



Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



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Founded on 6 June 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



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13 August 2025

WEEKLY MEETING

Transforming Lives – Jason Wong and the Yellow Ribbon Project

By Rtn Vlad Tsopljak

13 August 2025 – The Rotary Club of Singapore welcomed distinguished guests, including IPDG Dr. Yap Lip Kee and visitors from the Rotary Clubs of Emerald, Australia, and Hong Kong. The meeting began with an exchange of gifts, as our friends from Emerald presented President Sonali with a charming tea towel. We also heard from Lena of the Rotary Club of Goodwill Hong Kong, chartered this February, who shared their first service project – workshops supporting mental health. PPG Jerome gave an update on their Global Grant for the “Little Heart Project,” underscoring the power of Rotary collaboration.



Rotary Toast for RC Emerald (Australia)

President Sonali gave an excellent overview of the past week’s activities, highlighting visits to installations and project sites of fellow clubs, and reaffirming the importance of working together and supporting one another’s initiatives.



Banner exchange with RC Hong Kong Goodwill



Banner exchange with RC Penang, represented by our own PP Mark and Rtn Kishin



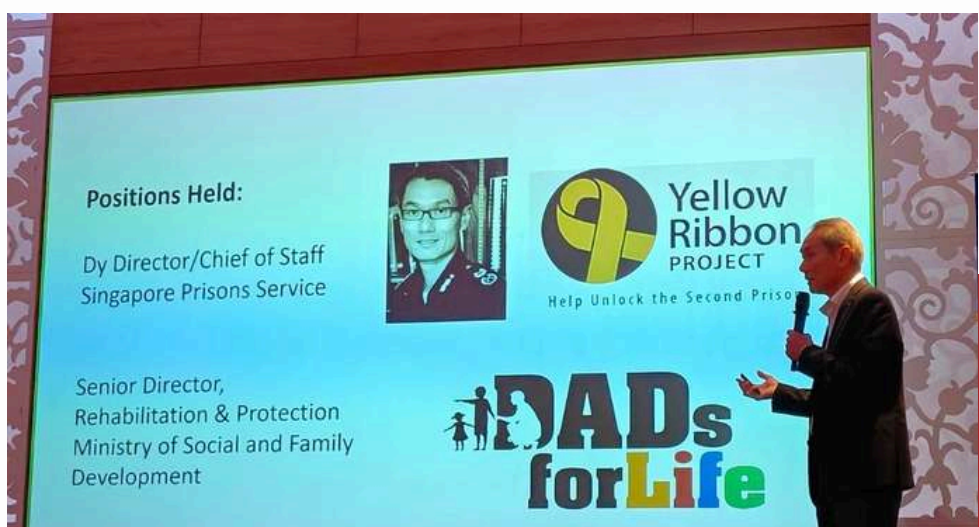
Banner exchange with PDG Jerome (RC Colombo West)



TRF Director Yogesh sharing initiatives

The centrepiece of the meeting was Jason Wong's powerful presentation on transformation and second chances. Drawing from 17 years of service in Singapore's prison system, Jason shared his three-tiered approach to change — individual, organisational, and societal — reminding us that before hands and legs can move, mindsets must shift. He recounted the origins of the Yellow Ribbon Project, inspired by a story of forgiveness, and illustrated how it has reduced recidivism by fostering acceptance and opportunities for ex-offenders. Jason's message was brought to life through poignant stories, video testimonials, and the metaphor of Michelangelo seeing the angel within the marble — a call to see the “sparkle” in every individual.

He also touched on his “Dads for Life” movement, aimed at strengthening family bonds, particularly for fathers within the prison system. The meeting concluded with heartfelt thanks to Jason for his inspiring work, leaving members reminded of Rotary's shared mission — to create positive change and open doors for transformation.





Guest List:

1. Jason Wong, Guest Speaker
2. Anna Ching Kwan, Guest of Rtn Mee Lee
3. Bharoti Pande, Prospect (President Sonali)

Visiting Rotarians:

1. CP Lynna Wong (RC Hong Kong Goodwill)
2. PP Catherine Elfick (RC Emerald)
3. Jamie, Son of PP Catherine
4. PDG Jerome (RC Colombo West)

2ND VSC MEETING

By VCS Vice Deepa Navenneth

14 August 2025 – The August VSC meeting was chaired by Rtn. Grace, who extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Members were thanked for their hosting fee contributions, with appreciation extended to Thanga for his role as treasurer. The committee also discussed inclusivity at meetings, agreeing that non-members should continue to be welcomed without additional charges, unless costs significantly change in the future.



