

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Woolgi Whisper

Club President
Rod Mackenzie
District Governor
Evan Burrell
Rotary International
President
Francesco Arezzo

Meetings each month
2nd & 4th Mondays
6-8pm Woolgoolga C.ex

PO Box 436, Woolgoolga NSW 2456
www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwoolgoolga
woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au
woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 1 13 July 2025

Next MEETING : MONDAY 14 July Dick Matthews 2025 Pride of Workmanship awards,

Time: 5 45 for 6.00 PM (concluding by 730pm)

Venue: **Wiigulga Sports Complex, Sangeet Rooms**, (entry through main lobby)

This will be in place of our normal meeting. Some of the members and visitors will go to dinner, at a local venue, after the event.

These awards recognise the contributions of individuals to the Northern Beaches community through their outstanding customer service, warmth, and pride in their work. It will be a relaxed and informal evening centred on the recipients and their contributions. Gurmeh Singh, MP, will present awards.

Since 1975, Pride of Workmanship awards have recognised excellent personal performance in the workplace. Over 600 Clubs participate worldwide. Customers nominate individuals for this award. The Club has named the awards in honour of the late Dick Matthews, who gave 47 years of outstanding service to Rotary before passing away in 2024 at the age of 88

Last MEETING : CHANGEOVER

It was a lovely relaxing night. From ongoing **President Rod**: "Thanks to Pam soldiering on with the program. It was great to have PDG David, Richie and Jo and Allan from Lions there, kick starting the 2025-26 RI theme "Unite for Good". Getting an outsiders view of our Club , and especially from a Past District Governor, was informative and we should be pleased with the complimentary things said. Neither David or Richie had any prompting or directions from me so their words were their own, which made them very relevant. Congratulations to our DG Certificate awardees for their contributions. Again, what our Club has and is doing and achieving is because of you, our members. You are doing fantastic things and really making a difference."

A little fun challenge was set up on each table for members and guests. A group of letters were to be rearranged to make words pertinent to Rotary. Initially no clues given but Pam's table worked out it was the incoming Rotary Theme: Unite for Good. The two other tables were a little slower and needed some more specific hints, but they all got there in the end.



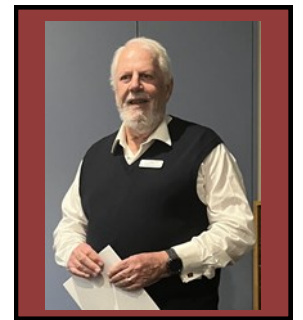
David Mayne, Past District Governor gave an inspiring response to Peter Lacy's excellent Toast to Rotary International. He was full of praise for our club, telling us how Wee Waa was in the process of handing in their Charter but changed their minds at the last minute and is now back functioning as a highly viable club. He reminded us to not to become too possessive of projects, that they were bigger than the individual and one of the important ideals of Rotary is 'Service Above Self'.

Richie Goddard, Community Liaison Officer, Zone 4 spoke passionately about Rotary and our club's great contributions within the club and across the Zone, specifically mentioning the significance of the DV phone project. He also gave some interesting statistics about the percentage of the population is in Rotary. (1 in every 341 citizens of Woolgoolga is a member of our club!)



Board & Officers

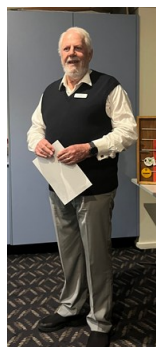
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Pam F
Membership: Christopher
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Public Officer & TRF David F
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We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gumbaynggirr people, the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where we live, learn and work.



Rod: “ being here tonight at our **Changeover dinner** and looking back at the past year gives me great satisfaction, not just personally but because of our fantastic members who are responsible for it all. Our Club is still here, and we are doing good things and running major projects for our community. It all looked a bit shaky back a couple of years ago but a revitalisation with new members and the stability of existing members has the Club back on a sound footing. We have 16 members with another new member in the wings, and everyone is contributing ideas and effort. The other thing about our Club is that it is friendly, flexible, entertaining and full of smart and experienced members. Our life and work experiences are extensive, and these add to our diversity and creativity. There is healthy discussion and solutions to problems, differing opinions and personalities are sorted in a positive and supportive manner.”



Five dedicated and driven members received a district governor award each from our current district governor Bruce George! These five recipients were: Bronwyn Mackenzie, Kyle McIntosh, Michelle McIntosh, Peter McIntosh, Jennifer Witcombe. Quote from Bruce George “Congratulations to you five wonderful and inspiring Rotarians of Woolgoolga.”



Outbounder YEP student for 2026.

On a Saturday morning, Bronwyn (our YEP counsellor) and Rod caught up with Izabella (Bella) Van Der Mewer and her family, father, Dewald and her mum Judi. She also has a brother and grandmother living on their property in Woolgoolga. Bella has been selected to be an Outbound Youth Exchange Program student in 2026 by the D9660 YEP Committee. Bella will be going to Brazil where our current Outbound student Aliyah is now. “Bella is a delightful young lady and her professional parents are very personable too. She should make an excellent ambassador for us and our district and Bronwyn and I are really looking forward to her being part of our club. I believe she will fit in very well and you will enjoy her company. Her parents are very supportive of her and keen to learn more about Rotary.”

Science and Engineering Challenge State Finals

Congratulations to Coffs Harbour High School, who has qualified for the State Finals in Newcastle at the end of August. The Challenge Committee and school are on the search for funding to get them there. Craig Hundl from Coffs High said the cost of getting the team to Newcastle is approximately \$5500. The Local Rotary Clubs plus the ByPass Engineering Group will be helping with donations to help the students reach their goal.



The **Rotary International theme** for the 2025-26 Rotary year is "Unite for Good". This theme emphasises the power of human connection to create positive change and encourages unity in a world that can be divided. It aligns with Rotary's Action Plan and encourages members to collaborate on service projects and build global impact by uniting people from diverse backgrounds.

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

14 July Pride of Workmanship Awards Wiigulga
5 Sept Trivia Fundraiser Sawtell Rotary RSL Club
22-23 Nov District 9660 AGM & Showcase — Coffs Harbour



International President **Francesco Arezzo**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles.

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	14 July Pride of Workmanship	28 July Board/ Club Meeting	11 August Club Meeting	25 August Board/ Club Meeting
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Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Bob	Michelle	Mary	Jennifer
Vote of Thanks	tba	Peter Mc	Pam	David E
Guest Speakers or Event	POW Awards	RYAG students + Bella Van der Mewer YEP	tba	tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ Sleeping bags, tarps, blankets
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program

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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 2 20 July 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 28 July 4.30pm Board Meeting 6pm Dinner Meeting

Our **guest speakers** will be the 2 students whom we sponsored to attend **RYAG SHEEP** in March this year: **Ash Orr** and **Charlotte Henry**, who are both in Year 10 at Woolgoolga High School. We look forward to hearing about their experience at the 4 day RYAG Camp in Walcha. Another guest will be our newest Exchange student **Izabella Van Der Merwe** (Bella). It will be lovely to meet with her again. Our present Exchange student in Brazil, Aliyah, is having a wonderful time and is learning the language very well. She feels part of her host family and said it will be very hard to leave them. During the month of June, Aliyah, celebrated the 'despididas' ie the going away parties for the exchange students who are leaving. Aliyah also attended many 'Festa Juninas' which many schools celebrate, with dances and special outfits.



Last MEETING : MONDAY 14 July Dick Matthews 2025 Pride of Workmanship awards, Wiigulga Sports Centre .



