



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

25 March 2013



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

**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	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

Contrary to rumours circulating in Monday's meeting, I was sadly not sunning myself on the Gold Coast, but rather was lecturing at QUT, a far less enthralling exercise than a day on the beach would have been. Nevertheless my understanding is that the meeting went well and that Janeen appreciated the flowers and certificate.



My understanding is sales of the raffle tickets has been rapid, so if you need any I would suggest you contact Michael Stephens as soon as possible, before these sell out!

I would like to thank the volunteers that will be helping with parking on Sunday. Our next major event looks like being a barbeque at the end of April, and I will provide more details in due course. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Yours in Rotary

President Alistair



Date Claimer

**Wednesday
5 June 2013**

Celebration of the
**90th Anniversary
of the Charter
of the Rotary
Club of Brisbane**

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 - 18 March 2013

Chairman PP Michael Kelly introduced PP Bas Veal who stood in for P Alistair Smith who had another engagement. PP Bas introduced visiting Rotarians Vivienne Twelftree from Adelaide East, and now frequent visitor Vlad Robu from Balmoral RC. He also welcomed as a guest of Tony McKinnon his wife Alana, and our special guest Janeen Hamburger, wife of PP Keith Hamburger.

PP Bas on behalf of P Alistair reminded members that he had had only 5 members volunteer to help out at the Running Festival at the University ovals at St Lucia on Sunday the 24th of March. Please contact P Alistair if you can assist. P Alistair also called for someone to volunteer to take over the wine promotion role that PP Keith Watts has carried out so well over the past few years.

In Rotary spots Secretary Michael Stevens reminded members to publicise our Golf Day on the 15th of May. He announced that he now had tickets in in our Club's Penfold's Grange Wine Raffle. There were 200 tickets available at \$100 each. The distribution of tickets to members commenced at today's meeting.

PP Michael Kelly reminded members that he could still purchase tickets for the performance of the Bolshoi Ballet on the night of the 4th of June, the day before our Anniversary Dinner Celebrations, but if members wanted to come they had to act now .He also alerted members that he wanted volunteers from the Club to cook 2,000 sausages at a BBQ Sausage Sizzle on Tuesday the 30th of April at a Jobs Expo sponsored by the Government Department of Infrastructure Logistics. Details were to come later.

Treasurer Dougal Henderson said that he would be collecting our second half-yearly membership subscription next week. There was no guest speaker so members enjoyed fellowship.

Acting President Bas then introduced today's special guest Janeen Hamburger. For many years now Janeen has organised regular Partner's Lunches for the wives of Rotarians several times each year at the Polo Club, at the same time as our Club meeting.

Janeen's services to the Rotary Club of Brisbane have previously been recognised with the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship. This Rotaryann's meeting was not just a social outing as they also regularly raised funds that supported Rotary causes. PP Bas thanked Janeen for all her hard work and assistance and he presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition on behalf of our Club. He also presented Janeen with a floral bouquet. In response Janeen thanked PP Bas and the Club. She said the Partner's Lunches had started when the Club met at the old Canberra Hotel. Then the wives entertained each other in their own homes. From about 1995 she organised the gatherings at the Polo Club and they had continued up until recently. She was now very sad to call a halt to the meetings, but it had just got too difficult with most of the attendees being elderly widows of former Rotarians. She thanked PP Bas and the Club and was pleased that the Rotary Partners were able to assist many worthy charities over such a long time period. On finishing her speech Janeen was warmly applauded.

SAA Cam Bishop thanked Janeen again. He got in a good plug for the Equestrian show Cavalaria which Wal had attended and Wal thought it was excellent. Cam warned us of the potential dangers in construction as he had recently narrowly avoided serious injury when he fell through the floor of a marquee he is having built as a wedding venue on the Sarabah Estate Vineyard. John Smerdon won the raffle on the first draw, but as he had won it last week, he generously declined to take the prize. Wal Bishop was the lucky winner of the next draw. A total of 24 attended the lunch.

