



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

30 January 2012



## 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.*

As discussed at Monday's meeting, the survey results have now been consolidated and a copy of these is attached in the form of a copy of survey with the corresponding number of responses to each answer, and a summary of the comments. Before discussing, I do need to make an apology as the results presented on Monday missed one of the survey responses, but I have now taken this into account and in any event this does not make a major change to the outcome.

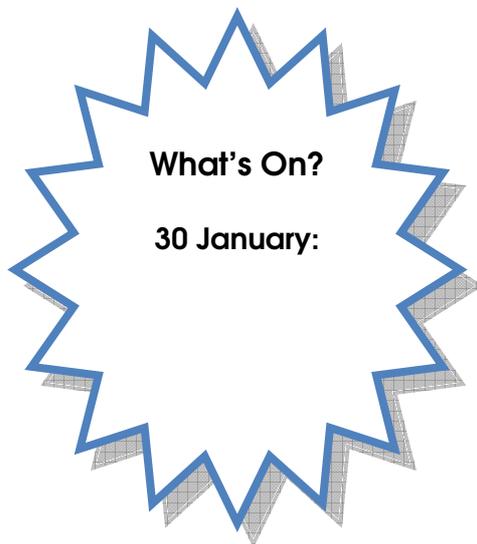
### Club Meetings

The responses in this section show that members are generally happy with the format of the meetings, so I am not planning to make any major changes, and we will retain Rotary Grace, the Anthem and Toasts to the Queen (sorry to the anti-monarchists amongst you) and Rotary International. It is apparent there is significant interest in a five minute spot about Rotary each week, as well as an update on absent members, of which Rotarians Brian Carss and Wal Bishop are kindly taking charge.

As far as content is concerned, comments show we would like more on current affairs (over to Sergeant-At-Arms Cam Bishop on that one), future generations, issues affecting business, and more external speakers. Particularly on the external speaker front, member's suggestions on appropriate speakers would be much appreciated.

### Communications

It seems the website is viewed as a useful resource by club members, and I think that this is an area in which the club can improve.



## Date Claimers

**3 March 2012:**  
PP Mel Evans  
*Tour of the XXXX Brewery at 2pm*

## 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)

It is evident we need to include additional information, such as details of the club constitution and rules (to be updated when guidelines have been prepared by district), additional information regarding projects, funds raised and distributed, links to other Rotary sites, information regarding the club future and summaries of speakers talks (subject to speaker permission).

Rotarian Wal Bishop is contacting Richard Langford for an update on the scholarship program with Brisbane Youth Service, and we will include a summary of the Rotary updates provided by Brian. We can consider incorporating subject matter from Rotary articles (subject to copyright) and if any other members would like to contribute to website content in any way, that would be appreciated.

Whilst members do find the website useful, it is apparent that they do not often refer non-Rotarians to the website. I think this is a shame, as it would be valuable for potential members, or those interested in Rotary, so I would encourage members to pass details on to anyone they think would be interested.

The results show that most club members do use emails, but not all. Whilst a decision has been previously made to not print the bulletin due to the cost, I think we should still make some hard copies available for those who don't use email, and in that regard I will endeavour to bring some copies to meetings moving forward, and we will see to what extent these are used. This also provides an opportunity to provide copies to club guests.

Whilst we do not have much expertise amongst club members in respect of social media and maintaining a website, Rotarian Darren Phillips has indicated he would be willing to provide some guidance to club members, so this will be the topic of one of our forth coming club meetings.

Another option, which was raised by visiting Rotarian Theresa Holt from the Rotary Club of Mexico City, is that we would include biographies of members, outlining some of their areas of expertise, a brief background, and how they became involved with and what they get out of Rotary. I would appreciate feedback from members on this, but I personally think this would be a useful resource, particularly for new and potential members.

### Bulletin

The majority of members view the bulletin as a valuable resource and read this on a weekly basis, so we will continue with a weekly bulletin. It is also obvious that the bulletin can be improved with additional and more varied content. Suggestions for improvements include more information regarding Rotary as a whole, what Rotary is achieving and where it is going. We may be able to reuse some content from Rotary websites and publications, although I will need to investigate copyright issues, and it may be necessary to provide this in the form of links to online Rotary content.

