



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

17 June 2013



## The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

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          | Alistair Smith   |
| President Elect    | Graeme Whitmore  |
| 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

For those of you unable to attend, we had a fantastic evening on Wednesday celebrating the club's 90th Anniversary. The dinner was well attended, including visiting guests from the Rotary Club of Taipei Tatung, Deputy Mayor Cnr Adrian Shrinner, DG Dai Mason and his wife Sue, ADG Lisa Bateson, Angela Tillmans, Andrew Vincent and Warren Hampton, presidents of Hi-Rise, Mid-City and Samford Valley respectively, as well as many members, past members and guests.

During the dinner we were fortunate to be able to hear from Cnr Shrinner about the restoration to City Hall, whilst President Ron Huang of the Rotary Club of Taipei Tatung presented us with a gift including a beautifully carved dragon, which I will bring to the next meeting on Monday 17th June. As usual, Cam kept the evening running smoothly whilst also managing to raise over \$500 by auctioning off the table centre pieces.

The raffle was also drawn thanks to a few last minute sales, and I am pleased (in a very jealous way) to be able to report that this was won by John Smerdon. We are in the process of finalising amounts, but at this stage it looks like this will have raised about \$15,000 for the club.

As always, I would like to say a big thank you to all those involved in the organisation of not only the dinner, but also the ballet and the visit by our sister club, the Rotary Club of Taipei Tatung.

*(continued on next page)*



### What's On?

17 June:

*Professor Ross Young*

### 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?





## Presidents Message (continued)

In particular, I would like to thank Michael Kelly for organising the dinner and ballet tickets, Michael Stephens for his general organisation, ticket collecting and hounding, Graeme Whitmore for last minute running around, Keith Watts for helping organise the visit, and Phil Gresham (and Fotofast) for printing the banners, which looked magnificent. I would also like to thank Brian Carss for his Rotary spots, which provided much of the factual material for my speech, which is set out at the end of this message for those who were unable to attend.

We will have a number of photos from the event and these will be included in future bulletins.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on 17th June 2013.

Yours in Rotary

## President Alistair

### Rotary Meeting – 5 June 2013

The Special Meeting to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Brisbane was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Samford Plaza Hotel on Wednesday the 5th of June 2013. The event was very well attended, with the Deputy Lord Mayor Cnr. Adrian Shrinner, representing Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, P Ron Huang and a delegation of members from our sister Club of Taipei Tatung, PP Malcolm Campbell representing another Sister Club of Amsterdam International, by our own members, visitors from other Rotary Clubs, including the District Governor, Presidents of other Rotary Clubs as detailed in the attached President's Report.

The MC for the evening was our own SAA Cam Bishop, who did a great job by making the evening an entertaining yet dignified event. He started the proceedings with a joke about a hungry bear finding religion just before he ate the startled hunter, before beginning grace.

This set the fun and light hearted mood that prevailed throughout the night. After a toast to Rotary, SAA Cam then welcomed the guests individually, and drew their attention to the chart on a stand detailing the Rotary Clubs in Queensland that were formed by our Club.

His next duty was to introduce Deputy Mayor Adrian Shrinner, who acknowledged the Delegation of Rotarians from Taipei Tatung who had earlier attended a Civic Reception at the newly restored City Hall. He stressed that Brisbane was the only Capital City able to have a City Hall, as it was the only one that had amalgamated their various suburban Councils, so by default all the other Australian Capitals could only have Town Halls. He thanked our Club for its generous financial support for the recent extensive restoration project on the iconic City Hall which was built in 1925. The total restoration cost of \$215 million he felt was worthwhile to protect and preserve such an historic treasure.

SAA Cam next introduced P Ron from the RC of Taipei Tatung, our Sister Club since 2002, who said how pleased they all were to be present, and congratulated our Club on its 90th birthday. He also congratulated P Alistair and presented our Club with a gift as a memento of the occasion and invited members of our Club to join his Club on the 10th of April in 2014, to join them in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the foundation of their Club. P Alistair then presented our banner to his accompanying members.

