



# The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

*A global network of community volunteers*

5 December 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 – 1.45 pm

## OFFICERS

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

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

**District Governor**  
Alan Stephens

**Rotary International  
President**  
John Germ

## President's message

Fellow Rotarians

In my absence last week our very capable Secretary Rtn Michael Stephens filled in for me, I am sure he was made most welcome, and kept you all on your toes.

My absence was brought about by a long standing arrangement to celebrate our 51st Wedding Anniversary. The arrangements were made prior to my elevation to President earlier this year. I had hoped that that would be my final absence from a Monday meeting until after the end of the current Rotary year, but alas on arriving back in Brisbane we were advised the a very dear friend of 40 + years had passed away in Auckland and Doris and I will be returning to New Zealand on Sunday morning for the funeral on Monday returning on Wed.

So my sincere apology, for another "no show" this week, and trust you all understand.

From afar I confirmed the pickup details for the remaining desks and chairs and had these delivered to DIK. Rtn. John Smerdon must take the credit for obtaining these 200 odd chairs and tables, and for arranging for the school to pick up the tab for delivering these goods to DIK, thank you John.

I will arrange this week a certificate of appreciation to be sent to both schools for their contribution to Rotary.

## WHAT'S ON?

**5 December:**  
Federal Member for  
Brisbane, Trevor  
Evans

## DATE CLAIMER

**19 December:**  
Annual General Meeting

**Postponed to February 2017:**  
Part B Rotary Leadership  
Institute 10

## 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)

As I will be away on Monday I will attend the Mid City Rotary Club Lunch on Friday, both as a make up, and, to listen to the speaker who will be talking on a possible joint involvement project between our two clubs, I understand other club members will also be attending.

Our Speaker this week is the Federal Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans, members are encouraged to attend in support of Denise's drive to provide our club with the very best of speakers throughout the year.

As a reminder there is an opportunity to join Mid City for their final meeting of the year on the 16th December, and our FINAL MEETING and AGM is scheduled for 19th DECEMBER.

I would appreciate if all members make a special effort to attend on that day and wind up the year on a positive note. PUT IN IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!!

## President Graeme

### Rotary Minutes 28 November 2016

Chairperson for the day was Secretary Michael Stephens. In the absence of President Graeme Whitmore, he also acted as President for the day. After Rotary Grace, and toasts to the Queen of Australia and Rotary International he welcomed members, visiting Rotarians and guests to the meeting. President Graeme's written message is detailed elsewhere in the Bulletin.

In Rotary Spots, PP Phil Gresham presented '4 Way Test' badges to new members.

Denise Schellbach asked for volunteers to help with the Eddie's Van initiative over the summer months, and invited members to register on a roster she was circulating. She also publicized the meeting program for the coming weeks, and the duty roster (as outlined in the Bulletin).

PP Mel Evans reported on the Aunties and Uncles Christmas Party he and wife Marg had attended and assisted with on 27 November. ...some 60 kids and Santa had turned up. It had been a great day.

Terry Kung publicised the activities of the Rotary Peace Centre at UQ including an information day scheduled for February 2017 about degree courses in 'Peace and Conflict Studies'.

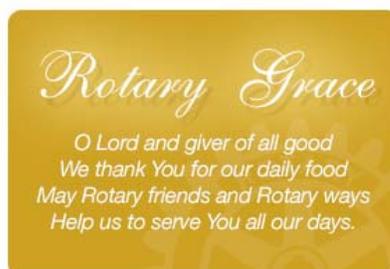
See <http://www.uq.edu.au/rotary/> for further details.

Jacqui Page attracted attention to, and read, the poem 'To be a Rotarian' that appeared on p.2 of the November issue of 'Rotary Down Under'. The poem was written by Doug Slater from RC Cairns, and first appeared in the Cairns Sun on May 17, 2016. Very nice words...thanks Jacqui.

After a short period of 'Fellowship' Michael Stephens introduced the Guest Speaker, John Lawrence, OAM KSJ, who had come to talk about 'Shelterbox'. Among the positions he has held, John is a Director of Shelterbox Australia, a former Director of Rotary International and Director of RC Brisbane Planetarium. John's talk outlined the major functions of Shelterbox, which 'delivers for RI'. Comprehensive details of the Organisation and its activities may be found at:

<http://www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au/index.php>. John's talk covered the key aspects of this material and the following summary draws on it.

In a nutshell, Shelterbox provides emergency shelter and vital supplies to support communities around the world overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crisis. Since the Organisation began in 2000, it has responded to earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, typhoons and conflict, delivering emergency humanitarian aid to communities in need.



## Calendar

**12 December:**  
Fellowship

**19 December:**  
Annual General Meeting

**23 January 2017:**  
Bernie Althofer (ex Police Inspector) bullying in the work force and other areas

**30 January 2017:**  
Commonwealth Games  
Volunteers Program

## Roster

### 5 December 2016:

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

### 12 December 2016:

**President** G Whitmore  
**Chairperson** G Holtmann  
**Set Up/Away** T Kung  
**Visitor Register** S Francis  
**Attendance/Raffle** D Schellbach  
J Smerdon

### 19 December 2016:

**President** G Whitmore  
**Chairperson** R Tamaschke  
**Set Up/Away** M Evans  
**Visitor Register** M Winders  
**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](mailto:secretary@brisbanerotary.org.au)



It aims to rapidly provide emergency shelter and vital aid to stabilise, protect and support communities overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crisis. Sponsoring a box costs \$1,000, including delivery direct to those who need it. Each box bears its own unique number so as a donor you can track your box all the way to its recipient country via the website. Highly trained Shelterbox Response Teams distribute boxes on the ground, working closely with local organisations, international aid agencies and Rotary clubs worldwide.

