



Team 2025/26

President
Stephen Castelli

Secretary
Genevieve Carr

Treasurer
Karen Zabiela

Facts & Figures

Attendance this week

Total Members	25
Apologies	
Make-up	2
Attended	14
Hon. Member	
LOA	
Guests	1
Visitors	1
Partners	

70.8%

Raffle
James & Chris

Heads & Tails
Club



Meets on Monday
6:00 for 6:30 pm
At Rotary Hall
Brownell Crescent
Medina

Visitors are welcome
Contact is
0417 904 419

The Rotary Club of Kwinana

District 9423 Western Australia

Chartered: 22 April 1971



No 04 21/07/2025



Rotary Club of Kwinana is 54 years' old 1971/2025

PP James Sharkey again chaired tonight's meeting, President Stephen and Yanti are still visiting family over East but expected back this week.

We have missed PP Terry who has been unwell recently but recovering. Norm and Karen Mulcahy are currently visiting the UK, sent a message tonight, currently visiting a wet and windy Ireland.

Harvey RC President Peter Shultz brought along and introduced us to our guest speaker for tonight, Joel Whitwell, Joel was to tell us that one can overcome adversity and live a full life, Joel certainly did that, his story was inspirational.

Joel was born and raised in Harvey, he unfortunately was born with severe facial defects, he had only 1 eye and one ear on the right side of his face, together with other serious facial defects, as a child he went through many operations to help improve his quality of life. His outlook on life and the way he managed his deformities is an inspiration to all.

PDG John reports that the roster for the Furniture Factory is progressing well, very good sales results for the week.

Kwinana Community Fair scheduled for Saturday November 8th, 2025, also reminded us the Bendigo Bank has just celebrated its 10th Anniversary. For those of us who didn't know or can't remember. the establishment of the Kwinana Bendigo Community Bank was a Kwinana RC project.



Rotary International President
2025/26

Francesco Arezzo

Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

District Governor 9423
2025/26

Veronica Lawrance

Rotary Club of Mill Point



July 2025 – Transition Month

Mon 7th	Presentation by	Jack Sim, 'World Toilet'
Mon 14th	Club Meeting	PortCare CEO Charlie Ricciardo
Mon 21st	Club Meeting	Joel Whitwell on triumphs of his life
Mon 28th	Club Meeting	John Iriks on his Timor Visit

Attendance: Members respond via 'WhatsApp'





President's Pen July 14th 2025

President Stephen is presently visiting family interstate.

Information below remains relative.



Once again, thank you to the Board for 2025/2026

- President Elect/Club Services – PP Genevieve Carr
- Secretary – Vacant (Genevieve will act in this role until a replacement can be found)
- Treasurer – Karen Zabiela
- Foundation Director – PDG John Iriks
- Projects Director – PP James Sharkey
- Public Relations Director – PP Bob Thompson
- Membership Director – Norm Mulcahy
- Vice President – PP Terry Evans

Also recognising District Community Leader – PP Chris Oughton

We also need to fill a number of the manager's roles:

- Community Service – Vacant
- Vocational Service – Vacant
- Youth Service – Vacant
- BBQ Coordinator – Vacant
- Programs Manager – PP Greg Williams
- Projects – PDG John Iriks
- Attendance – Karen Zabiela
- Birthdays & Anniversaries – PP Greg Williams
- Bulletin – PP Eric Blogg

Weekly Program:

- 28/07 John and Chris Iriks will speak about their recent trip to East Timor. This will be a partner's night
- President Stephen will be away for the next 2 meetings as he is visiting family in Melbourne.
- Mon 25/08 will be a partner's night with Stephen and Norm speaking of the Indonesian School Renovation Project.
The night will also be Christmas in August.
- 11/09 will be RUOK Day BBQ at Gilmore College. We need a team of 5-6 to cook 500 Sausages inn quick time for the student's lunch.

Stephen Castelli
President 2025/26

Meeting Monday 21st July at Rotary Hall



Genevieve Carr President 2026/27

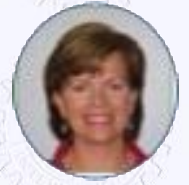


1. Partners Night on Monday 28 July: John and Chris Iriks will be guest speakers, speaking about their recent experiences in Timor
2. Christmas in August:
3. Monday 15 September: District Governor's visit. This will be a partner's night.
4. Sunday 21 September: Brunch with members and partners of the Rotary Club of Harvey at the **Curious Cockatoo** café in Harvey.
5. Friday 24 October: Polio train ride. Join Rotarians from around the District as we ride the Perth train network promoting End Polio Now. The aim of the event is to promote public awareness of End Polio Now. Participants need to register in order to be covered by Rotary Insurance. To register, visit the TryBooking website: in addition to registration, can also purchase an End Polio Now shirt, and/or make a donation to the cause. At the end of the day there will be a social gathering at "The Shoe Bar" bar in Northbridge.
6. Christmas function: Looking to have lunch at King Road Brewing Company on Sunday 14 December. Will contact the venue in September for booking.

