



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

2 July 2012



## The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

GPO Box2909  
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	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 most of you know, I have been away for the last three weeks (suitable fines were paid to the Sergeant) visiting family and relaxing in Italy. It has been a great break for me before I head into the next 12 months as President, so I'm now refreshed and raring to go.

In terms of the change over, whilst we are not having a change of President, I believe we should still have a change over function. I am in the processing of coordinating when we will be able to hold this and will obviously keep you all informed. As part of the changeover process, I am preparing an annual report of the club's major activities for the last 12 months, and will outline my plans for the next year. If anyone has any suggestions in this regard, please let me know.

On other matters, I am very sorry to announce that we have received resignations from Rotarians Bob Aldred, Lee Spano and Frank Alpert. This has been for a variety of reasons, including health and financial reasons, so this is not necessarily something the club can address, but it is apparent that membership retention is an issue we need to consider further over the next few months. In any event, Bob will be attending the meeting on 16th July, so it would good if as many members as possible could attend to acknowledge Bob's contribution over the years.

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**What's On?  
2 July:**

**Peter Dawson**  
*Club Talk*

### Date Claimers

**8<sup>th</sup> July**

Wine labelling and Delivery Social at Sarabah Vineyard

**9<sup>th</sup> 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?





## President's Message (continued)

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we will be having a visit from District Governor Dai Mason on 9th July, and the intention is to hold a short form board meeting at 11:45am to fit in with Dai's schedule, so he can meet the new board. I would appreciate it if board members could make a note of this so we can have a full turn out for DG Dai.

In Monday's meeting Arthur Alla discussed Red Earth Connections (<http://www.redearthconnections.org/>), and has asked me to pass on the following message to members regarding disseminating the message of what the organisation is hoping to achieve:

*I hope that you can help us with our vision to bring Aboriginal communities to the forefront of our national consciousness. The power that a phone call or quick email from an Old Boy can have on a school should not be underestimated. I have seen it first-hand. A small gesture such as this by your members can be the catalyst for change in Indigenous Australia.*

We also had a visit from Richard Langford of Brisbane Youth Service, who provided us with an update on the scholarships program. As part of this, we were able to provide Richard with two cheques to cover another two scholarship recipients. One of these cheques was from the Club, whilst the other was presented on behalf of ex-member Mario Pennisi, who has generously agreed to sponsor one of the scholarship recipients. His contribution is very much appreciated, and shows us that our involvement in Rotary need not end on leaving the club.

Finally, I note we will be having the visit to Sergeant Cam Bishop's Winery on 8th July to collect our wine, so please let Mel Evans know if you are intending to attend.

Yours in Rotary

**President Alistair**



### Rotary Meeting 25 June 2012

The Chairman of the day was Bob Aldred. Bob announced to the meeting, with regret, that today was going to be his last meeting as a member of Rotary after 32 years as a member of various Rotary Clubs. As a self-funded retiree Bob has difficulties with the financial commitments of maintaining Club membership. We will all miss Bob, who was a former Secretary of this Club, and a tireless promoter of Rotary ideals. Bob welcomed P Alistair back from his 3 week vacation. P Alistair welcomed our three guests, Richard Langford from Brisbane Youth Services, our speaker Arthur Alla representing Red Earth Connections, and PP Fred Edgecombe, a potato grower from Limestone RC, of Maine, USA. Banners were exchanged with Fred.

Richard Langford spoke of the success of the Brisbane Youth Services Scholarship scheme and was most appreciative of Rotary's contribution.

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### 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

**2 July:**  
Peter Dawson  
Club Talk

**9 July:**  
DG Dai Mason

**16 July:**  
Dr Mark Wallace  
Metro Recovery & Resilience  
Team

## Roster

### 2 July 2012:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** R Tamaschke  
**Set Up/Away** K Watts  
**Raffle** K Hamburger  
**Visitor Register** J Smerdon  
**Attendance** G Whitmore

### 9 July 2012:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** C Morman  
**Set Up/Away** C Shepherd  
**Raffle** P Anderson  
**Visitor Register** G Holtmann  
**Attendance** G Whitmore

### 16 July 2012:

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

### 23 July 2012:

**President** A Smith  
**Chairman** J Delahunty  
**Set Up/Away** L Stalley  
**Raffle** P Cluff  
**Visitor Register** F Alpert  
**Attendance** 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*



## Rotary Meeting (continued)

Of the 28 scholarships so far awarded only 3 students had not completed their allotted requirements. He thanked the Club for the current Scholarship that we recently approved for funding. He was also most grateful for the donation of another Scholarship, valued at \$1,500, as a result of the personal generosity of the former Secretary of this Club Mario Pennisi. He reminded members of a fund raising auction and party at the Minter Ellison office in Waterfront Place on the 3rd of August.

PP Mel Evans reminded members of the Social gathering at Cam Bishop's Sarabah Vineyard on Sunday the 8th of July, for the wine labelling and BBQ. Full details will be given in an email to all members and all are invited.

Keith Watts announced that the 1 remaining case of Sarabah cab- sav wine had been purchased by the Club for raffle prizes. He encouraged us to attend the wine labelling celebration on the 8th July.

PP Brian Carss presented his usual Rotary Segment that is reported in full elsewhere. Brian announced that this would be the final episode of the Rotary Segment until further notice.

