

 **HOT AIR**

22 January 2026 — New Year Edition — Vocational Service Month

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International Toast:
Rotary Clubs of Laguna,
Philippines
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The President's Post

We have been deeply saddened by the passing of our honorary and much cherished member, Phil Breene.

We acknowledge with deep respect Phil's long commitment to our club. His gentle generosity of spirit will always be remembered by all who knew him; as will his dedication to Rotary and his community.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him. As we move into 2026 may we all be inspired by the truly amazing character that Phil was!

Looking Ahead Together: Our Rotary Journey into 2026

As valued members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise, we can be proud of the impact we continue to make through our commitment, fellowship, and service.

The start of 2026, is an opportunity to re-engage, recommit, and shape the next chapter of our club—together.

Our strength has always come from our passion and experience. Each project delivered, partnership formed, and life touched reflects the collective effort of people who choose to show up and serve. In 2026, Brisbane's growth and changing needs present new opportunities for Rotary High-Rise to lead with purpose, innovation, and compassion.

Your ideas matter. Your presence matters. Your continued engagement ensures our club remains relevant and strong. Let us continue to support one another, celebrate our achievements, encourage others to join us, and continue building a club culture that is welcoming, dynamic, and impactful.

Thank you for being a part of the heart of Brisbane High-Rise Rotary. I look forward to catching up with you at our first meeting for the year this week.

Greg Beard

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thu 22 Jan** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
- Thu 29 Jan** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Art Show Sponsorship Discussion
Joint Meeting with Paddington Club
- Thu 05 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Clare Blake, QIMR Berghofer - Updates
on Clinical Trials at QIMR Berghofer
- Thu 12 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Wendy Mulcahy, DVERT - Domestic Violence
Education Relationship Training
- Thu 19 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
- Thu 26 Feb** **Weekly Meeting @ United Service Club** – [RSVP](#)
Club Assembly



Our 2025 Highlights:

- **Van 2 launched:** Our second van now visits The Nest, Brisbane Youth Service's supported accommodation for young people aged 16–25. For these young people, a simple "Would you like a cuppa?" is a reminder that someone cares.
- **The van also stops in Bowen Hills,** in partnership with Community. This stop has been an amazing opportunity to meet new friends and build meaningful connections.
- **Breakfast With Purpose:** Our first-ever Breakfast With Purpose event brought together volunteers, supporters, friends, and donors. It was uplifting to see the community come out in droves to support our mission.
- **Showing up, every day:** Through sunshine and rain, our vans remained a consistent presence for our friends across Brisbane, just as they have for 55 years.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Next year, we want to go even further. Alongside our original van, we hope Van 2 can reach even more people across Brisbane, providing them with the same level of care, consistency, and dignity.

We're also excited to work with more organisations, businesses, and fellow charities that share our commitment to supporting people experiencing hardship and homelessness. We know we're stronger when we work together, not in silos, and there are so many ways you can be part of it, too.

We'll place a strong focus on our volunteer experience and community. We're moving to a new volunteer management platform that will provide better training and stronger connections within our volunteer community. So watch this space!

This year, we served tens of thousands of drinks and meals, weathered a cyclone, and shared countless moments of connection.

Thank you for being part of it all, and here's to showing up together for even more people in 2026.

With gratitude,
Coffee Brigade Team

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.

Vale Phil Breene

Sadly club charter member Phil Breene passed away on 12 January.

Phil was always proud that he was born on the day Peter Pan won the Melbourne Cup in November 1932; he achieved 93 years.

He grew up in Camp Hill where his parents had the local newsagency. As a young man he was a strong cyclist, competing in races at cycle tracks at Herston and Morningside. He shared a story of his regular training rides on a Sunday. Up early and assist with the delivery of the newspapers, followed by church. Phil would then cycle to the Gold Coast, enjoy a milkshake and return home in time for Sunday roast lunch.

Phil finished his Civil Engineering degree at UQ in 1955. He had to choose between exploring his opportunities as an elite cyclist and a career in his chosen profession of engineering – with a new family he chose engineering. He was proud of his cycling days - his racing bike frame is displayed on a wall at his home.

