

30 October 2025 — Community Economic Development Month

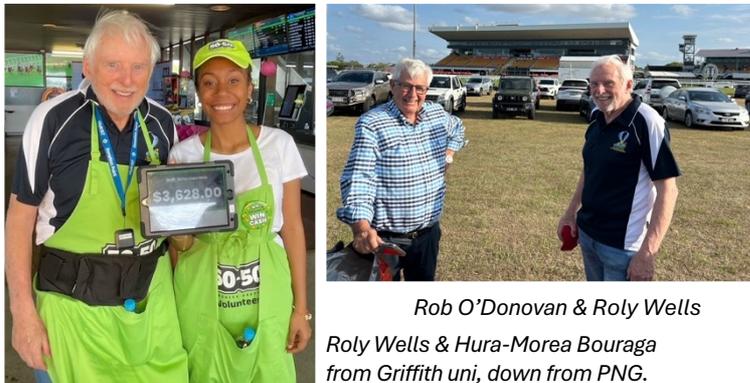
[hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com](mailto:hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com)

**International Toast:**  
**Rotary and Rotaract**  
**clubs in the Pisa area**  
See Page 4

**The President's Post**

Firstly a huge thank you to Margot, Yvonne and Rob who together gave us another very memorable Poetry Night. Every contribution was very entertaining. Phil Gough added a little more than expected using “a well known cadence” and “body language” to enhance the levity and understanding of his poetry!

A special thanks this week also to Roly Wells and Rob O'Donovan who represented us well with what was a short notice request to assist Hamilton Rotary with their charity 50/50 raffle sales at Doomben for the Cox Plate on Saturday:



*Rob O'Donovan & Roly Wells  
Roly Wells & Hura-Morea Bouraga  
from Griffith uni, down from PNG.*

Finally, and especially, we enjoyed the company of an amazing person at breakfast last week. An extraordinary individual that we could describe as loyal. committed, ready to help in an extraordinary way and without any need for recognition. Margaret Rix, you have ensured that our club has been able to raise many many thousands of dollars that we might not otherwise have realised.

What a privilege it was to present Margaret Rix with a sapphire Paul Harris Fellow. It was a privilege afforded me by past President Jane Andersen who nominated Margaret but could not be there to make the presentation. An example to us all, thank you Margaret.

**Greg Beard**

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- Thu 30 Oct Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Club Assembly
- Tue 02 Nov Melbourne Cup Trifecta**  
Got your tickets? Check to see if you won!
- Thu 06 Nov Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Nick Mair, Mental Health Pack
- Thu 13 Nov Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
- Thu 20 Nov Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Amanda Jackes, Woodfordia – Unity & Good Will  
•• Membership Drive Meeting ••
- Thu 27 Nov Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Club Assembly
- ~~**Thu 04 Dec No Weekly Meeting – Christmas Party instead**~~
- Sat 06 Dec Club Christmas Party**

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

**Rotary in Action**



Last Wednesday I worked my first shift on the Coffee Brigade van. To the best of my knowledge, others that have worked on the van are Bill, Kerstin and David. I was paired up with 2 other experienced volunteers, Don and Luke.

Our first stop was extremely busy but I suspect this had something to do with the BBQ that was being hosted by a local school. Straight up I was introduced as a ‘newbie’ and was welcomed with smiles all around. The second stop at Kangaroo Point was very quiet (no BBQ here) and then we headed over to Spring Hill.

All in all, we served almost 170 cups of coffee and sandwiches. Mochas were a common request and at one point I was even asked for a cappuccino!

Coffee Brigade have a well organised system going and their friends rely strongly on the service they provide. There is no reason to have any reservations about working a shift with Coffee Brigade. It was not a daunting experience. If anything, it was a pleasant interaction, saying good morning to everyone and helping them along with their day.

