



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

9 May 2016



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

**GPO Box 2909
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	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

This week's message is all about fellowship including this Monday's meeting.

Last Friday was the joint meeting with Mid-City, I was pleased that ten of our club members were in attendance, which was three times as many as Mid-City when they attended our last joint meeting. The speaker was Vicki Bennett is a bestselling author of 23 books on personal development, leadership and personal success, for adults and young people. Interesting is that she had her first book was published by Past President 1978-79 Les Padman. Vicki talked about a book she has recently written, Two Pennies, after World War 1, a little boy called George, living in Victoria, Australia decides to work hard and raise two pennies to help build a school in Villers-Bretonneux, France. This town had been flattened by war and the school destroyed. This is a powerful and poignant story about a little boy who, with courage, hope and perseverance, helped to build this school across the oceans. A bond was forged between George and Villers-Bretonneux that was never broken. George was one of many Victorian schoolchildren who raised money to build the Victoria School in France after World War 1. George was Vicki's father.

Saturday was the District 9600 Conference in Maroochydore, I was pleased that Jacqui, Keith, Patrick and Phil attended with me, the largest club attendance in years. Our club exhibited at the Showcase highlighting Mentors for Charities and our current projects. Fotofast produced banners for the club as well as for HiRise and Rotoract CBD and Rivercity, which reminds me I should send Hi Rise an invoice! The speakers were excellent, Jacqui will give a report at the meeting and a full report will be printed in next week's bulletin.

Yours in Rotary

Phil Gresham
President

WHAT'S ON?

9 May 2016:
Fellowship

DATE CLAIMER

May 28 – June 1
107th Rotary International
Convention, Seoul, Korea

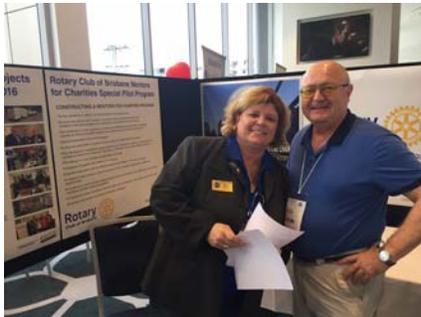
June 12 2016
District 9640 Training
Assembly for club officers
and directors

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 18 April 2016

Chris Muir chaired the meeting. President Phil welcomed the 14 members. There were no guests. Phil advised:

1. During the week he visited the Aspley Rotary Club which was trying to attract previous members of the Aspley Rotaract club to join it.
2. A barbecue in aid of Aunties and Uncles was held and Phil, Clive and Mel attended to the cooking duties. (actually Phil supervised!)

3. The District Conference is on 30 April and Phil would like more members to attend. Our Club will have a Stand at District Conference covering BestLife and Aunties and Uncles.

Spots

Graeme advised that on Thursday 23rd June, the RCOB Golf Day would be held at North Lakes with a morning start, so start getting your 4's together, he wants 100 players this year! A handout was placed on each table giving full details and seeking support for prizes and sponsorship.

Induction

Jackie Page was inducted as a new member of our Club. Jackie already has a long and distinguished Rotary history and will be a fine addition to our Club.

Discussion

Patrick gave an overview of tax policy whilst he was advising in New Zealand and confirmed that when debt equal 60% of GDP problems begin and if debt exceeded 90% of GDP then very significant problems develop. Australia has not reached these levels yet but unless something is done it will fast approach them

Presentation

Pres Phil presented a survey that he plans to send to the entire membership about the strategic options facing the club and what the membership wanted in terms of the Club's future direction.

The issues are well known to all members:

- Declining membership – struggling to get 15 to a meeting.
- Ageing membership
- Struggling to attract sufficient new members to maintain the numbers, let alone expand them.
- Difficult to organise interesting speakers with such small numbers.
- City club, with 50% of members retired and coming in from the suburbs



Calendar

16 May 2016:

Dr Carrie Hillyard
Mater Little Miracles

23 May 2016:

George Grant, past DG
Speaking about DIK

30 May 2016:

Rylie Thornton, President of the Rotaract Club of Brisbane River Rivercity
'Australian Rotaract Convention 2016, Brisbane.'

