



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

24 October 2011



## The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

23 Dean Road  
Alexandra Hills Qld 4161

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	Alistair Smith
President Elect	
Imm Past President	Basil Veal
Vice President	Keith Watts
Secretary	Bob Aldred
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.*

We have had a very busy, but I am pleased to say, very successful week in the club this week.

Monday we hosted the pride of workmanship awards, organised by Rotarian Greg Burnett. The event was very well attended, with thirty eight members and guests, leading to a fantastic atmosphere. All attendees seemed to enjoy themselves, and who knows, hopefully one day, just like Greg who received an award himself in his younger days, some of the recipients will also be inspired to join Rotary.

Following this, on Wednesday night we had the Potential New Members dinner. I have to be honest, organising this has been hard work, and I was extremely worried when we had a flurry of cancellations from potential members mid-way through Wednesday afternoon. However, I needn't have been concerned, the troops had pulled together and we had a number of additional attendees on the night, bringing us up to (I believe) a total of 47. Irrespective of numbers, the evening was fantastic fun, and members put on a great show for the attendees.

For those of you who weren't able to attend, Wal chaired the evening and provided a brief history of the club and some of the achievements of Rotary. I then spoke about the benefits of being a Rotarian, relying heavily on material put together by Rotarian Brian Carss and a transcript of the talk is at the end of this message. Finally, Sergeant at Arms Cam Bishop entertained and raised funds in the normal way.

One of the aspects of the evening that pleased me most, was come the end of the night no-one rushed to leave, with most staying on for some time to continue chatting. A good sign!

(continued next page)

## WHAT'S ON? 24 October:

David Jones  
*Submarines in  
Brisbane River*

## Date Claimers

### 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?





I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those involved, and at the risk of this sounding like an award acceptance speech, I would particularly like to thank:

Rotarian Patrick Caragata – for inspiring the event and providing the list of potential members;

Rotarian Wal Bishop – for sponsoring the potential new members and chairing the evening;

Rotarian Brian Carss – for assistance in speech writing;

Rotarian Phil Little – for last minute rounding up of attendees.

Despite having singled these individuals out, the evening would not have been the success it was without everyone who attended, and we should be proud of what the club as a whole has managed to achieve.

That is all for this week, other than some notices regarding other events set out below.

**President Alistair**

**Donations in Kind**

We have been asked to help out with donations in kind. Assistance is required on 5th November at 8am, at 152 Freeman Rd, Durack, QLD, and we have been asked to send between 4 and 6 members. If you are able to attend, please let Alistair know as soon as possible.

**Rotary Meeting  
17 October 2011**

Chairman Rotarian Greg Burnett opened the meeting with the usual toasts, and extended a warm welcome to 19 members and 18 guests. Greg mentioned that it was a very special day for the Rotary Club of Brisbane as we hosted our first Pride of Workmanship Awards. He then welcomed President Alistair to the rostrum who also welcomed all attendees including two visiting Rotarians, Sharyn Sinclair-Hannocks from Brisbane Highrise and Pat O'Reilly from California.

Alistair also discussed the Membership Dinner to be held Wednesday 19 October at the Brisbane Club. At the time of our Monday meeting there were 42 people attending (including 18 potential new members) and Alistair was hopeful that number would increase to 50.

Alistair then handed back to Chairman Greg who commenced official proceedings for the Pride of Workmanship Awards. Greg mentioned that his decision to join Rotary was influenced by winning one of these awards at Newcastle in 1986. The Pride of Workmanship concept was introduced in 1935 by the Rotary Club of Ryde NSW, and has now been embraced by 600 clubs world-wide. Our inaugural winners were:

- Will Gresham nominated by Phil Gresham
- Tyrone Pearce nominated by Phil Little
- Margaret Anderson nominated by Greg Sellers
- Lana Scott nominated by Alistair Smith
- Aaron Green nominated by Greg Burnett and
- Braydon Mosk nominated by Wal Bishop

All winners were presented with a special engraved plaque to celebrate their achievement. President Alistair also made another very important presentation with Michael Stephens receiving a Paul Harris Fellow. Sergeant of Arms Cameron Bishop then extracted an appropriate level of fines from all present, and Patrick Caragata produced the winning raffle ticket.

**ROTARY GRACE**

○ 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**

**24 October:**

David Jones  
*Submarines in Brisbane River*  
(commentary on US Navy during war years in Brisbane)

**31 October:**

TBA

**7 November:**

Russell Parker  
*The Kyeema Foundation::  
Rural Poultry in SE Asia  
Villages*

**Roster**

**24 October 2011**

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** K Jenkins  
**Set Up/Away** R McCormack  
**Raffle** L Stally  
**Visitor Register** L Robinson  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

**31 October 2011**

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** M Kelly  
**Set Up/Away** P Ryan  
**Raffle** K Watts  
**Visitor Register** G Sellers  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

**7 November 2011**

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** P Little  
**Set Up/Away** R Scanlon  
**Raffle** M Winders  
**Visitor Register** C Shepherd  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

**14 November 2011**

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** J Burton  
**Set Up/Away** G Sellers  
**Raffle** J Worrell  
**Visitor Register** J Smerdon  
**Attendance** B Esler  
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*



### **Storm the Stage - National Grand Final**

Our District 9600 has organised "Storm The Stage", an event in which eighteen of the best young performers from around Australia will perform live on stage! Storm The Stage is a non-profit nationwide opportunity for Australia's most talented up and coming performing artists. After auditions and regional finals held around Australia by Rotary and volunteer industry professionals, eighteen of Australia's finest young Musical Theatre and Drama solo performers converge on the Powerhouse Theatre. Awards of \$11,000 are given for Best Performances in both categories. For the first time, the National Grand Final is being held here in Brisbane with the support of IGA Supermarkets. Come and support Australia's emerging best young talent!