President Rod acknowledged how it was great to see so many people who attended this night for the prestigious Rotary Awards (nearly 100 inc members and guests). It was a special occasion where we celebrated excellence in business, in our community, with nine recipients nominated by their customers and clients. The Club has named the awards in honour of the late Dick Matthews, who gave 47 years of outstanding service to Rotary before passing away in 2024 at the age of 88.



Marie Matthews, Dick's wife, who stood beside Dick throughout his long membership of Rotary and supported him in all his projects, was one of our special guests, to celebrate Dick's legacy, **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**. Gurmish Singh, State Member of Parliament for Coffs Harbour and Deputy Leader of the National Party. Gurminder Saro, Coffs Harbour City Councillor represented the Mayor, Nikki Williams. Roslyn Peacock, represented Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for PAGE and Deputy Leader of the National Party. who was away on Shadow Cabinet duties.

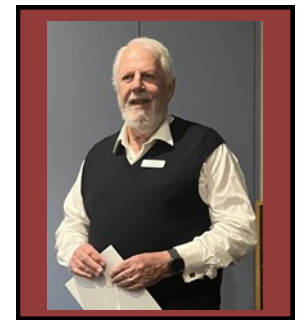


Thank you also Ian "WALLY" Watson from WOOPI NEWS for photos shared in this bulletin. Each of the Nominees all expressed their love of our local community. The organisations, volunteers, businesses, institutions and environment are what makes our community so special. Thank you, Bob, for organising the Awards in such an efficient and organised way. The nine presentations flowed in a very timely way.

Another guest was **IZABELLA VAN DER MERWE**, our latest outgoing Youth Exchange student, who was there with her family. Our Rotary Club is sponsoring Bella as an Outgoing Youth Exchange Program student in 2026. She will also be going to **BRAZIL** for 12 months. We are very pleased to have her as a representative of our Club.

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President Elect: tba
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Photos of Pride of Workmanship Awardees and Nominators



Ruth Reynolds – Woolgoolga’s Finest Butcher
Nominator: Bob Breen
Diggers Club:



Yaping ‘Ping’ Doris’ Jhang
Groundearth Café
Nominators: Barrie and Suzie Briggs



Nick Carr Beach Street Dining Woolgoolga Diggers Club:
Nomimimators: Vince and Nancy Fazel



Tabitha (Tabby) Rodrick
Beach Street Dining Woolgoolga Diggers Club:
Nomimimators: Vince and Nancy Fazel



Irina and John Ferraro – Woolgoolga Post Office
Nominator: Robyn Rooth



Laura Howe Sea View Tavern
Nominators: Alan and Cath Johnson



Lynzel Nunn, Your Home Styled by Lynzel
Nominator: Rhonda Elliott



Maddison ‘Maddie’ King Woolgoolga Bodyworks
Nominator: Michelle McIntosh

CLUB ASSEMBLY: Monday 11th August

From Rod: This is to advise members that we plan to hold an Assembly on Monday 11 August. This will give you a chance to have your say, talk about projects and the upcoming year.

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

- 11 Aug Club Assembly
- 5 Sept Trivia Fundraiser Sawtell Rotary RSL Club
- 22-23 Nov District 9660 AGM & Showcase — Coffs Harbour



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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 3 8 August 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 11 August CLUB ASSEMBLY: 6pm Dinner Meeting

a chance to have your say, talk about projects and the upcoming year.

Last MEETING : MONDAY 28 July

A very successful night with quite a few special guests. Our latest outbound YEP student whom we are sponsoring to go to Brazil next year, Izabella van der Merwe, gave a short introduction about herself, her interests and her excitement of being given the opportunity to spend a year at a school in Brazil.

Izabella, (Bella) , was accompanied by her parents, her Grandmother and her older brother who is in Year 12 at WHS and also wishes to travel next year. We are proud to help sponsor this lovely young representative from our High School Community.



Our next presentation was from Charlotte Henry and Ashley Orr from Woolgoolga High School. In March this year, Ash and Charlotte attended a Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG) program in Walcha. This program is designed for students interested in agriculture to learn about specific areas of interest. In this case, the ladies were focused on the Merino sheep industry. Ash and Charlotte spoke of the



wonderful experience they both had in so many aspects of the wool industry. They spoke of learning about Wool classing, livestock handling, data collection and pedigree recording. They also learnt how Farm technology plays such an important part, from muscle fat scanning, electronic identification and also the use of Drones. The hands on experiences finished with the end product of wool throwing and examination plus the carcass breakdown and meat cutting. Both young ladies thanked our club for giving them this "fantastic opportunity".

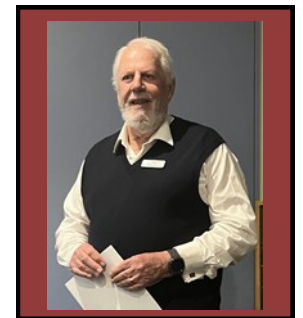


These presentations were followed by an award of a Paul Harris fellow to a very surprised and humbled member Mary Bryant. This award and pin were presented by another special guest PDG David Mayne from Port Macquarie Rotary Club.

David Mayne told us about the Women & Girls hospital project in Nepal to cap off a special night. Dr Ray Hdgson from Port Macquarie has travelled back and forth to the mountainous region for almost a decade, determined to improve the state of women's health in the South Asian country. He was inspired by a patient he treated 12 years ago, who wrote a thesis about women's health in Nepal. The following page has some of the details around this special project

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Australians for Women's Health in Nepal.

Each year Dr Ray conducts clinics with Nepalese women who suffer from a high level of pelvic organ prolapse and so set out to raise half a million dollars to build a new hospital in Charikot, in Nepal. The hospital will have a fourth floor dedicated to teaching the Nepalese how to treat themselves, training local Doctors, Nurses & Health Workers. *Photo at right shows a previous operating theatre*



The Rotary Club of Port Macquarie has joined with Dr. Ray Hodgson of Australians 4 Women's Health to "provide a sustainable, not-for-profit mothers and babies hospital in rural Nepal. It will be a base for a community health care system and a major medical and teaching unit in Nepal.



Women and babies were dying and a lot of women surviving were suffering from genital prolapse. This occurs when a woman's pelvic floor muscles, tissues and ligaments weaken and stretch and can result in organs dropping out of their normal position. Many women experiencing genital prolapse were stigmatised.

After travelling to the remote region of Dolakha, Dr Hodgson realised it was in desperate need of a hospital with essential facilities inc a blood bank. For the past nine years, Dr Hodgson has helped raise funds for a new hospital in the Dolakha district. Doctors from the area travelled to Port Macquarie to learn more about Australia's health system. Building the 'Mother and Babies Hospital' would cost \$1.9 million, but with the help of Rotary and other private donors, the hospital was finally finished. David Mayne had flown over the previous weekend to tour the finished building and lay a foundation stone in preparation of the formal opening.



UNITE FOR GOOD

Partnerships and collaborations are powerful tools Rotary clubs and districts can use to amplify the impact of their service initiatives. By joining forces with other Rotary clubs or districts, both locally and internationally, clubs can pool resources, expertise and volunteer power to undertake larger-scale projects and reach more communities in need. These Rotary-to-Rotary collaborations also help strengthen fellowship and build cross-cultural understanding.

Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence. 6 further collection boxes have been purchased – 5 for Coffs City Rotary that include Toormina and Yarrila Place libraries, and one for Woolgoolga Library. Mayor Nikki Williams has given her support to deploying them in the three libraries. We have a batch ready to post. Rotary corflute backboards for DV phone collection boxes. 8 of these are needed – 3 with Woolgoolga Rotary and 5 with Coffs City. David F ordered these from Signs Express, collected them, and delivered 5 to Paul McKeon.

