

Tai Post 大報

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (May 2015 Issue)

President's Message

Natalie Kwok



Last month was a busy month for the club and myself. In addition to our regular club meetings, we have several special events. Firstly we have a visit trip to our international service partner and host for the Global Grant Project for the Tuloy Children Centre in Philippines. Moreover, we have our District Conference and Club Assembly. Furthermore, we have to meet the deadline for the submissions for various District Awards. I will briefly share with you these challenges below.

Earlier on we have obtained approval from RI on the Global Grant Project - Tuloy Integrated Food Production through the Science of Aquaponics. To follow up with the implementation and to demonstrate our due diligence in monitoring this project, we visited our international service partner and host for this Global Grant Project, RC Makati-San Lorenzo in Philippines during 12 to 14 April. PP Peter, PP Pearl and her husband Alan, Rtn Jason, Rtn Sally and myself have jointed this delegation. In addition to a site visit to the Tuloy Children Centre we have also encouraged mutual understanding with RCMSL, paving the way in fostering a long term partnership with RCMSL. Because of this important trip, I regret to miss the regular meeting on 13 Apr.



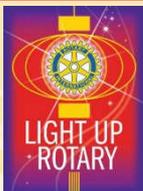
Another big event in this reporting period is the District Conference. We have the honour that our PP Wilson is the chairman of the District Conference Organising Committee. Needless to say, in demonstration of Tai Po spirit our club members and families showed support one way or the other. We have high participation, comprising 19 members, 8 spouses, 1 child and several Interactors from Tai Po Schools attended the conference. I am sure you will agree with me the District Conference was a big success. My salute to PP Wilson!



Turning back to club activities and fellowships, on 17 Apr I attended a fellowship dinner with RC Diamond and our baby Club RC Central. This proved to be another fun night. On 20 Apr, DG Belinda paid an unofficial visit to us, sharing about her accomplishments over the year. Out of her anticipation, we arranged a birthday cake and celebrated her birthday. On 27 Apr we had our club assembly where we had free discussions on the club affairs, such as the updates on the Annual Ball.



Last but certainly not the least, we have spent tremendous efforts in compiling submissions for the various District Awards. In order to showcase the great success and contributions from our club members, we have managed to left no stones unturned by submitting every possible category of awards, except those supporting information designated to be from RI (e.g. contributions to RI Foundation). I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have contributed to this exercise, such as PP Claire, PP Peter, PP Pearl, PP Tsubaki, PP Dennis, and in particular Secretary Roger for burning the midnight oil in compiling the submissions and meeting the deadline.



Editor Says ...

Claire Mak



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The "street magic" shows were aired almost every night of the weeks past. Those magic shows were brought to daily life, to shopping malls, to restaurants to be amongst the crowd or amongst pedestrians with close scrutiny. They were quite different from the traditional magic shows which take place at a distance, on a black-draped stage and almost always with a scantily dressed assistant to distract your attention.

Nowadays, with the availability of advanced technology, a lot of gimmicks can be used in magic shows to enhance visual effects to make belief! Of course, what tips the scale must be how the magician discharges the trick. When young, I had

been given box magic box sets to attempt playing magic but did not get very far with any real performance and my interest was not really cultivated. This is because my audience know well the performances are but tricks of the eye and made possible only with meticulous preparation. Further, apart from the apparatus and the setting, the tricks which involve intricate procedure and effects needed to be practiced time and time again to achieve the desired magical effect. I do not have the luxury of the time for such practices.



However, it can be interesting to learn how people got cheated. There was a time I made a point to watch the TV series of "The Police Report" every week. I am always amazed by the *cheater's* grasp of people's psychology, their evil plans and implementation and how gullible people fall for them. Sometimes, you really want to give a thumbs up for these cunning master-minds. The recent incident about forged parking tickets is one example. You won't understand why people take the trouble to go through with such intricate plan when it is about \$300 odd dollars. But he did it. Similarly, there is this incident about the guy impersonating a doctor at the United Hospital. Why did he do that? He got around the hospital ward checking on patients and even got to date a nurse. But what did he think would come from such impersonation? How far would it get him? Of course, the lesson to learn from watching the *Police Report* episodes is to be aware of the tricks and not get cheated.



There are all sorts of magic competitions, local and international, for magicians to be duly recognized. They bring audiences to the imaginary world of make-belief. In the real world, however, there are likely to be more cheaters than magicians who practise the sleight of hand or other tricks in order to get to you and get you tricked. Just as we cannot decipher the theory behind a magic display, we may be equally tricked into a cheat.

Rotary, by comparison, looks more of a safe haven. Why? Look at our guiding core values. What's the first of the Four-Way Test? "Of the things we think, say or do ... *Is it the TRUTH?*"

Rotarians don't cheat. Yet, equally, you may never fail to be amazed by the magic deeds Rotarians perform. Projects on water, on sanitation, on health and on literacy ... Rotarians change lives. Imagine: the moment you Light up Rotary, the next ... you will Be a gift to the World.



THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

first
Is it the TRUTH?

second
Is it FAIR to all concerned?

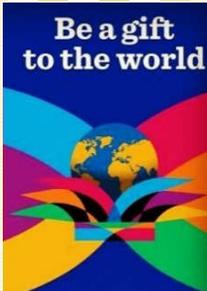
third
Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

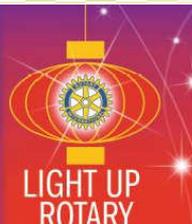


YOU, YES YOU ARE A GIFT IN THIS WORLD LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

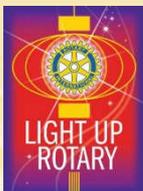
Be a gift to the world



Rotary



LIGHT UP ROTARY



Let's take a look at this story about how the professional skills of a Rotarian can help change life. Perhaps this can inspire clubs in our District with Medical Doctors to launch similar projects?

Ecuadorean heart surgeon donates his professional skills to children in need

Pediatric heart surgeon Gerardo Davalos has treated scores of young heart patients, but one made a particular impression on him. The day before 11-year-old Josue Ochoa died in 2013, Dr. Davalos, a member of the Rotary Club of Quito, Ecuador, walked into the boy's hospital room to say goodbye. The atmosphere in the room, where family members gathered, was somber. But one person was smiling and comforting everyone else. It was Josue.



Says Davalos: "I'll never forget how strong Josue was in that moment. He wasn't concerned about himself. He was more worried about his mom and dad. He kept telling them that everything was going to be OK and that he'd lived a great life. He was an amazing child."

And Josue also shared his gratitude with Davalos. "He told me, 'Thank you for giving me a chance to dance at school'", the surgeon recalls. Five years earlier, funded by a Rotary Foundation grant that paid for corrective heart surgeries for underprivileged children at Quito's Hospital Metropolitano, Davalos had performed a complicated operation that saved Josue's life. The ensuing recovery period had been extremely hard for the youngster, who'd had to remain in the hospital for two months after the surgery. But "Josue never complained once; he always had a smile on his face," says Davalos. "He couldn't wait to get out of the hospital and dance."

Over the years, though, Josue's heart problems became irreversible, says Davalos. "But Rotary helped extend his life, and gave him a chance to enjoy things that normal children his age do." Josue is one of more than 120 children on whom Davalos has performed free corrective heart surgeries since his club, along with the Rotary Club of Wheeling, Illinois, USA, initiated the grant project in 2002.

Connecting with Rotary

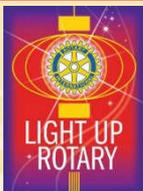
After spending five years in Spain for his medical residency, Davalos returned home in 1995 eager to make a difference in the lives of Ecuador's underprivileged children, and looking to use his surgical skills outside his regular duties as a hospital doctor. "I was a young surgeon with a skill I wanted to share," he recalls. "There are so many needs in Ecuador -- the government can't afford to pay for heart surgeries for poor children. There are very few options out there for them. I wanted to find a way to provide free surgeries to those in need."

A friend of Davalos' who was a member of the Quito club thought Rotary could be the answer. After attending a few meetings, Davalos joined the club in 1998. "I was very impressed with the variety of professional skills the Rotarians had. I didn't know how to start a project or find connections that I needed to reach these desperate children. Rotarians do," says Davalos, who is director of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Hospital Metropolitano, Quito's leading hospital. "The club gave me options and the support I needed. Their enthusiasm to help those less fortunate was as strong as mine."

Rallying behind Davalos' vision, a number of clubs worked together to obtain grant money, which funded more than 60 surgeries. "Life can be kind to some people and unkind to others. Those of us who are lucky to be in the position to give back must try to do so," he says. "I'm lucky to have found Rotary, lucky to have found friends so willing to help change lives."

Davalos, who also implants cardiac pacemakers free of charge through the Pacemaker Bank Foundation, adds: "I'm grateful that I can share my gift and make a difference. But those children are more of a gift to me than I can ever be to them."

None more so than Josue.



