



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc.

Founded 29 May 1923 Club 17787

A global network of community volunteers

3 April 2017



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

Rotarians & Friends

Welcome to another week in Rotary, district conference over, our second prospective members' night was held last Wed, and hopefully we may receive a similar outcome to the last. Interesting speaker last week and on Monday we have Associate Professor Mia Woodruff QUT who leads the Biomaterials & Tissue Morphology Group (commonly known as 3D medical printing technique) should be interesting, come and hear the latest developments in this medical field.

**VALE: Professor Graeme Wilson
26.09.1917-15.12.2016**

A long standing retired member passed away on 15th Dec 2016, we note with sadness the passing of previous member and friend Professor Graeme Wilson, our editor will prepare a formal notification later in the bulletin.

Exchange Student, as advised last week we were advised that a young female student is due to arrive from Brazil midyear, this requires our club to both find a school and find 4 sets of foster parents for the student 12 month stay. As of last Monday, Michael Stephens has just about exhausted all the schools close to the CBD and apart from one yet to reply (All Hallows) and has come up with a NIL AVAILABILITY answer, and in accommodation, we have received acceptance from our outbound students family that they could offer accommodation for the first three months, despite not being a member of our club.

WHAT'S ON?

3 April 2017
Associate
Professor Mia
Woodruff QUT,
Leads the
Biomaterials &
Tissue Morphology
Group (3-D
printing)

DATE CLAIMER

22 April (D1) and 21 May (D2)
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)

I called for a Member to take over the organisational role to find a school and additional parents for the remaining nine months, and this challenge was accepted by Denise Schellbach, as this is an urgent job, I ask if you can help, education or Home stay please contact Denise now as we need to advise District if we can take on this exchange student.

For a member with a sweet tooth, we have the opportunity to fundraise by selling Byron Bay Cookies, perhaps a Xmas in July Theme offer may be the go!! If a new member is interested in taking on this fund raiser please contact me.

Golf: Another reminder about our golf day, K Watts has registered himself and taken up the early payment option, just need 99 more players to make it a very profitable day. Remember 12th May Virginia Golf Club have posted our flyer on Clubs Notice board, and sent to all members with their monthly newsletter going out last Wed.

Reminder to read your bulletin, if you are on duty, please attend or arrange another member to fill in for you.
Good Speaker and very interesting subject this week don't miss this event and also enjoy some fellowship.

President Graeme

Past President Professor Graeme Wilson

Belatedly and with sadness, we have learned that Past President Professor Graeme Wilson passed away on 15 December 2016 at age 99. He was born on 26 September 1917.

Graeme was a long standing member of RCOB. He was inducted into the Club on 1 August 1974, became President during Rotary 1989/90 and was a Paul Harris Fellow. From all accounts he was well liked. Highlights of his year as President included the decision to admit women to the membership of the Club, four women were inducted by the end of that Rotary year, and RCOB subsequently had its first female President in Rotary 1997/98. During 1989/90 a serious start was also made on the establishment of a RCOB Foundation (the forerunner of the current RCOB PAF) which had been discussed for some time.

It arose particularly then because RCOB was a substantial beneficiary of the Will of our late member Lionel Walpole, which had the condition that the bequest be used for community service projects. A decision was made to establish a Foundation which could attract donations, with the funds to be invested to provide income for community and international projects.

In later years Graeme researched and authored the book 'The History of the Rotary Club of Brisbane 1974-2003', published on the 80th Anniversary of the Club. This is a major and lasting contribution and may be found on the RCOB web site (as a PDF file), ensuring that Graeme's contributions to the Club will be long remembered.

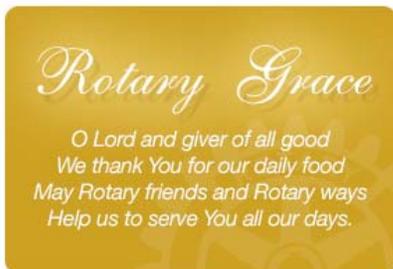
Besides Rotary, Graeme rose through the academic ranks to be Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at The University of Queensland. He retired from UQ in 1982 and was made Professor Emeritus. Earlier in his life he won a Rhodes scholarship, was an accomplished sportsman, and was a prisoner of war in Singapore. Details of his life and many activities are provided at: <http://www.bobkelsey.net/wilson.html>.

Compiled from various sources by Rick Tamaschke, RCOB Bulletin Editor.

Rotary meeting – 27 March 2017

Chairman for the day was Rick Tamaschke. After Rotary Grace, and toasts to the Queen of Australia and Rotary International he introduced President Graeme Whitmore. Graeme welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Graeme's message is detailed elsewhere in the Bulletin.

In Rotary spots, PP Keith Watts reported on the D9600 Annual Conference held during 24-26 March. It had been an excellent conference. Among other matters there had been a focus on attracting and retaining members. Records suggested that new members tended to stay an average of 2.5 years.



Calendar

10 April

Guilio Saggin
Award winning freelance
photographer.

17 April

Public Holiday, Easter Monday.

24 April 2017

Fellowship and Board meeting

Roster

3 April 2017:

President G Whitmore
Chairperson K Watts
Set Up/Away M Evans
Visitor Register T Pilkington
Attendance/ D Schellbach
Raffle J Smerdon

10 April 2017:

President G Whitmore
Chairperson M Williams
Set Up/Away D Vankov
Visitor Register S Francis
Attendance/ D Schellbach
Raffle J Smerdon

17 April 2017:

Easter Monday – no meeting



24 April 2017:

President G Whitmore
Chairperson J Delahunty
Set Up/Away P Robb
Visitor Register G Bishop
Attendance/ D Schellbach
Raffle 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



Key was to get them involved in projects and other activities to maximise retention. More details will follow. Keith also reminded members of the next RCOB Membership Event scheduled for 29 March. He urged members to attend and bring potential members with them if possible. .