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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 4 22 August 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 22 August Board 4.30pm 6pm Dinner Meeting

The Guest speaker will be **Chase Saban**, our chosen candidate to sponsor for RYLA in October. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development program run by Rotary International for young people aged 17-30. RYLA aims to help participants develop their leadership potential, enhance their personal and professional skills, and foster a sense of community and global citizenship. The program typically involves workshops, activities, and presentations delivered over a period of several days. This year our district RYLA is at Yarra Adventure Park, Stuarts Point NSW. Chase applied for our club's sponsorship for this program. He has been working for Caringa Australia Limited' a diverse, mission-focussed, values-based and socially responsible organisation with its base in Grafton, NSW and operations across the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour Council areas. Recently some of the Board members interviewed Chase, and found him to be an excellent candidate. He represents the excellent qualities of a young citizen whose hopes and ideals are certainly in line with qualities needed in our future leaders.



Last MEETING : MONDAY 28 July

Rod discussed where our Club is up to in terms of plans for the future. Discussion was then entered into, by those present, of ideas to keep the Club expanding and going forward. Fund raising is the main concern at the moment as we only have the rent from the Auction Shed and the small amount raised at the monthly Pop-up Stall at the Markets (which has been rained out in recent months). We also discussed ideas for guest speakers. We will need to ensure that we have enough people attending to make inviting a guest speaker worthwhile.

Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre



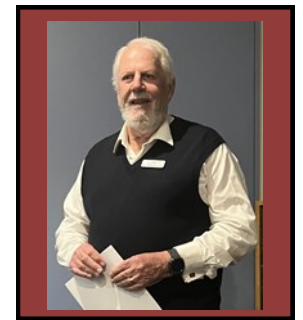
When Rod heard that the Seniors' Centre was in fear of having to close, he decided to attend the AGM and agreed to take on the Presidency, with Bronwyn as Secretary, Geoff as Treasurer, and Jenny Witcombe, Peter Mc, Peter Lacy, and David E assisting the other 7 community volunteers on their committee of 14.

Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre resulted from a project initiated, run and completed by the Rotary Club in 5 years (1999-2004) with

project management, labour and a direct contribution of over \$90,000 to the \$420,000 Centre. It was in Rotary's interest to keep this essential Community Resource running. Since the AGM, the membership has risen and there are now over 200 members. Rod reported that the Centre is financially sound and approximately breaking even; that governance has been good; that they had a large grant to fix their water heater and that they own a 12-seater bus. A major problem was a month-by-month lease from Coffs Council, that provided no future security and excluded eligibility from applying for many Grants. Rod has been able to have a 10-year renewable lease drawn up. With the help of the several community volunteers the many daily activities can remain running successfully.

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AUGUST IS



DV Safe Phone

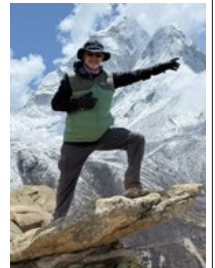


David Fayle has sent an update on the DV phones. The Rotary corflute backboards for DV phone collection boxes. (photo of Alison with phones collected and the backboard) . 8 backboards are needed – 3 for Woolgoolga Rotary and 5 for Coffs City. The batch of 32 phones plus Blackberry has been posted, (\$33.95). The extra 8 came from the Post Office.



At the last meeting we also congratulated Bronwyn on her continuing achievement in the Sydney ‘City to Surf’ 14km run on its 55th year. Bronwyn competed with around 90,000 others, in the rain, on the Sunday, so she had only arrived home a few hours before the meeting. The Sydney city to Bondi run is renowned for being the world’s largest fun run and since 2008 has raised more than \$59 million for charities with close to \$5 million to add this year.

Brian Morgan from the Rotary Club of East Maitland has been appointed as our new **District 9660 Rotary Foundation Chair**. Brian brings a wealth of Rotary and leadership experience, a deep passion for service, and a proven track record of advancing the work of The Rotary Foundation. Since joining Rotary in 2019, he has served as Club President, Club Foundation Chair, Polio Plus Subcommittee Chair, and a valued member of the District Grants Committee. His dedication to international service is outstanding, leading multiple Foundation-funded projects in remote Cambodian villages to improve water, sanitation, and education. Brian also participated in the Everest Base Camp Polio Trek in 2024, helping raise over \$60,000 for the End Polio Now campaign alongside 13 fellow Rotarians, including Past RI Director Dr Jessie Harman. We wish Brian every support as he takes on this important role.



RAM-Global, (Rotarians Against Malaria), Rotary Action Group, has chosen to take on the huge efforts of malaria elimination work world- wide. As the global countdown to end malaria accelerates, **Suriname** has achieved a landmark victory—becoming the first country in the Amazon region to be certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization in 2025. This powerful example of progress highlights how strong political will, strategic action, and cross-border collaboration are driving real momentum toward a malaria-free world.



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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 5 8 September 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 8 September 6pm Dinner Meeting

We will be getting updates on all the projects we are supporting atm as well as thinking of District grant applications for the 2025-26 year, which are now open. Rod has asked us to think about: "What project can you suggest (maybe around \$5000) that is worthwhile and can be of great benefit to our community? A recommendation and brief comments about why we should apply for it, the desired outcomes and how it will be managed would be appreciated. This is a good opportunity given the impact our last D9660 grant for the DV Phone project has made."

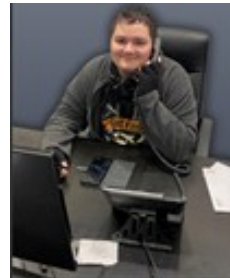
Last MEETING : MONDAY 25 August

Guest speaker was Chase Saban, our chosen candidate to sponsor for RYLA in October. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development program run by Rotary International for young people aged 17-30. Chase started his presentation with the story of his older brother Riley who has quadriplegia cerebral palsy. When Riley was in Primary school he asked his mother for a dog. He was told that he could have one if he bought it himself. Riley with the help of his school and community collected 100s of thousands of aluminium ring pulls. He was then able to afford a dog. Chase explained that even though Riley has severe physical disabilities he still has the skills and determination to achieve incredible things in his 22 years of life.

This inspired Chase to develop a program 'Disarupt'. School Leaver Employment Supports This is a program dedicated to those under 24 years old; who are transitioning from school into meaningful employment through evidence-based methods. Each participant follows an individualised and custom designed employment pathway; with clear milestones and regular progress reviews. Parents and educators receive comprehensive quarterly reports tracking skill development across key employment competencies. Chase joined the team at Caringa Australia Limited' a diverse, mission-focussed, values-based and socially responsible organisation with its base in Grafton, NSW and operates across the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour Council areas. His program worked in well with the Caringa's 'talent.ed' Custom Employment Pathway program which is serious about employment outcomes for young people with disabilities. Launched in early 2025, the exciting new talent.ed program breaks the mould for traditional 'jobseeker supports'.

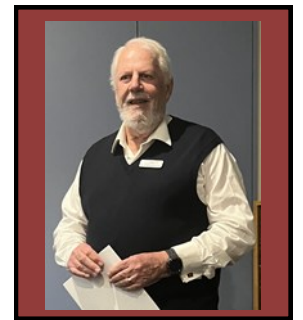
Your talents aren't waiting to be discovered – they're waiting to be unleashed. We're not your typical career development program. Instead of asking "Where do you fit?" we ask "What fits you?"

