

# Rotary Club of Brisbane International President's Annual Report

Sokoveti Niko

This report summarises the activities of the Rotary Club of Brisbane International (RCBI) for 2020-2021.  
This report should be read in conjunction with the RCBI 3 year rolling strategic plan 2020 -2021 (on page 4 of this report).

## President's Introductory Remarks

I hope everybody has enjoyed this year. That was my aim. Nothing can happen without the support and interest of the Club members. I feel I have had tremendous support from members, and I thank you for that. Particularly, my thanks go to the Board for their extraordinary commitment to the Club. The Club has achieved so much this year as evidenced in this report. Not one disagreement!

Our aim at the beginning of the year was to unite and involve members and leave a happy, functioning Club for our incoming President, Subhashni Singh. Hopefully we have done that. Subhashni, we wish you well. We know you will take the Club on to bigger and better things.

Our year has been a busy one and we've certainly had fun.

### Here are some of our highlights:

- ♦ Hosting the zoom meeting with Rotary International President-Elect Mr Shekar Mehta.
- ♦ Sourcing, packing and shipping, 40ft container equipped with roofing iron sheets, 100s of small boxes screws, together with cartons of second-hand clothes, beddings, pillows, kitchen utilises, 250 hygiene packs for needy children in Fiji. We collaborated with Rotary Club of Labasa in Fiji for distribution.
- ♦ Promoting "Gift A Roof" and receiving all generous donations for the recovery and rehabilitation of Tropical Cyclone Yasa in Vanua Levu, Fiji.
- ♦ Rotary Leadership Institute training for members to enriched their knowledge on creating sustainable clubs with different strategic approaches, building team resilience and building a stronger network.
- ♦ Fun Day & distribution of Food Hampers to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islands at Peace Garden, Ipswich
- ♦ DIK hospital equipment's to Nadi and PNG



- ◆ Hosting our ROMAC Ambassdor—Asinate Rosie Lotawa
- ◆ Serving in excess of 1500 freshly prepared nutritious, hot meals to homeless in Roma street Parklands, incorporating and collaborating with Brothers in Need.
- ◆ Fundraising Father's Day Grazing Platter
- ◆ FUN DAY at Cascade Garden, Broadbeach, Gold Coast.
- ◆ AG Donelle's visit with R100 Relay Baton to RCBI marking 100 years of Rotary in NZ and Australia.
- ◆ Donating Christmas Hampers to Salvation Army Calamvale and Ps Ada's church members in Toowoomba.
- ◆ Appreciation Evening of Gift A Roof at Charter President & IPP Nim's residence.
- ◆ Donated stationery packs, hygiene packs and reference books in collaboration with RC Brisbane Centenary – DIK container to Timor Lester.
- ◆ Logan Reserve Primary School Brekky Club every Wednesday.

I sincerely thank all the Past Presidents, Board members, and the hardworking members for collectively achieving these and many other projects and goals of the club during the course of my year as President.

Finally, I wish to thank my family for their unconditional support, understanding and guidance throughout this amazing journey.

My challenge to the Club is to continue to turn conversations into actions and serve to change lives across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.







