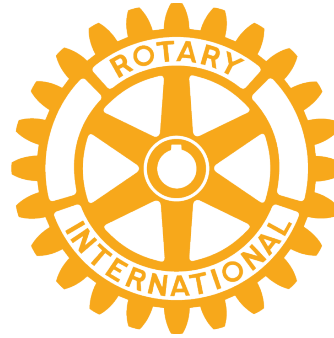


Rotary



The Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise Inc Annual Changeover Luncheon

12th July 2026



28 years later, Channel 9 'A Current Affair' broadcast our Wheelchairs Project again, starring its instigator, Des La Rance

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



2025 - 26

District 9640

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



2026 - 27

Programme

Master of Ceremonies: Trent Belling

Toast to Australia Trent Belling

Toast to Partners: Graeme Isaacson

Introductions, Apologies: Trent Belling

President's Welcome: President Paul Seymour

Menu TRYP Hotel

Main Course

alternative drops of

**Chicken Saltimbocca - chicken medallions, prosciutto
& sage with braised fennel & Tuscan cabbage**

or

**Coral Coast Barramundi Fillet - Pumpkin Puree,
green beans & antiboise sauce**

Desert

**Costata al Limone - Lemon curd tart,
meringue, double cream**

or

Tiramisu with almond biscotti

Tea & Pod Espresso coffee station included

Toast to Rotary International: Doug Lipp

Response: PDG Lisa Hunt

President's Report: President Paul Seymour

Club Presentations: President Paul Seymour

Handing over of Club Charter and President's Collar

Introduction of new board: President Mario Fairlie

Close: Trent Belling

ROTARY CLUB OF SURFERS SUNRISE Inc

Office Bearers 2025 - 26

President	Paul Seymour
Immediate Past President	Andy Bell
Vice President	Andy Bell
President Elect	Mario Fairlie
Secretary	Trent Belling
Treasurer	Charles Thomasson
Director, Club Administration	Franz Huber
Director, The Rotary Foundation	Dr Elizabeth Celi
Director, Membership	Doug Lipp
Director, Youth Services	Mitch Brown
Director, Services Projects	Ross Augustine
Director, Fundraising	Ross Augustine
Chairman of Wheelchair Trust	Geoff Croad

Club Service and special projects positions

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster	Franz Huber
Facebook Administrator	Franz Huber
Facebook Market Administrator	Ashleigh Symes
Rotary Information, Club Trainer	PDG Darrell Brown
Matching Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie, Ross Augustine
District Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie, Ross Augustine
Golf Day Coordinators	Charles Thomasson, Doug Lipp,
Club Insurance Officer	Ian Mayberry
Social Events Convenor	Adrian Crowe

President's Report

Paul Seymour

Well, how quickly a year in Rotary comes around. It has been my pleasure and honour to be your President for the last 12 months. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all our Members, the Associate Members at the Project Shed and all other volunteers throughout the year

I would also like to express my special thanks to **Andy Bell**, who stood in for me for a period when I was unwell and was ably supported by **Franz Huber**. I would like to express my personal thanks to all board members for their huge efforts throughout the year.

At the beginning of my year, in July 2025, I set the motto to "participation and involvement". A major proportion of our membership has indeed followed this theme with vigour. Some of our members, despite being unwell or temporarily incapacitated, still engaged and continued to help where possible in the true spirit of Rotary.

I'd like to specially mention some major programs and events:

- Rotary Support for School Kids (formerly known as School Mates), a project introduced by **Ian Mayberry** and well assisted by **Evan Mita**. We work anonymously through school principals to financially assist less fortunate school students to receive necessities, such as school uniforms, books and computers.
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzles at Nerang, well organised by **Ross Augustine**, with **Angus Miller** pre-preparing a big Esky full of chopped onions at every event. That is not only a great fundraiser, but serves as a Rotary team-building occasion.
- One of our annual events was the Rotary Golf Day held at Surfers Paradise Golf Club. I wish to thank the organisers **Doug Lipp** and **Charles Thomasson**, and all members who assisted to make the day a great success.
- Our current flagship project, the Project Shed. We have now made and sent more than 12,000 'Rough Terrain Wheelchairs' overseas. They are constructed from discarded and donated bicycles, combined with new parts such as BMX wheels and tyres, heavy duty plywood etc. This is a truly exceptional achievement. It is pleasing to see that the Project Shed, in addition to Wednesdays and Saturdays, is now also open on Mondays. A special thanks goes to our Fundraising and Services Director **Ross Augustine** and our 'Foreman' **Bryan Tuesley** and their team of volunteer workers for their efforts in dismantling the bikes and building the finished product.