Chase is looking forward to RYLA to improve his Leadership skills and work towards his many goals in the Disability sector. His first hand experience with his inspiring and innovative brother, Riley, will help him on his creditable journey.

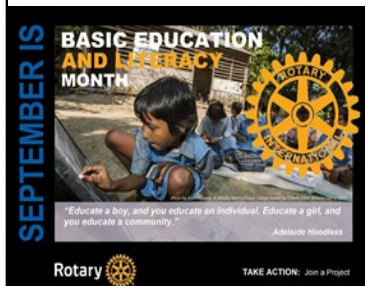


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Rotary Theme for September is Basic Literacy and Education Month

This article in the latest Rotary Down Under fitted this theme BY FRANCESCO AREZZO PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalised youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow and bear fruit.Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century. Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together – across borders, languages and generations – to say that education is a right, not a privilege. Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts.



August Update Exchange Student Aliyah Knight

This month was full of rotary events such as a special barbecue that we had for the new exchange students arrivals. We also had a rotary weekend in Paraguaçu Paulista. During this weekend the new exchange students sat through the briefing videos, while us Australians joined in with the rebounds and completed activities with them. Then for the last day there we all got to have a free morning by the pool. This month I also attended my host mothers school where I spoke to kids the ages of maybe 9 to 12 and told them all about Australia as they are learning English in school. Being this far into my exchange my language is pretty good. I am understanding basically everything and I am able to speak enough to the point of keeping conversation and even making jokes.



Rotary Science and Engineering Challenge update

We received advice from Craig Hundle from Coffs Harbour High School that the team that competed at Newcastle University came in third place. A very credible result. This competition was between the top 7 teams in the northern NSW zone. So, to even come third is something special. The National finals in Newcastle in October will see the 25th anniversary of the event which goes from strength to strength. The 2026 Nationals will be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra whilst both houses are sitting.



Last Wednesday evening the Science and Engineering Challenge took out the **Eureka Prize award for STEM Inclusion**. The Eureka Prizes are awarded annually by the Australian Museum, Sydney, to recognise individuals and organisations who have contributed to science and the understanding of science in Australia. The Eureka Prize for STEM Inclusion recognises initiatives making science, technology, engineering and mathematics more inclusive.



DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

13 Sept—Pop-up Stall Marine Rescue Market, W'goolga

22-23 Nov District 9660 AGM & Showcase — Coffs Harbour



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MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	8 Sept Club Meeting	22 Sept Board/Club Meeting	13 October Meeting	27 Oct Board/Club Meeting
Reminders	Order Meal by 6pm	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6	Order Meal by 6pm	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6
Welcome/Fellowship	Kyle	Peter Mc	Mary	Bron
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Jennifer	Kim	Rod	Chris
Vote of Thanks	David E	Alison	David F	Peter L
Guest Speakers or Event	Discussion and fellowship	tba	tba	tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ Sleeping bags, tarps, blankets
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program

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woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au
woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 6 19 September 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 22 September 4.30pm Board meeting then 6pm Dinner Meeting

Our guest speaker will be Mark Mihai from the Seaview Tavern, Woolgoolga. Mark has been a valued contributor to our Woolgoolga Community. Mark will base his talk on :

- * The history of the Seaview Tavern.
- * His personal journey with the Seaview Tavern.
- * The Seaview Tavern's Community Fund and our sponsorship of sporting clubs across the North Coast.
- * Awards and recognitions the Seaview Tavern has received.

Last MEETING : Monday 10 September

We welcomed our new member Andrew Pryor into the Club. Andrew comes from a background in Education and worked in areas of the Riverina District as teacher and Principal in various schools. Andrew will be a great asset to our Club as he will bring in new ideas and extra support , as we continue to work together to develop new projects for our Community and beyond.



The MHERV VAN is scheduled to be in Woolgoolga for Monday 13th October and Tuesday 14th October, for full two-day clinics (9:30am – 4.15pm). The van will arrive in Woolgoolga on Sunday the 12th of October at a time to be confirmed, with our registered nurse Richelle Stewart 0427 274 489.

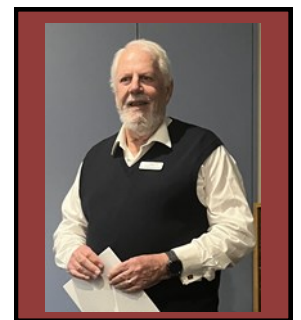
Accommodation is required for the Sunday 12th October and Monday 13th October. It would be greatly appreciated if one of the members can offer to help with this accommodation for one night. We also need a member to co-ordinate the van's arrival, plus set up a roster for people to help out at the van, at various intervals during each day. The work will only require you to be there to hand out the forms and assist with enquiries while the nurse, Richelle, will be doing the various health checks.

- Each year in Australia more than 4 men die every hour from conditions that are potentially preventable – that's 41,000 men a year!
- The mherv project is touring rural and regional NSW testing men for signs of ill health. Most men in these areas don't see their doctor for years at a time. Many just drop dead in the paddock or the pub, because nobody saw it coming.
- High blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol do not show 'symptoms' ... often until it's too late!

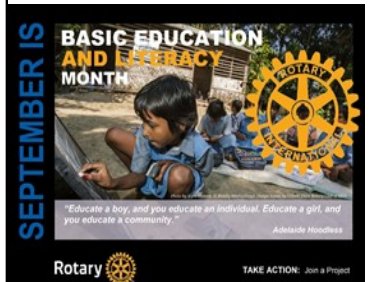


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Member Achievements

On Tuesday 9th September our youngest member, Kyle McIntosh, achieved gold in the inaugural inclusion of Para Athletes in the Masters Oceania Championships in Brisbane for the 5000 m. Then last weekend in the Coffs Harbour Running Festival 2025 Kyle came 2nd outright in the 10 km as well as winning his age category. Bronwyn also competed in the 10 km and came 2nd in her age group. A great day all round! Congratulations to you both. (Unfortunately we don't have a photo of Bron.)



DV SAFE PHONES PROGRAM update

42,342 The number of donated phones since DV SAFE PHONES began.

Note: Any phones that don't pass our tests are used for parts and recycled through MobileMuster.

15,086 The number of Australian DV victims supported with a DV Safe Phone

514 The number of agency partners across Australia helping connect DV victims with a safe phone
Our Club has 3 collection places. You can leave your old phones at the **Post Office, the Lottery Office** on Beach St, plus at the box in the **Seaview Tavern**.



Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centres have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.
- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.



Rotary's Australian Against Malaria (ARAM)

program significantly contributed to Timor-Leste's historic certification as malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2025, following three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases. For over 30 years, ARAM provided long-lasting insecticidal nets, spraying equipment, diagnostic tools, and community education to combat malaria in the country, working alongside the government and international partners.

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary
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20–21 March 2026 D9660 - D9685 2026 District Conference “Together for Tomorrow” Newcastle



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MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	22 Sept Board/Club Meeting	13 October Meeting	27 Oct Board/Club Meeting	10 November Meeting
Reminders	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6	Order Meal by 6pm	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6	Order Meal by 6pm
Welcome/Fellowship	Peter Mc	Mary	Bron	Pam
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Kim	Rod	Chris	Andrew
Vote of Thanks	Alison	David F	Peter L	Jenny
Guest Speakers or Event	Mark Mihai	tba	tba	tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ Sleeping bags, tarps, blankets
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woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 10 October 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 13 October 6pm Dinner Meeting

As this Month's theme is Economic and Community engagement our discussion will focus on projects we can continue working with, in our Local and District Community. Also we can discuss other ideas for future Grant Funding.

