The Rotary Club of Kwinana

District 9423 Western Australia

Chartered: 22 April 1971



Bulletin

No 17 09/11/2026

Rotary Club of Kwinana is 55+ years' old 1971/2026

Team 2026/27

President
Genevieve Carr

Secretary
Stephen Castelli

Treasurer
Karen Zabiela

Facts & Figures

Attendance this week

Total Members	24
Apologies	
Make-up	
Attended	16
Guests	3
Visitors	
Partners	

73.0 %

Raffle
Terry

Heads & Tails
Shaun

Find us on Facebook

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

Visitors/New members always welcome
Contact
0400 837 603

Good meeting, dinner provided by 'My Noodle Rules' plenty for everyone.

Guest speaker, Ben Pegus from Back-on-Track, a dedicated education recovery program for children who have been through cancer, they provide direct personalised support to help children and their siblings rebuild their education once treatment ends.
Shaun and Vashni Pillay joined us again, maybe both are prospective members.

The 2026 Kwinana Community Fair was held on Saturday 07th November on Calista Oval, what a tremendous success, this year was our sixth since the Kwinana Rotary Club through the foresight and enthusiasm of PDG John Iriks reinvented the Community Fair. The first was held in 2021 and has grown with each consecutive year. 2026 I believe was our best ever.
Great to see our WA Premier Roger Cook doing the rounds, called into our Rotary Club Marquee to say Hi.
John and Chris together with our club members and all involved are to be congratulated for providing a great asset to the Kwinana community.



Rotary International President 2026/7

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

RC Trans Amadi, Nigeria

District Governor 9423 2026/27

Veronica Lawrance

Rotary Club of Mill Point



November - Rotary Foundation Month

Mon 2nd	Club Meeting	
Sat 7th	Kwinana Community Fair	10am-2pm Calista Oval
Mon 9th	Club Meeting	Back on Track Ben Pegus
Mon 16th	Club Meeting	Kelly Hinder Bridge Builders
Mon 23rd	Club Meeting	
Mon 30th	Club Meeting	Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation

ENDPOLIONOW

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President's Pen 02nd November 2026



Greetings to all. A special welcome to our Guest Speaker Ben Pegus, who is the General Manager from Back on Track Foundation. Also, welcome to Shaun, who has visited again, and his wife Vashni.

The Kwinana Fair on Saturday 7 November was a great day. It was fantastic to see so many members and partners turning up and helping out on the day. Huge congratulations to John Iriks on his fine leadership. During the day we received some very positive feedback from stallholders regarding the organisation of the fair.

Alan Johnson is asking for volunteers to attend the various local schools' graduation ceremonies. Any support would be much appreciated.

The Peace Pole for St Vincent's Primary School has arrived. Principal Anne Aquino is currently determining a suitable location for the pole, and then we will have it officially erected at the school. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of St Vincent's Primary School, Anne is most appreciative of this gift from our Club and is aiming to have the Peace Pole installed at the school before the end of the year.

One piece of sad news: last Friday I was contacted by the principal of the Providence Permaculture School to inform me that the school would be closing at the end of this year due to personal and other reasons. I have expressed my best wishes to them on behalf of our Club.

Upcoming notices:

- Programs Manager Helen has arranged guest speakers for Monday 9 November, Monday 16 November and Monday 30 November.
- Monday 23 November will be a Zoom meeting as President Genevieve will be up in Karratha for work purposes.
- We are currently confirming details for the Christmas function.

Genevieve Carr President 2026/27

Rotary Information.

Recent developments across **Rotary International** highlight a major push toward modernizing club structures, expanding leadership milestones, and advancing global peace initiatives. Throughout 2026, the organization has introduced flexible membership formats alongside updated digital platforms to better engage younger generations and local communities.

Flexible Club Models. As detailed by Rotary Down Under, clubs are shifting away from mandatory weekly meetings to attract young families and busy professionals. New formats include satellite clubs, passport clubs, e-clubs, and hybrid meetings

Rotary Meeting held at Rotary Hall, Medina Monday 07th November 2026



Tony Miller President 2027/28 September 2026



Guest Speakers:
16/11 Kelly Hinder.
Kelly is the CEO of Bridge Builders. Bridge Builders provide food relief and support to families facing hardship across the Mandurah Peel region.

