jerusalem. It is as important as ever to maintain vigilance against this disease until it is finally eradicated.

Good people are doing good things in the fight against polio, and deserve our support. Noblesse Oblige.

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