His first significant role was as shire engineer at Aramac and later established his own civil engineering business. He developed a professional interest in stormwater drainage with the object of making stormwater frames and grates safe for children (so they cannot accidentally wash into the drain), to be bicycle friendly, but also water flow efficient. He set up test systems in his yard. In his later years he focused on the stormwater grates business - hence the name Max Q – maximum quantity. His drainage designs are used extensively today.

Phil maintained contact with his fellow civil engineering graduates and compiled the details of each of them into a book titled *Civil 55*.



A charter member of the Rotary Club of Brisbane High-Rise, he balanced the significance of being our club's most senior member in actual years of age with being one of its younger members in thinking and technology adoption. Phil was an active member of our club until the last few years. At our Poetry Evenings he regularly wowed us with recitals of poems and texts, all from memory. And he initiated the club theatre excursions.

Perhaps it was being born on Melbourne Cup Day that sparked Phil's interest in horse racing, with a focus on high performance horses like Black Caviar and Winx.

Phil is survived by his wife Marie, his three children Jane, Mark and Kathy, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Russell Postle

*Very sad news. Phil was a very lovely man and a true gentleman. Andrew A
Phil was such an integral part of our club & such a gentleman. He has been
sorely missed over the last few years. Jennifer E
Phil was such a lovely gentleman. Helen F*



Vale Phil Breene



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

JANUARY

Rotary Vocational Service Month

Art Show 2026 Preparation	Coffee Catch Up Avail. Members Savour, New Farm 15/01/2026 😊
Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 19/01/2026 😊	1st BHR Club Meeting Pls note new date 22/01/2026 😊
Board Meeting 26/1/2026	Combined Meeting with Paddington Club 29/01/2026 😊
Kinross Cluster Meeting 29/1/2026	Epic Day of Service WEBINAR 28/1/26 6:00pm

FEBRUARY

Rotary Peace Building & Conflict Resolution Month

Art Show 2026 Preparation	Kinross Cluster Meeting Date TBA
Valentine's Day Flower Deliveries 14/2/2026 💕💕	Possible "Ride West" Movie Night - TBC 15/2/2025
Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers 16/2/2026 😊	Board Meeting 22/2/2026
Rotary's Anniversary 121 years 23/2/2026	

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 22 Jan	Lindsay M	Deb LeG
Thu 29 Jan	Ken M	Lindsay M / Murray B
Thu 05 Feb	Loretta L	Ken M
Thu 12 Feb	Kym McC	Loretta L
Thu 19 Feb	Ros M	Kym McC



January is Rotary Vocational Service Month

It is all about using our professional skills to do good, mentoring others, supporting young people, and leading with integrity.

As a Rotarian, share how you are giving back through your vocation.

If you are not yet a Rotarian, or thinking about returning, contact us - we would love to catch up with you:

admin@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com

International Toast

This week is we are celebrating the:
Rotary Clubs of Laguna, Philippines



In the town of Victoria, Laguna, an innovative Rotary-funded project is turning plastic waste into opportunity, one brick at a time.

In the Philippines, plastic pollution and poverty go hand in hand but a Rotary-funded Waste to Resource Hub is transforming plastic pollution and poverty into opportunity by turning hard-to-recycle waste into building materials, creating jobs and inspiring a new community-led circular economy.

Many low-income communities rely on cheap, single-use packaging – plastic sachets of shampoo, coffee and detergent – because it's all they can afford. But these plastics are almost impossible to recycle and, in a country with limited waste infrastructure, they often end up in streets, rivers and open dumpsites. The result is a growing environmental crisis that hits the poorest communities the hardest.

Funded through a Rotary Foundation global grant, the **Waste to Resource Hub** is a small-scale plastic processing facility that transforms hard-to-recycle plastics into practical, sellable products like eco-bricks and pavers, while creating dignified employment and raising environmental awareness.

The project brings together Rotary clubs in Australia and the Philippines, with implementation led by Australian not-for-profit Dana Asia and Nexuz, a Filipino enterprise providing the plastic recycling technology and operational training, in an ambitious effort to tackle two major urban challenges: plastic pollution and poverty. The result is a sustainable, community-powered model that doesn't just manage waste, it redefines it as a resource. These plastics are cleaned, sorted, shredded and processed using Nexuz's innovative small-scale recycling equipment. Importantly, the hub also creates direct employment opportunities for local residents, offering training, fair wages and a path toward long-term economic empowerment.

<https://rotarydownunder.org/from-waste-to-resource/>