

 **HOT AIR**

21 August 2025 — Membership and New Club Development Month

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The President's Post

It's still Membership and New Club Development Month — and it remains strongly on my mind.

I truly believe this is a critical time for us to channel our energy into growing our membership. As Bill Phillips has said, our club has always operated at its best with around 50 members.

In fact, I think we should go a step further in our thinking — we should approach this as if we're planning to start a new club.

When we hear of clubs considering amalgamating, it raises an important question: Who will be positioned to start the next club? For the future of our own club, and for the long-term strength of Rotary, we need to adopt a mindset focused on building — not just maintaining.

Let's make our first goal simple and clear:

A club of 50 members.

From there, we'll be in a position to support — or even launch — the next Rotary club. The future of Rotary depends on clubs like ours having the vision and energy to grow, expand, and lead by example.

A special thanks to those who attended several events this past week in another great week for High-Rise, including:

- Paddington Rotaract Changeover - Susan, Ros, Wendy, Anne Maree and Ann-Maree - who heard about how, in spite of obstacles and mishaps at every step, Paddington persevered and successfully completed their Solomons Library project.
- The District Membership Seminar - Yvonne Todd and Ann-Maree.
- QMIR Berghofer to meet Senior Group Leader Katja Fischer and the five Cloncurry school students - Jane, Robyn & Ann-Maree.
- Another interesting speaker at Breakfast, and thanks Jane for taking care of my responsibilities, and to Steve Settle for organising our visitors, and our presentation of \$1,000 to Rocket and Stephanie Walsh from Abert Park Flexi School.
- And finally thanks to Ann-Maree for representing our club at the District Cluster meeting.

Greg Beard

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 21 Aug Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Nigel Chamier, Brisbane Sustainability Agency
- Thu 28 Aug Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Club Assembly – DG Visit
- Thu 04 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
Rachel Healy, QPAC
- Thu 11 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club - [RSVP](#)**
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

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



RI President 2027-28:



*Rotary International President 2027-28 has been named: **Larry Lunsford** from the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri. He has had a connection to Australia - in the 1981-82 academic year he was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of Newcastle in NSW.*



SAVE THE DATE! YOU'RE INVITED TO...

COFFEE BRIGADE'S

FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH

WESTS RUGBY CLUB

7:30AM FOR 8:00AM START
MEMORIAL PARK, 65 SYLVAN ROAD TOOWONG
QLD 4066

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST, FUN RAFFLES, ENGAGING SPEAKERS, AND MORE

FORMAL INVITATION AND TICKET INFORMATION COMING SOON

Last Week's Meeting



Guest Speaker David Muir



Stephanie Walsh from Albert Park Flexible School receiving our presentation of \$1,000 in support of Therapy Dog Rocket



QIMR Visit

Last week, Jane, Robyn and Ann-Maree joined Katja Fischer at QIMR Berghofer (QIMRB) to meet the 5 talented science students from Cloncurry State High School, and their teacher.

They were visiting Brisbane as part of a program to introduce talented science students to what is available in science fields and the types of careers and work that they can be involved with. One of the leads at QIMRB gave sage advice to the students to start off with a general science degree and then look to specialise as their interests may (& often do) diverge. Brisbane High-Rise recently received a \$5,000 District grant which will go towards this program. We will be providing assistance with mentoring these students through their final years of high school in order to prepare them for eventually studying science and, more than likely, having to move away from Cloncurry in order to study. This will help provide the students with the confidence to plan their academic futures and lives.

Ann-Maree Bennett



District Membership Action Plan

Yvonne Todd and Ann-Maree Bennett attended the District Membership Action Plan day at Rothwell on Saturday. There appeared to be about 50 attendees. It was an extremely engaging day and the presenters were knowledgeable, entertaining and have the “runs-on-the-board” with the growth of membership in their district (9790) which has large rural and some city clubs.