The final is being held on Sun 27 Nov 2011 at the Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Terrace, New Farm, commencing at 6.30pm. The cost is \$37 per person and \$29 for pensioners, \$28 Students. However, if we as a club take a block booking of 10 or more it is \$29 each.

In addition, we have been asked if we would be willing to sponsor a student for their stay in Brisbane, at a cost of \$200, which will include paying for their accommodation. If we agree, the student will come and speak to our club after their event to share some of the benefits and happenings of the National Final. Let Alistair know if you think we should proceed.

### **Speech for Potential New Members**

So Welcome to this evening, and I hope you are all having an enjoyable time and have enjoyed hearing about the history of our club.

Before explaining some of the benefits of being a Rotarian, I thought it would be worth briefly relaying the story of how I became involved in Rotary myself, and in that regarding we have one of our current members, Alan Gillespie to either thank or blame, depending on your point of view. I had met Alan a number of times prior to moving to Brisbane 4yrs ago, so when I went to an event shortly after my arrival, and saw Alan, it was only natural that I would say hello. At the time, Alan was chatting with another Rotarian and discussing their respective clubs. I have to admit to thinking at the time that this was some sort of secret handshake society, aka the Monty Python Mason's sketch.

However, Alan suggested that I consider joining, so that night I went home and Googled Rotary. I have to admit I was somewhat disappointed to find out that there was no secret handshake involved, but seeing the work Rotary has achieved, particularly in respect of the PolioPlus program, was phenomenal. I was immediately inspired and at the next opportunity, took Alan up on his invitation to attend a meeting. The rest, as they say is history.

But what may you ask, can Rotary bring to members. Well, for this part of the talk I sought guidance from one of our senior members, Brian Carss. Sadly Brian cannot be here this evening, but for members, I would like to mention he is feeling fine and is hoping to return on Monday. However, I will try and distill some of his insights and for any inaccuracies or misconceptions, I apologise in advance.

For most individuals, there are three main driving forces in one's lifetime as a professional, which can be summarized succinctly as Money, Power and Prestige. As a child and adolescent, one inevitably takes, whether it be from parents, teachers, lecturers or the like. This is not a bad thing, but something we need to do to give us the opportunity to learn the skills we need later on in life.

As one grows older, the driving motivation becomes one of seeking independence, which in professional life involves earning money to support our lifestyle, whether it be a home, car, wife, husband, children, travel etc. However, there comes a time when money is not the important driving force it was earlier, maybe because you have reached some degree of financial security, at which point a quest for power takes over.

Now before you get concerned, I am not talking about some manically laughing evil "bond" villain kind of power, but rather the ability to make things happen. You become aware that being an 'Indian' is not where you can do this, you need to be a 'Chief'. Hence the drive to seek promotion, to become the CEO, the MD, the Director General, or even a Politician??



The third stage in life is one of Prestige, where, all being well, you are recognised for your achievements and for what you have contributed to your profession.

However, it is at the cross-over from Money to Power that Rotary can play an important part in your life. It is here, that you may feel a need to give something back to the Community that supported you during your youth and adolescence, and Rotary is ideally suited to this, as well as being jolly good fun.

So how does Rotary work. Well it is a network of individual clubs with an overriding principle of 'Service above Self'. Each of these clubs can operate independently, but in conjunction, to allow many great achievements to be realized.

Wal has already talked about the history of our club, and its own impact, but to fully appreciate the benefit of Rotary, it is important to look at the achievements more broadly and see what it has achieved globally in its 106 years of operation.

For example, each year Rotary funds approximately 4000 Ambassadorial Scholarships. The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas. The program sponsors academic year scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country. Notably one of the 7 international centres for the program is based here at the University of Qld.

Rotary is organised into districts and our own district, which encompasses parts of Qld, Solomon Islands, PNG, and Nauru, has made a significant impact. Not only has it produced 2 Rotary World Presidents, but each of them has made a profound impact on addressing the issues of health and education.

For example, Clem Renouf, of the Nambour Club was the driving Power behind the Polio Plus program which in 25 years has reduced polio to a mere few hundred new cases a year in Uganda, Ethiopia and India. To do this Rotary raised \$US800Million and continues the fight to this day, with the hope of wiping this disease out completely. Meanwhile, Glen Kinross, of the Hamilton Club, then initiated the worldwide program to increase Numeracy & Literacy.

So what is it about Rotary that allows this to be achieved. Well, Rotary is a worldwide organization of business, professional and community leaders. Around the world there are 1,210,047 Rotarians in 32,774 clubs and 34,000 Rotarians in 1164 clubs in Australia. Clubs are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds and yet driven by the common goal of Service above Self. This international network of people, which understand the particular local needs, provides a local presence in nearly all countries leading to a richly rewarding environment, in which members and clubs have the opportunity to 'pay it forward' and have a positive impact wherever they choose.

Thus, the magic of Rotary is that it allows ordinary people to achieve the most extraordinary things. Not only that, Rotary allows members to develop business networking opportunities and building lifelong friendships. Rotarians experience personal growth in an organization that is respected worldwide for its high values and standards.

This Ladies & Gentlemen is the organisation that I invite you to become part of, and make your skills and professional knowledge available. As an afterthought, you will also have fun and enjoy good fellowship.