Last MEETING : Monday 22nd September

A great night with members and friends. As well as our guest speaker Mark Mihail from the Seaview Tavern, Woolgoolga, and his partner Renee Atkins, we enjoyed the company of Bella, our newest Exchange student, due to leave for Brazil in January. Bella was with her father,



Dewald. Also present was Tylor Wright, the father of our present exchange student, Aliyah, who is still enjoying her time in Brazil. Chase Saban, our RYLA representative with his friend Mykayla, joined us as well as our soon to be new member, Jenny Storum. Peter Lacy's wife came and we had a visitor from Rotary Club of Albany, WA, John Lightfoot, who was on a trip, accompanied by his wife, around the

Eastern Coast of NSW.

Bella gave us a short update on her weekend away meeting other Exchange students and learning some more details re her trip to Brazil, in January. Bella was very excited to be fitted for her special student blazer, which we hope to receive in time for a formal presentation at a club meeting before she leaves.

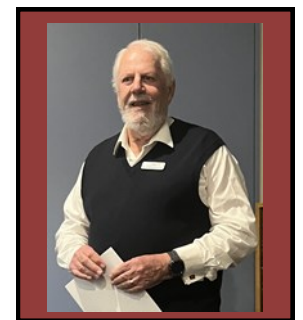
Chase then gave us an update on the latest re his RYLA course which he will have attended 4th to 11th October, before this newsletter is sent out. Chase was really looking forward to learning more leadership skills which will benefit him in his career path. We look forward to welcoming Chase back as a guest speaker with his report on the RYLA Leadership Course.



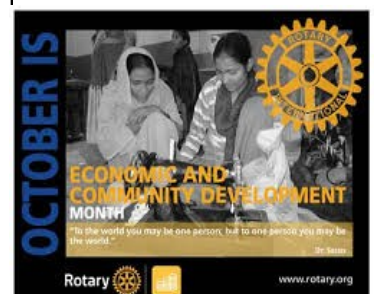
Our Guest speaker, Greg Mihail, spoke about the early history of the Seaview Tavern. Records indicate an original single-story building existed on the site of the Seaview as far back as 1888. The present Seaview Tavern building was constructed by James Eadie brewers, who also owned the land. It was a community watering place and icon sitting at the top of Beach and River sts. Over the many years since, the building has been rebuilt to its present structure.

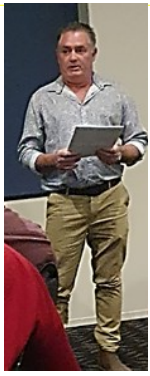
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The management focus a lot on the local community and their families. They run a kids club with entertainment using the updated fun facilities for the children to enjoy. The Seaview Tavern's Community Fund has helped many local sports club with sponsorship across the North Coast, even helping young individuals achieve their aspirations in overseas competitions. The Tavern has received many awards and accolades for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere and good service including:



* AHA Awards for Excellence 2025 Finalist: The Seaview Tavern was named a finalist for Best Family Venue and in 2024 the tavern was a finalist in multiple categories, including Best Family-Friendly Venue, Best Regional Local, Best Retail Liquor Outlet, Best Steak, Best Chip, and Regional Hotel of the Year.

Rotary Clubs of New South Wales **mherv** men's health education rotary van

FREE men's health checks

5 minutes now could save your life FREE

It doesn't seem to matter how old they are ...most blokes in country NSW don't pay much attention to their health - 'she'll be right!' ... But treatable high blood pressure and diabetes often go unnoticed until it's too late... if you don't remember when you last had a checkup... it's time!

Get checked ... see mherv ... its a gift!

The MHERV VAN is scheduled to be in Woolgoolga for Monday 13th October and Tuesday 14th October, for full two-day clinics (9:30am – 4.15pm). The van will arrive in Woolgoolga on Sunday the 12th of October at a time to be confirmed, with our registered nurse Richelle Stewart. Michelle McIntosh has kindly taken on the job of setting up a roster for members to help out during those 2 days. Michelle has been busy visiting areas around the community leaving flyers and promoting the Men's Health Van.

MEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION ROTARY VAN

At Woolgoolga Diggers Carpark, 17 Beach Street on cnr Bultitude Street

Mon 13 Oct: 9.30am - 4.15pm

Tue 14 Oct: 9.30am - 4.15pm

ROTARY DISTRICT 9660 PRESENTS

SHOWCASE

COUNTRY TO THE COAST

\$99

NOVEMBER 21-23

COFFS HARBOUR

C.EX

Rotary District 9660

The district stretches from the east coast at Newcastle and Coffs Harbour, westward to towns like Dubbo and Bourke, and northward to areas such as Lightning Ridge and Moree. This expansive coverage makes District 9660 one of the largest Rotary districts in Australia, encompassing a wide variety of communities and landscapes.

WE SAY NO TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Local Project by Woolgoolga Rotary Club

DV SAFE PHONES PROGRAM

Our Club has 3 collection places. You can leave your old phones at the **Post Office, the Lottery Office** on Beach St, plus at the box in the **Seaview Tavern**.

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Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Rod	Chris	Andrew	David E
Vote of Thanks	David F	Peter L	Jenny	Peter Mc
Guest Speakers or Event	tba	tba	tba	tba

- PROJECTS**
- ◆ DV Safe Phone
 - ◆ Sleeping bags, tarps, blankets
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 - ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
 - ◆ Youth Exchange Program

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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 8 24 October 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 27 October 4.30pm Board meeting then 6pm Dinner Meeting

This meeting will have a very full agenda.

- * Chase Saban will be giving us feedback on his week at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). This course builds communication and problem-solving skills for the participants to use as young leaders in their communities.
- * Bella Van der Merwe, our Youth Exchange Student will update us on her preparations before heading to Brazil in January.
- * Peter Lacy will present us with a visual presentation and talk about his visit to the Coffs Bypass session.
- * Pam will give us feedback on the Curryfest and Christopher will update us on the World War 1 Memorial Restoration Project.
- * As well as all of the above, we will be celebrating inducting our newest member, Jenny Storum, officially into the Club.

Last MEETING : Monday 13th October

This meeting was cancelled due to members being away or unable to attend.



Michelle did a wonderful job preparing for the MHERV Van visit. She has given us feedback on the visit on the 13th and 14th October.

" I'd like to thank Alison, Peter .Andrew, Christopher and Jenny for volunteering to assist at the van as well as Rod and Bronwyn for coming on Tuesday to assist and David for bringing the DV phone box which now stays with the van.

Nurse Richelle was amazing and kept stats on the people that came.