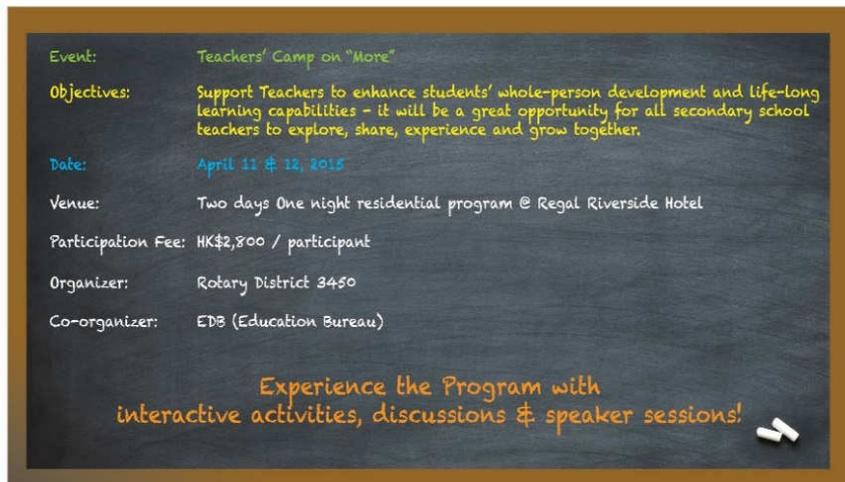
Rotary Teachers' Camp on MORE

【扶輪老師MORE法營】

Viola Chow, Teacher-in-charge of Interact Club of Tai Po Schools



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The 'Rotary Teachers' camp on MORE' was successfully held on 11th and 12th April in the Shatin Regal Riverside Hotel. Not only does it ignite in all teachers the means to enhance students' whole-person development, it also paves way for teachers' journey of self-discovery and life-planning.

As the Chinese proverb goes, 'If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.' As we all know, education is a lifetime commitment to our next generation, so comprehensive life-planning for both teachers and students are of utmost importance. It echoes with

the objectives of this inspiring program which is co-organized by the Rotary District 3450 and the Education Bureau.

This is definitely the BEST teachers' training camp that I have ever participated during my teaching career for a decade. It was a great opportunity for me to explore, share, experience and grow together with other fellow teachers and of course with the 'unconditional support' from our versatile Rotarians. Just as the name of this camp suggests, I gained MORE than what I had expected and reached out more to have more passion to realize my visions and missions for both my careers and my life.

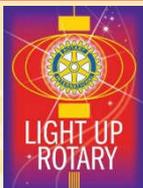
As you can see in this picture, I found that I can actually reach out more and MORE far beyond my imagination and expectation and do MORE things collaboratively.

Through interactive and experiential programs and activities in this 1.5-day retreat, I am genuinely inspired by the speakers of the rewarding programs and the thought-provoking chat with other fellow teachers and Rotarians, and most important of all, we have created a peer supporting platform to network and share experience with each other.

For the welcoming session, DG Belinda Yeung gave us an encouraging welcome speech as a refreshing kick-start. She emphasized the significance of teachers' training for its 'ripple effect' to thousands of students who could benefit. Regarding the powerful ripple effect created by teachers, she further illustrated it by telling her daughter's life-changing experience when her daughter met a wonderful biology teacher who has influenced her to become a doctor.



CONTINUE



On Day 1, we have been guided to start our journey of self-discovery in our workplace. In-depth discussion and interactive activities on the topic of 'how to create a happy workplace' were introduced by Matchy Ma who is a psychologist and Neuro-Semantic Trainer & Coach. He did an effective demonstration on how to create and align our school's vision with our own personal vision so as to achieve work efficacy and positivity. Besides, we have learnt extremely useful and practical techniques to support a Happy Workplace with the 'Mediation skills' in a school-context as provided by the 'Graceyard mediation student association'. Apart from Mediation planning, we had a fabulous financial planning forum with Mr. Shih Wing Ching (施永青先生) as our honorable guest in the afternoon session and of course he gave insightful tips to personal financial planning for life-long investment combinations. During the high table dinner, IPP Mawin Cheung of the Rotary Club of Happy Valley shared with us his meaningful programmes by using his organic farming to nurture students for their life-long planning and careers growth.

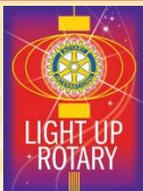


On Day 2, we had outing to the Science Park for some vocational visits and global citizenship education that aimed at fostering students' life planning from different aspects.



For the sharing session, I shared our experience and good practices on running the joint school 'Interact Club of Tai Po Schools' with other schools planning to initiate an Interact Club in their schools.





Thanks so much to PP Daniel, Joyce, Dora and Francis and a lot more Rotarians who gave their unconditional support to hold such a brilliant camp for teachers. I can feel the passion and devotion from all Rotarians and they are the unsung heroes on training teachers to bring the boundless influences on their students, and to our next generation.

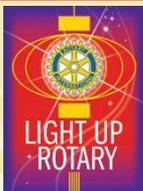


Last but not least, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Club of Tai Po for offering me such a valuable experience on exploring, aligning and committing to personal development as well as inspiring students regarding careers' planning.



Having had an inspiring chat with PDG Peter Wong, I have learnt that 'I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think' as said by Socrates.





RCTP Trip to Manila

Jason Lo

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On April 12 (Sunday), 6 Tai Po members, inclusive of P Natalie, PP Peter, PP Pearl, Alan, Rtn. Sally and I, took a trip to Manila, Philippines. The purposes of this trip were attending the related meeting and project supervision for the implementation of a Global Grant Project in Tuloy sa Don Bosco, and visiting the Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo.

The Tuloy Foundation & Tuloy sa Don Bosco

The Tuloy Foundation is a Philippine based non-government, non-profit organization for marginalized children registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission in 1996. The Foundation is licensed and accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to "provide residential care services for disadvantaged children and youth". Started 22 years ago, Tuloy sa Don Bosco is a shelter for street children and they are now taking care of almost 600 street children.

