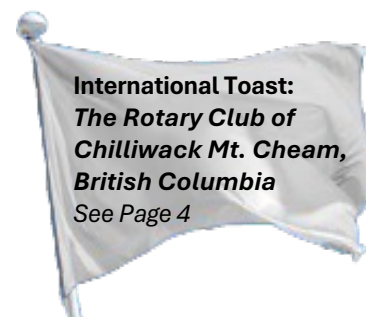




 **HOT AIR**

16 April 2026 — Environment Month

hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com



International Toast:
*The Rotary Club of
Chilliwack Mt. Cheam,
British Columbia*
See Page 4

The President's Post

Rotary's theme for April is the Environment

It aims to highlight the shared responsibility we all share to protect and sustain the natural world. Through tree planting initiatives, clean water projects, and waste reduction campaigns, Rotary members demonstrate how local efforts can contribute to global impact.

This year, on Sunday the 26th of April our annual District Tree Planting Day will see thousands of seedlings being planted, by Rotarians and volunteers, to help create wildlife corridors (Koalas and Gliders) in Bald Hills. The day is supported annually by Brisbane City Council's Offsets and Restoration Team.

The Environment theme reminds us that even small actions, when multiplied across communities worldwide, can lead to significant progress.

Rotary International's WASH program (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), has a key element of improving access to safe drinking water in communities around the world. The program supports projects such as building wells and boreholes, installing toilets, and promoting handwashing practices to prevent disease. By addressing these basic needs, WASH also helps reduce waterborne illnesses, improve school attendance and enhance overall community health.

Our Guest Speaker on Thursday 30th of April will be WASH Ambassador, Rotarian Chuck Fisher. We look forward to hearing first hand, the work of this International Program.

Greg Beard

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 16 Apr** Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)
James Postle – RYLA
- ~~**Thu 23 Apr**~~ **MEETING CANCELLED - ANZAC on K'gari instead**
- Sat 25 Apr** ANZAC Ceremony on K'gari – [RSVP](#)
- Sun 26 Apr** District 9620 Tree Planting Challenge
Bald Hills, 9am-12pm — See Page 4
- Thu 30 Apr** Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)
Club Assembly & PP Chuck Fisher, WASH
- Thu 07 May** Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)
Maureen O'Brien-Stone, TADQ
Technology for Aging & Disability Qld
- Thu 14 May** Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club – [RSVP](#)
Wendy Protheroe, The DNA of Rotary

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.

This Week's Meeting



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA 2026 is on from Sun 31st May to Sat 6th June 2026, at Camp Cooby, North of Toowoomba.

This week hear from James (Jimmy) Postle who, for several years now, has got heavily involved in running this program after experiencing the personal benefits of attending.

Brisbane High-Rise wants to sponsor attendees. Please invite leaders and potential leaders between ages 20 - 30 in your network to apply.

The program provides participants with an unforgettable experience in life, learning and laughter in a regional setting.

Find out more at <https://www.ryla9620.org/> and if you want to apply for sponsorship email Loretta at lorettalynch1@gmail.com

**No Meeting on Thu 23 April:
Anzac Day 2026 Service Instead**



Anzac Day is Saturday 25 April and High-Rise is coordinating a **10am Service at the TSS Maheno on K'gari (Fraser Island).**

Resting peacefully on the eastern beach of K'gari is the wreck of the TSS Maheno, a hospital ship during WW1, arriving at Anzac beach on the morning of 26 August 1915. There the crew did the first retrieval of wounded Australian and New Zealand soldiers.

For more info or to attend the service contact **Rusell Postle:**
M: 0419 703 581 E: russell.postle@bdo.com.au

Last Week's Meeting



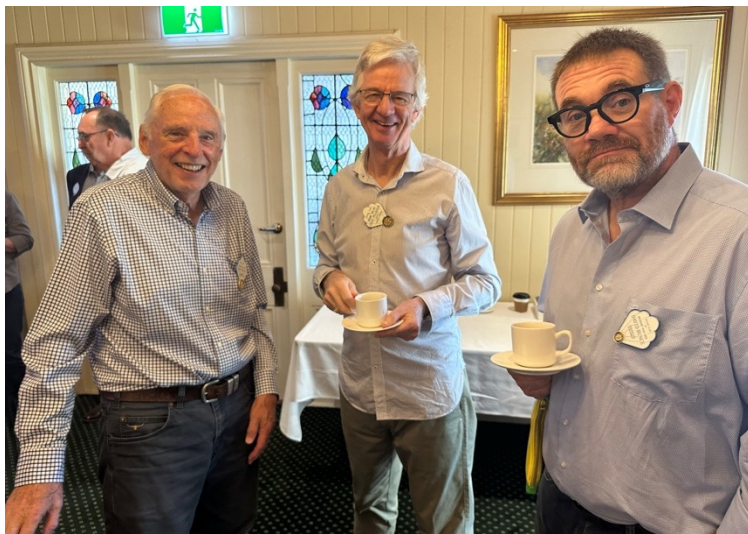
Anne-Maree Bennett, Guest Speaker Monique Lowndes from eWaste Connection, Greg Beard & Lindsay Marshall

