

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?



February: - Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

Edition 31 – 26th February 2026
Program – TBA

Welcome message from President Alan

I think as a club we generally have pretty vibrant meetings. The good hearted banter and a fabulous range of senses of humour only add to this.

Last week's meeting was a bit of a special evening. We had partners and our Interactors with their ever supportive teacher, Sandra Hughes and Johnno as our speaker . We were also treated to the company of visiting Rotarian Carol Ross. Carol is from the E Club of Outback Australia.

Johnno , force of nature that she is, recounted her recent trip to East Africa to engage with the mountain Gorillas of Rwanda and to visit and involvement with Jifunze International and the young lad she is sponsoring. As always with Jan's talks she reminds us of something that you know but details of which had slipped into darker recesses of memory. For me it was the 1994 Rwandan Genocide in Kigali, the nation's capital, was a focal point of a 100-day, Hutu-led campaign of mass murder against the Tutsi minority, starting April 7, 1994.

As ever Johnno, thank you for reminding us all of how privileged we are and that we have a lot to be thankful for.

We also heard from the board of the Townsville Grammar School Interact Club. They outlined there plans for the year including a further "Colour Rush" in September. Last years raised around \$5000 for the afternoon. That understates the organisation that went into the event.

Reminders:

The district assembles on Sunday 8th March.

Also, Bill Barber is looking for people for the Bunnings Roster and David Nutt looking for people Market shifts. Also Field days sites need people to fill them, so please reach out to any businesses you deal an plant the seed that they need to be at the field days.

Shane Smith will shortly have a supply of invitations for us to given to prospective members to come to a regular meeting.

This week's meeting is at Cutheringa Bowls club. The Path lab visit has been pushed back.

That is far too much from me. Stay amazing, generous and kind.

Alan



Program & Coming Events

Date	Speaker/Facilitator/Topic Event	Venue
26 th Feb	TBA- due to Cancelled Vocational visit	Cutheringa Bowls Club
5 th Mar	TBA	Cutheringa Bowls Club
12 th Mar	No Meeting due to Trivia Night	
14 th Mar	Trivia Night	Cutheringa Bowls Club

Duties

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
26th Feb	P Holmes	P Gordon	B Barber	R Lacaze	Nil	Nil
5th Mar						
12th Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-

Townsville Rotary Market Roster

BBQ Dates

1 st March - Sunday	Asnt Co-Ordinator (Willows)	1 st March - Sunday	Domain Bunnings
8 th March - Sunday	Co-Ordinator (Willows)	14 th March - Saturday	Domain Bunnings
Contact David Nutt – 0408897152 For Market Volunteering & Bill Barber 0418759019 For Bunnings Volunteering			

Last Meeting, 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: 25
Total Credits for Last Week: 2
Percentage Attendance Meeting: 64.2%
Apologies: J Baker, J Morrison, J Beutel, K Lee, A Bosch, B Barber, I Jones, R Jones, M Whitworth
Visiting Rotarians: Carol Ross – Outback E Club
Club Guests: Interact Students 4+ 1Teacher
Guests : J Holmes, S Luckel, W Muguira, K Nutt, D Stephens

Important Dates – 23rd Feb – 1st Mar

Member Birthdays
 Alan Nelson – 25th February
Spouse/Partner Birthdays
 Nil
Wedding Anniversaries
 Nil
Rotary Membership Anniversaries
 Nil
Takings
 Registration \$635.00
 Sergeant \$46.40
 Donations Nil
 Raffle \$48.00
 Joker \$69.00 - (Joker Jackpot \$349.00)

“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

Meeting Opening

To open the meeting **Chair Greg Lukel**, led a recital of the Rotary 4-Way Test.

John Hall announced his presence at the meeting by dialling Shane Smith's mobile phone number during the meeting.

Welcome to Guests

Registration Officer Phil Gordon introduced guests – Townsville Grammar School Interact Club committee members and teacher, Carol Ross plus Visiting Rotarian from the Tennant Creek Rotary Club, and Sue Luckel.