Tuloy Programs offer complete rehabilitation for street children to ensure a gradual, balanced and systematic approach for the children's growth and development. They also provide technical and vocational training and some of their graduates are already working in car companies as mechanics, hotels and other institutions. The main challenge of the center is the food for the students that is why they are looking at installing an Aquaponics system so that they will be able to supplement their food requirement by growing their own fish and vegetables.



Global Grant Project: Tuloy sa Don Bosco Aquaponics Project

On April 13 (Monday) at 10:00am, we had the first OSC Meeting at Tuloy sa Don Bosco, Majayjay, Laguna. This Global Grant project involves a total of 11 Rotary clubs. Formal project sponsors are RC Tai Po, RC Makati San Lorenzo and RC Alabang plus 2 districts (D3620 which consisted of 9 Korean clubs and our District 3450). RCMSL is the host club while our club RCTP is the International partner. The total project funding of USD111,500 consists of the following contributions and matching funds:

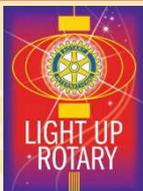
Club & District	Cash Contribution	District Designated Fund (DDF)	Global Grant Matching funds (cash 50% DDF 100 % matching)
RCMSL (D3830)	US\$5,000.00		US\$2,500.00
RCA (D3830)	US\$2,000.00		US\$1,000.00
RCTP (D3450)	US\$10,000.00	US\$8,000.00	US\$13,000.00
Korean RCs (D3620)	US\$20,000.00	US\$20,000.00	US\$30,000.00
Total Funds	Cash US\$37,000.00	DDF US\$28,000.00	World Fund Match US\$46,500.00

- AIMS:**
- To increase production of fish, vegetables, herbs & ornamental plants through Aquaponics
 - To modernize the fish ponds and farm using the new technology of Aquaponics
 - To secure the food supply of the beneficiaries of TULOY SA DON BOSCO and the neighboring village in Majayjay, Laguna

BENEFICIARIES:

The project will directly benefit the 1000 wards/students (street children) of Tuloy sa Don Bosco by securing their food supply at the institution. If the project becomes successful, it can be replicated in other regions and will benefit countless more people because of its environmental impact.

CONTINUE



PROJECT DETAILS:

Tuloy Foundation Aquaponics Project is a very successful program for reintegrating street children into mainstream society by transforming their mindset in environment care, development and productivity. Other than providing foods to the institution and the region, the project will train at least 50 farmers interested to learn the technology & skills of Aquaponics to apply in their own farms and will later train some 1,000 public school students in ten high schools of the neighboring towns of Majayjay & Magdalena ages 14-18 years.

The environmental benefits and sustainability of growing food through Aquaponics are tremendous. Water & Sanitation is also another area of focus to Rotary. Aquaponics system uses 90% less water than used in traditional soil based agriculture, is significantly less petro-chemically intensive and does not require the landmass that traditional soil agriculture does. The project aims to demonstrate to the students and farmers that Aquaponics system works and can be replicated in their own farms in the community.

The objective of the trainings is to make Tuloy's 4.5-hectare property a working model of Aquaponics agriculture, converting it into learning and teaching campus through:

- Sustainable Food Production using Aquaponics
- Proper Waste Management
- Organic Fertilizer Production & Farming

As we saw it, Tuloy sa Don Bosco is just a piece of grassy land, but it would become an Aquaponics farm supplying fish and agricultural products next year. It's a good project and I cannot wait to see the achievements of the project. From this case, I discover the power of Rotary families, the leverage effect of the Grants and understand the meaning behind Rotary fellowship & connection. A Rotary Club can accomplish an over hundred thousand US dollars' project with club contribution just five thousand US dollars. We need to seriously think about it and make better use of our resources to do more good services to the community.



RC Makati San Lorenzo (RCMSL)

RC Makati San Lorenzo, established since 1993, belongs to Rotary District 3830. RCMSL is a female dominant club, around 2/3 of the members are female. CP Rennie and the oldest member (over 80) PP Marietta are both female. But the BEST President (the way they called the present President) is a guy named Erwyn. Of course, RCMSL has many friendly Rotarians, too many to be introduced here one by one. I'm sure you will have chance to get to know each other in the coming future.

In this 3-day trip, we had sightseeing and shopping within the city. P Erwyn together with his club members treated us with welcome dinner at the first evening; country style lunch in a farm after visiting the project site on the second day and a farewell buffet lunch on the last day.

We tasted the welcome dinner at Fely J's Kitchen which is Filipino-crossover-Western cuisine. I'm not sure this was my first Filipino cuisine or not, but I'm sure this was the best Filipino Cuisine I have ever had.



