


A word from our president
ROGER SO


First of all, may I wish you a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Fulfilling year 2018!

The zodiac sign of 2018 is the Dog. According to the Chinese Horoscope calendar, 2018 is the Male Earth Dog year. Brown is connected to the earth. Therefore, 2018 is also called the year of the Brown Dog



Some feng shui masters predicted that year 2018 will be a good year with many changes. I extracted below some of their predictions for sharing:-

“Work

A defining year for the rest of your career and your business. It will be now or never to accomplish the transformation of your dreams timidly long time but you never had the courage to do. Go ahead, the stars will support you with all their weight. In any case, your professional future holds promise.

Money

And this shall be a year of exceptional opportunity, which will need to take full advantage. The stars financially assure you of their full support. You can count on a perfectly happy development of your business. You will have beautiful silver returned more or less unexpected. You will lead in many significant transactions or negotiations you expect much.”

However, some other feng shui masters said 2018 is a Mountain Dog year. It could block your way out. That implies you might encounter some obstacles before executing your plan. You need to use your wisdom to remove the blockage first, then you will see the wide-open road.

These kinds of forecasting can be a sort of reference but we should not let them override our own judgment. We should be our own master. Remember the saying, “God helps those who help themselves”. If you have planned to embark on a new venture for quite some time, and if the timing is now ripe, just go ahead. If you have already executed a new project and it is going well, just keep going. On the other hand, if you encounter obstacles in your current project, you may need an adjustment in your strategy and/or execution to bypass or get rid of the obstacles.

Back to our club affairs. In the remaining half year we have planned quite a number of meaningful fellowship and service activities, such as the Chaozhou-Shantou trip in mid January, 3rd Theme Night in early February, some joint meetings, Ultramarathon in early March, closing ceremonies for our service projects (Star Reaching Project, Sunshine Teens, 潮看Teen空, Step-Up-Infinity, Project Gen-Y) and our green club activities, etc. No matter you have a bright or gloomy forecast of the Year of the Brown Dog, by participation in our club activities you will gain happiness, friendship and positive energy to give you a fulfilling year 2018. I look forward to your active participation.

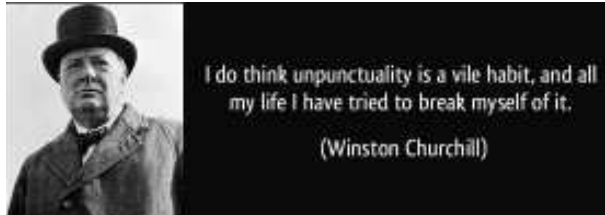


**Year of the Brown Earth Dog 2018 !
A year to remember!**

I know stereotyping is wrong; but sometimes when certain traits permeate a particular group of people, you usually apply the generalization to describe the whole group. We have been doing the *Star Reaching* Project for so many years ... starting way back when PP Man was president and before yours truly even joined RCTP! We used to call the service targets as 'marginal youth', 'delinquents' ... stigma labels which should be discouraged but, in a way, quite conveniently and aptly describe them and you get an immediate impression of what sort of young people our service target were.

Editor Says

Claire Mak



Having had chances to come into contact with youths of the post-90s (secretary candidates, some Rotaractors) to the post-2000 bunch (Interactors included); I think they do share some common trait or behaviour. For instance, the old virtue of punctuality is definitely out of their favour. Whether it is attending an interview or a conference or even a simple meet-up, no matter how many people there are,

there will always be at least 20% of them turning up late. But that is not the real problem. Rather, when these people eventually turn up, they show no sign of embarrassment or unease. They don't tell you beforehand that they shall be late, and they don't apologise or explain themselves when they arrive late. They just look poker face as if being late is just the norm. Very discouraging indeed for 'adults' like me.

Another of their common trait is the incessant use of mobile phone whenever andz wherever. Despite repeated requests, there will inevitably be a few who refuse/neglect to turn off their mobile phones so that there is the sound of ring tone one here and ring tone two there. And every three minutes or so, a young person will bend his/her head to swipe the screen. It is as though the world within the phone is the real world; whereas what happens in the reality becomes negligible or even an unwelcomed intrusion. What happens in the phone seems to demand immediate response while what happens in reality does not.



