

Tai Post 大報

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (Sep 2014 Issue)

President's Message Natalie Kwok



In August we have two important events. 15 Aug was the Intercity Meeting with Rotary International President Gary Huang. On 25 Aug, District Governor Belinda visited Area 6 joint meeting. In both events RC Tai Po was the most supportive club. Let's give ourselves a big applause.

One of the traditional features of the Mid-Autumn Festival is the worshipping of the moon. The origin of this tradition may be traced to the myths associated with the Moon Goddess of Immortality, Chang'e, following her ascend to the moon. One version of the tale provides the following explanation:



After the hero Houyi shot down nine of the ten suns, he was pronounced king by the grateful people. However, he soon became an arrogant and tyrannical ruler. To become immortal he asked for the elixir from Xiwangmu. To prevent causing eternal harm to the people, his wife, Chang'e, stole and drank the magic potion on August 15th. Chang'e fled to the moon and became the Goddess of the Moon. Houyi died soon because he was overcome with great anger. Thereafter, people offer a sacrifice to Chang'e on every lunar fifteenth of August to commemorate Chang'e's action.



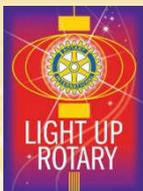
In the month of September we have our 1st Theme Night organised by Team 1 celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. We have over 40 visiting Rotarians and guests from Rotary Club of Shatin, plus over 50 members and guests from our own club. This was a very joyful and successful event. Let's give three cheers to Team 1.



The Mid-Autumn Festival is an official harvest festival not only celebrated by the Chinese but also in some other Asian countries such as Vietnam, South Korea and Japan. The term *mid-autumn* (中秋) first appeared in *Rites of Zhou*, a written collection of rituals of the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046–771 BC). According to some historians, the Chinese started celebrating the harvest during the full moon in Autumn as early as the Shang Dynasty (i.e. 16th to 10th century BC). Yet the celebration in the form of festival only began to become a custom during the early Tang Dynasty (618–907 AD). One legend suggests that formal celebrations for this festival were commenced by Emperor Xuanzong of Tang in his palace after having travelled to the Moon-Palace.

In modern times, Mid-Autumn Festival is often connected with celebrating the reunions of family members and friends. It is also a good occasion to show love and care for the elderly, who have spent their whole life for the prosperity of the society and well-being of the younger generation. In this regard I am most grateful for PP Pearl and Service Committee Chair William for organising the 2nd episode of the Build Our Loving Village Project (同建愛心村) – the Mid-Autumn Festival tour to the Hong Kong Island on 6 Sep. Over 80 elderly villagers and 20 Rotarians and visitors participated in this meaningful event. You can tell how successful this event was by looking at the happy faces from all the grand pas and grand mums (老友記). More can be seen from the report on this event.

Last but not least, I wish to say Happy Birthday to the birthday boys and girls this month!!



Editor Says

Claire Mak



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Ever since the smart phones came into being, the way we live has seen unprecedented changes. The smart phone becomes an indispensable gadget which you rely on in every aspect of your life. You need it to speak on the phone, to communicate, to look up the dictionary, to watch movies, to surf the web, to check stock prices, to store phone numbers, to take photos, to take videos, to record messages, to mark diary, to make and change appointments, to form friend or social groups, to send and receive email messages you name it.

There is no limit of how far your smart phone can reach. There was the recent announcement in Beijing not long ago about the Takee phone - the first 3D holographic smart phone which takes the smart phone experience to yet another new level. It is said that the device utilizes four front-facing cameras to track your eye movements in real-time and produce 3D images. The Takee phone makes object appear as if they are hovering above the screen. Amazing isn't it?



It has successfully taken over hundreds of other gadgets. You no longer needed a diary, or an address book, a camera, or a camcorder, a photo album, a dictionary ... and the weird thing is: you don't even need a friend! You can play solo on the phone. You can play mahjong on your own. And not only that, the smart phone is actually your personal assistant and your servant – and an obedient one who never retorts or say no.