CONTINUE

After we visited the project site on the second day, we had a country style lunch in an outdoor area of a farm belonging to PP Cha-Cha, RCMSL. And the lunch was prepared by her companion, who is a member of RC Makati. We enjoyed the lunch there together with some guys of Rotary Clubs from Korea. Some Koreans wanted to build up the sister club relationship with RCTP eagerly. We were not surprised that they were fascinated by our P Natalie. Ha! Ha!



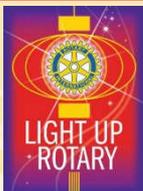
We had a club visit to RCMSL at the City Club in Manila on April 13. This was a meeting between RCMSL and RCTP when we introduced each other and had fellowship, dinner, dancing and singing ... etc. Somehow it felt like two clubs having a first date ...but we still have a long way to go.



On the last day in Manila, again they treated us to lunch. It was a long farewell lunch and we took the time to continue our last moment of fellowship and experienced their passion, ardor and friendly hospitality.



I experienced many first times in these trips inclusive of my first rotary trip, my first time travel to Philippines, my first time involve in a GG project etc, and it gave me a unforgettable and valuable experience. I'm sure the second, third and fourth will be coming. Thanks Rotary! Thanks RC Tai Po! You broaden my perspective on services.



25 April 2015, Saturday Claire Mak

Leaders' Lunch

The Leaders' Lunch was by invitation only and held prior to the District Conference for Rotary International President's Personal Representative Past Rotary International Vice President Anne Matthews to get to know the leaders of the District, and for them to get to know her.



Opening Ceremony & First Plenary Session



Tai Po members turned up in numbers at the Opening Ceremony.

The District Conference started by way of an astounding Taiku performance. Then everyone was upstanding for the National Anthems of the People's Republic of China, the United States of America and followed by the Rotary Anthem before DG Belinda declared the 55th District Conference open. Conference Chair Wilson welcomed everyone to the Conference and asked members to seize hold of these two days and be inspired to sustain interest in Rotary and beyond. All audiences had had a good time when Wilson recognized different Rotarians by groups and seniorities.



Spectacular Taiku started off the Conference

Chairman Wilson

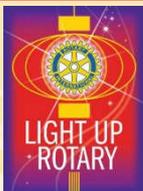


Professor Timothy Tong PDG Y.K. Cheng

The Speech by Keynote Speaker Professor Timothy W. Tong, JP, President of Hong Kong Polytechnic University is about "Education for Sustainable Development: The PolyU case". He talked about developments and the Hong Kong infrastructure etc. which were rather technical, a bit academic and not the easiest to follow. That said, Past District Governor Y.K. Cheng managed to give a very hearty vote of thanks.

After a short span of exercise led by our IPP Francis which elicited much laughter, next in line was the address by the personal representative of RI President Past RI Vice President Anne Matthews. Coming from Rotary Club of Columbia East of District 7770, Anne was the first lady Vice President of Rotary International. She is a seasoned educator and amongst her many Rotary laurels, she received Citation for Meritorious Service, the Distinguished Service Award, the Service Above Self Award and was honoured by District 7770 in 2006 as the Rotarian of the Year.

CONTINUE



Francis' exercise session elicited much laughter.

RIPPR Anne Mathews.

Breakout sessions

Breakout sessions started after the coffee break and we dispersed to hear out 4 different topics: "Light Up Rotary Membership"; "Light Up Rotary Public Image"; "Airport Development" and "Sustainable Social Services". Everyone got their own bit of inspiration.



Jacky, Roger, Vikky, KF



Ada, Louis, Man



Claire, Ada, William, Peter



PDG Anthony chairing a breakout session

Group Photo Session

It is a wonder that the Group Photo Session was carried out with utmost efficiency. Try to find yourself!



Everyone at the DC!



Sergeant – at – Arms



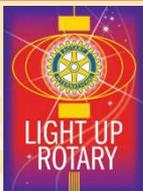
Area 6ers

Spouse Program

While we were having the Conference, the spouses made good use of the time fitting out evening gowns, learned make-up tricks and got themselves beautifully styled in preparation for the Governor's Banquet. They turned out dazzling.



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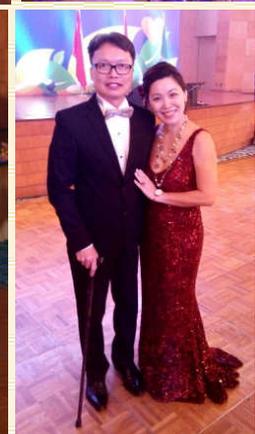
Governor's Banquet



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The limelight of the Governor's Banquet was stolen by our delectable Rotaryannes right from the start. See how they elegantly trotted the dance floor in glittering beauty. PP Louis said he shall have the hard task of pursuing and dating Margie all over again! PP Frankie saved the day for the men as he was shortlisted as one best-dressed finalists.

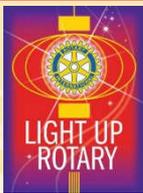


The food was good, the music and singing out of this world and the games very engaging. Our past Tai Po Rotaractor Wilson Woo also came to host BINGO and everyone had an enjoyable time.

