

 **HOT AIR**

18 December 2025 — Rotary Disease Prevention & Treatment Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

International Toast:
**Rotary Club of St. Vincent,
St. Vincent and the
Grenadines.**
See Page 4

The President's Post

Last week, we were privileged to hear from one of Australia's leading authorities on philanthropy and fundraising. His presentation captivated the room, touching on subjects close to many of our hearts. Question time was possibly the longest I can remember at the club—clear evidence of just how engaged everyone was.

It's fair to say I could have introduced him with a little more flair, so allow me to do so properly now: **Nigel Harris AM MBA CFRE GAICD FFIA** spoke to us on **Philanthropy: Love or Money?**

Nigel has an outstanding track record in organisational growth and development, drawing on a unique blend of experience in governance, executive leadership, and applied fundraising practice. He is widely recognised as Australia's leading professional advisor in healthcare philanthropy.

He served as Chief Executive Officer of Mater Foundation (Queensland) for 24 years, during which time annual revenue grew from \$2 million to \$73 million. More than \$750 million was raised under his leadership, establishing the Foundation as one of Australia's largest health charities and a major funder of medical research and clinical services.

Nigel has twice served as Board Chair of the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) and is currently Chair of Act for Kids. He also serves on the boards of Leukaemia Foundation Australia, the Institute for Sustainable Philanthropy (UK), and Braille House. Closer to home, Nigel is also a Past President of the Rotary Club of Albany Creek.

In just 20 minutes, Nigel delivered what could easily have been a full lecture, leaving us with many valuable takeaways. A few that stood out were:

- The word philanthropy literally means “love of people.” At its core, our work is about expressing that love—through fundraising, donations, acts of service, and by intentionally creating relationships and connection.
- People often judge whether an organisation is “worthy” of support based on factors such as administrative costs or levels of government funding. These KPIs can be misleading and, at times, harmful to organisations doing genuinely important work.
- Philanthropy is not just about asking for money. It's about building relationships and meaningful connections, so people choose to give willingly and never feel valued solely for their financial contribution.

This naturally leads us to reflect on our own club. What more could we be doing to strengthen our relationships with stakeholders—our members, supporters, sponsors, fellow clubs, community and business leaders, and even our guest speakers?

Greg Beard

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 18 Dec Christmas Meeting @ USC – [RSVP](#)**
- Thu 01 & 15 Jan No Meetings – Christmas Break, USC Closed**
- Thu 22 Jan Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
- Thu 29 Jan Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
Art Show Sponsorship Discussion
Joint Meeting with Paddington Club

Volunteering at Coffee Brigade

On Monday 15th December, President Greg, Jane, Helen, Yvonne T and Ann-Maree Bennett took on the sandwich making duties at Coffee Brigade.

As Christmas is fast approaching and several food suppliers will be closing over the Christmas break, efforts are being made to stock up on extra supplies and to make extra sandwiches to be frozen and used later. This morning's target of 16 boxes of sandwiches was completed with gusto, zest, fun and frivolity!

Next week, 22 December, will be an extra session and our final sandwich working bee for 2025. Then we recommence on Monday 19th January.

If you wish to register for a shift (we will be doing the 3rd Monday of each month), let Robyn Drake know. If you would like to go out on the Coffee Brigade van to help distribute food and coffee, contact Coffee Brigade directly. See Page 3 for more info.

Ann-Maree Bennett



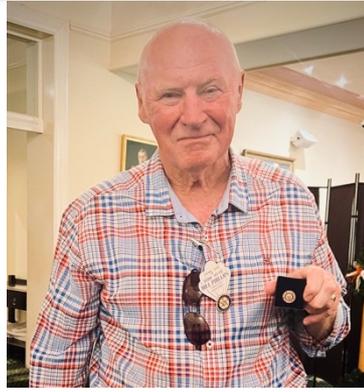
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Yuggera and Turrbal people, and pay our respect to their elders past and present.

