



Chartered 29th May 1923

Rotary International Club 17787

BULLETIN 12th JUNE 2023

After being distracted with a phone call, chairman Chris Muir welcomed all to the meeting at 12.50 pm with 12 present, including guest Edouard Van Goethem and Guest Speaker Mitch Witherington, General Manager of Drought Angels. Mitch was introduced to the Club by member Cameron Gibson who advised that Mitch had worked in this area of fund raising for 22 years, with \$17 million raised through the Mater Foundation for Catherine's House—a project supported by our Club. Mitch later opined that Cameron was the best fund raiser he had ever been associated with.

APOLOGIES: Denise Schellbach, Phil Gresham [both seasonal illnesses], Keith Watts [in Brisbane Private with a knee replacement] Don O'Donoghue, James Delahunty.

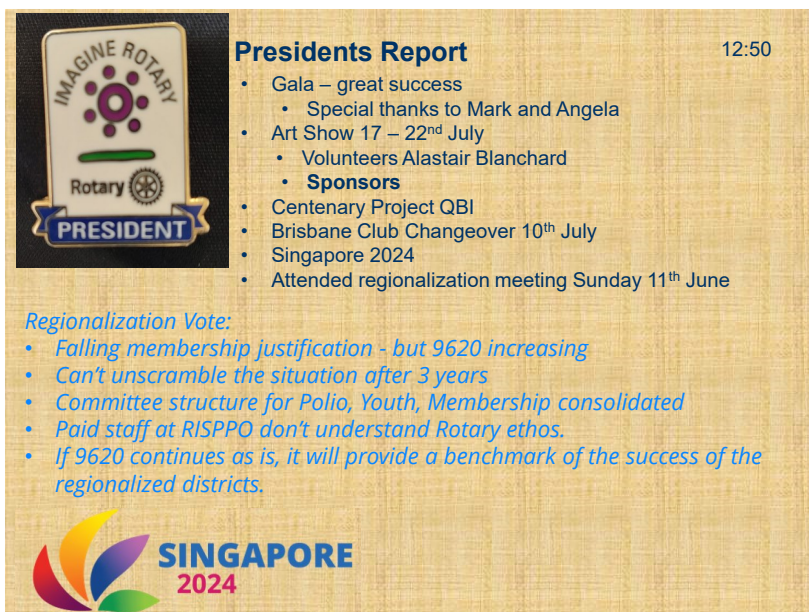
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of COUNTRY

TOAST to King Charles III and People of Australia was followed by a Toast to Rotary International.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Centenary Gala President Bruce thanked Angela for her efforts in presenting the Centenary Gala to such a magnificent standard. Acclamation from all members.

Art Show 17th – 22nd July As yet, this club has brought no sponsors to the Art Show. Volunteers are also required, but especially for the setting up and dismantling days Saturday 15th and Saturday 22nd July. Please email Alastair Blanchard blanshardalastair@gmail.com. *Alternatively and preferably*, log onto your Club Runner app and follow > Events and Volunteering > Volunteer Sign Ups > Art Show Roster > Sign Up List > Manage Volunteers THEN pick your sessions to fill vacant spots.



Presidents Report 12:50

- Gala – great success
 - Special thanks to Mark and Angela
- Art Show 17 – 22nd July
 - Volunteers Alastair Blanchard
 - **Sponsors**
- Centenary Project QBI
- Brisbane Club Changeover 10th July
- Singapore 2024
- Attended regionalization meeting Sunday 11th June

Regionalization Vote:

- *Falling membership justification - but 9620 increasing*
- *Can't unscramble the situation after 3 years*
- *Committee structure for Polio, Youth, Membership consolidated*
- *Paid staff at RISPPPO don't understand Rotary ethos.*
- *If 9620 continues as is, it will provide a benchmark of the success of the regionalized districts.*

SINGAPORE 2024

Centenary Project QBI President Bruce will be speaking in support of our QBI Project at District Changeover on Sun 2nd July. Dymphna Muir asked for clarification on who exactly is running our QBI Centenary Project. Phil Saxby said that he understood from conversing with our current District Governor Tim Keeler that Tim was going to take it under his wing after his imminent release from DG duties. Phil Saxby is to confirm with DG Tim Keeler that this is indeed his intention.

Brisbane Club Changeover is Monday 10th July at our normal meeting time and venue of Friday's with guests to be invited. A set price menu is being chosen from a new catering menu being developed this week by Fridays. Once a menu has been selected, online pre-payment will be required to confirm attendance at the Changeover Meeting. Exact details to be made available next week.