Wanda even won the prize for being the quickest to dial the designated phone number.



CONTINUE



26 April 2015, Sunday

Second Plenary Session – Business Session

While spouses got up 'early' for the cooking class of decorating cupcakes and local community service project in Tung Chung followed by lunch at Tai O Village and shopping, Rotarians proceeded with the Second Plenary "Business" Session. Past President George Li introduced Special Speaker Under Secretary for the Environment Dr. Christine Loh, even though she hardly needs introduction. When Christine spoke, her personal views on improving health and livability in Hong Kong brought out a number of very cogent environmental topics including food wastage, pollution ..etc. which in turn have bearings on healthy and sustainable living. She ended by telling what the government has been and should be doing about them.



RIPPR PRIVP Anne L. Matthews was then invited to update us on the state of Rotary worldwide. She divided her speech into 2 parts: the RI focuses and the Rotary Foundation. With her thorough recount, we know in detail what RI has been doing worldwide on the various focuses and how the Rotary Foundation helped with their implementation.

State of the District Report delivered by DG Belinda Yeung highlighted the key projects that the District had done in the Rotary year and, as RIPPR PRIVP Anne remarked, our district left no aspect untouched. The report was comprehensive and the work done impressive and highly commendable. Really a hard act for future leaders to follow.



Usually the Resolution Session of the District Conference was done as a routine but this year, it was anticipated that there would be more noise. The session was effectively conducted by Past Governor Vincent To. The courtesy resolutions were quickly disposed of without quibble; and amongst them was a well-deserved Thank You resolution to Chairman Wilson for organizing the 55th District Conference.

The anticipated controversy or challenge did not happen. There was not even a request for debate or discussion. The resolution on the special levy to support the bid and implementation of the 2019 RI Convention in Hong Kong was successfully passed by a majority of 72 out of 78 votes. Similarly, the District Financial Statement for Rotary Year 2013-2014 presented in detail by District Treasurer Past President Ted Ho was adopted without the slightest query.

The Rotary Foundation Lunch

Amidst sumptuous lunch sets, the Foundation Lunch proceeded to recognize, amongst others, the Top 3 giving clubs (Annual Giving & Total Giving), Top 3 giving areas (Annual Giving & Total Giving), Major donors by level; Paul Harris Society members and Paul Harris Fellows.



Third Plenary Session – New Generations

Past Governor Peter Wong chaired the session and started by inviting PP Nelson Yip to introduce Elite Athlete Speakers Ms. Sarah Lee Wai-sze, MH, and Mr. Shek Wai-hung. He then hosted a chat session and elicited from them the elements of a successful athlete and how they overcame the stumbles and falls along the way.

Past Governor Peter Wong invited presentations from Rotaract, Interact and Rotary Adopt a School Committees. 3 of our Interactors from IAC Tai Po Schools led by Ms. Viola Chow came for the session.



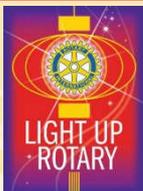
Closing and Fourth Plenary Session

The fun began when District Secretary Heman Lam took the roll call. RC HK Financial Centre has most registrants for the DC, but our club members remained the largest group present at the roll call.



When Past RI Vice President Anne gave her closing remarks, she praised the success of the DC as one of utmost quality and fun. She promised to report highly of it to RI. Then it was DG Belinda's turn to thank DC Chair Wilson and all attending members for the successful Conference. Before the Conference ended, Chairman Wilson showed a video which captured the lovely moments of the day past as he delivered his heartfelt thanks to his OC team and everyone for attending. The Conference ended on a harmonious note.





Peacemakers' Cultural Celebration – Step Up Infinity Performance

William Yim

Thanks our Vikky and also arrangement of Mel, Eugene, Vienna of HKCYS, we had a beautiful and successful dance performance at Peacemakers' Cultural Celebration at Hong Kong Science Park on Saturday, 18th April.

The dance of our Step Up Infinity was arranged in three parts each of 2 to 3 minutes. More than 30 dancers and dance tutors participated in this performance. Not only were the audiences excited, the dancers were very excited, too.



Olivia Man 100 Days Celebration - Village Style Edition

Francis Au

Congratulation again to Grandpa Man Gor and Grandma Jackie!! It is a big day for Jackie & Man. It is a big day for Judy & Benjamin. It is a big day for Rotary Club of Tai Po. A new fleet of new generation is growing. We are all so excited and happy about these.

On 26 April 2015 with the honour of PP Man, we were privileged to celebrate the arrival of Olivia in the traditional village style. PP Man hosted over 30 tables of traditional village "Pun Choi" in front of his family temple. It was great for all the good friends to visit this beautiful temple, good food and wine in such a lovely Sunday evening.

Pictures speak louder than words. Here comes the gangs again!!!