The next speaker was P Alistair who presented a brief and light hearted potted history of the highlights and achievements of the Rotary Club of Brisbane over the past 90 years, which is presented elsewhere in this Bulletin.

*Continued on next page...*

## 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

**17 June 2013:**  
Professor Ross Young

## Roster

### 17 June 2013:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
G Whitmore

### 24 June 2013:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
G Whitmore

### 1 July 2013:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
G Whitmore

### 8 July 2013:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
G Whitmore

*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*



P Alistair finished his address with a toast to the Rotary Club of Brisbane.

SAA Cam then said that if they could sell an additional six tickets in the Brian Carss originated Grange Wine Raffle then the draw could proceed that night. The required numbers of tickets were quickly sold and the draw commenced. A young guest picked ten tickets from the barrel, and then Xanthia, by far the youngest guest drew the winning number from these ten. The winner was our own hard working member John Smerdon, who unfortunately was unable to attend because he had influenza.

P Alistair together with P Ron then cut a huge birthday cake. SAA Cam astutely raised another \$550 for our charitable funds by raffling off the flower arrangements decorating the tables. Cam finished the night with a vote of thanks to all the Ladies who had attended. I am sure that all who were there had a most pleasant and enjoyable evening, with a good meal in a first class environment, that celebrated a real milestone in the history of the Club.

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### 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – speech by President Alistair

The Rotary Club of Brisbane was established over 90 years ago, which is nearly 33,000 days, or 800,000 hours. To put this in perspective however, there are currently over 1.2 million Rotarians in over 32,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries, so more than one Rotarian for every hour and nearly one Rotary club for every day of our club's existence.

So how did we get here, well the universe came into existence approximately 13.7 billion years ago, which according to Douglas Adams, "has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move". The earth didn't get round to making an appearance for about 9.2 billion years, with humans finally coming on the scene approximately 200,000 years ago. Australia was first settled between 40 and 60 thousand years ago, with the first known landing by Europeans not arriving until 1606.

Despite being late on the scene, with Captain Cook first arriving in 1770, it didn't take the Brits long to really get moving, with the first convicts arriving on the First Fleet in 1778. A Penal Colony was established in the Brisbane area in 1824, with QLD as we know it being formally established in 1859, a full 42 years before the Federation of Australia 1901.

Elsewhere, in 1905 the Rotary Club of Chicago was established by Paul Harris, with the first meeting include a tinker, a tailor, a coal merchant and lawyer. I can't help but think things might have been different if the latter two attendees had been a soldier and spy instead. Whilst originally established as an organization for friendship and business exchange, the focus soon shifted to one of service with the motto 'Service above Self' embodying the philosophy of the organisation. Rotary soon expanded across the world and within a few years, Rotary clubs had been established on six continents.

Returning to Brisbane in 1917, the original City Hall foundation stone was laid by Governor Gould Adams to "build enthusiasm" for the project. Work continued at break neck speed, with a Second foundation stone being put in place a mere three years later by the Prince of Wales, the same year QANTAS (Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service) was established.

Finally, in November 1922 our club's history starts, with Sir Henry Braddon of the Rotary Club of Sydney holding a meeting in Brisbane leading to the establishment of the Rotary Club of Brisbane, with 16 Charter members on 29th May 1923. Interestingly this is the same year Vegemite first went on sale, which for our foreign guests, I can only describe as a sandwich spread that tastes of old socks.

Unlike City Hall constructions, membership grew rapidly and reached 55 by the end of the first year. Not to be outdone however, in 1924 City Hall construction finally began in earnest, with construction being completed in 1927, the year in which our oldest current member (mentioning no names) was born.

In 1931 the club hosted the first district conference in City Hall commencing a long standing relationship with this iconic building, more of which I will mention later.

During this first decade our club helped found clubs in Ipswich, Bundaberg, Mackay, Townsville, Toowoomba, Lismore and Maryborough, with Rotary truly becoming active throughout QLD. For those of you that are interested, the link between our own club and many of those in QLD is shown on the banner.