However, above all, **Geoff Croad**, you deserve special acknowledgement and expression of our appreciation and thanks. In your position of Chairman of the Wheelchair Trust, you took charge of the management of both the shed as well as the procurement of parts, dealing with bike donors, shopping centres, high-rise managers, customs & shipping agents, overseas contacts at both the procurement and delivery points, and continued liaising with Rotary clubs and charities who distribute the wheelchairs to the recipients. Whilst we much regret your "taking a step back", we know that you will continue, where required, to assist **Bevan Sim**, who is now taking over that role.

A successful and effective club needs somebody who takes care of the minutiae of administration and communication. **Franz Huber**, our Director of Club Administration and Executive Secretary, arranges our speakers and presenters, both from within the club membership as well as from external, publishes a quality weekly club bulletin, maintains our membership, volunteer and Wheelchair Trust donor databases, as well as our website and Facebook pages.

I also wish to acknowledge the other board members who have quietly gone about their business, work that is time-consuming and demands accepting responsibility: Club Secretary **Trent Belling**, Club Treasurer **Charles Thomasson** and Wheelchair Trust

Treasurer **Doug Lipp**. Doug is also our Director of Membership. Under his guidance, we gained four new members: Tulip Penney, then Rob Thomasson and Christine O'Connor (who transferred from another club), and we recently inducted a returning member, Rusty Lush.

I also want to acknowledge the work done by non-board members throughout the year: Welfare Officer **Graeme Isaacson**, Social Committee chair **Adrian Crowe**, Insurance Officer **Ian Mayberry**, and **Ray Higgs** who organises our annual Lutzy Award and liaises with the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club.

During the past year, the Surfers Paradise SLSC has undergone major renovations, so for several months our usual meeting place was unavailable. On behalf of Surfers Sunrise Rotary, I would like to express our appreciation to the management and staff of the **TRYP by Wyndham Hotel**, who made their premises available at no cost to our members for our meetings.

Being President of Surfers Sunrise Rotary has been an honour, one I will always cherish. To our incoming President **Mario Farlie**, I wish you and your team every success for your upcoming year 2026-27.

Yours in Rotary

Paul Seymour
President 2025 - 26

Treasurer's Report

Charles Thomasson

Rotary club of Surfers Sunrise - Profit & Loss For the period of 01 July 2025 to 16 June 2026

	2026	2025
Trading Income		
BBQ Income	16,191.60	10,208.09
Bikes & Bits sales	6,436.00	5,467.50
Change Over Function Ticket Sales	(101.67)	(370.00)
Christmas Dinner	-	(57.00)
Christmas Cakes	64.79	83.16
Containers Fundraising	15,415.20	11,221.60
Corporate Sponsorship	1,800.00	1,440.00
Donations Received	14,425.50	6,322.10
Foundation Fundraising	-	100.00
Golf Day Income	11,192.25	14,594.50
Other Revenue	-	2,500.00
Rotary Club Annual Dues	10,800.00	9,180.00
Sportsman's Lunch Income	100.00	540.58
Total Trading Income	76,323.67	61,230.53
Cost of Sales		
Wheelchair Trust Contributions	2,746.99	(3,675.57)
Total Cost of Sales	2,746.99	(3,675.57)
Gross Profit	73,576.68	64,906.10
Operating Expenses		
Accounting Fees	384.76	420.00
Audit Fees	-	2,100.00
Bank Fees	414.77	431.38
Breakfast Costs	239.58	167.76
Club Runner Costs	1,048.50	775.27
Depreciation	-	9,424.97
District Dues	4,851.00	4,816.97
District Insurance	1,270.94	1,496.00
Donations paid	1,210.00	18,812.07
Dues Rotary International	4,803.15	2,379.25
Engraving-Badges-Pins	84.20	-
Fees & Permits	62.10	62.10
Freight	11,864.70	-
Golf Day Expenses	4,572.80	5,106.75
Hire of Plant & Equipment	-	938.00
Lutzy Award Board	2,400.00	2,400.00
Lutzy Award Meals	(164.93)	116.32
Meeting Expenses	151.47	191.74
MV - Fuel & Oil	1,310.75	-
MV - Rego	1,292.31	1,072.39

