

# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

20 April 2015



## 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	Phil Gresham
Imm Past President	Alistair Smith
Vice President	Keith Watts
Secretary	Michael Stephens
Treasurer	Warren Walker
Sergeant-at-Arms	Cameron Bishop

District 9600  
Club Number 17787  
Founded 29 May 1923

District Governor  
George Grant

Rotary International President  
Gary C K Huang

### President's Message

#### Welcome fellow Rotarians & Visitors

As we approach Anzac day, and a reminder of our past we have obtained the services of Brigadier Ray Mc Nab CSC RFD President of the United Services Club, as our speaker today. Ray will speak on the western front WW1.

Today we also welcome members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Mid City in what I hope will become a regular interaction of our two clubs, with exchange of speakers and meeting and possibly joint projects for our mutual benefit.

On the medical front, nothing to report on Rotarians Max Winders & Peter Anderson but we wish them both a speedy recovery.

Rotarian John Smerdon spent last Monday In Wesley Hospital to have a melanoma removed from his back, we all join in wishing John a quick return to full health. It would appear that as older members born before the "slip slop slap" campaign our past time in the sun is catching up with us all.

Great fellowship meeting last week, which included passing the new Constitution and Club Rules, well don VP K Watts and team for undertaking this task.

A few interesting matters that have come to light this week:

#### Shelter Boxes:

Rotary has sent 1000 boxes to Vanuatu after cyclone Pam along with 7500 blankets 1500 solar lights, 2250 Mosquito nets, 200 midi tents and 500 tarps.



**What's on?  
20 April:**

**Brigadier Ray  
McNab CSC  
RFD**  
President United  
Service Club.

### Date Claimers

**27 April 2015:**  
Angel Flight - Michael  
Solomon

**1-3 May 2015:**  
District 9600  
Conference 2015

**28 May 2015:**  
RCOB Charity Golf  
Day at North Lakes

### 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

Given the current and continuing situation in our Region of the South Pacific, it may be worthy of our Club to become a regular contributor to the Shelter box Rotary Fund.

We have agreed to contribute \$5000 to the request for help and will send a cash contribution thro the district office.

### Volunteers Requested:

Volunteers are requested for a project in East Timor. The Rotary club of Erring (NSW Central Coast) is working with RAWCS in a birthing facility in Timor and require a Plumber/ electrician /painter/builder from July 14th to July 28th. Stay in local accommodation.

Interested parties contact monniehart@hotmail.com or [rossoearse@me.com](mailto:rossoearse@me.com).

### INTERNATIONAL HOUSE:

International house is celebrating its Golden Anniversary 29th-30th Aug

This project was first started by RC of B and was described at that time as a "VISIONARY CONCEPT" and once complete, since that time has been home to 5500 residents.

The Support for International House comes ONLY from Rotary clubs

The Building in now ready for refurbishing and it is proposed that clubs contribute \$5000 payable over 1 to 3 years and that each contributor will have a room dedication plaque placed outside that room. There are 50 Rooms to Refurbish.

Given that our club was the instigator of INTERNATIONAL HOUSE I would propose that our club should revisit this pat project and commit to two or three rooms in a show of support to this facility. I will be raising this issue at our next board meeting.

### GOLF:

GOLF is on again for 28th May (Morning game with Breakfast roll, & lunch) more details later but put this in your diary or smart phone, as we want to get to the 100 players or more this year. Any Members who have access to sponsors and suitable prizes please contact Michael Stephens or myself as soon as possible.

### District Conference

District Conference is on at Bribie Island from May 1st to 3rd with a social golf day the day before, any members wishing to attend contact Bribie Island Club. There is also a lunch cruise on Bribie passage on Friday and places are still available call Bribie Island Club

Remember: LIGHT UP ROTARY

### President Graeme

## Rotary Meeting – 13 April 2015

The Chairperson for the day was Phil Little. After Rotary Grace and toasts to the Queen of Australia and Rotary International, he introduced President Graeme Whitmore. Graeme's message is reported elsewhere in the Bulletin.

In Rotary Spots:

- Michael Stephens urged members to ask their friends to participate in RCOB's Charity Golf Day. He also requested to be informed if any member was able to accommodate the German Rotarian who had requested assistance.
- Tony McKinnon briefed the meeting on the Anzac Day arrangements for the benefit of those members that had volunteered to assist as Marshalls. Activities start at Queen's Park on the George Street side. Brightly coloured polo shirts will be issued and must be returned. Please bring a hat. Michael Stephens is to advise participating members' names to Rotarian insurance.
- Members were reminded of the District 9600 Conference scheduled for 1 – 3 May. Conference speaker details may be found at:
- [www.rotarydistrict9600conference2015.info/#!speakers/cfvg](http://www.rotarydistrict9600conference2015.info/#!speakers/cfvg)



## Calendar

**4 May 2015:**  
Queensland Ombudsman

**11 May 2015:**  
Fellowship

**3 August 2015:**  
Denise and Bruce Morcombe  
(Daniel Morcombe Foundation).

## Roster

**20 April 2015:**  
President G Whitmore  
Chairperson J Ryder  
Set Up/Away P Ryan  
Raffle P Ryan  
Visitor Register M Evans  
Attendance J Smerdon  
D O'Donoghue

**27 April 2015:**  
President G Whitmore  
Chairperson P Caragata  
Set Up/Away A Smith  
Raffle A McKinnon  
Visitor Register R Tamaschke  
Attendance J Smerdon  
D Schellbach

**4 May 2015:**  
President G Whitmore  
Chairperson P Ryan  
Set Up/Away A Gillespie  
Raffle W Walker  
Visitor Register S Francis  
Attendance J Smerdon  
D O'Donoghue

**11 May 2015:**  
President G Whitmore  
Chairperson G Holtmann  
Set Up/Away J Delahunty  
Raffle S Dunlop  
Visitor Register B Veal  
Attendance J Smerdon  
D Schellbach

*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 – 13 April 2015

This was primarily a Fellowship meeting.

