



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

22 June 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

Hi all members, this is my penultimate note as your President for the past two years, time has really gone quite quickly with a lot of water under the bridge, as incoming President Phil Gresham and myself have discussed the merits of a change over either at lunch or evening on the 29th June, I decided to put it to the vote last Monday and it was clear that most members thought that a Lunch change was appropriate, however following our board meeting I agreed to let Phil take up the running of the change over as we move into his year.

Last Tuesday night I attended the "Rotaract CBD" meeting and presented the Name tags that we as a Club as part of our joint sponsorship of the chartering of this club, provided and paid for. Most of the club members were present except for two who were unfortunately caught up in a traffic snarl on Coronation Drive.

The Rotaract CBD club were celebrating 12mths since President Melanie Parker first took control of the clubs proposal to gain charter, and she has achieved her goal, Past ADG Lisa Bateson was also in attendance. They are to be congratulated for their efforts and I offered on behalf of our club, any assistance that may require in the future.

### What's on?

**22 June:**  
Fellowship

### Date Claimers

**29 June 2015:**  
Changeover Dinner  
(details to be advised)

### 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

Our speaker last week was Detective Sergeant David Dunn who spoke on Identity Theft which has now become big business world-wide, and he highlighted the need to be ever mindful of where your personal information is kept, how waste letters, envelopes, bank statements etc. are disposed of, and about the perils of social media as a leaking place of personal data. He reminded us that as one door closes the criminal have another scam ready to go. Be aware and alert.

### President Elect for Year 2016/2017

As only One nomination was received for this position following the withdrawal of RTN Max Winders due to Business Commitments, that from Rtn Tony McKinnon, the board accepted his nomination and Tony was duly elected, thank you Tony for your self-nomination and congratulations go from the board on your appointment.

### Nepal Earthquake Appeal

The board agreed to contribute an amount of \$1100 to be added to that provided by friends of Rotary (Mr K Jenkins Wife) to be sent to Nepal to be administered directly through a Rotary Club, to be identified by a regular from NEPAL BJ. To ensure the money gets to those urgently in need of help.

### DROUGHT RELIEF NORTH WEST QLD

I am still following this issue again to ensure that all our contribution gets to the Farmers in need and local businesses and is not reduced by managements costs by those administrating the distribution. I will be following this up this week to ensure the probity and security of our committed funds.

### Joint meeting

On 10th July Brisbane mid-City (Friday Lunch at Brisbane Club) has a speaker from the Brisbane Airport Corporation speaking on the second runway expansion. As a consequence we will cancel our usual day and time on Monday 6th July. The joint meeting on 10th July will be our meeting that week.

An announcement on Change over format and arrangements will be made on Monday at our weekly meeting Good turnout requested as it is a fellowship and business day come along and contribute to the future of our club.

I thank Members for your attendance & fellowship.

### President Graeme

Remember: **LIGHT UP ROTARY**

## Rotary Meeting – 15 June 2015

The Chairperson for the day was Chris Muir. 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, Patrick Caragata provided an update on the 'charities initiative' with Brisbane City Council that is progressing well (he and Jarrod Ryder had recently had a further meeting with BCC). Presentations have been requested from three charities that are in trouble and need assistance. He will keep members informed of further developments.

PE Phil Gresham urged members to strongly support the 'Changeover Dinner' scheduled for 29th June. Further details will follow.

After a short period of Fellowship, the Chair introduced the guest speaker, Detective Sergeant David Dunn who is team leader of the Queensland Police Service's 'Fraud Prevention Unit'. He delivers presentations to a wide range of audiences on topics such as identity crime, cyber safety, scams, social engineering, and cyber bullying. His topic for the day was 'Identity Theft'.



