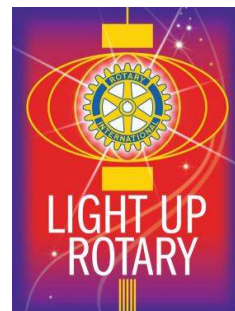




# Rotary Gold Coast



## Presidents meeting report



But more importantly **Farvel** and **Vi Ses** as we said farewell to our GSE team from District 1461 Denmark with a dinner at the Southport Golf Club where the atmosphere was truly '**Hygge**', difficult to pronounce (try "hooga") and even more difficult to translate as there is no one word in the English language that comes close.

Hygge is as Danish as pork roast and it goes far in illuminating the Danish soul. In essence, hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people. The warm glow of candlelight is hygge. Friends and family – that's hygge too. There's nothing more hygge than sitting round a table, discussing the big and small things in life. Perhaps hygge explains why the Danes are the happiest people in the world?

Well I think we did our best to capture that spirit with a great and varied attendance, much laughter, lively conversation, good food and lots of good friends – old and new. The team, introduced by our GSE District Chair, Ian Wilson, gave a PowerPoint wrap up of their sojourn with us running through what they had achieved and what they had experienced. It appeared that what they had set out to do they had achieved, with the help of their hosts and host clubs – a kind of help that typifies Rotary and Rotarians world-wide. They finished their presentation with a game of Heads and Tails with a Danish Twist, another fun experience that added to the success of the night. District Governor Wendy Scarlett responded on behalf of our District and reiterated the success of the visit from our side as well.

Looking back on the week that Gold Coast Rotary hosted the Danish team I can truly say that I'm glad I joined Rotary. My thanks to all those from GCR who participated in anyway and a suggestion to those who may have held back wondering what it's all about (like I did for quite a number of years) at the next GSE visit – get involved.

President elect, Lynda Haynes finished the evening with details of the **change-over party** (see **invite on page 7**), where she has chosen a theme of heroes. She was not referring to the type of super-hero that jumps from the pages of a Marvel comic all dressed in lycra and wearing their undies on the outside, but more of the person whom you admire most; think Mother Theresa, Mahatma Ghandi, your high school English teacher, your mum or dad – OK, I'm sure you get the picture. It will be held at La Piazza restaurant, 21 Bayview Street, Runaway Bay at 6:30pm for a 7pm start on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June – it'll be a hoot with live music and a dance floor for David and Rana to strut their stuff.

**May 21 2015 #155**  
We meet 5:45pm for 6:15pm the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at The Gold Coast Arts Centre + mid month birthday/ anniversary dinner + all members at Board meeting on the 2nd Wednesday  
You're welcome to join us - please advise Chawki 0410 002 403, email [mango@winshop.com.au](mailto:mango@winshop.com.au) if possible.

**May meeting roster**  
If you're unable to attend please *directly* arrange a replacement before the meeting.

**Welcome guests**  
- Jenny Bao  
**Front desk**  
- Phil Rosenberg  
**Meeting chair**  
- Dean Castell  
**International toast**  
- Jill Ellis  
**Sergeant**  
- Nancy Smith  
[goldcoastrotary.org.au](http://goldcoastrotary.org.au)  
District 9640  
RI #17910



**Club President**  
Eddie Klimowicz PHF  
04018 787 686  
[ejk@advancedns.com.au](mailto:ejk@advancedns.com.au)





## Move over, McMansions, the Tiny House Movement is here!

*A small group of people are gathered around a campfire in a Victorian State Forest. Members of the **Tiny Houses Australia** community, they're attending a Spring Camp to talk about how to build a tiny house, and compare notes on how to address common barriers, like local government planning schemes.*

The group is diverse, from students to professionals and retirees. One has been living temporarily in caravans. Others were forced to move into shared accommodation or board with family. Most have given up on the idea of buying their own home, put off by the high price tag or the size of the mortgage, or the downside of living far from family or employment.

Most of the group are also fierce promoters of a more sustainable, minimalist way of life who want their new houses to reflect this. You won't find many ensembles or walk-in wardrobes in their floor plans.

### Is bigger really better?

Something is wrong when a **professional earning A\$170,000** cannot afford to live close to work; or a **doctor needs a parental loan** to buy a house. All 25 major urban housing markets in Australia are ranked as **severely unaffordable**; and Australia has the **second most unaffordable** housing market among member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Australian houses are also **among the largest** in the OECD. In 2008, the average new house was 214 square metres, double the size of an average 1950s house. Very large houses are not only more expensive, but environmentally unsustainable. For example, the major factors that determine a house's greenhouse gas emissions are its size and location; the bigger and more isolated the house, **the larger its emissions**.

