



Bulletin



Volume 59 Edition 09

Monday 3 November 2025

NOVEMBER 2025 IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value".
Albert Einstein.

THIS MEETING.

We welcome Monique Bolus, Senior Program Officer-National Anti-Trafficking Response Team to give a presentation on Modern Slavery.

Acknowledgement of Country: Kerrie.	International Toast: David.
Appeal: Bob.	Club Host: Sharyn.

President's Report

Our last meeting was very busy and exciting.

The Small Business Awards were presented to Harley and John's, Jaffa's at Corrimal RSL and The Sensory Studio. Unfortunately, a representative from Bonnano's Men's Wear was not able to be present so I presented the award personally. My thanks to Kerrie's for organising a great evening.

We also welcomed Kathy as a Friend of Rotary and gave a monetary presentation to Megan for her work with the Dayamani Joseph English Medium School in Tenali, India.

A big thank you to Kerrie and David for being a part of the End Polio now Train Ride (see Kerrie's report).

My thanks to Sharyn and Sue for attending to the PCYC breakfast at the Snake Pit on Thursday October 30.

District AGM and President's meeting to be held November 27, Kerrie and I will be attending.

Please remember the Walk against Domestic Violence on November 29 commencing at Fairy Meadow Surf Club, wear your Against Domestic Violence tee shirts. If you would like to purchase a tee shirt [they are available here](#) for \$8 posted directly to you.

Tonight, we welcome Monique Bolus, Senior Program Officer - National Anti-Trafficking Response Team to give a presentation on Modern Slavery in Australia.

At our next meeting we will welcome via Zoom a conversation with John Bosco Agaba a Co-Founder of the Divine Mercy School in Uganda in discussing a project at the school.

Our club has been approached by Ingrid, Healthy Cities Illawarra in regards to supporting Mt Keira Demonstration Schools Christmas Market. Our support would be in providing a BBQ for parents, friends and children who attend the market. The event is to be held on Saturday November 22.

President Jenny

Attendance details last meeting (Monday 20 October 2025).

Apologies:	Claude, Julie, Martha. Plus Sharyn & Albert (unable to Zoom in).
Leave of absence:	Nicolle.
Members Present:	6 being 50%.
Guest Speaker(s):	Margaret Biggs.
Club Guests:	Grant Logue and Mum, Erin and Damian Jamieson, Warren and Allen Harris, Megan Biggs, Bronwyn Seaborn, June Toussis, and Peter Armitt.
Friends of Rotary:	Margaret Biggs and Kathy Bowen
Visiting Rotarians:	
Makeups:	
Joker jackpot raffle:	No raffle.
International Toast:	Rotary Clubs of London in District 1130 Chartered 1911 and Rotary Club of Bromsgrove in District 1060 Chartered 1937.




NEXT MEETING:

Monday 17 November. Club Meeting when our Guest Speaker will be John Bosco Agaba, Past President of The Rotary Club of Kabale in Uganda and co-founder and co-director of [Divine Mercy School](#).

International Toast: T.B.A.	Acknowledgement of Country: T.B.A.
Club Host: T.B.A.	Appeal: T.B.A.

Rosters: Please arrange your own substitute if you are not able to attend meetings

ANNIVERSARIES BEFORE NEXT MEETING (03/11/2025-16/11/2025)

<i>Birthdays</i>	Sue 11 November. Best wishes from all your friends at RCFM.	
<i>Wedding Anniversaries</i>	Claude and Wendy 14 November. Congratulations from all of us at RCFM.	
<i>Club Anniversaries</i>	None this period.	

CLUB NEWS

Small Business Awards 2025

Rotary clubs organize Small Business Awards to recognize and celebrate local businesses for their contributions, service, and excellence. These awards typically focus on factors like customer service, community involvement, and operational quality, and are open to various types of businesses, from professional services to retail.

While specific categories and criteria vary by club our Club had a vote on the four worthy recipients of our awards tonight. This event is part of the Rotary's Community Economic and Development Month.

As a community initiative our Rotary club has these awards to support and acknowledge local entrepreneurs and businesses.

A local focus for our specific awards and criteria is determined at our club level, though the goal is consistent—to honour vocational service and business excellence within the community.

Our awards cover a wide range of businesses, from sole proprietorships to small and medium-sized enterprises across different sectors.

Our Awards tonight highlight businesses that provide outstanding service and have a positive impact on our local community.

Congratulations to our Small Business Awards recipients:

Grant Logue, [Harley & Johns Seafood](#)

Erin Jamiesen, [The Sensory Studio](#)

Warren and Wendell, [Jaffa Cafe @ Corrimal RSL](#)

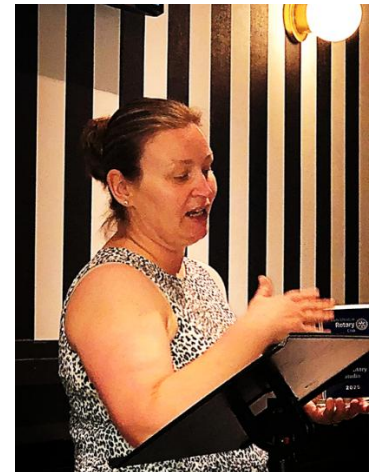
Frank Bonanno, [Bonanno's Menswear](#) (Frank was unable to attend the award's night).



Grant



Warren



Erin



Grant, Erin, Margaret, Warren, President Jenny, and Kerrie

Illawarra Polio Train Ride

On Thursday 23rd October the Illawarra Rotary Clubs travelled the trains from Corrimal to Bomaderry to raise awareness for the [End Polio Now](#) campaign. Thank you to Margaret Noonan our Polio Plus District Chair for joining us.