Having said that however, all is not rosy. If you are not mastering your smart phone well, it may well become your master instead. For instance, if the steps to achieving goal A are steps 1, 2, 3, 4; but you did it 1, 3, 2, 4, then you will never be able to reach goal A. No matter how smart the phone is, with just one step wrong, it can be as obstinate as a bull. Any amount of scolding, shouting or beating will not get it to goal A and yes, it is down-right impersonal and unfeeling.

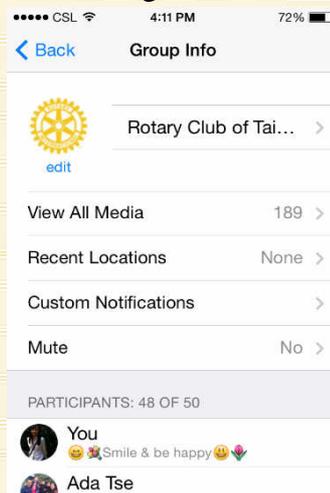
The smart phone I'm using is the aged iPhone 4. I am glad it still functions the way I'd expected it to (touch wood). But its life span may well have extended longer than it was meant for. I am awaiting its Version 6 now that it has been announced ...

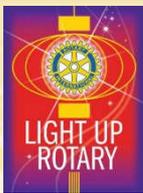
Come to think of it, what serves to revolutionize our lives is not really China getting stronger, or the United States going weaker; but the whole smart phone development. Look at the MTR cabin. People are no longer chatting with each other, or reading the newspaper. They are mostly head bent over their smart phones and the only movement are their fingers swiping the phone screens.

Yet, no matter how impersonal it is, you have to be careful with its feelings. You cannot assault it or drop it or wet it. Once it breaks down, you may actually break down and cry; or it causes you to break-down and tear your hair in despair! For some people (celebrities in particular), it is even worse to lose the smart phone than to break it. The risk of losing private data or intimate photos to the public are their biggest concern; but this small gadget, made easy for carriage, also meant it can slip out of your handbag or slack pocket very easily. Then, unless there is a good Samaritan, all you can do is to lament and keep your fingers crossed.



Even at our club meeting, once President Natalie announces a date to be noted, members take out their phones to mark diaries. If the speaker fails to sustain our interest, members will take out their phones and quietly look for anything more interesting. And news (gossips included) spread through our RCTP WhatsApp Group in no time. This RCTP group comprises an impressive 48 of us members and spouses within the loop and actually is a good start to implement DG Belinda's call for involvement of family in Rotary events. Spouses are actually part of us anywhere, anytime.





September is New Generations Month so let's take a look at a good project that Rotaractors did in another part of the world and hope it inspires our Rotaractors to do more good works!

ROTARACT AWARD WINNERS CELEBRATED FOR THEIR LIFE-CHANGING PROJECTS

The village of Kumbharwadi is one of many in a drought-prone region near Mumbai, India. Until recently, its residents had access to only one well with drinkable water. During the summer months, the well runs dry, and the women and girls of the village travel three to four hours a day to search for water.



Enter Project Boond, undertaken by a Rotaract club, a Rotary club, and the Watershed Organization Trust to provide clean drinking Water and sanitation facilities in Kumbharwadi. Nikunj Pherwani, 2013-14 president of the

Rotaract Club of Hassaram Rihumal College of Commerce and Economics in Mumbai, India, says that droughts are a serious problem in India and often exacerbate malnutrition and illness in remote regions.

"Our major aim through this project was to provide clean water for drinking and domestic purposes to the drought-affected areas of Maharashtra," he says. "These villages not only suffer due to shortage of water but also due to several waterborne diseases."

Pherwani's Rotaract club teamed up with the Rotary Club of Bombay, Maharashtra, India, to raise funds for the project through donations and events, including a comedic play and black tie dinner. The project has over \$13,000 in its coffers, and the clubs are using the funds to dig wells and install toilets.

