



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

28 May 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.

As you all know, last night a dinner was held in honour of Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee and Binota. The event was organised by districts 9630, 9640, and our own district 9600, with each district being represented by their respective District Governors, Debbie James, Graham Jones and Carolyn Kruger. Also in attendance were Past Rotary International Presidents Clem Renouf and Glen Kinross, as well as a number of other distinguished guests and more than 250 Rotarians and their guests in total. A significant event as you can imagine.

We were fortunate with there being many interesting talks, but the highlight was of course the opportunity to hear from President Kalyan. Before this, Past RI President Glen Kinross introduced President Kalyan and highlighted his efforts for Rotary over the years, ranging from cleaning bathrooms in his local town, to his immense involvement with PolioPlus, which has fittingly led to India finally being declared Polio free, as of February this year.

In his talk, President Kalyan started by speaking about his delight at being able to visit the Gabba, particularly following India's cricketing exploits there over the years. President Kalyan then spent some time examining past achievements of Rotary, paying particular attention to our own district's Donations In Kind project, which has led to over \$40 million of equipment being sent overseas during the last 20 years, as well as the inspiration provided by Past RI Presidents Glen Kinross and Clem Resnouf.

What's On? 28 May:

TBA

Date Claimers

9th July:

Visit by incoming
District Governor Dai Mason

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?





However, the majority of President Kalyan's talk was forward looking, and in particular focussed on the importance of the theme of RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka, "Peace Through Service". In this regard, President Kalyan talked about the importance of peace, and how Rotary, with our international scope, and local connections is ideally positioned to help address this global issue. It was a great reminder to us all, what Rotary is about and what we can achieve.

Moving on to other matters, as previously discussed, the club has agreed to commit \$25,000 to the City Hall Restoration Fund, and this contribution has been approved by the board. As part of this, Past President Bas Veal and I have been invited to a Civic Reception in honour of the National Trust Brisbane City Hall Appeal by the Right Honourable Lord Mayor Councillor Graham Quirk. In advance of this, we have been contacted by Dominique Jones, wishing to confirm our contribution, and indicating that if we are able to formally pledge the money they will be able to acknowledge our contribution at the event on Thursday.

Dominique has also provided some further details regarding donor categories, and a booklet outlining this is attached, as well as indicating that the trust is keen for Rotary to be acknowledged further, and are hoping that we will be able to organise a media event in which a cheque is presented to the Mayor. Unfortunately, with travel commitments to Melbourne and Sydney this week, I have not yet had chance to discuss this with her, but I will be chatting with Dominique next week, and will update you all further in due course.

In the meantime, this weekend is district assembly, and I will try and update you all regarding this event on Monday.

Finally, a reminder that it is the clubs 89th anniversary next week. Whilst this falls on Tuesday, we will be celebrating during Monday's meeting, so I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Yours in Rotary,

President Alistair

Rotary Meeting 21 May 2012

The Chairman of the day Phil Little introduced our P Alistair. P Alistair opened the meeting on a sombre note and asked the members present to stand for a minute's silence as a tribute in memory of two former members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane, Frank Haley and Peter Dent, who had died recently. He also informed us that, due to family reasons, one of our newest members, Rohan Johnson, would be leaving the RCOB and returning to live in Melbourne. P Alistair then welcomed a visiting Rotarian Barbara Adams. Barbara is a PP of the Eastwood Rotary Club in Adelaide. She was visiting Brisbane to collect her daughter the TV Newsreader Lexie Hamilton-Smith, prior to flying to Las Vegas with all three of her daughters for a holiday. P Alistair also reminded us of the Rotary District Conference and urged anyone else who was interested in attending to join himself and PP Keith Watts at the Conference. He also reminded us that the President of Rotary International was attending a Dinner in Brisbane this week.

Secretary Michael Stevens gave the first Spot. Michael announced that the recent Golf Day had been a great success and had raised the grand total of \$10,874 for Club charities. He reminded members that PP Brian Carss had generously offered a very valuable collection of vintage Grange Hermitage wines that had been correctly stored to the Club. Michael requested that members think about how the Club could best utilise this offer for the financial benefit of the Club. Please get back to Michael with any suggestions you may have. Michael also reminded Board members that there was a meeting immediately after lunch.

