

 **HOT AIR**

11 September 2025 — Basic Education and Literacy Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

International Toast:
Rotaract Club of Club of
The Hague International
See Page 4

The President's Post

What an impact Rachel Healy (CEO QPAC) has made in her role in just 7 months!

What an impact her presentation had on us all last Thursday. It deserved a standing ovation and certainly received some hearty cheers!

What sound and progressive plans; plans that include boosting audience diversity, expanding year-round education and family programming, reintroducing the "Out of the Box" festival for children under eight, and "Rush Ticketing" to eliminate empty seats. There's an overall aim to strengthen QPAC's international reach and to enhance its social and cultural value across Queensland. Rachel's plans are so broad and all encompassing, so forgive me please, the pieces I've missed!

I believe that we were so privileged to hear Rachel speak to us and especially during QPAC's 40th anniversary week.

I try to make my comments about the future and while these are about a presentation past, they talk only to a future for Art and Culture in Queensland that truly inspires and enthuses!

Next week we look forward to hearing from Billie Murphy about Coffee Brigade - a major local project of ours. It is an incredible service to community and one that exists through community and volunteer support.

Finally, we usually have a good representation at RARE. This time for us is the Saturday 4th of October. We would love to have a few more people help out. Friends and family are welcomed to as volunteers. A great opportunity to help send overseas many needed materials and equipment. As our DG Mark mentioned those who are keen to get their hands "dirty" may just become interested in joining Rotary.

Greg Beard

This Week's Guest Speaker



Billie Murphy,
Coffee Brigade

Coffee Brigade are one of the beneficiaries of our recent Art Show

Billie is an educator and experienced General Manager, bringing close to a decade of experience in not-for-profit. She has travelled the world as General Manager of SolarBuddy, providing clean, renewable lighting solutions to communities in some of the most developing countries and is passionate about social impact and supporting communities in need. She has a Bachelor of Biological Sciences and a Master of Education from The University of Leeds.

Drawn to Coffee Brigade's legacy and hands-on impact, she took on the GM role 6 months ago. Billie is committed to delivering exceptional service and impactful programs with Coffee Brigade. She believes in the power of education to inspire others to become changemakers and create a positive difference in the world.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 11 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Art Show Wrap Up & Billie Murphy, Coffee Brigade
- Thu 18 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Mark Symons, WWF – How it gets in the news
- Thu 25 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Club Assembly – Club Mission Discussion
- Thu 02 Oct Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Tamsyn Kiely, 3rd Space
- Thu 04 Oct RARE Working Bee - [RSVP](#)**
Assisting at RARE Alexandria Hills
- Thu 09 Oct Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Dr Darryl Gauld OAM – Team Rainbow
Rainbow Games Inc - an Overview

Rotary Grace: **For the fellowship of Rotary we give our thanks.**

*Recently we had a meeting to introduce Coffee Brigade to the Clem Jones Group, who were very helpful with information and further support. **Jane Andersen***



David Muir and Peter Johnston from Clem Jones Group, Jane Andersen & Coffee Brigade CEO Billie Murphy.

Coffee Brigade – A Personal Reflection

AN UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER - LOUISA TOOGOOD

Muriel Hamlyn-Harris, 1 August, 1989

Nineteen years ago, during morning service at St. John's Cathedral, Bishop Muschamp spoke of a member of the congregation who, very early every morning, was taking hot coffee and sandwiches to the "down and outs" around the city. This had grown to serving one hundred each morning and Louisa, who worked on her own, would appreciate a helper or two. Was there anyone in the congregation who could offer help between five and seven a.m.?

It appealed to me. I rang the lady to offer help and was asked in a strong, clear voice, to come and see her in her unit on Gregory Terrace.

So I met Louisa Toogood — a woman in her late sixties, short and well endowed, oozing kindness, with an air of dignity and authority, with keen eyes that missed nothing, and asking straight questions, extracting answers from me that told her what she wanted to know—my motives.

"We can't thrust religion as the price for free coffee," she said, and when satisfied that I wasn't offering help so that I could convert the "down and outs", or hand out tracts, or just do them, or myself "good", she decided I would do.

Then began what I think of as my apprenticeship. She gave me twenty-five loaves of bread, margarine, and fillings, to take home and make up into sandwiches. After some weeks, to my relief, I was promoted to collecting donated food — bread, cakes and buns. All this food was accommodated in her small unit. One day she was out, and an extra quantity was stacked on the inside steps of the block of units. There were complaints from other residents when they had to climb over the food to their front doors. The landlord said, "Miss Toogood, this will have to stop." Fair enough! After several moves, Coffee Brigade now owns a debt-free centre in Spring Hill.

After weeks of doing exactly what I was told, the great day arrived. At last, I was to go out on the early morning round with Louisa. I felt honoured that I had "made the grade".

