



# Rotary Crossroads

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*Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future*

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AUGUST DESIGNATION IS

Photo by Monika Lozinska © Rotary International. Design layout by Gilbert Thien Rotary Club of Miri.



## MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

*"The things that are worthwhile take time, and it is not the I's of the world but the We's who achieve them."*  
Past RI President H.J. Brunnier 1952-53



**TAKE ACTION:** Join Rotary, Get Involved

### 1 IN FOCUS

These "RI Months" –  
are they necessary?  
By HM PP Raymon  
Huang

### 7 LAST WEEK

Report on Wed 29  
August 2018 Meeting

### 10 MARK YOUR DIARY

What's ahead? Don't miss  
the forthcoming events and  
Birthday / Anniversary  
celebrants and more...



# These “RI Months” – are they necessary?

**By: Honorary Member (HM) Past President (PP) Raymon Huang**  
(Penned at the bedside, Tan Tock Seng Hospital)



HM PP Raymon Huang

For a few thriving clubs - No maybe. For a lot of “struggling” clubs – Yes, absolutely. Whichever, whatever - it is good to have these “months” for reminders.

The month of August has been designated as “Membership and New Club Development Month”, when emphasis is given to the need for development and expansion. But this work is not to be confined to August - it is an ongoing, yearlong affair. As many a captain of the Rotary Club knows, or any club for that matter, the “life and drive” of the club depend on its membership.

And, as we know too, in Rotary how successful a club is depends largely on four interdependent factors:

1. Membership growth;
2. Membership retention;
3. Membership participation; and
4. Club extension.

Indeed, that was how Rotary grew to what it is today - from that little club (“businessman’s club”) in Chicago, to a worldwide mankind-serving organisation of about 1.2 million members. The romance of Rotary membership has enticed people great and small, the ordinary and the stately, the young still at school. All are attracted to provide “service above self”. Of course, while these general statements may be true, Rotary membership is by invitation. We know this. So it is the expected duty for incumbent members to do their part.

In our Club, membership growth has been satisfactory. Surely, if slowly, Rotary Club of Singapore (RCS) has grown, after some difficult years earlier. So RCS, being the biggest club in the District, is expected to provide “THE INSPIRATION” to many of the smaller clubs. The importance of membership growth cannot be overstated. Membership strength is certainly “the lifeblood” of any organisation. It is “the engine”.

Beyond recruitment, however, the issue of “retention” looms large. There is this often occurring problem of a highly regarded new member being brought into Rotary, and then leaving soon after. That would be so much good effort “going to waste”. And the grind would have to start all over again. Of course, there are good reasons why some newly inducted members leave - “not what I had expected”, “bored”, etc. etc. Of course too, we know this is a two-way street. But, whatever, it is up to the club leaders to be vigilant. Because as a necessary follow-up to the earlier successful membership recruitment, retention is just as important. While we have recruited so many excellent members, we have also lost many good ones.



# In Focus

At the risk of being repetitive and mundane, I must touch on the next important follow-through – membership participation. Motivating the participation of the general membership in club activities – “the more the merrier – and the better”. A largely dormant and inactive membership is not what we want in a vibrant organisation. A common saying and belief, and a reality, is that “only 20-30%” of the membership of any organisation work; the rest are “passengers”. Even attending the weekly Luncheon Meetings is in many ways regarded “active”. Yet President Mark has expressed open concern over this recently when he said something to this effect... “that visitors outnumbered members” at recent Luncheon Meetings. Things certainly need looking up.



In the various Service Committees, however, things appear to be the direct opposite. Participation is heartening. It is a living and breathing example of what we want to see. The membership involvement in the many programmes and projects we run can be described as “phenomenal”. But we cannot rest on our laurels. The momentum must be maintained and, with a little more effort, improve this vibrant momentum that started not too long ago.

In Rotary, apart from our humanitarian mission, another main object is “growth” – growth in the members; growth in members remaining after recruitment; growth in membership participation in programmes; and growth in the number of clubs worldwide - in short, new clubs being formed. Club extension is very important and necessary. In many national Voluntary Welfare Organisations, we have witnessed many clubs wither, fade, and die – thus weakening their effect to achieve their goals. Rotary is no exception. If we allow a decline to take place, the overall effort and effect of RI’s lofty goals will be diminished. In VWOs, size is important. It provides the muscle, the numbers and push.

