

# Rotary Connects.....the World

Rotary Club of Parramatta City

April 2nd, 2020  
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You may not have noticed that Renga from our neighbouring club of Granville has been selected to be the District Governor for our district in 2022-23, I have passed on our congratulations to him.

At our next week's meeting we will be inducting our first member online, Joy Nel will be joining us as a Corporate member representing The Smith Family as well Wauranee Nuij who will be recognised as Joy's Alternate Member. This will occur before our Guest Speaker Silvana Martignago comes online at 1,00 pm

If you are at home and want to do some personal development, log onto the Rotary.org website and under the learning and research tab there are a number of topics to do as an online course (most are between 15-30 minutes), these will assist you with your personal/business situation as well there are Rotary learning benefits. Let me know how you go as there are certificates gained after each course.

Bob Rosengreen has forwarded this you tube carton clip on Covid-19 to watch <https://youtu.be/BtN-goy9VOY>

Currently there are community grants being made available through council, if anyone has some ideas and suggestions please come forward and the Board can consider them.

Currently on our Facebook page I am asking for favourite cooking/baking recipes that you may be doing to keep your families feed or entertained. Lets see if we can collate a Pandemic Cookbook

I hope to see you next Monday's meeting and if you missed any of our previous speakers they are on the Clubs youtube channel, search under the club's name or [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIv8\\_YX8Tu9KosEkob6MyVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIv8_YX8Tu9KosEkob6MyVA)

As well I encourage to use our facebook page, like it and subscribe to our youtube channel as well

President Barry Antees



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Notes from meeting

# MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

This was the club's second e-meeting, with the participation of our DG, Dianne North, and our ADG, Chris Bennecke. Our speaker this time was Michael Greenslade, Chief Executive Officer of ShelterBox Australia, which is a partner of Rotary International. The meeting appeared to go very well, though PDG Barry Antees, who convened the meeting, assured members that once the corona virus crisis is over, we will meet again physically and once more embrace.

## **Michael Greenslade**

Barry introduced Michael, whom he has known since 2011 when Michael first was working with ShelterBox Australia as a volunteer.

Originally from Cornwall in the UK, Michael has been involved with ShelterBox since 2006 and has deployed 22 times as Response Team member and leader. Since his first deployment to PNG he has attended major disasters like the Haiti earthquake and the Mentawai Tsunami, along with less-known disasters in Italy and Bolivia; and humanitarian emergencies in Somaliland, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and the Lebanon. He is one of ShelterBox's most experienced SRT members.



Mike's most recent deployment was to Bangladesh in 2017, in response to severe flooding in the north of the country. There he witnessed the new direction that the charity is taking, working as part of the international Cluster system, tailoring aid to suit the needs of the beneficiary and working closely with Rotary and other organisations, like the Red Crescent.

A professional photographer by trade, in late 2019 Mike released a book of images shot on deployment with ShelterBox. The lavishly illustrated 200-page coffee table book, *2020 Vision – Eyes wide open in the disaster zone*, and seeks to demonstrate the resilience and determination of those affected by disaster and those that assist in their recovery. All proceeds from the sale of the book and prints from the accompanying exhibition will go to ShelterBox. Mike lives in Rous Mill in the Northern Rivers area of NSW with wife and two children and is currently president of Alstonville Rotary Club

# MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

Michael said ShelterBox had started in 2000, and since then had distributed 1.5 million ShelterBox kits in 97 countries. Initially there was a standard kit, comprising items considered essential for those who had been left stranded by disaster. The items included a tent, groundsheets, blankets, kitchenware and tools. It was a “one-stop shop” and had been successful for years but then it was realised that the needs of stranded people varied. They might be in desperate need for some things but not others. Over time the kits had been tailored, based on advice from representatives in the field who were talking to disaster victims. Now it was possible to make an assessment and put in additional items such as solar lights. But other things like blankets and mosquito nets were widely needed.

Michael had become involved in ShelterBox in 2006 when some of his friend had become volunteers in the wake of calamities such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis. Initially volunteers had had minimal training. He himself had had a day’s training before he was dispatched to Papua New Guinea. But that had been tightened up. Now a volunteer needed a year’s training. Michael, using his photographic skills to serve publicity needs, had been to a number of disaster areas, such as the Philippines in the aftermath of a cyclone in the Philippines and an earthquake in Indonesia. In Bolivia, the teams had been working with local Rotary clubs and with the military. The great virtue of the ShelterBox response was speed. In Bolivia they distributed 400 kits in two weeks, bringing help and relief which might otherwise have taken months if done through official channels. They were given use of a soccer field, normally a sacred place, to house a tent city.

Sometimes the whole community had joined in the response. In Bangladesh the team had been working with two Rotary clubs. In Sumatra they had the use of a US Navy ship which had been redeployed to render assistance and they had been able to use military aircraft to do reconnaissance. They had used a Chinook helicopter to deliver kits in Madang, where locals had cleared a patch of cinnamon plantation for their landing. In Sumatra, the team had hired a surfboat to deliver kits to the islands. They were helped by another charity, Surf Aid. There was always cooperation from the locals, who were far from being hopeless and helpless. “I am always amazed at the resilience of the communities we go to help,” he said. But the team had to work hard, putting in 14 to 16 hours a day seven days a week on one occasion before being relieved.

It was not all plan sailing when dealing with foreign governments. In Nepal, a team going in after an earthquake had to confront all sorts of government restrictions on what they might do. The government objected to ShelterBox providing tools which could be bought locally. The team did however bring in “thousands and thousands of tents”, and when the team went back a year later to see how things were going, they found people were still living in tents because government aid had been slow to get through. In the Philippines, the government had said that local people should be involved in the ShelterBox operation. As a result, ShelterBox Philippines had been established, and there were great advantages in working with people who were really well-connected with the government. In Sri Lanka, there had been difficulty in getting goods into the country and but a Rotary DG had been contacted and the problem was fixed overnight.

In Lebanon, where there was a population of four million and a million refugees. The team had been working with Rotract and had good contacts in Syria. ShelterBox had had a great achievement of helping 50,000 refugee families. ShelterBox had a great reputation and was able to get into disaster areas and go things where the United Nations relief agency, though it did “fantastic work” moved more slowly and often encountered resistance from governments which thought the UN was trying to take over the country.

# MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

## Poignant Pictures



## Virtual club meetings

Each week we will have an interesting speaker

Monday 6th April 2020 at 1.00pm

We have Silvana Martignago the CEO of Probus South Pacific more details to follow

We now have a permanent GOTO details which I will repeat but for those who want to make this a permanent in your calendars

RC Parramatta City Monday Lunch Meetings

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Coming up we have Lord Mayor of Parramatta Council Bob Dwyer

ABC Radio Journalist

Federal member

## ROTARY

### WE CONNECT PEOPLE

Rotary unites more than a million people

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

### WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

We take action locally and globally

Each day, our members pour their passion, integrity, and intelligence into completing projects that have a lasting impact. We persevere until we deliver real, lasting solutions.

## Giving to Our Causes



Promoting Peace



Fighting Disease



Providing Clean Water



Saving Mothers and Children



Supporting Education



Growing Local Economies



**Rotary**  
Club of Parramatta City