On the appointed day, the alarm woke me at 4.30 a.m. I crept out of the house and drove through the dark, quiet, empty streets to Gregory Terrace. In her tiny kitchen, every jet of her gas stove was covered with kettles and saucepans of boiling water.

This was poured onto the measured coffee and sugar. "Plenty of sugar warms them and gives them energy," she explained. Powdered milk was added for the white coffee. We filled six plastic urns, which were wrapped in blankets (to keep the coffee hot) and stowed away in the boot of her little Morris Minor. Boxes of sandwiches and buns were piled on the back seat.

Off we went! It was dark and cold. At the first stop, there seemed no one about, but then, in the car lights, I saw figures emerging from behind rocks and trees and coming towards us.



Louisa got out, quickly slid a shelf onto the open door of the car, stood an urn on it, and, with a pile of disposable cups, she was ready to pour. I had brought boxes of food from the back seat and set it out on the bonnet of the car. The men went to her for coffee first and then came on to me for food.

Louisa greeted each one warmly and cheerfully and they gratefully accepted the early breakfast from "Mum" as they called her.

As soon as all were served, quickly everything was loaded back into the Morris and off we went to the next stop. The quiet, empty city was beautiful as the sun began to rise.

At each stop, the men and a few women lined up. She had trained them well. If they crowded around her, she would say in a voice of authority, "Don't mob me: Get into line!" — and as I had done exactly what she told me, and in the way she told me, so did they.

I very quickly discovered that I got on well with Louisa if I did things her way. Later, I found it necessary to stand up to her and move away from her a bit. It wasn't easy, but we are still good friends and I feel she respected me for it — or perhaps I respected myself. She was very demanding. She had no understanding of the calls on the mother of a young family and took it for granted I was available to help whenever she needed me.

She confided in me, "I know I upset people and I'm sorry, but if I weren't the sort of person I am, I wouldn't have done the things I've done." I could see there was truth in that statement.

In contrast, she could exercise great charm. I have seen representatives from the Government, Council, Police or Media fairly "eating out of her hand". If they came to the work centre, she would offer them a cup of coffee, call them "dear" and, in her direct way, say exactly what she needed and usually get it. She believed in appealing to the highest authority.

Her humour tempers her heavy hand. In the words of one of her "guests": "You are like a sergeant-major on coffee line-up, Mum. When you give orders, we all jump up smart!"

After one such time, when she had "told them off", followed by an uncomfortable silence, someone said, "Oh, Mum! We know you don't really mean it. We know you've got a heart of gold," and she threw her head back and laughed heartily with them.

To me, Louisa Toogood will always be an unforgettable character. I think of her as loving and lovable; with a fine balance between the deeply spiritual and the very practical. She was not "too heavenly to be any earthly good". I think of her as dogmatic, dictatorial, and quite infuriating at times; as compassionate, challenging, discerning and a good judge of human nature, a skilled and detailed organiser and leader, with a single-minded drive.

Her work of Coffee Brigade goes on and she lives on through the voluntary helpers who care for the men and women she loved and served.

She is frail now at eighty-six, but her spirit is still strong and sometimes the staff at Sinnamon Retirement Village hear her voice, raised in the old authoritative way, as she tells them what to do and how it should be done.

Thought this article may be of interest given our support for Coffee Brigade. It was presented at my writers group this week – an archival paper dating back to the 1980's which tracks the interesting character from 1960's that started the Coffee Brigade. Times have certainly changed. Ann Maree Buttner

Can't Keep Him Away

I did a make-up at Cowra Rotary Club last Thursday evening. I'm pictured with President Kylie.

Quite an impressive Club. 35 members with a high level of community involvement.

Last year the Club contributed \$55k into local projects.

I like evening meetings. You can drink red wine.

