

HOT AIR

13 Feb 2025 — Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

The Presidential Point:

So exciting to here that entries in the Art Show are now open! There's a link to the Entry Form on the show Home page www.rotaryart.au. I want to see a really diverse range of many artists from as many places as possible enter the show, and give Simone, our Curator a real challenge to whittle it down to just what can fit in the foyer of Central Plaza 1. So, send a message now to any artists you know, telling them that entries are open, and remember to mention the \$20,000 Best of Show prize.

Wasn't Katja Fisher, our guest speaker on Thursday, excellent! She outlined the research program on scabies at QIMR Berghofer, and showed us how they are working in the field with schoolchildren. Scabies is a disease that is prevalent in poor and overcrowded communities which includes rural communities in the northern parts of our vast country. It's preventable but there is no known cure.

The big breakfast fundraiser for St Jude's on Thursday 20 February is now less than 2 weeks away and we need to lock in as many guests as we can. Reach out to those you know and invite them to come along (see at right). It will be an inspirational morning and I'm particularly looking forward to hearing from alumni John Stanley. Remember, the starting time is a little earlier than usual at 6.45am. We also need items for the raffle – bring your donation to our meeting this week so Margot can get it ready for the day.

And this week Margot is also busy with the Valentines Day flower deliveries on Friday – see below and contact her if you can assist.

Jane Andersen

Valentines Day Flower Deliveries

When: Friday 14th February
Time: 8am for Induction, Deliveries commence 9am
Location: Queen Adelaide Building, 90-112 Queen St Via Burnett Lane.
Bring: Good walking shoes, a hat and a water bottle

The delivery dock area will again be available for vehicles to be able to load. Let Margot Baillie know if you can help.

Duty Roster

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

	Setup, Greeter & Closedown	Chair
Thu 13 Feb	Ann Maree Bu	Tom D
Thu 20 Feb	Tom D	Robyn D
Thu 27 Feb	Robyn D	Jennifer E
Thu 6 Mar	Jennifer E	Helen F
Thu 13 Mar	Helen F	Stephen F
Thu 20 Mar	Stephen F	Deb Le G



20 FEBRUARY



Our St Jude's Breakfast - a not-to-be-missed special event:

Gemma Sisia with her 2019 alumni and emerging entrepreneur

John Stanley will be speaking. **6:45 for a 7:15 start, \$50**

Invite your family and friends - [RSVP](#)

We also need donations of raffle prizes:
Bring them to our meeting this week 13 Feb.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 13 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Craig Wappett – USA Political System
- Fri 14 Feb** **Valentines Day Flower Delivery** – [RSVP](#)
Deliveries in the city, 8am start
- Thu 20 Feb** **St Jude's Breakfast @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Gemma Sisia & John Stanley, School of St Jude
- Thu 27 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Club Assembly
- Thu 06 Mar** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Michael Eather, FireWorks Gallery
- Thu 13 Mar** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Billie Murphy, Coffee Brigade
- Sun 16 Mar** **Wine Tasting @ St Lucia 4pm to 6pm** - [RSVP](#)
Ann Maree Buttner
- Thu 20 Mar** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** - [RSVP](#)
Ann Maree Buttner - Lorraine Coghlan Tennis Story

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

Last Week's Meeting

Dr Katja Fischer from QIMR Berghofer spoke to us about the scabies – staggering to hear that it is on the increase worldwide and is a significant issue here in Australia, particularly in remote areas - see next page for more information about her work and the schools program.

We also heard how Paddington Rotaract's RISE program is powering on – check it out [here!](#)



Steve Knight, Guest Speaker Dr Katja Fischer and Hawys McManus



Di and Lindsay Marshall in the centre with, from Paddington Rotaract, Zash on left and Ebony (President) on right,. Lindsay is holding the Joker draw wine so didn't pull the winning card.



An opportunity to catch up - the usual fellowship chatter before the meeting formally commenced

Mette's 17th Birthday

Our Danish exchange student Mette turned 17 on Thursday so there was a small cake with candles and a rousing round of *happy birthday to you* at our meeting. Then the Albury family continued with dinner that evening. A birthday she won't forget!



Jane & Deb showing off the thermal jackets from their recent trip

Science and Young Minds 2024

High School outreach in remote Queensland



Associate Professor Dr Katja Fischer, Senior group Leader at QIMR Berghofer, runs a molecular biology research laboratory to develop novel diagnostics and therapeutics for scabies disease. Scabies is one of the most common infectious skin disorders worldwide, particularly among children and in tropical regions. In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of remote Northern Australia scabies prevalence is high and extreme rates of scabies-associated streptococcal and staphylococcal infections cause a significant public health burden.

On 02/02/2025 Dr Fischer gave an overview of a range of outreach activities that she and her team undertake to relay their research agenda to affected communities.