Our guest speaker was Arthur Alla, who with Alex Harper, is the co-founder of Red Earth Connections. Arthur is currently completing Honours in Economics at the U of Q. He already has a combined Economics/Law degree from the U of Q. After graduation he spent a year as a volunteer working in the poorest parts of the USA and Nicaragua. On his return to Australia he volunteered for another four months assisting Indigenous communities in the Cape York area. On examining his experiences, in all three disadvantaged communities in which he had lived and worked, he was intrigued to discover the similarities of the struggles faced by the very poor in all these regions. There were no incentives to get ahead. There was no need to study as if you wanted to come back as there were no jobs or employment.

To help overcome these problems Arthur and other young idealists at the U of Q founded Red Earth Connections in 2011. Their vision for Red Earth Connections was to make all Australians aware of the difficulties faced by the remote communities and to show that Australians were concerned for the welfare of the forgotten members of our society. They recognised that changing ingrained beliefs and cultures is going to be difficult. It cannot be imposed. It must come from within. With this aim they believe that the best way to achieve this change is to involve youth –the future voters and leaders of this country. They want to bring current high school students from their comfortable middle class environment to the remote communities to learn of the difficulties facing the Aboriginal people. As well as the students they want to actively involve the whole School Community in these efforts. By volunteering time and effort they hope to forge partnerships and connections between students, their schools and the remote communities, so that the current unsatisfactory situation of extreme disadvantage for a small section of our community, is not going to be accepted in a caring, compassionate society.

Arthur is a capable and impressive speaker, full of enthusiasm and zeal for a most worthy cause. He obviously has a heightened sense of social justice for perhaps the most marginalised group in our Society, and I am sure all Rotarians would wish him well in tackling what seems, to date, to be a problem with no easy solution.

SAA Cam Bishop extended a warm welcome to all, even those who had not purchased wine, to attend the BBQ at the Sarabah Vineyard BBQ on Sunday the 8th. of July. He thanked PP Brian Carss for all the research and effort that Brian had put into the Rotary Segment each week for many months, and endorsed how valuable he felt that they had been for the edification of the current membership. PP Wal Bishop won the raffle and generously donated the white Rotary T Shirt prize to our guest lecturer. A total of 27 attended the lunch.

## Rotary Segment Reflections 25th June 2012

Once again I am indebted to Graham Wilson for his excellent summary of events since 1974.

**Membership** – this has always proved to be somewhat of a problem right from our beginning with 23 members to a peak of 248 in 1969. We have lost members who have gone to establish new clubs in our area, but also there has been a general decline in numbers over the years as work patterns have changed and it has become increasingly difficult for members to get away for a couple of hours in the middle of the work day. In trying to stem this loss we have tended to concentrate on recruiting new members and have not paid sufficient attention to retaining current members. As an example, in 1992 we inducted 16 but only 7 of these remained after the second year. Graham Wilson in his compilation asks a number of questions about this a) do we fully explain to potential members what Rotary has to offer them; b) Do we fail to meet their expectations that they will be doing something useful?; c) Do we give them something useful to do? If we do not answer any of these questions well, then the members we lose will return to the Community with negative attitudes towards Rotary.

**Women in the Club** – although we opened our Club to women in 1989 we have had very few women members and those that have joined have not stayed very long. Three former members did persist. Yvonne Levien and Marjorie Carss went on to become Club Presidents and Marjorie Herrington did an outstanding job as Treasurer. Sadly we have lost all 3 to either work pressures or illness. Maybe the difficulty we have in attracting women members is that we meet at the Brisbane Club, which is generally viewed as being "blokey" and thereby not welcoming.



## **Rotary Reflections (continued)**

**Projects and Community Service** – A particular strength of Rotary is its ability to provide for community needs that are not being met. Some of these needs are mainly financial, however some depend on our ability to organize and administer projects. There are projects that fail such as the River Walk; People Helping People and Youth Future Focus Network. The common denominator here is that we have set things up but, they depended upon groups outside of Rotary for their sustainability who did not happen to share our enthusiasm for the project. In contrast the Brisbane Youth Services project is a great example of our Club working together on an ongoing basis.

**Fund Raising** – this topic was addressed last week to demonstrate our ability to raise considerable funds when challenged. The establishment of the Benevolent fund was seen as a means of protecting our assets and to ensure thoughtful consideration be given to any Community project before money was donated. This sounds good and is good, but it has a downside in that during recent years earnings from the Benevolent Fund have served as a disincentive to run vigorous fund raising campaigns as in the past. During the last few years the Benevolent Fund has shelled out more than \$120,000 in comparison to a meagre \$25,000 – 30,000 raised. The Benevolent Fund should be seen as a last resort for funds following an active fund-raising exercise.

**Youth** – We have always shown strong support for the various Youth Programs (RYLA, GSE Teams, Youth Exchange and Ambassadorial Scholarships). We have been very selective in whom we sponsor and after having decided who to support we have run an intensive induction to Rotary before these candidates appear before a selection committee. Whenever we have sponsored one of these applications we have been successful. District has commented on the excellent preparation of our applicants.

**International activities**- just a few weeks ago I presented 2 programs to illustrate our involvement with the RC of Amsterdam International in drilling water wells in South Africa and rebuilding the fishing fleet in Sri Lanka. Both of these projects have demonstrated our ability to work internationally with success.

In retrospect, we have a club of some 46 members, 19 of which are exempt attendance and yet of late we seem to be able to attract about 20 to our meetings. Some of these are exempt attendance members which suggest that our active core is very small. This situation should not be allowed to continue and it is up to the Board to address this issue urgently.

This is my last Rotary segment for this year as I hope to be in the process of moving house during the next few weeks and will no doubt be up to my eyes in “downsizing” once again. I hope you have enjoyed these talks as much as I have enjoyed preparing them, thank you all for being good listeners.

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