



Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise Inc.

R.I. No. 29520

2010-11

HOT AIR

District 9600
Serving the Heart of Brisbane
24 Jun 2011



FELLOW ROTARIANS

This is my last Hot Air contribution as 2010-2011 President but there may just be more. Incoming President Bill has asked that I 'Ghost' for him from time to time - so there is no immediate escape.

Never the less, for my 'sort of final piece' I wondered what to write about and was inspired by a rather unusual conference that took place in Brisbane last week; *The Happiness and its Causes' Conference*. I didn't attend.

Not too many things scare me (stupidity not bravery); but the thought of hundreds of smiling, laughing, happy people listening to a bunch of professional smiling, laughing, happy people sent a cold shiver down my spine. But then there is always something to be learned even from smiling, laughing, happy people.

Roco Belic was a presenter at the conference. He is an Academy Award nominee filmmaker who has spent the last five or so years making a documentary which asks just one question; 'What makes you happy?' He visited fourteen countries and made some interesting findings. He noted that his own country, the USA is one of the richest countries in the world but nowhere near the happiest - and don't get too excited we don't fare too well either.

He found it fascinating that in Hollywood, visiting the beautiful homes of the rich and famous that they were not as happy as the people who mowed their lawns and tended their gardens. In Kolkata (that's 'Calcutta' for those of us who don't much care for the constant tinkering of the culturally and politically correct head prefects.... Actually; if an alien mother ship landed and took off with a sizeable load of these PC prats I think I would be ecstatically happy!). Anyway back to the story - Roco found a man who had a rickshaw and worked 10 to 12 hours a day for a couple of dollars. He lived in a slum dwelling with three generations of his family and enjoyed his life, his family and the supportive community he lived in. He was happy.

That feeling of camaraderie and community that is talked about so often by politicians and little 'L' liberals really doesn't exist to any great extent in our (developed world) neighbourhoods.

So what makes us happy - well according to Belic it is certainly not our obsession with safety and security and our attempt to avoid hardship - for ourselves and our children. It seems happy people engage the world and accept risk as part of living a fulfilled life. Moreover happy people are people who want to 'change the world'. It seems to matter very little if they do or don't actually change the world; it seems to be the desire for something better that motivates and perhaps fulfils us as human beings.

Belic made the point that people who don't just focus on themselves but focus on others are happier; they are the ones who reach out a helping hand and work to better the lot of those struggling to make it.

So where is Rotary in all this...I think you can work it out.

Thank you for the privilege leading such a happy team.

Yours in Rotary,
Kit

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jun 24	Changeover Dinner
Jun 30	Committee Planning Session
Jul 7	Stewart Gow, Australian Entrepreneurs, CEO
Jul 14	Noela Phillips

ROSTER 24 Jun 30 Jun 7 Jul 14 Jul

CHAIRMAN	Rosemary M	Mark M	Christine M
SET UP	Mark M	Christine M	Vic M
	Christine M	Vic M	Ron M
CLOSE	Vic M	Ron M	Roslyn M
	Ron M	Roslyn M	Rob O

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 30 – Committee Planning Session: An opportunity for committees to discuss their plans for the year to come: Committee Chairs are: *Administration* – Rosemary M, *Fellowship* – Wendy P, *Membership* – Greg P, *PR* – Gary M, *Rotary Foundation* – Jennifer E, *Service* – Ross G and *Youth* – Lindsay M

July 7 – Stewart Gow: Stewart is the CEO of Australian Entrepreneurs and co-founder of the National Industry Association for Angel Investors. Stewart's career includes roles as Manager of Venture Capital for the Queensland Government and Australian Vice Consul in Silicon Valley for ICT.

THE GREY MAN FOUNDATION – Thurs. 30 June 2011

THE GREY MAN OFFICAL BOOK LAUNCH & COCKTAIL PARTY – 6.15 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start

Banco Court of the Supreme Court,
Level 2 Law Courts Complex,
304 George Street, Brisbane

For more information & tickets visit: www.thegreyman.org

ATTENDANCE – 16 Jun 2011

MEMBERS	32	VISITING ROTARIANS	2
GUEST	0	ATTENDANCE	48%

CHANGEOVER DINNER PROGRAM

June 24 2011

Master of Ceremonies – Paul Harris Fellow Russell P

- 6.30 p.m.** Pre-dinner drinks and canapés served in *The Century Room*
- 7.10 p.m.** Move into dinner – *MC*
- 7.20 p.m.** Welcome / Introduction of special guests / Apologies - *MC*
Rotary Grace – *MC*
Toast to Australia - *Past-President & Paul Harris Fellow Deb Le G*
Toast to Rotary International – *Past District Governor & Paul Harris Fellow John K*
- 7.30 p.m.** Welcome by President - *Kit B*
- Main Course**
- 8.15 p.m.** Sergeant's Session - *Wendy P*
- 8.30 p.m.** Club Presidents Awards – *Kit B*
- 8.50 p.m.** Paul Harris Awards - *Past-President & Paul Harris Fellow Susan R*
- Dessert and Coffee**
- 9.20 p.m.** President Changeover - *Kit B*
- 9.30 p.m.** Introduction of 2011/2012 Board - *Bill P*
- 10.00 p.m.** Vote of Thanks – *MC*
- 11.00 p.m.** Guests Depart

OFFICE BEARERS

<u>Position</u>	<u>2010/2011</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>
<i>President</i>	Kit B	Bill P
<i>Administration Director</i>	Bill P	Angela T
<i>Secretary</i>	Kym M	Rosemary M
<i>Treasurer</i>	Shanna H	Shanna H
<i>Fellowship Director</i>	Deb B	Wendy P
<i>Hot Air Editor</i>	Heather M	Gary McD
<i>Membership Director</i>	Deb B	Greg P
<i>Photographer</i>	Rosemary M	Rosemary M
<i>PR Director</i>	Gary M	Gary M
<i>Program</i>	Rob O	Wendy P
<i>Rotary Foundation Director</i>	Ken B	Jennifer E
<i>Sergeant</i>	Wendy P	Ken W & John McG
<i>Services Director</i>	Ross G	Ross G
<i>Venue Liaison</i>	Karen T	Barbara L
<i>Youth Director</i>	Sylvia Raleigh	Lindsay M