Little other history remains of the early years, but we do know that in 1933 lunchtime addresses were first broadcast on local radio, a full 12 months before Brisbane's first television transmissions, so at that time our club was at the cutting edge of media.

This year is also important in the Club's history, as not only was the club honored to receive a visit from Paul Harris and his wife, but it was also the year the club helped form the Queensland Society for Crippled Children. Club member George Marchant donated his house, and the club raising funds for a therapy pool to be installed. Now known as MontroseAccess, this organisation continues to provide assistance to the children and young adults with disabilities to this day. By the end of this first decade, membership in the club stood at 129 and Rotary was thriving throughout QLD.

Of course, things never run smoothly, and 1936 was a particularly sad year for QLD, with the Bunderburg Rum Distillery being destroyed in a lightening strike. However, this was subsequently rebuilt and life in QLD returned to normal, with members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane branching out and forming the Rotary Clubs of Fortitude Valley and South Brisbane in 1938 and 1939, respectively.



During the war years, the club strived to provide assistance to individuals affected by the war, whilst on a global level Rotary adopted the four way test, originally penned in 1932, before 49 Rotarians went on to help draft the United Nations Charter in 1945.

The fifties saw the Lord Mayor of Brisbane pass a resolution to establish International House, a project driven by the club which finally opened at University of QLD in 1965, providing fully catered accommodation for 200 undergraduate students and 40 post graduates, from Australia and overseas, which has proved a great initiative for fostering international relationships.

In 1959 the club also assisted in running a seminar for young people called "Gundoo". Over the course of the following decade the Club took on "Gundoo" as a regular project with anywhere from 20 to 200 participants each year. This project spread throughout Australia and across the Tasman to New Zealand, until it was finally adopted by RI as an international Rotary Project and given the official name Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), a wonderful contribution by the club to a program that is still running to this day.

In 1964, the first telephone based fax was sent, and shortly after the Rotary Club of Brisbane West was established by members in 1966. The sheltered workshop for the disabled was also proposed, with this opening the following year before being renamed Help Industries. After nine months of operation the workshop reached the financial break-even point, with forty disabled persons being employed and 8 having been returned to full-time outside employment. Finally that year, England also managed their one and only football world cup win, and whilst I do not believe the club assisted in any way, as an Englishman it is my obligation to mention this at any available opportunity.

In 1969 membership peaked at 248 and the Club office moved to premises on the top floor of the Canberra Hotel, which with assistance from district later became the Rotary Information Office.

The next five years saw many projects, including providing assistance provided to Youthline, a telephone counseling service and with one of our own members Sir Arnold Bennett taking on District Governor role in 1972.

In 1974 tragedy struck, and I'm not talking about the birth of your current president, but rather the extensive flooding hitting that hit Brisbane CBD and surrounding suburbs. The club responded swiftly, planning and raising funds for a Salvation Army Mobile Canteen.

In 1977 then President Wal Bishop lead the club to establish a Foundation to support the Queensland Surf Life Saving Association. In so doing the Foundation would provide a sound financial basis, with sufficient capital so that it could provide a regular income. Just like our past president Wal, the foundation is still going strong to this day. Two years later John Woodhead went on to establish the Brisbane branch of the National Association of Disabled Office Workers (NADOW), with this link being further strengthened in 1986 when John Woodhead became club President.

In the early 80s, whilst boffins were busy standardizing internet protocols, years behind the global network that is Rotary, membership was hit hard, with this dropping over a period of a couple of years to around 150. This decade also saw the club loose the traditional home of the Canberra Hotel, when this was sold and meetings subsequently moved to Lennons.

Despite such setbacks, the club pushed on with a number of projects including the Bridging the Gap job help program, which was now well underway with a full time coordinator that had dealt with some 820 applications. In 1982 the State of Origin series was established in it's current form, which for our overseas guests is a Rugby League competition in which QLD shows NSW how the game should be played. Our apologies to those who have sacrificed watching tonight's game to be here, but you all know QLD will win, so I'm sure you're not missing much.

