

 **HOT AIR**

12 March 2026 — Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

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**International Toast:**  
*The Rotary Club of Sparks, Nevada*  
See Page 4

**The President's Post**

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene ("WASH") Month**

This is the Rotary International theme for March, and one of Rotary's core Areas of Focus:

*ensuring access to safe water, proper sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices for communities around the world.*

These efforts are vital because millions globally still lack clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, contributing to disease and poor health outcomes. Rotary's work in this area ranges from drilling and installing rainwater systems, to building latrines and teaching hand-washing practices that can transform community health long-term.

March also aligns with World Water Day (22 March), reinforcing Rotary's commitment to this cause and serving as a focal point for advocacy and action.

I'm remembering a club visit to Tanzania and passing many water tanks that our club had made possible. A very special recollection is seeing our member Margot and husband Duncan opening the toilet blocks at Mamba school which they funded:



Spotlighting WASH in March aims at raising global awareness in order to drive change and that will support healthier communities.

At our meeting on the 30th of April we will be hearing from Rotarian and WASH Ambassador, Chuck Fisher.

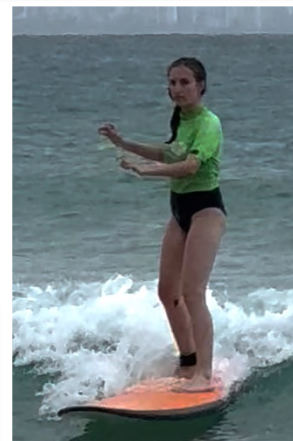
**Greg Beard**

**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.

**Thanks From Lenka's Club**

*Our club recently briefly hosted Lenka, a YEP student on exchange to Melbourne, who was in Brisbane for a short QUT course. Her host club, Flemington Kensington, sent Deb a letter of thanks, and a banner:*



Dear Deborah

Our sincere thanks to you, Allan, Jane and the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise.

You ensured that Lenka had a wonderful experience - not only at QUT, but with your generosity in experiences.

She has come back to us enthused and happy, ready for the next 5 months.

Please convey our greetings and thanks to all who were involved.

Lesley McCarthy  
Rotary Flemington Kensington



**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- Thu 12 Mar Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Chris Baker, Sunshine Hydro – see Page 3
- Thu 19 Mar Special Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Breakfast with Gemma Sisia, School of St Jude
- Thu 26 Mar Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Club Assembly
- Thu 02 Apr Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Prof Roly Sussex – Topic "Bullshit"
- Thu 09 Apr Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
Monique Lowndes – E-Waste Connection
- Thu 16 Apr Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)**  
PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS – See Page 2

## Last Week's Meeting



Phil Gough,  
Guest Speaker  
Anthony Carrigan  
& Suzy Mellor



Roly Wells &  
Virginia Brooks



Rob O'Donovan &  
Wendy Protheroe



Susan Rix not winning  
the Joker Draw

## Pride of Workmanship Awards

**RECOGNITION**  
Acknowledge employees that display outstanding qualities

**INVOLVEMENT**  
A program which enables involvement in the community.

**OPPORTUNITY**  
An opportunity for connections which can lead to new members.



The Annual **Pride of Workmanship Awards** will be presented at our meeting on Thursday 16 April 2026.

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

So, take a few moments to reflect on those deserving of public recognition – perhaps you already have someone in mind!

[Click to download the Nomination Form.](#)

For more information please email me at:  
[apologies@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com](mailto:apologies@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com)

**Rosemary Meadows**

## Saturday's Working Bee



A surprisingly large group of members, friends and family assisted at the working bee on Saturday – assembling and painting furniture, mowing, whipper snipping and cleaning up the yard and lots more - sadly not many photos!

Thanks everyone for your help – job well done and greatly appreciated by Act for Kids. And as usual a great morning tea!

**David Bunce**





**Chris Baker**  
 Founder, Director and CTO

## How 24/7 Green Power Can Make Australia a Modern Economic Superpower

Around the world, one of the biggest challenges for electricity grids is how to supply steady, around-the-clock power to energy-hungry data centres while cutting emissions. Data centres already use as much power as some countries, and they need highly reliable power every hour of the day to keep servers and cooling systems running. At the same time, coal is retiring and we are trying to rely more on wind and solar, which are variable by nature. The central question is: how do you run a modern digital economy on green power, 24/7, without falling back on coal or gas?

Doing this with renewables alone is hard but absolutely possible. Wind and solar are now the cheapest new sources of electricity, but they do not follow demand. Sometimes there is more renewable energy than we can use; at other times there is not enough. Short-duration batteries are excellent for shifting energy from the middle of the day into the evening peak and for responding in milliseconds to sudden changes. However, if you get several days of low wind or extended cloudy conditions, batteries on their own become very expensive, and most systems today fall back on fossil-fuelled generation to bridge the gap.

Our Djandori project suggests a different approach. Djandori is a proposed pumped hydro energy storage project in Queensland designed as part of a “superhybrid” system: long-duration pumped hydro combined with shorter-duration batteries, supported by large amounts of wind and solar. In this configuration, Djandori can support about 900 megawatts of steady-state green power. The pumped hydro reservoirs act like a giant water battery that can run for many hours or days, while batteries handle the fast balancing and daily cycles. Together, they turn variable renewables into something that looks and feels like traditional baseload power, but without the emissions.