The bulletin should be available as a PDF or link to an online version (as well as limited printed versions as discussed above). Having investigated this, I note that the site does have a bulletin archive, but that this has not been recently updated, so I need to investigate how this can be updated. The bulletin should also include a link to the website.

A further suggestion is that we consider including content that might be suitable for circulation to local media. This is a great idea, and I would appreciate any assistance club members could provide in this regard.

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### 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

## Roster

### 30 January 2012:

**President** TBA  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

### 6 February 2012:

**President** TBA  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

### 13 February 2012:

**President** TBA  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**Attendance** B Esler  
G Whitmore

### 20 February 2012:

**President** TBA  
**Chairman** TBA  
**Set Up/Away** TBA  
**Raffle** TBA  
**Visitor Register** TBA  
**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](mailto:secretary@brisbanerotary.org.au)*



## President's Message (continued)

A further suggestion from visiting Rotarian Theresa Holt is that we try and include photos from weekly meetings and events in the bulletin. In fact this is an issue recently raised by District, who have requested photos of clubs and their members. In that regard, if anyone is a budding photographer and would be willing to bring a camera to meetings, that would be great.

Although there is some support for a more detailed quarterly newsletter, this is not overwhelming, so I suggest we focus on improving the bulletin and website first, and then consider whether more publications are appropriate.

Finally, it has also been suggested that the bulletin could potentially act as a source of revenue, if we were to include advertising. However, I think I would like to focus on improving the format and content first, and then consider this further.

### *Club Activities*

There is overwhelming support to be involved in more fundraising activities, although we don't have many suggestions in this regard. Rotarians Graeme Whitmore and Michael Stephens are organising the Golf Day for April, whilst Rotarian Cam Bishop is following up on Brian's extremely generous offer of the Grange to be purchased by the club at a heavy discount, so it can be provided as a raffle prize.

Rotarian Keith Watts is continuing to keep the wine stocks of members filled, and we are currently preparing the latest offer of a Rosé from Rotarian Cam Bishop's Sarabah winery (<http://www.sarabahestate.com.au/> - don't worry Cam will be paying handsomely for this free advertising).

A further suggestion that was made was for the club to hold monthly collections in Post Office Square, for example prior to club meetings. I personally think this is a fantastic idea as it will increase club profile and involve members in a hands-on way. We need to investigate required permits, but this does not seem to be unduly problematic.

I would also suggest that we do this for a couple of months and get a feel for how much money can be collected and then approach one or more local business and see if they would be willing to provide matching funds in return for advertising. This would probably work best if we can assign the funds to a particular cause, but feedback on this idea would be appreciated.

There was also the suggestion we assist in other ways, not just fundraising. This could be along the lines of the assistance we provided to the Jazz Concert in Fig Tree Pocket last year, where we are assisting a charitable function and getting acknowledgment for our assistance, even if it did not bring in funds to the club. Again, I think this is a great idea, particularly if we could use the expertise of members.

### *Fellowship*

There is obviously interest from club members in more fellowship events. Rotarian Mel Evans is in the process of organising the first of these, in the form of the XXXX brewery tour, with those interested possibly attending the Reds game afterwards. Rotarian Cam Bishop has also offered to host us at a visit to Sarabah winery (once again that's <http://www.sarabahestate.com.au/> - more advertising funds revenue from Cam...).

There is interest in some events for partners, and members seem to be interested in a combination of weekday and evening events. If anyone would like to volunteer organising an evening event, and/or an event for partners (such as a high tea at Customs House), that would be great.

We should also aim to celebrate the club's birthday, coming up in May. Perhaps we could organise a weekday evening meal for members and partners, particularly given that the recent potential new members' dinner was such an enjoyable evening!

It is also important from the perspective of membership that we continue to follow-up with members who leave, and find out what if anything the club can do to prevent further members leaving.

However, we also have to be realistic about this, having followed up with a couple of members who have left recently this is often due to personal situations, in which case there is often little the club can do.

