Rotary Connection

Continental Breakfast, Biella, and a Banner on the Fence

Club Meeting Highlights • Wednesday 18 November 2026

President Bob Hall was in the chair at the CWA Rooms, Bluff Point, at 7.00 am. Bob Symington gave the invocation and the toast. Sergeant Bob Urquhart had the box. There was no formal guest speaker. Lara Day, the club's outgoing exchange student, gave an impromptu report. Paul Blackwell and Dan Crisp were also present. Ian Taylor and Leni Tenwinkel were apologies. Leni is preparing for her Albany trip.

Meeting at a Glance

- Bob Hall in the chair; Sergeant Bob Urquhart; invocation and toast by Bob Symington.
- No formal guest speaker. Lara Day gave an impromptu report. Guests: Paul Blackwell, Dan Crisp.
- Apologies: Ian Taylor, Leni Tenwinkel.
- Next meeting back at Geraldton Golf Club. Board meeting Monday 23 November at Jim Dillon's.
- Heads and tails abandoned — no winners. Christmas function 12 December, $55 a head.

Opening the Morning

The club at the CWA Rooms, Bluff Point.



Grant Woodhams thanked Bob and Maeva Hall for setting up the breakfast at the CWA. The club had met Charmaine Trezona of the Bluff Point CWA earlier. The rooms had been offered freely.

This was a trial. The subject of venues will be discussed at the next board meeting.

There is a possibility of an evening meeting at the HMAS Sydney Memorial towards the end of January. Other options are in train.

The room was comfortable. There were no fridge noises. Parking was tight. The outdoor area has potential, and water issues.



President Bob Hall and Sergeant Bob Urquhart

Announcements

District AGM and Board — Bob Hall

The District 9423 AGM was held by Zoom the previous evening. It ran from 5.30 to 5.40 pm. The club's next board meeting is on Monday 23 November at Jim Dillon's (Midwest Financial Services). Correspondence to Secretary Grant Woodhams.

Meetings and Christmas — Grant Woodhams

Next week's meeting is back at the Geraldton Golf Club. The last official meeting of the year is on 9 December. Bishop Michael Morrissey will be the guest speaker. The Christmas function is on 12 December. The club will probably resume on the second Wednesday in January.

Apprentice and Trainee Awards — Rob Mosel

The Rotary Apprentice of the Year and Trainee of the Year awards are advertised in today's Mid West Times. Rob emailed the details the day before. Closing date for nominations is 27 March 2027.

The apprentice must have finished off-the-job training by 31 December 2026. Traineeships must have finished by the same date. The employer must be in the Midwest region. Rob is following up leads.

Christmas Function and Driver Education — Di Gilleland

The Christmas function is $55 a head at Tarts & Co. Most members have replied. Di is still working on a couple. The meal is expected to be excellent.

The Rotary WA Driver Education programme will run at Nagle again on 9 March next year. Di is confirming presenters. The other club has confirmed. A thank-you notice to auction sponsors and volunteers is in today's Mid West Times. Auction wrap-up: only $527 still owing, from about three people.

Youth Exchange — Hugh Lavery

Congratulations to Lara Day, the club's outgoing exchange student to Italy. She is from Champion Bay High School, has finished her exams, received two awards at graduation, and turns 18 on Saturday.

Leni Tenwinkel is an apology this morning. She is preparing for the Albany camp at the end of this month, one of the official Rotary Youth Exchange excursions. The other is the North West Safari in April–May.

Lara Day — Biella, and an Early Offer



Lara Day with President Elect Clare McElhinney.

Lara gave a short account of her preparations. She is going to Biella in northern Italy, about an hour from Milan and close to the Swiss border, 600 metres above sea level. She will need warm clothes.

Her host parents are Alberto and Ornella. Their oldest daughter is Sofia, 21. Their son is Frederico.

Their youngest is Julia, 16, who will go to school with Lara for the first half of the year. Julia is coming to Australia on exchange in July 2027.





Lara Day outlining her goals.

Lara will attend an art high school. Her main subjects will be graphic arts, sculpting and painting. She also has normal subjects, including Italian literature. She has been studying basic Italian.

She has a Rotary camp in Perth in December with the other Western Australian students. She has an early offer from UWA for a double degree in environmental science and arts. She is interested in conservation and biological science.

"I'm very interested in biological science and I believe that when I go to university that is what I will follow."

President Bob wished her well and congratulated her on her school achievements.