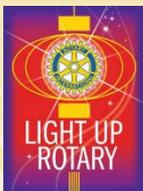
Pherwani's club also worked with the Rotary Club of Bombay to choose a local non-profit organization to partner with. They found the Watershed Organization Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to ending water scarcity and poverty in rural India. After meeting with officials and signing an MOU, the Watershed Organization Trust helped them choose a village, and the Rotaractors traveled there to speak to locals about the credibility of their partners. Pherwani says they continue to visit Kumbharwadi every two months to check in with the village and see if additional resources are needed. Village leaders have been trained to maintain the new facilities.

In addition to providing clean water and sanitation facilities, Pherwani says they also aim to provide villagers with chlorine tablets and a workshop on basic health and hygiene. Among the seven Rotaract projects that were honored at this year's Rotaract Preconvention, Project Boond was chosen as the international winner of the Recognition of Outstanding Rotaract Project. Two members of the Rotaract Club of Hassaram Rihumal College of Commerce and Economics attended the preconvention on 30 May in Sydney, Australia. They traveled there using miles that Rotary won through United Airlines' 10 Million Charity Miles giveaway. They, along with representatives from other winning clubs, presented their projects and received their awards.

REGIONAL WINNERS

In addition to the international award-winning project, top Rotaract club projects from six regions were recognized at the Rotaract Preconvention. Here is one from the Asia Pacific region.

Asia Pacific: The Rotaract Club of National University of Singapore (District 3310), for Waves of Hope Swimathon 2013. Club members volunteering at Pathfinder School were impressed by its work helping children with autism develop social and vocational skills. To support services for low-income students, the club organized a swimathon in which 474 participants swam laps and raised over \$20,000.



Intercity Meeting to Welcome RI President Gary Huang

Peter Lam

It was indeed a great honour for our district to welcome RI President Gary Huang and his wife Corinna at an early stage of the Rotary year. After his visit to Macau, RIP Gary and Corinna attended the intercity meeting held at the Regal Airport Hotel on Friday 15th August. Under the leadership of President Natalie, our club demonstrated full support and attended with two tables of members and spouses including CP Donald Yap and new member Dr CM Yu and Rotaryanne Joan. Thank you PP Jacky Sung who served in the sergeant team to maintain good order. Besides RIP Gary's keynote speech, highlights of the evening included The Rotary Foundation Arch Klump Society recognition to PDG David Harilela (RC KGM), CP Patrick Poon (RC HK Harbour), and PP Luis Lui (RC Hou Kuong). New Majors Donor were also recognized and we are proud that our club was well represented by our PDG Anthony, PP Man, PP Jacky in this category. There were also new members' induction ceremony and recognition of the new club Rotary Club of Aberdeen and provisional club Rotary E-Club of Tamar HK. On the entertainment side, first there were Rotary songs performed by our Rotary "District Signing Group" led by PP Mahmood and other songs by other Rotaryannes, There were also a full Chinese orchestra performance and 60's and modern dance by our Rotaractors. The final highlight of the evening was the singing by RIP Gary and DG Belinda as they joined the District Signing Group on stage which drew loud cheers and applause.



Cooking Class & Whiskey Night

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Master Wan Kitchen August 23, 2014 Saturday

The Cooking - Sally and other members learnt from Master Wan how to make the classic Chinese "siu mai" and the same were served and enjoyed during dinner.



The Cocktail and Dinner - The menu was tailor-made for a Whisky/Chinese Food pairing dinner and Glenlivet was served throughout the whole event including some rare collection from the distillery.



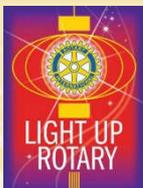
District Rotaract Installation 2014-2015 cum

District Awards Presentation Ceremony 2013-2014

24th August 2014 (Sunday) • Charles K. Kao Auditorium, Hong Kong Science Park

On this auspicious occasion, we learned what happened in the last Rotaract Year and witnessed the passing of baton from outgoing District Rotaract Chair Silva Yeung to incoming DRC Eddie Leung; and also District Rotaract Representative BY Wong handing over the sash to current DRR Jessica Wo. Tai Po was represented by PDG Anthony, PP Claire and Wu Yee Sun Rotaractors Jasmine, Edmond and Kiki.





