



# THE ROTARWAVE



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SURFERS PARADISE

PO BOX 5267, Gold Coast MC. 9726

<http://surfersparadiserotary.org>

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Meetings – Monday 6.30pm – Fables Restaurant – Mantra Legends Hotel – Surfers Paradise



President Adrian

Date	03.12.18	10.12.18	17.12.18
Chair	Catherine Palin-Brinkworth	Stephen Beckett	Christmas Party
Door	Bill White	Jeff Bignell	
Fellowship	Kiah Bastian	Bill Crouch	
Toast	Treasurer Sheila	Sgt Peter	
Thanks		Phil Dunsford	-
	GWV Board 5 pm	Board	

### From our Annual General Meetings



Alan Midwood with our Accountant, Sue McKeen of PG&A

### Forthcoming program

Date	Speaker	Topic
03 Dec	Members	Takasaki Reminiscences
10 Dec	Chris Redlaw	Rise Program
17 Dec	Christmas Party	Southport Golf Club

### THE ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we say and do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it fair to ALL CONCERNED?

Will it build GOODWILL, and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

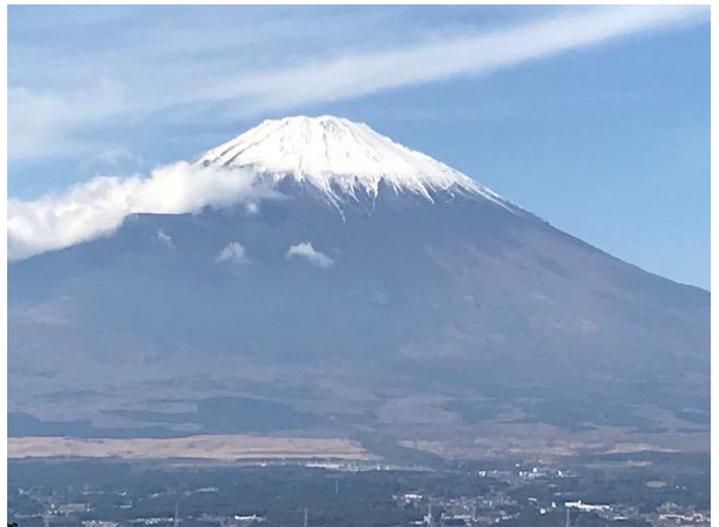


Diane with Sue



Good to see Kiah looking better.

A few shots from the Takasaki Group who enjoyed the Autumn colours with our friends from Takasaki



Beautiful shots of the Colours of Autumn.

It is also amazing how these natural beauties are appreciated in Japan.



Be sure to read the final paragraph; your understanding of it will depend on the earlier part of the content.

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.



Why was that gauge used?  
Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.



Why did the English build them like that?  
Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then?

## AN INTERESTING HISTORY LESSON.

Railroad tracks. This is fascinating.

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon

wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a Specification/Procedure/Process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with it?' you may be exactly right.

Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two horses'

asses.) Now, the twist  
to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRB's had to fit through that

tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important? Ancient horse's asses control almost everything... and CURRENT Horses Asses are controlling everything else.