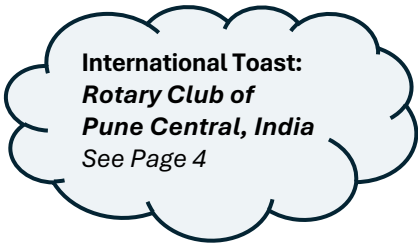




 **HOT AIR**

29 January 2026 — Vocational Service Month

[hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com](mailto:hotair@rotarybrisbanehighrise.com)



**International Toast:**  
**Rotary Club of**  
**Pune Central, India**  
See Page 4

**The President's Post**

What an energetic and meaningful way to start our new Rotary year. It was wonderful catching up and sharing everyone's news but especially fitting that our first meeting was enriched by Lenka, who spoke about her experience as a Rotary Exchange Student from Czechoslovakia. Her warmth, insight, and unique wit made her presentation both engaging and informative, reminding us of the power of cultural exchange in building understanding and friendship across borders. Thank you, Lenka, for sharing your story with us.

Our appreciation also extends to Jane for collecting Lenka from a delayed Melbourne flight and hosting on her first night, and to Deb and Allan for hosting her for the remainder of her stay. From surfing lessons to paddle-boarding, these experiences reflected the generosity, fellowship, and "service above self" that define Rotary. Sharing this time with Lenka around Australia Day made it even more special.

Australia Day is a time to reflect on our nation's history, celebrate its diversity, and consider the values that shape Australia today. It encourages us to recognise the contributions of people from many cultures, while also reflecting respectfully on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our shared responsibility to build a more inclusive future.

These ideals closely align with Rotary's commitment to service, fellowship, diversity, and peace. Like Australia Day, Rotary is both a celebration of community and a call to action—working together to create a fair, compassionate, and connected society for all.

**Greg Beard**

**COFFEE BRIGADE - it's not just  
the coffee & food - it's the  
kindness**



**• Sandwich Making:**

We are looking for more volunteers to help with sandwich making, on Monday 16 March, and Monday 20 April from 10am - 12 noon. This is not heavy work and more hands make light work. And we get a chance to catch up and chat at the same time. Contact Robyn Drake.

**• Find Suppliers:**

Coffee Brigade is looking for suppliers for fresh sliced bread and sliced cold meats eg beef and ham. Do any members know of anyone who could potentially help with supply of these much-needed products? Please let me know.

**• Small Items:**

Reminder for members to bring in supplies that can be handed out to people from the vans: toothpaste & toothbrushes; small hand soaps; disposable razors; packet soups; small containers of preserved fruits; small packets of biscuits or crackers; other small snack packs that can be easily opened without utensils.

Bring these to our meetings and David Bunce will promptly drop them off to Coffee Brigade (he drives past there every day).

**• The Van:**

If you would like to go out on the van to help serve food and coffee (6 to 9am) [click here to register](#).

**Ann-Maree Bennett**



**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- 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

**Accommodation Needed at Cleveland**

Keiko Mishiro, a Japanese medical student who had the Rotary Scholarship, has been staying with Angela Tillmans at Tarragindi.

She now has her placements for this year and has two 10 week rotations at the Redland Hospital, Cleveland - the first is due to start in March. One of those rotations is Obstetrics where she is on call 24 hours a day so she needs to be staying closer than at Tarragindi.

So, do you know of someone who lives close to Redland Hospital and may have a spare room where Keiko could stay, rent free - she doesn't need more than a bed and bathroom.

She is super quiet and studies every spare minute. Every spare penny she and her family earn goes to supporting her study fees (\$50k a semester). She is an extraordinary young woman who is topping her medical classes at UQ while working (tutoring first year university students) and doing research.

Please let [Angela Tillmans](#) know and she can set up a meeting.

**Ann-Maree Bennett**

**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

We were privileged to hear from Lenka Počarovská, a YEP student from Miroslav in the Czech Republic, who is on exchange to Melbourne but was in Brisbane for the QUT Maths Summer School, and being hosted by Deb Le Garde.



Guest Speaker Lenka Počarovská



Greg Beard, Deb Le Garde, Lenka Počarovská & Wendy Protheroe



Bill Phillips & Steve Knight



David Bunce & Roly Wells



Yvonne Robson, Lindsay Marshall & Suzy Mellor



Jane Andersen, Ken Maisey & Ann-Maree Bennett



Greg Pearson, Craig Wappett & Jennifer Eathorne



**Rotary In Action - Phil's SpecSavers:**  
Phil emptying another bag of used spectacles into the back of his ute – soon to be on delivered to RARE.