Book online at [coffeebrigade.org.au/volunteer](http://coffeebrigade.org.au/volunteer)

**Yvonne Todd**

**TOGETHER** WE SEE A WORLD  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES

# Last Week's Meeting

## Sapphire PHF Presentation:

On behalf of Past president Jane Andersen, President Greg presented Margaret Rix with a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow. A message from Jane:

*Margaret Rix has been associated with Rotary since 1972 when her husband Len, joined the Rotary Club of Ballina. Margaret has been a host mother, Rotary Exchange student counsellor and all manor of roles supporting Len. Since moving to Brisbane, Margaret has been a big supporter of BHR. For all our major fundraising events, Margaret has generously donated her beautiful pearls as raffle prizes. This has amounted to thousands of dollars to support our causes. Margaret has a soft spot for St Jude's having been part of the original group of Inner Wheel Members who donated to Gemma's first fund-raising drive 25 years ago. We honour her today with a sapphire pin.*

*Margaret I had hoped to present this PHF to you at the Changeover Dinner but you had other plans of attending a family celebration. I am now unable to be at Rotary today and I know Greg is very happy to be doing the honours. We wanted to give you this award for your great work in supporting Brisbane High-Rise. I have been fascinated by the fact that every time we decide to do a fundraiser the go-to person is you, and you have unfailingly provided a beautiful piece of jewellery to be raffled or auctioned. In no way does the club take this for granted – a very heartfelt thank you! Jane.*



Greg Beard & Guest Speaker Madonna King



Guest Anne Barker & Rosemary Meadows



Guest Speaker Madonna King, Ann-Marie Bennett & Dyls Bertlesen



Guests Tessa Zielinski & Lyla Smith with Deb Le Garde & Robyn Drake



Dyls Bertlesen & Guest Melanie Wilson



Steve Settle, Margot Baillie & Rob O'Donovan



Robyn Drake winning the Joker Draw, Ann Maree Buttner and Greg Pearson & David Bunce in the background

# Poetry Night



## The Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise

### *A Poem of Elevation Elation and Caffeination*

Where ties are optional, but banter's a cert.  
They're movers and shakers and with the future they flirt.  
They raise funds with serviettes without wielding a gun  
but they don't all agree a sausage sizzle can be fun.

Each project they hatch with unstoppable glee,  
From planting some trees to fixing the fee!  
Global or local, they give it a go,  
Even if half the club's missing the show.

With banter and breakfast, and sometimes a guest,  
Who wonders, "Are all Rotarians this well-dressed?"

Now Rob O'Donovan, he's smooth, calm, and wise,  
Except when he's plotting a fundraising guise!  
He once built a raffle from duct tape and flair —  
It raised fifty bucks and a folding chair.

And Kit Bennetts, oh Kit — a man with a plan,  
Who speaks fluent Rotary better than man.  
He's strategic, composed, a leadership beacon.  
But don't ask him to speak 'cause he'll probably weaken

Now Rosemary's PowerPoints she does on her own  
occasionally we'll send her a photo by phone.  
It's painstaking work but what an impact  
The memories the reflection of three decades, in fact!

From boardroom to breakfast, they handle it all,  
Even that time someone emailed them all...  
With a cat meme and spam from 2003 —  
(all blame Rob, Kit swears 'twas Lindsay.)

So raise up your glass (or reusable cup),  
To the High-Rise crew that always shows up.  
They're fun, they're sharp, and gloriously weird —  
The best Rotary club to have ever appeared.

If it's Hot Air you want it's hot air that you get  
Although it's been known to make our editor, fret

And then there's the Art Show, night full of flair,  
With canapés flying and wine in the air.  
They hang up the paintings with levels and grace,  
While praying no one spills red on the place.

Collectors and critics all sip and desire,  
As Bill tries to auction the St Jude he admires  
Murray handles the speeches, all charming and slick,  
While someone mislabels a sculpture as "brick" .