PE Genevieve Carr



PP Genevieve Carr July 2025



Inward Correspondence.

- Invoice from Barefoot Property Services (electrical tagging)
- Details of new member lead
- District Newsletter #30
- Semi-annual dues
- RYPEN application form
- Contact regarding potential projects in Indonesia
- Rotary District Conference Newsletter #1
- Rotary Down Under magazine
- Invitation to share Rotary stories on new Rotary South Pacific channel
- Bendigo Bank statement

Outward Correspondence:

- Flowers sent to Greg and Marge Williams
- Letter of request sent to Rockingham Bunnings for BBQ on 5/10/2025



Project Director
PP James Sharkey



Public Relations
PP Bob Thompson



Foundation Dir.
PDG John Iriks



Membership Dir.
Norm Mulcahy

Team 2025/26



Vice Pres.
Terry Evans



Treasurer
Karen Zabiela



Programs
PP Greg Williams

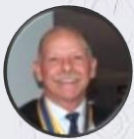


Events Manager
PDG John Iriks

PP James Sharkey, Joel Whitwell and RC Harvey Pres. Peter Shultz



Fine Session: Sergeant Norm Mulcahy
PP Chris Oughton standing-in for Norm



PP Stephen Castelli
PP Greg Williams stand-in when required.

Pres. Peter S: Visiting again, bit like a 'boomerang'

Isuzu MUX parallel parked out the front!!!! Taking up 3 parking spaces. Pay up Karen.

John Iriks: received a phone call for help, what!!!! it's 3quarter time at the Dockers game

Genevieve: For being 'Just-in-Time' tonight, Bad luck about Collingwood.

Peter S again: Phone call, phone not on silent???

Acting sergeant Chris intends to fine anyone not sitting in a different seat at next week's meeting.



Guest Speaker: Joel Whitwell
Introduced by President Peter Shultz
Joel is a Meat Inspector for the WA Gov.



"It was discovered I was born a bit different, but I have come to see the way I was born as unique"

I was born at Harvey Hospital on 14th January 1979, the second child to Gordon and Peta Whitwell. All went well with the birth, until it was discovered I was born a bit different, but I have come to see the way I was born as unique. I was born with craniofacial deficiency which meant the right side of my face wasn't formed properly, including having only one ear and eye. Mum and dad weren't too concern about the disfigurement, as long as I was alright mentally as that would of made the journey ahead more difficult. Luckily after a few tests the results came back all clear.

From the moment I arrived I was ready to take on the world and make an impact. Mum and Dad were so supportive from the start. Mum actually had me down the main street of Harvey showing me off to the locals as soon as we left the hospital who also fell in love with me. I was blessed to have grown up in such a supportive and close-knit community as I never encountered bullying and was quite popular amongst my school peers. Graduating year 12 at Harvey High with my school friends is a testament to that.

In saying that I did have my challenges while finding my way in the world as I have had to endure quite a few surgeries over the years. I will touch on two of the bigger ones. The first was as a ten-year-old back in 1989 where the doctors took and used one of my ribs to bring my face out a bit more and the other was ten years later in 1999 when the doctors took some muscle from my back to form a cheek. Both very complex procedures which involved a stint in intensive care afterwards. But the thing that really lifted my spirits was all the get well cards and visits I received from friends who missed me. Plus, as always, mum was by my side throughout it all. The other challenge I had to overcome was people staring whenever I left my comfort zone of Harvey like when mum had to take me to Perth for a checkup. It felt a bit uneasy, but mum would always say they were only looking because what a beautiful boy I was. I guess I have also come to believe that.

The first time I was able to overcome it and not let it bother me was during a mystery flight to Sydney with my good friend P.J back in 1999 when I was twenty. We were drinking at a pub when I noticed a guy sitting at the bar staring at my face. I remember thinking 'stare all you like as I'm here with one of my close mates enjoying one of the best days of my life'.

"Looking back there are certain moments in your life that I believe are life changing and that was one of those moments".

I never let the staring bother me again after that. That gave me the courage to leave my comfort zone to live out my dream of travelling the world. I have now been lucky enough to have travelled all over Europe, U.K, Canada, U.S, South America and Thailand.

I have discovered that though it's a bit daunting at first, leaving your comfort zone can be a blessing, as I believe all the traveling I did really helped me grow as a person. I learnt more than ever during my travels through Peru about my own journey, as in their culture, more than any other, they value the heart and soul of a person rather than the shell. I hope to now carry that message and share it wherever I go. I feel it is part of my destiny.

