



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

9 July 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.

Further to last week's message, I can confirm that we have now finalised the date of 23 July 2012 for the changeover meeting. I apologise that this is somewhat late but it has been difficult to coordinate movements for myself and Graeme, as well as fit in around District Governor Dai Mason's visit on Monday. On that note, given that it is one of the first meetings Dai Mason will attend as District Governor, it would be fantastic if as many people as possible could attend.

For those of you who were not present at last week's meeting, you missed a fantastic talk by Peter Dawson who was able to give us some very interesting insights into doing business in China. It was a fascinating talk and one for which I wish we could have had an extra hour.

In addition to Peter's talk, we were also able to finally induct Dave Smith and it was nice to be able to welcome a new member into the fold as opposed to saying goodbye to previous members as has been the case recently.



What's On? 9 July:

Visit by incoming
District Governor
Dai Mason

Date Claimers

8th July

Wine labelling and Delivery
Social at Sarabah Vineyard

23rd July

Change Over Meeting

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)

In other news, we have received correspondence from the National Trust Brisbane City Hall Appeal thanking us for our contributions to the City Hall Restoration Fund and copies of these are *attached for members interest. It is apparent that our contributions were very much appreciated and we will need to leverage on this and organise the dinner for City Hall once this reopens.

In other news, we have received a copy of an invitation from Brisbane Youth Service to a cocktail charity evening to be held on 3 August 2012 and a copy of this is *attached in case you are interested, as is a copy of Brisbane Youth Service's latest newsletter.

That is all for this week, other than to remind Board members that we have a Board meeting on 9 July 2012 prior to Dai Mason's visit at 11.45am. I look forward to seeing some of you at the barbecue at Sarabah Estate Winery on Sunday and hopefully the rest of you on Monday.

Yours in Rotary

President Alistair

Rotary Meeting 2 July 2012

The Chairman Rick Tamaschke introduced P Alistair and welcomed him back from his three week vacation. P Alistair welcomed our three guests – his partner Louise Grayson, Graham Blackman, and our inductee of the day David Smith. P Alistair inducted David Smith into membership of the Rotary Club of Brisbane to loud applause.

PP Mel Evans reminded members of the BBQ and wine labelling social event at Sarabah vineyard on Sunday the 8th of July. Treasurer Dougal Henderson distributed tax receipts for member's contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

Our speaker for the meeting was a job talk given by our long term member Peter Dawson. The title of Peter's address was "Doing Business in China". A lot of our members were not aware that Peter was a pioneer in opening business links between Australia and China and lived and worked in China for a period of about ten years up until 2002. Peter was trained as a Surveyor and Town Planner and in the early 1990's he presented a paper to a conference in Australia attended by a Chinese delegation. Peter's expertise lay in his development, in collaboration with John Puttick, a fellow member of the RCOB, and an IT specialist, of a computerised method of digitising a land surveying package using GPS and other previously unavailable technology to ensure accurate positioning. This technology, also incorporating the land management and financial systems, known as Citipac, was successfully marketed to Councils and other local authorities in Australia and overseas. This new technology was recognised by the World Bank which contracted Peter to undertake pioneering survey work in the Philippines to assist in this country's economic development. Peter spoke of the hazards of working there, where the natural hazards were magnified by the dangers of kidnap and ransom demands on his workers.

As a result of this work, and his contact with the Chinese delegation at the Conference, Peter was invited to do business in China. At this time China was opening to the concept of private land ownership and the development of a real estate market, and the Chinese wanted to utilise Peter's expertise in their land management plans. As a result of this Peter became a real estate developer, with Chinese joint venture partners, in the huge northern Chinese city of Changchun.
(continued next page...)

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

9 July:
DG Dai Mason

16 July:
Dr Mark Wallace
Metro Recovery & Resilience Team

23 July:
Changeover meeting

Roster

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

30 July 2012:
President A Smith
Chairman G Burnett
Set Up/Away H Milne
Raffle D Phillips
Visitor Register B Veal
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)

Peter chose this city because it had a well educated population-there are twenty three Universities there- and the wages were low. Peter had a well- connected sponsor, who was an influential Government official, who ensured he was not obstructed in his developments. He also relied on an efficient and loyal interpreter, who stayed with him throughout his business career in China. Peter stressed the importance of absorbing the culture of Taoism and doing thorough and painstaking research before even thinking of doing business in China. He spoke of the huge differences in culture, where every aspect of society is controlled, and each Tuesday 14 or 15 criminals were marched out to the public square and executed. He spoke of the immense bureaucracy, and the need to pay the right people to ensure that his building supplies arrived safely at the building sites, and did not disappear on their long journey from the port to their destination. He spoke of the importance of choosing skilful and reputable builders to undertake the contracts and not get caught by cheap quotes from someone whose previous expertise has been in building chicken coops. In 2002 Peter sold his IT company Jilinfo to a German group and disposed of his real estate interests in China and returned to Australia.

Once again Peter's talk proved that some of our most interesting presentations come from our own members. Such was the interest in Peter's adventures that several members suggested a follow up talk from Peter, as he obviously had a lot more to tell us.

In the absence of SAA Cam Bishop, who was at a funeral, Phil Gresham stood in as SAA and fined liberally. The raffle was won by our guest Louise Grayson. 21 persons attended the lunch.



The View from Japan

Source:
<http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/TheRotarian/Pages/Tanaka1207.aspx>

For about a year now, we here at Rotary International have had the pleasure of sharing the elevator, the cafeteria, the lobby, and a corner of the 18th floor with a white-haired man of impeccable manners, who laughs easily and seems genuinely happy to see us.