Most of such youngsters will be completely oblivious of people around them. For example, having entered an elevator, they simply continue swiping their mobile phones - not bothering to even press the button for the floor they wish to go to. You can't expect them to show the small gesture of courtesy such as holding the elevator door. And, again, they wear the same poker face and will not greet anyone in the elevator whether they know the person or not. If there is a chance for eye contact, more often than not they will look fierce. Hong Kong has become a pretty unfriendly city.

The sad thing is, the present day youths see nothing wrong with being late or indulging in playing with mobile phones. They perceive these as common place, daily happenings; and that we are but stubborn asshole! Well, they have their own universe... and the future belongs, unfortunately, to them. I think this calls for **Making a Difference!**

Cons of Cell Phone

- Distracting to class; hard to concentrate
- Students use it for texting or entertaining
- Some students use cell phone to cheat
- Taking funny photos of other people
- A tool of bullying
- Texting can harm their grammar skills
- Disrespect the teachers

Coming back to our service targets: the young people under the Star Reaching Project. The selected few look a lot *milder* than the ones we used to have. Instead of being aggressively delinquent as those in the past, they appear to be milder students who suffer more from having low self-esteem and are comparatively passive. Our role is to steer them away from going wayward. With the dedicated assistance from HKCYS, we have been doing rather well throughout the years on improving the students by opening them to alternative trainings and opportunities. The *Step Up Infinity* dancers and instructors are examples of the fruitful results. At least, we see an energetic group of young dancers, showcasing their hard earned skills and agility to the exclamation of many. If we are **Making A Difference**, we are in the right direction.

One Million Shoeboxes of Joy

News from Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland Nov. 2016

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

"Spreading a Little Happiness"

Supported by
Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland

Rotary
information

Peter Lam



By working with their local Rotary club, schools, businesses and individuals pack the boxes full of toys, clothing, school equipment and toiletries for those who need them most.

The scheme first started back in 1994 when Rotary clubs in the North and West of Manchester and the Isle of Man joined with children's charity Spurgeons, who had children's homes in Romania.

In 1997 it became an official Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland-supported project and since then the scheme has gone from strength to strength, with a small team of Rotary volunteers working hard to process around 60,000 donated boxes per year.

Colin Ince, a member of the St. Helens Rotary Club has been involved with the Shoebox Scheme for a number of years and travelled to Romania and Moldova to distribute boxes: "I came face to face with real poverty with families living in houses with no running water and no heating and often little better than a shack. I will never forget the faces of the children receiving their first ever present or the old lady crying tears of joy as she opened her own box. I was hooked."

"I was asked to join the Rotary Shoebox Team and I did so willingly. Unfortunately the need is growing and we could easily distribute double the number of boxes we do now."

The scheme has 17 Satellite Warehouses across Great Britain and Ireland who help the boxes on their way to the likes of Croatia, Czech Republic, Albania, Ukraine and Belarus.



Since 2010 alone over 275,000 boxes have been distributed for babies, children, teenagers and households. This is all made possible not only by Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland who promote the scheme in their communities, but also Rotary clubs in receiving countries, who work with trusted international aid organisations to ensure shoeboxes are distributed to communities most in need.

Although the programme runs all year round, it is particularly popular at Christmas time and the latest shipment of 26,000 boxes will be heading for Ukraine and Romania in early December, just in time for Christmas.

Many of the items included in the shoeboxes are ones which we take for granted in our daily lives, such as soap, but are precious luxuries for tens of thousands of children and families in these underprivileged communities.

Colin continued: "The number of participating schools is rapidly growing and the children really enjoy helping their new friends in Eastern Europe. It always amazes me that such a small gift can spread so much happiness to so many people who need our help so much; and everyone in schools, businesses, Rotary and Inner Wheel can be part of it."



Regular Meetings in the past five years: January 當年今月：一月例會

Do you remember 2013 - 2017?