So the four-steps in Membership Development and Club Extension outlined above are closely related steps and for success and achievement of the goals set, the four-step process must be done.

Rotary’s record of serving mankind, making a difference to the community, and in general doing good in the world, has so far been second to none. We have been admired, lauded, and awarded in so many ways.

Let us keep it that way – and more! Rotary International’s monthly reminders and emphases help us to keep up the momentum needed. As we know, we tend to be lulled into complacency when things are hunky dory. So, despite its repetitive nature, let us continue to implement each RI “month” actively. They are useful and necessary. At the risk of being repetitive and mundane again – this August month is “Membership and New Club Development Month”.



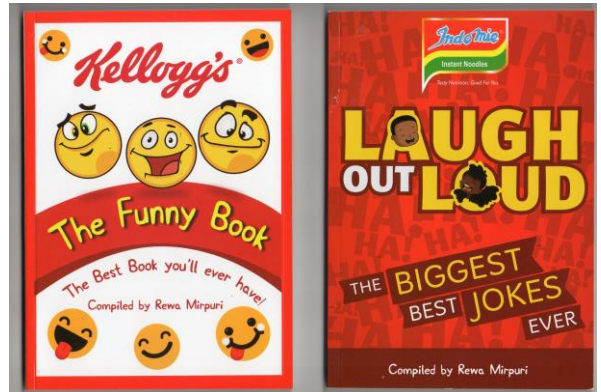


## ENCORE – Another Feather in the Cap for Book of Humour !

Two organisations, Kellogg's and Indomie, have ordered **2,000** cps each.

Kellogg's have placed an order of the title "**Best of Humour**" running its 11th Reprint and Indomie have placed a **repeat** order of the title "**Bank of Humour**" running its 5th Reprint.

We thank our Honorary Member Rtn Mohan Vaswani for procuring these big orders.



We appeal to members to kindly consider placing some orders for their corporations for their "corporate gift" and bring lots of laughter for their customers and at the same time help our humanitarian projects under ISC under the flag of Rotary club of Singapore. [Any small order of 50 cps or more will carry a special low rate.](#)

For more information on these books of humour, please contact our BOH Marketing Chairman Vice President Rtn Raj Kumar Perumal Suppiah at Tel: 9696 7624. Thank you.



### Book of Humour Promotion

On 8 September 2018, thanks to Rtn Joseph Chia, RSVP Singapore (The Organisation Of Senior Volunteers) has granted us a booth space to showcase and promote the sales of our own BOOK OF HUMOUR (BOH) during the National Senior Volunteer Month Fiesta.

Please see below for details :

**Date : 8th September 2018**

**Time : 12noon -4pm**


**Venue : Bishan CC (51 Bishan Street 13 Singapore 579799)**

We invite all members to support the sale of the BOOK OF HUMOUR during this event. For more information, do not hesitate to contact Marketing Chairman of BOH , VP Raj Kumar.






# Photo Album of Club Events from 18-26.8.18




## VISION FOR ALL



**Upcoming Free Community Eye Screening**

 **Saturday, 18 August 2018**

 **9 am - 1 pm**  
Volunteers to report at 8.30 am

 **APSN Centre for Adults**  
11 Jalan Ubi, Block 4, #01-31, S(409074)  
Kembangan-Chai Chee Community Hub

This event is organised by the Rotary Club of Singapore Community Service Committee, in collaboration with the Inner Wheel Club of Singapore and Association of Persons with Special Needs (APSN).





*Another successful Vision For All Project conducted by the Community Service Committee*



*Fellowship Event #1 – Durian Fest at East Coast Park on 19.8.18*



*Fellowship Event #2 – Dinner at Kumar's... both events were opened to fellow Rotarians from other Rotary Clubs*

4 | Crossroads





## Photo Album of Club Events from 18-26.8.18 ...*cont'd*



*From right: YSC Director Dr Hoh Sek Tien & Rtn James Lee addressing the Interactors and Rotaractors*



*Group photo of the combined installation of the Rotaract Club of Temasek & Bukit Gombak Eagles Interact Club*





## Photo Album of Club Events from 18-26.8.18 ...cont'd



*Members at Sister Club Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur DiRaja's 91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebrations on 25.8.18*



*The Sister Club Signing Ceremony with RC Kuala Lumpur DiRaja*



*On 26.8.18 the Club's delegation comprising of 9 members, 4 spouses and family members visited the BRDB Rotary Children's Residence and contributed M\$4000 +US\$700 +S\$820 to the Home*



# Last Week

## Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 29 August 2018

### OPENING REMARKS

President Mark started the Meeting with a warm welcome to Guest Speaker Dr Yap Zhu Li and to members including PDG Dr Philbert Chin.