The vision is to inspire young people in remote Queensland communities to become part of the next generation of scientists and medical professionals and to increase the knowledge of communities on the health issues they are facing.

Based on previous engagement in 2014 and 2015, Dr Fischer's team has established a relationship with schools in the Cloncurry region. Back then, the project was reviewed, financially supported and spotlighted by the Lowitja Institute. This funding opportunity has since ceased. Upon repeated requests by the locals in Cloncurry, Dr Fischer managed to raise funds and repeated the school outreach in 2024.

QIMR Berghofer Scientists from a wide range of research fields have now voiced interest to join the activity. What was once a teaching module solely dedicated to infectious skin diseases may soon address a wide range of health issues affecting remote communities. For the program to be of maximum benefit, funding of multiple schools over at least 3 years would be ideal. This expansion will require further funding. Dr Fischer is hoping to have inspired the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise to consider this case. Even funding for **one** student of the 2025 cohort would make a significant difference.



School visit:

2 - 3 days per school

6 lectures

5 'hands-on' research modules

Workshop booklet,
VR experience,
certificates, awards,
brainstorm of career
options



Work experience at QIMR Berghofer

Work experience for
selected students at
QIMR Berghofer

'Hands-on' work with
several research groups

QIMRB High school
lectures

Visit University
campuses

Visit QUT Oodgeroo Unit

Visits / Workshops at
Brisbane museums

Contact: Katja.Fischer@qimrb.edu.au



Wine Tasting, Sunday 16 Mar 24



Anne Maree Buttner has kindly invited us to take part in a guided wine tasting at her home in Macquarie St Lucia on the afternoon of Sunday the 16th of March from 4pm to 6pm.

She will guide us through a selection of 4 Australian wines, highlighting the characteristics of each of the wines. \$35 pp for the wines and the antipasto platters to accompany the wines. RSVP by 6th of March to: annembuttner@gmail.com

There is good street parking available but if you don't want to drive then both the City Cat Guyatt Park stop and Bus number 412 stop are about 300m away.

Date Claimer – D9620 Tree Planting Challenge



DG Sue Mulraney has agreed to another D9620 Tree Planting Challenge Day this year: **9am – 11am Sunday 13 April 2025.**

April is Environment Month and participating in this event allows Clubs to contribute to Rotary's latest area of focus **Supporting the Environment.**

Brisbane City Council's Offsets and Restoration Team has once again offered a venue - this year's planting will be at **Whites Hill Reserve, Boundary Rd, Camp Hill.**

Contact David Bunce if you are interested in attending.



2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of 3rd Space and we would like to invite you to celebrate this momentous occasion with us at our **Gala Dinner on Thursday 27 March 2025 at The Calile Hotel.**

Enjoy an evening filled with entertainment, raffles and auctions.

Our Anniversary Gala Dinner will be an opportunity for us to not only recognise the achievements of 3rd Space over the past 50 years, but also raise much needed funds to continue the activities provided by 3rd Space to those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Board Members 2024-25

President	Jane Andersen
Past President	Dyls Bertelsen
President Elect	Gregory Beard
Secretary	Jennifer Eathorne
Treasurer	Cindy Kemp
Community Projects	David Bunce
Marketing	Ann-Maree Bennett
Membership	Deb Le Garde
Projects	Bill Phillips
Rotary Foundation	Susan Rix
Youth	Loretta Lynch

Assisted By:

Fellowship	Margot Baillie
Speaker Program	Dyls Bertelsen
Administration	Rosemary Meadows
Hot Air	Steve Knight

International Toast

This week we are celebrating the:
Rotary Club of Freiburg, Germany



Can there really still be such a need for mothers and their children in Germany nowadays? "Oh yes," reports Mrs. Christmann from the **Freiburg Circle of Helpers for Mother and Child**. "Only the other day I had to go to get a pack of diapers. The poor woman stood there practically without a penny!"

People in need are always falling through the social network or - and this is far more often - state aid is delayed. It happens that urgently needed funds from public funds are paid out with a delay of six months, because a form is missing, because a certificate is still to be obtained, or the child who urgently needs an initial equipment has yet to be registered with the competent body.

In such situations, the **circle of helpers** steps in - with donations in kind, clothing, money and sometimes with a pack of diapers, if it is needed. But the help goes even further. It happens that the circle of helpers takes over the babysitting if the mother has an urgent appointment, but no one with whom she can leave her child for a short time.

The number of people in need has been particularly high in recent years. First Corona, then the many women and children from Ukraine who had to flee the war. Recently, the association has purchased 150 sets of children's clothing, 30 first-time equipment, 10 cribs and 20 strollers and paid €13,000 in emergency aid.

In order to support this valuable work, Rotary Freiburg organized a special benefit concert on April 26, 2024, at which €5,000 was collected. On June 16, the handover of the cheque took place. We know the money is in the best hands.

For more info (in German): <https://freiburg.rotary.de>.