For many, particularly young people entering the market and older people leaving the workforce, the "great

Australian dream" of a big house on a quarter-acre block is a distant fantasy. And even for those who are living the dream, a sudden interest-rate rise, job loss or chronic illness could rapidly turn it into a nightmare.

Regardless of the debate over whether we're in a **housing bubble**, the affordability problem is much broader than property prices. The most serious issue is the lack of affordable **rental accommodation**.

### Finding sanctuary in a tiny house

From this backdrop has emerged a trend towards **building much smaller houses**. The **tiny house movement** originated in the United States in the late 1990s, largely in response to problems with housing affordability, although it has also been spurred on by the **global financial crisis** and a widespread desire to live more sustainably. The movement has now spread to New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Tiny houses are generally smaller than 40 sq m, and **can take many forms**, from granny flats, to repurposed shipping containers, to a **complete houses built on trailers**.

The benefits of tiny houses include **overall sustainability**, reduced energy and water use (tiny houses are often "off the grid") and, of course, affordability. Some tiny houses can cost less than A\$10,000. Moreover, they **use significantly less resources** to build, and are often constructed from salvaged materials or sustainably sourced products.

Mobile tiny houses could even help their inhabitants adapt to climate change; a house on wheels can be

moved out of danger from floods or storm surges. They can allow adult children or aged parents to live independently, yet maintain access to family, employment and public transport.

Tiny houses can even address aspects of homelessness. In the United States, some local governments are donating land for homeless **people to build their own tiny homes**.



live in crowded conditions or illegally in sheds or caravans.

Some states, such as New South Wales, allow property owners to build granny **flats**. In other states, the regulations differ between and within each local government, although almost all have restrictions on the duration of temporary occupation.

For non property -owners, particularly those who don't want to take any legal risks, the options are fewer.

### The biggest issues with a tiny house

Although **information is plentiful** on building techniques, plans and design, it is not very easy to build a tiny house. However, as attendees at the Spring Camp agreed, perhaps the biggest problem with building a tiny house is finding a place to put it.

Tiny houses do not conform to many **local government planning schemes** or building codes, which mandate minimum house sizes, maximum number of houses per plot, connection to utilities, parking provisions, and restrictions on temporary occupation.

It might also be argued that allowing tiny houses will reduce land values and lead to health and safety concerns, such as overcrowding. But people currently

And of course, local governments can and should impose planning restrictions on tiny houses, and ensure that they comply with building codes and standards.

Tiny houses are not for everyone. They will probably **always remain a niche market**, more suited to people with no children, or retirees.

Niche, yes, but for some people tiny houses could be a lifeline. Being unable to afford to buy property, fulfil mortgage commitments, or even rent a home can lead to **mental and physical illness**. In a sustainable city, everyone should be able to **access affordable housing**, and a tiny house is certainly better than no house at all.

- Heather Shearer. Originally published on *The Conversation*

**Improve the engagement process** To build and strengthen their membership, Rotary clubs must focus on engagement, not just recruitment. But engaging prospective and current club members is an ongoing process. People don't propose on the first date, so club members must stop asking potential members to join Rotary the first time they meet. Joining Rotary is about building a relationship, the same as with other long-term experiences and commitments.

MAY	JUNE	JULY
<p>1-3 Opera in the Vineyard (Peter )</p> <p>1 Jenny Bao (6 yrs), Kevin Campbell (22 yrs) Don Stalker (20 years)</p> <p>2.Carol Allan, Jill Ellis, Kathy Hogan, John Kelly, John Lander, Lyn MacArthur, Phil Rosenberg &amp; David Wood all 30 years</p> <p>7 GSE Team Farewell Dinner, Southport Yacht Club</p> <p>14 Board meeting</p> <p>15 Phil Rosenberg</p> <p>19 Birthday dinner at Little Malaysia, Broadbeach</p> <p>21 Club meeting, Sylvia Jones, <i>Albert Jones, forgotten WW1 soldier</i></p> <p>24 Kevin Stapleton</p> <p>23 Geoff &amp; Margaret Prentice (50 years)</p> <p>29 ROMAC Trivia Challenge, Arts Centre</p> <p>30 Ted Fong, Helen Stalker</p>	<p>MEETING ROSTER</p> <p><i>Welcome guests</i> - Greg Bowler</p> <p><i>Front desk</i> - Dean Castell</p> <p><i>Meeting chair</i> - Andrew Csabi</p> <p><i>International toast</i> - Peter Laurens</p> <p><i>Sergeant</i> - Andrew Csabi</p> <hr/> <p>1 Ian Daw (30 yrs), Kevin Stapleton (30 yrs),</p> <p>2 Jan Davies</p> <p>7 Richard Mercer</p> <p>9 Nancy &amp; Hugh Smith (42 years)</p> <p>10 Richard &amp; Narelle Flanagan (31 years)</p> <p>10 Andrew Chan + Caroline Mercer</p> <p>10 Board meeting</p> <p>11 Club meeting.</p> <p>11 Kevin Campbell</p> <p>14 Kathy Hogan</p> <p>15 Caroline and Richard (43 years)</p> <p>17 Nan Baldwin + Greg Bowler + Jennifer Rakauskas</p> <p>18 Kate Kimmorley (15 yrs)</p> <p>20 David Baguley (16 years)</p> <p>26 Changeover dinner: <i>Ordinary people alone ...together super heroes.</i></p> <p>La Piazza Waterfront Restaurant, Runaway Bay</p>	<p>MEETING ROSTER</p> <p><i>Welcome guests</i> - David Baguley</p> <p><i>Front desk</i> - Nan Baldwin</p> <p><i>Meeting chair</i> - Kate Kimmorley</p> <p><i>International toast</i> - Jenny Bao</p> <p><i>Sergeant</i> - Brian Kidd</p> <hr/> <p><b>NOTE: Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 5:45 for 6:15pm at Southport Golf club</b></p> <p>2 (1st Thursday) Rotary meeting</p> <p>8 Board meeting</p> <p>9 Jenny Wong/Tony Ang (35)</p> <p>10 Ian Daw</p> <p>16 (3rd Thursday) Rotary meeting</p> <p>21 Greg Bowler (18 years)</p> <p>24 Jenny Bao</p> <p>29 Ruay Loo</p>

