

HOT AIR

02 July 2026 — Maternal & Child Health Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com



The President's Post

What Was

This past week marked an annual milestone for our club as I officially received the chain of office from Greg at our Changeover to serve as President for this next year.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Special General Meeting inside our regular meeting to adopt our new Constitution and bylaws.

It was also a pleasure presenting the wrap-up of the Rotary International Convention in Taipei — seeing 38,000 Rotarians from 140 countries unite for service was a powerful reminder of our 2026 Theme *Create Lasting Impact*.

What Is

Right now, a few of our beautiful club members are in hospital or navigating some complicated life challenges. Our thoughts are firmly with them, and I highly commend and encourage everyone in the club to reach out, check in, and show your support; remember that your Rotary family is always only one phone call away (or text...).

On another note, I am thrilled to share that our District Grant for DVERT has been officially approved, funding Wendy Mulcahy to deliver crucial sessions in schools to young males on sustaining relationships that are equal and free from violence and abuse.

Finally, don't forget to RSVP to David Bunce for our 3rd Space Working Bee this Saturday, 4 July, from 9 am to 12 noon.

What Will Be

Looking further ahead, the Board has agreed in principle—(awaiting final operational details)—to arrange the Gala Dinner celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Peace Fellows at Customs House on Friday, 5 March 2027. Put your thinking hats on for the Who's Who of Brisbane who align with our Rotary values.

Next week, we will lean into the future closer to home as we welcome Dr. Scarlett Raine from the QUT Centre for Robotics. Her cutting-edge work is sure to inspire our minds for innovation and the future.

In Fellowship & Service, Cindy

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 02 Jul** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Dr Scarlett Raine, QUT Centre for Robotics
Robotics and AI - the Ocean's New Allies
- Sat 04 Jul** **3rd Space Working Bee** – [RSVP](#)
Contact David Bunce
- Thu 09 Jul** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Norm Hunter, former PNG teacher
Experiences of a "Chalkie" (teacher) in PNG 1975
- Thu 16 Jul** **Joint meeting with Paddington @ Wests Rugby**
Induction for Art Show roster volunteers
- Thu 23 Jul** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)

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.**



Two powerful earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude struck Venezuela's Yaracuy province. The quakes hit just 39 seconds apart, in what the US Geological Survey call a rare "doublet." These have been followed by more than 20 aftershocks.

As of 28 June 1,430 people have been killed and 68,900 people are missing. Initial estimates put the potential loss of life from these earthquakes between 10,000 and 100,000 people. The need for shelter and vital aid is immense.

In addition to strong shaking ground failure, including landslides and liquefaction, is anticipated to have occurred throughout the region. The earthquakes happened in a mountainous region where slope failures are common.

ShelterBox has significant experience responding in the region and to large-scale earthquakes worldwide. We are well placed to provide what people need to recover. [Please donate now.](#)

Mike Greenslade,
CEO - ShelterBox Australia

This Week's Guest Speaker

Dr Scarlett Raine

Lecturer Underwater Perception, Computer Vision and Marine Robotics

Chief Investigator, QUT Centre for Robotics. School of Electrical Engineering and Robotics, QUT



Coral reefs are amongst the planet's most biodiverse ecosystems, with 25% of marine species calling them home. However, reefs are increasingly at risk due to climate change, with estimates predicting up to 70-90% loss of coral reefs by the year 2050. Monitoring marine ecosystems provides critical data for reef managers and policymakers, while reef restoration improves the resilience of coral reefs to heat stress events. In this talk, I will discuss how QUT's robotic and AI-enabled technologies are transforming the field of marine conservation, by increasing the scale and impact of both monitoring and restoration efforts by orders of magnitude.

Last Week's Meeting



The informal transfer of power: Greg Beard handing Cindy Kemp our bell's gavel.



The mysterious Kit Bennetts and Yvonne Robson



Guest Nasir Shah and Ann-Maree Bennett



Lindsay Marshall back to manning the front desk



Rob O'Donovan not winning the Joker Draw (and looking way to pleased to have received a bottle with a label like that).