The committee reviewed several ongoing and upcoming initiatives. Updates included the RCS-JAS career sharing seminar on “Careers in Software Engineering & IT” to be held on 30th August at Newcastle Australia (Singapore), featuring Rtns. Danielle, Vlad, Eva and moderated by Rtn. Denis. The “Empowering Women through Digital Skills” pilot continues, with follow-up support planned for participants and a new partnership with Gladiolus Place to provide software licences, school supplies, and mentoring for their young residents. Meanwhile, interviews under the ISCOS Global Grant to support ex-offenders in obtaining driver’s licences are progressing, with more volunteer interviewers encouraged to join.

Several new projects were also highlighted. “Repair Kampung,” a sustainability initiative inspired by the successful Repair Kopitiam model, is being relaunched under VSC once a new partner is secured. Members also explored collaboration with Art: Dis on a major exhibition in April 2026 to coincide with the Artisan of the Year Award, with venues currently under consideration. In addition, RCS will be partnering with Talent Trust in accelerator projects, where Rotarians will mentor local charities in business development and skills growth. The SPD Employment Services Division expressed interest in joining a future VSC meeting to explore collaborations in job placements for persons with disabilities.



The meeting also featured rich vocational highlights. Rtn. Deepa reported on the August vocational visit to the National Library, where members toured two exhibitions thanks to an invitation from the Mexican embassy. Upcoming visits include the Brass Lion Gin Distillery on 4th October and the Singapore Heart Foundation later in the year.

The inaugural Kopi Chat session, moderated by Dir. Grace, was a highlight of the evening. PE Raj shared his inspiring journey of transforming travel into community impact, weaving in how Rotary’s Four-Way Test has guided his professional life. His reflections resonated deeply with members, sparking a lively discussion on values, service, and vocation. With many thoughtful questions—including from PP Mohan, who first introduced Raj to RCS—the session was praised as an engaging new platform for vocational learning and personal connection. The committee looks forward to making Kopi Chat a regular feature of future meetings.



■ Kopi Chat With PE Raj

2ND FOOD FROM THE HEART

By CSC Vice Rajesh Prabhakaran

16 August 2025 – Our second FFTH activity of the new Rotary year was a heartwarming success, with a strong turnout of 30 volunteers – Rotarians, Interactors, prospects, family, and friends.

As has become our new tradition, Rtn. Kishin ably coordinated the pairing of HDB blocks with volunteers, ensuring an efficient and smooth distribution of over 100 food packets. The smiles on the faces of the beneficiaries were the best reward.

During the activity, a few residents expressed interest in joining the FFTH beneficiary list. We connected them with our trusted local contact, Uncle Willie, who will guide them through the eligibility process.



This session was extra special as we welcomed new volunteers alongside our regular Rotarians. Thank you to Danielle, Eva, Kishin, Patricia, Rajesh, Ranga, Shaun, Varun, Vijay, Vineet, and Varun, as well as prospect Rekha and Varun's spouse Niharika with their daughter Saige for joining us.

A big shoutout to the 17 Interactors who once again proved invaluable. They kept everything running like clockwork and showed great resourcefulness when one of the block lifts stopped working, making extra trips without missing a beat.

As always, the fellowship continued at our favorite local kopi tiam, a cherished tradition that keeps our bonds strong after every FFTH activity.

We look forward to seeing even more Rotarians, Interactors, family, and friends at the next FFTH on **20th September**.



EXCELSIOR: JOINT INSTALLATION OF BGEIC AND RACBG CLUBS

By Rtn Vlad Tsopljak

15 August 2025 – The joint installation of the new boards of the BGE Interact Club (BGEIC) and the Rotaract Club of Bukit Gombak (RACBG) was held under the inspiring theme “Excelsior: Forever Upward.” The ceremony opened with Ms Low Yen Ling’s address, highlighting the history of the clubs and reminding students that they are the leaders of tomorrow.

The Interactors showcased a year of impactful projects, including Project SC United with the elderly, Tutortime for young children, Dust and Shine to support residents with limited mobility, and Sunburst for primary school students in need. Their efforts earned recognition through the Golden Years Enrichment Endeavour and Project Sunburst awards. Outgoing president Shayna Choo reflected on resilience, teamwork, and the value of service, while incoming president Edmund Soh laid out his vision of growth, professional development, and strong connections, reminding all that service is not something we do but who we are.



■ Congratulations to all Interactors and Rotaractors!

The Rotaractors also celebrated a year of meaningful initiatives, such as a Generative AI workshop for digital literacy, a combined Mother's Day and Vesak celebration for seniors, and Project Pontian to support English learning for underprivileged students. The outgoing president shared lessons of adaptability and communication, while incoming president Estelle Lim embraced the theme Excelsior, pledging to deepen participation, strengthen skills, and serve with purpose.