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

Last Week's Meeting



Guest Speaker Nigel Harris & Greg Beard



Bill Phillips with new bling having been awarded another well deserved Paul Harris Fellowship



Alex Beard, 2026 JCI Australia National President, Bill Phillips and Phil Gough



International visitors Jacqueline Hickey and Greg Engelmeyer from outside Seattle, USA with Helen Fox



Atlanta Lloyd, JCI Australia National President & David Bunce



Helen Fox not winning the Joker Draw



RIVERVIEW STATE SCHOOL



8th October 2025

Dear Brisbane High-Rise Rotary Team,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Riverview Primary School Community Hub. Our school is located in Riverview, one of Queensland's most disadvantaged communities, where many families experience financial hardship and social challenges.

These difficulties often mean that children come to school without the essentials they need to learn. One of the most immediate needs we see is that some students arrive in shoes that are not adequately fitting (often far too big or too small) because families cannot afford to replace them. This highlights the importance of community support to ensure that every child has access to the basics that allow them to feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn.

We are seeking support to collect or provide spare shoes that can be kept at the School Community Hub and shared with students when needed. We believe this aligns well with Rotary's commitment to supporting children, education, and community wellbeing.

Would your club be interested in partnering with us for this initiative? Shoes in sizes kids' size 10 through to adult sizes 9/10 would make a big difference to our primary school students.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns by phone

3816 6111 or email principal@riverviewss.edu.au

Kind regards,

Yvette Phillips

Yvette Phillips, Principal

Contact [Bill Phillips](#) if you can assist with this request and bring items to our meetings

White Christmas in Tassie?



Summer in Tassie's central plateau is different to summer in Brisbane. Today snow with the official forecast of 1° but feels like -8. Strong winds. **Russell Postle**



Ways to support Coffee Brigade

Make Sandwiches:

*Thanks to those who have volunteered!
We now need helpers from Feb 26*

Please let Robyn know when you can assist.

We have committed to assisting with the sandwich making. There are a few slots remaining, it's **every month** and our slot is the 3rd Monday of each month:

Mon 16 Feb 26
Mon 16 Mar 26
Mon 20 Apr 26
Mon 18 May 26

and so on for the rest of the year.

We need **at least 4 people** for each session, starting about 10:00am, and usually finishing in less than 2 hours.

Please let me know your availability - no need to apply online.

It would be good if you could book in with me for as many sessions as you feel you can do and for the months ahead, so that I can get the roster filled well in advance.



Go out in the Van:

Are you interested in going out in the van to deliver sandwiches and a drink to the homeless? Book online at coffeebrigade.org.au/volunteer and scroll down & fill in the form.

Robyn Drake

Christmas Cheer – There's Time!



**Service Project:
GIVEwrap
Christmas Gift
Wrapping**

We're inviting volunteers to join the **Act for Kids Christmas Present Wrapping Fundraiser** at **Toowong Shopping Centre** — a wonderful way to support a great cause and share some festive cheer with the community.

Please let me know your availability for any of the following shifts:

Saturday 20th December:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon: 1pm – 5pm

Monday 22nd December:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon 1pm – 4pm
Evening: 4pm – 7pm

Wednesday 24th December:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon: 1pm – 5pm

Sunday 21st December:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon: 1pm – 5pm

Tuesday 23rd December:

Morning: 9am – 1pm
Afternoon: 1pm – 4pm
Evening: 4pm – 7pm

Location:

Toowong Village, 9
Sherwood Road,
Toowong, QLD 4064.

It would be great if you could donate a few hours of your time to make this event a success and raise funds to help kids heal from trauma.

Contact **David Bunce** to **lock in a shift spot** or for more info.

Pride of Workmanship Awards 2026

The **Annual Pride of Workmanship Awards** will be on again in 2026.

This is your opportunity to recognise and celebrate those in your workplace or the wider community who deliver outstanding service with dedication, commitment and pride in a job well done.



During the Christmas break we are asking you to take a few moments to reflect on those deserving of public recognition – perhaps you already have someone in mind!

For more information, or to nominate someone, please email me at: apologies@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

Rosemary Meadows

Plan Ahead



International Women's Day 2026 luncheon

Partner with Act for Kids or host a table to support children's healing and hope.