# Rotary Club of Brisbane International Inc. Strategic Plan 2020-2023

**Rotary**  
District 9630



OUR VISION			OUR FOUR WAY TEST			OUR MISSION	
Be a vibrant and sustainable club that embraces diversity and connects communities			Truth, Fairness, Goodwill, Friendship			Turning conversations into action	
OUR GOALS: Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity, Service & Leadership							
1. MEMBERSHIP DIVERSITY & FELLOWSHIP	2. INCREASE HUMANITARIAN SERVICES	3.ENHANCE PUBLIC IMAGE & COMMUNICATIONS	4. ROTARY INFORMATION AND FOUNDATION	5. YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES	6. GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY	7. FINANCE & FUNDRAISING	
ATTRACT, RETAIN and DEVELOP an engaged and enthusiastic membership base	Identify and agree on SHORT, MEDIUM and LONG term projects	Build a UNIQUE & RECOGNISABLE BRAND that organisations and individuals want to associate with.	Increase Rotary information AWARENESS and promote greater contributions to the ROTARY FOUNDATION	Develop plans for Club EFFECTIVENESS and support for YOUTH and VOCATIONAL services	Ensure Finances and governance are based upon ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY & RESPONSIBILITY	Establish a long term Strategic Sponsorship & Fundraising Framework including different tiers of sponsorships for events	
ACTION PLAN: Strategies for achieving our goals							
Develop membership and Friends of RCBI growth in line with Club Citation requirements and monitor progress through Rotary Central	Establish overall project plan, priorities and calendar of events and appoint project leaders	Maintain & enhance current levels of community awareness through various media platforms including Facebook, Twitter,Instagram, LinkedIn, Club website & print media	Ensure Rotary Information is on the agenda at every club meeting and presentation made by members to learn more about Rotary	Progress establishment of Interact Club in 2020-21. Maintain and promote Rotaract and RotaKids within and outside the club. Encourage Rotaract involvement with interact and Rotakids.	Ensure Annual budget for the following Rotary year is finalised by June 30th & ensure audit of financial statements for the current year is finalised by September 30th	Maintain and enhance the annual signature BULAWOOD Ball , High Tea events and Fiji Day Celebration by keeping these events exciting and interesting	
Fun, fellowship and friendship - ongoing member and Friends of RCBI engagement, personal development and retention through Board and project responsibilities	Evaluate and progress plans for medical, educational & other humanitarian projects in Fiji or other Pacific Island countries	Maintain MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS to enhance club Presence & Promotions	Deliver a joint project with another neighbouring Rotary Club (e.g. Citizenship ceremony) to enhance membership networks	Continue to sponsor at least 1 candidate each for the RYLA & RYPEN camps. Consider support for National Youth Science Forum and RYTS program.	Develop blueprint template of roles and responsibilities for Board members after seeking member and Board feedback	Research and evaluate other effective ways for fundraising and implement one new initiative each year	
Minimum of two Club Assemblies per annum seeking member feedback & 2 member fellowship focussed events. Maintain and enhance value proposition for membership	Continue with BAU local projects including RCBI signature food drive for homeless in partnership with other organisations and flexi school project	Develop plans and strategies to attain Rotary Citation recognition for 2020-21	Successfully apply for at least 1 District and 1 Foundation Grant in 2020-21	Successfully implement one sustainable change in a vocational environment through a club project (e.g. clean up a park of plant a tree day)	Ensure all matters relating to club administration including changes to My Rotary are always kept upto date & ensure RI & District dues are paid on a timely basis	Strengthen partnerships with other ROTARY and COMMUNITY based clubs for joint fundraising activities	
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: Progress & Success benchmarks							
Net gain of 4 new members each financial year	Approved project milestones achieved including feedback from members and external stakeholders	Increased awareness of ROTARY & RCBI in the community and net gain in membership and alliances with other organisations	Increased member knowledge and comprehensions about Rotary	Progress against plans and feedback on approved projects by internal and external stakeholders	Timely and Accurate Financial Reporting and effective governance to assure trust and credibility in the management of club finances	Ensure actual club financial performance exceeds annual budget by 10%	
Membership	Projects	Public Relations & Branding	Rotary Information & Foundation	Effective Services	Club Admin & PE	Finance & Fundraising	
Naresh Kumar	Jitendra Deo & Raj Padarath	Navneeta Prasad	Sabi Koregal	Neelam Naidu	Subhashni Singh	Premela Jones	
Jitendra Prasad Soko Shalend	Aakesh, Dr Sandhir, Avindra Jitendra Prasad	Anisha Vishal	Jeff Abdul	Nirmala Umesh Avindra	Sunil Premela Arun	Surekha, Kanta Ajnesh, Madhuri Sarwesh Vishal	
<div><div> President (2020-2021) Sokoveti Niko</div><div> President Elect (2020-2021) Subhashni Singh</div><div>22/11/2020 Date</div></div>							



# Membership, Diversity & Fellowship

## Membership Status

We started the year with 27 members and finished with 28 members with another member yet to be inducted. We are proud to maintain the membership at a consistent level considering a full year of raging pandemic. We recall Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta's statement in our virtual meeting on 22 July 2020 about increasing membership levels by transitioning Rotaractors into Rotary. We are working with the Rotaract Club of Brisbane International and supporting their work.

## Membership engagement

While COVID restrictions did not permit us to operate like before, we still managed to seize the opportunity to network and connect using TECHNOLOGY. This full year of Rotary we fully embraced technology on different platforms to connect with like minded people. Although certain times permitted us to meet in person (not like before though!) , our wheels kept turning at a rapid pace. On 9 August 2020 members of RCBI and Browns Plains enriched their knowledge on creating sustainable clubs with different strategic approaches, building team resilience and building a stronger network. We also received an update on 9 December 2020 regarding our sponsor club that is in making—Rotary Club of Australia Hybrid.

## Membership Feedback & new Initiatives

As advised in last year's report, we conducted a membership survey to better understand our members, increase value of membership and attend to rooms of improvement. Overall the survey was leaning favourably on the positive side however we value inclusiveness and satisfaction hence an action plan for areas of concern was deemed necessary. The survey results were presented on the night of Club Assembly on 17 March 2021. Members engaged in small groups to target an action plan for areas of concern which is gradually being implemented. A follow up survey is scheduled to occur later this year together with a renewed membership drive. We sincerely thank all our members for their contribution in opening opportunities and continuing their passion to serve to change lives.



# Increasing Humanitarian Services

## Water Relief Project—Applethorpe

An amazing day out at Applethorpe on 18 July 2020 by Rotary Club of Brisbane international, Rotary Club of Archerfield, Brisbane Taylor Bridge and Rotary club Stanthorpe collaborating with Granite Belt Water relief. Senator Paul Scarr and Desi Boys from Brisbane joined in with the efforts. It was the 3 million'th litres of water delivered to the region by Rotary since September 2019.