Treasurer's Report

Charles Thomasson

	2026	2025
MV & Forklift - Excess Insurance	-	1,240.96
MV Repairs and Maintenance	969.00	1,697.50
NYSF	-	1,495.00
Postage, Freight & Courier	491.00	783.63
Printing & Stationery	127.00	747.61
Project Shed Bunnings Account	3,142.79	-
Project Shed Container Hire	1,056.00	-
Project Shed Costs	1,435.56	306.36
Project Shed First Aid Training	567.00	-
Project Shed Trade Tools Account	1,983.92	1,299.00
Project Shed-Electricity	2,591.22	1,123.62
Project Shed-Miscellaneous	1,948.37	2,004.30
Project Shed-Rates	468.37	1,792.24
Project Shed-Repairs & Maintenance	-	932.80
Project Shed-Security	-	594.00
Rotary Down Under	1,217.19	1,150.45
Rotary Foundation	3,900.00	3,100.00
Rotary Shirts Costs	(385.00)	257.96
RYDA	700.00	-
RYLA	-	725.00
RYPEN	-	320.00
School Mates	4,223.00	-
Subscriptions	278.04	-
Trailer - Repairs & Maintenance	-	856.06
Training Costs	164.51	83.00
Total Operating Expenses	60,674.07	71,220.46
Net Profit	12,902.61	(6,314.36)

Note: this report is as at **16 June 2026**, and does NOT represent the accounts for the entire financial year ending 30th June 2026.

A formal report for the entire financial year will be presented at the AGM.

Yours in Rotary

Charles Thomasson
Treasurer

Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust - Financials Doug Lipp

SURFERS SUNRISE WHEELCHAIR TRUST

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 1ST JULY 2025 TO 31TH MAY 2026

Balance as per Bank Statement 1 st July 2025		33430.92
ADD: DEDPOSITS		
GST Received	322.02	
Bike sales	6695.68	
Donations TD	79595.00	
Donations NTD	18618.00	
Containers	1908.01	
GST Refunds	2421.00	
		109559.71
		142990.63
LESS EXPENDITURE		
GST Paid	857.66	
Materials	103830.20	
Fuel	346.37	
Name Tags	253.71	
Container	1870.00	
Gloves	352.85	
Tools	947.74	
Stripe Costs	1319.48	
		109778.01
		\$33212.62
Balance as per Bank Statement 31 th May 2026		\$32746.38
Cash On hand		\$466.24

Note: this report is as at **31st May 2026**, and does NOT represent the accounts for the entire financial year ending 30th June 2025.

A formal report for the entire financial year will be presented at the AGM.

Yours in Rotary

Doug Lipp,

Treasurer
Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust

Services and Projects

Ross Augustine

Wheelchair Project

Thanks to Geoff Croad for all the work he has done at the shed, as he steps back at the end of the year and Bevan Sim takes over, the club needs to support Bevan and make sure we have a smooth changeover for the operation of the shed.

At the club assembly early in the year, it was agreed to make some changes at the shed; these have been difficult to implement, and further work is required there. Production of wheelchairs needs to be looked at, as at present we are producing wheelchairs with no end destination. After the District Conference, we were able to register the wheelchair project with RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) for a grant under their Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund scheme. This gives us Level 1 tax deductibility for any donations. (The Wheelchair Trust is a Level 2 trust for donations). The link for donations to the wheelchair project is <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/90-2025-26>. In the new year, there will be changes to the Trustees of the Wheelchair Trust.

Youth Outreach

A number of trainees from the centre have worked at the project shed on three occasions alongside volunteers at the shed. We were able to provide a bicycle to one of the trainees to enable him to move to future employment at the end of his traineeship. We are looking at how we can be involved in the Tiny Houses project at their site in Arrundel.



On-site breakfast at Youth Outreach Centre

School Mates Program

We have rebranded this as a Surfers Sunrise project and renamed it **Rotary Support for Students**. Under this name we have registered with RAWCS a Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant- Project. Again, this gives us tax deductibility for donations to support the program. We have made donations to support a number of students. The district grant application has been completed for \$10,000 to purchase 10 computers for Merrimac State High School, for use by students in need.

PCYC

As a beneficiary of our golf day, we have been able to provide PCYC Gold Coast with equipment to set up their new youth activities hub. Also, a number of our members are volunteers to support PCYC programs.

