



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

16 September 2013



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

ABN 75 152 438 499

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	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
Dai Mason

Rotary International President
Ron Burton

President's Message

Fellow Rotarians

Good Meeting today, with a very interesting talk on the New Government Building at 1 William Street being constructed by Brookfield Multiplex, and finance by an industry Superannuation fund.

A few apologies, due to business pressures and some medical situations, we wish Wal Bishop a speedy return to full health, and our thoughts go to Stan Francis in the care of his son.

Meeting numbers were a little low but it is great to advise that next Monday we will induct two new members, we will welcome Denise Schellbach who has been a regular visitor to our club and Mark Steinhardt proposed by PP Keith Watts.

Our RYPEN student attended the course last weekend and will visit the club on a Monday during the school holidays to tell us about her experience and thank our club for its support.

We have received the order forms for the Xmas cakes and Xmas puddings and I will need a club member to take this project on if members consider it practical. It can generate \$2 to \$3 per cake or pudding sold.

National Seniors Association are arranging a Talk on POSITIVE AGING on Wed 2nd Oct 9.30 for 10.00 cost \$5 at New Farm Uniting Church 52 Merthyr Road see me if interested in attending.

Continued next page...



What's On?
16 September:
External talk
TBA

Date Claimers

Two lunches this week –
16th September
20th September
*20/9/13 - Rotary Lunch
Combined DG Visit with
Brisbane Mid City*
Venue: Brisbane Club

1-4 July 2014
Rotary International
Convention, Sydney
Details on their website

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

FINAL REMINDER: We have a Joint District Governors Lunch meeting at the Brisbane Club Friday 20th September. I trust we will have a good R C of B Representation.

Yours in Rotary

**REMEMBER: ENGAGE ROTARY
CHANGE LIVES**

President Graeme

Rotary Meeting – 9 September 2013

Our hard working and efficient Secretary Michael Stevens was our Chairperson of the day. P Graeme welcomed our Guest Speaker John Gough from the large international development - construction company Brookfield – Multiplex, and our regular visitor Denise Schellbach from Brisbane Planetarium RC.

P Graeme read apologies for non-attendance at today's meeting from Diana Zhang, Wal Bishop, Tony McKinnon and Stan Francis. P Graeme's report is presented elsewhere in this Bulletin. In Rotary Spots, in the absence of the Club Bacchus Tony McKinnon, SAA Cam Bishop urged members to purchase cases of the current wine promotion of the 2010 Belgravia Syrah at \$204 per dozen. 40 cases of this wine are currently in Wal's not air-conditioned shed at Austin St. Teneriffe, so see Cam or Tony for purchases and pick arrangements from the shed. Phil Little suggested a certain legal member of the Club should be fined for drinking Bollinger over the weekend, and not consuming the current wine the Club is offering.

Our guest speaker John Gough gave an illustrated talk on the behind the scenes work entailed in bidding for, and securing a contract to build, what is currently the largest commercial building contract in Australia. When it is completed on the 17th of October 2016, it will be by far the largest office building in Queensland, providing working space for 7,500 people.

The building at 1 William St., on a prime 6,778 m2 spot near the river in the Government precinct, will cost \$650 million, provide 75,000 m2 of office space over 43 floors of an office tower to be built to house State Government public servants. The land involved is on a 99 year lease from the State Government. The total floor area is 120,000 m2. Some of it will be let to commercial tenants. It will be a spectacular looking, quality building, built to the highest 5 green star environmental standards. There will be parking for 318 cars, but it is designed so workers and visitors can utilise public transport. The building is designed with internal atria for light and views. There are open areas with stairs between groups of 3 floors to encourage public servants to communicate with co-workers in other Departments.

John spoke of the huge investment in the time of the most able people in the Company in bidding for these large contracts, often without success. He was full of praise for the efficiency of the relevant Departments involved in the development approvals for this Government project once his company won the contract. Currently the project has started with the earthworks nearing completion. John expects we will see cranes on the site in the next 4-6 weeks.

In the questions that followed John answered members concerns about the relatively small number of car parks, and assured us that all crucial electrical controls were well above flood level. There is no plan for a helicopter pad to be incorporated in the building. Perhaps if another Casino is located in the area it could be located there.