## Connecting with Indigenous Community

On the night of Wednesday 19 August 2020, RCBI connected with an indigenous community via zoom meeting. The meeting was to highlight how two community clubs can work together in responding to the needs of our communities. Our guest speaker Ps Ada Boland spoke on challenges that Aboriginal people face in the community. The Aboriginal community is determined to put an end to trans-generational trauma that is hindering progress of every generation in their community.

RCBI continued to turn conversations into actions and organised a Fun Day with the Aboriginal community on Saturday 22 August 2020 at Pan Pacific Peace Gardens Bush Chapel in Redbank Plains. Members, volunteers and community business partners teamed up to provide food hampers and hearty lunch for this community bonding event. During festive season we also handed multiple Christmas hampers to Aboriginal Community in Toowoomba on 20 December 2020. Ps Ada Boland was humbled by this generosity as we continued on discussions on how to work together in 2021.

## Donations In Kind (DIK) - Nadi Hospital, FIJI

Containers were organised by Archerfield Rotary and RCBI supported them with medical supplies and laundry- 100 white towels to be shipped to Nadi Hospital, Fiji. A huge shout out to all volunteers on the day who soaked in the sun and marked their last weekend of winter with this noble deed!





## Increasing Humanitarian Services continued

### 'Lifting the Lid' on mental health

On the night of 7 October, RCBI's zoom meeting highlighted the importance of being aware of the stigma surrounding mental health issues and why further research is necessary in this area. RCBI supported the 'Lift the Lid' campaign and donated the Sergeant's fining session to Australian Rotary Health. Did you know that each year approximately 1-in-5 Australians experience a mental illness? In order to help future generations of young Australians, we need to contribute to look ahead through research and find out how we can prevent this type of illness occurring.

### Tropical Cyclone Yasa - Multi-level assistance package

District 9630 award winning international service project was RCBI's largest project for the year. The month of December 2020 put RCBI's motto of 'turning conversations into action' to greater test when Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Yasa battered Fiji's second largest island of Vanua Levu on 17 December 2020. The cyclone trail left sizeable damage to infrastructure and livelihoods of thousands of people leaving 4 casualties. The Island of Vanua Levu in Fiji was a yard of uprooted trees, downed power lines, roofs and structure of homes shattered by one of the deadliest disasters. Thousands were displaced out of their livelihoods and all that was remaining was a hope to build yet again.

Members realised very quickly that intervention was necessary and that too in a timely manner. The board deemed fit that food and clean water supply was a priority. We collaborated with Rotary Club of Labasa and Shop n Save Supermarket in Fiji to hand out 125 grocery packs to the most affected people in Vanua Levu.

The next phase of this project focussed on rebuilding those homes that were structurally safe but had their roofs damaged or blown away to ensure these families can return home. We launched a public appeal to raise AUD\$50K to help as many families as we could.



# Increasing Humanitarian Services continued

## Container to Fiji - TC Yasa assistance continues

The team at RCBI continued with it's effort to TC Yasa and Gift a Roof appeal by organising a shipment container with necessary items to the most affected areas of Labasa, Fiji. Items packed included more than 1,000 sheets of roofing iron and various other building materials. Also packed was more than 400 packs of personal hygiene packs for students which included special personal packs for girls. These would go a long way in assisting those families desperately wanting to return to normal livelihoods. A massive thank you also to the team effort by the Brisbane community to source and load the container - an operation that was planned and executed within a week! RCBI held a night of appreciation hosted by PDG Jitendra and IPP Nirmala at their residence where all volunteers were presented with a certificate of appreciation.

## Monthly Food Drive

Our signature and District 9630 award winning community response event being the monthly food drive, has always received a huge response. We acknowledge that a peaceful and stronger community exists when we bond together with those in need and share a moment with them. There are genuinely sufficient resources in the world to ensure that no one, nowhere, at no time, should go hungry. Since the inception of this community project, we have provided thousands of meals in the community. The merit of this project has enabled us to engage with a number of community partners to keep delivering the same message again and again - stop the hunger now. RCBI is thankful to every single partner in this project. Special thanks to Brothers In Need for collaborating with us every month to effortlessly deliver this project and Mission Possible Volunteers for providing us with wet packs and other winter wear for distribution to our friends on the streets throughout the year.

## Christmas hampers

15 Christmas Hampers were donated to Salvation Army on 9 December 2020 for distribution to the needy in the community. Thank you to our inspirational leader President Soko, thank you RCBI members, thank you RCBI friends and all those who contributed towards turning our conversations into actions.





## Increasing Humanitarian Services continued

### DIK Medical Supplies to PNG

On Saturday 10 April 2021, RCBI members and volunteers spent hours in the heat loading a container full of medical supplies bound for PNG. Massive effort by all present on the day. We are aware that recent COVID-19 outbreaks in PNG has escalated additional demand for medical supplies in hospitals and medical centres. We are confident that this shipment would assist the medical teams with their operations.

