



The Rotary Club of Kwinana

District 9423 Western Australia

Chartered: 22 April 1971

Team 2025/26

President
Stephen Castelli

Secretary
Genevieve Carr

Treasurer
Karen Zabiela

Facts & Figures

Attendance this week
Total Members 24
Apologies
Make-up
Attended 11
Guests
Visitors 3
Partners

50.0 %

Raffle

John W & Cyril

**Heads & Tails
Club**



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

**Visitors are welcome
Contact
0400 837 603**



Bulletin

No 28 23/03/2026



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

Good meeting, PP James officiated in the absence of President Stephen who is presently in Indonesia and coincidentally celebrating 1 year of marriage to his lovely wife Yanti.

Helen, Alan and Andrew joined us again, I see 'white cards' being rolled out very soon.

PP James reported and thanked those involved in the recent successful Harmony Day BBQ at Gilmore College where we provided and cooked 500 sausages.

The Valk foundation has recently approved funding for another Gilmore College student who is pursuing certificate IV in business.

PDG John says we have an interested purchaser for our spare BBQ trailer. Volunteer needed to participate in the Anzac Day Service, representing our club.

Stay safe, Perth and our South-west are in for in a battering if predictions are correct. Tropical Cyclone Narelle is expected to impact Perth from Saturday. Here's hoping the impact and damage is not too severe.



**Rotary International President
2025/26**

Francesco Arezzo

Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

**District Governor 9423
2025/26**

Veronica Lawrance

Rotary Club of Mill Point



March - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Mon 2nd	No Meeting	
Mon 9th	Club Meeting	Alan Armstrong Men's Shed
Mon 16th	Club Meeting	subject: Health
Mon 23rd	Club Meeting	PP James Sharkey
Mon 31st	Club Meeting	Restaurant Meeting

Attendance: Members respond via 'WhatsApp'





President's Pen



March 2026



Just a reminder that we have the following vacancies in our club:

- Public Relations Director
- Programs Manager
- Secretary
- Club Services Director 2026 – 2027 and President Elect for 2027 – 2028

If anyone is able to help with any of these positions, we would love to hear from you.

I still want to have a Blind Wine Tasting at our home potentially in May, and we will invite the members and partners from RC Harvey to join us.

Also looking at a “long table” sundowner at the Green Barista. I have spoken to Dia and Suzy and they have done a number of these events. This would be on a Monday night in lieu of a meeting.

If anyone else has any projects that they feel that the club may be interested in, then please get the details and bring it to the board/club.

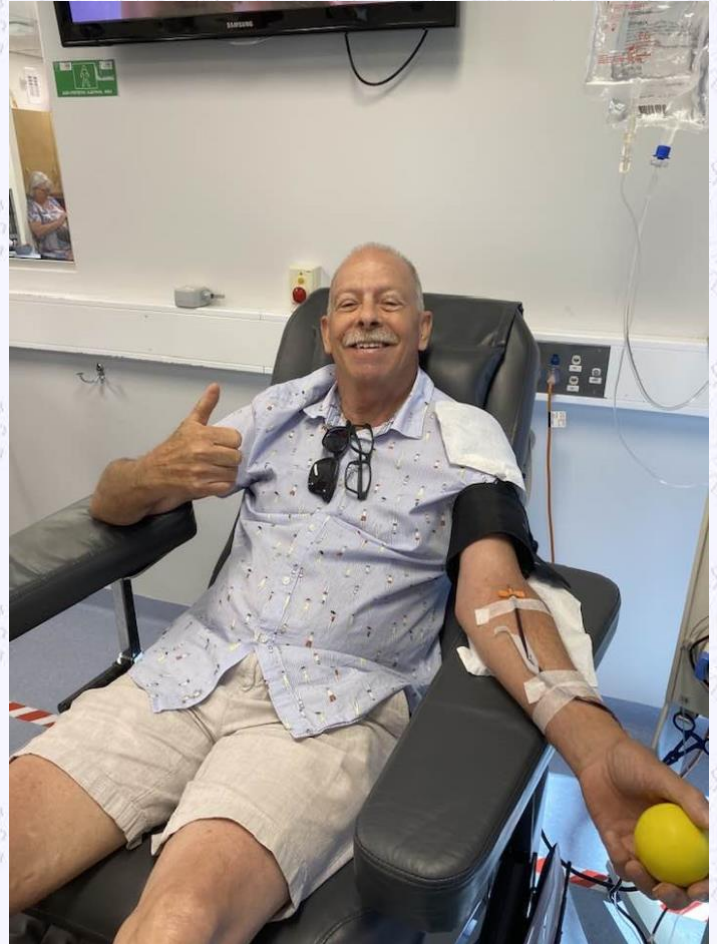
President Stephen

President Stephen is presently overseas, will return in a couple of weeks.

