



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.  
Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

18 January 2016



The Rotary Club of  
Brisbane Inc.  
ABN 75 152 438 499

**GPO Box 2909  
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 – 1.30 pm

### OFFICERS

President	Phil Gresham
President Elect	Tony McKinnon
Imm Past President	Graeme Whitmore
Vice President	Keith Watts
Secretary	Michael Stephens
Treasurer	Warren Walker
Sergeant-at-Arms	Cameron Bishop

### Directors, Main Committees

Club Admin	Rick Tamaschke
Membership	Tony McKinnon
Public Relations	Denise Schellbach
Rotary Foundation	Graeme Whitmore
Service Projects	Patrick Caragata

**District 9600**  
**Club Number 17787**  
**Founded 29 May 1923**

**District Governor**  
John Leddy

**Rotary International  
President**  
K.R. (Ravi) Ravindran

## President's Message

Happy New Year, I trust that you all had a great Christmas and are raring to get back to Rotary, it has been a long break. In December we were given the news that the Brisbane Club was increasing the lunch cost, the board decided rather than have another increase for members we would forgo the desert so the cost will remain the same. Good for the diet, as well as for the pocket.

At the last meeting in December I spoke about some social events for this year, a Saturday lunch after visiting the RCOB 1989 time capsule in the City Botanical Gardens, a Cellar dinner and an overnight visit to Kingaroy. Watch out for details.

Over the break I have had some discussions with VP Keith regarding possible changes to meetings that could be beneficial for all including potential new members, these will be discussed at this month's board meeting and then shared with all for input. I have been asked by members what are we doing about the Drought Appeal? You may recall that the President of the Longreach club David Phelps visited us late last year, he is also the Chair of the appeal. I will be suggesting at this month board meeting that we provide a further \$5000 donation from our Benevolent Fund.

I spoke to James Delahunty on Wednesday, he has been in Greenslopes Hospital since early in the month with complications from his operation last year, he will be home by the time you read this, I gave him the club's best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope to see him soon back at Rotary.

Yours in Rotary

*Phil Gresham*  
**President**

## WHAT'S ON?

18 January 2016  
Fellowship

## DATE CLAIMER

**January 18 2016:**  
RCOB participation in  
the 'Eddie's Van  
Initiative' begins

**April 29 to May 1, 2016:**  
District 9600  
Conference'

## 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 Meeting 14 December 2015

Chairperson for the day was Tony McKinnon. After Rotary Grace, and toasts to the Queen of Australia and Rotary International, he introduced President Phil Gresham, who welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Phil's message is presented in detail elsewhere in the Bulletin.

After a period of Fellowship, Secretary Michael Stephens conducted the Annual General Meeting, including the election of Office Bearers for Rotary 2016-17. Details are attached. During the meeting reports from Office Bearers were tabled and among other matters, various membership issues were discussed including links with the Rotaract Clubs, and reducing the costs of attending weekly meetings...

At the completion of the AGM, SAA Cam Bishop ran a good-humoured session during which he exacted the usual fines. Don O'Donoghue won the raffle, but the joker is still in the pack, so the jackpot remains to be won.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm.

### Teaching and touching the future

By Julia Phelps  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

In May 2013, four science teachers from the Philippines were preparing to return home after a visit to the United States as part of a vocational training team (VTT). They'd spent 30 days observing classrooms, visiting science museums, meeting with policymakers, and making presentations to Rotary clubs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

It was an emotional time for all of us, as we had learned much more than science instructional strategies. We had learned that, no matter what country we hail from, we all want the best for our students. We want them to succeed. And as teachers, we want to make a difference in their lives.

As hosts, we were very proud of what we had accomplished. The teachers returned to their schools in the Philippines and immediately made an impact. They won regional and national teaching competitions, they were promoted to master teacher, and the performance level of their students improved significantly. They were making a difference.

I was in the Philippines last month and made a point to reconnect with the members of this vocational training team. I was able to visit two schools and see the teachers implementing the hands-on techniques they had learned during their VTT experience. I saw young girls conduct an experiment and then explain why they thought the results had happened. I watched students work collaboratively to complete assigned tasks. Students were excited and engaged in learning science. It took me back to our original conversations, but this time, they were not abstract ideas or comments or thoughts.

