

HOT AIR

10 September 2026 — Basic Education and Literacy Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

International Toast:
The Rotary Club of
Kirkenes, Norway
See Page 4

The President's Post

What Was

Last week we welcomed Valerie Simons from ShelterBox Australia (and President of Rotary Club of Paddington), who shared with us the important work of ShelterBox and their support for communities affected by disaster and conflict. Thank you, Valerie, for joining us and giving us an insight into the difference this important humanitarian work makes around the world. We have started a Serviette Appeal for the recent disaster in Nepal and the Board agreed also to donate \$1,000 towards Shelterbox along with member donations.

What Is

As we continue into Basic Education and Literacy Month, we are reminded of the important role education plays in creating opportunities and building stronger communities. Rotary's work in education takes many forms, and I encourage everyone to think about how we can continue to support learning and development through our own club activities and community connections. We also have plenty of opportunities coming up for fellowship, including our Sip & Stick Fellowship Afternoon on Saturday 19 September. I hope you can join us for some good company, a little creativity and plenty of laughs.

What Will Be

This week we are delighted to welcome Dr Grace Maano, who will speak to us about Saving Mothers and Babies Through Skills, Partnerships & Rotary. Her presentation will highlight the importance of skills, collaboration and Rotary partnerships in improving outcomes for mothers and babies. I am looking forward to hearing more about this important work and hope you can join us for another inspiring morning.

In Fellowship & Service,
Cindy Kemp

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 10 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
Dr Grace Maano - *Saving Mothers and Babies Through Skills, Partnerships & Rotary*
- Thu 17 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
Gary Lindsay, Bloodbikes Australia
- Sat 19 Sep 3pm Sip & Stick Fellowship Afternoon – [RSVP](#)**
Fellowship and wine labelling
- Thu 24 Sep Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**
Gary Lindsay, Bloodbikes Australia

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.

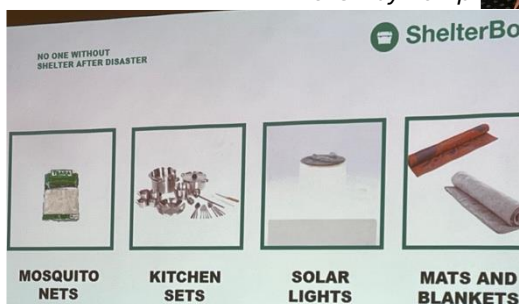
Rotary Grace: For the fellowship of Rotary, we give our thanks.

Last Week's Meeting



Guest Speaker Valerie Simons
from ShelterBox

Valerie Simons
& Cindy Kemp



Jane Andersen & Phil Gough
(not winning the Joker Draw)



Deb Le Garde receiving a well deserved PHF
presented by Bill Phillips & Margot Baillie



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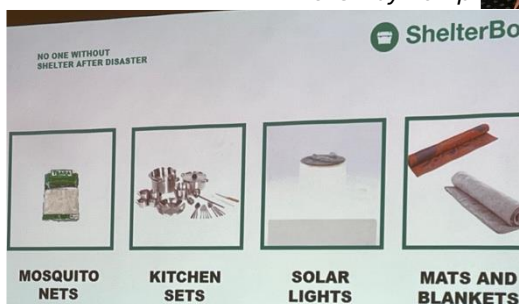
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& Cindy Kemp


ShelterBox
AUSTRALIA

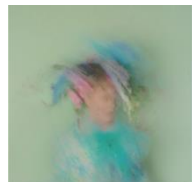


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2026 SPONSORS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EXHIBITION JULY 20-31

GALA EVENT JULY 21

ARTICULATE JULY 26

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CBRE
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GYMPIE WEB DESIGN

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

Rotary in Action – An Update from Noela

REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPACT OF KINDNESS

I recently reached a high point in my teaching career through the recent St. Jude English Immersion Program. Yet my time at Maternity Africa was just as meaningful. There, I saw hope restored and lives transformed. On my first visit, 52 women had arrived for fistula surgery. While I taught at St Judes, Dr. Andrew Browning operated on 81 of the poorest women suffering from obstetric fistula — a cruel reality in Tanzania. This condition often leads to a lifetime of isolation from family, community and awful hardship. Thanks to Dr Andrew, poverty no longer stands between patients and this life-saving treatment.