Roster

9 May 2016:

President	P Gresham
Chairperson	M Stephens
Set Up/Away	R Tamaschke
Raffle	W Bishop
Visitor Register	P Anderson
Attendance	D Schellbach J Smerdon

16 May 2016:

President	P Gresham
Chairperson	T Kung
Set Up/Away	J Delahunty
Raffle	K Jenkins
Visitor Register	A Gillespie
Attendance	D Schellbach J Smerdon

23 May 2016:

President	P Gresham
Chairperson	S Francis
Set Up/Away	M Evans
Raffle	P Caragata
Visitor Register	D Henderson
Attendance	D Schellbach J Smerdon

30 May 2016:

President	P Gresham
Chairperson	S Dunlop
Set Up/Away	P Little
Raffle	P Ryan
Visitor Register	T McKinnon
Attendance	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



- Lunchtime club
- Expensive club - both lunch and parking
- Limited female participation

The four options facing the club were:

1. Continue as is
2. Continue as is but at a cheaper location
3. Become a breakfast and/or dinner club at the Brisbane Club or at a cheaper location
4. Merge with the Friday Club at the Brisbane Club to instantly double the numbers at each meeting to a viable size.

The survey contains number of questions and allows free comments about each option.

The sorts of issues around each option that were discussed included:

1. Continue as is
 - On current indications, this is probably doomed to failure
 - We are failing to attract sufficient new members – as are a lot of Clubs
 - Our age profile is working against us
 - Is the cost a significant negative?
 - Is the lunch time meeting a significant negative?
2. Continue as is but at a cheaper location
 - The suggested new location is a good one
 - Would all current membership attend the new location?
 - Is the cost the only real issue or are there others?
 - Does this kill the option of combining with the Friday club?
 - Will this make a sustainable difference?
3. Become a breakfast or dinner club
 - In the city, is a lunch meeting an advantage or a disadvantage?
 - Which current members would still attend a breakfast or a dinner meeting?
 - If we lose members during the transition, will the club's viability immediately be at risk?
 - Will this make a sustainable difference?

4. Merge with the Friday Club at the Brisbane Club to instantly double the numbers at a meeting to a viable size.
 - This instantly creates viable membership numbers provided that 80% of the membership of both clubs continues to attend – is this possible?
 - This means that we would continue to be a city based lunch club and in all other respects initially continue as is for the first 12 months. The new Club will then make its own strategic decisions as to its future.
 - Is this a more viable base to try and grow the future membership?
 - Would the Friday Club even be interested? They are experiencing exactly the same membership issues we are, so what are they planning to do about that?

There are clearly risks in making changes such as those set out above and the risk profile and how to manage the risks needs to be carefully considered.

Jackie Page both drew and won the raffle and the Joker is still in the pack.

Pres Phil closed the meeting.

Building my kizuna with Rotary and Japan

By Mark Flanigan, Program Director, Japan ICU Foundation, and a 2010-12 Rotary Peace Fellow at ICU, Tokyo
Source: blog.rotary.org

When I arrived at International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo as a new Rotary Peace Fellow in the summer of 2010, I had no idea it would be the beginning of an ongoing relationship with both the University and Rotary.

I had lived in Japan before through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program and as a U.S. Army veteran, and was happy to return almost a decade later, thanks to Rotary.

2011 tsunami

My initial peace fellow research focused on Japan's role in UN Peacekeeping, but changed after the terrible triple-disaster on 11 March, 2011. I volunteered in the disaster recovery efforts in northeast Japan and shifted the focus of my work on Japan's contributions to both domestic and international disaster response. My thesis analyzed how Japan's civilian and military agencies coordinated with international partners during earthquakes in Sumatra in 2005, Haiti in 2010, and Japan in 2011. I found that Japan improved its response times, search and rescue capabilities, and collaboration each time.