JANUARY



by PP Peter Lam

REWIND



We celebrated Chinese New Year in advance on our 16 Jan. 2017 meeting with display of many Chinese couplets prepared by President William Yim.

Remember the travel talk about Sri-Lanka with Vote of Thanks by CM Yu on 11 Jan. 2016 at Royal Garden Hotel?



Our January Birthday boys Francis & Roger received the Rotary umbrella gift on 5 Jan. 2015 meeting at Royal Garden Hotel. Any of you still have those Rotary umbrellas and using them?

Our Rotaractors from CU Wu Yee Sun College led by Charter President Sunny Liu and Rotaractor Stanley and James from our RAC Tai Po visited us on 5 Jan. 2014 at Regal Kowloon Hotel. Other than Rotaractors' presentation, we had the keynote talk by Sincere Yip about Brazil . . . It was nice to hear the many spectacular scenery in Brazil but also scary to learn that you might get robbed while driving in Brazil; or someone might point a gun at you when your car stopped in traffic . . . Thanks Sincere for many good travel advice!



Joint Meeting with Rotary Club of Shatin on 28 Jan. 2013 in Mira Hotel under President Ron Chung (with keynote talk on travel to Tibet).

Star Reaching Program 2017-18 TACKLE HOME 打理頭家

Claire Mak

Our long time service project with Hong Kong Children & Youth Services ("HKCYS"), the "Star Reaching" Project, has returned to basics this year and adopted a simple yet fundamental theme **Tackle Home** "打理頭家". The Project aims to explore parent-and-child relationship. It is hoped that through participation in a series of activities, parents and children develop mutual understanding and thereby improve relationships.



The Tai Po District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team of HKCYS hosted the first event in the Saturday afternoon of 9 December 2017 at Lohas Organic Farm in Sheung Shui. Target youths were paired with selected parent-volunteers and RCTP members to form different teams to perform a number of tasks together. These include literally *drawing up* the 'menu', selecting food ingredients and condiments and hands-on preparation of peppermint sauce and making pizzas. The cooperation appears smooth and everyone seems eager and attentive. No matter how well or badly the end results came about, it was an opportunity for both adults and the youths to learn to express and co-ordinate. This marks a welcomed beginning!

Drawing up Menu



Making Peppermint Sauce



Getting Ingredients and Condiments



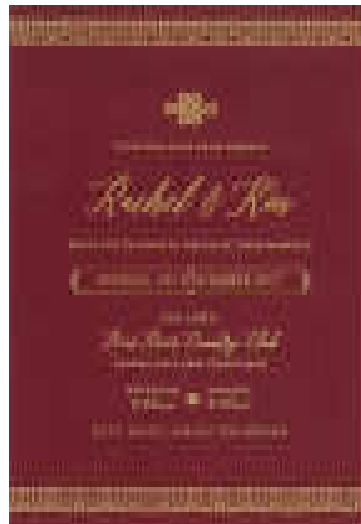
Making Pizza



Sharing the End Product



Congratulations Dennis & Lancy on the Wedding of Rachel & Kin!



RCTP Annual General Meeting

11 December 2017

Meipo Leung

The Annual General Meeting on 11 December 2017 was convened by Secretary Dorothy. We have 15 members present which established enough voting strength.

PDG Anthony proposed to remove item 9 of the Agenda (about standing sponsorship of members joining District events) which is unnecessary and inappropriate to be determined at the AGM. The amended agenda was unanimously adopted by members present.

The AGM started with President Roger's half yearly report, then Treasurer Louis' report and adoption of the Financial Statements of the year ended 30 June 2017.

PDG Anthony and CP Donald took over the conduct of the meeting to ensure the election of the Board of Directors for 2018-19 is duly undertaken.

The following officials were confirmed/ elected for RCTP 2018 - 2019:

President:	Patrick Fong
Vice-President:	Kin Fai Tam
Secretary-Elect:	Kin Fai Tam
President-Elect:	Dorothy Chan
Secretary:	Wilson Woo
Treasurer:	Louis Tang
Directors:	Francis Au, Wilson Lam, Dennis Lo, Sally Luk, Vikky Tam and Frankie Wu
Honorary Auditor:	Wo Ping Leung



Donald and Anthony hard at work counting the votes and supervising the conduct of AGM.

