



Rotary Gold Coast



Gold Coast Rotary Facebook goldcoastroty.org.au District 9640 RI #17910

March 2 2017 #191. We meet 5:45pm for 6:15pm the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at **The Southport Golf Club**. You're welcome to join us - if possible please advise Chawki *m* 0410 002 403 *e* Chawki@akgaz.net. Monthly meeting roster inside.



President's Report One of our favourite Rotary slogan is "Making a Difference", or hadn't you noticed! I was delighted hence when I spotted that incoming Rotary International President for 2017/18 Ian Riseley had adopted "Making a Difference" as the theme for the next year. Such a succinct and obvious phrase I was surprised that this had not already been used! Our last meeting really summed this up. Jon Brook from Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Care left a sobering feeling in the room following a reality bite on the growing and desperate issue of homelessness on the Gold Coast and in fact Australia wide. More distressing was the fact that there seems to be no solution to rectifying the cause. All we can attempt do is endeavour to support those who make caring for the homeless their charter. Whilst I feel there will always be a funding shortfall, it was a pleasure to be able make a small contribution by presenting Jon with a cheque for \$5,000.

On another note, Rotary's wonderful and varied Youth programs continue to produce shining stars who may well go forward in their own lives to positively grow and at the same time have an awareness for where they can have a positive impact on others around them. William Chow, Gio Siregar and Michelle Goulter all spoke from the heart about their experience with the NYSF and RYLA. Three completely different young people who made us feel proud to know that we had helped them on their journey and as such spread the word on the impact of Rotary in the world.

Coming up we have the Ramble and still need hands with volunteers and participants. Once again, we have enjoyed some fabulous financial support from our members with Eddie taking the major sponsorship for **Advance National Services** at \$4,000, Kevin Campbell with **Hope Island Storage** for our T- shirts for the next 2 years at \$2,400 and **Jenny Wong** sponsoring the major prize for \$2,500. If you are planning to volunteer please don't wait to be asked, speak to Kevin Stapleton who has drafted a spreadsheet to accommodate 120 volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers, on 2nd March Mat Rogers, our local celebrity footy player is heading up the volunteer program at the Commonwealth Games and is our guest speaker. Please take this opportunity to invite family, friends and colleagues and again showcase Rotary in our community.

Be there or be

Looking forward to the weeks ahead.



Club President
Kate Kimmorley
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MARCH

Literacy

Meeting Roster

Welcome guests - Sue Foscett
Front desk - Kevin Stapleton
Meeting chair - Mark Urquhart
Int'l toast - David Baguley
Sergeant - Brian Kidd

1 Ted Fong 38 yrs + Bruce
Roddick 34 yrs
2 Club meeting
4 Tony Nesci
4 Night Fever, Spotlight Theatre
15 David Baguley 36 yrs
10 Andrew Chan + Caroline
Mercer
12 Joan Baguley
14 Kathy Hogan
16 Club meeting
16 Eddie Klimowicz
17 Nan Baldwin + Greg Bowler +
Jennifer Rakauskas
18 Don Stalker
26 Gold Coast Ramble
29 Kevin & Lindy Campbell 41 yrs
+ Caroline & Richard Mercer 46
yrs + Tony & Agnes Nesci, 28 yrs
30 KDV Sport Vocation visit

APRIL

Magazine

Meeting Roster

Welcome guests - Viv Mallinson
Front desk - Kevin Stapleton
Meeting chair - Eddie Klimowicz
Int'l toast - Joe Kertez
Sergeant - Kathy Hogan

1 Joe Kertesz
1 Richard Flanagan 31 yrs
1 Peter Laurens 29 yrs
1 Brian and Lexie Kidd 27 yrs
3 Jill Ellis
5 Lynda Hynes
6 Joan McDermott
6 Club Meeting
8 Helena Rogers
12 Tom Tate 3 yrs
20 Chawki Gazal
20 Club Meeting
21 Andi and Anne Maree von
Zeppelin 42 yrs
22 Sue Foscett + Mark Urquhart
14 yrs + Andy Csabi 17 yrs

May

Promote Int'l Convention

Meeting Roster

Welcome guests - Jenny Bao
Front desk - Phil Rosenberg
Meeting chair - Brian Pearson
Int'l toast - Jill Ellis
Sergeant - Andrew Csabi

1 Jenny Bao, 8 years + Kevin
Campbell 24 years
2 Carol Allan 11 years + Jill Ellis, 12
years + Kathy Hogan 5 years +
John Lander 13 years + Lyn
MacArthur 5 years + Viv Mallinson
5 years + Phil Rosenberg 38 years
+ David Wood 3 years
4 Club meeting
15 Phil Rosenberg
18 Club meeting
23 John & Pam Goldstein 44 years
+ Geoff & Margaret Prentice 52
years
24 Kevin Stapleton
28 Steven Ciobo
30 Ted Fong

> Meetings/events

> Birthdays

> Wedding Anniversaries

> Member's Club Anniversaries



Rotary Youth Exchange gave me hope

I was on Rotary Youth Exchange and despite excellent instructions from my caring host-family I had no idea how the intricate bus system worked, and hadn't mastered the language yet to ask. After boarding the wrong bus for the third time, a young student calmly stood up, took me by the arm and walked me miles down the road to the right stop. She spoke little English, but waited patiently until my bus arrived and told the driver my destination. It must have added a full hour to her day, and she wanted nothing in return – just to help a stranger.

