

Spinifex



Rotary Club of Mundingburra Inc.

Chartered 21 June 1958

Club ID Number 17739, District 9560

PO Box 3142 Hermit Park Qld 4812

www.mundingburrarotary.org.au

www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfMundingburra

Munding

*an Aboriginal word
meaning Spinifex or
Long Grass*

Burra

meaning People or Tribe

*The origin of the
Townsville suburb
Mundingburra*



RI President

Francesco Arezzo

District 9560 Governor

Greg Marlow

Club President

Alan Nelson

RCoM Vision Statement

"To become more visible within the community with a focus on diversity of gender and culture as a community service club whilst embracing the avenues of service of Rotary International".

"The 4 Way Test"

Of the things we think, say or do.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

October: – Community Economic and Development Month

Edition 15 – 9th October 2025

This Week – Joint Meeting with Townsville RC

President Alans Address

We are fortunate that our club meetings are graced with great guest speakers covering a panoply of topics that engage us in a range of ways.

Last week we had an extraordinary presenter Professor Ian Atkinson. Ian is extraordinarily knowledgeable, with a delightfully engaging manner and presentation style. All of this and the topic being AI, prove a mix for one of the best meetings for a long while.

I think it safe to say we were all fascinated with an incongruent blend of concern, if not horror and excitement at the potential of AI.

AI is without a doubt a remarkably useful tool.

For those who weren't there, AI is a great tool for experts (subject matter) and an a dangerous tool for beginner or novice.

Guard rails are needed and a poorly or maliciously tasked AI can cause great harm.

This leads me to an idea for the topic/proposition for the debate with Hinchinbrook Lynette is trying to organise.

How does this sound? - "That AI is a blessing rather than a curse."

AI of course being Artificial Intelligence rather than the rural, animal husbandry version of AI.

This week's meeting is a joint meeting with Townsville Club. I won't be there due to a Crowded House concert.

Remember the 16th is our membership night. Come along to support the program and invite and bring a guest or three.

Yours in Rotary
Alan



Forward Roster Duties Plan

If you are unable to fulfill your rostered duty it is **YOUR** responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify **John Hall** of any changes. Meeting apologies to Attendance Officer: @ katanya.lee@carter-spencer.com.au or text to 0409 536 169 by 10 am on Mondays.

Date	Chair	Registration	Sergeant	Scribe	Intro	Thanks
9th Oct	TBA	Phil Gordon	P Kaye	J Beutel	Chairman	Chairman
16th Oct	Shane Smith	Phil Gordon	Nil	B Barber	S Smith	S Smith
23rd Oct	Ian Jones	Phil Gordon	P Holmes	P Kaye	G Stephens	J Morrison

Facts & Figures

Total Member Count: 43
Number Used for Attendance: 42
Leave of Absence: 0
Exempt Members: Nil
Honorary Members: 1 Tony Wode
Members Present: 24
Total Credits for Last Week: 2
Percentage Attendance Meeting: 61.9%
Apologies: N Andrews, A Ferolja, M Day, B Barber, J Morrison,
Visiting Rotarians: Nil
Club Guests: Prof Ian Atkinson (Speaker)
Guests: B Barker-Hudson, J Homes, A Nelson, D Rigano

Important Dates – 6th Oct – 12th Oct

Member Birthdays
Nil
Spouse/Partner Birthdays
Nil
Wedding Anniversaries
Graeme & Dorothy Stephens – 6th Oct (52 years)
Rotary Membership Anniversaries
Nil
Takings
 Registration \$835
 Sergeant Nil
 Donations Nil
 Raffle \$72.00
 Joker \$102.00 (Joker Jackpot \$827.50)

- Partners & Guests are welcome to any meeting
Meeting Times: 6pm for 6.30pm Start

Program & Coming Events

Date	Speaker/Facilitator/Topic Event	Venue
March	<i>Community Economic and Development Month</i>	
9 th Oct	Joint Meeting RC Townsville	Cutheringa Bowls Club
16 th Oct	Membership Night	Cutheringa Bowls Club
23 rd Oct	Copperstring Update	Cutheringa Bowls Club
30 th Oct	Melbourne Cup Night	Cutheringa Bowls Club

Townsville Rotary Market Roster

BBQ Dates

		18 th Oct Sat	Need Volunteers	
--	--	--------------------------	-----------------	--

“The Object of Rotary”

Is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Third: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



Meeting Notes

Chair Jaye: Opened the meeting at 6.30pm but the scribe missed half of what he said as she was organising the meals, however, did catch that today was International day of the Smarties to which the attendance officers missed out on getting some that had been put on the tables!! He then proceeded with the 4 Way Test.