Day 1 Monday there were 16 males and 16 females 32 altogether

Category 1: Normal 16

Category 2: Needing follow up 16

Day 2 Tuesday 12 males and 5 females 17 altogether

Category 1: 3 Normal

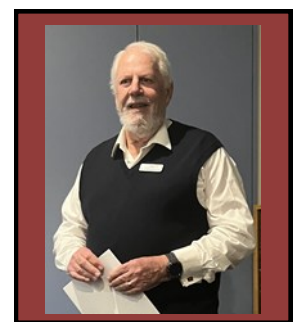
Category 2: 14 Needing follow up

Everyone that Alison and I handed out the flyers to were very obliging and said they were happy it was coming and a great idea for the community. I would like to acknowledge the following places: the Diggers Club,(they even put flyers on the tables and it was announced over the microphone for 2 days while people were in the club), the C.ex club, BCU, Post Office , Butcher in Arcade, Dobbs and Co , the Library and the Senior Centre. "

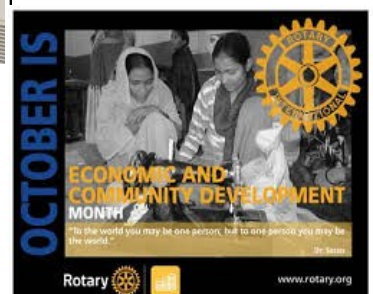


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Grant Project Completed: Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence. By David Fayle

The Final Report was accepted on 21 Oct. Key information from the Final Report:

Directly benefitting were 14 Rotary, Rotaract or Satellite Clubs that received 1 or more \$85 phone collection boxes, 29 boxes in all, in 15 geographic locations:

In D9660, Belmont, Morriset, Narrabri (4, for Wee Waa, Boggabri and Narrabri), Port Macquarie, Wee Waa [Rotaract],

Wellington, Kempsey West, Nambucca Valley, Warners Bay (5), Bourke, Coffs Harbour (9), and Woolgoolga Library [note -approval recently granted, due to the efforts of Coffs Harbour City Rotary].

Outside of D9660, boxes were provided to Byron Bay (D9640) and Corowa (D9740). When all boxes are deployed, there will be 29 new locations where people may donate phones.

DV Safe Phone has already received many phones collected by some of these boxes. They also directly benefit from our \$1,968 donation towards phone refurbishment, which averages \$75 per phone, so about 26 phones.

Indirect beneficiaries are of course those who receive a phone, which may be the difference between life and death, or good health instead of physical and/or mental ruination.

You can leave your old phones at the Post Office, the Lottery Office on Beach St, Woolgoolga Library plus at the box in the Seaview Tavern.



Christmas Raffle

A reminder from Michelle “Christmas is not far away it is already in the shops and we are getting ready for another raffle So.... If you wouldn't mind when shopping, put an extra tin of fruit etc , or small puddings ,biscuits , cards, anything like that into your shopping basket. Crazy Sams has heaps of Christmas tinsel trees, cards, bags ,ribbon and at good prices.

Rotary Showcase – Country to the Coast

Celebration of Rotary energy and creativity at the District Showcase in Coffs Harbour, 21–23 November 2025. Pam has agreed to help judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition to be held at the Showcase.

The extent and form of any additional participation from our Club will be discussed at the Board meeting at 4.30pm Monday to allow sufficient time to organise.



Our Club expresses condolences to friends and family of Geoff Morrow, a key member of our Heritage Walk team. His funeral is 11:30am next Wed 29 Oct at Hogbin Drive Crematorium.

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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 9 7 November 2025

Next MEETING : Monday 10 November 6pm Dinner Meeting

Pam will present a Power Point Presentation on the outcomes of this year's Curryfest on the 27 September.

Last MEETING : Monday 27 October

Another very busy evening with several guests and members. A highlight of the night was welcoming Jenny Storum, officially into the Club. Jenny's sponsor Bronwyn spoke of Jenny's involvement in other areas of the Community and of how she will be a great asset to our Club.



Chase Saban gave us a PowerPoint Presentation on his successful week at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). He spoke enthusiastically on the wonderful experiences from that week. He was pleased he had time away from his phone and other distractions to help reflect on his values, strengths, aspirations, and challenges through deep and meaningful questions. He has come away with a very positive and enthusiastic attitude towards using the skills he has in his life and



work. Chase was very thankful to Rotary for giving him this opportunity. Chase has demonstrated exceptional character and maturity and we wish him well for his future career.

Alison Ratliff was able to travel to Nambucca Heads and meet with Chase and his other guests for the Special RYLA dinner at the end of their week.

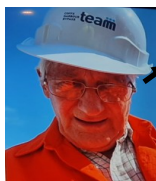
Bella Van der Merwe, our Youth Exchange Student updated us on her preparations before heading to Brazil in January. At the moment she has been having lessons in Portuguese so that she will be a little better prepared when living with a local family and attending High School in Brazil. She will need to adjust to the different school times as well as the different local foods.

Peter Lacy presented us with a very interesting visual presentation and talk about his visit to the Coffs Bypass session. He showed the pictures of the amazing machinery needed to build the 21 bridges and 2 tunnels on the \$2.2 billion project.

Coffs Harbour Bypass

Design & Construct Contract
Awarded to FERROVIAL (Spain) & GAMUDA (Aust)

Total Length 14- Kilometre
21 Bridges 3 Tunnels
Total Cost 2.2 Billion \$
Aust Gov 1.76 Billion NSW Gov 440Million



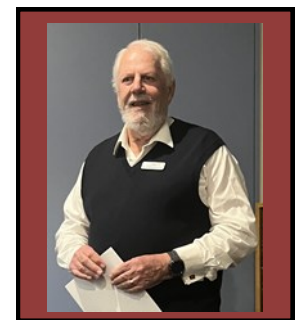
Our ex- Engineering Bridge and Dam Builder Peter Lacy

Chase and his guests at RYLA Dinner



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- Bulletin: Mary
- Pride in Work and Memorials Project: Bob
- YEP Counsellor: Bronwyn



We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gumbaynggirr people, the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where we live, learn and work.

NOVEMBER IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

"We can all make a difference in the lives of others in need, because it is the most simple of gestures that make the most significant of differences."

Rotary Foundation

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

TAKE ACTION: www.rotary.org.au

Christmas Raffle



A reminder from Michelle “Christmas is not far away. It is already in the shops and we are getting ready for another raffle So.... If you wouldn't mind when shopping, put an extra tin of fruit etc , or small puddings ,biscuits , cards, anything like that into your shopping basket. Crazy Sams has heaps of Christmas tinsel trees, cards, bags ,ribbon and at good prices.



Rotary Showcase – Country to the Coast

Alison Ratliff is keen to set up a Woopi Rotary stall. If any members would like to help Alison out she would be pleased to hear from you asap so she can get organising. This is a Celebration of Rotary energy and creativity at the District Showcase in Coffs Harbour, 21–23 November 2025. Pam has agreed to help judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition to be held at the Showcase.

Community Conversations



Pam Fayle - Local legend
Retired International Diplomat, Queen of Curryfest (aka Chair Woman), volunteer, musician, writer, and many other things!

It was great to see our very active and long time member, Pam Fayle, being acknowledged in Woopi News, for all her work with Curryfest over the many years she has been on the Committee. Pam will be bringing her extensive knowledge and experience to our meeting on Monday night. In this new Woopi News interview with Tegan Swan, Pam reflects on her remarkable career representing Australia across the globe. Including postings in Japan and Germany and her time as Ambassador to Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein; before settling in Arrawarra nearly twenty years ago.

Now deeply involved in our local community, Pam is Chair of the Woolgoolga Curryfest Committee, a long-time Rotary Club of Woolgoolga member, musician with the Coffs Harbour City Orchestra, active with the Woolgoolga Gallery, and a familiar face at countless community events. Pam shares insights on leadership, volunteering, and the importance of protecting Woolgoolga’s character as the town grows: I suggest our Rotary members and friends to find this article in the latest November Issue.

