



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

3 October 2011



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

23 Dean Road
Alexandra Hills Qld 4161

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	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.

Preparation for the potential new member dinner has been taking up most of my time this week. Emailing of the invites has been largely completed, with only a few stray invites to be sent. The great news is that we currently have seven acceptances, and I am hoping that with a phone call follow-up to those who have not yet responded, we may be able to increase this further.

Despite that, if anyone has suggestions to other individuals we could invite, please let me know, after all the more people we have at the dinner, the better. In this vein, I am hoping that as many Rotarians as possible will be able to attend, together with your partners if possible, so I would urge you all to note the 19th October in your diaries now and let me know whether or not you will be attending.

President Alistair

A meeting of the RCOB
"Fellowship Committee"
will be held prior to RCOB general meeting

Monday, October 3, 2011

Time:
11:15 AM

Place:
**4th Floor Brisbane Club
Adelaide St
Edinburgh Room**

All Members welcome to attend

WHAT'S ON? 3 October:

Fellowship

Date Claimers

17 October 2011
RCOB Pride of Workmanship
Awards
Lunch, Brisbane Club

19 October 2011
Potential New Members Dinner

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 Club of Brisbane meeting
26 September 2011**

The chairman of the day, Wal Bishop, introduced our lecturer Dougal Henderson. Dougal is a long standing member of our Club, and is currently Club Treasurer. He works as a Private Client Advisor at Macquarie Bank. The talk was an examination of the current state of Western economies. He spoke of growing up in the turbulent 1970's in the U.K. where the Government of Edward Heath took on the unions. It was a time of industrial strife, with miner's strikes, three day working weeks, and doing homework by candle light. Later Margaret Thatcher prevailed over the unions and there was a shift of power to powerful corporations. Banks became deregulated, and it became accepted wisdom that markets behaved rationally, and that self-regulation was the way to go. Under Greenspan little was done to curb the "irrational exuberance" in the markets, which were run by the big financial institutions. As a consequence of these policies of deregulated capitalism in the USA over the past 12 years corporate profits rose by 120% , inflation was 35%, real profits are up 65%, but real wages rose only 3%. Dougal presented figures that showed that the poorest 5% of the income earners increased their wages by 1.2%, while the top 5% increased by 17.5% between 1989 and 2009. The rich got richer and the poor got poorer. Growth in the USA has come about not as a result of income growth, but from increased consumption replacing savings. The USA Government cut taxes on the wealthy, and Government policy incentivised the unbridled pursuit of profit. Instead of company directors looking after the interests of all the stakeholders, over the past 20 years the interests of shareholders, and the pursuit of profit, speculation, and excessive risk taking have increased.

Since the GFC the USA Government has taken remedial action to avoid another Great Depression. It must now try to rebalance the economy by improved regulation , especially of the financial sector. Taxes must rise and become more progressive .Real wages must rise, with improved protection for workers, and the environment must be protected, with a renewed emphasis on long term

sustainability. In Australia labour productivity increased slightly for two decades, up until a few years ago, but has since trended sideways. Capital expenditure on large oil and mining projects is at unprecedented highs. Large numbers of workers are required to produce plants that produce nothing in the construction stage. Once these projects start production there will be an improvement in labour productivity. He showed graphs that demonstrated that wages as a share of total factor income had fallen to all-time lows. The declines in labour costs demonstrate that wages have not risen commensurately with productivity.

As an answer to a question from Rick Tamaschke, Dougal ventured the opinion that it would take at least 5 or 6 years for the USA to pull itself out of the economic rut it was in, and several years longer if the Republicans gained power. He also said that dividends would play a much larger role in future market returns. P. Alistair suggested the business world would be a better place if all corporations practiced the Rotary 4 Way Test. Once again this lecture demonstrated the truism that some of our best talks come from our own membership.

SAA Cam Bishop updated us on his new vineyard-wedding venue business venture, and welcomed a visiting Rotarian from Bangladesh – Dr. Zainal Abedin- who exchanged banners . A total of 18 attended the meeting.

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

- 3 October:**
Fellowship
- 10 October:**
Tony Love
Why Go To Hobart?
- 17 October:**
RCOB Pride of Workmanship
Awards
- 24 October:**
David Jones
Submarines in Brisbane River
(commentary on US Navy during war
years in Brisbane)

Roster

- 3 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

- 10 October 2011**
- President** A Smith
 - Chairman** W Bishop
 - Set Up/Away** J Delahunty
 - Raffle** L Spano
 - Visitor Register** G Burnett
 - Attendance** B Esler
G Whitmore

- 17 October 2011**
- President** A Smith
 - Chairman** G Burnett
 - Set Up/Away** L Jacobson
 - Raffle** R Tamaschke
 - Visitor Register** R Scanlon
 - Attendance** B Esler
G Whitmore

- 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

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



**2012 Rotary International
Convention
6-9 May 2012
Thailand**

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

In the pages of this month's magazine, you will be introduced to the marvelous city of Bangkok, Thailand, which will play host to our 2012 Rotary International Convention. Please consider this my personal invitation to join me, my family, and our fellow Rotarians at what promises to be an incredible event in one of the world's most fascinating locations.

Thailand is a spectacular destination, truly the Land of a Thousand Smiles. I would particularly urge Rotarians who have never visited Thailand before to consider this as your chance. You'll be surrounded by gracious Rotarian hosts and friends, old and new, from around the world. Bangkok is a fantastic gateway for those wishing to explore Southeast Asia, and a wonderful experience on its own. For those who hail from countries closer by, take the opportunity to visit a major cultural capital, with all it has to offer – including shopping, dining, and sightseeing. Indeed, Bangkok will give you a wonderful value for your time and money.

But the very best reason to visit Bangkok, of course, will be the 2012 RI Convention itself, 6-9 May – the highlight of the Rotary calendar.

All through the year, we reach out to Rotary communities around the globe. At the convention, we have the chance to see all those communities represented in one place – to hear all the languages, see all the people, and learn about all the projects of the past year.

Nothing brings home the internationality of Rotary like a Rotary convention – and nothing else has the same power to inspire.

I firmly believe that every Rotary event should be a family event, and this is why Binota and I plan to bring our children and our grandchildren. Why not do the same, and make the Rotary convention part of your family's vacation next year? With so many wonderful events and activities to choose from, there is something for everyone, and plenty of opportunity to draw our families closer to our Rotary service.

Every year, I go to the convention excited to see old friends and make new ones, to celebrate our successes and learn from our experiences. And every year, I leave with a sense of pride in Rotary, eager to begin another year of service.

Bangkok promises to be the best convention yet. I urge you to register now at www.rotary.org/convention and to begin planning your trip to our 103rd international convention!

Kalyan Banerjee
President, Rotary International