President's Report

President Alan Nelson led a round of applause for all guests at the meeting. President Alan's report focused on a number of matters:

- The Vocational visit to a Sullivan and Nicolaides Pathology Lab that was proposed for next week has been postponed due to works scheduled to commence at the facility. This coming meeting will be held at Cutheringa Bowls Club.
- Progress on a contribution by the club for the purchase of a piece of technology – a mass spectrometer to treat patients with bone marrow cancer. The club resolved to make a contribution to purchase the mass spectrometer following a presentation by Luran and Darryl Baillie with Sandra Richards at a meeting held in July last year. Luran has a nonsecretory multiple myeloma, a rare bone marrow cancer.
- Approximately \$1,800 had been raised through the sale of toys and kitchen equipment at the Annandale Central Shopping Centre during the previous weekend. He acknowledged the efforts of members who contributed to this event and highlighted a photograph of PDG Peter Kaye "carefully thinking of the next toy to produce" included in the current copy of the Spinifex.
- He also highlighted a "left field" question included in the "This is Me" profile of Daniel "Pricey" Price, essential reading in the current copy of the Spinifex - Is he a sky diver or a scuba diver.

Reports

Membership Director Shane Smith presented a report that:

- Included details of a "generic invitation" that will be distributed to members at next week's meeting.
- Encouraged every current member to invite a potential member to the upcoming Member Information Meeting.

- Advised that another major exhibitor site at the 2026 Rotary NQ Field Days had been booked earlier in the day.

Introduction of the 2026 Townsville Grammar School Interact Board Members

PDG Ron Degenhart introduced the 2026 Townsville Grammar School Interact Coordinator – Sandra Hughes. Sandra introduced the 2026 Board Members. Each Board Member provided a summary of the key focus of their role:

- Mispriha – President - Hosting events such as The Colour Rush and Clean up Australia. Raising funds to support their Sister Interact Club School in Timor-Leste.
- Jaz – Vice President – "Making things happen."
- Shreeya – Secretary – "Talking a lot and recruiting volunteers."
- Ethan – Treasurer – "Dealing with the money."

Guest Speaker – Jan Johnson – "Jan in Africa 2025"

Neil Andrews' introduction of Jan Johnson, member of Mundingburra Rotary Club highlighted the significant contributions she has made to the operations of the club and international projects over many years. These highlights include:

- The planning and coordination of major club events where she has shown infinite patience when coaching team members to perform intricate displays in swan dancing and synchronised swimming.
- Contributing to significant international humanitarian projects across a number of countries in Africa and Asia over many years.

Jan received a standing ovation.

Jan delivered an inciteful presentation about her visit Africa, which included some details of a number of International projects that she contributed to. Highlights of Jan's presentation included:

- Being part of a trek to encounter Rwanda mountain gorillas in their habitat. During this trek she "came face to face" with 3 mother gorillas and a silverback gorilla.
- Participating in an annual Babies Naming Days ceremony.
- Visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial, a place of remembrance and learning dedicated to the victims of the genocide against the Tutsi and moderate Hutu people in Rwanda in 1994. Nearly one million people were killed. The school curriculum has a focus on ensuring that there is not a recurrence of this tragic event.
- An update on the wonderful work being led by Victoria Porter at Jifunze House in Kenya. The vision

of Jifunze International is vision is *“that all vulnerable adults and children living in high-risk situations will be encouraged, engaged and equipped with knowledge and skills to relieve poverty and stress while improving their health and wellbeing.”*

- An acknowledgement of the passing of Apollo Kariuki, an ex-prisoner at GK Prison who contributed so much to Jifunze House while working as a prison trustee, particularly in the gardens.
- The construction of a toilet block at Jifunze House, sponsored by Rotary Club of Cairns, Rotary E Club of Outback Australia, and Rotary Club of Mission Beach.
- Terence, who is being sponsored by Mundingburra Rotary Club. To date he has completed a bar course.
- Jesse Githiomi is being sponsored by Rotary Club of Port of Townsville. Jesse is expected to complete his Medical course in the near future.
- A project currently being undertaken at Jifunze House will enhance the skills of mothers. A request has been submitted to the Board to provide funds to support this project.
- Jan was accompanied by Hung Van Nong. Many club members will remember Hung, who was brought to Townsville by ROMAC from Vietnam in 2007 as a 9 year old for a series of operations following a significant burn to his right leg when he was just two weeks old. The ultimate outcome was the amputation of his leg and the fitting of a prosthetic limb.