Lutzy Award

This award has been made annually for the last 10 years in memory of Keith Lutz, a past club member and member of the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club. The recipient is selected by the Surf Club and we donate a surf ski to the recipient. The Surf Club Member to receive the award at our club meeting last August was Noah Siladyi. Congratulations Noah.

Yours in Rotary,

Ross Augustine,
Director, Services

Membership

Doug Lipp

During the 2025-2026 Rotary year, we added four new members to our club and lost none.

In September, Mario Fairlie introduced **Tulip Penney**, under the classification of Management – Public Administration. Tulip is a veritable dynamo, and is keen to take on an immediate board position, taking charge of Public Relations. Her aim is to liaison with the media to promote not only Rotary and our club per se, but also our projects.

Also in September, two experienced Rotarians transferred from another Rotary Club: **Christine O'Connor** and **Rob Thomasson**. Both have a long history as Rotarians and our club is delighted that they have continued their Rotary journey with Surfers Sunrise.

Christine, a Psychologist by profession, will also take on a board position, chairing The Rotary Foundation portfolio. Rob, until retirement, was a principal partner in Vetcall, a major local chain of Veterinary Clinics.



From left: Tulip Penney, Vice President Andy Bell, Christine O'Connor, Rob Thomasson



Then, on his last meeting of the year, President Paul inducted a former member of Surfers Sunrise, **Rusty Lush**, to our club. Rusty, by profession a Real Estate Agent, joined us again after about two decades of absence.

Welcome all to Rotary Surfers Sunrise!

Regrettably, some members were not able to attend meetings on a regular basis due to ill health, business pressure or extended overseas travel, but it is heartening to see them still coming along to the occasional meeting. You are, of course, always welcome.

The fortnightly Social Meetings, as well as the Thursday afternoon chinwags at Benowa Tavern, have been well attended and are a source of great conversations about all sorts of different topics. It is not uncommon that serious Rotary business is discussed as well.

I look forward to the coming year, with our new Director of Membership, Kane Chisholm, taking charge.

Yours in Rotary

Doug Lipp
Director, Membership

Youth Services

Mitch Brown

The main objective for the Youth Services Committee for the Rotary year 2025 – 2026 was to establish sustainable relationships with youth community stakeholders such as local high schools. Progress to that end was made via both digital and personal contact.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the personal touch was more successful in establishing an initial connection. Thanks to **Evan Mita** and **Andy Bell** for affording the opportunity to accompany them on one of their visits to a local high school as part of their work with the Rotary Support for Students program.

Moving into the 2026 - 2027 Rotary year the plan is to expand these relationships to both other local high schools as well as local PCYCs. Expect a tap on the shoulder soon Franz for assistance! *[Happy to assist! Ed.]*

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)

In February 2026 the Club used the remaining funding held for this program by contributing sponsorship for the participation of Miami SHS students in a RYDA workshop.

Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS)

The Club was unable to secure a participant for this program despite offers of sponsorship opportunities being made a number of times to various organisations.

Hopefully the development of relationships with more local youth community stakeholders will see the Club being able to sponsor a candidate in the 2027 program.

The Lutz Award

This award is in honour of our late member Keith Lutz, who was a driving force in our club, particularly with our Wheelchair project. He also was a leader and mentor in the Surfers Paradise Surf Life Saving Club.

The award is aimed at an emerging young leader (not necessarily the best surfer, but of course can be), nominated by the Surfers Paradise SLSC. The winner is presented with a real, very useful prize: a \$2,500 Surf Ski, inscribed with the details of the award. Presented in August 2025, it was awarded to **Noah Siladyi**. For more details, [check this link](#) on our website.



Rotary Youth Enrichment Program (RYPEN)

The Club sponsored a Year 10 student from Robina SHS to attend the 15 – 17 May 2026 camp at Camp Drewe.

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

The Club sponsored the participation of three senior debating teams from Trinity Lutheran College Molendinar to participate in the 2026 Model United Nations Assembly held on 30 May 2026 at Tweed Heads.

Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un were rumoured to be the most significant world leaders who made a personal appearance at the event. Our sponsored teams performed well but unfortunately came away empty-handed, but much the wiser.

A big shout out to Elizabeth Celi for volunteering as a judge on the day.