A Thankyou from St Jude's

Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2026 1:32 AM

Subject: Preparing students for a digital future

Dear Secretary Anne Maree and all at Rotary Club of Brisbane High Rise,

I hope you've all been doing well since I last reached out to you.

Today, I wanted to share an update that beautifully reflects the long-term impact your support continues to have on students at St Jude's, not only during their time at school, but also as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives. Having supported us for more than 9 years, you have been part of many important milestones at the school, and this latest initiative is another exciting step forward in preparing students for an increasingly digital world.

As you may already know, last year, for the first time in the school's history, more than 400 personal laptops were distributed free of charge to our A Level students (similar to Year 12 students in Australia). It was a significant milestone for the school and an incredible opportunity for the students receiving them. Access to personal laptops has allowed students to strengthen their digital literacy skills, conduct independent research, complete assignments more efficiently, and build confidence using technology long before entering university or the workplace.

In the [short video linked here](#), Victor, our Manager of IT, Security and Special Projects, shares more about the impact this initiative is already having across the school community. He speaks about how access to personal laptops is helping students become more confident and capable digital learners while preparing them for the demands of higher education and future careers. You even get to see a glimpse of our current Community Service Year (CSY) volunteers using the laptops you equipped them with from last year.

Your support over the years has helped St Jude's continue building a learning environment where students can thrive both academically and personally. Today, the school is proud to have more than 13 dedicated student computer labs across our campuses, including six ESL labs and seven ICT labs. In addition, 62 projectors are installed across classrooms to support engaging and interactive learning throughout our primary and secondary schools.

As technology continues to shape education and employment opportunities around the world, initiatives like these are helping ensure that St Jude's students are not left behind, but are instead empowered to grow into capable, confident and adaptable young leaders.

Secretary Anne Maree and all at Rotary Club of Brisbane High Rise, thank you for continuing to walk alongside our students and for helping create opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

Warm regards, Bernadette

Bernadette Odunga
Officer – Supporter Relations
The School of St Jude
PO Box 11875, Arusha, Tanzania



**The School
of St Jude**



Activities, Projects & Donations:

Brisbane Rotary Art Show

(a joint project with Paddington Rotary)

- Our major fundraiser
- New expanded committee
- Beneficiaries this year include YoungCare and Coffee Brigade

Coffee Brigade

- Our major Art Show beneficiary
- Once a month making Sandwiches for
 - A number of members also joined the Van for early morning service

3rd Space

- Ongoing funding and hands-on support
- Donations of clothing & 20 Shelterbags

Act for Kids

- Grant assisted project
- Installation of new outdoor furniture and play equipment
- Ongoing hands-on help at premises

QIMR.B Infectious Diseases

Program

- Received District Grant to support with project now finalised

ANZAC Day at SS Maheno wreck (Anzac hospital ship), K'Gari

- Major Anzac Day Service held again on K'gari (Fraser Island)
- Unveiling of the new club marquee/gazebo

Albert Park Flexi School

- Ongoing student Bursaries
- Funding Assistance for their Support Dog

School of St Jude, Tanzania

- Gemma's visit to High-Rise (19th March)
- Fundraising \$15,700
- Planned group visit to St Jude's 2027

Maternity Africa

- Funding of Birthing Kits (29)
- Funding for a fully fitted Ambulance (\$60,000 with \$50,000 from a Balwyn Rotary Centenary Grant)
- Planned club to visit the hospital to see the Ambulance next year

Other Fundraising and Donations included:

- Rotary Foundation total from club this year \$10,181
- Woodfordia - became a Foundation Patron \$1,000
- Shelter Bags donated 20 to 3rd Space \$2,000
- Additional supplies to 3rd Space and Coffee Brigade \$1,000 each
- RISE Project of Paddington Rotaract - donated an additional \$1,000
- Street Level Mission \$1,000 to assist installation of shelving and storage
- Domestic Violence – Rotary Grant received to fund Wendy Mulcahy presentations into our local schools on sexual consent.

