



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

31 October 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	Graeme Whitmore
President Elect	
Imm Past President	Phil Gresham
Vice President	Dr Keith Watts
Secretary	Michael Stephens
Treasurer	Warren Walker
Sergeant-at-Arms	Max Winders

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

District Governor
Alan Stephens

**Rotary International
President**
John Germ

President's Message

Great meeting today, with visitors from Hong Kong and Amsterdam, and this coupled with an interesting take on environmental issues presented by The Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre resulted in a lively meeting.

Today the Rotary club of Brisbane resigned a Sister Club Agreement with the Rotary Club of TSIM SHA TSUI this resigned was completed between President Joseph Cheung and our club. Our club had previously had a sister club agreement with Tsim Sha Tsui East but this had expired, and subsequently the Hong Kong club has received a name change.

Following the signing a copy was framed and presented to President Joseph for his club records. (a photo copy will be attach to this bulletin)

Gifts were exchanged between our respective clubs and we expressed our gratitude and undertook to further discuss some joint projects with President Joseph after the general meeting. Our Gift included a book of Australian Icons, and an Indigenous Boomerang to ensure President Joseph will return. The gift from Tsim Sha Tsui was an embroidered double sided Display of two birds on a Branch; President Joseph explained that the birds represented our respective clubs and the branch represented the Rotary international Link.

This gift will be entrusted into our keeping and reviewed at relevant opportunities.

WHAT'S ON?

31 October:
Daryl Iseppi
Rotary Foundation.

DATE CLAIMER

Wednesday 9th November
5.30 - 6.30pm, Membership
Drive in The Oak Room of the
Brisbane Club.

Postponed to February 2017:
Part B Rotary Leadership
Institute 10

Tuesday 29th November
The Rotary Foundation
Centennial 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?





President's Message - continued

Our speaker then completed a presentation on the use of the nature of sound from various rivers, open spaces and forest from around the world. The Highlight was a visual and sound display of a location in USA that had been recorded at the same location, & time each decade over a period of 5 decades, both the sounds and volume illustrated continued to reduce until in the last decade (albeit during a drought) was inaudible. Having watched a similar event from my own exterior deck where over last 15 years both types and numbers of birds in the morning have dramatically changed, one can appreciate that the environment may be changing, or at worst, nature is recognising trouble and relocating.

It is recommended that members if they want to hear the normally unheard sounds of nature go to DrLeahbarclay@griffith.edu.au these sound include sounds from under Brisbane River, Noosa River, and many others.

Two Visiting Rotarians were also made welcome

Apologies were recorded and accepted

I advised the members that I had approached Tony Love to come back to our club and he advised he would return in the near future, I also spoke to Stan Francis, and he also advised that he hoped to return in a couple of weeks, We look forward to the return of two happy and contributing members.

I appealed for help with picking up chairs and tables from Springwood State High School and delivering to DIK.

It is proposed that this will occur on Friday Morning around 8am on the proviso that I can arrange a Pantec truck and that DIK can provide an open shed, we have approx. 300 single student tables Metal tube frame and laminate tops, and 200 plastic chairs, from the photos this furniture is of good quality.

HELP IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE WE CAN GET THIS FURNITURE FREE FOR OUR SUPPORT TO DONATIONS IN KIND

ALTERNATE PRESIDENT

As advised I will be away up north from this Thursday for one week, VP K Watts will fill in for me

Yours in Rotary

President Graeme



New Englanders, Nigeria clubs aid Boko Haram refugees

By Marty Peak Helman, District 7780 Foundation Chair

Source: blog.rotary.net

The American University of Nigeria (AUN) was co-founded by Rotarian Felix Obadan in 2000, and 12 years later, when Felix was governor of Rotary's District 9125, which covers a large portion of Nigeria, he chartered the Rotary Club of Yola-AUN on campus. Their strong influence on campus makes it not surprising that many University professors and senior staff are Rotary members, and that the University prides itself on its work toward peace, entrepreneurship, and economic development as well as its strong academics.



Calendar

7 November:
Greg Beard
Mater Foundation

14 November:
Fellowship

21 November:
Saxon Mew – Brexit

6 February 2017
Queensland Police
Commissioner Ian Stewart

Roster

31 October 2016:

President	G Whitmore
Chairperson	A Smith
Set Up/Away	M Evans
Visitor Register	M Winders
Attendance/ Raffle	D Schellbach J Smerdon

7 November 2016:

President	G Whitmore
Chairperson	D Henderson
Set Up/Away	P Little
Visitor Register	P Ryan
Attendance/ Raffle	D Schellbach J Smerdon

14 November 2016:

President	G Whitmore
Chairperson	W Bishop
Set Up/Away	S Dunlop
Visitor Register	J Delahunty
Attendance/ Raffle	D Schellbach J Smerdon

21 November 2016:

President	G Whitmore
Chairperson	K Watts
Set Up/Away	G Holtmann
Visitor Register	M Williams
Attendance/ Raffle	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



The University's mission is to graduate students prepared to take on the challenges in Nigeria and throughout West Africa – challenges of climate change, development, and peace building. And peace is not an abstract concept at the university. After all, it is located in Yola, the capital of Adamawa State, in the region where Boko Haram is most powerful. In fact, those few dozen Chibok schoolgirls who escaped from being kidnapped by Boko Haram are now safely living at the University, where they are receiving social services and education.