National Youth Sciences Forum (NYSF)

The Club has offered to co-sponsor a Year 11 student from Robina SHS to attend the January 2027 National Youth Science Forum to be held at the University of Queensland.

The application is being reviewed by the selection panel, with an outcome expected mid-August 2026.

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)

The Club supported Annabelle Worboys' RYE application for a 2027 overseas exchange.

Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful this time, but the Club hopes to sponsor Annabelle to attend RYPEN in 2027.

With the Club reengaging with the RYE program, it will need in the near future to appoint a Youth Exchange Officer and a Counsellor.

As the Club's Youth Protection Officer I will be assisting members in the early months of the 2026 – 2027 Rotary year bring their Blue Card compliance up to date.

Yours in Rotary

Mitch Brown

Director, Youth Services

The Rotary Foundation

Elizabeth Celi

For the 2025 District Grant application, our club was successful in receiving a \$5,000 matching grant for the delivery of Wheelchairs manufactured at The Shed. One shipping container was delivered to South Africa into the care of the Rotary Club of Durban to be distributed by other Rotary Clubs. **Ross Augustine** submitted the required report to the District 9640 Rotary Foundation Committee, and all criteria were met for acquittal requirements. Congratulations to Ross Augustine, Geoff Croad and all volunteers at The Shed for this initiative. **For the 2026 District 9640 Grant application**, submitted at the end of May 2026, our Fundraising/Community Services Director Ross Augustine completed an application for a matching District Grant to put toward the purchase of 10 computers for Merrimac State High School.

For the 2027 District Grants year, let's keep in mind options for local community projects. Our club is becoming involved with, e.g Rotary Support for Students (formerly School Mates), PCYC programs and potentially building of "tiny houses" at the project shed (research and due diligence pending).

Global Grants: Should a project emerge suitable for collaboration with an overseas Rotary club meeting Rotary International's areas of service, the option of Global Grants remains.

I attended a few **Rotary Foundation webinars** over the course of the year, learning how various Rotarians have collaborated with the Foundation's donation and bequests avenues to support local needs. A couple to mention include **District 9640 Polio Plus** webinar on 4th October 2025. Its presenter Brad Howard was involved in past national immunisation days. This webinar was insightful in learning the historical development of the End Polio Now initiative and all the logistics developed over these decades. The second webinar in the Rotary South Pacific Series **"Inside the Fight"** on 18th April 2026, presented by Past RI Director Valerie Wafar. Valeria had just returned from Nigeria with the Strategy Committee for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Valerie reported on possible Type 2 polio outbreaks in Nigeria, which are being monitored.

According to Rotary International's 'End Polio Now' website, as of June 2026 there are just 6 reported cases of Polio in Afghanistan and 3 in Pakistan.

A relatively new initiative for the Pacific Region is the ability to sign up as a Polio Plus Society, a new fundraising and recognition program. This entails signing up as an annual donor committing to a minimum of US\$100 per year. The application process is straightforward, as I experienced signing up in April 2026. The Polio Plus information sheet, Polio Plus Application form and instructions for the My Rotary donation portal are inserted here for your consideration.



I'd like to thank all board members and club members for their support and enthusiasm during my time as Foundation Director over these last two years. Wishing our incoming Foundation Director well as she picks up the mantle.

Yours in Rotary,

Elizabeth Celi
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Committee

Wheelchair Trust

Geoff Croad

As this past year has progressed, we are now up to 66 volunteers, although we have a few that we haven't seen for a while. We decided to also open the shed on Mondays. This is progressing with around 10 volunteers attending, with **Rick Old** the person responsible on that day. Wednesdays and Saturdays have continued to be busy days, with good numbers of volunteers attending.

We have had some volunteers with health problems, and some are travelling, but we all look forward to their return to the Wheelchair Shed. Over this last year, we have encouraged them to wear the new Surfers Sunrise Rotary Shirt with their name embroidered. This makes it easier for visitors, volunteers and members of our Rotary club to get to know them by name.



A week before school holidays, we now have a regular 'Big Bike Sale', offering refurbished bikes that are too good to cut up. All proceeds are allocated to the wheelchair project. **Don Glover** and **Paul Lawson** are the two volunteers who continually put a morning or two a week aside to do some minor repairs in preparation for this event. The sales are promoted with the help of our club members **Tulip Penney** and **Ashleigh Symes**, and Don Glover promoting it on Radio 4CRB, in conjunction with another radio station.

