



# 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



RI Pres Ian Risley; DG Darrell Brown; Pres Sheila Ponting

Date	27 Nov	04 Dec	11 Dec
Chair	Jeff Bignell	Stephen Beckett	Donna Gillett-Shaw
Door	Alan Midwood	Sue Montgomery	Sue Montgomery
Fellowship	Catherine Palin-Brinkworth	Bill Crouch	Phil Dunsford
Toast	Kirk Mason	Sue Brown	Adrian Smallacombe
Thanks	Bill White		Stuart Fairley

## Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Annual General Meeting

### Bill Crouch chaired the AGM

**The Club financial return 2016-2017 was presented and accepted by the meeting.**

Secretary Sue has circulated the Minutes of this Meeting

### **Election of Officers**

President Elect – Adrian Smallacombe

President Nominee – tba

Vice President – Kirk Mason

Secretary – Sue Montgomery

Treasurer – Sheila Ponting

### **Board Members:**

Club Admin – Bill

PR/Membership – Catherine Palin-Brinkworth

Foundation/International – Donna Gillett-Shaw

Service Projects – Alan Guignon

Youth – Bill White

### Forthcoming program

Date	Speaker	Topic
27 Nov	Rotary Bentley	Jason Williams
04 Dec	Shaping the Future	Session 3
11 Dec	QIMR	Sara Dean

## 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?



President Sheila and Catherine discussing events.

### **Golden Wheel Villas Board** **Annual General Meeting**

With the exception of the position of Treasurer, all members retained their positions unopposed.

As Treasurer Adrian was President Elect, he resigned the position and Bill Crouch was elected as treasurer.

Chairman Alan presented his report.  
We have 23 units.

We have 29 residents with more female residents than males.

Chairman Alan thanked Brian Stobbie for his continued efforts as Manager on call.  
Alan thanked residents Paul and Chris White for their efforts in the gardens.  
The members and their partners who attended the working bees were also recognized.

Sue McKeen and her PG&A team were thanked for their advice and maintenance of our accounting records.



Brian and Robyn Stobbie with Sue McKeen.

Youth Director, Alan Guignon asking for applicants to RYLA, and NYSF

Youth Projects requiring candidates.

RYLA – Young adults aged 19 to 28 years.  
Focus on Self Development and Leadership  
Camp at Tyalgum Ridge Resort  
From Saturday, 21 to Friday, 27 January.

NYSF

We are also looking for applicant for the National Youth Science Forum. Applicants will be from Year 11 Students.

### **Secretary Sue:**

The Roster for the Sausage Sizzles are as follows:

Mermaid Waters

Sunday 17 December

MORNING SET UP – 7AM – 11.30AM

Kirk, Jeff, Alan M (Stuart on Standby)

AFTERNOON SHIFT – 11.30AM – 4.00PM

Bert, Alan G, Rosi (Sue M on Standby)

President Sheila advised that the cocktails will be in the function room of Bayview Shores, 5 Bayview Street, Runaway Bay. The cost will be \$25 for finger-food and drinks, beer, wine and cocktails.  
Time from 6pm to 8pm.

### **Notes from the Meeting**

Secretary Sue reminded us about the sausage sizzle at Mermaid Waters on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>.

Alan Midwood thanked Gordon Brown for stepping in for an injured Jeff. Bert and Stuart were joined by Alan M after lunch.

The most impressive presentation was by a bloke from PBF in a wheelchair. He spoke about his accident and life following the accident. He was candid and there was absolute silence while he spoke.

**Catherine Palin-Brinkworth** spoke of next years District Conference at Sea World from 9-11 March 2018.

The speakers lined up are :

Karen Phillips

Bruce Sullivan

Alan Pease

Anne Riches

Scott Williams

Peter Beattie AC

To find out more about the speakers, copy and paste the address below

<http://www.rotary9640conference.org.au/speakers/>

**Bill Crouch** advised that the centurion money collector can be returned to him when full. He will then forward them on.

**President Sheila** advised that our last meeting for the year will be on 11 December with the Christmas party on 18 December.

Our first meeting in 2018 will be on 11 January .

Our Exchange Student in Japan  
Bridget Moloney:



久しぶり！ (That's the Japanese equivalent of 'long time no see'). I've started and stopped writing this update so many times over the past few months. Time has flown by in a flash, and during that time whenever I came back to finish what I had written I found I came forward with a completely different perspective. That's just the nature of exchange; a constant evolution of self, compounded by the need to adapt to a foreign environment. I still have the old unfinished updates, but I feel now I would like to write a whole new one.