A couple of interesting stats in District 9620:

- Membership: 2020-21 - 2412 vs 2024-25 - 1892
- 68% of clubs either had declining membership or no growth.

Like so many organisations, we need to grow to survive. There are several new and interesting ideas that came out of the session - some of which will require a different mindset. Further information will follow.

Ann-Maree Bennett



Ann-Maree Bennett, Yvonne Todd and the photobomber is the face of District 9620 insurance, Tony Sykes from RC Beenleigh

Rotaract Paddington Changeover & Project R.I.S.E.

Paddington Rotaract Club had a great turnout (over 90 people and from a large number of clubs) for their changeover on Sunday to welcome their new President, Callum Mitchell and induct 2 new members. From High-Rise were Susan, Wendy, Ros, Anne Maree & Ann-Maree. Not only are they a relatively new club (2 years old) but their members are all young and still in the early stages of their careers or study.

They reported on their Project R.I.S.E. (presented to us in June) which they had undertaken with great energy and enthusiasm. If there was ever a story of what can go wrong - this was it:

After much struggle: flights cancelled; transport not showing up on time; not being able to load all their cargo AND food onto a boat to reach their destination; having to divert to long distant places to pick up essential materials that were supposed to be delivered - their biggest obstacle turned out to be the library building - it had been demolished!

There was asbestos in the walls of the building and so the local people were asked to remove the walls - they took the request literally and pulled down the entire building! However, it was able to be rebuilt in a short period of time and the new roof installed. So eventually the project was a great success with the installation of over 5,000 books (plus a new building).

If a young group of people in a young club can achieve this level of success, through sheer will and resilience, I'm sure that they will go on to even greater successes.

Ann-Maree Bennett

Rotaract Paddington President Callum Mitchell and Rotaract RiverCity President Gareth Seeto



Rotary
District 9620



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



The success of a Rotary Club depends upon good leadership. With the annual turnover of leadership roles there is a constant need for new leaders.

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a grassroots, multi-district leadership development program whose mission is to strengthen Rotary clubs through quality leadership education.

Next RLI Session: 31st August and 14th September, 2025
8:30am to 3pm
Bostock House, Ellerton Drive, Wacol 4076
(you need to attend both)



Cost: \$50 - includes light lunch
Click on this image or
Scan the QR Code to register
RSVP by 21st August

Greater Springfield
Rotary
Club



**Community
Conversations**

RUOK?

● **Presentation by an
RUOK?
Community
Ambassador**

● **Learn How To
Have A
Conversation That
Could Change A
Life**

Thurs 4 September,
6.30PM for 7PM

Auditorium AVEO (Vista)
2 Symphony Way

Free to Attend However Seats Are Limited.
RSVP to greaterpringfieldrotary@gmail.com

The Rotary Clubs of Brisbane South-East and Carindale are pleased to again organise the Brisbane Kite Festival at the Minnippi Parklands, Brisbane on Sunday 24th August. Free to enter, it attracts young and old from all over to come fly kites and enjoy a day in the beautiful winter sunshine. Food trucks, children's rides and activities, kite selling stall, big kites display by Kites QLD and a Rotary sausage sizzle make for a great day out.

We are also always looking for extra help, so if you would like to lend a hand for a couple of hours on the day, please contact Colleen Orange from Rotary Bne South-East on colleenorange@hotmail.com

BRISBANE KITE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST 10am-3pm
MINNIPPI PARKLANDS



Rotary

Brisbane South East & Carindale



Cr Lisa Atwood

LIFT THE LID WALK

PHYSICAL HEALTH FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Join us for a walk and talk in our local community as we raise vital funds for mental health research



BRISBANE

**SUNDAY 21st
SEPTEMBER 2025**

**ROCKS
RIVERSIDE PARK**

FROM 8AM

**Become
part of the
solution**

Australian Rotary
Health invests millions
each year to fund
breakthrough Research
into Mental Health.