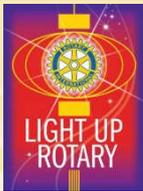
Olivia Man's 100th Day Celebration

Claire Mak



PP Man and Jackie invited all RCTP members to celebrate their granddaughter Olivia's 100th day on 1st May 2015. Indeed members and spouses turned up in numbers which far exceed regular meeting attendance. The delectable little princess seems rather oblivious to all the commotion while her proud parents and grandparents showed her off and thanked everyone for the blessings and well-wishes. It was an evening of good food, fabulous fellowship, ceaseless pour of wine and singing and, surprise ... surprise ... the nods of approval for continuing the next in line not only for the "Man" family but RCTP as well!





My Goondiwindi Experience

Kenneth Wong

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (May 2015 Issue)

Lucia and I have been visiting Australia multiple times every year for the last 10 years. We left our footprints in nearly all major cities of this vast country and have always been fascinated by the uniqueness of each of the cities we visited.

The town by the name of Goondiwindi was never on our radar until I received an invitation from my classmate governor Sandy Doumany of D9640 to attend the District Conference in Goondiwindi in April and to be a speaker at the Conference.

PDG Sandy lives and breathes Rotary and under her governorship 2012-2013, our two Rotary districts have collaborated in Group Study Exchange program. We changed the lives of some 65,000 students at 60 schools in rural towns of Shaanxi Province with clean drinking water through installation of ultra-membrane water filters manufactured in Tweed Heads, a suburb within D9640.

PDG Sandy even took time to attend our District Conference in the Mission Hills during her hectic year as District Governor of D9640.

So this invitation to Goondiwindi was an offer that I could not refuse.

Australia – The land of abundance

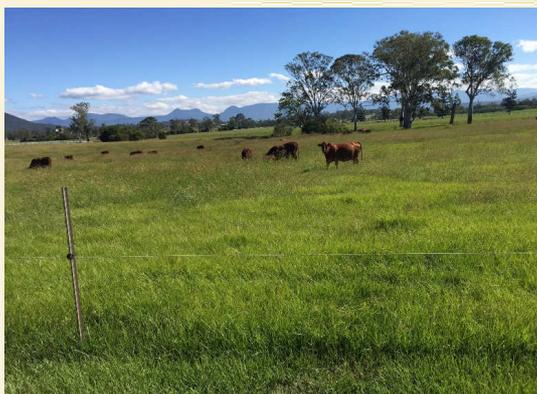


Goondiwindi - located at the cotton belt of Australia is an agricultural town with a population of 5600. At the heart of the resource-rich state of Queensland, Goondiwindi is about 400 km west of Gold Coast.

Goondiwindi is also home of the legendary Australian race horse "GUNSYND" abbreviation of "Goondiwindi Syndicate" who won 29 races in his entire racing career including the four most prestigious group 1 races over 1600m. The memorial statue and museum of GUNSYND are key tourist attractions there.



The 6 hours scenic drive from Gold Coast to Goondiwindi was littered with fields of Sugar cane, Sorghum, Wheat, Barley and herds of dairy cattle and tasty grain-fed meat cattle. Much of what we saw would end up on the dinner tables of hundreds of millions of people in Asia.

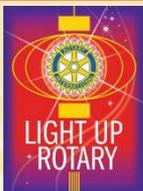


We also drove passed a number of stud farms for thoroughbred race horses.

We visited one cotton gin which covers a staggering 300,000 acres and this cotton gin is the proud property of a Past President of RC Goondiwindi.

For someone who lives in Metropolis all his life, it was quite a shocking experience seeing no building structures around you for as far as your eyesight could reach.

CONTINUE



Goondiwindi District Conference

Rotary District 9640 has 54 clubs and approximately 1,300 Rotarians.

The Goondiwindi conference was attended by some 400 Rotarians and spouses. The conference host committee comprises mostly Rotarians from RC Goondiwindi and with the supports from the local community the district conference brought festivity to the town. Through many community projects over the years, Rotary is deeply rooted in Goondiwindi.

The Goondiwindi community center was the conference venue and we witnessed a great deal of teamwork amongst Rotarians when they put together the stage decoration and setting up of the house of friendship. I was told that many of the farmer Rotarians are good at working with their hands and heels.



The conference was kicked off by the performance of a band from local school. A team of Rotarians cycled 200 miles to the Conference and raised a lot of money for the project which heightens awareness on the early detection and handling of mental illnesses within the community.

The topic of my speech was "The trail of Rotary in China from 1919 to 2015." Being the second oldest Rotary club in Asia, the Rotary Club of Shanghai was chartered in October 1919, the year when Rotary came to the Orient. I also gave a detailed introduction on D3450, a unique multi-country Rotary district and how our projects light up the lives of the underprivileged people in communities near and far.

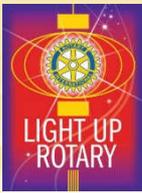
The GUNDSYDN of the Tai Po Rotary Racing Syndicate

I managed to find time visiting the horse that the syndicate has purchased a year ago. This horse has been undergoing training in the Gold Coast, preparing him for a racing career in HK.