### Logan Brekkie Project

RCBI proudly launched it's second on-going community food project - **Logan Brekkie Club** at local state school. This project supports breakfast program *every Wednesday morning* during school terms. We stand proud to be supporting a mission to reduce the number of school students disadvantaged by hunger and poor nutrition. The program ensures students are provided with the best opportunity to make the most of their education and develop healthy eating habits



## Our Projects have gained recognition at District 9630 Changeover - 2021-2022



## Enhance Public Image & Communication

### Launch of RCBI website - <https://rotarycbi.org.au/>

RCBI's has it's very own website! This initiative is designed to be information hub for members, friends and community partners. The current economic situation caused by COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be technologically equipped to conquer any challenge thrown at us.

### Monthly Newsletters called 'TALANOA'

Beginning of each month RCBI releases it's very own monthly newsletter called 'Talanoa'. This electronic device compatible newsletter is very easy to read on any platform and gives an insight into RCBI's monthly activities. This initiative connects with members and wider community and most importantly showcases the good that we do collectively.

### Social Media Platforms

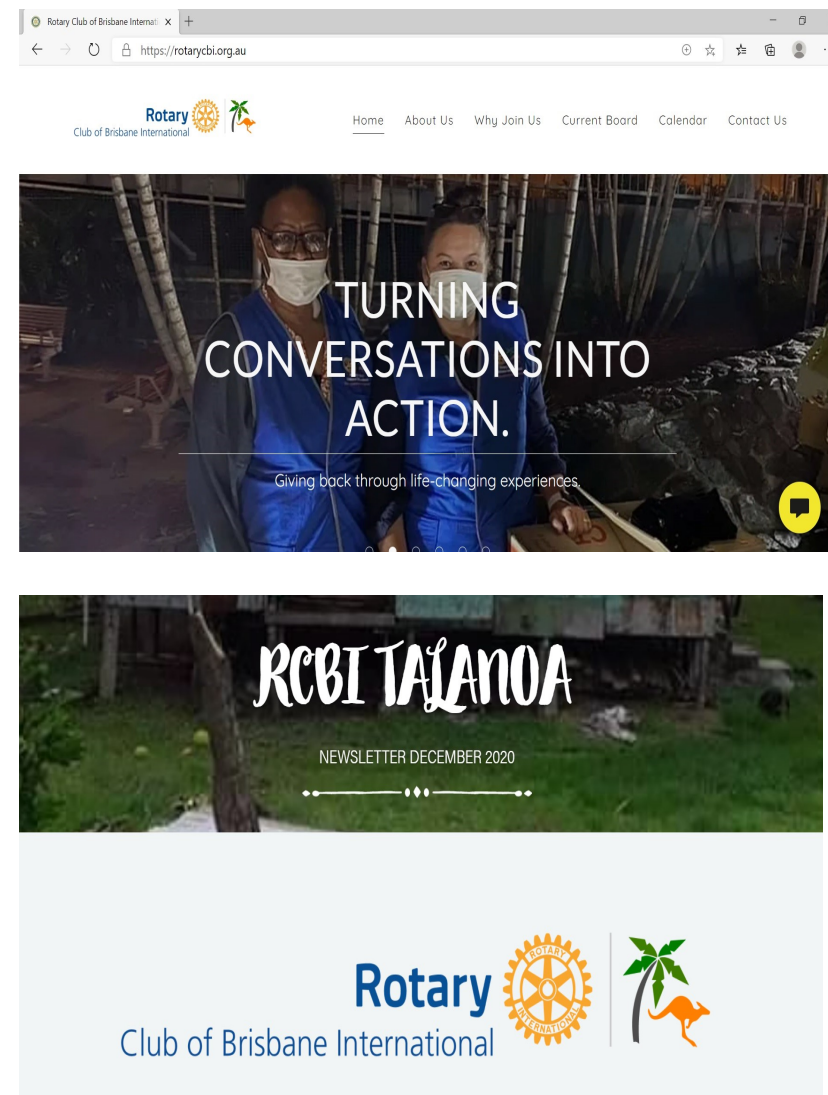
Our Facebook page is always on fire - over 1000 followers already! Check out all the latest updates as it happens or pretty soon after. Twitter and Instagram accounts are updated progressively too.

### Print Media & Partners

Articles and promotional materials about RCBI club events have been printed in the Brisbane Indian Times each month. Other businesses have promoted our club events through their web-sites and social media pages.

### "Tooting our Rotary Horn"

Club banners are used at club meetings and events. A Rotary stall was present at the RCBI community events as well as District 9630 R100 celebrations. Club vests were worn at club events. Rotary merchandise actively promoted during the year (high viz vests, tee-shirts and jackets).





# Rotary Information and Foundation

## Zoom Meeting with Rotary International President-Elect, Shekhar Mehta

On the night of 22 July 2020, RCBI hosted a zoom meeting with Rotary International President-Elect Mr. Shekhar Mehta. The inspiring evening attracted Rotarians from many different parts of the world to hear Mr. Mehta share his own experiences whilst challenging us to open opportunities in our continued endeavours to serve above self. Hear an inspiring part of Mr. Mehta's speech on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/turningconversationintoactions>

Mehta acknowledged that current membership trends are a challenge and emphasized that membership development should be Rotary's highest priority. He believes that focusing on regional plans, successfully transitioning Rotaractors into Rotary clubs, and increasing diversity and female members could yield a 5 percent net growth in membership each year. A powerful statement delivered by Mr Mehta read: ***"Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on the Earth."***

## Friend of ROMAC

RCBI is now a friend of ROMAC by pledging \$100. We look forward to support ROMAC's humanitarian work in making a difference in lives of underprivileged children.