Many've travelled afar with compassion and shoes,  
To Tanzania's heart, and to dear St Jude's.  
They've met kids with dreams and teachers with might,  
And left with full hearts (plus some jet lag at night).

They've built up connections, not just in their state,  
But thousands of miles through the Rotary gate.  
One passport, one project, one child inspired —  
It's the kind of good work that keeps them all fired.

And Margot, the queen of a perfectly planned do,  
With a spreadsheet for seating and wine for the crew.  
Yvonne brings the sparkle, the charm and the fizz,  
(And don't cross her list if you want to stay in biz).  
Deb brings the magic, the laughter, the light,  
And maybe the reason the last wiz went all night.  
They claim it's for bonding, for spirit, for grace —  
But, as age creeps, for some it's hard to keep pace.

Now there's so much more on other characters to spore  
but Rob's watching his watch and I'm needing a scotch.

**Greg Beard**

# 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

OCTOBER	
<i>Community Economic Development Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	R.A.R.E. 4-Oct-25
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> <b>King's B'Day</b> 6-Oct	Kinross Cluster Meeting 9-Oct
Club Meeting Bring A Guest 16-Oct	
Movie Night Polio Fundraiser \$25pp 20-Oct 6-9pm	Poetry Night \$35pp 23-Oct 6.30pm
World Polio Day 24-Oct	Board Meeting 27-Oct

NOVEMBER	
<i>Rotary Foundation Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	Dinner Social TBC
World Interact Day 5-Nov	Pretty Woman The Musical QPAC 12-Nov
Club Meeting Bring a Guest 20-Nov	Board Meeting 24-Nov
Coffee Brigade Fundraising Breakfast 25-Nov	



Once again we are assisting the annual Christmas **GIVEwrap** in partnership with **Act for Kids!** The smell of tinsel is in the air, and Christmas 2025 we are just about there. What better way to get into the festive spirit than by volunteering to wrap presents and help kids heal?

We are looking for passionate, reliable, and friendly volunteers to fill the available shifts for this year's event at **Toowong Shopping Centre:**

**Thursday 18th December:**  
evening shift 5pm – 8pm

**Saturday 20th December:**  
morning shift 9am – 1pm  
afternoon shift 1pm – 5pm

**Sunday 21st December:**  
morning shift 9am – 1pm  
afternoon shift 1pm – 5pm

**Monday 22nd December:**  
morning shift 9am – 1pm  
afternoon shift 1pm – 4pm  
evening shift 4pm – 7pm

**Tuesday 23rd December:**  
morning shift 9am – 1pm  
afternoon shift 1pm – 4pm  
evening shift 4pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 24th December:**  
morning shift 9am – 1pm  
afternoon shift 1pm – 5pm

#### 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** for more info and to **lock in a shift spot.**

## International Toast

This week is we are celebrating the:  
**Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the Pisa area**



There may be no better way to spotlight (literally!) polio awareness than through the can't-miss illuminations of global landmarks.

Those monuments have included the Sydney Opera House, London's Houses of Parliament, Rome's Colosseum, the Egyptian pyramids, Scottish castles, and more.

The **Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the Pisa area** teamed up with community leaders to turn the floodlights on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. "This is a commitment that we wanted to share together precisely to reach a wider audience," the club presidents noted in a statement. They've showcased historic buildings for about 25 years and the city's signature tower over the past five. The clubs also had a video about polio eradication showing at the Pisa Airport.

## 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
<b>Assisted By:</b>	
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
<b>Thu 30 Oct</b>	Ann Maree Bu	Kerstin B
<b>Thu 06 Nov</b>	Tom D	Ann Maree Bu
<b>Thu 13 Nov</b>	Robyn D	Tom D
<b>Thu 20 Nov</b>	Jennifer E	Robyn D
<b>Thu 27 Nov</b>	Helen F	Jennifer E
<b>Thu 04 Dec</b>	No Meeting – Club Christmas Party instead	