



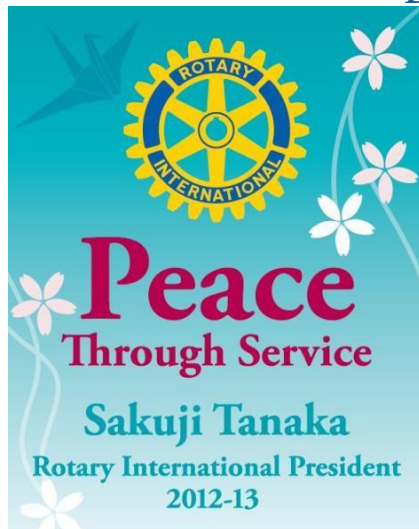
# ROTA NEWS



May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## Rotary Club of Barbados, Barbados

Chartered March 07, 1962  
District 7030



R.I Theme 2012-2013

### Officers

**President**  
Sakuji Tanaka

**President Elect**  
Ron D. Burton



### District Officers

**District Governor**  
Stephen Ramroop

**District Governor Elect**  
Herve Honoré

**Assistant Governor (B'dos)**  
Katrina Sam

**District Rotary Foundation Chair**  
Cees Dilweg

**District Disaster Relief**  
David Edwards

**District International Service**  
Tony Watkins

### Club Officers

**President**  
Carl "Tony" Williams

**President Elect**  
Ron Davis

**Vice President**  
Stanley MacDonald

**Secretary**  
Jomo Hope

**Treasurer**  
Ivan Browne

**Club Service Director**  
Erskine Thompson

**Vocational Service Director**  
Jedder Robinson

**Community Service Director**  
Shawn Franklin

**International Service Director**  
Carol Belgrave

**New Generations Director**  
Waldo Clarke

**Immediate Past President**  
Brenda Pope

**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Heather Tull

## The Four 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?

Weekly meetings on **Thursdays** at  
**Hilton Barbados**

Needham's Point, Aquatic Gap,  
St. Michael at 12 noon

P.O. Box 148B, Brittons Hill,  
St. Michael, Barbados

[www.clubrunner.ca/barbados](http://www.clubrunner.ca/barbados)

## An Evening of Fellowship

On the evening of Friday May 10, 2013 President Elect Ron and Partner Suzanne hosted Rotarians and their Partners at their home. The event served the dual purpose of thanking Rotarians and Partners for support for the second FABBA GIRLS fund raising concert and an opportunity for fun and fellowship. Although final accounting for the concert is still a work in progress, PE Ron could confidently report to loud applause a surplus in excess of \$90,000 to be added to the funds for the School House for Special Needs Children. A short video presentation provided a preview of the plans to continue fund raising by bringing another celebrity group to Barbados for Rotary year 2013-2014.

Rotarian Neal Griffith trumped his good fortune in winning one of the laptops raffled by PDG Ramroop at the District Conference 2013 by acceding to PE Ron's suggestion of an on the spot auction. When the spirited bidding reached \$800 it was PP Andrew's turn to further trump Rotarian Neal's generosity by donating the laptop to the School House.

Rotarian Steve Cozier became a major player in the evening's fellowship as Rotarians and Partners celebrated his Partner Mary's birthday by the "sticking" of a specially prepared cake. Ignoring the rude comments about the long lone candle in the middle of the cake, Rotarian Steve somewhat sheepishly expressed his love in the traditional kiss. Not even the unwelcome visit by a "small" centipede could daunt the spirits of Rotarians and Partners who gathered in groups enjoying the scrumptious goodies and imbibing in various spirits in full enjoyment of a lovely evening of fun and fellowship in celebration of another RCOB successful event. Kudos to PE Ron and Partner Suzanne for once again opening their homes and hospitality to celebrate Rotary.

### Photos



Cutting of the birthday cake!



PE Ron Placing "A Candle" on the cake ☺



It was truly an evening of fun and fellowship!



## Meeting Details

At our Fellowship Meeting held on  
Thursday, May 9<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

Sgt-at-Arms: **Kim Tudor**

- Fines \$162.00
- Raffle \$111.00
- Attendance 63%

## Former Rotary Youth Exchange student designs a backpack bed for the homeless

During Australia's colder months, emergency shelters often fill to capacity. Many homeless people searching for a warm bed are turned away, handed a piece of cardboard and a blanket for the night.

Tony Clark, an IT entrepreneur, 1992 [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) student, and the founder of the Melbourne-based nonprofit Swags for Homeless, offers an alternative.

