



THE ROTARWAVE



Rotary
Surfers Paradise



Volume 61 Issue 08 29.09.25

Meetings – 1st & 3rd Mondays 5:45 for 6:15
Gold Coast Tavern, Holden Place, Bundall

PO Box 5267
GCMC QLD 9726



RI President
Francesco Arezzo



Club President
Helen Derrick



District Governor
John Ooman

GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

Date	Speaker	Topic	Comment
20 October	Nancy Hansch	Hollywood Business	Nancy's last speech was hilarious

DUTY ROSTER

Date	Door	Toast	Thanks	Chair
20 October	Peter Dimond	Stuart Fairley	Phil Dunsford	Alan Guignon

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do is a test used by [Rotarians](#) world-wide as a [moral code](#) for personal and business relationships. The test can be applied to almost any aspect of life.¹

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Our Guest Speakers – 29 Sept.



Bill Crouch delivering Club information.



Our Club members, Sheila Single and John Monks spoke about their travelling overseas. Sheila to Canada and John to the UK.

There are a few extra Club polo shirts.

Check with Bill re sizing available.

New presentation pens have been ordered. Each member will receive a sample.

Many members no longer wear the rotary badge with the long pin. A new badge with a magnetic attachment is available and was issued to members at the meeting.

Bert Shenko

Sausage sizzle dates

Friday 31 October

Sunday 28 December

Available members please contact Bert.

Jeff Bignell

Jeff advised that Paul Taylor, father of Darren Taylor and a friend on many members passed away.

The funeral was on the following week.

Sheila Ponting

Race Day committee. Let Sheila know about Prizes.

When History is remembered by our Youth: A Speech to Maleny RSL

Speech: Acknowledging Rotary's Involvement with the Vietnam Conflict Era "Wounded Serviceman's Scheme"

Good morning everyone,
My name is Hannah Leach and I am an executive member of the Maleny High Interact club which is a Rotary Maleny sponsored club. I am here today on behalf of Maleny High Interact, the Rotary club of Maleny, and Maleny State High School. Today, I have the privilege of sharing the story of a remarkable chapter in our Rotary community's history — one that reflects Rotary's enduring values of service, compassion, and fellowship. It is the story of the "Wounded Serviceman's Scheme," a project born on the Gold Coast during one of the most challenging periods in our nation's history — the Vietnam conflict. The scheme began in 1965, thanks to the vision and determination of members of the Surfers Paradise Rotary Club. At its heart, it was simple — but profoundly impactful. The idea was to assist in the rehabilitation of wounded servicemen by offering them something beyond medical treatment: the opportunity to rest, to recover emotionally, and to reconnect with their loved ones. For 14 days, these servicemen, alongside their wives and children, were given an expense-paid holiday here on the Gold Coast. Imagine the healing power of those days — the sound of the surf, the warmth of the sun, the laughter of children on the beach — after months, sometimes years, of hardship and pain.

In 1968, the scheme extended its embrace even further, welcoming wounded New Zealand Defence Force personnel who had served in Vietnam. This gesture showed that compassion has no borders — that mateship and gratitude extend across the Tasman as easily as across the street.

The success of the scheme was not Rotary's alone. It was made possible through the generosity of local businesses, motels, tourist attractions, and airlines, all of whom gave freely of their services to make these holidays a reality. This was a true community effort, where everyone — from the hospitality industry to everyday citizens — played a role in helping our wounded veterans heal. By the time the scheme officially ended in 1973, its impact was extraordinary. Over those eight years, **1,496 wounded servicemen, 623 wives,** and countless children experienced its benefits. Those numbers represent far more than statistics. They represent faces, stories, and families whose lives were brightened and whose spirits were lifted through this act of generosity.

It is worth remembering that this project took place during a time when the Vietnam conflict was deeply divisive within Australia. Yet, the Rotary members and their supporters chose to rise above politics. They focused instead on the humanity of those who had served — on the belief that regardless of one's opinion on the war itself, those who had sacrificed their health deserved care, dignity, and compassion.

Today, we honour the vision of those Rotarians from the Surfers Paradise club, their partners in the community, and the countless volunteers and donors who made the "Wounded Serviceman's Scheme" a success. It stands as a shining example of Rotary's motto: *Service Above Self*.

And while the scheme may have concluded in 1973, its legacy continues — in the memories of those who were helped, in the goodwill it fostered, and in the example it sets for all of us today.

Let us be inspired by their work. Let us remember that sometimes the greatest service we can offer is not in grand speeches or political debates, but in simple acts of kindness that restore hope to those who need it most.

On behalf of all here, I extend heartfelt thanks to Rotary and all who played a role in this remarkable initiative. Your service changed lives then — and your example continues to change lives now.

Thank you.

Some fun shots from our Race Day.







From the Rotary Club of Bangkok South.

Alan Guignon: Board Members of RC Surfers Paradise,

With great pleasure I am forwarding the below email from Bangkok South giving a very comprehensive review of the project we joined with other clubs worldwide to provide a very welcome piece of equipment for a major provincial hospital in Thailand.

This is the type of project we should continue to support as it means so much to a community in poorer areas of the world that really makes a difference. The spirit of Rotary in action. Please read Per's email in full, and for those who don't know too much about our sister club Bangkok South, know just what a Rotary club can do with international support.

When I was living in Bangkok, I attended many meetings of Bangkok South and I am so pleased and proud that Surfers Paradise has once again assisted projects that make a difference in communities less fortunate than ourselves.

Rotary doing good in the world.

Sincerely
PP Alan G

Former Director Projects

Begin forwarded message:

Dear friends in Rotary and project partners,

Please see the section on our Global Grant in the enclosed RCBS newsletter. The scanner was delivered to the Singburi Hospital on 26.9.2025, and the supplier has been paid in full.

We can now confirm that an official handover ceremony will take place at the Singburi Hospital in the morning of Saturday 15th November 2025, and we would like to invite you and the members of your club to attend the ceremony. We expect the Governor of the Province of Singburi and the Director of the Provincial Health Department to attend together with doctors and nurses from the hospital.