### *Existing Projects/Events*

Firstly, there appears to be general support across members for the involvement with Brisbane Youth Service, and I would therefore propose that this continue for the time being. It would be great if we can get some publicity from this and in this regard, Wal Bishop and I are meeting with Richard soon for a photo opportunity and feedback as to how the program has helped participants. This can then be included on the website and in the bulletin to promote the impact the club has had for the scholarship recipients.

However, it is apparent both from survey responses and Monday's meeting that there is significant question over our involvement in the City Hall Restoration Fund and I think a large part of this is a lack of understanding of what the requirements and benefits will be for the club. Given that there have been many changes in personnel at City Hall, I think we need to revisit and make sure we understand what is being offered, and I then think a club meeting should be dedicated to discussing this issue further.

Members have also highlighted that they are willing to assist in a hands-on fashion, so if there are any suggestions of events in which we can participate, that would be appreciated. Some examples provided in the feedback include involvement in RYLA, education and child health, and the New Year function at Kangaroo point, and we will of course continue to assist Donations-in-Kind, when asked.

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## **President's Message (continued)**

### *Club Consolidation*

Moving on to the issue of club consolidation, there is broad support for this across the club. As mentioned in Monday's meeting, I have been in contact with President Ben Warren of the Mid-City club, who has shown interest in joint meetings. However, President Ben has indicated to me that it is unlikely that Mid-City club members will want to change from their current meeting day of Friday, and I suspect the same is true of our own members. Additionally, sentiment with our club is that given the history of the club, it would be more appropriate that any consolidation would be in the form of other clubs joining our own, which I suspect is unlikely to be received well by other clubs. With these issues in mind, club consolidation may well not be achievable, even if desirable.

However, all is not lost, members have expressed interest in joint meetings, and President Ben has indicated that Mid-City at least would be willing to consider visiting on mass, as long as we reciprocate. I am therefore proposing to invite their members to the upcoming talk by David Barbagello to be held on 12th March (more details to follow), and I will ask President Ben if there are any particular meetings they have we could attend. I hope that this will result in greater cooperation between the clubs and ultimately to investigating the possibility of some joint projects.

There was also the suggestion we assist in other ways, not just fundraising. This could be along the lines of the assistance we provided to the Jazz Concert in Fig Tree Pocket last year, where we are assisting a charitable function and getting acknowledgment for our assistance, even if it did not bring in funds to the club. Again, I think this is a great idea, particularly if we could use the expertise of members.

### *Moving Forward*

It is important that members understand I'm not an expert at preparing or analysing survey results, and no doubt further insights can be gained.

In that regard, I can provide the results as a spreadsheet for anyone happy to attempt a more in depth analysis. Also, if anyone thinks I have misinterpreted or overlooked anything, let me know.

In any event, I would like to start work with implementing some of the suggestions outlined above. Rotarian Keith Watts and I are currently working on updating the committee structure to help with implementation, so if anyone has any preference as to roles they are to perform, please let me know. Otherwise, tasks will be assigned in due course.

Finally, I would like to say many thanks for your input, this has been invaluable, and please remember I am always more than happy to hear member's suggestions as to how the club can improve.

Yours in Rotary,

**President Alistair**

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## **Rotary Meeting 23/1/12**

The Chairman James Delahunty introduced P Alistair who welcomed and exchanged banners with visiting Rotarian Theresa Hall from Mexico City. He also welcomed a prospective member, Rohan Johnston. PP Mel Evans reminded members of the proposed tour of the XXXX Brewery on Saturday 3rd. of March and a list was passed around to record attendees.

There was no guest speaker and the meeting was devoted to a detailed analysis and discussion of the results of the recently conducted Club Survey very ably presented by P Alistair. These results will be detailed by P Alistair in his President's Report this week.

Overall comments indicated that the majority of members were not in favour of marked changes in the conduct of meetings, with the majority in favour of continuing the traditional toasts to Queen and Rotary International,

the retention of Rotary grace and singing the National anthem to conclude meetings. Considerable discussion concerned the need to update and improve the web site and a volunteer was sought to update the Bulletin and the Club with news of Rotary International and general Rotary news. P Alistair stressed the importance of copyright considerations in these matters.