One of our newer members, **Peter Schampers**, introduced us to **Coastal Powder Coating & Blasting**. At no charge, this company sandblasts our bike frames and then powder coats them. This has been a huge time saver for the wheelchair project. We now have these bike frames looking brand new. Thank you, Brian Pollock and Lance White!

Palen Creek Correctional Centre have supported our wheelchair program by collecting discarded bikes, supplying us with good bikes to sell or supplying frames for our wheelchairs. They also paint the plywood bases for us. Along with **Rotary Gladstone Sunrise**, they take around two pallets a month (24 boxes, each containing the new components for 24 wheelchairs). They source the frames, paint the plywood, test assemble the wheelchairs, and return the finished wheelchairs to us, ready for shipment. We are fortunate also to have a local carrier who trucks them free of charge.

Bike collections are growing from lots of accommodation buildings and high-rise apartments all over the Gold Coast, plus each week we have individuals dropping bikes off at the shed. **'99 Bikes'**, a bike retailing company, collects bikes from some areas of Brisbane and donates them to the project. We usually collect these bikes from them when we take our discarded tyres to Ipswich for recycling.

Where are our 'Rough Terrain Wheelchairs' sent to? Here are some overall numbers and destinations over recent years:

2023	413	PNG, South Africa, Vanuatu
2024	53	Timor Leste, Zambia
2025	452	Fiji, South Africa, Vanuatu
2026	442	Sri Lanka, East Timor, South Africa

Additional to the wheelchairs, we have also included books, wooden toys, hover stretchers, crutches, refurbished conventional wheelchairs, oxygen assistant pumps, notepads, quilts and hospital aprons.

In late April, a container loaded with new component stock arrived from China, at a cost of AU\$35,939.79. This will enable us to make another 400 wheelchairs.

We are very grateful for some major donations from both corporate and private sources. A big thank you goes to all our supporters, big or small. A special recognition must go to our three largest donors, who wish to remain anonymous, and we thank them for their continuing generosity. We now need to broaden our network to find more recipient countries with a Rotary connection or other trusted organisation (such as Vanni Hope) to ensure fair and corruption-free distribution. We also want to utilise local Rotary clubs, church groups, charities etc, to cover shipping costs and/or include some of our completed wheelchair in one of their containers if they have free space.

Over the last few years, I have found the volunteers have grown to enjoy the common ground they have with each other even though they all come from different backgrounds in business and life experiences. Along with our club members, I appreciate the time and effort that you all contribute to the wheelchair project. A special **thank you** goes to **Bryan Tuesley**, who, for several years now, has worked at the shed in his voluntary capacity as “foreman”, organising the collection of bikes, inducting and training new volunteers, purchasing and collecting one-off items, and taking care of the petty cash accounting.

I would personally like to thank **Bevan Sim**, a retired architect and a member of Rotary Surfers Sunrise, who has stepped forward and is doing an excellent job in arranging shipping to Sri Lanka and to Durban, South Africa. He now has direct contact with both parties, as well as shipping and freight forwarding agents. I would like to see Bevan to further his involvement with the Wheelchair Shed, along with other members of Rotary Surfers Sunrise.

I am now stepping back from my commitment to the shed, which I have had over the last few years. I feel its time for others within Rotary Surfers Sunrise to further manage our club's major project, a project that is not only producing wheelchairs, destined to provide the gift of mobility to a disabled child in a developing country. It is also a project that is giving retirees a sense of purpose and wellbeing, working together for a very good cause.

Yours in Rotary,

Geoff Croad,
Chairman, Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust



A donation of a pallet load of lovingly weaved quilts, donated by the Surfers Paradise Catholic Church. (from left: Sr Lis Keane, Geoff Croad and Des La Rance, Mary Lepp

Fundraising

Ross Augustine

Over the past 12 months, we raised funds to finance the multiple projects such as the overheads of our 'Rough Terrain' wheelchairs project, youth support programs, as well as the general administration, including insurance etc of the club. The major sources were:

Bunnings BBQ. Great support from the club members for the barbeques held at Bunnings. We will have had 8 barbeques at Nerang this year. Bunnings have also been a great supporter with donations for our Golf Day.

Containers for Change. We have tidied up the reporting for containers and we now have a club email address and a trust email address for reporting of our donations. A big thank you to **Nikki Mullen** from Express Recycling for helping **Geoff Croad** and me to set this up. This year to date we have received a total of over \$17,000 to the club and the trust. Great support from Q1, Shores and Sequester Quays as our main donors this year. We are still looking for additional locations.