Registration Officer Phil: Welcomed out guests for the night who were Prof Ian Atkinson our guest speaker talking about Artificial Intelligence, and Judy Holmes - guest of Peter Holmes, Annette Nelson – guest of Alan Nelson and, Brydget Barker-Hudson – a friend of Rotary.

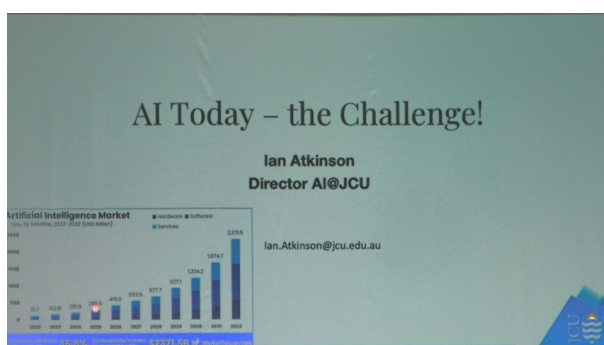
President Alan Welcome: Thank you to everyone to who was involved in the BBQ last Sunday, we managed to survive without killing anyone that we know of. Thanks to those also who helped at the Toy Stall, still waiting to find out how that went. Thanks for coming.

Guest Speaker Introduction by Alan Nelson: Alan has had the privilege of knowing Ian since 1982. The Bio he has given is only 3 lines long which is a gross understatement but he will proceed anyway. He is a Queenslander who trained as a computational chemist and subsequently worked for Zenica in the UK. He was the Director of the JCU eResearch Centre from 2020-2024 where his research focused on computing problems related to “big data”. Currently he is the director of AI at JCU where he is responsible for the adoption of AI at JCU in all forms: administrative, teaching and research.

Guest Speaker – Prof Ian Atkinson:



Prof Ian Atkinson



- AI is his favourite topic to talk about.
- He has used it for many things in his life.
- There is no business that AI is not affecting.
- There is about \$1million dollars being spent in AI.
- There are a lot of projections around AI at the moment but in the next couple of years they might not.
- Humans have always been fascinated by mechanical objects that can think. It is called Mechanical Turk.
- Mechanical Turk inspired Frankenstein.
- People thought that we would have a thinking machine by 1960 but it didn't happen.
- There was a pulse in 1980's but then in plateaued out.
- AI models have been trained on everything, and they are running out on things to train them. Most of the training is happening in Africa.
- People right now are marrying their AI! What the!!!
- ChatGPT is evolving faster than ever. There will be 1million users by the end of this year after only 3 years.
- Assignments are now useless due to AI. They now need to think of other ways for testing. There is no longer a thing such as plagiarism, as everything is plagiarised.
- 60% of GP's are using this technology. However, they need to get the patients consent.
- Tech companies are now so powerful that they are the richest companies in the world.
- It is like Crack Cocaine, people can't stop using it.
- If you job is messy, it is not so great for AI. Messy, such as dealing with people as they are unpredictable.
- The more diversity you have will help you with job security.
- There is a joblessness rate in the US and UK has risen dramatically due to AI. This hasn't really affected Australia just yet.
- People are starting to get very worried.
- AI is more directed to those who have desk jobs.
- “Cobot” is when people and robots will work together.
- “Job for Agent” where you can put in whether or not AI can do your job.
- The problem with learning:
 - Learning is hard
 - Human's are lazy
 - AI is a shortcut
- Oxbridge now will use “fair assessment” for the international students
- Despite all this it is amazing, by 2027or at least 2030 there will be machines that can think like humans.
- Trades are very messy jobs and are the most secure at the moment. We put value on what we put value on.