Meetings/events Birthdays Wedding Anniversaries Member's Club Anniversaries





## Navy code breaker created the world's first Facebook-based Rotary club

**Motivational speaker and performer Amanda Wirtz, charter president of the United Services Rotary Club on Facebook, discusses why Rotary fulfills her desire to build a hope and a future for others, and how it is a gold mine of opportunity for those desiring to change the world.**

When a life-threatening illness stripped away many of her professional ambitions, Amanda Wirtz, a former U.S. Navy code breaker and professional violinist, turned to humanitarian service and Facebook to give her life new purpose.

Wirtz was in her twenties and pursuing a career as a fitness trainer when a sharp pain in her abdomen sent her to the emergency room. Expecting something manageable like appendicitis, she instead found herself facing a rare tumor disorder that required her to undergo 30 surgeries over the next several years.

Forced to rethink her life plans, Wirtz began focusing on how to help others, a quest that led her to Rotary. "I met an older man with a Rotary pin," Wirtz recalls, "and I said, 'I love Rotary.' **Ten years earlier as a Rotary Youth Exchange student, Rotary had helped build a hope and a future for me. Now, I found that through Rotary I could build hope and a future for others.** And doing that, I found that I actually received it myself." Wirtz launched the world's first Facebook-based Rotary club last year, United Services Rotary.

**The club differs from a traditional Rotary club** in that members log in to Facebook at any time during the week to view a high-definition video that reproduces many of the elements of a typical meeting. If there hasn't been time to record an original program, the weekly presentation may be a TED talk or other video on a Rotary-related topic that's available online.

Wirtz admits that meeting online comes with some drawbacks. "There is nothing like being in the same room with another person. I don't think anything can replace one-on-one interaction," she concedes. "So it's, 'How can I get a sense of you truly to have the feeling of real fellowship in a remote location?' And honestly, that's something we are continuing to work on." But she feels social media is too big a phenomenon for Rotary not to embrace it.

"I see a lot of missed opportunities, and my pain reminds me that time is short," Wirtz says. "Social media is a powerful tool. But it is more about embracing whatever strategy brings innovation, opportunity, and change. If we are to do anything about the mounting problems in the world, and the problems within Rotary regarding keeping members, we need to do whatever it takes to fully engage our evolution."

**Wirtz used focus groups on military bases to discover what people would want in an online meeting.** They didn't want to read a lot of text, they wanted to communicate very quickly, and they didn't want to go to a lot of places to do that. On all counts, a Facebook platform seemed to fit the bill. It was convenient: Members can sign in from anywhere in the world. It cost nothing to set up. And because there's no meal, the club can keep expenses down.

Wirtz said she expanded the membership target beyond the U.S. military because she wanted to have as big an impact as possible and promote peace among military personnel everywhere. Through the focus groups and by promoting the idea heavily on social media, she assembled a core of members in and around San Diego, California, USA. Members in other countries, including Afghanistan, Germany, and Japan, signed up as they



learned about it.

**Membership is open to anyone who shares the club's vision of building hope through peace.** A motivational speaker, Wirtz now shares her story with audiences around the U.S., combining her new life philosophy with her other passion, playing the violin.