Golf Day. Thank you to the organisers **Charles Thomasson** and **Doug Lipp** and all who helped on the day and to the sponsors and players. The weather was against us this year with a number of teams withdrawing on the day. **Alyssa Lott**, one of our former Youth Exchange Students, has updated the brochure for this year, which will be held on 26th October 2026. Having this out earlier this year, hopefully we can have a full field to generate additional sponsorship support.

District Matching Grants. Application for \$10,000 to support the School Mates program (renamed Rotary Support for Students) is now complete. This is to provide 10 computers for disadvantaged students at Merrimac State high school. We also have a commitment to the Polio Plus program as part of the grant application

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) Grants. The support from RAWCS National Project Manager John Robertson enabled us to register two projects with RAWCS. The Wheelchairs Project and Rotary Support for Students are both registered and have tax deductibility for any donations to a level 1 trust. The link for tax deductible donations for the wheelchair project is <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/90-2025-26> and for Rotary Support for Students the link is <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/85-2025-26>

Bike Sales. We had several bike sales at the Wheelchair Shed, the last one was on Saturday 20th of June, with further sales to be held on 12th of September and 5th of December.

Financial Management Plan. As part of the district grant application the club must have a Financial Management Plan. We need to make sure we have one in place.

Polio Plus. At the District Foundation Seminar the Polio Plus Society was launched. Cost US\$100 per member

Kieser Bundall. We received great financial support from our Corporate Member Kane Chisholm and his company, Kieser Bundall. During the year the company sponsored multiple events and open days, and also sponsor the welcome drinks for our Christmas Breakfast and the Changeover Luncheon. **Thank you, Kane!**

Yours in Rotary,

Ross Augustine,
Director - Fundraising



Club Administration

Franz Huber

The year started with incoming President **Paul Seymour** accepting the President's collar from Immediate Past President **Andy Bell**. Our traditional Changeover Luncheon was held at the same venue as this year's, the TRYP by Wyndham Hotel in Southport.

Due to extensive renovations at our regular meeting venue at the Surfers Paradise SLSC, for several month's our meetings were held at the TRYP Hotel, and we are most grateful for their offer to host our fortnightly 'formal' meetings at no charge.

Venue, Program

Other than the period of renovations, all our regular meetings were held at the **Surfers Paradise SLSC**, where the upstairs venue is made available for our 'formal' meetings. On alternate weeks we have a 'social' meeting, downstairs in the bistro. We much appreciate the Surf Club making the venue available to us; no doubt this would have to be the premier location to have a Rotary breakfast meeting! In return, our club provides the Lutz Award, in the form of a fully fledged surf ski - see details under the Youth Service section.

On the first meeting, President Paul Seymour presented an outline of his vision for 2025-26, with the emphasis on 'Participation'. The list of speakers and events throughout the year (see full details with corresponding links further on in this report) shows a nicely balanced program across a variety of subjects. On multiple presentations, our own members demonstrated their expertise or experiences, such as Kane Chisholm from Kieser Bundall, Dr Elizabeth Celi on PTSD, Christine O'Connor, Tulip Penney and Rob Thomasson. We had adventurers, such as Endurance Athlete Stephanie Ho, people who experienced more in their young lives than most do in a life time, such as Bali bombing survivor Andrew Czabi, Ken Orbidalla, or our Rotary Exchange Student extraordinaire Bianca Saikale. Professionals such as Anna Caldwell from Life Flight, Anna Morgan and Laura Johnstone, Sen Sgt Andrew Cheung-Fook from the Police Safety Response Team, professional politicians such as Darren Taylor and Angie Bell, neither afraid to call a spade a shovel. We had Rotary related speakers, both internal and external, from Barry Lea's nostalgic 'Origins of the Wheelchairs Project', (an uncommon) District Governor John Oomen, and an external vocational visit to the Youth Outreach Centre. And we are not afraid to have the odd "boring" Club Assembly, we had multiples of them, because that is what keeps a club on an even keel. See a list of all speakers with their respective links to our website reports.

Worth a special mentions:

One of our annual highlights always is the presentation of the **Lutz Award**, in memory of our late member Keith Lutz. For details, please refer to the Youth Services report above.