■ Outgoing Board of RACBG



■ Incoming Board of RACBG



■ Outgoing Board of BEGIC



■ Incoming Board of BEGIC



■ Group photo of everyone who attended

President Sonali concluded the ceremony with her guiding “Four Cs”: Curiosity, Care, Collaboration, and Creating Impact, a fitting reminder of Rotary’s mission to inspire growth and lasting change.



■ President Sonali sharing the Four C's

PHS FELLOWSHIP DINNER WITH DG DR SHAHUL

By PIPR Director VJ Africa

15 August 2025 - The Paul Harris Society (PHS) had a fellowship dinner at the Imperial Restaurant at the Four Points Hotel. The Singapore-wide D3310 fellowship was attended by XX Rotarians across Y Clubs (7 members from RCS).

The Guest of Honour was none other than our DG, Dr Shahul. In his talk, Dr Shahul emphasized Rotary's 2025/26 theme of uniting for impact, calling clubs to collaborate across projects and communities. He recognized recent service efforts and thanked partners and volunteers for multiplying outcomes. The talk outlined priority focus areas for the year and encouraged data-driven planning with measurable goals. He urged members to mentor new leaders, strengthen club culture, and tell better stories of impact. He closed with a call to action: choose one bold initiative, align resources, and execute together.

As of writing, RCS has 5 AKS, 38 Major Donors, and 42 PHS. With your generosity, we hope to see significant increases in all areas this Rotary Year.



HAPPY 96TH BIRTHDAY PDG PHILBERT CHIN!

By Rtn Jasbir Koh

A heartfelt gathering at The Scholar Restaurant, NUS to celebrate the 96th birthday of PDG Dr. Philbert Chin brought together cherished friends T.K. Chew and spouse Mary, See Mee Lee and spouse Eddy, Philip Leong, and Jasbir Koh for a memorable lunch. Sharing this special occasion serves as a beautiful reminder of enduring friendship and camaraderie over the years through Rotary.



A SHORT HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE ROTARY WHEEL

By Hm Uttam Kripalani

What is the emblem of the Rotary?

The immediate answer would be “the wheel”

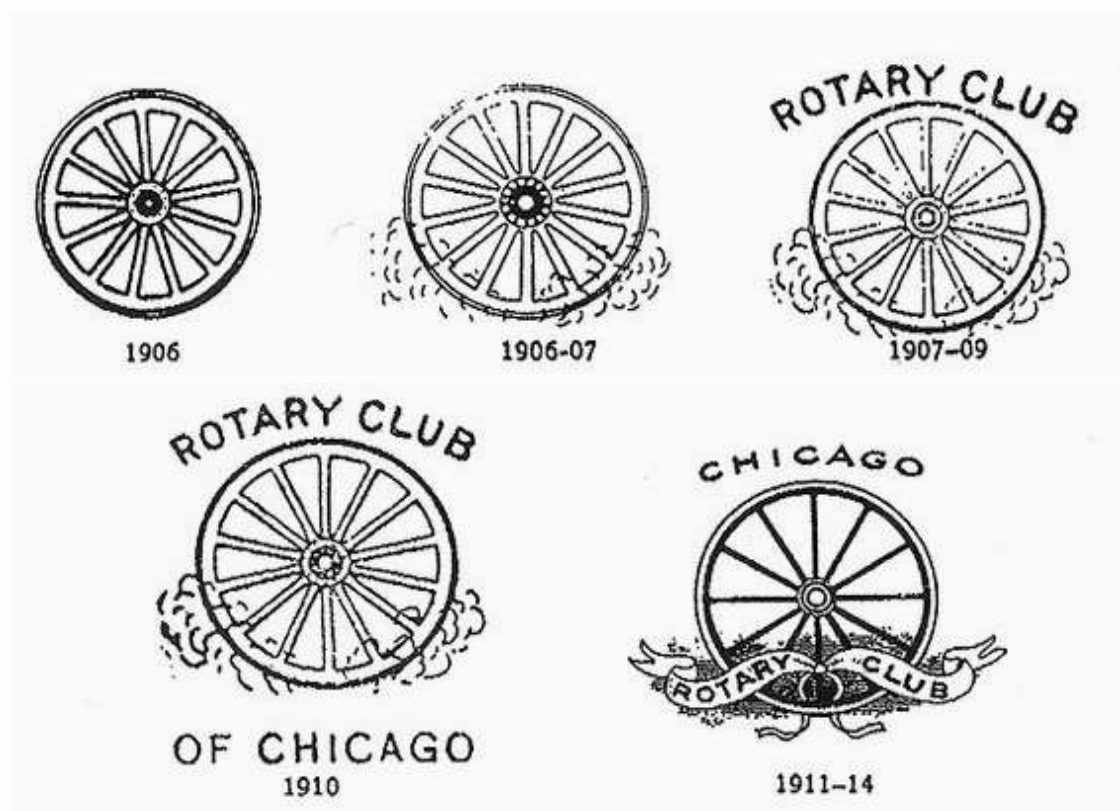
Did you know that the original emblem in real “Western style” featured a wagon wheel?