Meeting at Rotary Hall Monday 23rd March 2026



Our President Stephen, celebrating this significant event 1 year ago, plus helping to keep WA's blood supply topped up on a regular basis.



The Rotary Club of Perth is celebrating 100 years of service, having been founded in Western Australia in 1927

A celebration commemorating 100 years of Rotary Service in WA will also be a big part of the weekend celebrations.

A centenary celebration of this milestone, marking a century of community service, is highlighted by events and commemorative initiatives leading into 2027.

The club is a key part of WA's long-standing community service history.

- **Centenary (1927–2027):** The Rotary Club of Perth (**and Rotary WA**) was established in 1927, marking 100 years of service in April 2027.
- **Celebration Highlights:** Events include celebrating 100 years of community service, with planning managed by Rotary WA.
- **Commemorative Activities:** Commemorative stamps and a book titled "Humanity in Action" have been part of celebrating the Rotary legacy.
- **Ongoing Service:** The club has continued its focus on community service in the Perth region for a century.



Genevieve Carr President 2026/27



March 2026

Restaurant Night

Monday 30 March (Matthew Carr's 21st birthday!): Dinner at the Suburban Restaurant in Bertram; partners welcome. Please advise Genevieve if attending.

District Assembly

Training for 2026 – 2026 Office Bearers/Board Members
Scheduled to be held on Sunday 12 April at Leederville Football Club

Monday 20 April:

Have organized for guest speaker from the Salvation Army. Invited members of the Rotary Club of Rockingham to attend. Currently organizing catering for this event.

Weekend away to Katanning 25 – 27 April 2026

Opportunity to catch up with former members Kim Beciri and Paul Durant. Genevieve has been in contact with Katanning Rotary Club, with a plan to meet up with them for lunch or dinner on Sunday 26 April. Please advise Genevieve if attending, and accommodation needs. Kim and Paul are able to accommodate caravans/tents on their property.

Monday 11 May 2026 Guest Speaker

Have invited Jeremy Wood to come and speak to us about the Rotary Peace Pole project. As this is a project designed to be implemented within schools, planning to invite teachers from local schools to attend.

Club Changeover

The District Changeover is scheduled to take place on Saturday 11 July, and so we will need to change the date of our changeover. Now looking to have this on Saturday 4 July (so as not to interfere with members' football commitments!).

PE Genevieve Carr

A bloke went to his mate's fancy dress costume party with nothing but a young woman on his back. "So, what the hell are you supposed to be?" the host asked.

"I'm a snail," he replied.

"What?!" the host spat. "How can you be a snail when all you've got is that chick on your back?"

"You've got it wrong, mate," the bloke replied. "That's Michelle."



PE Genevieve Carr March 2026



Inward Correspondence.

- Rotary Club of Perth newsletter
- March 2026 Rotary Leader
- Invitation to Rotary Club of Rockingham meeting on Monday 30 March
- Rotary Brand News update
- Rotary South Pacific Report
- Invitation to Gilmore College Anzac Ceremony on Wednesday 22 April at 9.40am
- Invitation to polio webinar on Saturday 18 April
- Reminder re RCL nominations
- Copy of Minutes of Kwinana Community Men's Shed committee meeting
- Message from Alan Armstrong re wanting to join our Club!

Outward Correspondence:
None

Congratulations to two special people, Greg and Marge Williams.
On March 26th they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary





Vice Pres.
Terry Evans



Treasurer
Karen Zabiela



Project Director
PP James Sharkey



Foundation Dir.
PDG John Iriks

Team 2025/26



Membership Dir.
Norm Mulcahy



Events Manager
PDG John Iriks



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



Soren: making a significant sale at the Furniture Factory, just on closing time.

Cyril: Suggesting I fine our winning team's supporters, plus when to ding the bell!!!

James: Introducing Alan Armstrong as 'Ian'

John I: Visiting the Chiropractor because of 'lifting furniture'

If the population of China walked past you in single file,
the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

Leonardo DaVinci invented the scissors.

No word in the English language rhymes with month.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and
ears never stop growing.

A few strange facts

Braving conflict to protect children from polio in Gaza Strip – Women at the frontline of the response

Click [here](#) for a story featuring some of the women in Gaza Strip who are a force at the frontline of the fight against polio—reaching families and vaccinating hundreds of thousands of children despite conflict, challenges and personal losses.

Dr Balkhy: “Women power the fight to end polio!”

In [her post](#) following her participation at last week’s GPEI gender webinar, WHO Regional Director Dr Hanan Balkhy paid tribute to the critical role woman play in polio eradication. “As a Gender Champion for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, I can only underscore how women power the fight to end polio – from labs to the frontlines of vaccination.”