I was contacted by an official at the Japan ICU Foundation in New York who wanted to interview students who had volunteered in the disaster recovery effort in Japan. The interview was featured on the foundation's website, and as luck would have it, a position opened up at the foundation. Just two weeks after my ICU graduation, I was happy to begin a new job as program director.



Mark Flanigan (back row third from right) with Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa during a program for ICU students in New York City in July.

We were shocked and saddened (by the terror attack in Paris), but strengthened in our resolve to delve further into our peace studies and find ways to make it relevant in our conflict-ridden world.

Since then, I have been very honored to be working directly with colleagues in New York City supporting ICU's global programs. I help raise funds for grants and scholarships, recruit international students (including two new Rotary peace fellows), and develop global programs in partnership with ICU.



From left: Professors Giorgio Shani of ICU and Alex Hinton of Rutgers, and Flanigan during the Rethinking Peace Studies seminar in Sri Lanka.

Need for peace

There have been two previous seminars in Tokyo and New York City. For the final RPS seminar, a group of international scholars met at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka to discuss peace and dialogue. It is a country that has suffered so much from its bloody civil conflict. Readings from Mahatma Gandhi, Hannah Arendt, and others were all the more relevant as we heard news of the terror attacks in Paris. We were shocked and saddened, but strengthened in our resolve to delve further into our peace studies and find ways to make it relevant in our conflict-ridden world.

A culminating conference will be held on the ICU campus in June, and it will be a special kind of homecoming for me. My experience has brought me full-circle: from prospective applicant, to peace fellow, to active ICU alumnus. It's been a pleasure for me to meet and work with successive generations of peace fellows at ICU. They are forging their own paths of peace and justice. It is truly an honor and privilege to be living out Rotary's pledge of Service Above Self.

A bridge over peaceful waters

By Christina Welch, Rotary Scholar to UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
Source: blog.rotary.org

As I pedaled my newly acquired bicycle through the streets of Delft, in the Netherlands, I realized I was smiling to myself. Navigating through the cobblestone streets and over the canals felt nothing like home, yet I was so grateful to be here.



This bicycle is on loan from Paul Gompen, a fellow Rotary member. I didn't realize being a beneficiary of the global grant meant so much more than simply a scholarship. It became immediately clear upon my arrival that I am now a part of an international network of wonderful people that are willing to help in whatever way they can, at the drop of a hat. For example, when I arrived in the Netherlands after a long international flight, it was such a relief to find Henk Jaap Kloosterman, my host counselor, waiting in the airport to ease the transition into Dutch culture.

I am among the first class of graduate students in the newly created Water Cooperation and Peace master's program. This joint program takes place in three leading international institutions: University for Peace in Costa Rica, UNESCO-IHE in the Netherlands, and Oregon State University in Oregon, USA. The program is designed to create a new interdisciplinary field by merging hard water science with social science. The main goal is to create a broader perspective of topics related to water diplomacy, water security, and dispute mitigation.

I didn't realize being a beneficiary of the global grant meant so much more than simply a scholarship.

Coming from an environmental science background, I am highly motivated to apply my scientific knowledge of ecosystems and climate change to tackle these issues on an international scale. Specifically, trans-boundary water mediation is arguably one of the most critical issues today in managing our water resource.

In the past six months, between the University for Peace and UNESCO-IHE, I have met students from over 60 different countries. Discussing water accessibility, political issues, and primary water security concerns with such an international group of working professionals has been one of the most enlightening experiences, and has really put into perspective how fortunate I am to be coming from a country with access to relatively safe drinking water right from the tap.

This global grant has quite literally been the opportunity of a lifetime at a pivotal time in my career. At UNESCO-IHE, I am being trained by leading professionals in the fields of water: economics, law, governance, management, and conflict mediation. The concepts and lessons I am learning here are providing building blocks for my future career. I feel so fortunate to be receiving such a high-quality education. Yet none of this would be feasible without the help of Rotary as a whole. Additionally, I would like to individually thank Rotarians Stephen Brown and Pam Russell for their tireless work on my behalf to help make my dream a reality. I have a feeling I am going to continue to smile every day as I pedal through the streets of Delft.