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

16 September 2013:
External – TBA

20 September 2013:
Combined DG Visit with
Brisbane Mid City

23 September 2013:
NO MEETING

30 September 2013:
Job Talk – TBA

Roster

16 September 2013:
President G Whitmore
Chairperson B Carss
Set Up/Away M Winders
Raffle M Kelly
Visitor Register A McKinnon
Attendance J Smerdon
J Charlton

23 September 2013:
NO MEETING

30 September 2013:
President G Whitmore
Chairperson C Muir
Set Up/Away P Gresham
Raffle R Tamaschke
Visitor Register C Shepherd
Attendance J Smerdon
J Charlton

7 October 2013:
President G Whitmore
Chairperson 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



SAA Cam arrived very late, and was only saved by the even later arrival of Chris Muir. However Chris had the good excuse of an Oral Surgery emergency- we did not learn of Cam's. He did make up for it with a good joke about the blonde ice fishing on the ice- skating rink. He fined people who had not drunk wine over the weekend. He fined those who did not have an iPhone. He reminded us that a new version of the iPhone debuts in the Apple shops on Wednesday.

Club Treasurer Dougal Henderson won the raffle for the second week in a row, and generously put it up for a re-draw. The redraw was won by PP Keith Watts who drew the 2 of clubs, so the cash jackpot is now over \$700. A total of 19 attended an informative lunch. I am sure we will all watch the erection of the landmark new building at 1 William St. much better informed after John's interesting presentation.

Angels of Karachi: The Pakistani women who risk death every day to vaccinate children against polio

Rabail Mehar was at work when she got the news. Four women, polio vaccination workers like her, had been shot dead at three locations in Karachi within the space of 20 minutes. A fifth female worker had been killed in Peshawar.

"I started crying," said Ms Mehar, who had only been in the position a month. "I decided I was going to quit."

As it was, the 25-year-old did not resign on that dark, murderous day last December. Even though her mother and father wanted her to quit, that evening, with a "cool head", she realised her role as part of the country's campaign to end polio was more to her than just a job. It took three days to win over her parents.

Across Pakistan there are thousands of women like Rabail Mehar. The battle to rid the country of polio is a team effort involving the central and provincial governments, private organisations and charities, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation.

But on the frontline, where teams go door-to-door persuading often reluctant families to administer drops of vaccine to their children, it is women who are leading the fight. Frequently they risk their lives to do so.

There are lots of men out there too, but officials say women have generally shown themselves to be more effective at delivering the message that the vaccine can save a child from a debilitating disease. "Females feel more of a sense of responsibility," said Dr Syed Saifur Rehman, a senior government official in Karachi. "They have better access. They are well dressed."

Along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, Pakistan is one of three countries where polio remains endemic. In 2011 there were 198 confirmed cases, in 2012 there were 58 while this year there have been 24. The vast majority occur in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Balochistan.

But Karachi, with a shifting population of up to 25 million people and with large, displaced communities from Afghanistan and the tribal areas, is another of the battlegrounds. Two cases have been confirmed in 2013, the most recent on 8 August. It is 10.30am on another morning and the vaccination team has arrived at a shanty community opposite Karachi University, which is home to around 3,000 of the city's most desperately poor. A mixture of Muslims and Hindus originally from the rural interior of Sindh province, the community here has no roads, drains or sanitation. "I want all the women to come out and bring your children," says a man with a loud-hailer. "Be quick, we have limited time."

Among the team is a young female supervisor wearing a blue scarf, pink nail polish and possessing a degree in international relations. The 27-year-old, who asked she be identified by the initial, S, said she was from a naval family and had two brothers and six sisters.

After the attacks in December, S also came under pressure from her family to give up her post. They wanted her to take up teaching. She also refused. Now she supervises a team of "social mobilisers" who liaise with the migrant community and ensure the mothers don't skip sessions.

At this location, most families agree to bring out their children even if they do not understand why the health workers are making such an effort - especially given they receive no other government services. "They come and do the vaccination. We don't know about these things," said Sarwan, 35, who sells fruit. A volunteer paints the nail of a child's little finger with a purple marker to prove they were vaccinated against polio.

Elsewhere things are not so simple. In some communities, especially in the remote and detached tribal areas, there is a commonly-held belief, spread by some clerics, that vaccinations are part of a Western plot to sterilise Muslims. Officials say this belief, and the number of cases of vaccine "refusals", jumped in the aftermath of the US operation to kill Osama bin Laden when it emerged the CIA had recruited a Pakistani doctor, Shakil Afridi.

Dr Afridi had been tasked with establishing a fake vaccination campaign to obtain DNA samples from children living in Bin Laden's Abbottabad compound. In 2012, Dr Afridi was jailed for 33 years after he was accused of treason. Last week a judge ordered a retrial.

Another aspect of the US's so-called war on terror in Pakistan that has hindered the polio campaign is the CIA drone operation. Last year, the Taliban said polio workers could not operate in the mountainous area of Waziristan until the strikes were halted.



The decision meant 240,000 children under the age of five missed out on the vaccine. Sixteen polio cases have been detected in North and South Waziristan since the Taliban ban. Tests are being conducted on a further 42 suspected cases. "It's real," said a senior member of the Pakistan polio team, part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, who asked not to be identified. "If the drone strikes stopped, the polio campaign would improve."