Projects in the pipeline

- sponsor/fundraise and attend RFDS Transfer Station opening in Emerald in support of Rotary Club of Emerald

Then there's all the added fun of **our social activities**, including:

- Changeovers - Tattersalls and High Tea
- Restaurant get togethers
- Poetry Night
- Victory in the Pacific Celebration Day, Brisbane River
- Christmas Party
- Children's Christmas Breakfast
- Anzac Weekend at Happy Valley
- Coffee together before and after Thursday Breakfast!



The 25-26 Board, plus a few extras, taken at Changeover June 26

Reports of Directors

Services Activities - David Bunce

We proposed a recurring monthly community-service activity, fixed to the first Saturday of each month and running a half-day — 9:00am to 12:00 noon (three hours). The stated purpose was to give members a known, recurring slot in the calendar to plan around and commit to.

Activities delivered (1 Jul 2025 – 30 Jun 2026)

- Act for Kids (Round Two) for 2 August, (14 members).
 - Shelter Bags delivered to Third Space,
 - RARE (Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment)
 - Act for Kids Christmas GIVEwrap (gift-wrapping) volunteer drive, Dec 2025 (16members)
 - RARE scheduling issues (4 Apr cancelled for Easter; 18 Apr unsuitable due to ANZAC Day),
 - Tree-planting activity announced for 24 Apr 2026, no members attended due to late notice and a direct clash with Fraser Island ANZAC Day activities.
 - Third Space: Plan and execute on 04July2026 Working Bee.
 - Salvos at StreetLevel — shelving & storage project (Jun 2026)
- David forwarded the this request to the assistant and instructed it be filed and followed up; recorded as a “new request to follow up”, not yet a delivered activity.

Membership - Bill Phillips

As membership director there is not much to report unfortunately. Despite two new members joining we had a net loss in our membership continuing a worrying trend of the last few years. We finish the year with one potential member who has been along to two meetings.

Other areas of involvement were in particular:

- **School of St Jude:** We raised a little over \$9K through a combination of two flower delivery projects, St Judes breakfast raffle and the sale of the donated tanzanite ring. This was augmented by a matching grant of \$6,700 from a St Judes benefactor. Our initial aim was to raise \$8K to fund student welfare support for 12 months. We will have raised enough money to fund two years of support.
- **Kivulini Hospital:** We became aware of a \$60K funding need for an ambulance for this hospital early in 2026. Coincidentally the Rotary Club of Balwyn were promoting their grants program with up to \$50K being available for justified projects. We made our submission and the full value of the grant was approved. A further \$5K was provided as a matching grant by a benefactor. The ambulance has been ordered and will be delivered on the 29th August.

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

Marketing - Ann-Maree Bennett

- Multiple promotions for the Rotary Art Show – our own pages and Community Facebook pages
- Pull up Banner produced by Worldwide Printing South Brisbane. Has a QR code for people to use if they want to find out more about our club via our website.
- Articles and “ads” written for Hot Air
- Maintained and updated Club events’ calendar
- Maintained and updated Speakers’ calendar
- Created a two monthly visual rolling calendar to be put in Hot Air each week
- Created multiple Facebook; Instagram and LinkedIn posts
- Posted details of Art Show in artists’ and Arts-based Facebook pages to encourage entries and attendance
- Provided posts for GIST
- Wrote and published article for District Governor’s newsletter about the exchange student from Lithuania (on exchange to Melbourne) visiting our club
- Gazebo, with Club logo, produced by Worldwide Printing, for use at club outside events eg K’gari (Fraser Island) or outdoor fundraising events
- Banner, with Club Logo, produced by Worldwide Printing, for use at club outside events eg K’gari (Fraser Island) or outdoor fundraising events
- Created an addition, about our club, to the My Community Directory page – an online site for people looking for community groups in their area

Speakers’ Co-Ordinator – We were lucky enough to have Dyls fill some slots early in the 2025-26 year and continued to have speakers for the rest of the year. Currently booking into the 2026-27 year until new co-ordinator takes over in July. Several speakers came via member recommendations or their networks which made it easier to be able to invite them to a meeting.