We have modelled this kind of system on an hour-by-hour basis using real weather and demand data. The results show we can keep the electricity “green” more than 98 per cent of the time when you check on an hourly basis. That means in over 98 out of 100 hours, every megawatt-hour delivered is matched by renewable generation plus storage in the same period. Importantly, the 98 per cent figure refers to the carbon-free content of the energy, not the reliability of delivery. In terms of keeping the lights on, the superhybrid is designed to have very high availability, helped by the diversity of wind, solar, batteries and pumped hydro working together.

Although 98 per cent might not sound perfect at first glance, it is actually stronger than the effective performance of large nuclear fleets. The US nuclear fleet, for example, has an unplanned outage rate around 2% and on top of that roughly two weeks a year each unit is offline for refuelling and maintenance. By contrast, a superhybrid can deliver 98 per cent “green-ness” and higher delivery reliability, because it doesn’t depend on a single unit; it uses many modular assets spread across regions, so no single outage dominates the system.

Cost and capability also favour this path. New nuclear in developed countries has generally been slow and very expensive to build. Wind, solar, batteries and pumped hydro, by contrast, use technologies already being deployed at scale, with costs that have fallen dramatically over the last decade. A project like Djandori can be built largely with skills Australia already has: civil construction, tunnelling, dam building, high-voltage electrical work and hydro-mechanical installation. We do not need to create a nuclear industry from scratch to get reliable, low-carbon power.

In the talk I will unpack these ideas in plain language: starting with the “data centre problem”, explaining why steady-state power is so important, and then showing how a project like Djandori can deliver about 900 MW of steady, almost-always-green power. I will compare this superhybrid approach with nuclear in terms of cost, timing and reliability, and show how it can be built with Australian skills and supply chains. Finally, I will outline why mixing short-duration batteries with long-duration pumped hydro is the ideal way to run a future grid, and how this could help Australia become a modern economic superpower based on 24/7 green electricity.



## International Toast

This week we are celebrating:  
**The Rotary Club of Sparks,  
Nevada**



For more than two decades, young anglers across Nevada have gotten hooked on fishing during a statewide free fishing day.

In the city of Sparks, the event tips the scales: On a Saturday last June, more than 2,000 people lined the banks of a marina for the event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sparks.

Rotarians, joined by community volunteers, provided free use of 1,200 poles and offered fishing tips, hot dogs, ice cream, and beverages. The club has sponsored its city's Kids Free Fishing Day since 2002.

One of the event's founders, club member Don Welsh, organized an extra day for anglers with disabilities, including his daughter, Rebecca, who had trouble navigating the burgeoning crowds at the main event.

Club member Ed Lawson, now the mayor in Sparks, prodded the state Legislature to grant an extra day of license-free fishing for those outings, dubbed Fishing with Rebecca.

[More Info](#)

### 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*

#### Setup, Greeter & Closedown

	Setup, Greeter & Closedown	Chair
<b>Thu 12 Mar</b>	Greg P	Rob O'D
<b>Thu 19 Mar</b>	Russell P	Bill P
<b>Thu 26 Mar</b>	Bill P	Russell P
<b>Thu 02 Apr</b>	Wendy P	Greg P
<b>Thu 09 Apr</b>	Susan R	Wendy P



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRISBANE HIGH-RISE INVITES YOU TO...

*A story to remember...*

### A BREAKFAST WITH GEMMA SISIA

Founder of the School of St Jude, Tanzania



**\$40pp**

**Date: Thur 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

@ United Services Club, Wickham Terrace  
Parking-enter off Upper Edward Street

6:45am arrival for a 7:15am start, finishes 8:30am.  
RSVP by Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March to Bill Phillips 0418 780 663

In a country where the average number of *adult years at school is 7.5* and *75% of secondary school-aged children are out of school*, here is the miracle of St Jude's:

- 1,800 of the poorest, brightest students receive an education every year
- 100% of students receive free, quality education
- 98% of Form 6 graduates enroll in tertiary education
- 100% of secondary students are in safe & secure boarding
- 23,000 Government School students receive volunteer teaching from St Jude's Form 6 Graduates.
- 97 cents of every \$ donated, directly supports the school



Meet the team: Gemma, Faith and Johnson

"THROUGH EDUCATION"

"FIGHTING POVERTY"

## Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise Calendar 2025-26

### Activities outside of Club Meetings

MARCH <i>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month</i>		APRIL <i>Environmental Month</i>	
Art Show 2026 Preparation	Act For Kids WorkingBee 9am-12noon 7/3/2026	Art Show 2026 Preparation	Kinross Cluster Meeting
Wine Tasting Newer Australian Varieties 🍷🍷	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 15/3/26 3.30-5.30pm 16/3/2026 😊	PRIDE of WORKMANSHIP Awards	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 16/4/2026 20/04/2026 😊
Club Mtgw/ Gemma Sisia School of St Jude	Board Meeting 19/3/2026 23/3/2026	ANZAC Day Ceremony Maheno Wreck K'gari 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸	ANZAC Day Club trip to K'Gari 🐕🐕🐕
Kinross Cluster Meeting	Rotary Peace Fellows Talks UQ - 10.30am-6pm TBA 28/03/2026 🕒🕒	District Tree Planting Day	Board Meeting 26/4/26 🌳🌳🌳 27/4/2026
Pre-Registration Discount ends Rot. Int Conference		Pre-Registration Discount ends Rot. Int Conference	
31/3/2026		31/3/2026	

#### KEY:

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