# Lenka's Visit to Brisbane

We took Lenka to Currumbin Alley on Friday for a surf lesson. Was only the second time she had been in the ocean. My granddaughter Indigo and grand nephew Riley came with us and all three caught some waves. The photo of Lenka surfing is taken from a video.



Next photos are having a great time at Enoggera Reservoir on standup paddleboards - they had to pump up the paddle boards. 😊

**Deb Le Garde**



I had the privilege of taking the delightful Lenka on a walking tour of the Botanical Gardens and Southbank. We covered a lot of ground - the Cook Pine (tallest tree in the gardens), the Stone Curlews, Jess' Pink Lady etc.

In the spirit of multiculturalism we had lunch at the French bakery in Grey St.

Lenka is a great ambassador for the Youth Exchange Program and is making the most of her opportunities in Australia. **Margot Baillie**



## 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



Put this in your diary NOW and invite lots of friends!



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

**\$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

THROUGH EDUCATION™

"FIGHTING POVERTY"

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

## Activities outside of Club Meetings

### FEBRUARY

*Rotary Peace Building & Conflict Resolution Month*

Art Show 2026 Preparation	Phil Breene Funeral 11am, 05/2/26 St Peter & St Paul's Church, Balmoral
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Valentine's Day Flower Deliveries 14/2/2026 🍷💕	<b>Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers</b> 16/2/2026 😊
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Board Meeting 23/2/2026	<b>Rotary's Anniversary 121 years</b> 23/2/2026
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Kinross Cluster Meeting Date TBA	
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### MARCH

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month*

Art Show 2026 Preparation	Act For Kids Working Bee 9am-12noon 7/3/2026
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<b>Coffee Brigade Sandwich Makers</b> 16/3/2026 😊	Club Mtg w/ Gemma Sisia School of St Jude 19/3/2026
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Board Meeting 23/3/2026	Kinross Cluster Meeting TBA
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Rotary Peace Fellows Talks UQ - 10.30am-6pm 28/3/2026	
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#### KEY:

	Major Projects
	Community Services
	Social
	Foundation
	Youth
	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
<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	Chair
<b>Thu 29 Jan</b> Ken M	Lindsay M / Murray B
<b>Thu 05 Feb</b> Loretta L	Ken M
<b>Thu 12 Feb</b> Kym McC	Loretta L
<b>Thu 19 Feb</b> Ros M	Kym McC
<b>Thu 26 Feb</b>	Ros M

## Rotary Seeks Peace Fellow Candidates



The **Rotary Peace Centers** will [accept applications](#) for **2027-28 Rotary Peace Fellowships** from 1 February through 15 May 2026. For the first time, candidates will be able to apply to study at [Rotary's next peace center](#) opening at **Symbiosis International University in Pune, India**. Rotary and Rotaract clubs can work with their district Rotary Foundation chair or Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair to recruit and recommend experienced peacebuilders for the fellowship programs.

The Rotary Foundation will select up to 170 peace fellows this year to attend one of our nine partner universities with leading programs in peace studies, sustainable development, and conflict prevention and transformation. The fellows will be able to participate in a one-year professional development certificate program to learn advanced peacebuilding skills or earn a master's degree in a variety of disciplines related to peace and development.

The Foundation pays for tuition and fees, housing and meals, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses. Clubs and districts do not need to provide funding to recommend fellowship candidates. [Use this referral form](#) to have information sent to potential candidates.

Since the **Rotary Peace Centers** program began in 2002, more than 1,800 fellows have graduated from our programs to serve as leaders in governments, humanitarian organizations, educational and research institutions, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

## International Toast

This week we are celebrating the:  
**Rotary Club of Pune Central, India**



**The Satara Dam Repair Project** focused on restoring the Rajapur Dam and other earthen dams in Satara district to provide reliable water sources for local communities. Repairs began on February 28, 2024, with a traditional Pooja ceremony. The work included trench digging, leak sealing, and cleaning the dam face.

Early monsoon rains helped fill the reservoir, which overflowed by September 2024. The project has provided clean drinking water to approximately 5000 people in Rajapur Village and surrounding areas.

The community well is full, and dry wells have been replenished, significantly improving water access and quality of life. Led by Rtn. Giri Sakhrani and supported by RCPC members, the project has successfully improved water availability and inspired future dam repair initiatives in the region. [Click here for more info](#)