The suspicion aroused by Dr Afridi and the spectre of a US plot is underscored by the case of 32-year-old Usman, a labourer from the Bin Qasim Town neighbourhood. Even though Mr Usman suffered from polio as a child, he decided not to vaccinate his three-year-old son, Musharraf Khan, in the aftermath of the Dr Afridi affair.

"I saw that this job was being done by the CIA and its allies," said Mr Usman, seated in an office of the Karachi health department.

Late last year, Musharraf Khan started complaining of weakness and fever. On 16 January he was positively identified as having polio. For several weeks it appeared he would be left disabled but intensive rehabilitation has seen his mobility return. Doctors say it must have been a mild case.

Most are not so lucky. Dr Abdul Samad, a WHO official with responsibility for the city's north-western Gadap Town area, pulled out his phone to play a video clip of one-year-old Sana Farishta, who was positively tested for polio on 8 August.

On the clip, the little girl's father, Noor Mohammad, held her up but while she could put her weight on her right leg, the left flopped. Officials say the she had received nine dosages of the vaccine. They are unsure whether she is one of the rare cases in which the vaccine can be ineffective or if the cold-chain for the drug had been broken rendering it useless.

To counter public suspicion and a perception that taking the vaccine may somehow be unIslamic, the authorities have turned to influential members of the community.

None have played a more important role than the Muslim clerics who have lent their support. Maulana Bilal Ahmed, a cleric in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi, said he had noticed the incidence of polio had reduced where children were given the vaccination. He now tells people to ensure their youngsters are vaccinated.

He also debates the issue with other clerics. "I always ask them for proof that the vaccine is harmful," he said. "They cannot provide any, so that means I always win." Even so, there are many within Pakistan who disagree. In the last 13 months there have been 24 attacks on vaccination teams. A total of 17 health workers and five police escorts killed and 14 injured.

While Ms Mehar's parents were initially concerned about her safety, they now accept she is dedicated to the job. As it is, she is now the family's sole earner, with the responsibility for five sisters and a brother. The eldest sibling, 18-year-old Naila, wants to go to medical college.

At the family's home, Naila said that after the attacks in December, they wanted Ms Mehar to find a different job. "Because of her gift for this work, she carried out. She means everything to us," she said.

As a full-time social mobiliser, Ms Mehar earns around £120 a month. Many of the women involved in the campaign are recruited on a daily basis and paid as little as £1.50.

Among the four polio workers killed in Karachi last December, at least two were paid on this ad hoc basis. Fahida and Madeha Shah, who were relatives, had set out close to their home in the Landhi Town district, when they were shot and killed, reportedly by gunmen on a motorbike. Gulnaz Sherazi, 30, who was Madeha Shah's aunt and who is the campaign supervisor in the area, heard the gunshots. After some delay, she went to the scene.

When she got there she discovered Madeha lying in an ambulance. She assumed she was unconscious and reached out to touch her face only to find it was already cool.

Ms Sherazi said Madeha was divorced and had a three-year-old child, who was now being raised by their grandmother.

Ms Sherazi said she had also received threats and after seeing her niece's body lying in the ambulance she thought she would give up her job. She too decided to continue.

"We all die one day," she said. "So why not die as a brave person?"



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Advance Notice
Great Wine Sale

About the Wine	Winemaker's Notes
 <p>Belgravia 2010 Syrah</p> <p><small>Cracka Review</small></p> <p><small>"I have got a little crush on Orange Shiraz. It is not the biggest or baddest Shiraz with more elegance than your everyday South Australian example but it delivers loads of spicy, earthy personality. If you like Shiraz with subtlety and character then this is most certainly your man."</small></p> <p>Price Point: \$16-\$18</p>	<p><small>Region: Orange, NSW.</small></p> <p>Winemaking: Low cropped Shiraz fruit was blended with a tiny parcel of Viognier and naturally fermented with wild yeasts.</p> <p><small>Colour: Purply red.</small></p> <p><small>Aroma: Black cherry and a violet perfume with white pepper.</small></p> <p><small>Palate:</small> A delicate texture with powerful spine and unseeded flavours that weave into a black fruit core and finishes with gripping tannins.</p> <p><small>Vintage:</small> A combination of a cool vintage and the warmer mesoclimatic of our vineyard resulted in ripe, mellow fruit.</p> <p><small>Peak Drinking:</small> 2012 to 2017.</p> <p><small>Food Matches:</small> Barbequed scotch fillet, roast beef or aged cheddar.</p> <p><small>Awards & Accolades</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold medal in the Orange Wine Show, 2012. • *** Winestate: "A voluptuous and lively red that's loaded with dark berry elements" • 91 points by James Halliday