Before forming the Facebook club, Wirtz had already taken part in a trip to South America to help orphans find homes. She also participated in projects to rehabilitate a homeless shelter and distribute backpacks to low-income families.

"When I hear our motto Service Above Self, I am reminded of the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who said, 'the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' I feel passionately that by serving we answer the most important

question -- and that is, Who do we want to be?"

In its first year, United Services Rotary received a grant to build a memorial wall at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for those killed in combat. It has renovated elementary schools in San Diego and provided tsunami relief in Japan. It is also organizing a larger project that would gather Rotary members from all over southern California for an annual day of international service in Baja California, Mexico. For other projects, members assist each other remotely.

Wirtz says. "It's a creative world. There are no restrictions to it. We are bringing social media and Rotary together in a way that has never been done before.

Paul Harris said, 'This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again.' I think Paul Harris would have liked social media." *Arnold R. Grahl Rotary News*



Walking into our district assembly recently, I looked up and saw fellow club members at the top of the bleachers in crazy wigs and big funky glasses, passing out noisemakers. When our president-elect, Ehlan Siddiqi, crossed the stage to receive his pin and banner for his presidential year, we raised the roof with our noisemakers and cheers.

This is just one example of the fun and energy that we are trying to create in our district. Our club may have unconventional ideas, but we are bringing more life and vitality to the organization.

**We have learned a number of things through our club's formation and development, and chief among these is that if we want to attract more people into Rotary, we have to listen to what they want.**

We have made an effort to be extremely member-focused and flexible.

We are aware that our members have many choices when they decide which organization they would like to support. And many of the competing organizations do not require dues. Because of that, we ask members what they want, take surveys on how we are doing, stay flexible to their

## IS YOUR CLUB FUN?"

*The San Francisco Evening club makes its presence known during a recent district assembly.*

needs, and create a fun and warm environment that brings them back. We have also placed an emphasis on creating a large social network,

promoting fellowship, and encouraging many hands-on service projects. My members want to socialize and have fun, create meaningful relationships in both life and business, and make a resounding difference in the world. And ultimately, we want them to feel supported, recognized, encouraged, and important.

So we offer a social event once a month, plan monthly community service events, and take part in international projects (two thus far), allowing members to make a difference and have fun.

And even with our crazy wigs and funny glasses, we still honour the traditions of Rotary and its values. We have simply incorporated newer technology and concepts with the old. I like to think that if Rotary founder Paul Harris were alive today, he would have enjoyed visiting my club, and just maybe, it would have reminded him a little of his own.

Get resources that will help you take your club from good to great.— *Danielle Lallement, past president of the Rotary Club of San Francisco Evening*



## Sometimes old men can think fast!

An elderly man in the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, a barbecue and some apple and peach trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a twenty litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware

of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, 'we're not coming out until you leave!'

The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked.' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm just here to feed the crocodile...' Sometime old men can still think fast!





## You don't have to be famous to enjoy a fun night out!

### ROMAC Trivia Challenge

All you need is to join your clubs' team at this year's ROMAC Trivia Challenge to enjoy the humorous photos that accompany the questions, the camaraderie and, of course, that you're helping ROMAC whose Mission is *"To provide specialist treatment for children from developing countries in the form of life saving and/or dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country."*

Show everyone that yours is the smartest Rotary Club on the Gold Coast and accept this lighthearted challenge. Bring your partners, friends and potential new members (before someone else invites them!) to the friendliest, most fun night out you've had ever since... well, you'll know the answer to that one too!

**Date:** 6:30 for 7:00pm, Friday 29th May 2015.

**Venue:** Paradise Showroom, Arts Centre Gold Coast.

**Cost:** \$65 p/p including dinner. Payment in advance your club's coordinator please.

**RSVP:** To your club's on-to-trivia coordinator, or contact Phil Rosenberg on 0412 374 363 or [philtini@hotmail.com](mailto:philtini@hotmail.com)

**A request:** Please consider helping Rotarian volunteers continue saving children's lives with your club donation: \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,500, \$5,000 or whatever you can. If possible please bring your cheque, payable to ROMAC, who will issue you a receipt.

**On behalf of the children whose lives you'll save, thank you.**

**Rotary**  
Gold Coast







## **ORDINARY PEOPLE ALONE, TOGETHER SUPER HEROES...**

...so please dress as your favourite superhero, join in the fun, sing-along and dance the night away at your club's Changeover Dinner Party. Prizes for the best dressed.

Date: 6:30 for 7:00pm, Friday, 26 June 2015.

Cost: \$60 pp in advance to Chawki or deposit in club's account.

Venue: La Piazza Waterfront Restaurant,  
21 Bayview Street, Runaway Bay.



**Rotary**  
Gold Coast