30/11 Mike Roberts & Peter Bowler the secretary and chair of Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation. The foundation helps young immigrant children deal with the transition to a new culture while dealing with the various emotional challenges of leaving their homeland.
Date TBA

Discussions are ongoing with the One Nation Member for Secret Harbour Mr **Luke Herdegen** with the hope he will be a guest speaker and shine some light on his plans for the future of our region.

General meeting for the 23rd Nov will be held online via a Zoom meeting I will send out a link to all members and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any IT worries.

The PO Box key replacement has been applied for.

PE Tony Miller

VP Stephen Castelli 2026



Issues with obtaining a replacement key to our mailbox

Outward Correspondence:

Inward Correspondence

Guest Speaker from ‘Back on Track’ Ben Pegus with Rtn Helen Souter and President Genevieve



Melbourne beat Sydney by accident.
When Canadian commissioners arrived in Sydney in March 1921 to establish Australia's first Rotary club, the city was practically shut down for the Royal Easter Show.
They hopped on a train to Melbourne instead, teaming up with General Sir John Monash to charter the **Rotary Club of Melbourne** on April 21, 1921—beating Sydney by a month



President
Genevieve Carr



Treasurer
Karen Zabiela



Project Director
PP James Sharkey



Foundation Dir.
PP Terry Evans

Team 2026/27



Membership Dir.
Norm Mulcahy



Secretary/Vice Pres.
PP Stephen Castelli



Public Relations
PDG John Iriks

Rotary
SERGEANT AT ARMS

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



Eric: Found a cockroach in our freezer, promptly disposed of. 'brutal' may have had a family to support!!!

Genevieve: Did the Walker address earlier in the week. What is it, interesting they played the Bohemian Rapsody afterwards??

Fined those putting foreign money into fines box, especially Indo, pay up.

James: Conspicuously doing kitchen duties tonight, very nice meal tonight. Maybe chasing Brownie points.

Terry: Thanking Soren for 'saving his bacon' why was it necessary?

Terry & James: Managing to lose the BBQ trailer!!

Helen: Her Mitzy has a bashed-in driver's door???

Alan A: Ran over the kerb not once but twice!!!

Alan: Let kids sit in the 'Moke' at the Fair, turned on the lights, result, flat battery!!

Stephen: Offering parking instruction advice.

A SENIORS WEEK SHOUT-OUT

Inger Ward



This Seniors Week, I'd like to give a shout-out to **John Iriks OAM**, one of our Kwinana seniors who's been rolling up his sleeves for this community for decades.

If you were at Calista Oval for the **Rotary Kwinana Community Fair** on Saturday, you saw one of the things John helped bring back to life. He was instrumental in reviving the old Kwinana Festival as a community-led fair with the Rotary Club of Kwinana.

Six years on, it's thriving. Our local artists and crafty makers have somewhere to show what they've been working on and the rest of us get a big, free day out.

A quick lap of the oval can turn into three catch-ups, a chat with someone you've just met and if you're game enough, a romp through glorious foaming bubbles somewhere between knee and neck high. That's my kind of fair.

John joined the Rotary Club of Kwinana in 1979 and one of my favourite stories about him is tied to our **Christmas Lolly Run**. He remembers receiving the lollies himself as a child, then seeing his own children and grandchildren do the same. Somewhere along the way, he became one of the Rotarians helping keep that tradition going. I reckon there's something rather lovely about going from waiting for the lolly truck to helping make sure it comes down the street for the next lot of kids.

John also chaired the steering committee for the **Kwinana Adventure Park** and has served as a trustee of the **Kwinana Community Chest**, which helps local sporting and community groups get their projects off the ground. From a place for families to play to a helping hand for a local club, there's a good chance someone in your household has enjoyed something John helped make possible right here for Kwinana.

I've been on the receiving end of that support myself on many an occasion and when I had another of my big Befriendly ideas for Kwinana recently, my thoughts again went straight to John and the Rotary team. As ever, they were more than willing to get behind it. That idea became our **Pop Up Community Lounges** at John Wellard Community Centre and William Bertram Community Centre. Now, every week, people have somewhere to pop in for a cuppa, see a familiar face and get to know someone new. I'm especially grateful to John and the Rotary crew for helping give that idea such a comfy, welcoming place to call home.

When John and his wife **Chris** were newlyweds, they took on the job of running **Kwinana Basketball** together and kept at it for ten years. John says Chris has been his biggest supporter in everything he's taken on ever since. In his words, ***"54 years and no end in sight."***

John was awarded the **Medal of the Order of Australia** in the 2026 Australia Day Honours for his service to Kwinana. When Governor Chris Dawson presented him with the medal, John cheekily asked if he could have another one for Chris. The Governor told him it was a common request.