Guest Speaker, **Monique Lowndes**, spoke about how **eWaste Connection** was born from Monique's desire to find a meaningful purpose for her disabled son Joshua once he finished school. Monique noticed her son's interest in taking things apart which led Monique and her family to start this not-for-profit organisation. They create a unique environment where together they recycle electronic waste, while providing meaning and connection for participants and volunteers.

Since the day they opened their doors at Kenmore in 2016 to today, they continue to welcome participants and volunteers of all ages and abilities to help recycle electrical waste and reduce landfill.

There are now three workshop sites and they have since recycled over 750,000 kilograms of eWaste and provided the opportunity for over 250 participants to take part.

So little of our eWaste is actually recycled – you can help to change that by recycling your e-waste at eWaste Connection, attend or volunteer in workshops, donate electrical items, purchase their recycled working items, or donate funds or equipment: www.ewasteconnection.com



Roly Wells, Greg Pearson & David Bunce



The Ultimate Recycling Offer....

The **2026 Art Show** needs a mobile phone to use as the **Sales Desk phone** from early July. We will provide the sim and phone number, all we need is an unlocked mobile, preferably an iPhone 8 or later with a reasonable battery that will get us through a day. Then once we are done with it we will recycle it through **eWaste Connection!**

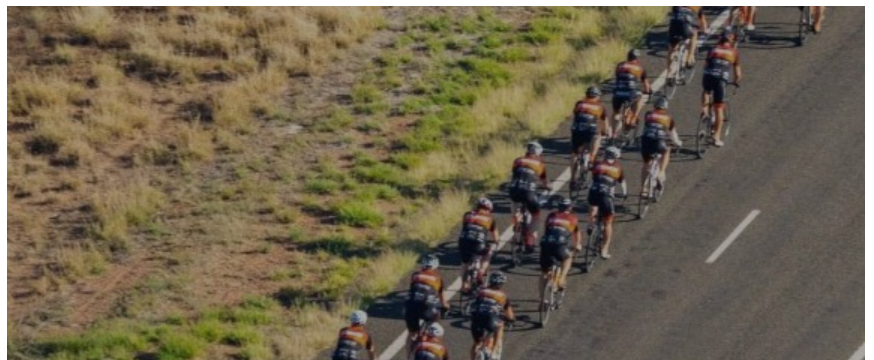
So, get that old mobile out of the drawer or cupboard and put it to good use – talk to me! **Steve Knight**

RIDEWEST

Charity Cycle Brisbane to Longreach in Aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service



Steve Knight & Guest Alex Griffiths



Alex joined our meeting and gave some additional insight into the preparations and impact of RideWest here's a message from him:

Thank you for supporting **RideWest** to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service **Wellbeing Out West** mental health program.

RideWest starts on 24th April – 1311km to Longreach – I'll be ready.

Each rider pays their own costs to take part, and also raises additional funds. Every dollar raised goes directly to **Wellbeing Out West**.

Click here to donate: [RideWest – Alex](#).

High-Rise is supporting Alex with a \$1,000 donation

Update from the School of St Jude

Exciting news: Our art gallery has expanded!

Dear Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise,

I hope this email finds you all well and that you had a wonderful time with Gemma, Johnson and Faith when you met them. I look forward to hearing some of the lovely stories from my colleague Johnson when he returns.

For my first-quarter update, I'm thrilled to share a very special milestone for the St Jude's student Art program: the expansion of our Art gallery, an achievement made possible thanks to the generous donation you made to the Art program in August 2023 that continues to make an impact at St Jude's. This gift is helping bring learning to life for our students through creative expression and cultural pride.

Construction began last year, and in true St Jude's style, the structural work was completed by early February. The side wall of the old gallery was removed, connecting the original space with the newly extended section to create a single, cohesive gallery.