I was pleasantly surprised to see our horse maturing into a fine race horse with the speed, temperament and conformation of a potential champion horse.

The horse is at his final stage of preparation and would be flown to HK in August and would debut in the next racing season.





Regular Meetings



20 April 2015
(DG's Unofficial Visit)

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (May 2015 Issue)

WYS Rotaractors Pres. Kevin, Directors Kelvin and Tak Shing kept us update on what they had been doing and previewed their upcoming International Service Trip "Mongoliour" (蒙在古旅) to Ulaanbaatar.



DG Belinda explained at length about our District's bid for 2019 RI Convention and the proposed extra levy to be imposed should we succeed in the bid.

Tsubaki won the very special shell-plated fruit plate bought by Pearl all the way from Makati, Manila.



We took the opportunity to celebrate DG Belinda's birthday during her unofficial visit to our club.

27 April 2015
Club Assembly



PP Peter reported about the Foundation status.



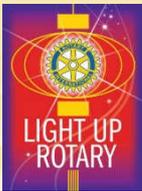
Rotarian Jason spoke about the trip to Manila, visiting Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo and the Tuloy Project.



PP Man was the lucky winner of the set of wine opener given out by Secretary Roger.



Members attending the Club Assembly and we had visiting guest Chris (Mandarin).



Regular Meetings



4 May 2015

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (May 2015 Issue)



Ada recounted her friendship with Speaker Ms. Elsa Tang dating back to the time when they were just 4-year olds.



PP Peter was presented with the very thoughtful couplet for his generous donation to the Build Our Loving Villages Project to which he graciously gave red box in return.



Two further scrolls from Elsa intended to be presented to Sponsors of the Build Our Loving Villages Project: New Town Medical and Tsun Yip Waterworks Construction Co.



Ms. Elsa Tang exudes an air of well-cultured learnedness as she spoke gently yet very informatively about Chinese calligraphy: the different schools, the development, the various styles and her own insights.



PP Armstrong gave a very unique hand-knit jumper which was won by President Natalie.



Elsa gave out a book and a few sheets of her writings and lucky winner Dorothy immediately showed off the prize.

11 May 2015



Caren gave an introduction of Mr. Dave Chan and the laurels under his belt.



Dancer Dave Chan spoke to us about his path in Dancing



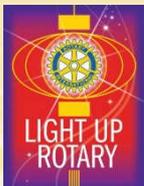
VP William gave a Vote of Thanks.



The special miniature Hibiki Whisky given out by IPP Francis was won by lucky PE Vikky – to the dismay of PP Peter (left).



Jason did a good job as 1st time acting sergeant and obtained red box whilst welcoming back PP Ron and Ming-hay



Upcoming Events

April Winners (100% attendance):



FRANCIS AU,
PEARL DANG,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
WILSON LAM,
JASON LO,
SALLY LUK,
CLAIRE MAK,
MAN MO LEUNG,
ROGER SO,
JACKY SUNG,
KF TAM,
VIKKY TAM,
LOUIS TANG,
MASAYUKI TSUBAKI,
ADA WU,
FRANKIE WU

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
23 MAY (SAT)	9:30 a.m.	55th District Training Assembly	The Shatin Clubhouse of the Hong Kong Jockey Club
	2:00 p.m.	Build Our Loving Village – Health check and Closing Ceremony	Wo Hing Community Hall, Fanling 粉嶺和鳴里7號地下
	7:30 p.m.	Baby Club RC SoHo HK Anniversary Party Theme: Colour of life	Police Officers' Club, 28 Hung Hing Road, Causeway Bay
25 MAY (MON)	9:00 a.m.	District Tennis Tournament 2015	Tennis Court, Hong Kong Sport Institute, 25 Yuen Wo Road, Shatin, N.T.
1 JUN (MON)	7:00 p.m.	4th Club Assembly	The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TST E
8 JUN (MON)	7:15 p.m.	Installation Ceremony of The Rotaract Club of Wu Yee Sun College, CUHK	College Theatre UG/F Wu Yee Sun College, CUHK
15 JUN (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Joint Meeting with RC Kowloon Tong Speaker: Lo Chun Wai Dicky	The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TST E

% of attendance of regular meetings (inclusive of make ups)

Average attendance: 67.03%

13th April 66.7%

20th April 71.4%

27th April 63%

In April

David Chan
Sasha Chu
Ping Leung
Kenneth Wong
CM Yu
Patrick Yung



Rotary Club of Tai Po presents

24th ANNUAL BALL

ORIENT EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Tai Po 24th Annual Ball

DATE: 20 June 2015, Saturday 18:30-19:30 Cocktail Reception

DRESS CODE: Elegance in 1930's 19:30 Dinner & Ceremony

Venue: INTERCONTINENTAL Hong Kong Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui

Happy Birthday May

15th Sasha Chu
23rd K.M. Chan
(Hon. Member)

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Claire Mak
The Editorial Board :
Peter Lam,
Ronald Chung &
Francis Au

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