Major Projects - Jane Andersen

We cemented our relationship with **Coffee Brigade** as our major beneficiary during this term.

We had a team of our members making sandwiches each month for the van to take out to homeless people. Also a number of individuals went out with the van to serve the coffee and sandwiches.

We completed the **QIMR project**. This project supported scientists from QIMR to visit Cloncurry to take science to high school students in that region and then bring 5 students down to Brisbane to work with scientists at QIMR as well as visit both Qld University and QUT to discover what courses are available in the science area.

We have submitted a **grant application** to Rotary for a program to inform students from both the Flexi School and St James re the consequences of sexual assault.

Rotary Foundation - Susan Rix OAM

Below are the Foundation highlights for our club for the year:

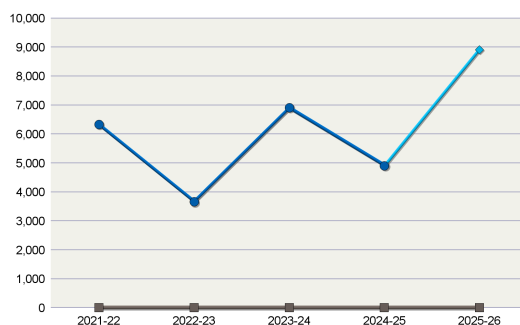


CLUB FUNDRAISING ANALYSIS

INTERIM RESULTS FOR JULY THROUGH JUNE (2025-26)

District 9620

Annual Fund Goal		Annual Fund Contributions	
2025-26	\$0	2025-26	\$8,911
2024-25	\$0	2024-25	\$4,911
2023-24	\$0	2023-24	\$6,914
2022-23	\$0	2022-23	\$3,661
2021-22	\$0	2021-22	\$6,334



Annual Fund Report Range Comparison is the Annual Fund giving from 1 July to 30 June for current and previous years

The prior four-year average in Annual Fund giving from July through 30 June is \$5,455. This figure can be used to compare Annual Fund giving for the current Rotary year.

*Total Contributions include Annual Fund, PolioPlus, approved Foundation Grants, Other Giving, and Endowment contributions for the reporting period.

For questions and additional club reports please use [MyRotary](#) or call the Rotary Support Center toll free at (+1-866-976-8279) or by email at (rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org).

Brisbane High-Rise, Qld. (29520)

Total Contributions*	
2025-26	\$10,181
2024-25	\$5,722
2023-24	\$7,143
2022-23	\$4,753
2021-22	\$8,621

AF Per Capita	Club	District
2025-26	\$228	\$79
2024-25	\$112	\$111
2023-24	\$182	\$136
2022-23	\$83	\$169
2021-22	\$151	\$132

Membership	
2025-26	39
2024-25	44
2023-24	38
2022-23	44
2021-22	42

	EREY Members	Sustaining Members	PHS Eligible
2025-26	27	5	5
2024-25	25	2	2
2023-24	14	5	2
2022-23	11	4	2
2021-22	17	9	4

Note: 'EREY Members' reflect the number of donors who contributed some amount to the Annual Fund during the Rotary Year. 'Sustaining Members' reflect the number of donors who contributed US\$100 or more to the Annual Fund. 'PHS Eligible' reflect the number of donors who contributed US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, Polio Plus or approved Foundation Grant.