Had the visit ended there, it would have been worth the time and effort. However, Manny Sy Peng, the governor of District 3770, had arranged for an intercity meeting where we got to hear from the team members about life after they returned home. They told us about the impact the VTT had on them professionally and personally. We heard the following:

- *"Thank you, (District Governor) Terri Kidder, you changed the life of a simple teacher."*
- *"I came out of myself, I became more self-confident. The VTT journey has never ended."*
- *"My dream is to create a teacher resource center in my school."*
- *"Julia, you told us to come back and make a difference in our schools and communities and we have."*

*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

**25 January:**  
Mystery Event

**1 February:**  
To be finalised

## Roster

### 18 January 2016:

<b>President</b>	P Gresham
<b>Chairperson</b>	C Shepherd
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	G Whitmore
<b>Raffle</b>	C Muir
<b>Visitor Register</b>	W Walker
<b>Attendance</b>	D Schellbach J Smerdon

### 25 January 2016:

<b>President</b>	P Gresham
<b>Chairperson</b>	W Bishop
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	R Tamaschke
<b>Raffle</b>	G Evans
<b>Visitor Register</b>	M Stephens
<b>Attendance</b>	D Schellbach J Smerdon

### 1 February 2016:

<b>President</b>	P Gresham
<b>Chairperson</b>	K Jenkins
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	J Delahunty
<b>Raffle</b>	T Kung
<b>Visitor Register</b>	P Caragata
<b>Attendance</b>	D O'Donoghue D Schellbach

### 8 February 2016:

<b>President</b>	P Gresham
<b>Chairperson</b>	D Henderson
<b>Set Up/Away</b>	M Evans
<b>Raffle</b>	S Francis
<b>Visitor Register</b>	A Gillespie
<b>Attendance</b>	D Schellbach J Smerdon

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)



Tears welled up in my eyes as I listened to these and other comments. How many times have I called on Rotarians to “make a difference?” These teachers took my words to heart and did just that. I was bursting with pride, not only as an educator but as a Rotarian, at what we had collectively accomplished.



RI Director Julia Phelps, back left, visits a classroom in the Philippines taught by one of the teachers who benefited from the 2013 vocational training team.

The impact was truly what Rotary leaders had envisioned when they designed the new grant model. We were asked for long-term impact. Here it was, right in front of me.

Teacher and U.S. astronaut Christa McAuliffe said, “I touch the future, I teach.” This sentiment was evident in the classrooms I visited and in the lives of the four teachers who were members of this vocational training team.



**About the author:** Rotary International Director Julia Phelps served as associate commissioner for the Center for Curriculum and Instruction for the state of Massachusetts before retiring. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Malden.

## My Rotary Youth Exchange year in Canada

By Gabriela Vessani  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

I spent a year in Canada as a Rotary Youth Exchange student, and I can’t believe how fast the year went by. On my flight back to Brazil a few months ago, I reflected on the experience, and had so many thoughts.

I remembered arriving with anxiety, and yes, even a little fear. The experience is never entirely what you expect and you can never totally prepare for it. I think that few students go in with a full understanding of how intense and deep the experience will be, and how hard it can be to do something different from what you have been used to doing every day of your life.

But then there is the freedom. Being an exchange student gives you a chance to create a new life and become whatever you want to be. You learn to value what you have and take care of yourself on your own. Without the sheltering arms of your birth family around you, you have the freedom to spread your wings and grow a bit on your own, with the help of your host families.



2014-15 Rotary Youth Exchange students.

It is not just a difference between cultures or countries, but it’s the difference you face in each family, each religion, each social class, each person. It’s to be hungry for information about the world and to never stop learning. It’s to feel everything around you, full and intense, to learn a new language, to meet people from all over the world, to have one, two, three, or even four different families.

I gained a few kilograms. OK, more than a few kilograms. But who cares? I had the chance to look in the mirror and realize that a lot of things had changed, on the inside as well. I lost my shyness, and I look back confused because the old life doesn’t fit anymore.

Exchange is a continuous process of absorption. I met people who inspired me, because of the way they think, or because of their words or their attitudes, or through the experiences they shared, or by the great friendship that I gained.

I learned also to say goodbye — which was much harder than I thought — but to still appreciate the barriers I had broken, the horizons I had reached, and the lessons I had learned. Every moment will be forever with me, in my memories and in my heart. And I will be forever thankful.

As the plane touched down in Brazil, I told myself, “Don’t be sad because it’s over; be happy because it happened.”