Another special event is the visit by **Angie Bell**, MP for Moncrieff (and now Shadow Minister for the Arts, Shadow Minister for Sport, and Shadow Minister for Youth) speaking at our club in what now has become a regular annual event. A former Youth Exchange Student to Denmark, Angie has always been a strong supporter of our club, and has greatly assisted with the processing of government grants for our Wheelchair Project.



Shadow Minister Angie Bell

Website, Bulletin, Social Media, Communication

Editing the bulletin, website and Facebook pages would be a chore if it wasn't for a very active club such as Surfers Sunrise. Then, it becomes a very enjoyable hobby, as there is always something to report. This hobby has one major additional benefit: I claim to get more out of our guest speakers than anyone else, as I really need to pay attention! Both the website as well as the Facebook pages are regularly updated, with some stories also appearing in our club's weekly bulletin and vice-versa.

Club Administration

Our weekly club bulletin and website are running via 'ClubRunner', an Internet (or 'cloud based') system adopted by Rotary International. The same system is also used to notify members and the public of upcoming events, allows the downloading of photo albums and documents, and is a depository for club documents. Those documents are accessible to all members (it requires a login and password to protect privacy), and so is membership data. An app, which runs on either iPhone or Android mobiles, allows members instant access to our website, as well as such items as member's contact details.

I am very grateful to members who contribute to the smooth running of our club's administration and particularly who do a presentation or assist with arranging guest speakers. Keep them coming!

Social events

This year's Christmas Breakfast was at the TRYP by Wyndham Hotel, organised by **Graeme Isaacson**. And, of course, the upcoming Changeover Luncheon will again conclude a successful year (though it is held almost two weeks after the end of June... ☺)



"Social Meeting - August 2025 at the Surfers Paradise SLSC"

Perhaps worth mentioning: every second week when we have a social, casual meeting, some of our members convene at the Benowa Tavern for a glass of wine or a beer. Like the casual meetings on Wednesday mornings, great problems of the world at both macro and micro level are discussed and solved.

In closing, a special, big 'Thank You!' must go to our outgoing President **Paul Seymour**. Under his leadership, this has again been a dynamic and invigorating year for Surfers Sunrise. And welcome, incoming President **Mario Fairlie**! Looking forward to another great year.

Yours in Rotary

Franz Huber
Director, Club Administration

Club Committee Changes

	2025 - 26	2026 - 27
President	Paul Seymour	Mario Fairlie
Immediate Past President, Vice President	Andy Bell	Paul Seymour
President Elect	Dr Elizabeth Celi / Mario Fairlie	vacant
Secretary	Trent Belling	Trent Belling
Executive Secretary	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Treasurer	Charles Thomasson	Charles Thomasson
Director - Club Administration Program, Communication, Website & Social Media Administrator	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Director - Service Projects (Vocational, Community Service, International Service, Young Leaders)	Rock O'Keefe/ Ross Augustine	Ross Augustine
Director - Public Image (Media Relations, Advertising, Market- ing, Social Media	Vacant	Tulip Penney
Director - Membership Recruitment, Retention, Orientation, Education, Diversity	Doug Lipp	Kane Chisholm
Director - The Rotary Foundation Polio Plus, Fundraising for TRF	Dr Elizabeth Celi	Dr Elizabeth Celi
Director - Fundraising	Ross Augustine	Ross Augustine
Director, Youth Services	Mitch Brown	Mitch Brown
Chairman, Wheelchair Trust	Geoff Croad	TBA
Treasurer, Wheelchair Trust	Doug Lipp	Doug Lipp
Bulletin Editor / Webmaster	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Facebook Page / Social media	Franz Huber	Franz Huber
Youth Protection Officer (incorporating Blue Cards)	Gerald East	Ian Mayberry
Matching Grants Submissions	Mario Fairlie	Mario Fairlie
Welfare Officer	Graeme Isaacson	Graeme Isaacson
Fellowship, Social Program	Adrian Crowe	Adrian Crowe



Clockwise from top left:
 Christmas Breakfast, Tulip
 Penney brings home made cake
 to the shed, Des La Rance
 interview by Channel 9, MUNA at
 Tweed Heads, typical scene from
 a Bunnings BBQ, Kieser Bundall
 social event, Surfers Sunrise team
 at the District Training Assembly

Rotary
 Club of Surfers Sunrise



This Changeover Report was printed by the Office of Angie Bell MP, with thanks.