In the past year, his organization has distributed more than 3,000 swags, or portable sleeping units, to charities and shelters throughout Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Backpack Beds, which Clark and his wife, Lisa, designed, are made of a lightweight fabric and have a built-in, 6-foot foam mattress and mosquito netting. But most important, they offer warmth with their waterproof, windproof design. The entire assembly weighs only 6.5 pounds and rolls into a backpack.

Clark was inspired to start the nonprofit when he questioned why so many shelters didn't provide homeless people with proper outdoor bedding. He immediately began working on designs for the versatile bed.

"I thought to myself, 'How would I like to be treated if I slept on the street?'" Clark says. "Homeless people suffering from frostbite, hypothermia, and trench foot are common in wealthy countries. A Backpack Bed is an interim crisis measure – one that can save the lives of those without shelter."

The bed, which can be purchased with a A\$68 donation, has won four international honors, including the Australian International Design Award and the German Red Dot "Best of the Best" award – one of the most prestigious accolades in the product design world.

The innovative beds offers more than physical comfort, say those who have used them – they also provide a renewed sense of dignity.

"Until people are faced with living on the streets, they have no idea of what is involved. Just getting a shower, finding a toilet, or trying to wash clothes becomes a big event," says Matt, a young homeless man in Australia. "This is the third time I have been on the streets, and previously I didn't even have a blanket. Tony Clark and his organization change the lives of people like me."

The success of Swags for Homeless throughout Australia and Europe has encouraged Clark to bring his Backpack Beds to the United States. Rotary clubs in District 9800, which includes Melbourne, funded and transported 100 beds to Baltimore and parts of New Jersey and New York to help the region's homeless and those displaced by Hurricane Sandy. District 7500 (New Jersey) worked with Australian Rotarians to coordinate the effort. Swags for Homeless also donated 60 beds for distribution in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

"We knew we had to take this idea and spread its success to other countries and help save others," Clark says. "Thanks to Rotary, this is an important moment: It will be the first time Backpack Beds will be distributed to street-sleeping homeless and disaster victims in the USA."



Tony and his wife Lisa with the Backpack Bed they designed. Bottom: The bed has won four global product design awards. Photos courtesy of Tony Clark

### Article by:

Megan Ferringer

The Rotarian - June 2013

## Upcoming Events

June 1<sup>st</sup>: **Painting of Sterling Children's Home**

June 8<sup>th</sup>: **Treasure Hunt**

## Greeters

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** – Rtn Lisa Cummins & Rotarian Neal Griffith

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – PP John Cabral & Rotarian Makonem Hurley

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** – Rotarian Waldo Clarke & Rotarian Nicholas Waithe

## Guests – May 9<sup>th</sup>

None

## Announcements

### Wedding Anniversary

None

### Birthdays

#### *Rotarians*

Erskine Thompson - May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Brian Cole - May 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### *Spouse Birthdays*

Curt Brathwaite - May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Deborah Smith - May 21<sup>st</sup>

### Join Date Anniversaries

None

## MEETING SCHEDULED FOR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION MONTH

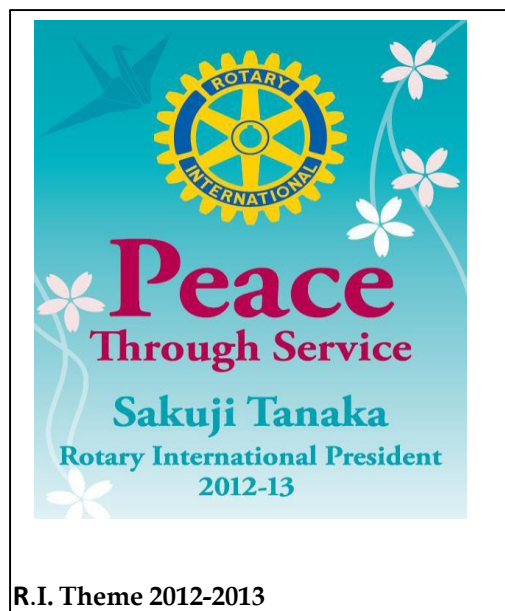
Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting  
Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> – Guest Speaker  
Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fellowship

## VISITING ROTARIANS – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

None

## ROTARY GRACE

O Lord and giver of all things good  
We thank Thee for our daily food  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve Thee all our days.



R.I. Theme 2012-2013

Bulletin Editor  
Marie Theodore