





FROM THE PRESIDENT - DYLYS BERTELSEN

... it starts with family, near

Sincere apologies that I wasn't at the Thursday meeting on 29 February. As many of my Rotary friends know, my Mum has passed the venerable age of 90 now. So, I'm taking every chance I can to spend quality time with her.

Last week we had a rare opportunity to go on a very short sea cruise. Beautiful weather; fresh air; sea breezes, lovely food - and more. What's not to enjoy? Well, Mum certainly did - and the short break appears to have done her the world of good.

Thank you so much to Russell who held the fort in my absence, including running what I'm told was "an excellent Thursday breakfast", which included an inspiring speech on 'Ride West' from Alex!

I'll gain on the emails that piled up in my absence and catch you up with the news next week.

... and far

We had a lovely email from Hugh who - as you know - is our Exchange Student who left for a year's study in Denmark recently. Here's part of what he had to say.

"I had three days to settle in before I went to Gymnasium (Danish equivalent of High School) and was surprised how comfortable I became in this new environment. I am living in a town called Faxe which is 40 minutes south of Copenhagen, where I have been a couple of times.

Starting at the Gymnasium was a smooth process thanks

2 PROGRAM/GUEST SPEAKER

- 7 MAR Pride of Workmanship Awards Presentations Please arrive early
- 14 MAR Gemma Sisia Updates on St Jude
- 21 MAR Kellie McGowan Qld Digital Licences - What are they all about?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Brisbane High-Rise Rotary Club acknowledges the First Nations people as the original inhabitants of the land we are on today and honours their Elders past, present and emerging.

APOLOGIES & GUEST

Notify of attendance, guests and apologies by 5.00pm on Monday prior to the meeting

apologies@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

HOT AIR EDITOR hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

DIRECT DEBIT

Pay for our meetings, fines, Joker Draw, events and subscriptions

> BSB 084 -034 Account Number 559347857

ROTARY GRACE

For the Fellowship of Rotary we Give our thanks

to everyone speaking English to a reasonable extent. I have made a good group of friends who are more than happy to speak English to me, though I'm aware this will wear off in the weeks to come. As for the language... I'm getting there.

Tomorrow, I will be going to Lund in Sweden for 5 days with my host family. I've self-imposed a rule that I can't speak English at all during the trip so Google Translate is going to be my best friend for the next 4 nights."

Read Hugh's charming letter in full and see the photos <u>here</u>.

...getting together in many ways

The always-fascinating Pride of Workmanship Presentation will be held this Thursday 7th March. Looking forward to a great turnout for that one. Don't forget to bring your raffle prizes for the following week's breakfast when Gemma Sisia visits.

Then a BBQ on Friday 8th will celebrate the start of our Rotary District Conference 2024 at Seaworld, Gold Coast. The Conference continues from Saturday 9 March into Sunday. I'm really looking forward to getting together with many of you and some old friends – at that very special gathering.

...and news from the DG

Please click \underline{here} to read the latest news from the District Governor Paul Roger.

3 ROSTER

ROSTER	7 MAR	14 MAR	21 MAR
Set Up & Close	David B.	Tom D.	Robyn D.
Greeter	Tom D.	Robyn D.	Gary D.

Last week's meeting

Last week, our breakfast meeting with guest speaker Alex highlighted RIDE West's commitment to raising awareness and destigmatizing mental health. It was inspiring to see their dedication to making a difference, and we're eager to support their efforts moving forward.











Noela and Yvonne visit Riverview State School

Riverview State School sits just off the Brisbane -Ipswich Highway, 31km west of our USC meetings in our backyard. It's a small school with around 260 multicultural students with many facing challenges we only hear or read about. Through their amazing Headmistress, Yvette Philips (yes our very own Bill's daughter) Noela and I have come to understand a few of these challenges that the children face on a daily basis one of which is no lunch. Noela and I put our culinary skills to good use and made a bucket load of cheese sandwiches to help feed these little darlings.

I have also included a note from the forever joyful Sonja Morrissey, the Community Hub Leader. This will give just a snapshot of this issue facing the children at the school.

"The Riverview Lunch Program

Any Riverview state School we offer a Lunch Program to our students. We have a no questions asked policy and every student is welcome to come and grab a sandwich. The sandwiches are provided by a variety of sources including Eat Up YMCA and though the school purchasing bread and the staff making them. The goal of the program was to illuminate the barriers for children attending school.We identified that there new some students not attending when there was insufficient food in the household to supply them with lunch.Our policy of not asking questions came about to assist in removing the stigma and shame around not having food. It has been very successful.

Year To Date

From the first day of school we have provided 450 sandwiches for students, 14 days.



We have packed 52 full lunch boxes. These are requests by the parents to the Community Hub Leader, include a sandwich,2 pieces of fruits, a muesli bar and a packet of popcorn.

Evidence that it works.