Denise Schellbach again publicised the guest speaker program. The more immediate speakers are detailed in the Bulletin. The Bulletin also provides details of the weekly Duty Rosters up to four weeks ahead. Members were urged to make sure they attended meetings for which they are rostered, or arrange a swap.

Michael Stephens reiterated his comments of the 20 March meeting... that RCOB would be taking an inbound Rotary Exchange Student in return for our outbound student Thomas Allison. The student would be from Brazil, and Michael had asked for volunteers to provide accommodation for her visit. Unfortunately, so far there was a shortage of volunteers and there were difficulties in gaining access to schooling. Further help was urgently required.

Stan Francis strongly supported student exchange programs. His family had hosted visiting students on a number of occasions and found this a very rewarding experience. He urged members to get involved as hosts.

After a short period of Fellowship Chairman Rick introduced the Guest Speaker, Stephanie Bennett, who came to talk about the mysterious Gattin Murders on Boxing Day 1898. In a nutshell, as three members of the Murphy family - Michael, Ellen and Norah - were returning to the family farm after a trip in to Gattin on a deserted road a few miles out of town they were ambushed. Their horse was killed and the three young people were taken to a remote paddock, where the women were brutally raped and bludgeoned to death, and Michael was shot.

By the time the police arrived the following day, locals had swarmed all over the crime scene, and obliterated the evidence. Fear and mistrust rocked the farming community, and theories about the perpetrator abounded.

Stephanie spent many years scouring the available archival material, interviewing relatives of suspects and victims and visiting far flung areas of Queensland to give her account of the motives and suspects of Queensland's most infamous unsolved murder. Her findings suggest that the murders were revenge killings linked to a left wing political movement's plans to overthrow law and order in Queensland and that Michael Murphy had helped to thwart.

This was a fascinating talk much appreciated by members. Finally Stephanie was thanked by acclamation and presented with a memento of the occasion. (Note: Interested members may obtain a detailed account by consulting Stephanie Bennett's book: *The Gattin Murders: A True Story of Lust, Vengeance and Vile Retribution, Bookbaby, 2013*).

SAA Max Winders provided an entertaining session while exacting the usual fines. Michael Stephens won the raffle but the joker is still in the deck and the jackpot remains to be won.

The meeting closed at 1.50pm.

Being the oxygen that fuels the flame (of service)

By Bill Smyth, Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, USA
Source: <https://blog.rotary.org/>

It's not every day that an eighth-grade student's essay rivets a teacher's attention. But this one themed "The Oxygen That Fueled the Flame" got mine.

The essay, written by a student at Buist Academy in Charleston, South Carolina, USA, described his experience two summers earlier teaching English in Tamil Nadu, India, motivated by a desire to make a difference in kid's lives. The story would have been powerful enough if the student had been of high school age, but this was the story of a 12-year-old boy.

I met Vasanth Kuppaswamy, and told him he had a wonderful story and needed to tell it. We agreed he should come to my school and speak to my seventh graders. We arranged for a lunch time presentation that January and the rest is history.



As my students watched the slideshow and listened to the story of two schools in the middle of south-central India, they were sad, disturbed, and a little mad. They had never seen or heard anything like this before, of students having to sit on the cement floor for their lessons in classrooms that held 75 children. The classrooms had no chairs or desks. There were few books or school supplies. The class was moved to raise money, which began at \$300 and grew to \$8,000 before the semester ended.

With the funds, the Indian school was able to purchase new desks and benches that summer. School supplies came next, then science equipment and ceiling fans. A wall was built around the school to keep animals out. A year later, the school added a wing for eight grade classrooms. They added a generator, and hired a contractor to build a basketball court. The school even had enough money to buy uniforms for its Scout troop.

But that wasn't all. Vasanth raised additional funds to buy a water system from Water Mission. A Rotarian shipped it to India with the help of OOCL, the company he worked for. Villagers helped assemble the parts sent in four crates and dug a water line from the water tower to the building housing the water system. It was a lot of work, but the villagers and students wanted a clean water supply.

All of this took place between 2005 to 2007. Since then, Vasanth established an after-school exam prep program for 10th and 12th graders so they could pass their country's national exams and go to college. He added a summer acceleration program for incoming sixth graders. He also bought four acres of land behind the school to continue adding onto the school, began a school library, and assembled a computer lab. About 40 students are now going to college every year.



Two Rotary grants enabled Vasanth to provide first aid supplies to 150 area elementary schools and feminine hygiene products for girls in all area high schools. His work has now expanded into providing healthcare for infants through partnering with Healthy Children, Brighter Futures. Four nurses visit the homes of newborns in the area to make sure every child receives the care needed for a healthy start to life. Mothers receive information about nutrition and child-rearing.

Vasanth graduates from medical school in May 2017. He will do a residency in internal medicine in the United States for three years and then establish a medical practice where the needs are the greatest. But someday he says he will return to India and build a medical clinic to serve the needs of all the people in this part of India.

Why is this project so significant? It was spearheaded by one student who cared enough to give his all, one teacher who shared his dream and became his mentor, six local schools and students in other states who raised funds year after year for each project, and eight Rotary clubs who got behind each project and made them possible. With everyone working together, these projects exceeded everyone's expectations.