- It struggles with a lot of math, biases, terrible for bio security, data theft. We have to balance the risks. We can see how social media can spread inaccurate information.
- Kids at school are using it to answer questions and then passing it around to all the other students in the class on their phones.
- Closing Thoughts:
 - Embrace AI as a tool
 - Advocate for ethical systems
 - Collaborate across disciplines
 - Be open
 - Be critical
 - Be curious
 - Be engaged
- “Automation is Voldemort: the terrifying force nobody is willing to name.”

Vote of Thanks by Ron Degenhart: Thanks Ian, that was a lot to get our heads around. We may need to get him back as there is so much we need to learn. It was fascinating and we hopefully will get you back in the not so distance future for more information.



Ron Degenhart thanking Ian

Directors Reports:

- **Katrina Davis:** We are very close to having a website up and running for the NQ Field days. Make sure if you know of anyone interested in a site they will be on sale shortly.
- **Shane Smith:** Just a reminder that on the 16th of this month is our membership night. Invitations have been held up by Australia Post but hopefully they will be here next week. Don't forget to ask someone to come along. Movember is coming up very quickly so don't forget about that! Everyone, including Brydget will need to grow a mustache!
☺
- **Ron Degenhart:** Australian Rotary Health Walk is coming up – please check the Spinifex for the date as the Scribe missed it! The Interact Club looks like they will be having a competition between
- **John Hall:** If you have any thoughts with the program please let him know and make sure if you can't do a task you need to replace it.

Floor Reports:

- **Katanya Lee:** BBQ Bunnings Inductions are being held on the following dates:
 - Saturday 18th of October 8.30m – 9.30am
 - Thursday 13th of November 7pm - 8pm
 - Saturday 15th of November 8.30am – 9.30am or 1pm - 2pm
 - If you can attend please let me know.
- **Tim Leow:** There is the Queensland Metal Health week on the 11th of October we will be handing out drinks in Support.

Sergeant's Session – Greg Luckel: Due to time constraints we were all lucky to escape fines tonight! ☺

Raffle

Purple ticket D33 Brydget Red Wine Red
Purple ticket D51 Sue White Wine.

Closing Remarks by President Alan: Thank you very much Ian, as always enlightening and entertaining! Thank you everyone for coming. Next week is a joint meeting.

Joker Drawer – President Alan: Red ticket B57 which was Ryan who drew 4 of Spades, so we continue the Jackpot.



Unlucky Ryan Lacaze

Chair Jaye: Closed the meeting by toasting Rotary International and the King at 7.53pm.

Membership Night

On the 16th of this month, we are having another “**membership information night**”. It is important to use this time to consider who you think may be a great fit for the club.

The club membership will only grow if we all try to bring someone along. This is normally a great night to attend so if you can't get someone along this time, please make sure you come along.

I now have the invitations so if you need any before the meeting next week let me know.

Shane Smith (Membership Director)

Lift the Lid Mental Health Walk Sunday October 12th

See flyer at the bottom for full details

An email from Jan Johnson, our world renown overseas traveller

My luggage went awol and sent to Rwanda instead of Nairobi therein lies a story and how to find it in an African country!

All is well and off to visit the Kagili Genocide Memorial this morning before making our way out to where we will visit with the gorillas tomorrow!

Accommodation very nice included below.

First pic traffic on way to hotel, rest where we are staying!

Cheers Johnno



TOWNSVILLE
LIFT THE LID ON MENTAL HEALTH WALK
PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH
WALK WITH US
Sunday
October 12th 2025
from 8am
An early morning walk and talk along the Ross River from Riverway Amphitheatre
Walk and talk to LIFT THE LID on the stigma!

REGISTER VIA THIS QR CODE

FREE BREAKFAST TO ALL REGISTERED WALKERS

SAINTS-TOWNSVILLE
TAG TOWNSVILLE

Rotary
AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH FOUNDATION

WWW.LIFTTHELID.COM.AU