



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

16 April 2012



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

GPO Box2909
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	
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
Carolyn Krueger

Rotary International President
Kalyan Banerjee

President's Message

Welcome Rotarians and friends

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break. Given we had no meeting on Monday, I have been busy trying to catch up with work and only turned my mind back to the bulletin after our publisher, Deanne, reminded me I hadn't prepared a Rotary message for the last week. Despite that, I haven't been entirely neglecting my duties as I will be attending the President's Elect Training this weekend, and have been busy preparing. I should be an old hat at this having attended last year, but I think a refresher course will be valuable, and it will be interesting to see what District Governor Elect Dai Mason has in store for the next twelve months. In this regard, DGE Dai has forwarded a draft strategic plan for the District for the next three years and clubs have been encouraged to formulate their own three year strategic plan, with the District's plan acting as a guideline. I will update members on this in due course.

On other matters, I would remind everyone about the RI President Kalyan Banerjee on Thursday 24th May 2012. The following weekend will be busy as there is also an annual conference and dinner for Rotarians Against Malaria, details of which are attached, and the District Assembly will be held at St Columbans College in Caboolture on Sunday 27 May 2012. If anyone is interested in attending, let me know.

We have received a request from a student in year 11 at Cannon Hill Anglican College for sponsorship to attend the National Science Youth forum. Given my science background, this is a program I am very enthusiastic about this, so I am following this up.

Finally, the Rotary Foundation district and Rotary on the Move newsletters for April are included with the bulletin. I'm not sure if everyone receives these, so if not let me know. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Yours in Rotary,

President Alistair



**What's On?
16 April:**

**Speaker:
M O'Donnell
Mount Kilimanjaro
Trek
(tentative)**

Date Claimers

24th April:
Annual Golf Day
Northlakes Resort Course
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 2 April 2012

The Chairman Patrick Caragata introduced P Alistair. P Alistair reported that his office had been without e mail for five days and he was still catching up. He welcomed our guests Richard Langford, Jordan Bruce and Joshua Blake from Brisbane Youth Services. Joshua thanked the RCOB for their financial support in assisting him to obtain a Diploma in Visual Arts. He was interested in art, film making and making music, and would not have been able to realise his ambition without financial support from our Club, for which he was most grateful. P Alistair reminded members to support Brisbane Youth Services in providing toiletry packs for the homeless and youth on the streets.

Secretary Michael Stevens reminded members to support the Golf Day on Tuesday the 24th of April. Michael will also collect any toilet packs that Rotarians wish to provide.

Keith Watts reported that he had now sold 15 cases of wine but appealed for more support.

PP Brian Carss' Rotary Spot dealt with our Club's involvement with the establishment of International House at the University of Queensland. P Alistair mentioned that he had had contact with John Boyd who wished to re-establish the historical connection between the RCOB and International House.

P Alistair then inducted Paul Cluff into membership of the RCOB.

There being no guest speaker Chairman Patrick Caragata reported on his recent five week visit to the head office of the company he founded in New York City. First Patrick reminded members that Australian government Research and Development grants were available to local companies undertaking research, and invited interested parties to contact him for detailed information. Patrick reported that New York had lost over 100,000 jobs in the financial district after the financial crisis. He used public transport, and the people were polite and the general feeling was that they were upbeat and confident.

He said New York has a very diverse and vibrant population. He had the impression that there were more Chinese and Indian faces around Wall St. He noted that on the subways about 30-40% of the people were Asian, 20-30% Hispanic, 20% white and 20% black. This is an indication of how dynamic the city is. Food and other items were cheap if you knew where to go. He recounted a chance meeting and conversation with a stranger in Central Park. Patrick had been returning from an expedition to the Metropolitan Museum of Art when he struck up a conversation with an elderly man walking two dogs through the park. One dog was elderly and had a limp. Patrick commented on this to the man, who eventually introduced himself as Sidney Offit. Offit is an author who wrote the biography of Kurt Vonnegut, the author of "Slaughter House Five". Offit was Vonnegut's best friend, a fact recorded by famous American novelist John Dos Passos who was told this by Vonnegut. One of the themes pursued by Vonnegut is the importance of randomness like this contact made by Patrick with Sydney.

Patrick stressed the uncertainty in the US stock market and the influence the price of oil and gas has on the US economy. President Obama does not want to do anything about Iran before the election otherwise the oil price will go through the roof and he will lose the Presidency. However, with gasoline prices much higher than when he took office, and with official unemployment higher than 8% (no President has ever been re-elected with more than 7.2% unemployment), but with real unemployment probably around 14% because they don't count people who have given up looking for work.