I was shocked.

I had never encountered such kindness. That was one of many moments I was humbled by the generosity of the Thai people during my exchange year, and something that I hold up as proof of genuine compassion in the world.

Today, I am the founding editor of Peace News

It's a new media platform that provides alternative news stories from conflict zones. While mainstream war reporting focuses on violence, explosions, and hatred, we focus on telling stories of peace-builders. Wars need to be covered, but we aim to provide balance to the reporting – in every conflict zone there are people taking risks for peace, and we want to show that side as well. In my line of work I see, and hear about, horrific violence, and it's often difficult to keep faith in humanity. I believe it's a growing fear for many people today, and sensationalist media representations of how 'bad the world is becoming' don't help. We often need reminding that there are still great people out there, that there are inspiring examples of tolerance and empathy still going on.

My year as an exchange student showed me that there is good reason to have hope, and provided me with a platform to direct my career. Through the endless examples of kindness from a host country, and also exposure to many cultures through other exchange students, I saw enormous capacity for a global community. Rotary taught me to appreciate and respect diversity – a hot topic today with global immigration debates. I have no idea who that student was who stopped to direct a confused foreigner all those years ago, but her act reminds me daily of what one moment of empathy can do. She taught me to have a little trust in the world we are so often trying furiously to change – and to always travel with a bus map.

- Kate Roff, a former Rotary Youth Exchange student



Complex heart surgery for Junitalia

Two-year-old Junitalia from Timor-Leste was a very sick little girl. She was diagnosed with a Tetralogy of Fallot (ToF) which meant her little heart had multiple problems and required urgent open heart surgery. Junitalia was referred to ROMAC for assistance.

In preparing logistics it was discovered that her mother had a shadow on her lungs (likely TB), so rather than risk delays with immigration it was decided her aunt Estelita should accompany Junitalia instead of her mother.

On arrival in Sydney Junitalia presented very underweight, tired and with no energy. Many tests were required. They were home hosted by ROMAC District Chair Maria. In this family environment, they concentrated on strengthening her in preparation for surgery.

The 8th July was operation day for Junitalia. After 9-hours of surgery led by Dr Peter Grant, at the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick, she was transferred to PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) and soon after placed into an induced coma. It must be remembered that 2y.o. Junitalia weighed less than 8kg and so the coma provided the environment to reduce many pressures on her little

system whilst also providing the ideal environment to build her organ-strength with appropriate sustenance.

After 12-days in PICU, Junitalia had recovered well from surgery, but now needed to regain her physical strength. Going to physiotherapy at the hospital, as well as walking behind her doll stroller, daily sitting and standing exercises, plus going to the park and climbing were many of this 2-year-old's 'body building' activities after she left hospital.

Home host Maria, thanked Dr Grant, Dr Forsey, Catherine and all the staff at the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick, the Timor-Leste Consulate, chef Celine and all Rotarians who helped make this miracle possible.

"Estelita was a wonderful 'mother' for Junitalia", said Maria. "Aunty was very grateful for ROMAC's help and she wants to talk to families in Timor-Leste, on what to expect when they come to Australia and not to be afraid" Maria added "it reinforces the huge value of ROMAC's voluntary work and the very positive effect it has on providing Life-Giving surgery for a child". This positive message is taken back home to a small village environment and provides hope for other families who children may have similar life-threatening conditions.

They returned home to Timor-Leste and a follow-up full medical check confirmed, "*Junitalia is progressing brilliantly*".

ROMAC's Mission Statement *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*

ROMAC's Objectives

- > Provide hope and restore dignity to transform a child's life
- > Provide the best possible surgical and medical expertise
- > Engage Rotary and the community at all levels to fund and support the ROMAC cause
- > To maintain and improve the quality of the management process and ensure high quality governance of the ROMAC program

For more information visit their website <https://www.romac.org.au/>

**Team up with family,
friends and workmates to
explore the city, uncover
secret locations, solve
puzzles and raise money
for local charities!**



Sunday 26 March 2017

Enjoy the Gold Coast Ramble

The first event of its kind on the east coast of Australia, the inaugural Gold Coast Ramble, being held on 26 March 2017, aims to raise funds and awareness for local charities.