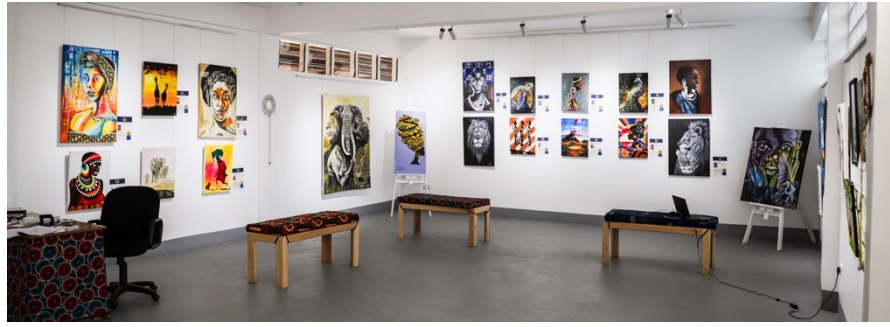
[Click here](#) to view a short video of our newly extended Art Gallery. I hope you enjoy seeing the space take shape

We can now showcase even more of our students' artwork, bringing the gallery to life with creativity and inspiration. The extended space now features a brand-new section highlighting student-made crafts and school merchandise, including sweatshirts, hats, t-shirts, and bags, alongside stunning batik pieces crafted by our primary students through their tie-and-dye designs. Every colour blend reflects their imagination, growing technical skill, and confidence.

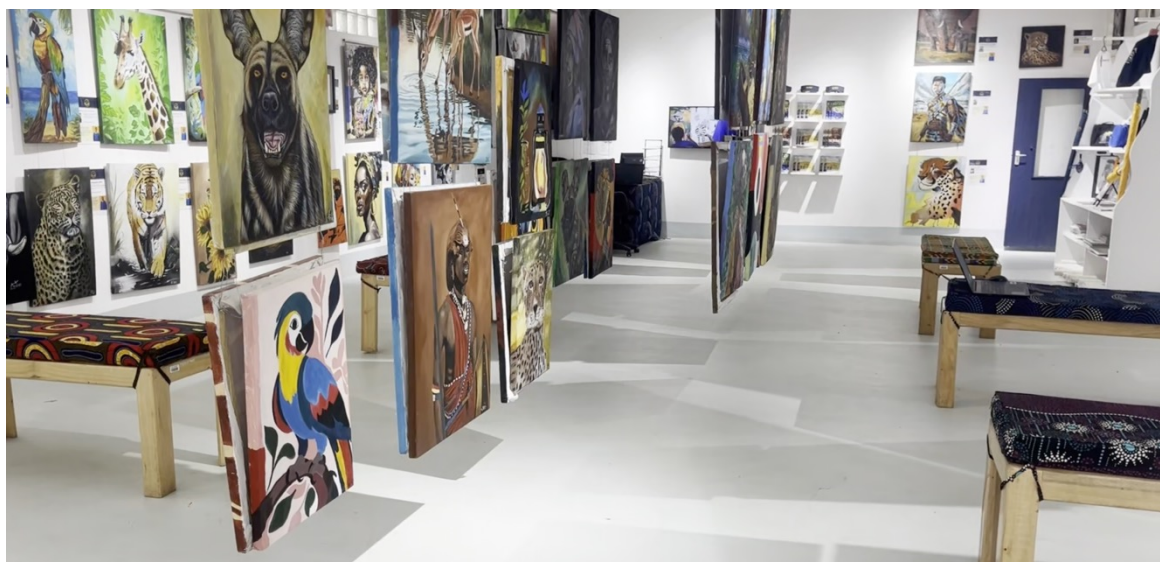
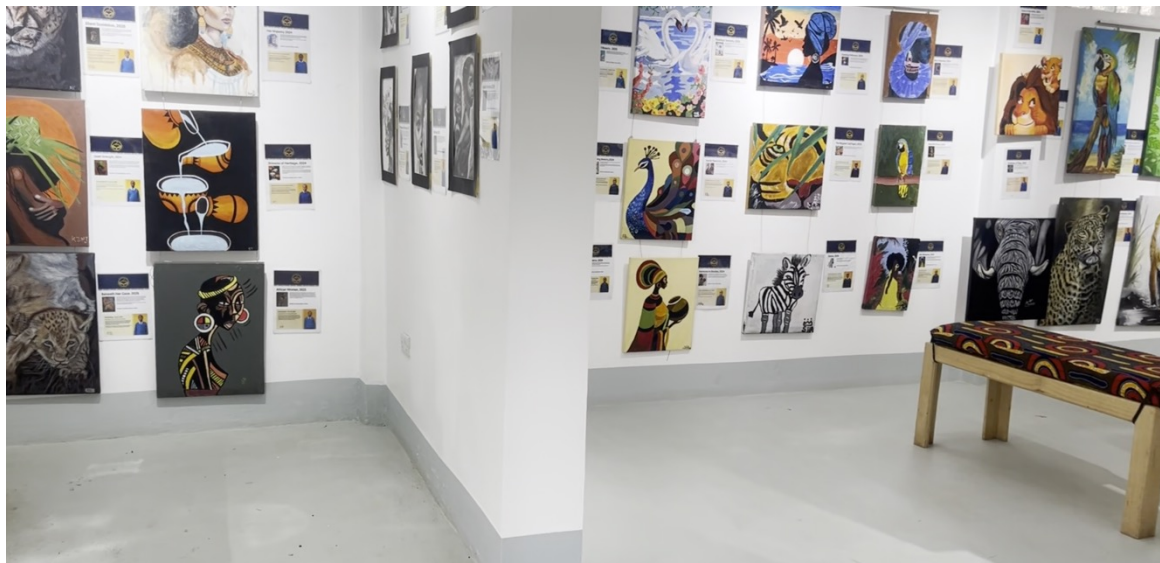
Your continued support is helping us transform this space into a vibrant hub for creativity, learning, and self-expression. The gallery now not only celebrates our students' artistic talent but also provides a space where their ideas and stories can flourish.