So, I apologise deeply for not keeping the club as updated as I'd hoped, but I hope the following gives you an idea of why.

I remember sitting in my classroom here in Japan back in February and thinking to myself how I still had ten months left and how far away returning home felt. Now I have less than two. I remember my friend from Canada in her last few months; a lot of panic, a lot of trips, spending as much time as she could with her Japanese and exchange friends. I didn't really get to know her until those last few months, but she became the most supportive friend and mentor as I found my own footing on this wild adventure. Now I find myself in her shoes, faced with the reality of returning home. It's a strange feeling- I spent so much of my initial few months here down on myself for not knowing the language, not being able to make friends at school, not feeling like I fit into this seemingly closed off society. Sure everyone was nice, but Japan just felt like an egg I couldn't crack and that wouldn't let me in in the first place. Then the Summer holidays came and went and suddenly it was like a whole new world opened up. I'm not sure whether the language just clicked or what, but suddenly I just felt this new wind of life and passion for what I was doing over here. Before those six weeks I didn't think I would make it to the end of the exchange; the time passed by in a wind of sadness, isolation and air conditioning (because Summer in Japan is disgustingly humid), but as the heat began to subside, a new lot of exchange kids arrived and their presence made me realise how far I'd come. Seeing their awkwardness, fear and general lack of knowledge and experience suddenly made me realise that all those month ago that had been me. I found myself translating and explaining, sharing all of the knowledge I'd unknowingly collected over this experience. It was like I now had something to measure my success against, a reminder of where I started. I realised I wasn't a failure. My Canadian friend that I mentioned earlier had years of Japanese study behind her and I had constantly been comparing my meagre few months to hers. Something that my host mum helped me realise is that I have my own pace of doing things and I need to be comfortable and confident in knowing that I am trying my best. So, upon returning to school for the second term I took a leap of faith and made new friends with a group of girls who treat me like a friend and not a foreigner. That changed everything at school for me. Suddenly, the other people in my class realised I was competent in Japanese and really opened up to me; I started to fit into the class dynamic; people would wait for me when we went places; I started looking forward to going to school again.

I wrote something to send to the club during that time, but when I look back on it I don't think it reflects my experience very well. It was a very glossed over and boring cultural explanation of things I did; it didn't embody that time or the experience I was gaining at all. Exchange has taught me what I means to fight and work for something; if I wanted to have a better time I needed to improve my Japanese; if I wanted to

improve my Japanese I had to learn to stop fearing mistakes and beating myself up for not being a native level speaker; if I wanted friends I had to push myself out of my comfort zone and talk to people. This ability to really push myself is one I need as I step into the world and uni next year and I am so glad I have been able to start learning it through as magnificent of an experience as exchange.

Something that has really struck me about living in Japan is having seasons, and such different and distinct ones at that. There is always a new type of flower blooming, a new seasonal food being served, a new set of activities and festivals that correlates with the changes. Winter was slippers, soups and snow (just a little); Spring was cherry blossoms and picnics; Summer was bbqs, cicadas, and the ocean; and now we're in the middle of Autumn and the country has turned the most beautiful shades of red and orange. The ups and downs of my exchange have certainly reflected this constant change, but now I feel as though I have arrived at a place where I've become used to Japan. Things that I remember felt so foreign and strange like certain foods, cultural practices or behaviours have become so normal to me that I fear I will actually experience some reverse culture shock when I return back home. Sure, part of me is looking forward to coming back, but a large part doesn't want to have to stop now after everything I've been through to get to this point. Exchange has been a real roller coaster of an adventure, but I can honestly say it is making these last few months all the more enjoyable and worth it. So thank you, Surfers Paradise Rotary, for being willing to sponsor me; this experience has truly changed my life. I could never say thank you enough. I look forward to sharing more of my adventures with you I'm back.

Bridget Moloney, 2017-18 exchange student to Japan, District 2630

## ABOUT GROWING OLDER .....

**First** ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

**Second** ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

**Third** ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

**Fourth** ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of algebra ...

**Fifth** ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

**Sixth** ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

**Seventh** ~ One of the many things no one tells you about ageing is **that it's such a nice change from being young.**

**Eight** ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

**Ninth** ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable and relaxed.

**Tenth** ~ Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

**And, finally** ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.