

# SOUTH WIND

Charter Granted 7 August 1961

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No. 2689  
9 March 2018

Today's Topic: **"My faith ... in social justice"**  
*Margaret Reade Rounds*

MEETINGS : EVERY FRIDAY AT NOON

## THE THREAT TO REGIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AND WHAT THAT MEANS

Dominic Faulder painted a very grim picture as to the future of journalism in the region, best summed up by his final comment, "We are headed into darkness."

Taking various ideas he talked about and gleaned from his writings found on-line, a few highlights from his talk help to illustrate his views and why we should all be concerned.

Bangkok was a media backwater throughout the growing US military presence from the late 1950s and into the core Vietnam War years; Hong Kong played a much bigger supporting role for international media operating in Indochina.

This all changed, however, in mid-1975 when Phnom Penh, Saigon and Vientiane fell to communist forces. Many evacuated bureaus were transplanted to Bangkok, which then became the watchtower for Indochina and closeted Burma, playing almost the same role Hong Kong undertook for China-watchers after the communist takeover in 1949.

However, in 1997, the Thai economy crashed and over 50 financial companies were put out of business permanently by fierce IMF rescue

strictures. Today, apart from those working for wire services, the number of fully employed and decently remunerated correspondents can be counted on two hands.

Another theme focused on the current situation in South East Asia reflected in comments he mentioned he had recently published in The Nikkei Weekly Asian Review.

Hopes for constructive, healthy tension between Southeast Asia's increasingly authoritarian governments and the media

have degenerated into mutual contempt and increasingly naked repression. Indeed, some journalists and bloggers have effectively been designated enemies of the state.

For example, media freedom was the issue that recently transported Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's civilian head of government and former darling of the international press, into an incandescent rage that ended a beautiful friendship.

This, he wrote was exemplified when two journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, were arrested outside a Yangon restaurant with documents given to them by police relating to the brutal crackdown by security forces in Rakhine.

Although the reporters had no opportunity to disseminate any secret information, bail has been denied. The speed of the arrests and contradictory police statements have raised suspicions that the two reporters were entrapped.

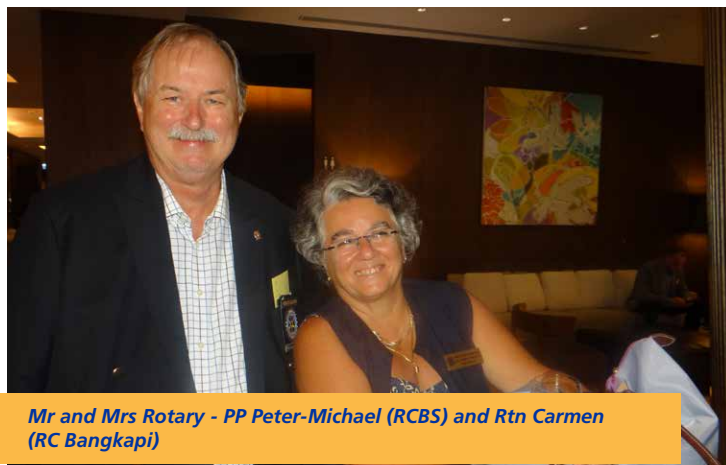
Stories like these, combined with his bleak outlook for the well-being of many newspapers in the region based either on declining revenue streams or changing ownership added to his despondic view as to what may unfold in the future in terms of our access to quality news.





ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# SNAPSHOTS FROM RCBS LUNCH, 2 MARCH 2018



Mr and Mrs Rotary - PP Peter-Michael (RCBS) and Rtn Carmen (RC Bangkok)



Paul Harris Awards to Rtn Peter and PP Mark



PP Krit receiving his Certificate of Appreciation for his Coins on Silom Support from PP Nigel



Rtn Dana being thanked for his Coins on Silom support by PP Nigel



PP Mark receiving his company's Certificate for Coins Support



Rtn Shrimp being honored for his Library Fellowship by Rtn Adrian

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# INTER-CLUB DELEGATIONS 2018



The first delegations of the Rotary Club Bangkok South (RCBS) were made to RC Bangkok and RC Bangkokkapi during Rotary year 2007/2008 when PP Graham Brain was President of RCBS and PP Mark Butters was the Administration Director who has since been responsible for the co-ordination of these visits until the current year, with the exception of 2011/2012 when PE Dean organized these in his capacity as Administrative Director.

They have proved popular and RC Bangkok and RC Bangkokkapi requested to join the delegations and to hold reciprocal visits to RCBS.

During the Rotary year 2011/2012, the first RCBS delegation was made to RC Royal Hua Hin (RCRHH), our daughter club. In the following year this delegation was joined by RC Bangkokkapi, who incorporated this into their annual fellowship and kids' day out weekend in Hua Hin/Cha-am.