**PROUDLY
PRESENTED
BY**

The Rotary Clubs of Brisbane
Taylor Bridge, Brisbane
Centenary, Brisbane Inner
West, Greater Springfield,
Sumner Park,
Jindalee and the Rotaract
Club of Brisbane Rivitycity

**BUY TICKETS
NOW**



**Be KIND
to YOUR
MIND**

An Evening with **DR ANDREW BROWNING AM**

Join us to hear Dr Browning's latest stories and updates about the state of maternal healthcare, including fistula repairs and prevention, in East Africa.

**Thurs 18th Sept
5pm - 7pm**

Stamford Plaza
Brisbane

Tickets \$60pp



Glass of sparkling
on arrival with
canapés



**Buy Your
Tickets Now**



**Barbara May
Foundation**

Rotary
Districts of Australia



WWW.LIFTTHELIDWALK.COM.AU

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Secret Bridesmaid's Business

ELIZABETH COLEMAN



Secret Bridesmaids Business at the Incinerator Theatre

Looking for a relaxed, laughter-filled night out?

Join us for “Secret Bridesmaids Business” at the Incinerator Theatre, Ipswich — an honest, hilarious comedy about love, friendship, and the chaos of modern life.

You'll enjoy a great show, good company, and help support local community projects.

Date: **Thursday, 2nd October**
Time: **7:30 PM sharp** (arrive early to get comfy!)
Venue: **Incinerator Theatre**
15 Burley Griffin Drive, Ipswich
Tickets: **\$30 per person** (includes supper)
Dress: **Casual or glam** — your choice

Enjoy live theatre and plenty of laughs. Support your local community. Every ticket helps out the **Rotary Club of Goodna** and their local projects. It's entertainment for a great cause!

Supplied supper and cash bar — no one goes hungry. Friendly, welcoming vibes at a classic Ipswich venue.

Tickets are selling fast!

Contact Peter Walsh (0421 531 099) to book.

Bring your friends or family and enjoy an entertaining, meaningful night out.



“The River of Dreams”

Saturday, 20 – Friday, 26 September 2025

OutBack Getaway 25 (OBG) is a fundraising event organised and supported by the Rotary Club of Toowoomba East. OBG has been held successfully every two years since 1997 — so successful that the concept has been recently copied and adapted by others.

It's a fully managed and catered outback four-wheel drive vehicle (4WD) 'tag along' style six-day caravan and camping experience involving up to 70 participants.

Suited to those looking to enjoy exploring the outback, together with those interested in a family adventure without the effort, OBG is an interesting, informative and fun event.

Funds are raised through the generous support of our OBG sponsors, and the involvement of the participants who travel with us on the OBG. Auctions are conducted on most evenings with local patrons encourage to join.

Many of the OBG participants have joined on us on multiple journeys, which is a strong testament to the fun and enjoyment experienced. It is the fellowship created, participant's generosity and the places experienced that makes OBG a most memorable event.

OBG is a family-friendly camping and caravanning event. Please note that National Park rules prohibit domestic pets and animals.

Enjoy the benefits of exploring the roads less travelled in the safety of a group while learning the history and meeting the characters that make this state great. Organised entertainment every night ensures everyone has a great time. Camping is preferred, but limited accommodation packages are available. [OutBack Getaway](#)



INVITATION

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS' SEMINAR 2026

'Your Place in Peace'

Saturday, March 28th 2026

Global Change Institute, UQ St Lucia

10:30am - 6:00pm (Registration from 10:00am)

“Your Place in Peace” encapsulates both an invitation and a call to action—a collective reflection on each individual's role in advancing the cause of peace. The 2026 Rotary Peace Fellowship Annual Seminar, curated by the Class XXIII Fellows, offers an interactive and deeply personal exploration of how our academic training, applied field experiences, and lived commitments intersect with the foundational pillars of peace architecture: peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. The seminar allows each Peace Fellow to answer the seminal question during their presentation: Where/what is my place in peace?