Armstrong was the lucky raffle draw winner of the bottle of Mongolian Whiskey given out by Kenneth.

Upon being confirmed as our next president and the due election of his board of directors, Patrick gave the President Elect's remarks.



Acting Sergeant Louis amassed some impressive red box collection - from Vikky, Tsubaki, Marco and Dorothy.



Secretary Dorothy convened and conducted the AGM and invited President Roger to deliver his half yearly report and Treasurer Louis, his financial report for adoption.



The new RCTP Board for 2018-19 (with Creamy standing in for Frankie!)

Red For U Street Dance Competition

Our *Step Up Infinity* dancers sent a few teams to join the "RED For U" Street Dance Competition. Our club, represented by PP Peter Lam, PP Jacky Sung and President Roger supported and cheered them on.



10 December 2017 – PRELIMINARY ROUND at Pop Up Dance

無名 from Step Up Infinity got into the Finals.



26 December 2017 – FINALS at at Tai Po Waterfront Piazza

MT Crew (The Ma On Shan Outreach spin-off from HKCYS Tai Po ten years ago) won Champion. 無名 from Step Up Infinity was 1st Runners-Up and BEST STYLING Awardee.



Mock Interview Workshop

16 December 2017

Roger So

The Rotary Mock Interview Workshop 2017-2018 was successfully held on 16 December 2017 at St Louis School. There were about 200 higher form secondary school students in the morning session on job interview, with even more attendants in the afternoon session on academic interview.



Different stakeholders expressed very positive comments and feedback. We were particularly touched by the feedback of our student participants and mentors at the debriefing session. All parties concerned, namely EDB, Po Leung Kuk, Schools and Rotary, share the same view that we should continue to organise a workshop of the same kind in the future.

A total of 90 volunteers served as the interviewers. They came at 8:30am and 1pm respectively for briefing by the NGO partner Po Leung Kuk. After the kick-off ceremony at 9:30am, there was a very inspiring speech by DG HW Fung who disclosed that St Louis Secondary School was his alma mater.



After that, AG Abraham introduced the guest Mr Lee Kam Kwong, Principal Assistant Secretary from Education Bureau who congratulated the organizer and students for this meaningful event. Thereafter I was privileged to give a Vote of Thanks as the Organising Committee Chair.

May I take this opportunity to thank PDG Anthony and PP Wilson for attending the opening ceremony, PP Louis, Rtn Benjamin, my wife May, my daughter Katherine and my son Fred who served as interviewers, and all those who have given their support in heart but cannot come in person. In fact Mock Interview Workshop is the first programme in our whole series of Rotary Life Planning Programmes. I look forward to your support in the coming Careers Expo 2018 and Workplace Experience Programme.



Louis' Retirement Party

17 December 2017

Louis Tang

17 December 2017 evening is a memorable one to me because I had a wonderful retirement party with my friends. Like any party, one of the objectives for holding it is to share the happiness with your friends and relatives. Having completed more than 37 years of a challenging professional career and having secured the financial viability of my family, I finally have to come to a stop and start a new page. I will no longer be climbing up the career ladder and pursue my personal goal but make myself available for serving others. It is very true that to give is happier than to take. Surely, being a Rotarian, you agree with this and have been experiencing this ever since you started to be a member.



Nearly 200 people joined the party (almost half of those are Rotarians) and in fact it was more than 200 if we included those who just came for a drink because of prior engagement.



The party was held in the Sports Hall of KCC and I have reached the maximum number of participants that night. PE Patrick told me that the number of people in my party seemed to the highest ever that the Sport Hall had accommodated. I have to thank CP Donald for his great effort to secure this venue for me. I know it was not easy. I also have to thank PE Patrick who helped me in fixing the favourable terms with KCC and PP Vikky who designed and produced the table decorations to match the theme of the party. Last but not least, I have to thank Team Two of our Theme Night Parties who served as my floor manager, particularly to Wilson Woo and VP Dorothy who were my MCs.