Great War Memorial Reinstatement Survey by CHCC



Rod will leave it to each member to answer the Council survey, which has quite comprehensive information, but limited listed options, put out for comment. The Mayor has stated only comments submitted through the Council consultation site will be considered by Council, not those on Facebook. Submissions must be made by 9 November. There is the option of submitting different views to those published, and uploading any files/letters/photos etc in the last box, so you can fully express your preference. The RSL sub-Branch has clearly expressed it's preferred location. Council is keen to receive feedback. Northern Beaches Residents Association have also encouraged the Community to send feedback on the suvey and they have added other site ideas for people to think and write to Council about. This is your Chance so got to the Council website to provide feedback via the Have Your Say link here:
<https://haveyoursay.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/memorial>

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary
22-23 Nov District 9660 AGM & Showcase — Coffs Harbour
8 Dec AGM and Christmas Party
20–21 March 2026 D9660 - D9685 2026 District Conf'ence



International President **Francesco Arezzo**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles.

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	10 November Meeting	24 November Board/Club Meeting	8 December Meeting	TBA
Reminders	Order Meal by 6pm	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6	Christmas Party	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6
Welcome/Fellowship	Bron	Pam	and	Rod
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Chris	Andrew	AGM	David E
Vote of Thanks	Peter L	Jenny W	Venue to be confirmed	Peter Mc
Guest Speakers or Event	Pam Fayle Curryfest	tba		tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ Sleeping bags, tarps, blankets
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program

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Woolpi Whisper

Club President
Rod Mackenzie
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Francesco Arezzo

Meetings each month
2nd & 4th Mondays
6-8pm Woolgoolga C.ex

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woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 10 5 December 2025



**Next MEETING : Monday 8 December
AGM 5.30pm and Christmas Party 6pm
at Woolgoolga Community Grdens.**

BYO drinks and meat to BBQ. A list was set up for salads and dessert. Looking forward to seeing members and guests there to celebrate another wonderful year of Rotary.



Last MEETING : Monday 24 November

Our 2026 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Outbounder Izabella van der Merwe updated us on her preparations before heading to Brazil on 16 January. Izabella has been learning some Portuguese and was able to demonstrate a few phrases she has learnt so far. She was also able to speak to her host family on Facetime through an interpreter. Izabella received her blazer at the outbounders' briefing weekend 29-30 Nov so our Club hopes to formally present it to her at our Christmas Party.



Rotary Showcase – Alison and Rod attended the District Showcase at Coffs Harbour C.ex Club, on 21-22 November. Alison set up a Table displaying our DV Safe Phone project. Our small display was not as visible as most of the displays which were quite big in comparison. They showed other Clubs' work and money raising ventures.



Rod found the Presentations were worthwhile for building contact networks. Rod also found out that our Application for a District Grant had been successful. This will help fund the Parkinson's Group with their various programs when they regularly meet at the Senior's Centre

Pam helped judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition at the Showcase venue on the following day. The four contestants were all of exceptional quality, and the winner was an outstanding speaker from Wee Waa, a female of African refugee background, Ayisha Titimira. The other three finalists were Brody Taylor from Gloucester, Ehsaas Gujural from Quirindi, and Georgia Heaney from Coonabarabran.

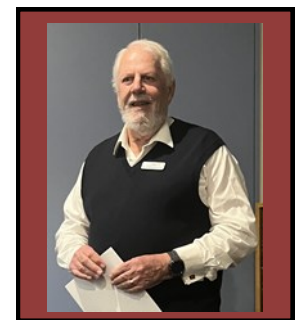


Great War Memorial Reinstatement Survey by CHCC

Feedback has been considered in preparing report BS25/015, which is scheduled to go before Council on **Thursday, 11 December 2025**. All submissions have been included in a confidential attachment to the report. You can access the business papers for the meeting on the City's website: [Council meeting minutes and agendas | City of Coffs Harbour](#)

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Christmas Raffle



A big thank you to **Michelle** who has been working for weeks gathering donations from the local businesses. With the help of **Peter and Kyle** she has been able to gather so many worthwhile prizes that the raffle has now over \$1,500 worth of prizes divided into 18 groups. This will give people 18 chances to have their name drawn out on 23rd December. A great group of 9 volunteers went down to the Mall last Wednesday morning to set up a table and sell the raffle tickets from 9am to 1pm. This proved very successful as we made \$525, minus the Square fee of \$2.21, leaving a grand total of \$522.79. We intend to set it up again next Wednesday at the same time. An amazing effort.



POP-UP STALL at the Marine Markets on Sat 13 December.

We will have the Christmas Raffle ticket selling continue at the next Pop-up Stall. The raffle ticket selling will continue until the prizes are drawn on the 23 December, so keep up the good work spreading the word.

The previous **Pop-up** at the markets last month was successful, raising \$278. The volunteers had a great day, with a big turnout of helpers. Izabella came to give us a hand, manning the very successful 100's Board. We collected \$400 plus \$80 from clothes sales, but after paying out prize money and site fees we were able to bank \$275.



Brief Summary of Pam Fayle's talk on the October Curryfest from 10 November Meeting.

Attracting 7,000, 38% of attendees are from outside the local area and stay an average 3.5 days, so economic spin off for the Coffs Coast is estimated at \$1.5million. Drumming & Cultural performances and workshops remain popular. This year Curryfest made donations to the local Red Cross branch, Nippers Junior Surf Lifesaving Club, St Johns Ambulance and provided discounted fundraiser/promotion stalls to the Visitors Information Centre and Cricket NSW. The previous 3 Curryfests donated over \$10,000 to community groups

- The 2025 event made enough money to replace the money lost with last year's cancellation, and ensure continuation in 2026.
- The event costs \$120,000 minimum and more if additional grant funding is obtained
- Around 25-30% of funding comes from govt grants; 10-20% from sponsorship, 15% from stall site fees; 30% from gate ticketing; and 5-10% from Chamber's provisioned funding, including merch sales.



DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

8 Dec AGM and Christmas Party

20-21 March 2026 D9660 - D9685 2026 District Conf'ence

"Together for Tomorrow" Newcastle



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MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	8 December Meeting	9 February Meeting	23 February Board/Club Meeting	9 March Meeting
Reminders	Christmas Party	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6	Order Meal by 6pm	4.30 Board Order Meal by 6
Welcome/Fellowship	and	Rod	Jenny S	Jenny W
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	AGM	David E	Peter L	David F
Vote of Thanks	Woolgoolga	Peter Mc	Kim	Christopher
Guest Speakers or Event	Community Garens	tba	tba	tba

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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 11 9 February 2026

Next MEETING : Monday 9 February

Welcome Home Aliyah! Tonight we welcome home Aliyah Knight, our 2025 Youth Exchange Outbounder, who returned to Woolgoolga in January. We look forward to hearing about her experiences during her year away in Brazil.



Last MEETING :



Our last Meeting of 2025 was our Christmas BBQ at Woopi Gardens. This venue has great facilities to enjoy a relaxed and informal get-together in the lovely garden surroundings. While there, President Rod and YEP Counsellor Bron, presented our 2026 Our 2026 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Outbounder Izabella (Bella) van der Merwe with her Rotary YEP



Blazer before she prepared to leave for Sydney in January and then off to Brazil for the year.

We send our best wishes to Izabella (Bella) who left Sydney Airport in January with the other Rotary Exchange students heading off to various countries for their 12 months Placements.



Izabella was warmly welcomed at the airport in Brazil, along with the other students being hosted in various areas of that country. We look forward to hearing updates from Bella once she has settled into her new life.



ROTARY FLAG

Last December the Club was able to purchase one of the many Community flags placed around our town to add to the festive decorations during the holiday period. It was great to see our Rotary Emblem and colourful flag with pride of place next to our Rotary Bus Stop Shelter outside of Woolworths.