Over the last few years I have started to spread that message to the world. I have had numerous opportunities for public speaking, including a TEDX talk I did in Bunbury in 2017. G.W.N and Studio 10 have also presented segments on my life. Most exciting of all, I have written and had my autobiography, published in 2021. I've been amazed by all the interest it has generated, especially around the local community of Harvey where my journey first began.

I hope to continue sharing my message and making an impact in the world, and who knows where it could all lead. One thing I know for sure, is I'll always have the support of the town that fell in love with me when mum walked me down the main street all those years ago.

<https://www.joelwhitwell.com/#/>

<https://www.facebook.com/joel.whitwell.7/>

Growing up, Harvey's Joel Whitwell always wanted to be a writer, and now, with his second book soon to be released, he's living out his dream.

Joel published his first book in 2020 — One Ear. One Eye. No Worries — and is thrilled to have his second book — Spreading my Wings — on sale soon.

While the first book explored his early life growing up in Harvey with cranial facial deficiency, building lifelong friendships and his earlier trips overseas, his second book explores the past few years and his recent adventures overseas.

"I did a few early trips with good friends and wrote about that a lot in my first book," he said.

"This second book gets straight into it."

Kicking off in 2018, Mr Whitwell's second book explores his time travelling across Europe, life through COVID-19 and adventures around Australia.

Joel said growing up he always wanted to be a writer. Although it took some twists and turns, with his second book (written entirely by hand), he's excited to be living out his dream.

Since publishing his first book, Joel has been able to share his story widely through author talks, public speaking events and hopes to continue inspiring people through his second book.

"It's like anything in life, it's got to start somewhere and then the momentum builds," he said.

Joel said he thinks writing books brings a sense of purpose to his life, and sharing his story is his way of leaving behind a lasting legacy.

Latest global immunization data published

WHO and UNICEF released its latest WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) for 2024.

On polio, the data offer a snapshot of global progress in childhood vaccination but also a reminder of the work still ahead to end polio for good. Global coverage for the third dose of polio vaccine (POL3) in 2024 is now reported at 84%, marking a slight improvement from 83% in 2023 but still below pre-pandemic levels of 86% in both 2018 and 2019. This lingering gap poses a challenge for eradication efforts, which rely on consistently high routine immunization to build and sustain population immunity and prevent outbreaks. [More.](#)

IMB convening in Geneva

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) and Transition Independent Monitoring Board (TIMB) of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) are convening this week in Geneva, Switzerland. Together with GPEI partners and government representatives of key countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and DR Congo, the current status of polio eradication will be reviewed and analysed. The IMB and TIMB will subsequently publish their reports over the coming weeks.

Inspiring video of polio health workers in action

Dr Hamid Jafari, Director for Polio Eradication in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, shares an inspiring and moving video of polio health workers going to great lengths to reach every single last child. "We must do all we can to support their endeavours to end polio." [More.](#)

Summary of new polioviruses this week, cases and positive environmental isolates:

- Pakistan: 41 WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Chad: one cVDPV2 case
- Nigeria: one cVDPV2 case
- Papua New Guinea: six cVDPV2-positive environmental samples
- Sudan: one cVDPV2-positive environmental sample
- Yemen: seven cVDPV2 cases



After retiring, I went to Centrelink to apply for a pension. The lady asked for my driver's license, but I realised I left my wallet at home. I apologised and said I'd have to come back.

She said, "Unbutton your shirt."

I revealed my silver chest hair, and she nodded.

"That'll do," she said, and processed my application.

When I got home, I told my wife the story, and she said, "You should've dropped your pants.

You might've qualified for a disability pension as well"

And that's when the fight started...

Birthdays and Anniversaries July 2025

Birthday Congratulations:

Karen Mulcahy 2nd
Rosemary Johnson 4th
Carol Adams 13th



Wedding Anniversaries

Barry and Sam 11th 33 years



Club Anniversaries:

Greg Williams 01st 35 years
Bob Cooper 02nd 41 years

Congratulations

Blast from the past 30th June 2000 at the Darius Restaurant
LtR Laure Callert, Olive and Peter Lovitt, Rodger and Judy Hamilton, Julie and Harry Tebbutt



What do you call a murderer with two butts? An assassin.

I used to have an addiction to the hokey pokey, but then I turned myself around.

Why did the golfer cry? He was going through a rough patch.

Why did the woman throw her bills out the window? She wanted to send them via airmail.



What happened this week in history?



July 21st to July 27th



21st

1846: Mormons found 1st English settlement in California (San Joaquin Valley)
1866: Cholera epidemic kills hundreds in London
1884: 1st Test Cricket match played at Lord's
1969: Apollo 11: Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the Moon.