Cocktail started at 6:00pm and the party started punctually at 7:00pm. I deliberately asked the singers to sing as many oldies as they can to remind the good old days of the guests. I invited Joe Junior and So San who were famous singers of the old days to sing for us. The party reached the climax when they started singing the old songs and guests could not help but went dancing including those who I rarely see them dancing. I also saw people moving around drinking with their friends and I hardly find many ones stick to their seats.

I coupled the retirement party with charity initiatives and asked all guests not to give me any gift but just participate in the fund raising campaign during the party. Joe Junior, PP Vikky and PP Francis sang a few songs and successfully raised HK\$142,000 for the service projects of the year of PE Patrick.



The party ended about 11:15pm and guests returned home with sweet and wonderful memories.



Dementia Friendly Elderly Service Outing

18 January 2018

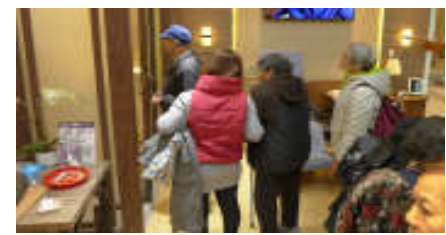
Dorothy Chan

Thanks to PE Patrick and Rtn Benjamin, RCTP had another great turnout for the third Dementia Friendly Elderly Service 守護與關懷行動計劃 event on 6th January 2018. More than 20 Rotarians and friends from RCTP participated and we worked with the Salvation Army, who helped to invite more than 14 Elderly and their families or carers to join this event.



The chilly and drizzly weather did not dampen our elevated spirit for this event when we took the elderly to visit the 'Smart Living @ Science Park'. A group RCTP Rotarians and friends met the elderly in Taipo and took them to the Science Park by 5 coaches. When we arrived, we had several great group photos and we took the elderlies in the Smart Living in different groups.

All elderlies were really excited about learning the new smart living technology that specifically tailored for the more mature generation. In the Smart Living exhibition room, there were many displays of thoughtful innovation that aim to improve the quality of life for the elderly. In the Smart Living exhibition room, there were many displays of thoughtful innovation that aim to improve the quality of life for the elderly. We saw the virtual reality rehabilitation system, motion sensors that track the movement of elderlies in and out of the space, rehabilitation games that target different levels of stroke patients, showering facilities for handicapped elderly. It was amazing to see how the elderlies were interacting with these technologies and be expressive in what they would see as beneficial to their living.





After visiting the exhibition room, we went for a very tasty lunch at a restaurant nearby. The elderlies were all very appreciative of RCTP's efforts in visiting them and helping them. We all surely had great fun with the event too. PE Patrick also kindly organised souvenirs for all elderlies and we wrapped up the event with huge smiles and great feeling for 2018!



Singing for the Extraordinary

Stage Performance at the Hong Kong Brands & Products Expo Promotion of Organ Donation in Hong Kong

Kenneth Wong

Facts:

Despite the advances in medical sciences, to many patients suffering from end stage organ failures, death would be imminent without organ transplantations. Naturally, many of these patients are loving parents, inspiring teachers, wonderful bosses, bread winners of families etc. So enabling them a second chance in life through organ donation or consenting to deceased organ donation is a generous act of “bringing love and hope” to many families, friends and the community at large.



There are currently about 3000 patients in HK who are waiting everyday, anxiously and helplessly for transplantation of organs such as kidney, liver or heart etc. Many of them are expected to perish while waiting. According to the government figures, only 3.5% of our total population have registered as organ donors. This is far short of the figure of over 40% in USA. Due to the shortage of land, cremation is the preferred arrangement for the disposal of deceased bodies in HK, which accounts for over 90% of death and this is a rapidly rising trend.

How could Rotarians help?

Since “Bring love and hope” to the world epitomizes what we do as Rotarians, our district has been working to create public awareness to supporting organ donation since 2012. In 2012, our district pioneered the issuance of Rotary-support-organ-donation Octopus cards and over 30,000 cards have been sold.