Regionalisation Vote. Bruce spoke at length on the purported benefits of Regionalisation versus the real risk of losing District Committees and established procedures that seem to work for our District. He pointed out the obvious issue that paid staff do not carry the same ethos as Rotarian members. A written vote of members produced a unanimous NO vote to proceed with a Regionalisation 'trial'.

Singapore Conference 2024 A number of club members have already registered for the next RI Conference.

CLUB CALENDAR is to be found on the back page.

MEMBER SPOTS

John Smerdon reported that \$50,000 in PAF disbursements has been topped up with an extra \$10,000 in specified extra donations, making a total of \$60,000 disbursed. The amounts will be tabled at next Monday's board meeting. Member Don O'Donoghue had also made a specific donation towards the QBI Project.

Angela Murphy went to a Paddington Rotaract meeting at the Paddington Hotel. With about 20 members, there were around 100 people in the room, creating a vibrant atmosphere. She expressed a strong desire to be able to harness some of their energy, potential and power.

Dymphna Muir suggested these the Paddington Rotaractors along with River City should be invited to a Wednesday Normanby Hotel meeting, with a joint club micro-meeting at 5.30, to be followed by Trivia.

President Bruce indicated that our club is still pursuing establishment of an Interact Club, with assistance from Secretary Paul. He also indicated that a primary school Rotary organisation exists: EarlyAct and that he had been previously been associated with one at a Special School at Aspley. Cameron Gibson advised that he was previously not aware of Rotary being involved into primary schools. Bruce explained how genuinely interested these primary school students were in presenting 'Shelter Box' and Polio displays. <https://www.rotarynews.info/2/club/76644/8536>

To which our Guest Speaker Mitch had to have explained what Rotary Shelter Box was! www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au/

John Smerdon asked Angela how the refurbished Rotary Sundial at Petrie Terrace School was surviving. It may be being moved and it would be an opportune time to refresh it, if that is the case.

GUEST SPEAKER

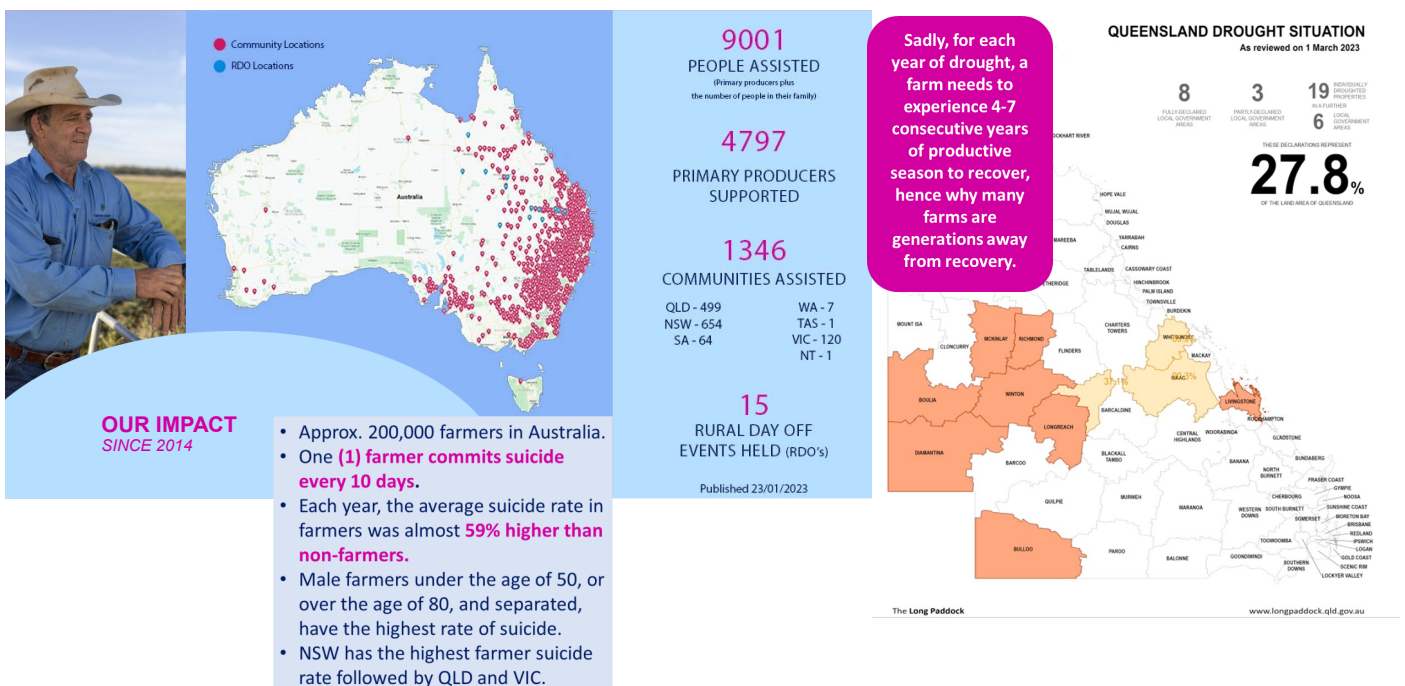
Mitch Witherington, General manager of Drought Angels gave an excellent presentation, which some slides are duplicated herewith. In typical digital fashion, two separate computers with internet connections failing could not manage to get the linked in videos to work during the presentation. *For everyone's benefit, the two video links are attached here.* Be prepared....they are not easy watching. One with Western Qld drought and one with the Richmond River floods.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9Xx5zexplw&list=PLkvkBzf0WpTeWRZGldXQEa4UxkxTp1_WG&index=3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjBzPatjyGo> The rescued cows go off their milk due to the stress of losing their mates.