After meeting these courageous women I visited the bright, welcoming wards. There in front of me was the Brisbane High-Rise Rotary Club quilt; a moment of intense pride and a reminder of Brisbane High-Rise's generosity which has touched women half a world away.

Before I left home, kind friends unexpectedly donated over \$1,000 to support the fistula patients and mamas, who often arrive at Kivulini with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Magdeline, the hospital social worker, and I set off into the chaotic back streets of Arusha with our 'wish list' in hand. With her local knowledge and Swahili, we secured great prices on all our purchases - Lactogen, wipes, nappies, ladies' underwear, adult diapers, and two full bolts of fabric to sew hospital kaftans. Yet again, kindness touching lives of the most vulnerable.

With Brisbane High-Rise in mind, Magdeline arranged for me to visit a recipient of an Essential Care Pack. Grace, a 17-year-old mother who had given birth to a beautiful baby boy, Jovan. While in Kivulini, Grace was in emotional distress. She had lost both her parents, the baby's father had disappeared, her education ended at Year 7, and she was coping with an HIV-positive diagnosis that requires ongoing medical care.

Fortunately, her elderly Maasai grandmother, living in extreme poverty herself, accepted Grace into her simple two roomed mud brick home. On discharge, Magdeline presented Grace with the Care Pack. Grace displayed pure relief and joy at receiving food, hygiene products, and baby supplies — enough to sustain them both for at least two months. Grandma works on local shambas (farms) weeding or picking avocados, work that is both irregular and poorly paid. But when I visited little Jovan was thriving. Rotary's caring hands reached across the world and brought this precious young Mum the gift of hope. A beautiful example of Rotary in Action.

Noela Phillips



Pre surgery...full of hope



Post surgery ...Cured! Ladies wearing Kivulini the kaftans.



*A mountain of donated items!
And there was more!*



*Grace & Jovan. The human face behind
your support. "Thank you High-Rise"*



*Receiving donations: Social Workers Grace &
Magdeline, Director, Dr Doreen & Dr. Kopwey*



Supporting the Logan Community

A few members, partners and friends supported the Logan community by attending Lord Mayors Charity Gala recently. All proceeds go to the City of Logan Charitable Trust, helping fund grassroots charities that make a real difference.



Russell Postle



*Di Marshall, Kerrie Stefan, an enchanted fairy,
Deb Le Garde and Deb Postle*



*Lindsay Marshall
checking out the candles*

Board Members 2026-27

President	Cindy Kemp
Past President	Greg Beard
President Elect	Ann Maree Buttner
Secretary	Ann Maree Buttner
Treasurer	Loretta Lynch
Community Projects	Jane Andersen
Marketing	<i>Taking applications</i>
Membership	Deb Le Garde
Rotary Foundation	Susan Rix
Youth	<i>Taking applications</i>
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 on the day then
it's your responsibility to arrange a replacement*

Setup, Greeter, Closedown	Chair	Cashier
Thu 10 Sep Kym McC	Loretta L	Russell P
Thu 17 Sep Rob O'D	Kym McC	Lindsay M
Thu 24 Sep Ros M	Rob O'D	Cindy K
Thu 01 Oct Bill P	Ros M	Susan R
Thu 08 Oct Debra H	Bill P	Greg P

International Toast

This week we are celebrating:
The Rotary Club of Kirkenes, Norway



Greg Pearson visited the little town of **Kirkenes** which is at the northern tip of Norway above the Arctic Circle and on the Russian border. The Kong (King) Harald is one of a fleet of a passenger/vehicle/freight ferries which run up and down the western coast of Norway, making many stops and arriving/departing at all times of the day and night.