This annual event has since developed into the annual Multi-Clubs Fellowship Dinner, with RCRHH hosting numerous clubs including their co-sponsor club of RC Hua Hin, several of the other clubs who are participating in the delegations within Bangkok and a number of the clubs in District 3330, including the English-speaking clubs of RC Samui and RC Patong Beach in Phuket.

During the current Rotary Year, a total of six clubs are participating in the delegations, including RC Bangrak and RC Srapathum, with the final delegation visit for the year to RC Bangrak scheduled to take place on Thursday, 3 May 2018 from 12.00 noon at the Evergreen Laurel Hotel on South Sathorn Road.

RC Bangrak are hoping to arrange a high profile speaker who will present in English to mark the occasion.



# Khun Khob's Club Almanac #2689

## 9 March 2018

### Happy Birthdays:

Alastair Timblick March 13  
Mikko Lainejoki March 15

### Wedding Anniversary Greetings:

PP Niti Meyer March 9  
PDG Praphan Hutasingh March 9  
Mark Wolf March 14  
Prasobsook Thawilvejjakul March 14

### Attendance for 2 March 2018: 51%

Present 25, Make-up 13, Absent 37, Exemption 30, Total 105

### Visiting for 2 March 2018:

#### From Local:

RC Bangkok PP Santi Chatterjee  
Dr. Jean-Pierre A. Verbiest  
John Hancock  
RC Bangkok DACH CP Werner Kubesch  
Eid Jazairi  
Suzanne Schmester  
Dr. Theo Strohal  
Thomas Maier  
RC Bangkok P Joe Goh  
PDG Krit Indhewat  
PE Voravit Keerikoolparn  
IPP Charles Ooms  
PP Sukanya Nimmanheminda  
Andre Gehrmann  
Bruce McNair  
Carmen Schuster  
Francois Van den Bosch  
Nick Thompson  
Stefan Bruns

RC Royal Hua Hin  
RC Srapathum

P Dr. Birger Rexed  
P Kamonporn Inthachan  
PP Tussanee Taovalanont  
PP Margaret McMillion  
PP Yuphadee Keeree  
Sharon Bajaj

### Invited Guests:

Gary Khurana  
Issam Jazairi  
Jiraporn Goh  
Ondine Lateilleur (YE)

Steve Wilson  
Umesh Pandey

### Introduced by:

Sharon Bajaj – RC Srapathum  
Eid Jazairi – RC Bangkok DACH  
P Joe Goh – RC Bangkok  
P Kamonporn Inthachan – RC Srapathum  
John Casella  
Rakesh Sodhia

### Recent Makeups:

**RC Feldkirch, Austria, 27 February 2018:** Elmar Lins

### Makeups:

**Board, 19 February 2018:** Adrian Topham, Dana Caron, PE Dean Outerson, P Douglas Riach, Mark Wolf, PP Per Dibber, Tim Cornwall

### Incoming Board, 27 February 2018:

Dana Caron, PE Dean Outerson, P Douglas Riach, Dr. M Chase Schneier, PP Mark Butters, PP Mike Doyle, Mike Ellis, Patrick Gauvain, Peter Upperton, PP Per Dibber

## CLUB CALENDAR

**Friday, 16 March 2018** – Dr. Bhume Bhumiratana on Cybersecurity

**Friday, 23 March 2018** – Dr. Bert van Walbeek on Risk Mitigation & Crisis Recovery Management in Thailand

**Friday, 30 March 2018** – Tony Campbell on The new gold rush - the regulatory challenges of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies.

**Wednesday, 4 April 2018** – **Kids Day Out 2018** – A fun day at Royal Varuna Yacht Club with a great bunch of kids and fellow Rotarians. The feel-good day of the year... Please contact

**Rtn. David Record** at [davidjrecord@gmail.com](mailto:davidjrecord@gmail.com) for more information.

**Friday, 06 April 2018** – No meeting due to Chakri Day Nat. Holiday

**Friday, 13 April 2018** – No meeting due to Songkran Festival

**Friday, 20 April 2018** – Kasemkit Pathomsak (Board of Trade) on a topic to be announced.

**For more information about Bangkok South events contact:** [rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events](http://rotarybangkoksouth.org/calendar-of-events)

The Crowne Plaza Bangkok Lumpini Park Hotel, 952 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500 Thailand  
[info@rotarybangkoksouth.org](mailto:info@rotarybangkoksouth.org) | 02632 9160 | [www.rotarybangkoksouth.org](http://www.rotarybangkoksouth.org)



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BTS: Chong Nonsi  
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