RCBI members were proud to travel to Roma on 19 June 2021 and be part of ROMAC. We all have heard of ROMAC's impact in Pacific Island nations, even better our ROMAC ambassador Asinate was present to speak about her life-changing medical treatment provided by ROMAC.

## The Rotary Foundation

Similar to previous years we have donated USD1,000 towards the Foundation in 2020-2021.



# Fun and Fellowship

## RCBI Picnic and Fun Day

On the beautiful Sunday morning of 27 September, team RCBI together with few Friends of Rotary gathered at Cascade Gardens in Broadbeach for picnic fun and team building. It was truly a heart warming day around lovely people all in sync to one rhythm - lift each others soul and pass on positive vibes. This fun and team bonding day involved a hearty BBQ and drinks for everyone, display of some amazing skills on the ground and of course loads of talanoa and laughter!



## Curry Night—Fortitude Valley

Team RCBI had a fantastic face to face meeting on the night of 4 November 2020 in Fortitude Valley. We were very fortunate to have District 9630 Foundation Director, Mr Nick Curry speak to the attendees during this most significant month of Rotary Foundation.



## Annual General Meeting Fellowship

RCBI had it's 4th Annual General Meeting (2020) on a beautiful Sunday afternoon hosted by Charter President, Jitendra Prasad and IPP Nirmala Prasad.

## Rotary turned 116th - Dinner and Drinks

RCBI celebrated this special day on 23 February 2021 over a sumptuous dinner and drinks to reflect on our history and the many ways that Rotary Opens Opportunities.





## Youth and Vocational Services

### Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS)

The Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS) is designed for young people aged 16-18 years of age to develop their leadership, interpersonal and practical life skills. RCBI sponsored Inoke Niko attended this camp from 6 to 12 December 2020 hearing inspiring guest speakers and participating in activities that challenged him on many different levels. Inoke returned after learning valuable leadership and life skills together with friendships that will be cherished for a very long time.

### Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

RCBI sponsored Rachel Fraser to attend RYLA camp to develop skills as a leader while having fun and making connections. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions this camp has been postponed and is due to take place later in the year.

### Rotaract Club of Brisbane International - Awareness Night

In May 2021 RCBI co-hosted Rotaract awareness night. RCBI and rCBI (youth wing) have worked hand in hand to deliver multiple projects and fundraising activities. We were thrilled to welcome potential Rotaractors who showed keen interest in the functioning of a youth club. D9630 AG, Donelle donated a book to RCBI celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia & Island neighbours. It was certainly a productive meeting as action plans were jointly put together going forward for Rotaract Club of Brisbane International and face to face networking that followed.

### Vocational Visit

RCBI was humbled to be invited for a vocational visit by one of past project recipients - The Centre Education Programme in Kingston. The visit was held on Friday, 21 April and attended by few members who witnessed some amazing work done by youths as part of their learning. The Centre staff provided a tour of their learning spaces and expressed their sincere gratitude towards our air-con project. We understand learning environments need to be comfortable in all seasons and this certainly achieves better learning outcomes. The visit concluded with a sumptuous lunch with students, a Friday routine for the school.



# Governance & Accountability and Administration

## 3 Year Strategic Plan

Our three-year strategic plan was discussed with members and signed off by the President and President Elect in November 2020 (see page 4).

## Governance Policies

RCBI board has adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy, Membership Assessment Policy and Project Governance Plan a few years ago. These policies will be discussed with members and revisited during our meetings in 2021-22.

## Annual Budget

2020-2021 annual budget was approved by the Board on 7th of October.

## Member, Rotary International and District Dues

All membership dues have been paid.

## AGM / Financial statements / Audit and Fair Trading Annual return

An honorary auditor has been appointed. The audited financial report was tabled at the AGM on 22 November 2020. The annual return for the year ended 30 June 2020 has been lodged with Department of Fair Trading.

## RCBI Club Assembly

RCBI held it's club assembly for 2021 year on 17 March 2021. We were fortunate to have a face to face meeting during COVID times which effectively created a meaningful input and discussions on our club's areas of concern.

## My Rotary and Blue Card and Charter Club

The club achieved 100% registration of all members on My Rotary. Blue Card register is up to date.





# Fundraising


## Father's Day Grazing Platter—5 September 2020

The fundraising committee worked hard behind the scenes to make this fundraiser a huge success. With changing restrictions around COVID, the team deviated from traditional fundraising mechanisms and dived into a pool of ideas to keep this in motion. On Saturday 5 September 2020 RCBI fulfilled 45 grazing platter orders and needless to say this fundraiser received enormous support from the community. The recipients appreciated professionally crafted platter box and most importantly supported our club to keep the Rotary wheels in motion during uncertain times. Huge shout out to all the members and volunteers involved in this fundraiser as together we can face any challenge as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky.