Bill Phillips



Last Week's Meeting



Guest Speaker Rachel Murphy, CEO QPAC



Greg Beard



Loretta Lynch, Rachel Murphy, Susan Rix & Russell Postle

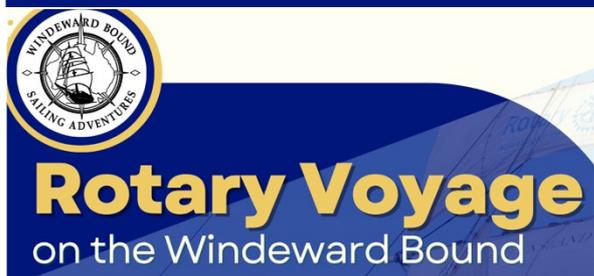


Bill Leveritt & Yvonne Todd



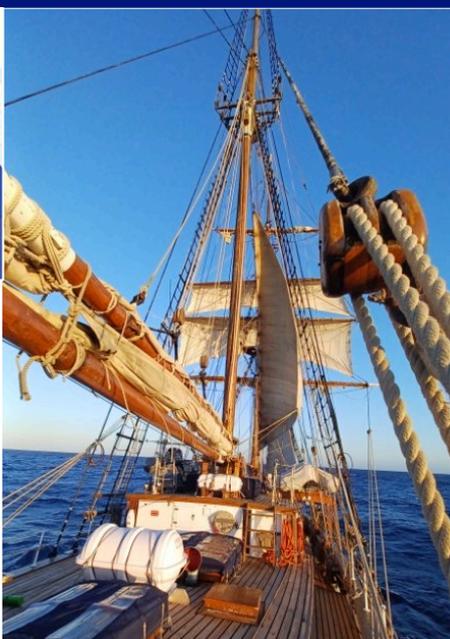
Rob O'Donovan not winning the Joker Draw

STV Windeward Bound



The Sail Training Vessel *Windeward Bound* sails from Hobart to Gladstone and return in a series of 10 day voyages between April and November. I joined the ship in Bundaberg for special 5 day trip to Southport.

On the first day, Monday, we enjoyed a brilliant sail across to the top of K'gari (Fraser Island). Tuesday brought a day of southerlies and short seas off K'gari that had us going nowhere with most of the Rotary crew declining breakfast.



A welcome change brought a northerly that pushed us past Moreton and Stradbroke islands to crossing the Southport Bar with the tide as scheduled on Thursday morning.

The Windeward Bound Trust and Rotary Australia Districts offer leadership development programs for groups of Rotary sponsored 14-17 year olds up through 10 day voyages and down the East Coast.

Rob O'Donovan

Student Mentoring



qimrb_institute

One of the things we promised to QIMR Berghoffer, as part of our support for the **Infectious Disease Program**, was to appoint a mentor to each of the students - a few of us met the students at QIMR recently. Student contact will be via phone.

Would you like to nominate for this program? Please consider it and let me know if you are interested.

Jane Andersen



2025 Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference

Gold Coast, Australia | 31 Oct – 2 Nov 2025

All Rotarians and Rotaractors are invited to come together to **Connect, Share and Grow** at the **2025 Rotary South Pacific Zone Conference**.

You will be inspired and motivated as we connect and share ideas to grow Rotary and activate the strategic priorities of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

The 2025 event will be held at Twin Towns Conference and Function Centre, Tweed Heads, just a few minutes stroll to Coolangatta and the Gold Coast's spectacular beaches.

<https://rotarydownunder.org/events/rotary-international-convention-2025/>

Board Members 2025-26

President	Greg Beard
Past President	Jane Andersen
President Elect	Cindy Kemp
Secretary	Ann Maree Buttner
Treasurer	Cindy Kemp
Community Projects	David Bunce
Marketing	Ann-Maree Bennett
Membership	Bill Phillips
Rotary Foundation	Susan Rix
Youth	Loretta Lynch
Assisted By:	
Fellowship	Margot Baillie
Speaker Program	Ann-Maree Bennett
Administration	Rosemary Meadows
Hot Air	Steve Knight

Duty Roster

REMEMBER: *If you won't be there that day then it's your responsibility to arrange a replacement*

	Greeter & Closedown	Chair
Thu 11 Sep	Jane A	Andrew A
Thu 18 Sep	Margot B	Jane A
Thu 25 Sep	Murray B	Margot B
Thu 02 Oct	Ann-Maree Be	Murray B
Thu 09 Oct	Kit B	Ann-Maree Be

Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise

Calendar 2025-26

Activities outside of Club Meetings

KEY:

	Major Projects
	Community Services
	Social
	Foundation
	Youth
	District Events, Conferences or Training

SEPTEMBER	
<i>Basic Education and Literacy Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	An Evening with Dr Andrew Browning 18-Sep
Fellowship Dinner at Caravanserai Date TBC	Board Meeting 29-Sep

OCTOBER	
<i>Community Economic Development Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	R.A.R.E. 4-Oct-25
Kinross Cluster Meeting 9-Oct	Poetry Night Date & Venue TBC
World Polio Day 24-Oct	Board Meeting 27-Oct

International Toast

This week is we are celebrating the: **Rotaract Club of Club of The Hague International**



A passion for peace prompted five Dutch Rotaract clubs to hold a symposium on conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On 21 September, the International Day of Peace, club members welcomed Pappy Orion, founder of a nonprofit called Focus Congo, who discussed his journey from child soldier to peacebuilder.

The event included panel discussions on the humanitarian crisis and celebrated Congolese food, visual arts, music, and dance.

“Our club adopted the project because we want to raise hands, raise awareness, and raise funds to raise hope in the region,” says Nicholas Egunjobi, of the **Rotaract Club of The Hague International**.

The event raised about \$7,400 for Orion's nonprofit. “The projects we are aiming to support include building and maintaining camps for internally displaced people,” says Ana Zlatevski, a member of The Hague international club.