Drought Angels started in 2014 from Tash a barista in Chinchilla listening to her customers going through what was at that stage into their fourth year of drought. The stories coming over her counter were of animals being shot and suicides as well. She started directing excess food from a ute, then progressed onto containers of donated goods. The Charity was registered in 2016. In typical city slicker style, the drought only registered in Sydney when the media got involved in 2020 at the peak of the drought. Tash had grown up in Mansfield on acreage—she has established a charity whose mission is to provide respect and dignity for those country folk surviving the many disasters our bush folk have to contend with.

The Drought Angels have progressed to assist not only with drought relief, but fire recovery, mice plagues, COVID and its isolation, floods; but also the many related and serious concomitant mental health issues.



A COUNTRY ON FIRE

2019/20

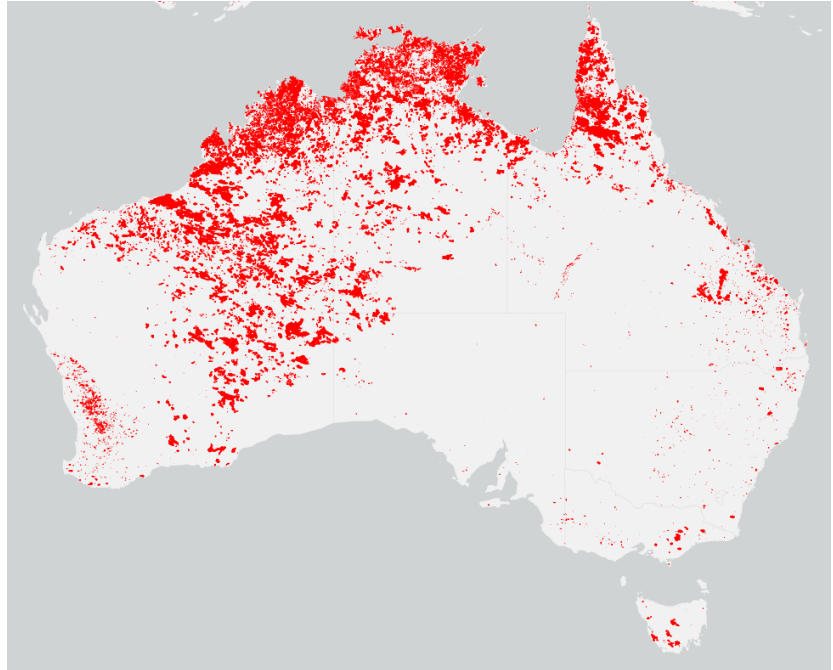
Australia was hit hard by bushfires during the summer of 2019-20. It was the most catastrophic bushfire season ever experienced in the country's history.

Up to **19 million hectares** were burnt, with 12.6 million hectares primarily forest and bushland.

33 lives were lost

3,094 homes destroyed

Estimated **3 billion animals** were impacted by the bushfires.