During Fellowship, President Graham introduced VP Keith Watts, who together with Rick Tamaschke and Phil Gresham, had updated RCOB's Constitution and Bylaws. Keith proposed and Graeme seconded a resolution "that the revised RCOB Constitution and Bylaws be approved by the meeting prior to submission to the Office of Fair Trading for registration." Details were previously provided to all RCOB members by Keith in his email dated 24 March 2015. The resolution was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

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### Audio books for the visually impaired

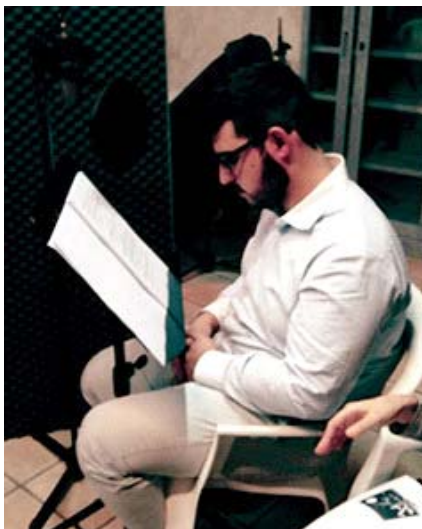
By Mirko Gangi, Rotaract Club of Caltanissetta, Sicily

Source: Rotary International

There are many visually impaired children in Italy and Sicily who lack teaching materials and educational aids. The purchase and distribution of books in Braille is difficult, there is only one distribution house in Sicily, and the cost of audio books is very high. The present economic crisis and lack of public funds also does not help.

So as members of Rotaract, we joined together with the Rotary Club of Caltanissetta to record and produce three audio books which we distributed to 750 children with visual impairments in primary, middle, and high schools in Sicily. We intend to make the audio books available to schools free of charge as a teaching tool.

We held 15 different events, including a concert by the renowned master Luigi Mariani, who is himself blind, to raise money for our project. We worked closely with the ministry of education, the City of Caltanissetta, and the Braille Printing House of Catania.



A member of the Rotaract Club of Caltanissetta, Sicily, records a section of an audio book.

We are also putting the files of the audio books on the Internet so they will be available to blind children anywhere in the world, and not just Italy.

Through Rotary and Rotaract, we are able to accomplish so much more than we could ever accomplish on our own. It gives us a platform to work with other groups, like the ministry of education, to really make a difference in our communities.

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### Rotary values translate into any culture

By Renée Riley-Adams, Rotary Club of Ashland, Oregon, USA

Source: Rotary International

My husband and I recently traveled to Brazil on vacation to visit my brother. The one-hour Rotary meeting I went to while there remains one of my most treasured memories from the trip.

Though I understood perhaps only ten percent of what was being said, it was the welcome I received that made the experience so worthwhile. There is a magic in knowing that I share the same values as the people I met. The hearty handshakes I received and the kisses on my cheek spoke volumes of the shared fellowship that is Rotary around the world.

Ubatuba is three and a half hours by car from São Paulo, where Rotary's International Convention will take place this June. In my broken Portuguese, I could make that connection, along with another question that brought smiles to their faces: "How long have you been in Rotary?" Whether the answer was one year or twenty, I could tell these people were dedicated.

With 14 members, the Ubatuba Club was much smaller than my Ashland Club of 110 and met in the evening, with members going out to dinner after the meeting. It felt quite intimate as we sat in a circle instead of in a big hall with a podium. I was touched by the sincere exchanges and desire to find a way forward together as they discussed how to get wheelchairs to senior citizens in need and how to best publicize an upcoming fundraiser to help eradicate polio.

Getting to the meeting was not an easy feat. As we drove our rental car, the warm rain bucketed down, making it a challenge to not hit people riding their bikes on the side of the road in the dark without reflectors, lights or helmets. The few people carrying surfboards and walking in their flip-flops were only marginally easier to avoid.

A week or so before, I'd sent messages via Facebook to see if I could make contact with someone at Rotary Ubatuba. My emails must have gone to a spambox however so we resorted to using the phone.

After several days leaving messages back and forth, we finally had a multi-way conversation involving me, my brother, a photographer friend who speaks fluent Portuguese, the secretary of the Ubatuba Club, and their Rotary exchange student.



Renée Riley-Adams exchanges club banners with a member of the Rotary Club of Ubatuba, São Paulo, Brazil.

Barbara, the 18-year-old Youth Exchange student from Mexico, adeptly fielded any word I threw her way in my attempt to communicate — Spanish, English, Portuguese and even the occasional French word. She was a star! I gave her the name of our Ashland Club exchange student from Spain; the ripples of connection continue to move outward.

I brought a small, red, banner from my town's Rotary Club and everyone took pictures of me giving it to the Club President, Flavio Miranda. They like flags as they had six of them that they unfurled with some ceremony on an official Rotary stand. I was intrigued to see that instead of a pledge of allegiance, they clapped to honor the flags, Brazil and Rotary.

I tried to explain that this was only the second time I have attended Rotary out of my country. The first time was when I went to Scotland, where they gave me "a wee dram" of whiskey in a miniature bottle to take back to our Club's President. Last night they gave me the words to a song Ciranda Da Bailarina by Brazilian musician Chico Buarque.

Though it will probably take me several more years of Portuguese lessons to truly understand the heartfelt sentiments of the song, the sweet essence of international connection clings to my skin along with the jungle humidity. Service Above Self translates into all cultures and languages.