Lara Day speaking as Head Girl at the final assembly, Champion Bay Senior High School.



Lara Day receiving the Ampol Best All Rounder Award from Michael Coughlan.

Head Girl at Champion Bay HS, Lara recently graduated and received three Awards: the Ampol All Rounder Award, recognising her school and community activities. She also received the English ATAR award and the Art Award for excellent results. Congratulations Lara.

Signage and the Venue



President Bob Hall overseeing the meeting.

President Bob raised the possibility of Rotary signage on the fence at the Recreation Ground (Railways). He purchased the space during the auction for $150. It gives the club eighteen months of exposure. He would like a Rotary wheel and contact details, not “them and us”.

Don Rolston suggested a permanent mobile phone held by the secretary of the day. Hugh suggested a QR code. Rob noted that the banner needs to be made soon, probably in Perth.

Bob will take the matter to the board, including whether the sign should be painted rather than vinyl, which fades. He will also meet the City on Friday about Rotary wheels at the points of entry to Geraldton, including the airport.

The CWA rooms themselves were well received as a trial. The club may use them again. The Bluff Point CWA is struggling. The rooms are an asset. The board will discuss venues and regularity.

Dan Crisp — Rotary Health Research

Dan Crisp, who is based in Gingin and on permanent leave of absence, reminded the club of a $320,000 bequest to Rotary Health Research that he had managed. A further $30,000 remains. It will pass through the club for recognition only.

Dan joined Rotary in 1992 in Kununurra, was inducted into the Geraldton-Greenough club with Hugh, and is a past president. He was the inaugural winner of the Golden Goose Award.

Coming Up

Thursday 19 November — HMAS Sydney Memorial

Sunset service on the hill. Buses from the Art Gallery and QE2. Rotary chairs will be there.

Monday 23 November — Club board

Midwest Financial Services (Jim Dillon’s). Agenda items and reports to Grant.

Wednesday 25 November — Club meeting

Geraldton Golf Club, 6.45 for 7.00 am.

30 November — RYLA applications close

Ages 18–28. Camp in mid-January. Grant, or ryla@rotarywa.au.

Wednesday 2 December — Club AGM

Geraldton Golf Club, 6.45 for 7.00 am. Zoom link by email.

Wednesday 9 December — Club meeting

Geraldton Golf Club, 6.45 for 7.00 am. Guest speaker Bishop Michael Morrissey, a Christmas message.

Saturday 12 December — Christmas function

Tarts & Co., 5.30 to 8.30 pm. $55 a head. Names to Grant.

Register: Christmas Celebration

9 March 2027 — Driver Education

Nagle College. Rotary WA programme.

Wednesday 20 January 2027 — Club meeting

Breakfast at Levy Street Life. Guest speaker Rohan Prowse, Levy Street Life and the Friday Circulars.

Fellowship and Fines

Heads and tails was abandoned. Two heads eliminated everyone. There was no winner. The bottle goes back. Does the prize jackpot? There is still one left in the cupboard.

Sergeant Bob Urquhart's list was long. Dan Crisp, for the twelve-month absence and the Golden Goose. Paul Blackwell, claiming immunity. Those without name badges or Rotary pins. From now on the president will be fined for every missing pin. Bob Hall, for erratic driving and spinning the wheels in Jim Dillon's parking area. Jim Dillon, for a missing invoice that no one would admit to. Those not attending the Sydney Memorial service tomorrow night. The road will be closed. Buses will run. That is not a valid excuse.

Hugh Lavery, for the haircut. Short is good. Long was good. How is he going to please everyone? He also paid for the diesel-into-petrol story, which reminded him of Dan's Golden Goose. Bob Hall and his wife, for fifty years of marriage tomorrow. Two life sentences. Di delivered eggs to Paul because Bob had missed them off the list. Peter Sukiennik and Russell, for the caravan. The hitch had to be changed. Putting the caravan up on two wheels and the ute up on two wheels is not much fun.

A Word of Thanks

Thank you to Bob and Maeva for the setup and the continental breakfast, to Bob Symington for the invocation, to Sergeant Bob for the box, to Grant for the venues, to Rob for the awards, to Di for the Christmas function and the auction wrap-up, to Hugh for the exchange students, to Lara for Biella and the early offer, to Dan for the bequest and the Golden Goose, and to the club — for trying a different room and for the banner that is still to be painted.

— Rotary Club of Greater Geraldton —

Prepared with assistance from Grok (xAI). All content reviewed and verified by the author.