I reckon there's a lovely thank-you tucked inside that cheeky question.

And in the spirit of **Someone I Admire**, here's what I'd add. John, I admire the way you've kept showing up for the place you grew up in and helped make it a place the next generation will have stories about too. And Chris, from those early days running Kwinana Basketball together to 54 years and counting, I'm glad we get to celebrate your part in the story too.



Guest Speaker: Ben Pegus General Manager
Back-on-Track



Ben Pegus is an executive leader based in Perth, Western Australia, who currently serves as the General Manager of the Back on Track Foundation.

Ben provides operational leadership, workforce management, and program delivery oversight for the organization. Working alongside founder and CEO Kylie Dalton, his leadership supports the foundation's core mission: providing vital educational advocacy, mentoring, tutoring, and socio-emotional support to children undergoing cancer treatment, as well as extending services to their siblings.
He holds an executive business education from the Australian Institute of Business.

Organizational Reach
Under the management of the executive team, the foundation focuses heavily on cross-sector communication—bridging the gap between families, medical facilities, schools, and the School Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health (SSEN:MMH) teams. This operational framework ensures that young patients maintain connection to curriculum support through online education partnerships both during and after their cancer treatments.

The Back on Track Foundation delivers tailored, trauma-informed educational and psychosocial programs across Western Australia—with steps currently underway for national expansion.
The organization is designed to address the invisible burdens (the "heaviest backpacks") that children carry after going through childhood cancer treatment, ensuring they do not fall through academic or social cracks.

Core Program Framework

The foundation operates through two main interconnected pillars:

- **Individualised Education Support Program:** Every enrolled child is paired with a specialist, trauma-trained **Education Advocate**. This advocate stays with the child long-term, mapping out a custom learning plan tailored to their specific cognitive and physical needs post-treatment. The program leverages online partners (like 3P Learning and IG3 Education) to offer targeted curriculum support for K–10 students.
- **Mentoring & Wellbeing Support:** This branch recognizes that surviving cancer is only the first step. Treatment often leaves long-term side effects such as cognitive fatigue, PTSD, and severe anxiety about looking or feeling different. Specialist educators provide focused social-emotional learning and psychosocial mentorship to rebuild the child's academic confidence and sense of belonging.

Key Program Features & Services

- **School & System Reintegration:** Transitioning back to a traditional classroom after years of isolation or hospital stays is daunting. Advocates actively liaise with schools, teachers, and medical teams to establish necessary classroom adjustments, flexible workloads, and structural accommodations.
- **The Sibling Program:** Recognizing that a cancer diagnosis impacts the entire family unit, siblings are fully integrated into the educational recovery and mentoring framework to ensure their school progress and emotional health are equally supported.

- **Long-Term Survivorship Support:** Unlike programs that stop once immediate treatment ends, Back on Track remains available for life. This is critical as late-stage side effects and cognitive fatigue often manifest years later when academic demands intensify in high school.

- **Statewide & Virtual Delivery:** The program provides equity of access across Western Australia, operating seamlessly from Wyndham in the far north to Esperance in the south via combined virtual and face-to-face modules.

Funding & Expansion Initiatives

- **Shared Social Return Alliance (SSRA):** A corporate partnership program where local businesses directly sponsor a child's recovery, fully funding up to 40 weeks of dedicated one-on-one trauma tutoring, custom learning software, and institutional coordination per year.
- **National Toolkit Expansion:** Backed by multi-year funding from **Cancer Australia**, the foundation is currently codifying its pilot methods to build a nationally replicable toolkit. This initiative aims to safely adapt their trauma-informed educational advocacy to support families all over the country, ensuring a child's postcode never dictates their educational outcome.

The **Back on Track Foundation** has recently secured significant federal backing to transition its localized Western Australian successes into a scaled, country-wide framework.
The primary driver behind this expansion is a major national initiative announced via the federal government's primary cancer agency.

Cancer Australia National Expansion Grant
In **July 2026**, the Albanese Government announced that the foundation was selected as an official recipient under Cancer Australia's Supporting People with Cancer Grant Program. This strategic funding marks a transition from their original state-level pilot program to a broad national scale.

