



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

21 October 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

*Welcome Rotarians and Friends*

In President Graeme's absence, I just wanted to say thank you to those who attended Monday's meeting. It was great to hear from Major Bryce Davies and Luke Meikus regarding the good work the Salvation Army are doing, particularly in terms of fostering an ongoing sense of community, which seems to be a vital component of the success of their drug and alcohol program, as well as having significant benefits beyond that.

Whilst not wanting to encourage members to need the Salvo's dependency program, I would take this opportunity to remind you that there is a significant quantity of wine that members have not yet bought/claimed. I can personally vouch for the fact that whilst this might not be Sarabah Estate, it is still a particularly drinkable vintage. It also stuck me while sampling the wine that this drop would go extremely well with a Rotary Christmas pudding (see Wal)...

Past President Keith Watts will be standing in next week, so let's aim for a big turn out to welcome him back to presidential duties.

Yours in Rotary

Past President Alistair



### 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?





## Rotary Meeting – 14 October 2013

Today's Chairman was Phil Little who introduced our Acting President PP Alistair Smith, who stood-in for P Graeme Whitmore who is going to be overseas for another few weeks. PP Alistair welcomed our Guest Speaker Major Bryce Davies from the Salvation Army and his off-sider Luke Meikus.

In Rotary Spots SAA Cam Bishop urged members to support the wine promotion, and called for those who had already bought wine to contact him to make a suitable time to collect it from Wal's shed.

Phil Gresham related that our member Greg Sellars, who has been seriously ill with cancer and had been having chemotherapy and radiation therapy, walked into his photographic store recently. Greg was looking much better than when Phil had last seen him, and has been feeling strong enough to go to work on two days a week. I am sure all members are pleased to hear that Greg's treatment is working so well and we all wish him continued improvement.

Our Guest Speaker Major Bryce Davies, a member of Brisbane High-rise RC, took a spot to advertise the PwC Cool Night Classic 2013. This is a charity corporate run / walk to be held on the night of Thursday the 31st of October. The Salvation Army is going to be one of the beneficiaries. Full details are available at [www.pwc.com.au/coolnightclassic-brisbane](http://www.pwc.com.au/coolnightclassic-brisbane).

Our Guest Speaker Major Bryce Davies has had a 20+ year career as a Salvation Army Officer. In recent times in Brisbane he has been involved in the lives of homeless people and those whose lives have been destroyed through the abuse of drugs and alcohol. In the past this often involved giving these people a safe place to live while they tried to "kick their habit." While this gave them a place to live, it was often not much of a life, with a common result a return to their original bad practices very soon after they were discharged from treatment. To try to overcome this, a new approach has been to try to give these persons a sense of belonging to a community or family who cares for their long term welfare.

This Street Level community is physically based in Fortitude Valley. Most of them have been through the Salvation Army's programmes to assist the homeless and the addicted. Some have mental health issues. There is a structured programme where members join a group of 6 to 8 people for lunch on Monday. After lunch there is a discussion group on a subject such as "Anger Management" followed by what the Bible says on the subject. On Tuesdays there is another lunch followed by craft work. On Wednesday another lunch followed by craft, and then music practice. On Thursdays after 5pm there is a gourmet BBQ often attended by up to 100 persons, followed by a Chapel Service that attracts 50 to 70. On Thursday and Friday nights some of the community assist by going out into the streets and Pubs with collection boxes to collect money to help fund community activities. On Friday nights women and children join in the dinner. About once a month about 30 volunteers prepare a special sit-down Sunday roast meal for over 100 persons. The last one they had featured roast turkey.

Recently Bryce took a group of 12 from this community fishing and camping on Fraser Island. Last weekend there was a Kite Flying day that attracted 1,000 people. The Salvation Army provided a coffee van manned by members of the community who were paid to provide cups of coffee on a commercial basis.

Our speaker then introduced Luke Meikus to our Club members, and invited Luke to tell us his story. Luke apologised for attending the Brisbane Club dressed in shorts. The scheduled volunteer had to cancel at the last moment and Luke stepped into the job with almost no notice.

*Continued 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

**21 October 2013:**  
*Job Talk – TBA*

**28 October 2013:**  
*TBA*

**4 November 2013:**  
*TBA*

## Roster

### 21 October 2013:

**President** K Watts  
**Chairperson** P Gresham  
**Set Up/Away** M Kelly  
**Raffle** S Francis  
**Visitor Register** G Holtmann  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

### 28 October 2013:

**President** B Veal  
**Chairperson** P Anderson  
**Set Up/Away** C Shepherd  
**Raffle** P Gresham  
**Visitor Register** K Cocks  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

### 4 November 2013:

**President** B Carss  
**Chairperson** R Tamaschke  
**Set Up/Away** M Evans  
**Raffle** P Little  
**Visitor Register** M Winders  
**Attendance** J Smerdon  
J Charlton

### 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

*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 – 14 October 2013 (continued)

Luke is a member of the Salvation Army Street Level community in the Valley. He spoke of a harsh childhood, of being raised at times by his father, then his mother, and eventually by his grandmother. This involved many unsatisfactory short-term living situations with a litany of different schools. He eventually developed an extreme addiction to alcohol and gambling and tried to suicide. This led him to being treated at the Salvation Army operated Moonya Rehabilitation Centre at Red Hill. After ten months there with no gambling and learning to cope with being sober, he joined the Salvo's Street Level community in the Valley. He spoke of his admiration for Street Level as they did not just try to fix your addiction and then move you on and forget you. With people like Luke there is no quick fix. For Luke Street Level became his church and his extended family. This sense of belonging and family is especially important to Luke because of his dysfunctional early family background. This helped a lot when three years ago Luke was diagnosed as being bi-polar. His acceptance by Street Level and their staff and his new friends has made a big difference to his confidence and his life. He can now speak to anyone. He is also employed for 5 hours per week as an organiser of volunteers. He has taken on the role as a weekly mentor for a 20 year old homeless man to help him turn his life around. He is able to use his life experience to help others avoid the same problems.

