

**Year:** 2011-12

**RI President:** [Kalyan Banerjee](#) from [Vapi, Gujarat](#), India.



**Theme:** [Reach Within to Embrace Humanity](#) [Reach Within to Embrace Humanity](#)

**Convention** held at [Bangkok](#), Thailand, on May 6-9, with 33,104 delegates.

**District Governor:** Carolyn Krueger, Buderim

**District Conference location:**

**Club President:** Steve Grech, Allen Collishaw

Exchange Student:

Inbound: Maria Victoria de Souza Silva, Brazil      Host parents: Alan and Sandy Stephens,  
(Maria spent the first half of her year with Maroochydore club.)

Outbound:

PHFs awarded: Gordon Allan, Jim Madsen, Brian Haynes, Len Deverall

Police Officer of the Year: Not held this year

Our elected president for the year, Steve Grech, found that he was able to secure better employment. This meant that he would not be able to attend club meetings regularly, so he was obliged to resign in November. Allen Collishaw stepped up at short notice, and led the club for the remainder of the year.

This year saw the club commence an ambitious project to raise \$100,000 over three years to support the Leukaemia Foundation and fit out the reception area at their accommodation building at Boggo Road. This project absorbed much of our fundraising and caused us to find new projects for that purpose. The club did achieve its goal, and the Leukaemia Foundation have been very grateful for our assistance.

Fundraising was conducted regularly at Bunnings. We also operated our food van at several regular events - Pine Rivers Show, Guide Dogs open Day, Christmas in the Park, to name a few.

Vocational visits were conducted to Automotion, a performance car workshop, and Prince Charles Hospital. Here we saw research into artificial hearts, with one prototype operating. It was noteworthy that, because of its pumping action being continuous, there is no pulse registered.

Youth projects remained strong, as always. Our RYLA candidate was Leah Macintosh, a staff member at IGA French's Forest. She had a wonderful personality, and enjoyed her time aboard the tall ship, *South Passage*. Also, as part of the RYLA course, participants were obliged to complete 25 hours of community service. Leah joined us on several Bunnings days, and we enjoyed her company. We sponsored Georgia Cunningham to this year's NYSF program. She returned with glowing reports of the opportunities she had to mix with other science students.

The Interact club at St Paul's School performed strongly, and purchased a number of Shelter Boxes. Their number grew to 60 members during the year. We assisted them with a project to support a school in Vanuatu.

Bursaries were presented to students at the local schools.

Internationally, the club supplied medical equipment to clubs in PNG and the Solomons. We supplied machines that were battery powered, to avoid reliance on mains electricity supply which is quite unreliable in those countries. An example of the desire for the equipment is the report we received from the Goroka Rotary club when some equipment was handed over: *“I have today officially handed the suction machine to the hospital. There was great discussion on which department deserved to get it and it was decided that A & E, (Accident and Emergency), was the most deserving. Dr Kanasa, Dr in charge, came to take it and he was so pleased, because he had a patient there in A & E who needed the machine and he said he would put it into use straight away.”* Lesley Ririka, Goroka PNG

And another: *“Such service is amazing. The children’s ward staff are suitably impressed as well, as it was less than six weeks since they had given me the information. I will try and get some photos. I have asked them to prioritise the other things on their list.”* Maureen Hill, Madang PNG

In addition to these projects, we donated to ROMAC, Donations in Kind, Rosie’s, and the Royal Children’s Hospital in Brisbane. We also contributed to the education fund of one of ROMAC’s clients. K Chin had been brought to Australia from Vietnam and he underwent several operations in Brisbane to correct his legs. He advanced very well, and remained in Australia for schooling. He ultimately became school captain.

Guest speakers during the year included the Chaplain of the Brisbane Lions AFL team, a Peace Scholar from USA attending UQ, and one of our members speaking on the restoration of Brisbane City Hall (built on a swamp).



The reception area at the Leukaemia Foundations Boggo Road facility.



The sign in the Reception area.