Before the holiday rush begins, we wanted to touch base and lock this into your 2026 calendar:

Act for Kids is delighted to invite Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise to our International Women's Day 2026 luncheon, to be held on Thursday, 4 March, at the beautifully appointed Callie Hotel on James St, Brisbane.

It's a terrific event that **makes a real difference for Act for Kids** and I hope it will be of interest to the club. We would also be grateful if you could share it within your professional networks.

As a national child protection charity, Act for Kids provides vital therapy and support so children can heal and thrive after experiencing abuse or neglect.

The theme for the 2026 IWD event is **#GiveToGain**, highlighting the powerful connection between empowerment and giving back to the community. This luncheon offers a unique opportunity to not only celebrate women's achievements but also to support children and families impacted by trauma across Australia.

We would be delighted to have you participate in this significant event. There are two ways to get involved:

1. Sponsorship – We offer various sponsorship packages that will provide your company with visibility and the opportunity to connect with key stakeholders and industry leaders. Please find the sponsorship overview attached with full details on available packages and benefits. We would be happy to discuss how your company can make a lasting impact through a sponsorship option.

2. Attend the Luncheon – Purchase a table for your team or clients. Each table seats 10 guests, with individual tickets @ \$225 per seat. Now in its sixth year, this event offers a wonderful networking opportunity and an inspiring afternoon filled with incredible guest speakers, entertainment, and delicious cuisine.

Event Details:

- Date:** Thursday, 4 March, 2026
- Time:** 12-3pm
- Venue:** The Calile Hotel, Brisbane
- Theme:** #GiveToGain
- Ticket Price:** \$225 per seat (Table of 10: \$2,250)

Your involvement will directly support Act for Kids' life-changing work, providing integrated therapy services to children across Australia.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact. We hope to celebrate International Women's Day with you.

Kind regards,
Tracy-Anne

Tracy-Anne Ganzer | Relationships Specialist

Pronouns: She, her, hers

M: 0418 867 199

E: tracyanne.ganzer@actforkids.com.au

W: actforkids.com.au



Activities outside of Club Meetings

DECEMBER <i>Rotary Disease Prevention & Treatment Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	Kinross Cluster Meeting 4-Dec
Club Christmas Party 5-Dec	Last Day Early Rego Rotary Int Conf. 15-Dec
Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 15-Dec	Family Xmas Party 18-Dec
QPAC Theatre Night "Spirit of Christmas" 18-Dec	Xmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser for Act for Kids 20-Dec
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JANUARY <i>Rotary Vocational Service Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 19-Jan
1st BHR Club Meeting 22 Jan	Board Meeting 26-Jan
Combined Meeting w/ Paddington Club @ USC 29-Jan	Kinross Cluster Meeting 29-Jan

KEY:

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

8th October 2025

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Yvette Phillips, Principal

Contact Bill Phillips if you can assist with this request and bring items to our meetings

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

Setup, Greeter & Closedown	Chair
Thu 18 Dec Deb LeG	Phil G
Thu 25 Dec - 15 Jan No Meetings - Closed for Christmas	
Thu 22 Jan Lindsay M	Deb LeG
Thu 29 Jan Ken M	Lindsay M / Murray B
Thu 05 Feb Loretta L	Ken M
Thu 12 Feb Kym McC	Loretta L

International Toast

This week we are celebrating the:
Rotary Club of St. Vincent, St. Vincent and the Grenadines



The Rotary Club of St. Vincent staged a glow run for good health in June in partnership with a fitness center. At dusk, about 500 participants carrying illuminated sticks brightened the streets along a scenic route starting from the cruise ship terminal in Kingstown, the islands' capital, reports club member Kimeisha Bailey. Businesses and medical facilities sponsored the family-oriented event. "This Glow Run is part of our club's ongoing commitment to disease prevention and treatment". The run also supported a District 7030 emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging Vincentians to stay active. "By getting the community moving, the club aims to raise awareness and take action". The club also offered a virtual workout session for families and a nutrition webinar. <https://www.facebook.com/rotarysvg/>