The national initiative focuses on several core components:

- **The National Expansion Project:** Officially designed to develop, test, and disseminate a nationally replicable, evidence-based educational support toolkit.
- **Geographic Equity:** The funding directly targets bridging the gap for children, adolescents, and young adults whose post-treatment educational outcomes are poorest due to regional isolation, ensuring a child's postcode doesn't dictate their access to recovery.
- **Resource Digitization:** Part of the allocation is actively funding the redesign of the foundation's digital footprint into an active, accessible resource hub for enrolled families and schools across Australia

Supplementary Community & Corporate Initiatives
Alongside the major federal grant, the foundation leverages targeted corporate and community programs to sustain its expanding operational footprint:

- **Shared Social Return Alliance (SSRA):** Local and national businesses partner directly with the foundation to sponsor individual children. This continuous pipeline funds 40 weeks of custom learning software, IT infrastructure, and dedicated one-on-one trauma tutoring per child annually.
- **The Heaviest Backpack Campaign:** An urgent fundraising appeal deployed to clear waitlists of children requiring immediate educational advocacy and reintegration infrastructure. [1]
- **Grassroots Corporate Donations:** Complementary funding from regional workplace giving initiatives, such as Personnel Employed at Alcoa Charity Help (PEACH) and AWA Alliance Bank, directly supplements public grants by purchasing essential IT and mobile learning equipment for kids in recovery.

  Telethon 7: As one of the state's largest children's charities, Telethon completely funds the salaries of the **Education Advocates** deployed across WA. This funding ensures families can access these specialized guides for the duration of their child's academic journey without any out-of-pocket costs.

Kwinana Rotary Community Fair 2026
















Kwinana Community Men's Shed
Community Men's Shed


LIONS CLUB OF KWINANA


Quality take away coffee


Roadhouse
Roadhouse


FIRE & RESCUE - HEAVY RESCUE
FIRE & RESCUE

Polio This Week: 09th November 2026

The beginning of Rotary's mission to end polio…
In 1979, a two-year old named Allan Evangelista received one of the first drops of the oral polio vaccine in the Philippines, as part of a historic Rotary-supported immunization campaign. Nearly five decades later, an unexpected discovery reconnects Allan and his family with that important moment in history. Watch his story in this video.

Polio in wastewater – the science behind a system providing early warnings
In the fight to eradicate polio, wastewater environmental surveillance acts as an early warning system. Poliovirus can circulate silently because most infections do not cause paralysis, and infected people can shed virus in their stool without knowing they are infected. Routine sampling of wastewater from communities therefore offers a window into what is happening across an entire community, including virus transmission that would otherwise remain invisible. Find out how the system is working in the United Kingdom.

Ramesh Ferris wants you to look at his legs — and understand why ending polio matters
Canadian Polio survivor, Rotarian and Global End Polio Advocate Ramesh Ferris has a powerful message: no child should have to live with the lifelong consequences of a disease we can prevent. Ramesh is one of the most passionate voices in the global effort to eradicate polio. A longtime Rotary member and advocate, he has raised awareness and mobilized support for a polio-free world, including by hand-cycling 7140 km across the entire country of Canada in a programme called 'Cycle to Walk', in the process raising funds for Polio Eradication, Education and Rehabilitation.
In a moving new video featured by Bill Gates on *Gates Notes*, Ramesh explains why he sometimes chooses to crawl onto a stage rather than walk. By showing audiences the physical consequences of polio, he makes the case for eradication in a way that statistics alone never could.

Vaccines have made diseases like polio and measles unfamiliar to many families. But grandparents who lived through them remember their consequences.
They remember classmates getting sick and families living with uncertainty. Today, 6,000 members of Grandparents for Vaccines are sharing those experiences with younger generations, helping them understand how far we've come and why protecting that progress matters.
This #WorldImmunizationDay, hear from the people who remember what life was like before these diseases became rare: on.rotary.org/4iHGaH3

Summary of new polioviruses this week

- Afghanistan: eight WPV1 cases and 16 WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Pakistan: one WPV1 case and 11 WPV1-positive environmental samples
- DR Congo: nine cVDPV2 cases
- Ethiopia: two cVDPV1 cases
- Somalia: one cVDPV2-positive environmental sample
- Uganda: two cVDPV2-positive environmental samples







Birthdays and Anniversaries November 2026

Birthday Congratulations:

Norm Mulcahy	3rd
Soren Houlberg	5th
Alan Armstrong	25th
Andrew Aulton	25th



Wedding Anniversaries



Club Anniversaries:

Genevieve Carr	29th	27 years

Congratulations

How far would you travel for End Polio Now?

If you're Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Jennifer Jones, the answer is all the way to Antarctica

No matter where you live, the message is simple: Together, we #EndPolio.