Boko Haram has brought me to the American University of Nigeria as well. I am here as part of a team from Rotary's District 7780 in New England to meet with the two Rotary clubs in Yola, and to visit Rotary projects including a camp for internally displaced families in flight from Boko Haram. It is our intention to see what we can do in terms of a global grant to help them.

Putting together a global grant will not be easy. The needs of the people living at the camp are immediate, and it is hard to think in terms of long-term sustainability. Food, for example, is a continuing problem. The men are agricultural workers and are eager to get back to working the soil, but even if they could rent land near to the camp, it's hard for them to think ahead to next year's crop. One non-governmental organization gave the men seed for planting, we are told, but because their children are hungry, the seed was promptly cooked and eaten.

The families at the camps – who are there because they have fled their villages for their lives – are living testimony of the need for us, their neighbors, to strive for peace.

Meanwhile, while they wait for political change, the women weave craft items to sell out of the plastic bags that litter the sides of the road, and the children – many of whom have been out of school for several years while their families have been on the run – attend a government school near the camp.

Still, I find myself very optimistic about being able to craft a global grant to help these families. After all, the Yola clubs know the camps intimately, and have both the contacts and the resources to understand what will work best. Our Districts – 9125 in Nigeria and 7780 in New England – have worked together for over a decade, with National Immunization Days, a Group Study Exchange, and both matching and global grants to our credit.

This is what Rotary is all about – developing relationships that span the globe and make possible long-term humanitarian change. And the families at the camps – who are there because they have fled their villages for their lives – are living testimony of the need for us, their neighbors, to strive for peace.



Children in a refugee camp in eastern Nigeria

Rotary scholar pursues his dream to visit every U.S. national park

By Mikah Meyer, former Rotary Scholar
Source: blog.rotary.net

Growing up as a pastor's kid in Nebraska, I had a strong desire to get out and see the world. But I would never have had the opportunity to pursue my dreams if it had not been for Rotary.

I was awarded a Rotary scholarship during my junior year at the University of Memphis, while earning a degree in voice performance. I heard about the opportunity through a teacher who had been a Rotary Scholar herself, and a close friend who had been a Rotary Youth Exchange Student.

My goal was to study under one of the few teaching counterterrors in the world, but paying for college on my own, I would never have been able to manage it. I spent my scholarship year at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and stayed on a second year to complete my masters.

But even before my scholarship year began, Rotary made the impossible, possible. That summer, I had been selected for a non-paying internship with the U.S. State Department in Bern, Switzerland (my backup plan if music failed was to explore foreign service). Knowing I couldn't afford to live in Switzerland, I took a shot in the dark and reached out to local Rotary clubs to see if there were any Italian speaking families who would be willing to host me, as I was studying Italian.



Lo and behold, a family from the Rotary Club of Bern Bubenberg came forward and agreed to take in this stranger, based solely on the stamp of approval that comes with having been chosen for a Rotary scholarship.

My hosts became like second parents to me. We have stayed in touch, and they call me their Figlio Americano (American son). After my graduate program and at their encouragement, I returned to Switzerland two summers to work, and they have visited me in the United States. A new Swiss Family (not Robinson) I would not have without Rotary.

Like the "Make Dreams Real" theme of my scholarship year, I am currently fulfilling another dream.

Like the "Make Dreams Real" theme of my scholarship year, I am currently fulfilling another dream. I have launched a bid to become the youngest person ever to visit all 413 U.S. National Park Service sites, and the only person to do it in one continuous trip.



I lost my father to cancer when I was 19. He loved taking road trips, and yet he passed away at age 58, before a retirement allowing time to hit the road. A few days after his funeral, I climbed in his Hyundai Elantra, still smelling of his lingering pipe fumes, and embarked on my first independent road trip. It was the first of what has become an annual road trip to honor my dad's memory and the retirement he never had. Those trips have made me realize, you can't hold off on your dreams, because tomorrow isn't guaranteed.

On both the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and The Rotary Foundation's centennial, I take pride in knowing my current road trip fits this year's theme, "Rotary Serving Humanity." By using my journey to advocate for greater youth participation in the parks, I'm helping the Park Service reach a demographic they've struggled to interest. By blogging and sharing about my experience, I like to think I am also honoring my Rotary involvement by encouraging others to follow their dreams while they can, and to pursue something bigger than themselves.

Without Rotary, I wouldn't be where I am today. I thank my scholarship and my Rotary Swiss Family for helping make me the global citizen I always dreamed I'd be. And I thank Rotary for teaching me to make my goals about more than myself, instilling in me a desire for "Service Above Self."

