



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



Vol 36 Edition 16

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary

6th March 2024

The Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary Inc. meets on Wednesday at 6:30am for 6:45am at:

Kingsford Terrace,
260 Cliveden Avenue,
Corinda.

P O Box 214 Mt
Ommaney Q 4074

Gebert's gossip



Nominal President Di Scotte

Welcome to the Club's second Monthly Bulletin.

February was certainly a significant month for our Club. We saw our District Governor, Paul Roger on his official Club visit induct Stoddarts as a Rotary Corporate Member with Nick Cook, the company's Executive Director representing the company. At our following Club meeting, Nick was our guest speaker and gave a presentation on the state of the national/state housing market – very interesting!

As well, Kristin Cook (no relation to Nick) from Silver Dove Funerals, owned and operated by Club member Ada Filer, attended two of our monthly meetings – it was great to have her company and we look forward to having Kristin's company at more meetings.

March is another busy month for our Club with the following being on the agenda:-

- RARE working bee on Saturday 2 March 8am – 11am;
- working bee at Graham's place on Sunday 17 March to assist Graham and Kath with the preparation of their property for the upcoming sale;

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1st March

Our usual end of month social—Jindalee Hotel

This week tba

8-10th March

District Conference—Sea World

20th March

Tracey Tucker

24th March

Styromax BBQ

End of March Social...it's Easter so do your own thing!



The Board for 2022 – 23

President in absentia	Graham Osterfield
Nominal President	Di Scotte
Treasurer	Craig Carson
Secretary	Di Scotte
Executive Secretary	Nick Curry

International President's Desk
Effective Services
Membership
Foundation
Club Administration
Bulletin Editor

John Woodward
Gerry Gebert
Di Scotte
Andrew Rodgers
John Woodward
Neville Blomeley
Nick Curry



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2024

SEA WORLD RESORT

8TH TO 10TH MARCH 2024

That was the week that was or TW3 7 February

Treasurer: Craig has sent out the half yearly dues invoices. Most have already paid.

Songbird Estate: We have the BBQ gig on Sunday 25 February.

Styromax: Similarly, we have a gig on the 23 March.

Guest Speakers: Please help Neville out with suggestions. From the floor came Hawkeye Books author, Peace Fellows and the Centenary Historical Society...none of which are guaranteed to speak! Terry also noted that his financial advisers would be prepared to give a talk...possibly to include the wider audience of Kingsford Terrace.

RARE: At the opening relocation ceremony, it was noted that goods worth some \$69m had been sent at a cost of \$3m in container fees. 34,000 schools desks were part of that largesse. Main recipients had been PNG and Fiji.

Fiji: Bob Anderson spoke about the problems regarding the constant flooding of the Nausori village. He also told us that the ablution block, whilst serviceable, was not yet completely finished because the project had run out of money. Billy to be contacted to get details of what is needed for the block...and anything else.

BeefBank: Audit is still underway. Nick outlined the issue regarding tax deductible donations.

MOSS: Terry looks after the 120 assorted cycles of various types and is looking to set up a VET programmer on cycle maintenance. Also looking at possible ways of funding a school bus which is urgently needed. Could look at a gambling grant (up to \$35K) but that way is blocked because the current P & C has not finalized the previous grant. They also need an auditor. John Woodward and Nick Curry might be able to assist.

Scout Hut: Craig noted that the local scout group is looking to update their kitchen facilities, partly so that they can use the building for a wider range of purposes.

RJCA: Di is speaking to the parents and students at Jamboree Heights State School and will also be doing



DG Paul Rogers invests Nick Cook with Corporate Membership for Stoddarts.

the same on Thursday at Middle Park State School. Moss is tba.

EarlyAct: Project in progress.

Greening Australia: Their approach has been referred to Archerfield as the project is in their area.

Working Bee at Graham's: With Graham's imminent relocation to Kingsford Terrace, our club staff has to be moved out of Grahams sheds. The trailer will go to Craig's work where there is room under cover. Date scheduled is Sunday 17th March.

Rotary Tree Planting Challenge: This is a District initiative and will be in Mansfield.

Strategic Plan: Di has initiated a plan with Terry, Neville, and Nick assisting.

Peace Poles: Canberra wants to add further languages.

Continued from page one

- Styromax BBQ on Saturday 23 March – more details to come from Craig.

A reminder for any Club members wishing to attend the District Conference at Sea World – book now as it is on the 8 – 10 March. Tickets can still be purchased in the Conference raffle with details in the latest GIST or from Craig.

As usual be on the lookout for emails from Neville regarding our March meetings and also the popular end of month social.

Have a great Rotary March!

Gerry Gebert

Are you supporting BeefBank?