COVID-19

2020-2022

COVID-19 brought further challenges:

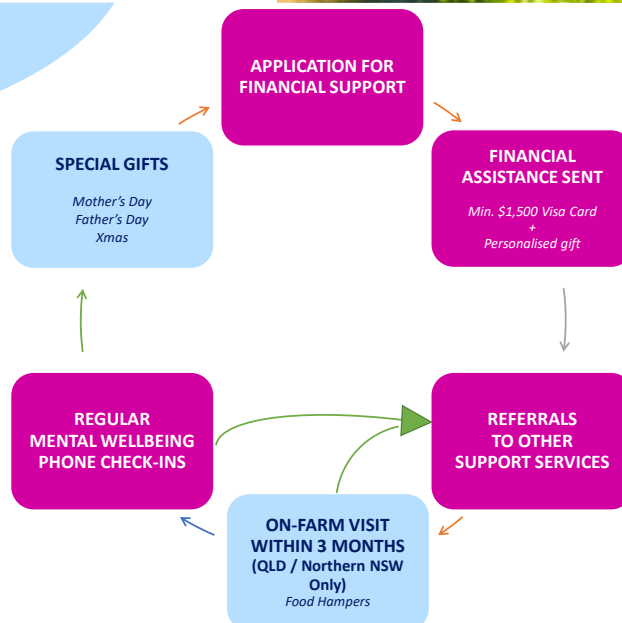
- **Lack of available labour** mostly seasonal and overseas workers. Horticulture alone had a shortfall of 26,000 fruit and vegetable pickers.
- **Travel restrictions** impacted import and export of goods with increased biosecurity regulations. Seafood was the most affected industry, along with wine, horticulture, and some higher value livestock and dairy products.
- **Increased input and output costs**



FARMER SUPPORT

12 Month Support Plan

- ANGELS ON THE PHONE
- ANGELS ON THE ROAD



RAFFLE was won by President Bruce , who then proceeded to NOT to draw the Joker from yet another brand new pack. Guest Speaker Mitch presented President Bruce with a Drought Angels gift pack.

SERGEANT fined too many to enumerate—all worthy of being fined.

MEETING CLOSED President Bruce closed the meeting at 1.57 pm, with thanks to our guest and guest speaker. Lively fellowship continued for another 20 minutes.

PASTORAL CARE Chris Muir had visited Keith Watts last Thursday.

John Smerdon had visited Don O’Donoghue at home the previous week.

After the meeting President Bruce, Phil and Peter Saxby visited the knee operated Keith Watts recovering and enjoying his physiotherapy sessions in Brisbane Private.



CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE: LOG IN and DELIVER YOUR EMPTIES TOWARDS FUNDING OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES
https://member.containersforchange.com.au/team-member/add/qld?team_link=qld/the-rotary-club-of-brisbane-inc-6420eda5a5afb

CHAIR ROSTER

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 19 | Board Meeting | President Bruce | 12.15 for 12.45pm | FRIDAYS RIVERSIDE |
| 26 | Rick Tamaschke | | 12.15 for 12.45pm | FRIDAYS RIVERSIDE |

If unable to perform the rostered Chair, please arrange for a replacement. Rick Tamaschke has agreed to act as reserve.

CALENDER DATES

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|---|---|
| JUNE | Tues 27th | Induction of Her Excellency the Hon Jeanette Young Governor of Queensland, and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD | 5pm | Government House, 168 Fernberg Rd. Paddington |
| JULY | Sun 2nd | District Changeover “The Long Lunch” | | Ipswich Civic Centre 12 noon– 3pm |
| | Mon 10th | Club Changeover Meeting | | Friday’s Riverside, Grand Deck Meeting Room |
| | 17th to 22nd | Brisbane Rotary Art Show | https://rotaryart.au/ | Central Plaza One, 345 Queen Street |

Full Centenary Celebration Photographic Galleries Remain Available

Monday 22nd May Centenary Luncheon Meeting [Rotary 100 Year Anniversary Luncheon by eventphotography.com](https://eventphotography.com)
 Lord Mayor’s Civic Reception: <https://brisbane.sharefile.com/d-s6bc66f438a884fe6888941c9f6094921>

Wed 24th May Next Century Gala Dinner: <https://gallery.eventphotography.com/rotaryclubofbrisbanegaladinner/>



RC TAIPEI TATUNG
 40th Anniversary
19th APRIL 2024

RI CONVENTION
 SINGAPORE
25-29 MAY 2024