22nd

1298: English defeat Scots at Battle of Falkirk
1729: Diamonds found in Minas Geras, Brazil
1901: House of Lords, in its role as court, rules trade unions can be sued for actions of its members
1983: Dick Smith makes 1st solo helicopter flight around the world.

23rd

1579: Francis Drake departs San Francisco to cross the Pacific Ocean
1829: William Austin Burt patents America's first "typographer" (typewriter)
1888: John Boyd Dunlop applies to patent pneumatic tire
1904: Ice cream cone created during St Louis World Fair - reputedly by Charles E. Menches

24th

1411: Battle of Harlaw, one of the bloodiest battles in Scotland, takes place
1534: Jacques Cartier lands in Canada, claims it for France
1704: English and Dutch troops occupy Gibraltar
1935: 1st greetings telegram sent in Britain

25th

1446: Foundation stone laid for King's College Chapel in Cambridge by King Henry VI
1797: Horatio Nelson loses more than 300 men and his right arm, Tenerife (Spain)
1814: English engineer George Stephenson introduces his first steam locomotive
1907: Korea becomes a protectorate of Japan

26th

1267: Inquisition forms in Rome under Pope Clement IV
1656: Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn declares he is insolvent
1865: The capital of New Zealand moves from Auckland to Wellington
1917: J. Edgar Hoover gets job in US Department of Justice

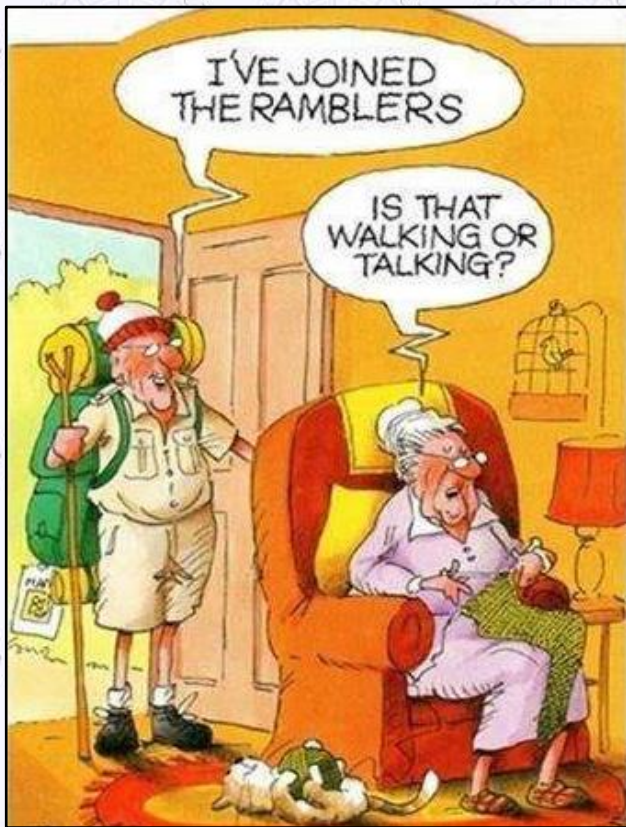
27th

1586: Walter Raleigh brings the 1st tobacco to England from Virginia
1661: English Parliament confirms Navigation Act
1836: The ship the "Duke of York" arrives, the 1st colonists at Kangaroo Island, South Australia
1866: 1st transatlantic telegraph cable comes ashore at Heart's Content, Newfoundland.

Kwinana Community Bank (Bendigo Bank)
Celebrating their 1st Birthday, 2016
Currently celebrating their 10th Birthday



Last Sunday morning I got up at 6am to go fishing. I got out of bed very quietly, got dressed into my fishing clothes and made my sandwiches. I went into my garage, hooked up the boat trailer up and started driving out in the heavy rain. I turned the radio on to hear that the wind and rain would be relentless all day, so I thought, bugger this I am going back home to bed. I drove home and snuck back into bed cuddling up to my wife's back; now with a different hope for the morning, and whispered, "The weather out there is just awful." My lovely wife of 10 years replied, "yeah, can you believe my idiot husband is out fishing in this?" And that's how the fight started.



Nearby Rotary Clubs, Meeting Times

Rockingham
Palm beach
Baldivis
Cockburn

Monday 6pm
Wednesday 6.30pm
Tuesday 6.30pm
Wednesday 6pm

Armadale Tuesday 7pm
Mandurah Districts Tuesday 6pm
Pinjarra Thursday 6.45pm
Byford & Districts Monday 7pm

Rotary Club of Kwinana
Contributions welcome: eblogg@bigpond.com