Area 6 Joint Clubs DG Visit

25 Aug 2014 • Royal Plaza Hotel
Claire Mak



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DG Belinda and her team went round the clubs making visits. Like in previous years, the Area 6 Clubs did theirs jointly. The whole afternoon on 25th August was spent in what's called a "DG Private Session" with Board of directors and Chairpersons of individual clubs meeting with DG and her team of leaders to go over club plans, visions and targets for the coming year.

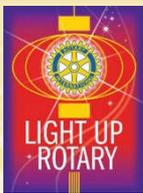
RCTP was represented almost by a full board neatly clad in club jacket and theme tie and the meeting was smooth and efficient. As DG Belinda gets to know in some detail what we had been up to in the past year on our different projects and also the line-up for this year, she also encouraged us to attempt exceeding last year's contribution to the Foundation even though she did commend our TRF efforts already shown at the RI President Visit not long ago.



Soon after the Private Session comes the Joint session/dinner meeting. Each of the 8 clubs Presidents was given not more than 3 minutes to report and make necessary announcements which every one of them toed the deadline. Then DG Belinda was invited to speak and impart to us, the RI initiatives and the District's initiatives. The information was of course informative but what Rotarians looked forward more seems to be the dinner and the mingling.



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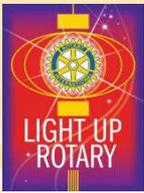


As most of the Area 6 Clubs are represented, it was an occasion to do the District's recognition of Major donors and new Paul Harris Fellows. That's when our William, David (represented by Frankie) and KF (represented by Vikky) got the recognition certificate.



The rest of the evening continued to be entertaining and enjoyable. RCTP talents shone through and mesmerized audience.





Assistant Governor's Visit

18 August 2014

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A lot of members' spouses and also Rotaractors from RAC Wu Yee Sun College joined the meeting and greeted AG Dominic on his official visit to our club.



↩ PP Claire gave out a delicious can of abalone for raffle draw and PP Dennis was the lucky winner.

AG Dominic, who imparted DG's Visions and District plans to us, reunited with his long lost friend Timmy. ➡



PP Kenneth Chow expanded further on Foundation matters. ➡

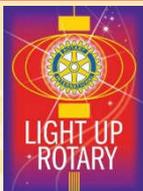


⬆ PP Dennis announced plans for the 1st Theme Night on 1st September.

⬆ DDRRC Claire teamed with our Wu Yee Sun Rotaractors: (2nd from left) Kiki, Jasmine, Sarah and Edmond.



↩⬆ SAA KF dutifully welcome back Caren and Frankie by handing them the red box.



1 Sept Theme Night cum Birthday Celebration

Claire Mak



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Maybe birds of the same feather really like flocking together – somehow RCTP has attracted no less than nine boys and girls who are born in September to the club (see birthday list on back page); and, counting also September-born spouses and children and potential member Eric Chiang, they can be a hell of a group! This phenomenon can sometimes overwhelm an event and that’s what happened on 1st September when the club hosted the first Theme Night of the Year. Theme? Do you still recall the theme?

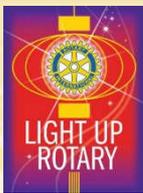


Team leader Dennis, himself a September *birdie* but was absent on the day, led the club to Sichuan Paradise (天府人家) in Wanchai. PP Man, also a September *birdie*, stood in for Dennis. This was supposed to be a joint club event which we co-hosted with RC Shatin. The strange thing is – Shatin does not have a single member born in September!