## Calendar

**29 June 2015:**  
Changeover Dinner

**6 July 2015 – No Meeting**  
Members are urged to attend the RC Brisbane Mid City meeting on 10 July instead

**13 July 2015:**  
Fellowship

**3 August 2015:**  
*Denise and Bruce Morcombe*  
Daniel Morcombe Foundation

## Roster

### 22 June 2015:

<b>President</b>	G Whitmore
<b>Chairperson</b>	J Ryder
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	P Caragata
<b>Raffle</b>	G Holtmann
<b>Visitor Register</b>	P Little
<b>Attendance</b>	J Smerdon D Schellbach

### 29 June 2015:

<b>President</b>	G Whitmore
<b>Chairperson</b>	P Anderson
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	P Ryan
<b>Raffle</b>	M Stephens
<b>Visitor Register</b>	J Ryder
<b>Attendance</b>	J Smerdon D O'Donoghue

**6 July 2015:**  
**NO MEETING**

### 13 July 2015:

<b>President</b>	G Whitmore
<b>Chairperson</b>	TBA
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	TBA
<b>Raffle</b>	TBA
<b>Visitor Register</b>	TBA
<b>Attendance</b>	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*



This was a comprehensive and polished presentation much appreciated by members. Identity theft has been increasing significantly recently because of the escalating availability of data through computer technology...the motivation for identity theft was essentially money. The talk covered the major sources of 'scamming' and how these might be prevented. David circulated an ACCC publication entitled 'The Little Black Book of Scams' that addresses these various issues. (Further details are available at: [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) and at: [www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au))

Questions and discussion followed. Finally the Chair presented David with a memento of the occasion (pictured).

SAA Cam Bishop ran a very short session in 'extra time', but exacted the usual fines.

Keith Watts won the raffle but the joker is still in the deck.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm.



## RI President-Elect's Speech to the 2015 Rotary Convention

K.R. Ravindran  
São Paulo, Brazil  
9 June 2015

My dear friends:

Thirty-four years ago, the 72nd annual convention of Rotary International, chaired by that great past president from Brazil, Paolo Costa, was held right here in this very city.

On that day we were honored by a very special guest: Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was often asked, as we are asked in Rotary, if she really felt that her work made a difference; after all, the needs of the world were so great.

She answered, "It is true. Everything we do is only a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be the poorer, if not for each drop."

Today, I am proud to be a part of an organization that affirms the truth of those words through service; which makes the world not poorer, but richer; which replaces despair with hope; which raises up those whom fate has brought low; and which is a gift to so many, while allowing each of us to Be a Gift to the World.

In Nepal, when the devastating earthquake hit, Rotarians were among the first to react. Medical teams arrived from Singapore and India. Solar lanterns, ShelterBoxes, tarpaulins and tents, water filters and medicines followed. And hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised already to help rebuild the lives of the millions who have lost their homes. When the camera crews leave, when the eye of the world looks elsewhere, Rotary will continue to remain.

In India, where half of government schools lack the most basic sanitation, Rotary is responding by committing to build 20,000 toilet blocks in schools around the country over the next two years. Each block consists of two toilets for boys, and two for girls. For countless thousands of girls, these facilities will make the difference between dropping out of school at age twelve and carrying on to finish their educations, and perhaps find a better life.

In Africa, as you have heard, we will soon celebrate a milestone that once seemed unthinkable: one year without a single case of polio.

And my friends, it will not be too long before we will come together to celebrate a world free of polio because of Rotarians who made the choice to do the work — not for profit, or for glory, but simply because it needed to be done.

In a few weeks, President Gary will leave us as president. He leaves us with an organization of unprecedented strength: one with more members, in more clubs, than ever before. It is not enough simply to thank him for his work — although we do! We must continue it, by building our membership, in new and innovative ways — giving potential members more reasons to join, and current members more reasons to stay.

One way we will do that is through an exciting new program, which will debut on July first. This program is named Rotary Global Rewards. It will allow Rotarians to connect, online and via their smartphones, with hundreds of businesses and service providers around the world — and that number is growing. These companies will offer Rotarians discounts and concessions on the everyday business that you do — and you will notice that they include major brands with a worldwide footprint. And in some cases not only will you benefit, but our Foundation will as well, by receiving a contribution with each transaction. It will be another way to benefit from being a Rotarian and being part of the Rotary network. And so I urge all of you to become a part of that scheme, by signing up for My Rotary at Rotary.org.

In the past 12 weeks I have had the pleasure of personally addressing nearly 14,000 club presidents-elect around the world at their multidistrict PETS. The feedback I have received on this program has been very positive.

And what's more, I have seen the strength that lies in your clubs, and I know that we are ready to face the challenges that lie ahead.