Dr Balkhy welcomes Dr Jamal Ahmed

In [this post](#), WHO Regional Director Dr Hanan Balkhy welcomed Dr Jamal Ahmed to his new role as Director for Polio Eradication and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases for the Eastern Mediterranean. With nearly two decades of experience advancing polio eradication and strengthening disease surveillance across the Middle East and Africa, including most recently as global polio eradication director at WHO in Geneva, his leadership comes at a critical moment for EMRO as the region pushes through the last mile to end polio and accelerate efforts to protect communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Jamal: we will miss you here in Geneva, but we understand that you are more urgently needed now in EMRO at this critical time. We wish you all the success, and stand ready to support you in any way we can!

Podcast on polio eradication

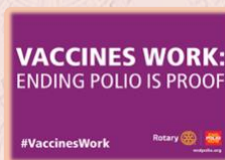
Click [‘here’](#) to listen to a very interesting and informative podcast by the global reputable health podcast producer ‘The Naked Scientists’ on polio eradication, featuring inputs by Kath O’Reilly, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr Zubair Wadood, WHO; and, Ananda Bandyopadhyay, Gates Foundation.

SAGE reviews path to the endgame — from vaccine strategy to post-eradication planning

Last week, at the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) meeting in Geneva, the group took stock of progress toward eradication and examined the critical decisions shaping the polio endgame. Informed by key analysis of the SAGE Polio Working Group from February, discussions covered programme performance and governance, planning for eventual bivalent OPV cessation, advances in novel OPV and next-generation IPV manufacturing, and how evolving vaccine strategies can best protect children while safeguarding a polio-free future. The group also began formulating recommendations on the optimal role of IPV and bOPV in routine immunization as the world prepares for the final phase of eradication. [More](#).

Summary of new polioviruses this week:

- Afghanistan: one WPV1 case and 20 WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Pakistan: seven WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Angola: one cVDPV2 case
- Chad: one cVDPV2-positive environmental sample
- Nigeria: two cVDPV2 cases
- Somalia: one cVDPV2 case and one cVDPV2-positive environmental sample



Birthdays and Anniversaries March 2026

Birthday Congratulations:

Barry Winmar 12th
Bob Cooper 18th
John Maskell 23rd
Brian Thompson 25th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wedding Anniversaries

John & Deryl 16th 63 years



Club Anniversaries:

Alan Johnson 10th 1 year

Congratulations

Blast from the past
29th March 2002 at the Katanning Conference



Living in Australia

1995 VS 2026



1995

2026

HOUSE PRICE 🏠

\$196,000

HOUSE PRICE 🏠

\$1,080,000

MED. SALARY 💰

\$30,700

MED. SALARY 💰

\$90,500

ENERGY BILL ⚡

\$700 P/YR

ENERGY BILL ⚡

\$2,600 P/YR

BEER 🍺

\$2.20

BEER 🍺

\$11.00

MACCAS
CHEESEBURGER 🍔

\$1.25

MACCAS
CHEESEBURGER 🍔

\$4.95

GROCERIES 🥬

\$80 PER WEEK

GROCERIES 🥬

\$550 PER WEEK

Demographics & Lifestyle

Australia's social fabric has aged and expanded significantly over these three decades.

- **Population:** Grew from ~18 million in 1996 to over **28 million** in 2026.
- **Median Age:** Increased from 33.4 years in 1994 to **38.5 years** in 2026.
- **Urbanisation:** Approximately **86.7%** of the population now lives in urban areas.
- **Life Expectancy:** Improved from ~75 (male) and ~81 (female) in the mid-90s to **81.1** and **85.1** respectively.

Housing & Affordability

Housing has become the primary driver of generational wealth gaps.

- **Mortgage Burden:** In 1996, average repayments took up **16.7%** of income; in 2026, this has nearly doubled to **30.7%**.
- **Generational Shift:** While Baby Boomers still hold the most overall wealth, **Gen X** now leads in property-based wealth as of 2026.
- **Home Ownership:** The percentage of people buying their first home before age 30 has dropped from 55% (early Boomers) to 36% (Millennials).

The purchasing power of the Australian dollar has shifted, with everyday costs rising alongside incomes.

• Everyday Costs:

- **Coffee:** ~\$2.50 in 1996 vs. ~\$6.00 in 2026
- **Petrol:** ~71¢/L in 1996 vs. ~\$1.60 – \$2.15/L in 2026
- **Movie Ticket:** ~\$7.25 in 1996 vs. ~\$17+ in 2026

Living in 2026 Australia is defined by a "two-speed" economy. **Skilled professionals** (doctors, engineers, IT) still maintain high standards of living, but many younger Australians face a "hunger games" rental market with vacancy rates as low as **1.1%**.