A reminder that **David Bunce** is seeking submissions for the new Joker Draw Wine label – entries closing soon!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EXHIBITION JULY 20-31

GALA EVENT JULY 21

ARTICULATE JULY 26

WWW.ROTARYART.AU



2026 SPONSORS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
EXHIBITION JULY 20-31
GALA EVENT JULY 21
ARTICULATE JULY 26
WWW.ROTARYART.AU



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Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Also **Special Thanks** to the **Pronk Family**, our very generous **Major Donor**

Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise

Calendar 2026-2027

Activities outside of Club Meetings

JULY <i>Maternal & Child Health Month</i>		AUGUST <i>Membership & New Club Development Month</i>	
Third Space Working Bee - (9am-12noon) 4/7/2026	District Change Over at USC 11am-3pm 5/7/2026	Brisbane Rotary Art Show Pack Up Volunteers needed 1/8/2026	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 17/8/2026 😊
Combined meeting with Paddington Club - Art Show training at Wests Rugby 16/07/2026	Art Show Set Up VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 18/07/2026 🧑🏻	Possible Wine Labelling/ Joker Draw Social Event To be Confirmed	Board Meeting Date & Venue To be Confirmed
"Vernissage" Art Show Event INVITE ONLY 19/07/2026 🧑🏻	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 20/7/2026 😊		
Art Show Viewing Days VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 20/7/26 - 31/7/2026	Art Show Gala Cocktail Party 21/07/2026 🧑🏻		
First 2026-2027 Board Meeting Date & Venue To be Confirmed	ARTiculate Event Meet the Artists, Wine & Cheese Event 🧑🏻 26/07/2026 2-4pm		

KEY:

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

Board Members 2026-27

President	Cindy Kemp
Past President	Greg Beard
President Elect	Ann Maree Buttner
Secretary	Ann Maree Buttner
Treasurer	Taking applications
Community Projects	Jane Andersen
Marketing	Taking applications
Membership	Deb Le Garde
Rotary Foundation	Susan Rix
Youth	Taking applications
Assisted By:	
Rotaract Liaisons	David Bunce & Lindsay Marshall
Fellowship	Margot Baillie
Speaker Liaison	Dyls Bertelsen
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 02 Jul	Virginia B	Dyls B
Thu 09 Jul	David B	Virginia B
Thu 16 Jul	Cancelled – Joint Meeting with Paddington	
Thu 23 Jul	Ann Maree Bu	David B
Thu 30 Jul	Robyn D	Ann Maree Bu

Rotary Overseas - Moreton Is



It's a tough job, but someone had to do it!

A small group of our members recently spent some time on Moreton Island to relax - Steve seems to have managed that - and supposedly to catch fish.

The right of reply... Steve says: What this pic doesn't show is the rest of the group snoozing in their beds!



Rotary
District 9620




DISTRICT GOVERNOR CHANGEOVER

Honouring the Past, Inspiring the Future



DG MARK WILLIAMS
District Governor
2025 - 2026



DG IAN HOPE
District Governor
2026 - 2027

DATE
SUNDAY, 5TH JULY 2026

TIME
11:00AM FOR 12:00PM START

VENUE
UNITED SERVICE CLUB
183 Wickham Terrace
Brisbane QLD 4000

TICKETS
\$85 PER PERSON

DRESS CODE
LOUNGE SUIT / BUSINESS ATTIRE

VENUE

UNITED SERVICE CLUB
183 WICKHAM TERRACE
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Together, we continue
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ENQUIRIES: 001chriswright@gmail.com | www.rotary9620.org.au

SCAN TO REGISTER



REGISTRATION LINK
<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50367/Events/district-9620-district-changeover>

International Toast

This week we are celebrating:
The Rotary Club of Monfalcone-Grado, Italy



The Rotary Club of Monfalcone-Grado revels in the history and charm of its northern Italian region, located northeast of Venice near the Slovenian border.

A recent project helped ensure that information is accessible to everyone, including people with visual impairments. In December, members unveiled a multisensory panel explaining the story of the Church of San Proto in San Canzian d'Isonzo, just west of their community. The 15th century chapel sits atop foundations dating to the fourth century. The panel combines educational content with tactile elements and Braille notations, with a placement designed for easy access by wheelchair users.

"The church is located along an ancient Roman road and represents an important example of what we often call 'minor heritage,' meaning small sites with great historical and cultural value that deserve to be known and protected," says club member Paolo Messana. Rotary members participated in every phase of the project, says Messana, "from concept and design to approvals and installation."