Team 1 had arranged celebration of the Mid Autumn as well as the September birthdays. President Natalie, also a September person, somberly did the formalities, the birthday cake-cutting and handed out the birthday gifts of umbrellas. As we were served with plenty of different alcohol and a lot of hot and spicy food, both of which numbed our senses and released the relaxed and carefree selves in us, the whole celebration seemed to get usurped and became a loud and rowdy drink, laugh, chat, cheer and photo-taking event. No more theme, or manners or protocol Everything went joyfully well throughout the evening except towards the end, our great “RCTP photographer” cum Birthday Boy of the day, PP Peter, lost his camera on his way home together with all the lovely photos which he had studiously taken. Oh well





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“Build Our Loving Villages” – HK Day Tour with the Elderly

Pearl Dang

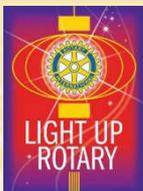
Despite the thundery weather the day before, thank God, the sun was shining for the second program of the HK Day Tour - Build Our Loving Villages on 6th Sep 2014!

There was a big turn out with 120 of us: 28 volunteers from our club and 10 from YWCA were present on the day serving 85 elders.

As usual, I'd like to thank PP Peter & PP Claire who were tirelessly photographing the action as it happened throughout the day. I would also like to thank Ada, who'd managed to squeeze in some time to help out in the afternoon amongst her busy schedule!



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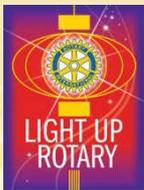
From looking at the photos, it is evident that the elderly had enjoyed their day. You could see that in their faces; smiling, laughing and sharing their old stories and memories with us. I think I'm right to say that we'd done an excellent job in delivering our service. The elderly seemed to have very much enjoyed their lunches and games and they bought souvenirs at Stanley Market and at The Peak.



Because of you and our Rotary spirit, this program was a huge success. Extend our love! This project still has 4 programs to come; there will be 2 home visits for health checking which is suggested to be carried out by our Rotaractors sometime in November 2014 & January 2015. There will be a Lunar New Year Gathering with 100 elderly on 7th March 2015, and our last event will be holding a health check and a Closing Ceremony at Ta Kwu Ling for 50 elderly on 23rd May 2015.

Please book these dates in your diary to share your love!





Upcoming Events

August Winners (100% attendance):



FRANCIS AU,
PEARL DANG,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
WILSON LAM,
PING LEUNG,
DENNIS LO,
CLAIRE MAK,
MAN MO LEUNG,
ROGER SO,
KENNETH WONG,
FRANKIE WU

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

Average attendance: 66.17%

4th August 78.80%

11th August 64.72%

18th August 57.56%

25th August 63.60%

In August

David Chan
Sasha Chu
Sincere Yip
Patrick Yung



<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
21 SEP SUN	1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Installation Ceremony of Rotaract Club of Tai Po	Ease Café, Unit 2508-9 Golden Era Plaza, 39 Sai Yee Street, Mongkok
22 SEP (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: PP Ping Leung Topic: Life After Retirement	Function Room, The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
29 SEP (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Rtn. Paul Chan Topic: Sichuan and Tibet - Paradise Lost (川藏：人間淨土)	Function Room, The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
4 OCT (SAT)	7:00 p.m.	66th Charter Anniversary of Rotary Club of Taipei (Dress Code: Formal Gatsby-esque)	2/F, The Ambassador Hotel, Taipei
6 OCT (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Club Assembly	Function Room, The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
13 OCT (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Professor C.M. Yu Topic: A Journey to the Heart and Health	Function Room, The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
18 OCT (SAT)	9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	District Badminton Tournament 2014	Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre
20 OCT (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: PP Dr. Ronald Chung	Function Room, The Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE



1st Peter Lam
4th Kenneth Wong
6th Wilson Lam
8th Dennis Lo
17th Claire Mak
17th Natalie Kwok
21st Patrick Fong
21st Vikky Tam
22nd Man Mo Leung

September is New Generations Month

When you invest in young people, you invest in Rotary's future.