What happened this week in history?

Nov 09th to Nov. 15th

09th

1580: Spanish troops land in Ireland
1842: The first U.S. design patent for typefaces and borders was issued to George Bruce
1872: The Great Boston Fire of 1872. Close to 1,000 buildings destroyed
1904: 1st airplane flight to last more than 5 minutes

10th

1674: Dutch formally cede New Netherlands (New York) to the English
1793: France ends forced worship of God
1885: German engineer Gottlieb Daimler unveils the world's first motorcycle
1908: 1st Gideon Bible put in a hotel room

11th

1620: Mayflower Pilgrims, their 1st landing in America, at Provincetown Harbor, Massachusetts
1790: Chrysanthemums are introduced to England from China
1851: Alvan Clark patents telescope
1880: Australian Bushranger and outlaw Ned Kelly is hanged at Melbourne Gaol

12th

1439: Plymouth, England, becomes the first town incorporated by the English Parliament
1847: Sir James Young Simpson, a British physician, is the first to use chloroform as an anaesthetic
1912: British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's diary & body found in Antarctica
1919: Ross & Keith Smith start a 1-month flight from London to Australia

13th

1673: Christopher Wren is appointed architect for the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral in London
1789: Benjamin Franklin writes "Nothing certain ---- but death & taxes"
1851: Telegraph connection between London-Paris linked
1952: False fingernails 1st sold

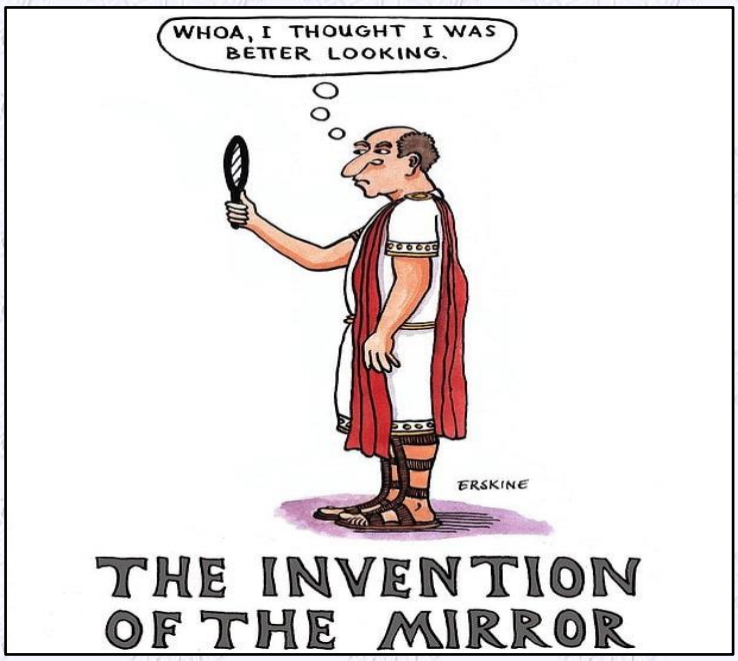
14th

1666: Samuel Pepys reports on 1st blood transfusion (between dogs)
1856: American Gail Borden is issued a patent for technology for his invention of condensed milk
1883: "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson is first published as a book by Cassell & Co.
1910: 1st airplane flight from deck of a ship, Norfolk, Virginia

15th

1492: Christopher Columbus notes 1st recorded reference to tobacco
1777: Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, is approved
1835: Charles Darwin reaches Tahiti on board HMS Beagle,
1837: Isaac Pitman introduces his shorthand system of writing, Pitman shorthand

A man walks into a public library, marches up to the desk, and slams a huge book down. He looks at the librarian and says, "This is the worst book I have ever read in my entire life."
The librarian raises an eyebrow and asks, "Oh really? Why is that?"
The man crosses his arms and says, "No plot, barely any character development, and the worst part?"
The librarian leans in and asks, "What's the worst part?"
The man groans, "There are way too many characters and everyone keeps crossing paths for no reason."
The librarian sighs and says, "Sir, that is the phone book."









Nearby Rotary Clubs, Meeting Times

Rockingham	Monday 6pm	Armadale	Tuesday 7pm
Palm beach	Wednesday 6.30pm	Mandurah Districts	Tuesday 6pm
Baldivis	Tuesday 6.30pm	Pinjarra	Thursday 6.45pm
Cockburn	Wednesday 6pm	Byford & Districts	Monday 7pm