• Average Weekly Earnings:

- **1996:** ~\$391
- **2026:** ~\$2,010 – \$2,051

• Median House Price:

- **1996:** ~\$160,000
- **2026:** ~\$1.34M

Information gathered with the assistance of AI



What happened this week in history?



March 23rd to March 29th



23rd

1782: Engineer James Watt's patent for a rotary motion, steam engine (his sun-and-planet gear)
1822: Boston, Massachusetts, is incorporated as a city
1886: "The Times" of London newspaper publishes what was the world's 1st classified ad
1905: **First Rotary Club formed by 4 men in the Unity Building, Chicago**

24th

837: Canada gives its black citizens the right to vote
1877: University boat race between Oxford & Cambridge ends in a dead heat
1882: German scientist Robert Koch discovers the tubercle bacillus which causes tuberculosis.
1906: "Census of the British Empire" shows Great Britain rules 1/5th of the world

25th

31: 1st Easter, according to calendar-maker Dionysius Exiguus
421: Friday at 12 PM - city of Venice founded
1609: Henry Hudson embarks on exploration for Dutch East India Company, find a passage to Asia
1807: British Parliament abolishes slave trade throughout the British Empire.

26th

1484: William Caxton prints his translation of Aesop's Fables
1780: 1st British Sunday newspaper appears (British Gazette & Sunday Monitor)
1839: 1st Henley Royal Regatta on the river Thames, England
1845: Patent awarded for adhesive medicated plaster, precursor of band-aid

27th

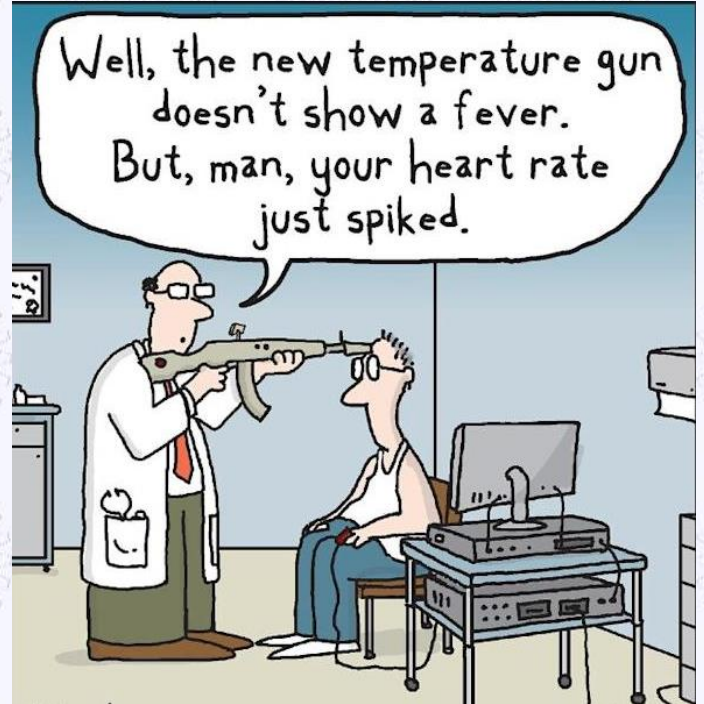
1513: Spaniard Juan Ponce de León and his expedition first sight Florida
1790: The modern shoelace with an aglet patented in England by Harvey Kennedy
1855: Canadian geologist Abraham Gesner patents kerosene
1914: 1st successful non-direct blood transfusion is performed by Dr. Albert Hustin in Brussels

28th

1797: Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire patents a washing machine
1804: Ohio passes law restricting movement of Blacks
1854: Great Britain and France declare war on Russia, expanding the Crimean War
1885: US Salvation Army officially organised

29th

1798: Republic of Switzerland forms
1827: 20,000 attend Ludwig von Beethoven's burial in Vienna
1848: Niagara Falls stops flowing for 30 hours due to an ice jam in the river upstream
1871: Royal Albert Hall opened by Queen Victoria in London



Riddle
I have one head, one foot, and four legs. What am I?
I get bigger the more you take from me. What am I?
I have ears but cannot hear. What am I?
I have a head and a tail but no body. What am I?
I come at night without being called. What am I?
I break without being touched. What am I?
I am full of holes but hold water. What am I?
I have an endless supply of letters but start empty. What am I?
I can be heard but not seen. What am I?
I have no life but I can die. What am I?

Riddle Zone Follow

HUMAN WEIRD ENGLISH FACTS

- There's no English word that rhymes perfectly with "month," "orange," "silver," or "purple."
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends with -mt.
- The word "girl" originally meant any young person, not specifically a female.
- The word "facetious" contains all the vowels in order (a, e, i, o, u).
- "Bookkeeper" has three consecutive double letters.
- The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet.

Answer
A bed
A hole
Corn
A coin
Sleep
Trust
A sponge
A mailbox
Sound
A battery

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