In December 2014, our district started the first organ donation promotion performance at HKBPE. On the 28th December 2017, we hosted another stage



performance at HKBPE again entitled “Singing for the Extraordinary”. The performance started with words of encouragement from Acting Secretary of Food and Health Bureau Dr. Chui Tak-ye and our DG HW; followed by heart-warming sharing on the stage by organ recipients and members of the donor families when stories on selfless sacrifice and eternal gratitude were told.



Heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful gift of life was conveyed through songs from organ recipient and President of Society of Nephrology Dr. Sydney Tang. The event reached its climax when special guests former Secretary of Food and Health Bureau Dr. Ko Wing-man and legendary local folk singer Albert Au appeared on stage and rewarded the audiences with touching remarks and songs that deeply touched our hearts.



Almost one hundred Rotarians, representatives from nine key professional and patients’ organizations in HK and two hundred members of the public attended this one-hour stage performance. It was an enjoyable and meaningful afternoon and many Rotarians have signed up as organ donors. Like many ordinary people who attended this event, I went home feeling mighty extraordinary.



8th January 2018

Regular meetings

大埔



Benjamin reported on the Dementia Friendly Elderly Outing on 6 January 2018.



Team 3 Leader Armstrong previewed our coming Third Theme Night: "Tappan Reunion Night" 團年鐵板宵



Happy birthday PP Francis, PDG Anthony and Rtnn. Mary, our January birthday stars and belated birthday blessings for November birdie Marco.



A sweet change of taste as our Speaker Ms. Grace Choy won the box of Godiva Chocolate given out by Rtnn. Benjamin.

When Celebrity Chef Ms. Grace Choy spoke to us about "The Story of a Country Woman and her Kitchen" she recounted the days leading to her private kitchen adventure Choy Choy Kitchen and her 'retirement' plans including the release of her recipes.



Sergeant at Arms Benjamin collected "Welcome back" Red box from Ron, Francis, Anthony, Benjamin himself, and Marco. President Roger gave red box for failing to welcome back members in a timely manner. Oops!



day	time	event	venue
16 JAN (TUE)	12:30 p.m.	District Vocational Seminar 2018 Guest speaker: The Hon. Bernard Chan GBS, JP	Marco Polo Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui
21 JAN (SUN)	10:00 a.m.	The Hong Kong Bowling for All cum Hong Kong Blind Bowling	South China Athletic Association Bowling Centre, 88 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay
29 JAN (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Speaker: Mr. Sebastian Schmidt-Eckert Topic: New Era of High Speed Train	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan
31 JAN (WED)	9:00 a.m.	District Golf Tournament	Old Course, Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling), Lot No. 1 Fan Kam Road, Sheung Shui
2 FEB (FRI)	7:00 p.m.	Third Theme Night 團年鐵板宵 Tappan Reunion Night	Roku Japanese Restaurant, G/F & B/F, Grand Centre, 8 Humphreys Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui
5 FEB (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Speaker: Mr. Thomas Woo, BBS Topic: Manchu Han Imperial Feast	Fincher Room, KCC, 10 Cox's Road, Jordan



January

10th Francis Au
11th Roger So
14th Anthony Hung

Tappan Reunion Night
團年鐵板宵
FEBRUARY 2nd 2018
7PM-10PM
PRICE \$700

A night to remember

Roku Japanese Restaurant
Teppanyaki • Robotayaki
G/F & B/F Grand Centre,
8 Humphreys Avenue,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

In December

We missed you
e
Sasha Chu,
Henry Wang

December

Ming Hay Yu

Leave of Absence

Editorial Team

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
Tai Post wants to hear from you.
Write in to clairetaipo@gmail.com

Tai Post reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

The editorial board
Claire Mak
Peter Lam

A December 2017 Attendance

CAREN CHAN,
PEARL DANG,
PATRICK FONG,
MARCO HO,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
CLAIRE MAK,
ARMSTRONG SHEA,
ROGER SO, KF TAM,
LOUIS TANG

Average attendance: 68.97%