A smile erupts on his face when he says hello, bowing his head and adding a gentle chuckle. He moves among us gracefully – with his interpreter Eiko Terao in tow – maintaining his signature cheer without revealing whatever else might be on his mind. But he's probably thinking about Rotary. To hear him tell it, the only time Sakuji Tanaka is not thinking about Rotary is when he's sleeping and eating. And that only goes for when he is not dining with other Rotarians.

"Rotary pretty much occupies my every waking moment," the new president of Rotary International playfully admits.

Tanaka says that his wife, Kyoko, would describe him as "a Rotary nut." A glance at his résumé supports this claim.

He's been a member of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Japan, for 37 years and has served Rotary at every level, including district governor, training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force and Future Vision Committee, chair of the 2009 Birmingham Convention Committee and Permanent Fund Committee for Japan, RI director, and Rotary Foundation trustee. Through it all, and after 49 years of marriage, Kyoko has been a willing companion on his Rotarian journey. Together, she and Tanaka are Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, and Major Donors. Although she doesn't speak English, he says his wife has a knack for communicating with people through gestures and body language, and that she is a "jolly, uplifting person."

The couple have also remained close throughout Tanaka's career in the wholesale industry. When scheduling conflicts have prevented him from attending business meetings, she has been known to stand in for him. When he is away from home, he calls her every day.

The Tanakas have three grown children – a son and daughter who live in Japan, and a daughter who lives in Malaysia – and six grandchildren, with another on the way. The family gets together at the couple's home in Yashio every year for New Year's.

"Being considerate and patient with your partner is the secret to a successful marriage," Tanaka says. "I'm a lucky man to have a wife who is so patient with me." He adds that in Japanese society, "men probably have more freedom to express their anger or their frustration than women do. I consciously try to be patient, not only with my wife but with other people."



The View from Japan (continued)

Tanaka balances this patience with practiced efficiency. The former president of the National Household Papers Distribution Association of Japan says he has learned the value of a clean desk, in both a literal and virtual sense. He uses email extensively and maintains a lean inbox, saving only the messages he needs. "My personality is that of someone in a hurry," he says. "It's not my style to let things pile up. I like to get things done and move on."

However, in his home office, he has a 10-foot-long bookcase that houses both diaries and work documents. He doesn't let them accumulate for very long, he says, and periodically pitches large amounts of them when their utility to him has expired. In some cases, Rotary-specific material goes to his club.

When he is traveling, Tanaka says, the thing he misses most is his wife's cooking. She is, hands down, his favorite cook. He prefers Japanese food to all other cuisines, but notes that the versions he finds outside Japan do not measure up to what is available in his country. Ramen noodles taste different away from home, and it is difficult to find a satisfying sukiyaki. To make up for the culinary hardships of traveling, he often gravitates to other fare. He admits to a weakness for the distinctive taste of Korean barbecue, and Terao volunteers that you can always distract him with a bowl of spaghetti, as long as it is in a marinara or other red sauce. He favors it plain otherwise, as he faults food of any kind with "too much cheese." He has noticed America's growing passion for Japanese cuisine, including the booming business that sushi restaurants enjoy in the United States, and thinks this speaks more to Americans' increasing concern about their health than an endorsement of the authentic food one would find in Japan.

Tanaka is not all business all the time, but even when he is in relaxation mode, he puts forth his best effort. During one evening of karaoke, he set a personal record by singing 54 consecutive songs, without a break.

He recalls that three-hour crooning marathon with shy pride and quickly doubts that he would ever have the energy or stamina to do it again. But those who know him well may not be so quick to agree.

They might recall that not so long ago, Tanaka and a Rotarian friend began to clean the streets in their neighborhood. Tanaka would pull weeds, pick up litter, and cart the trash away. He would even remove the occasional dead dog or cat. "Before," he says, "there were some very dirty places. But people would see me and others spending the day cleaning the area in front of their houses. Eventually they would join in and, even better, would keep the area tidier on their own." What started as a two-man effort soon evolved into a project of the local Rotary clubs, which carried out a neighborhood cleanup once a month. This expanded into a communitywide effort, with 59 groups covering neighborhoods across Yashio twice a year, and the city's mayor coming out to participate and address the volunteers.

Tanaka has said that after joining the Yashio club, he realized that "by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace. Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary." He has established an endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship, and in January, he announced that he'd chosen Peace Through Service as the RI theme for his year. "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through treaties, by governments, or through heroic struggles," Tanaka said. "It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

He later elaborated: "Peace and conflict resolution should start at home. The family is the smallest unit of society, so we should start from there. If you are mindful of peace with your partner and your family members, that gives you an opportunity to reflect on your family life and to spread that sense of peace by example. Peaceful families lead to greater peace for everyone."

The Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual parallels the Rotarian concept of Service Above Self, Tanaka says. He notes that this view has been instrumental in helping Japan rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake that ravaged the country in March 2011.

The cooperation among individuals throughout the recovery effort also presents a positive lesson that the world can learn from, he says. "I believe that Rotary is contributing to that lesson, especially in training and educating members of the younger generation through its Rotary Peace Centers. They will bear the personal responsibility to society and work to make the world a better place."

Members will be interested to learn that a former PP of the Rotary Club of Brisbane, Warren Hampton, was inducted as President of the Rotary Club of Samford Valley at a dinner attended by 80 people on Tuesday the 3rd of July. RC of Samford Valley has 20 members and is a very active and vital Club. Members will remember Warren as a dedicated and involved Rotarian, and wish him well for his year in office.