C10110755

Don't forget you can now also recycle your wine and spirit bottles—even if they do not have the 10cents coupon on



That was the week that was or TW3 21 February

Secretary:

- Nick is now the YPO for the club is being granted to the Blue Card portal.
- Strategic Plan: is under development with Neville, Terry and Nick assisting Di.
- Constitution: The OFT have some changes and Di and Nick are working through to see what has to happen with the Club's constitution.

RJCA:

- Middle Park ha enrolled 17 students and diaries are about to be distributed.
- Lyndell and Di attended Jamboree Heights SS and addressed some 80 students and ten parents...so may have quite a large cohort this year.

Treasurer:

- Craig is finalizing our current District Grant with Fiji in order for us to apply for another grant next year.
- Most clubs subs have been paid but that still a couple to be chased up. (*what was interesting was that some could not remember if they had paid or not!*)

Tree Planting: Has been cancelled by the BCC

RARE: We are on Roster on 2nd March.

BeefBank: Has been a busy week with a fair amount happening. This includes being part of Beef Week in May in Rockhampton and investigating a major Food Waste summit where the major food agencies will be attending and where the subject of tax relief may be to the fore.

Paul Roger—District Governor's visit

Paul began by noting that there might be 1.4 million members but, often, spouses are the unremarked 'others' who also support Rotary—especially District Governors! Without them, our work would be much diminished.

And speaking of support, Paul made the point that District was here to support the clubs which are, themselves, autonomous. The DG is the official Rotary International officer and there are some 550 or so DGs representing Gordon McNally. In this District (which is a company because of its international boundaries), we started with about 110 clubs although some have since folded.

The overall theme has been to continue with what you have been doing...but do it even better. Obviously Gordon wants certain emphasis put on a number of things, not least of which is the Rotary Foundation—both regarding club and individual giving. The Foundation gives clubs access to District Grants and, of course, the End Polio Now campaign started an idea from one man from this district (albeit a world president at the time). Now, Rotary is committed to raising at least US\$50m which is then matched 2:1 by Bill Gates.

The point of this story is that Paul is asking us to think big and involve other clubs if necessary. The Rotary Vision says 'working together, we create change'.

Another area that Gordon wants focus on is mental health...brought about by his own experiences with his brother's suicide.

Unfortunately, Rotary is one of the world's best kept secrets. Whilst we do not necessarily seek publicity, we should nevertheless look at ways in which we become more visible and highlight the work that Rotary does. As an example Paul noted the 'Say No to Domestic Violence' campaign which started in Ballina. Now, they have



Purple Friday with lots of shopkeepers wearing the Rotary branded T-shirt.

Membership is also part of Gordon's menu. Paul told us we don't have a problem with recruitment, it is retention that causes us angst. We must meet the expectation of members. Membership should be one of our major focuses with some emphasis on Corporate Membership as this brings in a larger local connection. And, despite an emphasis on younger members, we should not forget that older new members can be very effective and useful. But membership was not a be all as we need other foci...."If you build it, they will come"! However, we don't want to be known as the people who cook sausages! Promote club projects to show that Rotary has real involvement in the community and that we have a wider scope.

Strategic planning should, therefore take in those causes that will enable the club to grow.

Paul brought up the fact that District has now updated the constitution for clubs with the latest amendments from both the Council on Legislation and the OFT and that we should review ours.

Nick Cook—Stoddarts—Overview of the building industry



Stoddarts began in 1959, starting out as a basic sheet metal fabricator whose market was basically stainless steel urinals and some prison

work. Later they teamed up with Stratco to develop other building such as metal facias.

Now the group has expanded so that it is a supplier to some 30,000 homes (or one quarter of all new houses each year). The company has 36 offices across Australia and employs 600 full-time staff and has some 2,000 contractors on call (this equates to some 5,000 people overall). Its customer base consists of 2,500 major builders including 17 of the top 20.

Nick noted that the building industry is going through a tortuous time. At this time, Stoddarts are OK as all their debts are insured but many builders are facing liquidation. Many large builders have been stuck with fixed price contracts against a period of shortages and rising prices. And Nick felt that more was to come with inflation still biting and tradies' wage growth to come. However, The company's product range includes both timber and steel frames, roofing, external cladding, garage doors, even plasterboard and insulation.

As we all know, the housing shortage is of critical proportions with occupancy rates of 0.5—1.0%. 3.0% is optimum. Immigration has been a major factor. In 2008, Kevin Rudd allowed 250,000 immigrants in what was termed the 'big immigration'. However, next year, we look like receiving 900,000 immigrants. This is having an enormous impact on home ownership. In addition, Queensland's net interstate migration last year was 40,000....mainly from Victoria. And this has all been aggravated by government stimulus policies which have had the effect of driving up prices.

As a result, different home models are being looked at. One US model that Stockland are adapting is where one buys the house but leases the land. Since land is about half the cost of a home, this reduces the amount you have to borrow from the bank by half. However, there are a large number of problems with this. Short-term, it gets people into housing with a degree of certainty but long-term, you are left with a depreciating asset since it is the land value and not the building that increases the price of housing.