David and I met President Lucille from the Illawarra Rotaract Club at North Wollongong station. The day allowed us to experience such positive interaction from the community and a great display of Rotary fellowship and Clubs working together.

All Illawarra Rotary Clubs participated as well as [Illawarra Rotaract Club](#).

Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) & SCARF

It started off as a gesture of friendship...

Twenty years ago, Sharyn and Kel Mackenzie reached out to help a newly arrived refugee family in the Illawarra, and that simple act of kindness grew into SCARF Refugee Support, a community movement that has welcomed and supported thousands of people starting new lives in Australia.



Today we celebrated SCARF's 20th anniversary with founders, volunteers and community members, sharing memories, laughter, and stories of connection.

Thank you to [Alison Byrnes MP](#) for your support.

"SCARF was such a community asset. The host community responded so beautifully — they made a real difference to the lives of new arrivals. It was just amazing," said SCARF founder Sharyn Mackenzie.

Today, [MCCI Multicultural Communities](#) continues to support refugee communities in the Illawarra, with some community members now a part of the MCCI family!

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey over the past two decades.

Your kindness and commitment have changed lives.

Source: Facebook.com. (2022). *MCCI Settlement Services*. [online] Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17VuTgKq8C/> [Accessed 1 Nov. 2025].

From the archives: RCFM Bulletin Vol 44 Edition 43 Monday 30 May 2011

We welcomed two members of the local Ethiopian community, Getachew Tesema, team leader, and Adamu Badeg, deputy leader who went to Bridgewater VIC as part of a [BLAZE AID](#) team, assisting local farmers after the devastating floods in January this year.

Getachew and Adamu were an inspiration to us all. They were both refugees in Africa, forced to flee from their home country; Getachew lived in Egypt for many years, and Adamu survived in Uganda for three and a half years. They were accepted by the Federal Government as refugees in 2010 and are now resident in the Illawarra. They are both multilingual and hardworking and very appreciative of what has been done for them. Their determination to repay Australia for allowing them to live here is remarkable and at the same time humbling.

They applied to the Wollongong Council, Mission Australia and SCARF looking for someone to help them in volunteering their time and labour to help "fellow Australians in their times of need".

SCARF followed up with [BlazeAid](#) and then helped them in many ways, including arranging transport to and from Bridgewater. A team of 5 Ethiopians and 2 Eritreans proudly represented Wollongong and stayed for two weeks and during that short time made many friends and gained the respect of their fellow Australian locals, volunteers and farmers.

Their stories were very touching and personal and Getachew was impressed when he first saw a combined harvester; a massive labour-saving device that he could only have dreamt about in Ethiopia. They have offered to help us with any future Rotary projects. We shall certainly keep them in mind. We thank them for sharing their stories with us and wish them, and the other Ethiopian families in our community, well for the future.

Also, thanks to Sharyn Mackenzie of SCARF for introducing us to them and also telling us about the SCARF project – [greenCONNECT](#) which is providing casual employment for refugee community members.

St Mary Star of the Sea Interact Yearbook Report 2025

The [Interact Club](#) has continued to dedicate itself to service and compassion.



This year, our efforts included a bake sale for the Homeless Hub.

For our national project, we joined the global Rotary initiative by spreading awareness for the End Polio Campaign.

Our International project included a lolly bag sale for Gaza, with funds going towards humanitarian relief.

Through these projects, we have aimed to embody the values of service above self, showing that even small actions can contribute to meaningful change. Thank you to all who supported our events and helped us make a difference to so many.

Arabiya Sawan & Maysa Hadaya, Co-Presidents

St Mary Star of the Sea Interact Changeover Tuesday 21st October 2025

This was a well-attended and vibrant meeting. Our special guests were Ian Wilson and his daughter Lisa Delaney. Ian and his late wife Edith had a long-standing association with our Interact Club through the RC Illawarra Sunrise. The perpetual trophy they donated was presented to the outgoing Presidents. The new Exec is very keen and will share their plans with us next meeting.



Club members



2025-26 Executive with Ian and Lisa Delaney



Presentation of Shield to outgoing President.



Two of the outgoing Exec with Interact District Chair Kerrie.

Sending e-mails in ClubRunner

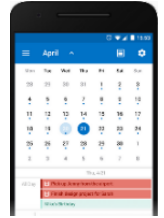
As you know the club subscribes to ClubRunner and one of the most used modules is "Communication" where you can send e-mails using your registered e-mail address (in ClubRunner) [logon to our website here](#) and follow the links on the home page. There is a video [here](#) on how to send an e-mail and there is a comprehensive knowledge base about "Communications" [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Click here to see details of up-coming club events and meetings.](#)

Why not bookmark all of these links now for future reference?

- i) [View the District calendar here.](#) ii) [View the Rotary International calendar here.](#)



Friday 21 November Bunnings BBQ at Kembla Grange.

Thursday 27 November PCYC Fit For Life breakfast at The Snake Pit.

Monday 29 November Walk against Domestic Violence.

Monday 1 December Club's A.G.M..

Friday 26 December Bunnings BBQ at Kembla Grange.

Saturday 14 March 2026 One day District Conference at Novotel Brighton-Le-Sands. [Register here](#)

Agenda items for the board meetings should be sent to the secretary by the Saturday before the board meeting.

Items for the Bulletin should be sent to the Bulletin editor by the Sunday before the club meeting.

If you would like to nominate a Guest Speaker for a club meeting, please send the details to the club secretary or President Jenny.

In Flanders Fields

Poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
loved and were loved, and now we lie,
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

Yours in Rotary,

David.



Thank you to [Storage King North Wollongong](#) for sponsoring our storage space at
100 Montague St, North Wollongong