### WELCOME

Duty of welcoming Guests of members and Visiting Rotarians fell to Rtn Dr Hans Schniewind:

#### Guests

Speaker, Dr Yap Zhu Li

Ms Usha Menon

Ms Rebecca Johnson

Mr Jorge Alejandro Marquez Romero

#### Visiting Rotarians

PEs Hans & Helena Dahlin – Goleta Noontime, USA

PE Dr Sapna Modi – Kharghar Midtown, India



*Rtn Hans*

### TOAST

Toastmaster Rtn Dr Irina Francken called on members to join her in a toast to Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime coupled with the toast to Rotary International. The Goleta Noontime club is located in Santa Barbara, California. It has 20 members and was formed 30 years ago. Representing the Goleta Noontime club were PE Hans and his wife Helena Dahlin, who would jointly be Presidents of their club in the next Rotary year. PE Hans Dahlin also spoke of their club's international project in Sri Lanka for pre-school teachers' training. He hoped that the Club would consider supporting this teaching programme in Sri Lanka.



*Rtn Irina*

### PRESENTATION OF CLUBS' BANNERS



*Exchange of banners with PEs Hans & Helena Dahlin from RC Goleta Noontime*



*Exchange of banners with PE Dr Sapna Modi from RC Kharghar Midtown*



*President Mark called upon Rtn Yong Poh Shin (right), member of the Club's delegation to Kuala Lumpur to present the signed sister club agreement and banner from RC Kuala Lumpur DiRaja*



# Last Week

## IN THE PRESS



*President Mark showed some of the Rotary advertisements placed in the press at special rates promoting Rotary.*



*President Mark extended heartiest congratulations to former Interactor Alden Tan (right) from Raffles Institution Interact Club and Chairman of the Interact Coordinating Committee who was awarded the Presidential Scholarship this year.*



*President Mark advised that Mrs Gnana Thevathasan, wife of our late PDG Dr Arthur Thevathasan and mother of our PDG Ivor was also featured in the Straits Times. He added that PP Peter Tan and the Almoner Team would be arranging a get together to visit Mrs Thevathasan soon.*

## ROTARY DISASTER RELIEF

President Mark call upon PP Dr Yap Lip Kee who gave an update on the aid given to the Lombok earthquake victims, particularly the procurement of water filters for clean drinking water; provision of trauma healing and medical help and stoves and cooking equipment. He also highlighted the long term help which would be required.

PP Lip Kee also highlighted the response given by the District and the Club. He added that the District was not closing appeals towards the Lombok Earthquake, but it was starting another appeal towards the Kerala Floods as well. However, he explained that Kerala were unable to receive money from Rotary as yet (No International Remittance Fund Permit). He added that the District was moving to work with the Kerala Clubs to formulate Global Grants to provide clean water to communities.



*PP Lip Kee*





# Last Week

**Speaker:** **Dr Yap Zhu Li, Associate Consultant, Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC), Clinical Lecturer at YLL-School of Medicine, NUS and Adjunct Instructor, Duke-NUS**

**Topic:** ***“The Fred Hollows Foundation – A Cambodian***



*Rtn Sek Tien*

President Mark called upon Youth Service Director Dr Hoh Sek Tien to introduce the Speaker Dr Yap Zhu Li. Dr Yap Zhu Li obtained her Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Medicine from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 2009. She began her residency in Ophthalmology at the SNEC in 2012.