A family struggling with attendance last year was contacted by the social worker and Hub Leader prior to school starting.After a discussion it was identified that the reason for non attendance was food insecurity. The father works as a labourer and his work was infrequent. The Hub Leader arranged for a food hamper to be delivered to the family weekly and their children received lunches. The children have attended school every day since.

Noela and I are heading out to the school again early next week (TBA), if there is anyone who would like to join us to check the school out for themselves and perhaps help fill some little tummies, please email or call. If all you do is smile at, or cuddle a child, you've already made a difference.





See you soon!

Hello,

I am so happy to be back in Queensland as part of our tour in 2024!

Coming with me are two wonderful alumni from St Jude's, Winnie and Suleiman. The pair have a combined period of almost 20 years at St Jude's and now flourishing in their careers.

This year, after over 20 years of dreaming, our impact is tangible. Through the inspiring stories of Suleiman and Winnie, witness the results of hard work and passion—proof that dreams have become reality!

Join us at one of our events in Queensland below. Everybody is welcome so feel free to share and bring a friend!

9th March: Rotary District 9620 Conference 2024, SeaWorld Resort - Gold Coast

10th March: Brisbane West Uniting Church - Moggill

12th March: Brisbane Taylor Bridge Rotary, Arvier **Residence - Graceville**

13th March: Church of the Twelve Apostles Hall -Jindalee

14th March: United Services Club - Spring Hill Brisbane

More information here

Suleiman will be sharing his inspiring journey to achieve his life-long dream of becoming a doctor, whilst Winnie is a full-circle story, who after completing her degree has returned to work with us here at St Jude's.

I understand this is usually a busy time of the year, so it would mean the world to us if you can spare a few hours of your day to join us!

Thank you very much for your support and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

With thanks. Gemma

Mamba School

We're excited to announce that the refurbishment of the teachers' accommodations is almost finished, and we can't wait to share the results with everyone. It's been an incredible journey, and we're thrilled to see the project nearing its completion. Stay tuned for updates.



Letter from Hugh

Dear BHR Rotary Club

Today is the 20th of February and as of tomorrow, I will have been in Denmark for one month, I can hardly believe the time has moved so quickly. After my arrival, I had three days to settle in before I went to Gymnasium (Danish equivalent of High School).

In these three days I was surprised as to how comfortable I became in this new environment as I slowly got to know my host family better and got used to the weather. I am living in a town called Faxe which is 40 minutes south of Copenhagen, where I have been a couple of times with friends/host parents and have been to most of the attractions around town.

Starting at the Cymnasium was a smooth process thanks to everyone speaking English to a reasonable extent. I'm currently in my week-long winter vacation and looking back on my first 4 weeks at Cymnasium, I have made a good group of friends who are more than happy to speak English to me, though I'm fully aware this will wear off in the weeks to come.

As for the language... I'm getting there. Progress is slow but I keep speaking as much Danish as possible and I can feel myself getting familiar with the basics. Tomorrow, I will celebrate my first month in Denmark by going to Lund in Sweden for 5 days with my host family, I've self-imposed a rule that I can't speak English at all during the trip so google translate is going to be my best friend for the next 4 nights.

Overall, I've settled down here and am starting to put almost all my focus into learning Danish while trying to maintain somewhat of a social life outside the house.

Cheers, Hugh

Rotary Down Under

International Toasts

OBJECT OF

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

2

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society

3

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



Today we toast the Rotary Club of Halifax. The club meets at 12:30 PM every Wednesday.

The Rotary Club of Halifax constructed a scenic overlook on the historic Magna Via, featuring illustrated panels of landmarks and QR codes linking to The \$25,000 descriptions. project, dedicated in late June, was funded by individual sponsors and donors. including Ken Robertshaw who donated in honor of his late wife, Pauline. The Town Council agreed to maintain the overlook, marking it as a fitting tribute to the town's rich heritage.

Announcements

Rotary District 9620 Photo Competition



March 14 St Jude's Breakfast



Ride West Fundraiser Raffle



A Polio Dinner Event



bruce@brucemcnaught.com Smart Casual (No Jeans)



Beauty and the Beast in Theatre



18 APRIL 2024 We can meet beforehand and have a meal at the forecourt together.

Feel free to invite families and friends!



Bryce Davies - Funrun

MAY 4TH

2024

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GOKMS FOR GO YEARS

BRYCE DAVIES

REGISTER HERE

https://abcd.fillout.com/bryces60k

Rotary Nomads Changeover Muster 2024

UNTEERS ARE ALSO WELCOME!

Cocktail Fundraising Gala



You are Invited to

Brushing Kindness



Dress Code: Cocktail Attire



Board Members 2023 - 2024



Changeover Muster week at Moore Park Beach near Bundaberg from Monday 17 June to Monday 24 June, 2024.

Invitations will be available soon!

Book at the Moore Park Beach Caravan Park and mention that you are with Rotary Nomads.



Board Members 2023–2024

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 DYL

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ROBYN DRAKE