Nick also got stuck in the politicians.....The Federal housing target of 120 million homes a year was clearly aspirational given we only build 120,000/year and there has been severe under-investment in the trades. But Nick also pointed out that, over the years, developments in the



Nick Cook gets star billing again this week with his discussion on the current state of the housing industry....not incredibly optimistic for now home buyers!

building industry, different techniques and the use of new materials had fundamentally altered the way in which apprentices should be structured. Current four year programmes are probably redundant. In fact, in Stoddarts' factories, no-one has a trade as it is simply not needed.

The government's climate change inspired push to more efficient housing...currently seven star (which already limits some colours used on roofs and in paints but will go to ten star)...is also adding around \$30,000. This isn't helping home ownership when the average home now costs 12 times an average double income compared with four times in the United States.

Builders are still building high-end housing but the more affordable homes are under pressure. 'Mum and dad' ordinary housing looks about to drop by 80% on current figures and even high-rise is difficult. One growth area has been the over 50's retirement homes where investors can get a return of 5-6%. Nick also noted that Stockland are building properties based on the Caravan Act (properties, in theory, have to be moveable) so that more homes can be squeezed in. Again one owns the home but not the land.

The building industry is set for considerable disruption and one disrupter might be the way mortgages are financed. Banks will become increasingly wary of lending on homes which are non-traditional (i.e. you don't own the land) whereas some of the superannuation funds...which have massive amounts of money to invest... may become major lenders and could change the way in which this part of the industry works.

March is Water and Sanitation Month

Rotary's Six Areas of Service



PROMOTING
PEACE



FIGHTING
DISEASE



PROVIDING
CLEAN WATER



MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH



LITERACY &
BASIC
EDUCATION



ECONOMIC &
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Clean water and sanitation is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives.

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life.

When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne diseases decrease, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly, and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families.

The Rotary Foundation is changing the world by providing grants for projects and activities around the globe and in your own backyard:

	Today (a while ago)!
1788	The First Fleet arrives at Norfolk Island in order to found a convict settlement.
1836	Texas Revolution: Battle of the Alamo: After a thirteen-day siege by an army of 3,000 Mexican troops, the 187 Texas volunteers, including frontiersman Davy Crockett and colonel Jim Bowie, defending the Alamo are killed and the fort is captured.
1869	Dmitri Mendeleev presents the first periodic table to the Russian Chemical Society.
1899	Bayer registers "Aspirin" as a trademark.
1944	British and Canadian sailors boards abandoned German U-boat U-774 seeking Enigma code machine, but are forced to scuttle the sub when efforts to tow it fail
2018	World's oldest message in a bottle found in Western Australia, thrown from German ship Paula 132 years ago (12 June 1886)

WASH Global Grant Projects: Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested in more than \$130 million in over 2000 projects worldwide. Through this investment, our volunteers of action have improved access to safely managed and basic WASH services to communities, schools and healthcare facilities, while protecting and conserving water resources.

\$24

Is all it takes to provide one person with safe water

Rotary-USAID WASH Partnership: Rotary and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assist communities and governments to plan, finance and deliver safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, while sustainably managing water resources.

WASH in Schools Target Challenge: Rotary challenges our members to develop sustainable projects that comprehensively address the most pressing water, sanitation, hygiene and education needs in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya.

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schools in Ghana have gained access to basic sanitation and hygiene services due to the Rotary-USAID partnership

SMILE...



Brain cells die, skin cells die, even hair cells die



Fat cells seem to have accepted Jesus Christ as their lord and saviour as they seem to eternal life

Three good friends went for a swim. The one who was fat wished that she was thin. The one who was curvy wished that she was clever. The one who was clever wished that she could swim better. The really good swimmer wished that she was witty, the one who was witty wished that she was prettier. All three friends thought that the other two were fine. If only they could let their own bright light shine. So throw on your swimmers regardless of whether you are fat or thin. Enjoy fun and friendshipand love the skin you are in!

WHEN THE INVITE SAYS



My girlfriend says I'm tight. So, to prove her wrong, we went out for some tea and biscuits. It was quite exciting....She's never given blood before!

I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger, but then it hit me.

I heard there were a bunch of break-ins over at the car park. That is wrong on so many levels.



Congratulations and happy anniversary to:

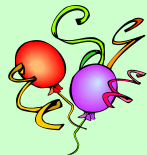
Nick and Jan Curry 17 March



Happy Birthday to:

Michael Filer 19 March

Robyn Woodward 12 March



The 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?

Duty	6 March	20 March
Chair	Craig Carson	Nev Blomeley
Duty Officer	Bob Anderson	Nick Curry
Fellowship Officer	Nev Blomeley	Terry Killen
Rotary talk	Nick Curry	Nev Blomeley