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

16 April:
M O'Donnell
Mount Kilimanjaro Trek
(TBC)

23 April:
Fellowship

30 April:
R Buttenshaw
Rio Tinto Ride for Cancer
(TBC)

Roster

16 April 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman R Tamaschke
Set Up/Away K Watts
Raffle K Hamburger
Visitor Register K Watts
Attendance B Esler
G Whitmore

23 April 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman J Delahunty
Set Up/Away C Shepherd
Raffle R Johnstone
Visitor Register W Bishop
Attendance B Esler
G Whitmore

30 April 2012:

President A Smith
Chairman P Ryan
Set Up/Away M Evans
Raffle G Sellers
Visitor Register P Little
Attendance B Esler
G Whitmore

7 May 2012: LABOUR DAY

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 2 April 2012 (continued)

President Obama is facing a lot of problems, as a sitting President had never been re-elected with unemployment at such a level. In addition, Obama is also having a difficult time getting the support of Independent voters whose support was critical to Obama in the last election. The President's Healthcare legislation is now being reviewed by the Supreme Court. Early indications are that the judges asked tough questions and are leaning 5 to 4 against Obama, but it is hard to predict what any Supreme Court might do in complex cases such as this. Patrick's talk was up to his usual high standard, and was made even more impressive as it was off the cuff.

SAA Cam Bishop reminded us that there was no Rotary meeting on Easter Monday the 9th of April.

The Raffle was won by P Alistair. 18 members and 3 guests brought the attendance to 21.

Rotary Segment – 2 April 2012 2012 International House By Brian Carss

I wish to talk this week about one year in particular and that is 1954/55. W.R.Gilbert was the President and it was during this year that Rotary celebrated its Golden Anniversary year. This anniversary was celebrated by our club with a very successful Concert held in the City Hall. On that day, 23rd Feb, the Brisbane Telegraph newspaper issued a special supplement and the Courier Mail devoted considerable space to Rotary and its history. There were special window displays by both of these companies as well as a number of other traders in Queen Street. It was also a time for planting commemorative trees in many of the city parks.

During the previous year the need for an International House was recognized at the University of Queensland. In the 1954/55 year preliminary investigations were made as to the feasibility of establishing such a facility as our Club's project for the year.

It was realized that there was a great need, and that the launching of such a project would be one of some magnitude. Our Club accepted the challenge because of this year's important Community Service project was a Rotary scheme for the advancement of 'International Understanding, Goodwill and Peace'.

An appeal was made to members for financial support which resulted in 890 pounds 17 shillings and 10 pence to which our Club added a further 109 pound 2 shillings and twopence, bringing the total to a rounded 1000 pounds. As an aside, I have inserted these references to the imperial currency because in school I remember all too well, the horrors of trying to do long division and multiplication in it. School children today, have it all too easy.

On the 26th April 1954 a public meeting of leading citizens was convened by the Lord Mayor and a resolution passed to establish International House. Bert Martin, one of our members, embarked on a program to build International House. However, it was not until 1965 that it opened with 50 residents with Ivor Cribb as its first warden. It is divided into 11 towers providing fully catered accommodation for 200 undergraduate students and 40 post graduates. Each tower has 50% Australian students and 50% overseas students.

IH operates as a social enterprise of Community of Understanding. As a reflection of this multicultural mix of students many of the events staged at IH offer the students the opportunity to showcase their cultures. Activities such as Bara Khanas, which are formal dinners celebrating academic achievement. There are also culture and peace projects called Milpera and Mbabanga. Each year the students organize a tent market on campus where the various nationalities prepare and sell samples of their home cuisine. An annual peace and understanding lecture is also given.

Our members have served on the Board of IH over the years. Ian A Wilson, Don O'Donoghue and Marjorie Carss are three that I recall, so our Club has had an ongoing involvement in IH operations.

International House is not alone in that it is linked to many other International Houses around the world. All of which are part of the IH Foundation.

For many years IH was the meeting place for the RC of St Lucia whose meeting was also held at Monday lunchtime. It was not a difficult choice for me to leave the University's Monday Professorial Board meeting to attend their Rotary meeting. The Club was able to attract some excellent speakers from academic staff and visiting academics. Unfortunately, the club has ceased operation.