This seminar weaves together the experiences of each Peace Fellow to form a cohesive mosaic of global peace practice through their diverse identities, cultures, and aspirations. The presentation aims to show how the Master's in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland has transformed the Peace Fellow into agents of peace who advance justice, equity, and dignity within communities and institutions. Lastly, each Peace Fellow will explain their goals for peace work and achievement.

This seminar is more than a retrospective; it is a shared brainstorming space. Through the speakers, interactive sessions, highlights of peace initiatives across culture, and the Peace Fellows presentation, we hope each audience member can discover their role within the peacebuilding mainframe. Whether through advocacy, education, charitable action, or compassionate leadership, participants will explore how they, too, contribute to the global architecture of peace.

Ultimately, Your Place in Peace affirms that peace is not the sole domain of academics, practitioners, or policy-makers, but a profoundly human endeavor in which all can participate. As emerging peacebuilders, we display that the Rotary Peace Fellowship is not only an indispensable force in nurturing leadership amid today's political, social, and humanitarian crises, but anyone can be included to build a more peaceful world.



Register Here



FREE

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotary-peace-fellows-seminar-your-place-in-peace-tickets-156497557019>

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

AUGUST	
<i>Membership and New Club Development Month</i>	
Art Show Review	Act for Kids Working Bee 2-Aug-25
Kokoda Day Memorial Svc Broadbeach 8-Aug	TBC - Victory in Pacific Day Ceremony 23-Aug
Membership Action Plan Workshop 9 Aug - Rothwell	Kinross Cluster Meeting 14-Aug
Board Meeting 25-Aug	Albert Park Bursary 14-Aug
District Governor Visit to Club 28-Aug	

SEPTEMBER	
<i>Basic Education and Literacy Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	Services Working Bee TBC 1st Sat
Visit Qld maritime Museum TBC	An Evening with Dr Andrew Browning 18-Sep
Fellowship Dinner at Caravanserai TBC	Board Meeting 29-Sep

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 14 Aug	Yvonne T	Steve S
Thu 21 Aug	Craig W	Yvonne T
Thu 28 Aug	Roly W	Craig W
Thu 04 Sep	Andrew A	Roly W
Thu 11 Sep	Jane A	Andrew A
Thu 18 Sep	Margot B	Jane A

QPAC Theatre Nights Contact Susan Rix

PRETTY WOMAN THE MUSICAL



PRETTY WOMAN
Wednesday 12 Nov 25
\$145

Head to Hollywood with the dazzling stage adaptation of one of the most beloved romantic comedies of all time—

Pretty Woman: The Musical Bursting with glamour, charm and all the iconic moments you know and love, this joyous musical hit will premiere at QPAC's Lyric Theatre.

[QPAC Pretty Woman](#)

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
Thursday 18 Dec 25
\$TBC

QPAC's longest running event returns to the iconic QPAC Concert Hall.

Two of Australia's leading musical theatre stars will join a host of special guests in uplifting seasonal song and much-loved Christmas carols, beautifully supported by a full orchestra and the glorious voices of the QPAC Chamber Choir and MOSAIC Multicultural Choir.

[QPAC Spirit of Christmas](#)

International Toast

This week we are celebrating the:
Rotary Clubs of Dakar-Soleil and West Chester, Pennsylvania



The Rotary Clubs of Dakar-Soleil and West Chester, Pennsylvania, celebrated a milestone last year in their project to drill for water in three villages in Senegal. Despite delays during the pandemic and "several difficult months searching for water on the part of the construction company", productive boreholes were drilled in July and August 2023 in the southeastern Kédougou region and three of five planned pumps are now in use providing potable water, reports Samuel Lowry, a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville, Alabama, who assisted with the project. A \$130,000 global grant supported the project. Funds were also raised online during the pandemic. A project Facebook page yielded contributions as well as comments like "How can we get one of these where we are?"