*From left: Ms Rebecca Johnson, President Mark, Ms Usha Menon & Dr Yap Zhu Li*

During her training, she completed her Master of Medicine in

Ophthalmology in 2015 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (UK) in 2017, gaining accreditation as a specialist Ophthalmologist in the same year. During residency, she was awarded the Singhealth Outstanding Resident Award in 2016. She was

also appointed Lead Resident (2015), Lead Registrar (2016) and is currently the Chief Resident. A clinical lecturer at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS, Dr Yap also trains allied health professionals and regularly participates as part of the teaching faculty at SNEC. Passionate about giving back to the community, Dr Yap is very active in humanitarian work, both at home and abroad. These include community health screening and mobile clinics as well as engaging with The Vision Mission, The Fred Hollows Foundation and The Myanmar Eye Care Project.



*From left: President Mark, Dr Yap & Rtn Siew Luen*

Fred Hollows Foundation programmes. (A copy of Dr Yap's presentation is available from the Secretariat.)

Before starting on her presentation, Dr Yap invited Ms Rebecca Johnson to introduce the Fred Hollows Foundation and its programmes. Then, Dr Yap spoke of her experience with the Foundation in Cambodia adding that the country has one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, but due to its tragic past, remains one of the world's poorest countries. She advised that 90% of blindness in Cambodia was avoidable, mainly caused by cataract, however many people either could not the operation or did not know it was available to them. She further added that women were two times as likely as men to suffer cataract blindness, and recounted a few of the patients' stories.

Following Dr Yap's presentation, Ms Usha Menon, a member of the team explained how members could be involved with the

President Mark called upon ISC Director Dr Chan Siew Luen who warmly thanked Dr Yap, daughter of our own PP Dr Yap Lip Kee, for her very informative talk.



# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

**RC sends Birthday greetings to the following celebrants:**

Atul Merchant  
Hon Treasurer Horst Hagemann  
Joseph Chia  
VP Hassan Moosa  
Kapil Hinduja

## This Meeting

### 5 September 2018 EVENING MEETING

**Reception Desk duty:** PE Deepak Nagrani & Alex Lega  
**Sunshine Box:** Dr Suresh Mahtani & Paul Phua  
**Speaker:** Our member, Rtn Peter Koh, Lawyer, Author, Professor & Arbitrator  
**Topic:** The financial collapse of Sino-Forest Corporation in North America

## Next Meeting

### 12 September 2018

**Reception Desk duty:** PP Tapan Rao & M M Patel  
**Sunshine Box:** Bharat Mandloi & Wilson Widjaja  
**Speaker:** Mr Andrew Wee, Communications Director, RWDC Industries  
**Topic:** Biodegradable Plastic

## Anniversary Celebrants

**RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:**

Joseph & Maria Chia  
Mandy & Maria Pascual  
Reinhard & Sabine Klemmer

## International Service Meeting

**International Service Committee Meeting will be held on:**

**Date:** Thursday, 20 September  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Venue:** Moghul Mahal Restaurant, 2 Tessensohn Road, #03-01, S217646  
**Hosts:** Rtn Suresh Keerthi, Rtns Deepu Joseph, Alex Lega & PP Mansoor Hassanbhai

## Joint Community & Vocational Service Meeting

**Joint Community & Vocational Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday, 13 September  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Venue:** Tandoor Restaurant, Maharajah Suite Private Dining Room, Holiday Inn Singapore, Orchard City Centre, 11 Cavenagh Road, S229616

## Coming Rotary Events

### September

#### *Basic Education and Literacy Month*

**1 September** - RC Rizal West's Installation  
**5 September** - Luncheon Meeting cancelled in lieu of the evening meeting at The Tanglin Club  
**12 September** - Fellowship event at 6.30pm at Boater's Bar, One°15 Marina Sentosa Cove #01-01, 11 Cove Drive  
**15 September** - Club HEAL training programme  
**18 September** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Assembly  
**19 September** - DG Henry Tan's Official Visit

### October

#### *Economic and Community Development Month*

**12-14 October** - Help the Children Project in Malang and Batu, Indonesia

### November

#### *Rotary Foundation Month*

**2-4 November** - 30<sup>th</sup> Pan Borneo Meet 2018



BE THE INSPIRATION







## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

**First:** *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

**Second:** *Have I spent quality time with my family?*

**Third:** *Have I given my best to my work?*

**Fourth:** *Have I given some time to someone near and far?*

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018/2019

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Chair, Vocational Service	Ronil Sujan
Chair, International Service	Dr Chan Siew Luen
Chair, New Generations Service	Dr Hoh Sek Tien
Director (Club Rotary Foundation)	Manish Tibrewal