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

22 – 24 March 2013:
District Conference

25 March 2013:
Fellowship

8 April 2013:
TBA

Roster

25 March 2013:

President A Smith
Chairman G Burnett
Set Up/Away C Muir
Raffle D Phillips
Visitor Register B Veal
Attendance J Smerdon
G Whitmore

1 April 2013:
NO MEETING –EASTER



8 April 2013:

President A Smith
Chairman P Anderson
Set Up/Away C Shepherd
Raffle J Worrell
Visitor Register P Dawson
Attendance J Smerdon
G Whitmore

15 April 2013:

President A Smith
Chairman C Muir
Set Up/Away D Smith
Raffle R Tamaschke
Visitor Register C Shepherd
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



Lessons in sustainability from the jungles of Ecuador

By Rob Wood, past president of the Rotary Club of South San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

A few years ago, I learned valuable lessons in sustainability trying to help the people of Los Bancos, a community of about 100 villagers living in extreme poverty in the jungle near Guayaquil, Ecuador.

As president of my club in 2007, I was expected to come up with an international service project and had heard about a new club in Guayaquil looking for an international partner. When I asked them what the villagers needed, they answered "They need everything!"

Of course, by our standards, they did need everything. But if we truly want to help people, we need to be realistic when we organize projects. We need to objectively determine whether or not the people we're trying to help will be able to manage and maintain whatever it is once we're gone.



Needs assessment

With some cajoling, I encouraged the local Rotarians to go into the jungle and ask the villagers what they felt they needed. Eventually we received these priorities from the women:

- Chickens. With a chicken ranch they could have fresh meat and eggs whenever they wanted and could sell the chickens and eggs for cash.
- A computer learning center for the children
- A new well and pump house
- Flush toilets

I made my way through the intricacies of the Matching Grant system. The villagers were taught how to raise chickens. The computer learning center (a bamboo hut) was built with funds from the villagers and Guayaquil Rotarians. The hut was filled with computers, work stations, and a network to link them all. Rotaractors taught the children how to use the computers.

A new well was dug, and a new pump house built by a combined force of Rotarians and villagers, and for the first time in its history, the sound of flushing toilets was heard in Los Bancos. (Of course, the villagers continued to use the fields around the village as their bathroom, but they were very proud of their latrine block.)

The computer learning center flourished, and as it turned out, there was an Internet Service Provider in Guayaquil who could build a 200-foot-high tower necessary to reach above the jungle canopy with an antenna on the top, and bring the Internet to the village for a year – all for the project's remaining balance of US\$5,000.

So Internet came to the jungle. The students all made their own Facebook pages. We arranged to meet, via Skype, right there in the bamboo hut. Out in the middle of the jungle, in the midst of extreme poverty, the children and their parents, the Rotarians and the Rotaractors, all got to meet my club and other local Rotarians in real time, and not a dry eye in the place.

Set back

Unfortunately, in our case, time passed and it became clear the villagers weren't quite ready to go into the chicken ranching business. The chickens either died or were eaten by wild dogs and cats. Storms drove rain through the cracks in the bamboo hut, ruining all the computer equipment. Our club leadership changed and so did that of the Guayaquil Rotary club, which turned its attention elsewhere. There was no money to pay the Internet bill.

I have recently reached out to reconnect with my Guayaquil contacts. The tower is still operational and two clubs want to take another run at the project. It's possible we'll breathe new life into the effort.

The model we created for US\$25,000 was not only sustainable, it could completely revolutionize the way Rotary helps those in need. One effort with four parts – clean water, sanitation, training in computer skills, and internet connection linking the village with the world. Each could be a separate project but coordinated by a single club. As many as five clubs could work together making a long-term commitment, sticking with it until the village becomes self-sufficient.

If we are truly going to help, we need to be in it for the long haul. And that's what sustainability is all about.

Source: <http://blog.rotary.org/2013/03/20/rob-wood/>