Organised by Gold Coast Rotary, Surfers Sunrise Rotary and the Griffith University Satellite Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Gold Coast Community Fund, it is modelled off the highly successful Perth Ramble, organised by the Rotary Club of Mill Point, which recently raised more than \$60,000 for charities.

Team up with families, friends and workmates to explore the city on foot, uncover secret locations, solve puzzles and raise money for local charities. The event is suited to all ages, levels of fitness levels, and is wheel-chair and pram friendly.

[What does it cost?](#)

This is a team event with a captain and between one and five additional team members. The more team members, the more brains you'll have to utilise when solving clues! Also, we've found the more people you have the more fun the whole team has! Register a team and add team members later.

The 4-hour Ramble costs \$30 per team member. Students and holders of pension concession cards are entitled to a 50% discount.

The 2-hour Ramble is suited to families with younger children or teams with less mobile members and costs \$15 per team member. There are no further discounts but children under 5 are free.

[How does it work?](#)

Arrive half hour before your event starts and bring your Team Captain's fully charged Smart Phone, either an iPhone (minimum IOS version 7), or an Android (minimum version 4.0).

Remember to dress in your best - teams of costumed participants will explore the parks, malls and streets of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach, following clues to locate 40 to 50 check-points between 11am and 3pm. There is also a 1-3pm version with 20 checkpoints for young families.

At each checkpoint, the team use the Gold Coast Ramble App to download a challenge about the immediate area - this could relate to the heritage, the natural environment, street art or local infra-structure. Points are awarded for successful challenges with additional points available for donations to the Ramble's chosen charities.

[Random draw and best costume prizes reward participation.](#) For the more competitive, completion of all checkpoint challenges in the allotted time involves strategy and teamwork.

Please note, due to the large numbers of Ramblers, there will be a slight stagger in starting time. But don't worry - your team time doesn't start till your Team Captain presses START on the Ramble app after receiving the clue sheet from Ramble authorities at the START line.

Your team is encouraged to support one of the following charities through seeking sponsorship donations. The incentive being that each donation will earn additional event points - every \$10 donation gains the team an additional point up to a maximum of 50 points (\$500 team sponsorship). Using Everyday Hero, your team members will be able to get their friends and work colleagues to sponsor their team.

[Charities you can support](#)





Human rights organisations across the country have united to call for immediate action on offshore detention and for refugees on Manus Island and Nauru to be brought to safety in Australia.

Human Rights Organisations call for immediate action on offshore detention

With the uncertainty surrounding the US-Australia refugee resettlement arrangement continuing, the coalition, led by the Refugee Council of Australia, has issued an open statement expressing their concern over the “humanitarian crisis that Australia has created”.

“This situation has reached crisis point, and immediate action must be taken,” the statement read. “Beyond the reports of physical and sexual abuse, including of children, inadequate medical attention, suicides and attempted suicides, even a murder, the extinguishment of hope has pushed people to the edge. Many of these people have been recognised as refugees. We owe them protection and safety now.”

The organisations were critical of the time spent by the politicians in “lengthy negotiations”. They called on the federal government to bring the refugees to Australia.

“With the US resettlement deal in serious doubt, the most obvious and humane solution is to clear the camps and bring these people to Australia until a safe long term, appropriate outcome for them can be guaranteed,” they said. “We do not have years. Australia cannot allow another person to die or suffer because of our actions. “This is a crisis. We are calling on both major parties to form a bipartisan commitment to immediately evacuate the camps and bring these people to safety.”

Their demands come just days after US President Donald Trump hailed the agreement to resettle up to 1,250 refugees from Australia’s offshore detention centres as “a dumb deal” and told Malcolm Turnbull during a private telephone call that it was the “worst deal ever”. Turnbull remains adamant that the deal brokered between Obama and Turnbull last November will take place. But RCOA president and Edmund Rice Centre director Phil Glendenning said the ongoing media and political speculation was “only making life worse” for the people on Manus Island and Nauru who “have already suffered so much”.

“As political games are played in Canberra and Washington, the real victims are the refugees who have been left languishing for over three years,” Glendenning said. “Today we are saying enough is enough. People have suffered for too long. The political games have gone on for too long. Mr Turnbull and Mr Shorten must put an end to the partisanship and urgently bring these people to safety in Australia.” He said as the international community was facing the biggest humanitarian crisis since World War Two, it was time to stop relying on the US. “It is simply beyond embarrassing that our leaders are refusing to bring 1,600 people to safety in Australia and instead are relying on a volatile US President,” he said.

“Forty years ago, Malcolm Fraser and Bill Hayden came together, put partisanship aside and welcomed Vietnamese refugees to Australia. It’s now time this generation’s Malcolm and Bill did the same.”

- Wendy Williams, ProBonoNews