## TC Yasa—Gift a Roof Appeal

Gift a roof appeal is RCBI's largest appeal in terms of funds raised. A public appeal was launched to raise AUD\$50K to help as many families by putting roofs on their structurally stable homes post TC Yasa devastation. Our contacts on the ground in Fiji advised that the cost per home roof repair is about FJD1,000. RCBI exceeded this expectation and collected in excess of \$50K in cash donations and \$25K in kind (including roofing materials, etc shipped to Fiji). We are forever thankful to the families and friends who contributed towards making a difference to those who need it the most. The club sent \$A10,000 in 5 batches to Rotary Club of Labasa as phase 2 of the relief efforts.





LET'S HELP SOMEONE GO BACK TO LIVING IN THEIR HOMES...


# GIFT A ROOF



COST TO REPAIR AND RESTORE A ROOF DAMAGED BY CYCLONE YASA IN FIJI IS APPROXIMATELY FJD\$1000

SPONSOR A FAMILY HOME REPAIR  
OR CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A HOME REPAIR.  
EVERY DOLLAR DONATED GOES TOWARDS THIS PROJECT

DONATIONS  
RCBI  
BSB 084009  
ACC 108329035



Rotary  
Club of Brisbane International

Please provide your details to [rcbrisisaneinternational@gmail.com](mailto:rcbrisisaneinternational@gmail.com)  
for an official receipt

## District Activities

### Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Training

On Sunday 9 August 2020 members of RCBI and Browns Plains enriched their knowledge on creating sustainable clubs with different strategic approaches, building team resilience and building a stronger network.

### DG Visit to our club

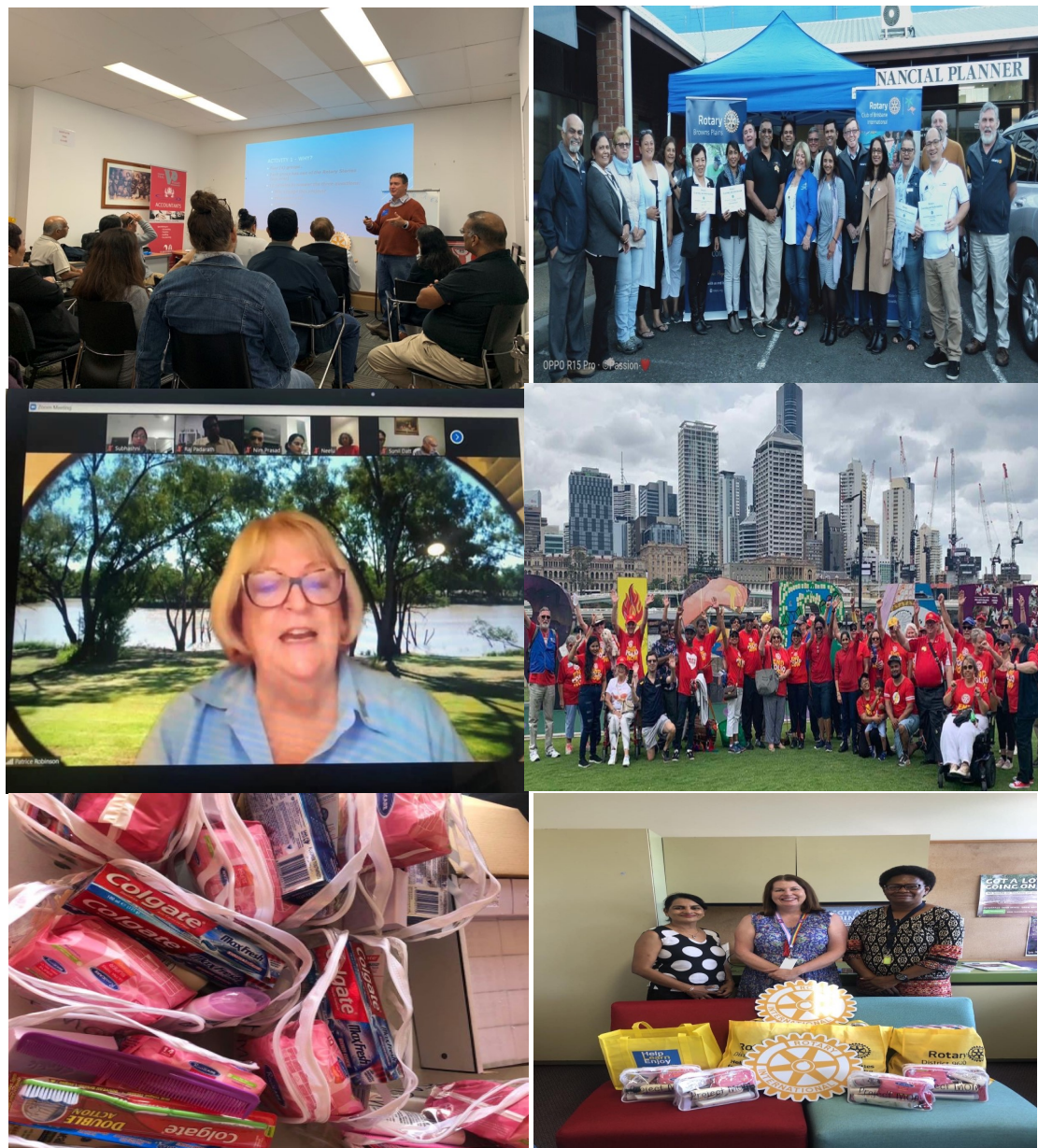
One of the most significant events of any club is the official club visit by the District Governor. This visit enables the DG to listen to the Rotarians of the district to gain a better understanding of the workings of the club. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions in Queensland, the club utilised technology to seize this opportunity and take the most out of it. DG Patrice Robinson totally inspired the members and attendees on the night of 2 September 2020 with statistics of voluntary hours put in collectively by Rotarians around the world