Warm regards,
Bernadette Odunga
Supporter Relations Officer

The School of St Jude
PO Box 11875, Arusha, Tanzania



Above the Art Gallery as it was in 2023, and below as it is now.



Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise

Calendar 2025-26

Activities outside of Club Meetings

APRIL

Environmental Month

Art Show 2026 Preparation 🎨	Kinross Cluster Meeting 9-Apr
Social Event STING - The Last Ship - Glasshouse 16/4/2026	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 20/04/2026 😊
Club meeting CANCELLED due to K'gari ANZAC Day trip 23/4/2026	ANZAC Day Ceremony Maheno Wreck K'gari 🇺🇸🇦🇺 25/4/2026
ANZAC Day Club trip to K'Gari 🐕🐕🐕 24-27/4/24	District Tree Planting Day 26/4/26 🌳🌳
Board Meeting 27/4/2026	World Immunisation Week 24-30 April

MAY

Youth Service Month

Tri-District Rotary Conf. Gold Coast 1-3 May 🌴🌴	Art Show 2026 Preparation 🎨
Working Bee 3rd Space To be Confirmed 2/5/2026	Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 18/05/2026 😊
Mothers Day Flower Deliveries 🌸🌸🌸 10/5/2026	EPIC DAY of SERVICE Global Event 16/5/2026
Board Meeting 25/5/2026	

KEY:

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

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*

Setup, Greeter & Closedown	Chair
Thu 16 Apr Yvonne R	Susan R
Thu 23 Apr Meeting Cancelled	
Thu 30 Apr Steve S	Yvonne R
Thu 07 May Craig W	Steve S
Thu 14 May Roly W	Craig W

Not going to K'gari? – then plant trees!

It's time again for the D9620 Tree Planting Challenge:

hosted by Brisbane City Council's Offsets & Restoration team, Rotarians and their families are invited to help replant this area at the tree planting event:

Musgrave Ave Park, 77 Telegraph Rd, Bald Hills from 9am to 12 noon on Sunday 26 April.



Approx 12,000 native plants will be installed throughout this project, with about 4,000 to be placed on the day, including Glider Habitat trees. BCC will prepare that area, including weed cover removed, mulch installed, holes dug and the plants placed ready at the holes, so all we have to do is put them into the holes!

This work will contribute a significant stepping stone habitat area for North Brisbane's Squirrel and Sugar Glider population, as well as enhancing habitat for Rakali who inhabit the creek tributary which dissects the site.

Come and joins us on the day and help continue the strong partnership that Brisbane City Council has formed with Rotary District 9620 – now in its 10th year!

To download more info [click here.](#)

International Toast

This week we are celebrating:

The Rotary Club of Chilliwack Mt. Cheam, British Columbia



The Rotary Club of Chilliwack Mt. Cheam in British Columbia aced its volleyball tournament in November, attracting 28 teams to a fundraiser that the club has hosted since 1995.

"Many local businesses participate by registering a team, and they have their staff come out and play," says Kim Ashley, the club's president. "Each player brings a new toy to donate to Chilliwack Community Services as part of the Christmas Sharing Program."

The project supports the club's foundation, which focuses on the needs of children, including dental work, medical assessments, and counseling. In all, the matches have raised more than \$300,000 and collected 15,000 toys over the past 30 years.