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

28 May:
Stuart Macnish

4 June:
TBA

11 June:
TBA

Roster

28 May 2012:

President	A Smith
Chairman	P Gresham
Set Up/Away	G Sellers
Raffle	L Stally
Visitor Register	P Caragata
Attendance	B Esler G Whitmore

4 June 2012:
TBA

11 June 2012:
TBA

18 June 2012:
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



Rotary Meeting (continued)

PP Keith Watts announced that he was seeking orders for cases of the Sarabah Cabernet Sauvignon at \$200 per cases. Only a dozen cases are available and more than half were ordered on the spot. It is planned to have a social event to label and collect the wines at Sarabah on a Sunday, either the 1st or the 8th of July.

Phil Little invited anyone who might be interested in a social game of golf with other members of our Club on a Friday afternoon to contact him.

PP Brian Carss gave as his Rotary spot an illustrated PowerPoint presentation on one of our largest overseas projects, involving a joint effort between our Club, our sister Club the Rotary Club of Amsterdam International, and the Wild Geese Foundation, to fund a clean water project for 40,000 people at Mpumalanga in Southern Africa.

There was no Guest Speaker and we had a Fellowship Day.

SAA Cam Bishop relieved most members of all their change with blanket fines. P Alistair, in closing the meeting, reminded members that on Tuesday of next week the RC of Brisbane would be having the 89th Anniversary of its Charter. He proposed to have a special celebration of the event at our lunch next Monday. A total of 20 attended the Lunch.

Rotary Segment – 21 May 2012 By Brian Carss

Brian Carss made a PowerPoint presentation about a joint project between our Club and the RC of Amsterdam International to fund and drill some 15 water wells in the Mpumalanga region in South Africa.

RC Amsterdam International and our Club donated funds which were matched on a 3:1 basis by the Wildgeese Foundation. A total of some 96,000 Euros was made available for the project which was administered and managed by RC Amsterdam International.

Rotary Segment (continued)

The presentation showed where the women collected contaminated water from a water hole after walking the 2 kilometres each way twice a day from their homes and carrying the water in a container on their heads. Needless to say, typhoid was rife.

Initially 7 wells were drilled to a depth of between 45 to 60 meters in 2006 and then a further 8 wells to a deeper aquifer at 145 meters in the following year. Each well was completed properly to ensure that the water was stored securely in sealed tanks and gravity fed to taps where it was accessible to the villagers. The presentation ended with a slide showing a group of happy youngsters playing in and drinking the fresh water

2012-13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka's address at Bangkok

It is a great honour to be here at this international convention, addressing you as president-elect of Rotary International.

Rotary has been at the centre of my life for many years. I did not know it at the time, but the day I joined Rotary in 1975 was the day I set my first step on the path to a different future.

Before I joined Rotary, my view of the world was narrow. I was the fourth of eight children. We were poor, and so was nearly everyone we knew. I had never met anyone who was not Japanese.

Every week, my mother and I walked 20 kilometres to the market, to sell vegetables. This was as far as I went and as much as I saw of the world beyond my village. I dreamed of travel. I dreamed of seeing other cities and countries. I wondered what they were like.

Since then, I have travelled a great deal. I have seen more of the world than I ever imagined. But nothing has broadened my vision as much as the perspective I have gained through Rotary.

2012-13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka's address at Bangkok (continued)

Before I was a Rotarian, I saw only what was in front of me. I saw my business, my family, my customers, and my competitors. When I travelled, I saw only what I wanted to see. I did not see beyond that. I did not look past what I believed was important to me. One day, I was asked to join the Rotary Club of Yashio. And it was two years later that someone came and spoke to us about the idea of vocational service.

From that day, I began to change slowly. I realized that the purpose of my life was not just to earn more, to sell more, to make my business better than anyone else's. I realized that I wanted to have higher goals — both personally and professionally. I realized that, for me, the most important thing in life was being useful to other people.

And I realized that, by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace.