### World Polio Day—Awareness

RCBI embraced the cause and heartily supports Rotary's effort in making the world Polio free. The team led the march for Polio in Brisbane CBD wearing red, playing the music and sending strong message out that 'we won't stop until we end the disease for good'.

### Project MOM

Project MOM continues to make a difference. 400 packs of personal care and hygiene products were one of the many things loaded on the shipping container bound for Labasa, Fiji and another 40 hygiene packs were handed to Glenala State High School (GSHS). We are confident this will certainly be put to good use.





## District Activities continued

### Charter of Rotary Club of Browns Plains

It was our immense pleasure to be part of the charter evening of Rotary Club of Browns Plains on 29 January. RCBI stands proud to be the mentor and sponsor club for this club during their initial days. The club's goals include growing its members and building an Inclusive club, as well as establishing a Rotaract Club for young professionals. We wish the board of the club and all its members a rewarding journey of serving above self.

### District 9630 Conference in Toowoomba

District 9630 conference for 2021 was held from 5 to 7 March 2021 in the beautiful city of Toowoomba. Seven Rotarians from RCBI represented our club at one of the district's most awaited event. The conference looked back on achievements and looked forward to the new era of Rotary as it transitions to District 9620 in July 2021. The weekend was indeed a fun-filled affair enriched with deeper and inspired learning from distinguished speakers and of course the hospitality from Toowoomba hosts were second to none. RCBI stood tall and proud when District Governor Elect, Wendy P announced her District 9620 team. Congratulations to RCBI's first female President, Nirmala Prasad to be selected as Assistant Governor and our Charter President and Past District Governor, Jitendra Prasad deemed fit to handle Director of Membership portfolio for the new District. A truly special moment and clear display of Rotary opening opportunities! We further acknowledge the commitment of five Rotarians who ventured into District 9600 conference in Kingaroy from 26 to 28 March 2021.

### District 9630 Bowel Cancer Awareness

RCBI proudly supported District 9630's Bowel Cancer Awareness by pledging \$200 towards this campaign. We acknowledge that bowel cancer can be treated well if detected early and any campaign to raise this awareness highly compliments Australian Government's screening and testing initiatives.



# Rotary tuned 100 years Down Under!

## R100 Celebrations & Australia Day

On 26 January 2021, RCBI celebrated Australia Day and R100 in a very traditional manner yet fun and engaging. We had golden opportunity to acknowledge, and pay respect, to the Traditional Owners and ongoing custodians of the land and also to celebrate diversity of this great land.

## District R100 Celebrations

RCBI members spent the day on 17 April 2021 at McCaskie Park joined other clubs to celebrate a memorable event in Rotary's history in Australia. It was a day full of gratitude, diversity and most importantly like-minded people came together to celebrate their passion. The event was organized by Districts 9600 and 9630 combined, one of the last few events before the Districts merged in July 2021.

## Relay Baton

RCBI was fortunate to hold a face to face meeting on the night of 21 October 2020. We were privileged to receive a visit from AG Donelle with R100 Relay Baton that marks the 100 years Rotary in Australia and NZ, a baton of service being passed forward. Special thanks to our guest speaker Nikhil for giving us an insight as to how our economy is doing in this unprecedented times. The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.





## Guest speakers

### **Rotary International President-Elect 2021-2022 Shekhar Mehta**

Shekhar Mehta of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2021-22.