In 1905, Montague M Baer, an engraver and member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, sketched a wagon wheel with 13 spokes as a club emblem. Members complained that the wheel was just too static and lifeless. It did not adequately represent the dynamic nature of the Rotary.

Guess what ?

The next move was to put the wheel on a bed of clouds.

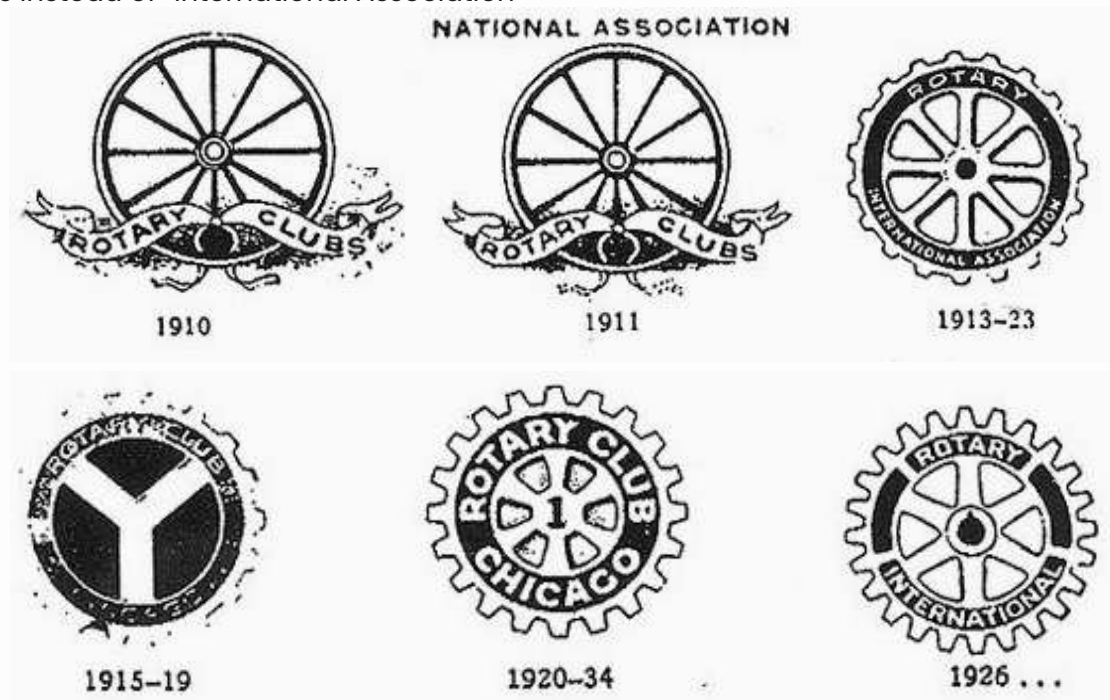
Ouch! was the response of many. The clouds looked like dust, defying the laws of physics, by being kicked up on both sides of the wheel. So, Bear responded by superimposing a banner with the words “Rotary Club” over clouds.



Mumbles and grumbles continued until 1911, Secretary Chesley Perry, recommended that “action be taken by the National Association to establish the wheel as the basic part for the emblem of every Rotary club”. An emblem committee was created to gather and approve a standard design at the Duluth, Minnesota Convention in 1912.

A formal definition was drawn up stating : *“The emblem consists of the basic principle of a wheel with gears cut on the outer edge. The spokes are to be so designed as to indicate strength; the object of the gears , or cogs , being two-fold: First to relieve the plainness of the design, and second to symbolize power”*

Rotary became an “International Association” in 1912. The wheel was amended to include “Rotary” at the top and “International Association” at the bottom. Clubs started putting their names instead of “International Association”



More developments

Oscar Bjorge subsequently drafted a design with 6 spokes and 24 cogs, giving it a sturdy appearance. This appears to have been approved by the organization in 1920.

Something was still missing. Will Forker of Rotary Club of Los Angeles, complained that Bjorge’s design made no provision for the transfer of power to or from the shaft, rendering the wheel idle. Forker perceived Rotary as a “living force” and inserting a keyway into the hub made the new wheel a “real worker”.

For many years, the wheel stood alone as the logo. Subsequently the embedded “Rotary International ’ was removed and the word “Rotary” is now used next to the wheel.

THE EMBLEM TODAY



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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 friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

THE GUIDE TO DAILY LIVING

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

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