We hear the word peace every day. We hear it in the news, we use it in conversation, and we talk about it a great deal in Rotary. But most of us spend very little time thinking about what peace is and what peace means.

On a basic level, peace can be defined by what it is not. It is a state of no war, no violence, and no fear. It means that you are not in danger of hunger, suffering, or poverty.

But we can also define peace by what it is and by what it can be. Peace can mean freedom of thought and freedom of choice. It can mean security and confidence in the future, a life in a stable society. On a more abstract level, peace can mean a sense of happiness, of inner serenity, of calm.



2012-13 RI President Sakuji Tanaka's address at Bangkok (continued)

Rotary helps us to meet the basic needs of others: to provide health care, sanitation, food, and education, when and where they are most needed. It helps to meet the inner needs as well — for friendship, connection, and caring. And Rotary helps us to build peace in its most traditional sense, by reducing the causes of conflict. It builds bridges of friendship among people and nations. It helps us to understand one another.

Through our service, we learn that the problems that may seem large to us are really very small. We learn empathy for others. We come closer to people who seem very different from us. And we begin to understand how much we are all the same.

Through our Rotary service, we know that cooperation is more productive than conflict. We learn to value each other. We know that every one of us has something to give, and everyone has something to teach.

To me, Service Above Self is more than just a motto. It is a way of life, one that will make any life richer and more meaningful. Putting Service Above Self allows us to focus our energies on what is truly important. We put the common good above our own. We value the needs of others over our own desires. We think less about ourselves and more about what is best for everyone. And in this way, we help to build the foundation for a more peaceful world.

This is why, in 2012-13, our Rotary theme will be Peace Through Service. Because, however we define peace, whatever peace means to us, we can bring it closer through service. Service Above Self reminds us that none of us can live for ourselves alone. A life lived in isolation is empty and without joy. But when we live for others — when we focus on our role as part of our family, our community, and all humanity, then we begin to realize our own place in the world.

I am part of the first generation to grow up in Japan after a terrible war. I think it is natural that we now place a great priority on peace. We saw where war brought our country. And we also saw the great economic growth that came when our nation made the choice to change our way of thinking and to embrace peace.

This decision allowed Japan to grow and prosper. It allowed new generations of children to grow up in safety, to become educated, to improve their lives. It caused us to open our minds, to seek greater understanding. And it allowed us to focus our energies toward positive goals.

In Japan, we value the needs of the group over the needs of the individual. Sometimes, we give up what we want for ourselves to achieve what is best for everyone. This has always been part of Japanese culture. In the weeks and months following the great earthquake and disaster of March 2011, this was what helped us to survive and rebuild.

This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs — when we focus our energies on a shared goal — this changes everything. It changes our perceptions. It changes our priorities.

And it changes how we understand the idea of peace.

For me, the idea of Peace Through Service does not involve any complicated philosophy. I am not a philosopher. I am a businessman. And over many years of business, I have seen that, in the end, the only way to a successful business is happy customers. When my customers are happy, my business grows. And this makes me happy also — not only because my business is doing well, but because I am glad to see that I have made others happy.

In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace. Our reward is not money but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world — one that we have achieved through our own efforts.

As Rotarians, we have a very powerful resource to help us in our quest for peace. The six Rotary Peace Centers prepare young people as peacemaking professionals in many fields. Today, hundreds of Rotary Peace Fellows are already promoting international cooperation and resolving conflicts throughout the world. By supporting our peace centers, we are supporting Rotary's long-standing commitment to building a peaceful world.

In this Rotary year, President Kalyan has asked us to Reach Within to Embrace Humanity. He has asked us to remember that every human life is of equal value. And he has said to us, as I am saying to you, that when we live for others, we find greater happiness for ourselves as well.

In 2012-13, I ask you to put Peace Through Service at the forefront of your Rotary work. And I ask you to understand that peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real and a realistic goal for Rotary. Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements by governments or through heroic struggles.

It is something we can find and achieve every day, and in many simple ways. And so, I ask you to commit to a Rotary year for Peace Through Service — and a Rotary goal for a more peaceful world.

**Source: Rotary International News
Courtesy : www.eflashonline.org**