### **Ps Ada Boland—Aboriginal Community Representative**

### **District 9630 DG Patrice Robinson**

### **District 9630 AG Donelle**

### **District 9630 PDG Jitendra Prasad**

### **District 9630 PDG Chris Wright**

### **RCBI Club Secretary Sunil Datt**

### **ROMAC Ambassador - Asinate**

### **Members of Rotary Club of Kampala Ssesse Islands, Uganda**

### **District 9630 Foundation Director, Mr Nick Curry**

### **Nikhil—Lawyer**

### **Krishneel Maharaj—Registered Psychologist**

### **RYTS Participant, Inoke Niko - Year 11 Student**



### **RCBI Board: 2020– 2021**

President: Sokoveti Niko

President Elect & Club Admin: Subhashni Singh

Vice President & Youth Protection: Nirmala Prasad

Charter President/ Club Mentor: Jitendra Prasad

Club Secretary: Sunil Datt

Club Treasurer: Premela Jones

International: Raj Padarath

Rotary Foundation: Sabi Koregal

Community Service: Jitendra Deo

Membership: Naresh Kumar

Effective Services: Neelam Naidu

Club Sargent:: Arun Raniga

Public Relation & Marketing: Nav P & Vishal Kumar

### **RCBI Board: 2021 2022**

President: Subhashni Singh

President Elect/ Club Admin: Arun Raniga

Vice President & Youth Protection: Sokoveti Niko

Charter President/ Club Mentor: Jitendra Prasad

Club Secretary: Anisha Ranchhod

Club Treasurer: Premela Jones

International: Raj Padarath

Rotary Foundation: Sabi Koregal

Community Service: Jitendra Deo

Membership: Naresh Kumar

Effective Services: Neelam Naidu

Club Sargent:: Umesh Prasad

Public Relations & Marketing: Vishal Kumar



## 2020– 2021 Membership Register

Abdul Azam - Business Owner

Madhuri Azam - Business Owner

Sunil Datt - Design Officer

Chandra Datt - Registered Nurse

Jitendra Deo - Electrician

Naresh Kumar -Accountant

Neelam Naidu – Teacher

Rajnish Padarath – Accountant

Surekha Padarath - Business Owner

Umeshwar Prasad – Manager

Sarwesh Prakash – Accountant

Shalend Prakash – Accountant

Nirmala Prasad – Teacher

Dr Sandhir Prasad – Cardiologist

Jitendra Prasad - Business Owner

Aakesh Raniga - Sales Assistant

Arun Raniga – Lawyer

Avinandra Sharma - Structural Technician

Subhashni Singh - Financial Controller

Sokoveti Niko – Teacher

Sandeshni Kisun – Consultant

Vishal Kumar – Accountant

Ajnesh Achal - Engineer

Premela Jones– Accountant

Jeffery Jones– Retired

Sabi Koregal– Business Owner

Anisha Ranchhod—Real Estate Management

Eve Fraser— Trainer & Assessor (Oz Swim)

## MEET PRESIDENT ELECT

# SUBHASHNI SINGH

On Mother's Day, I was born in the small town of Labasa, Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands. I grew up as the middle child with an older and younger brother.

I loved being with my dad, Sadhu Prasad, who used to take me with him everywhere including Jaycees and soccer events, where I used to be the flower girl and I loved being the centre of attention.

## EARLY AGE



## SCHOOL

I initially wanted to become a dentist, but I could not stand the sight of blood.

My mum's dream was for me to become an accountant and this encouraged me to take on accounting as a subject in year 10.

In year 12, I graduated from Labasa College as the dux of accounting cementing my passion and career in accounting.

I received a scholarship to study at the University of South Pacific in my foundation year and I lived at the Nasinu Girls College hostel.



I then took an opportunity to study at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand.

I graduated from the University of Waikato with honours, started a graduate position at Coopers & Lybrand (now PWC) and attained my Chartered Accountant status along the way.

## UNIVERSITY



## TRAVEL AND WORK

I pursued activities like the 'Art of Living' and eventually, I received an amazing opportunity to join GSK, the second largest pharmaceutical company in the world.

A key highlight of my career was working for GlaxoSmithKline, which provided me with incredible international travel opportunities, such as travelling to Cape Town and New York and working at GSK House in Philadelphia in US.

I migrated to Brisbane in 2009 with my son to reconnect with my family after facing unexpected challenges in life.

Relocation had cost a lot, emotionally and financially, but we knew we had to take the step.

My family were indispensable and assisted in every way possible to help Akaash and I settle in Brisbane. Akaash has a rocky start to Year 12 and I was busy learning a new job in a new country. Thankfully, Akaash pulled an OP1 and I excelled in my job. I now work as a Financial Controller.

## MIGRATION

## TODAY

What now? I have travelled (and hope to do more) and I am a social butterfly, but I relax with Bollywood movies after a hard week's work.

Today, I am a proud Rotarian entering into a world of leadership as the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Brisbane International. Thank you, Rotary, for providing me with this opportunity.

I am loving Rotary as an outlet and a great organisation that provides me with a platform for professional networking; provide Service above Self; self-development opportunities; international awareness; friendship and entertainment.

Within my friends, I am famous for my love of ice cream, going out, listening to music with a few glasses of bubbles and watching movies. I also love participating in religious activities all year around and visiting temples.

## WHAT I LOVE

### My favourite quote right now:

*"The biggest gift we are given is the power to touch a life. To change, to make a difference in the circle of life. If we can reach out with our hand, heart, and soul, the magic will start to happen as the wheel begins to roll. Let's turn the wheel together so all humanity thrives, we have the power and the magic To Serve to Change Lives."*

- Shekhar Mehta, Rotary International President Elect