The mid eighties were also a big year for Rotary more broadly with the then RI President, a certain QLDer Clem Renouf, helping launch the polio plus program with Rotary International pledging \$120 million. The club itself has contributed significantly over the years, and since it's inception Rotary has raised over \$800 million. Since then the program has been joined by the WHO and more recently the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and now only four countries remain affected. Incredibly over 2 billion children have been vaccinated, including the vaccination of a staggering 134 million children in one day in India in 1997. To put that in perspective, that is nearly three children per minute for each minute of the club's existence, can you imagine that?

In 1989 the club was opened to women, and our Benevolent Fund was established on the basis of a generous bequeathment by member Lionel Walpole. The careful stewardship of this fund over the last 24 years has seen hundreds of thousands of dollars directed to worthy causes, a fitting tribute to one of our members and the foresight of the club at that time.

In the nineties, the Club did some serious fund-raising, raising over \$200,000 for projects such as the provision of a Caretaker's house and reception for the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre; Polio Plus; the Wesley Rotary Lodge and various other projects. In 1993 the club also established the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid City and I would like to thank their current President Angela Tillmans for their hospitality at their 20th anniversary last week, may they continue to go from strength to strength.



The early 2000s saw the club form a number of "Sister and Matched Club" relationship with the Rotary Club of TsimShaTsui East, Hong Kong, the Rotary Club of Port Moresby, The Rotary Club of Amsterdam-International, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and The Rotary Club of Charleston, South Carolina, USA. Last but not certainly not least the club formed our sister relationship with our great friends the Rotary Club of Taipei Tatung, and I would like to thank their representatives for their attendance here this evening.

In 2003, a full year before Facebook was launched, the club also acted as host club for the World Congress, which despite the Iraq war and SARS outbreak, proved a great success, at the time being acknowledged by Mr L.J. Williams the Manager of Rotary's international meetings as the best convention ever. In 2006 there was further international involvement with the club contributing to a project run by the RC Amsterdam International with 17 water wells being bored in the Mpumalanga region in South Africa.

City Hall was then sadly back in the news, when major structural deficiencies were discovered leading to the establishment of a restoration project in 2009. As mentioned by Cnr. Schrinner, City Hall was built on a swamp and this reminds me of the scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail "Everyone said I was daft to build a castle on a swamp, but I built in all the same, just to show them. It sank into the swamp. So I built a second one. That sank into the swamp. So I built a third. That burned down, fell over, then sank into the swamp. But the fourth one stayed up."

Thankfully, progress on restoration has progressed somewhat more rapidly than the original construction, with this being completed early this year. The club has contributed \$25k to this community project, and no doubt our friends from Rotary Club of Taipei Tatung can appreciate the enormity of the task that was undertaken having had the opportunity to attend a reception there earlier this evening.

Recent years have seen the club addressing many of the challenges faced by Rotary throughout the world, including struggles with membership. Despite this in the last couple of years the Club has raised nearly \$40,000 from a variety of activities including Raffles and Golf days. That coupled with funds from Lionel Walpole's benevolent fund has seen the club contribute nearly \$50,000 towards BYS and other projects, as well as making contributions following the floods in Brisbane, and the devastating Tsunami in Japan. The club also continues its active involvement in the community events, assisting with events such as clean up Australia day, a Jazz Festival to raise funds following recent flooding in 2011, and numerous fun runs.

These are of course only a snapshot of the achievements of the club over the years, and to cover all would take us through into the early hours of the morning. Nevertheless, reflecting on these achievements it is apparent that our club has a significant history of involvement with projects that continue to have an impact to this day, not only at a local community level, but also Internationally and for Rotary as a whole. This history is something of which the club, its past and it's present members should all be extremely proud.

We now have less than 10 years to go until our 100th anniversary and hopefully we can strive to make the next 3600 days just as successful as those that have gone before. On that note I would like you all to stand and raise a glass to the Rotary Club of Brisbane, its history, its members past and present, and its achievements, may they all continue for a long time to come .....