My friends, a new Rotary year awaits us, full of promise: a new chapter in the book of our lives, its pages empty, waiting to be filled.



The pen is poised over the page. I ask you: What will it write? Will it write of generous deeds, of ambition, of responsibility; of work done well, and a life well lived? Or will it write of days that follow after days, each one alike, unremarkable? In their coming, hardly noticed; in their passing, hardly missed?

Remember that every moment of our lives — every page that we are given to write — is a gift. And each one is a choice. A choice, as Martin Luther King put it, whether to walk in the light of creative altruism, or the darkness of destructive selfishness. To be selfish — or to be selfless. To live for ourselves alone — or to live for others.

Rotary gives us that choice. And I think sometimes we lose sight of that.

Sometimes, in the rush and immediacy of our own lives, in the rough-and-tumble of each day, our Rotary projects become just another task, and we forget — we forget what it is all about. Until something happens that makes us remember, that brings it crashing down on us — what we are in Rotary and what it is that we do.

A few years ago my club, together with Rotarians from Germany, with the help of our Rotary Foundation, made a choice. We decided to rebuild a maternity hospital in the southern part of my country, a hospital which had been destroyed by the tsunami. We made a choice to build it better than it had ever been before, fully modern, fully equipped, and we built as well a mother and child ward, complete with an intensive care unit. There was nothing at all like this in that area at the time, and the need was great.

And so our German friends stepped forward with tremendous commitment, we worked together over many months, and in the end we had a hospital of which any country would be proud. So when then chair of our Rotary Foundation, D.K. Lee, visited Sri Lanka, we took him to see our new hospital.

We saw the mothers coming to deliver babies and others bringing their newborn babies for care — hundreds of families receiving these vital services, which had simply been absent from that area. From there we went into the neonatal intensive care unit — the product of so much work and investment. Inside it, nine incubators, every one of them with a Rotary wheel, and every one of them occupied. In one of them lay a baby girl, weighing just 900 grams — she could have fit in the palm of my hand — covered with tubes and wires. And she was fighting for every breath — fighting harder than someone a hundred times her size.

As I watched that tiny chest rise and fall, I realized I was holding my own breath — waiting for her next breath, and the next, and the next. Each one, a result of so much effort, from someone so desperately small. And my heart went out to her, this little baby who came into the world too soon. I whispered “Fight, baby, fight! There is a wide world waiting for you out there — if only you will fight!”

She was small, she was poor, she was sick — but she was not forgotten. She would not be left to die by a world that saw no value in one baby’s life. She was someone’s precious child, and we had cared for her. We had done all we could to give her that chance to live. The rest was up to her.

And as I walked out of that hospital, I hoped, I prayed — and then, for months, I wondered.

In January of this year, I had the chance to visit that hospital again. We were allowed into that same intensive care unit; this time only a few of the incubators were occupied. And then after our visit, we all came out into the hall, where we stopped and talked to the doctors and nurses, who told us that 140,000 babies had been born in that hospital since we built it.

And there, I was introduced to a young mother with a child, who had come for her routine visit. Sweet kid, big, dark eyes, beautiful smile — a year or two old, busy learning to walk and talk. I love kids, so I just reached out and picked her up and carried her around as I chatted with her mother.

And just then, one of the doctors came up to me with a smile on her face, and asked, “Do you remember, Mr. Ravindran, the last time you were visiting, there was the one child you seemed anxious about?”

“Yes, of course! How could I forget?” I replied.

She reached out and patted the little girl I was holding, and said, “This is that child.”

And it was I who struggled to breathe.

That was the child. There in my arms: a little girl who lived because of Rotary. Who smiled, who laughed, who gave joy to her parents — because of Rotarians who had chosen selflessness over selfishness. Rotarians who had chosen to Be a Gift to the World.

When you think about that, everything else just falls away. And you see it so clearly: the choice that we have. We all have so much. Others have so little. We have received so many gifts; others, so few.

And I am asking you all today: when you go home, when you go back to your clubs, when you make your plans for next year: Remember what it is we do. Remember why we are here. Remember who it is we serve.

And so, with God’s blessings behind us, and your prayers before us, let us set forth together. This is our time. Let us grasp it.

Let us *Be a Gift to the World*.

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