This was an excellent presentation much appreciated by the audience. Questions and discussion followed.

Finally John was thanked by acclamation and presented with a memento of the occasion (pictured).

SAA Max Winders ran an entertaining session including some good jokes, while exacting the usual fines from members. Visiting Rotarian Bruce McNaught won the raffle but the joker is still in the deck and the jackpot remains to be won.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm.



### Other news

On a recent trip to Singapore, Denise Schellbach was in contact with members of the Rotary Club of Queenstown (Singapore), including Sabrina and Linda (pictured). Sabrina, who is from Germany but has lived in Singapore for eight years, visited our Club in August this year.

In case you missed it, the November issue of 'Rotary Down Under' also featured an excellent article by Jacqui Page entitled '56 Years a Rotarian and still going strong'. The focus of the piece is Wal Bishop and his Testimonial Dinner held on 31 August.



### UN, Rotary work together for peace

By Doug Vincent, Rotary Club of Woodstock-Oxford, Ontario, Canada  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

We celebrated a great United Nations Day at Toronto City Hall on 23 October, hosted by the United Nations Association in Canada Toronto Branch. President Syed Khusro did an excellent job of coordinating the event and including Rotary.

A highlight for me was the outdoor ceremony, where the flag of the United Nations was raised over Toronto accompanied by the Canadian national anthem. Yes, the UN flag now flies over the city of Toronto. The release of several white doves symbolized our hope for world peace.

The UN Association had a great idea for engaging participants. Each Sustainable Development Goal was mounted on a card for display. Attendees were invited to select their favorite and have a selfie taken with Syed and I. An enjoyable time of fellowship and visitation ended the event, with refreshments and cake cutting.

It was great to be part of this event and continue to build a relationship between Rotary and the United Nations Association in Canada.

We will be introducing them to Rotary clubs in the greater Toronto area with a view of sharing program resources and possible membership development for both organizations.



Doug Vincent, right, and Syed Khusro, President of the UN Association in Canada Toronto Branch.

### 6 ingredients for membership growth

By Quentin Wodon, a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., USA  
Source: [blog.rotary.org](http://blog.rotary.org)

Let's admit it: achieving a high growth rate (negative or positive) is easier with a small club. Still, after more than five years of almost continuous decline in membership, my club was excited to report a 60 percent growth in membership from July to October. We had 18 members on 1 July. Now we have 29, with 11 new members inducted in the first trimester of the new Rotary year.

How did we do it? Let me share our recipe:

**Ingredient 1:** Less meetings, more service and public events. Rotary's Council on Legislation has given a lot of freedom to clubs on how they organize their meetings. So we decided to reduce our regular meetings from four to two per month, which gives us more time for service work and organizing public events.

**Ingredient 2:** Better service opportunities. Many Rotarians are professionals and business leaders, yet most do not use their skills when they volunteer with their club.



We changed that in our club by creating teams of Rotarians and non-Rotarians combining their skills to provide free advice to local non-profits on the strategic issues they face. This is not only more interesting in terms of volunteer work, but it is also more impactful to create positive change in the community.

**Ingredient 3:** Lower cost. By the standards of Washington D.C., our membership dues are not very high, at \$600 per year. But this is too much for many. So we created two new membership types – a membership at half the regular dues for young professionals under 35 years of age, and a spouse/partner membership at one third of the dues.

**Ingredient 4:** Stronger public image. We are organizing better and more regular public events. One of our recent events was a seminar at the World Bank with great speakers on education for peace and social change. That same week we also had a stand at the main festival in our neighborhood. In addition, we have been writing articles for a local blog, the local magazine for our neighborhood in Washington, D.C., and a free newspaper.

**Ingredient 5:** Strategic planning. We now have a strategic plan, our first since the club's creation in 2003. The plan gives us a vision, and clear milestones and targets that we are trying to achieve.

**Ingredient 6:** Luck. Part of our gain in membership was just luck, as two new members transferred from other clubs due to changes in jobs and the location of their workplace. What's great is that they bring with them a lot of experience in Rotary.

It remains to be seen whether we will continue on the path of membership growth for the rest of the year. We expect some members to relocate, so we will need to recruit more members to compensate. But we are making progress, and we have exciting initiatives coming up that should help us become better known in the community, make a larger difference for the less fortunate, and hopefully continue to grow.



About the author: Quentin Wodon is a lead economist at the World Bank. He holds PhDs in economics and in theology and religious studies, and has taught at universities in Europe and the U.S. He is currently President of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C. He is also author of the Rotarian Economist blog at [www.rotarianeconomist.com](http://www.rotarianeconomist.com).