Major Bryce concluded his talk by thanking Luke for his confident presentation. He also related that his Rotary Club –Brisbane High-rise, had assisted him to arrange a wedding for a young couple who lived in a caravan park at Aspley. The bride was pregnant and the young couple did not think that they could afford to get married. Bryce provided the ceremony; a Rotarian provided a red BMW as a wedding car, the Club provided wedding rings and the whole event was covered by Chanel 7. Bryce invited anyone who was able to join Street Level on a Thursday night between 5 to 6pm to attend their dinner and to listen to 5 or 6 people tell their stories.

Chairman Phil Little thanked Bryce and Luke for their most interesting and personal talks and congratulated the Salvation Army for their wonderful work with those enduring life's complex problems. Phil spoke highly of his own family's gratitude to the Salvo's for their work on the front line in North Africa where his 18 year old brother was one of 7 out of 120 in his unit to survive, before being sent off to fight the Japanese on his return to Australia.

SAA Cam Bishop thanked our speakers and endorsed the good job the Salvos do in our community. He entertained us with some very tasteful jokes, and was reserved and almost kind with his fines. It took three draws of the raffle before PP Alistair Smith eventually claimed the prize. However his draw of the 2 of diamonds means the jackpot increases to over \$800. 18 attended a most interesting meeting that made us all contemplate how lucky most of us were to have escaped the life experiences related by Luke, and that we have wonderful people in our community like the Salvos who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and offer practical help and assistance.



From left to right - Luke Meikus, Major Bryce Davies and Chairman Phil Little

## Indian Surgeon Helping Polio Patients Take First Steps

Source: Voice of America News  
Courtesy: [www.eflashonline.org](http://www.eflashonline.org)

NEW DELHI — India is getting close to marking its third year without a new recorded polio case, setting the stage for the country to be officially declared polio-free in January. While much has been done to immunize infants against the disease, millions of people are living with polio, unable to live a normal life.

But one surgeon is working to change that.

At one of New Delhi's oldest hospitals, in the only designated polio ward in all of India, patients like Abida Khatoon have only one goal.

"I can stand and walk," Khatoon said. "I just need a little help, and soon I won't need that as well. Soon, I will be able to walk on my own."

It took two months of surgery and rehabilitation at St. Stephen's Hospital for Khatoon to achieve her life-long dream of being able to walk.

She and other young women in this eight-bed ward credit Dr. Mathew Varghese, an orthopedic surgeon who has devoted his entire career to restoring mobility and dignity to those left crippled by the poliovirus that invades the brain and spinal cord, causing paralysis.

"All these girls have been crawling, except for this one, all the others have been crawling," Varghese said. "The other muscles are very weak. They have never had the opportunity to stand on their two feet. For the first time in their lives - like this girl is paralyzed at six months -- she has never been able to stand on her two feet."



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As India gets closer to officially being declared polio-free, the effect of the massive immunization effort can be seen in the hospital, with Varghese now mostly treating people in their early twenties as opposed to young children some two decades ago.

In 1990, New Delhi alone saw 3,000 new polio cases. Now that number is zero. The trend is reflected here at this polio ward, where at its peak it saw 600 patients annually. Now that number is down to fewer than 200.

Rotary International has been on the frontline of India's polio eradication efforts and helps fund reconstructive surgeries at St. Stephen's. Former Rotary President Rajendra Saboo saw the need to give polio patients a second chance at a normal life during a trip to a village in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

"Then another child came, also crawling," said Saboo. "And I said 'what is happening to these children?' They seem to have been struck by polio. And the villagers said, 'no, no, no, just forget them, they are dust.'"

But Rotary and Varghese did not forget them. Patients hear about the ward and travel to New Delhi from across India in hopes of correcting bent legs and feet. No one is turned away.

After weeks in the hospital, 19-year-old Abida Khartoon is getting ready to go home to her village in Uttar Pradesh.

"If I had only met Dr. Varghese earlier, I wouldn't have had as much hardship in life," she said. "My hands wouldn't be so calloused [from using them to get around]. Because of him, I am doing better," she said tearfully.

But Khartoon is not the only one brought to tears. When asked what this surgeon's dream is -- the answer was simple.

"My dream," he asked, trying to choke back his own tears. "This ward should be empty. No polio."



## Advance Notice

## Great Wine Sale

### About the Wine



### Belgravia

### 2010 Shiraz

### Cracka Review

"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."

**Price Point: \$16-\$18**

### Winemaker's Notes

**Region:** Orange, NSW.

**Winemaking:** Low cropped Shiraz fruit was blended with a tiny parcel of Viognier and naturally fermented with wild yeasts.

**Colour:** Purply red.

**Aroma:** Black cherry and a violet perfume with white pepper.

**Palate:** A delicate texture with powerful spice and aniseed flavours that weave into a black fruit core and finishes with gripping tannins.

**Vintage:** A combination of a cool vintage and the warmer mesoclimate of our vineyard resulted in ripe, mellow fruit.

**Peak Drinking:** 2012 to 2017.

**Food Matches:** Barbequed scotch fillet, roast beef or aged cheddar.

#### Awards & Accolades

- 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