Peter Holmes acknowledged the wonderful work done by Jan on a range of Rotary International projects and thanked her for her most informative presentation. He also complimented her choice of hat for her trek to encounter Rwanda’s mountain gorillas. Visiting Rotarian Carol Ross spoke about her close friendship with Jan since 1969. She was proud to have been Jan’s bridesmaid and is the God Mother of Jan’s son.

Sergeant’s Session

Sergeant Shane Smith took an inclusive approach to extracting some cash from a captive audience. Fines included:

- Anybody who has already celebrated or will celebrate a birthday during 2026.
- Determining whether attendees had read the current Spinifex “from cover to cover” – posing the question “Is Damian Price a sky diver or a scuba diver?”
- What significant event happened in Australia on 19 February 1942? – Answer – the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese air force.

Raffle

Winners are grinners:

- Peter Kaye (ticket A65) – The zesty white
- Neil Andrews (ticket A81) – The velvety red.

President Alan’s closing remarks

President Alan encouraged incoming Board Member (2026/27) to attend District Assembly, happening at Cutheringa Bowls Club on Sunday 8 March 2026.

Joker Jackpot

Kerry won the right to split the deck (ticket B49). The 6 of Spades was removed from the deck – jackpot to next meeting.

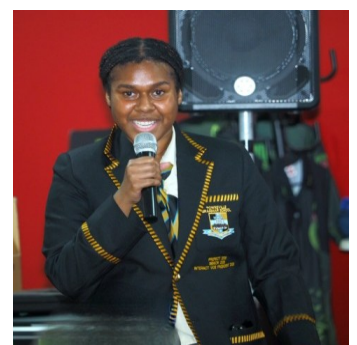
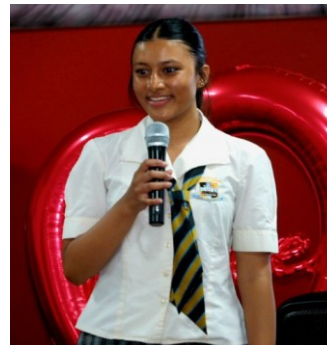
Chair Greg closed the meeting with a toast to Rotary International

A selection of the photos taken on the night.

Rotarians,



Interact Members



Specials



Jan Johnson



Sandra Hughes



Visitor Kerry trying for the Jackpot.

Please note: We are also supporting the Cutheringa Bowls Club on our Trivia night, so you cannot bring your own food or drinks.

MUNDINGBURRA ROTARY'S FAMOUS ANNUAL

Rotary MUNDINGBURRA Quizmaster Ryan

TRIVIA and AUCTION

Auctioneer Shane

Live & Silent Auctions

Eftpos Available



Platters, Nibbles and Drinks Available
Refreshments at the Bar

Purchase Tickets at the door or book table via email:
rotarymundingburra@outlook.com

TEAMS OF 6 - \$20 PER PERSON

14TH MARCH 2026
6:30 PM Start

Lucky Door, Raffle and Prizes
Funds raised Donated to Family Emergency Accommodation Townsville
Cutheringa Bowls Club
Harold St, West End



The Rotary Club of Saigon Vietnam International

Participated in two global grant projects with District 3740 in Korea that have corrected congenital heart disease for 100 Vietnamese children since 2023.

The \$125,000 Heart-to-Heart project helps low-income families bridge the gap between what the government covers and what they're able to pay out of pocket.

"We chose pediatric heart surgery because, with a relatively small contribution of \$1,500 from us, we can quite literally save a child's life," says Hoa Nguyen, president-elect of the club.

Rotary contributions are matched by the VinaCapital Foundation and the Vietnamese government.

The impact on livelihoods is significant, Nguyen notes, as caregivers are able to return to the workforce after their child's recovery.



This story originally appeared in the February 2026 issue of Rotary magazine.