



The Spoke

Algenol, Scaling UP!



Paul Woods, founder, CEO, and president of Algenol was our speaker. After nine years of development the the company's algae-to-ethanol is about to go commercial scale. By harnessing CO₂, sunlight, saltwater and algae, Algenol's technology uses significantly fewer acres of land than corn-ethanol production. At a yield of 170 bushels per acre and 2.8 gallons per bushel, a corn ethanol plant produces 476 gallons of ethanol per acre of corn. Algenol's technology, on the other hand, can produce, on average, 8,000 gallons of ethanol per acre in a year.

The clear plastic bags used in the direct-to-ethanol technology look like giant hanging file folders. Each bag is 10 feet by four feet, 2 inches deep and has capacity of 50 liters. The bag is filled with saltwater, which is inoculated with algae culture. With Algenol's two-step direct-to-ethanol process, it is converted to ethanol.

When that process is complete, a simple centrifuge is used for separation. Next comes a two-step ethanol purification process, the first of which is patented by Algenol and the second is no different than the method used by the corn-ethanol industry. The remaining biomass, or spent algae, is turned into green crude in a six-minute process, which can potentially be sent to a refinery to produce mostly gasoline or diesel and some jet fuel. The four fuels can be produced for about \$1.30 a gallon each. The EPA recently approved the Algenol ethanol for sale as a Renewable Source Fuel.

The excitement has only started with this double barreled technology that makes fuel from a waste product and significantly reduces power plant emissions of CO₂.

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Rotary Club of Taipei, Taiwan

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YEARNING FOR LEARNING AT YARRABAH

This is a letter to Sandy from Ian Lomas, Assistant Rotary Coordinator, D9950, D9570 (Australia).

Last year Sandra Scoggins from Florida wrote on the District 9550 Face Book page:

"I'm President elect of my Rotary club, and District Grants Chairperson. I'm coming to Australia for the International Convention next year. I plan to visit Cairns while I'm in Australia. I'd like to donate to one of your service projects as a thank you to your country for hosting the Rotary convention. Please help me to make a new Rotary contact and find a project. Thanks."

From this initial contact we quickly struck up a conversation. Sandy made it clear that her club would very much like to assist with a project preferably in an Indigenous community.

As a result members of the Cairns Southside made contact with an Indigenous community at Yarrabah some 90 kilometres from Cairns. Julianne Boneham, the wife of then club President Bob Boneham knew Yarrabah well and assisted in making contact with the inspirational principal Simon "Spike" Cotton. Spike is an outstanding and well respected educator and a great orator who articulated his ideals, aspirations and vision when he spoke to our club.

The club responded immediately to his presentation. He spoke of the challenges of providing education to young children in a contained Aboriginal community virtually cut off from the rest of the world. Yarrabah is tucked away behind a wild mountain range and fronts onto the Coral Sea. It is both beautiful and utterly remote as there is only one tortuous road in and out taking well over

an hour for the journey. It has been shown to be one of the most socially disadvantaged communities in Australia.

Yarrabah has a population of over 4000 with the average age being in the mid twenties. There are many young children approaching school age who have never seen a book or had any stories read to them. This is because older members who could read through the original mission school are now few in numbers and the younger generation speaks the local dialect known as Yarra lingo in the home.

In Spike's mind was the concept that if books could be introduced into the homes of children between ages one to four and the parents were themselves part of a reading program designed to have them sharing books with their kids there would be the potential to have future students entering school with a much better reading skills.

Sandy and her new husband Wayne did come to Cairns in May of 2014 and visited Yarrabah. They met Spike and also the local mayor and in the short time they were they committed their club and district to the program outlined to them.

The result has been a US \$70,000 global Grant **used to restock the library and to employ specialist literacy teachers to drive the program.**

The International partner is Sandy's club Bonita Springs in Florida District 6960. They agreed to provide US \$6000 which meant that we required a further US \$29,000 from other partners bearing in mind that the Foundation would match all committed funds from district designated funds dollar for dollar.

(continued next page)

With the help of teacher Judy Walker, D9550 Foundation Chair Greg Marlow and the Foundation chairs in Australia and New Zealand the funding goal of US \$29,000 was achieved and the Global Grant was approved within a three month time frame.

In fact we had so much support that we were able to ask a couple of districts to scale back their initial offers. The idea of supporting an Indigenous school in our own country obviously struck a responsive chord.

In the last week of the school term of 2014 the new library arrived and when we last went to the school in early February the cataloguing

of the new books was well underway.

The real story will now begin. A reading program involving parents, teachers and children over two years with measurable outcomes through reporting systems already in place at all Queensland schools and the potential for roll out to other schools in the future.

We already are reaping rewards from this grant process. Other Cairns clubs are now interested in Yarrabah and a program to support young students to achieve their driving licences and thus be in a position to find work is being looked at.

The Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club Experiment

Feedback from numerous Rotary surveys and focus groups has repeatedly shown that members and prospective members wish for **more flexibility to become or remain involved with a Rotary club.**

RI is accepting applications for up to 1,000 clubs to **try out ideas not currently allowed under the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.**

The Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club pilot will:

- Authorize clubs to make changes to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and to their Rotary Club Bylaws **in any area other than RI membership dues requirements.**
- Let clubs self-determine their operations to fit better with the needs of their members and community.
- Try out different meeting logistics and designs.

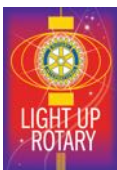
- Develop relevant and creative membership qualifications and requirements.
- **Shift the focus from meeting attendance to member engagement.**

At our last meeting, the **club voted to submit an application for participation** in the RI Innovative and Flexible Club Pilot and, if selected, **to change the club bylaws** for the term of the pilot. The bylaw changes required would:

Allow **meetings on alternative schedules and/or locations.**

Change attendance requirements to allow credit for **alternative meetings, other club activities, community service activities, and fundraisers.**

Provide that members participating in **shared family/spouse/domestic partner membership meet the 60% attendance minimum as a family unit.**



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133 or its website www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com. **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

**Last Week: Bobbi Bird
Carefully drew 9 ♦ to
win \$5.**



**The 50/50 Still
\$500**

The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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Rotary Sings: *Easter Parade*

In your easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady in the easter parade.
I'll be all in clover and when they look you over,
I'll be the proudest fellow in the easter parade.

On the avenue, fifth avenue,
the photographers will snap us,

And you'll find that you're in the rotogravure.

Oh, I could write a sonnet about your easter bonnet,
And of the girl I'm taking to the easter parade.

This Week:

Kevin Lewis
CEO SalusCare

Birthdays

Steve Slachta Mar 29
Jason Dolle Mar 31

This Morning's Invocation

Almighty God, as we pause in prayer at the outset of this meeting, help us to realize the significance of these brief moments as a preface to our time together.

We confess that our prayers are often perfunctory, our acknowledgement of your presence and power all too casual, and our impatience with quietude all too pervasive.

Although we represent various sectarian backgrounds, we unite in mutual awareness that in all of our human endeavors we need divine assistance and blessings.

Use our private and corporate involvement and our Rotarian experience to bring truth, fairness, good will, and beneficence to our community, culture, and world.

Accept our gratitude for food and all other gifts lavished upon us. Amen.