PP Brian Carss volunteered to present a five minute spot on Rotary affairs at each meeting as an educational tool to make us better informed Rotarians. PP Wal Bishop volunteered to coordinate a phone call roster to members who were absent from meetings to encourage more regular attendance. Darren Phillips volunteered to give a talk to assist members become familiar with social networking as a tool to get Rotary better known in the community, and for Rotarians to become familiar with the new media.

Members were in favour of more active efforts devoted to fundraising. This led to discussion on our level of commitment to the City Hall Restoration Fund, the Heart of Brisbane Dinner, and the dedicated Rotary Room at the new City Hall. It was agreed that there was so much involved with this subject that further discussion be deferred to a future special meeting.

PP Alistair detailed his efforts to involve the other inner city Rotary Clubs in discussions on club consolidation and future mutual projects and co-operation. A special meeting with a high profile speaker in David Barbagallo on the 12th March was suggested as a possible event that would present possibilities for co-operation.

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## **Rotary Meeting 23/1/12 (continued)**

I am sure all members are grateful to P Alistair for the time and effort he must have put into the summary and analysis of this very helpful survey over his Christmas break. The results show that although we obviously do not think the same way on any subject, the benefits of living in a democratic society enable the minority to have their say and record their dissent, while the majority consensus is followed.

SAA Cameron Bishop relieved most members of their change with various fines, and regaled us with the perils of trying to spray grapes in rainy weather.

The total attendance at the lunch was 23.

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## **Rotary leaders attend World Economic Forum events**

RI President Kalyan Banerjee and General Secretary John Hewko represented Rotary at World Economic Forum events in Jordan and India, underscoring Rotary's commitment to economic and community development, one of the areas of focus.

The World Economic Forum, founded in 1971, brings together world leaders in business, politics, and academia to discuss global issues, including the economy, health, and the environment.

Banerjee attended a World Economic Forum meeting at the Dead Sea in Jordan, 21-23 October, that focused on human development, job creation, and water issues in the Arab world. He says his participation -- the first time Rotary International has been represented at a World Economic Forum event -- "helped me represent Rotary to the various kings, queens, prime ministers, and dignitaries from all over the world.

At Banerjee's request, Hewko joined government and business leaders from the United States and India in a panel discussion at the India Economic Summit in Mumbai, 12-14 November. He spoke on Rotary's role in addressing skill development through educational initiatives.

"We have been tackling this problem on many levels," Hewko said. "Just building schools and making them accessible isn't enough. In order to benefit from them, children need a healthy, stable, economically secure home environment. This means looking at water, sanitation, and health."

In an article published in the Hindu Business Line during the summit, Hewko wrote about how Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio will contribute directly to India's economic growth.

"For one, (the eradication effort) will leave in place improved infrastructure and delivery systems that can be adapted to address other pressing public health needs crucial to development," Hewko wrote. "In strictly monetary terms, if polio is eradicated globally within the next few years, the world's total investment in the effort -- now at more than (US)\$8 billion -- will yield benefits estimated at \$40-50 billion through 2035, according to a study published last year in the journal *Vaccine*. Most of the benefits will accrue in countries where polio lingered the longest." Read the article.

To help support developing countries economically and socially, The Rotary Foundation in April approved a strategic partnership with Oikocredit International, a Netherlands-based cooperative financial institution that promotes socially responsible investing.

Through the partnership, the Foundation will offer packaged global grants for Rotary clubs and districts participating in the Future Vision pilot to work with microfinance institutions within the Oikocredit network.

Together, these institutions and Rotarians will identify local needs, develop effective approaches, and structure training programs to improve entrepreneurs' business skills.

Source : Ryan Hyland, *Rotary International News*

Courtesy : [www.eflashonline.org](http://www.eflashonline.org)

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## **Fellows**

Registration is now open for  
**District 9600 Conference  
2012**

Registration may be done electronically directly from the District Website.

Attached is a flyer with the program details and information

Early Bird Caloundra accommodation specials are listed on the Conference web page

Let's make this the best attended conference ever !!

There is no charge for conference registration only for your selected meals



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