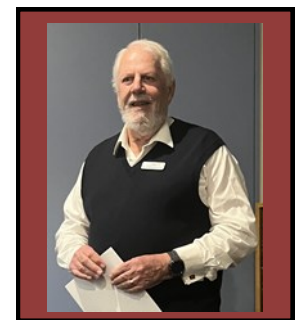
MONTHLY FOCUS (FEB 2026): [Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention](#).

Context: Part of the 2025-2026 Rotary year, themed "Unite for Good," which emphasizes using human connections for positive, lasting change.

Activities: Clubs are encouraged to focus on projects that promote community, national, and international peace, resolve conflicts, and support victims of violence.

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Christmas Raffle



After very successful weeks of selling Raffle tickets in the Mall and also at the Markets, the raffle organisers met at the Surf Club on December 23rd to draw the many winners of our BIG Christmas Raffle. The Club would like to send a huge thank you to the Woolgoolga community for their massive support, both those who bought tickets in our Monster raffle and to all the businesses who so generously donated prizes. We happily handed out 22 prizes in the end. Congratulations to Jean Vickery one of the first Raffle Prize winners.



Club Donations

Bronwyn Mackenzie, Vice President of Woolgoolga Seniors Centre and Woolgoolga Rotary YEP Counsellor made a welcomed donation of a quality Mahjong set to the WSC Mahjong group.

The WSC (Woolgoolga Senior Citizen's Club) has lots of activities running every week (see Woopi News page 53) including Mahjong, Scrabble and Rummikub. Our Club is also supporting the WSC and Parkinsons Support Group through a D9660 grant.



ROTARY EXCHANGE TRIP

Rod and Bronwyn Mackenzie will be going on a 2-week Rotary Friendship Exchange visit to New Zealand in February (and staying there a further week). Happy travels Rod and Bron. We look forward to hearing about the trip along with great Travel photos.



It's time to give thought to our **District Conference**. This year they are trialing a combined District event, Including the district below us, 9685. We are not sure what the years in the future will be like. This could be a last chance to experience such an event. Rotary year 2026/27 will see four training/showcase weekends around District 9660 which replace a District Conference. One such Showcase will be held at Sawtell on 16th and 17th May this year.

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

20–21 March 2026 D9660 - D9685 2026 District Conf'ence
"Together for Tomorrow" Newcastle



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Welcome/Fellowship	Rod	Jenny S	Jenny W	Kyle
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	David E	Peter L	David F	Pam
Vote of Thanks	Peter Mc	Kim	Christopher	Alison
Guest Speakers or Event	Aliya Knight Exchange student	tba	tba	tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
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- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program

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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 12 9 March 2026

Next MEETING : Monday 9 March

International Women’s Day is Sunday 8 March, so that is our theme for our 9 March meeting . Members should prepare a 2-minuter on a remarkable woman. Throughout history there have often been amazing women, whom today many have not heard ofdo some research and shed some light on a woman we should all know more about.



Notable women in Rotary include Jennifer Jones, the first female Rotary International President (2022-23), and Stephanie A. Urchick, the 2024-25 president. Other key figures include Sylvia Whitlock (first female club president) and pioneers like Mary Lou Elliott, who helped overturn the ban on women members in 1987. These leaders have been pivotal in polio eradication, humanitarian projects, and promoting diversity within the organization.



9th February MEETING :

Aliyah Knight, our 2025 Youth Exchange Student, attended and gave us some feedback on her experiences living in Brazil last year. Aliyah has returned to Woopi High and was still coming down from her wonderful experience and getting back into everyday life at home. Aliyah enjoyed her time over there so much and had met so many other exchange students from various countries, she is planning on travelling overseas in the future, to enjoy the many experiences other countries have to offer. Meanwhile it’s getting back into studying towards her HSC year.

She has been trying to explain the different meals she ate with Brazilian families, to her dad, so that he will maybe cook them and try them out as well. Also Aliyah explained that the school system there, does not use Technology in their classrooms. This apparently doesn’t prevent the students from doing well in their education. Aliyah has plans to visit us again with a visual presentation of her wonderful year abroad.



Our 2026 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Outbounder Izabella (Bella) van der Merwe left for Brazil last January and we had her parents, Judy and Dewald, as guests. They were able to give a short update on how Bella is going since arriving there. Even though no one in her host family or at school can speak English, she has found the people so friendly and welcoming. She has been happy and settling in well.

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Bulletin: Mary
Pride in Work tba
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March is Rotary’s Water,



Three new skyhydrants projects installed at the Canossa school, Atabae school and Comoro school will protect thousands of pupils. Clear water, clear minds: Safe water for Timor-Leste. One of many Rotary Projects

Sanitation and Hygiene Month

We’re celebrating our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.



Rotary Science and Engineering CHALLENGE Tuesday 31 March 2026 Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre

Volunteer Briefing: Monday 30 March from 2-4 pm

Dinner: Monday, 30 March, at the Seaview Tavern from 6-8 pm

Challenge: Tuesday, 31 March 2026

If you would like to attend the dinner, **please pay by the RSVP date, 20th March**, (\$35 pp), so we know the definite numbers. Patty Delaney reports that we have a full contingent of over 40 volunteers for our 2026 event. This is great news, as volunteers are willing to come back year after year. (Invitation attached with this newsletter, with bank details for payment)

Anzac Day 25 April 2026

We hope to have a group marching behind our banner on the morning so please mark the date on calendars. We will have a wreath which will be placed on the monument during the ceremony.

More on INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

In every corner of the world, women leaders in Rotary are leading the charge to make polio history.



These women have been working diligently in their own countries or for countries that are undergoing eradication programs in the poorer regions of the world. (Their names in order of photos) :

Judith Diment, Rotary Club of Maidenhead Thames, England, leads Rotary’s UK advocacy efforts, and is a passionate fundraiser and International PolioPlus Committee member

Ijeoma Pearl Okoro Rotary Club of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, directs End Polio Now activities throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Tayyaba Gul Rotary Club of Islamabad (Metropolitan), Pakistan, runs a Rotary-funded health center in Nowshera, working with teams of female vaccinators help reach neighbourhoods of ethnic Afghan refugees displaced by conflict in tribal border regions

Ann Lee Hussey Portland Sunrise Rotary Club, Maine, USA, has led Rotary volunteers on nearly 30 trips to places like Pakistan and Nigeria to immunize children against polio

Marie-Irène Richmond-Ahoua, Rotary Club of Abidjan-Biétry, Côte d’Ivoire, one of the first female Rotarians in Africa. She coordinates national polio immunizations and serves on the Africa Regional PolioPlus Committee.

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“Together for Tomorrow” Newcastle

Showcase at Sawtell on 16th and 17th

May



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Welcome/Fellowship	Jenny W	Kyle	Jenny S	
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	David F	Pam	David E	
Vote of Thanks	Christopher	Alison	Geoff	
Guest Speakers or Event	Remarkable Women talk	tba	tba	

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- ◆ Parkinson Support Group

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VOLUME 38 ISSUE 13 23 March 2026

Next MEETING : Monday 23 March

This will be our monthly board meeting included in our normal dinner meeting. We hope that this will encourage everyone to have a say in the direction they want our club to go. Alison will email an agenda in the next couple of days. Peter will report back on the flag holder he was to purchase. Bring along any ideas you wish to raise.

Last MEETING : Monday 9 March

International Women's Day was our theme for our 9 March meeting. Members prepared a 2-minuter on many remarkable women, throughout history and also in modern times. Some very close to our members' hearts. It was a very inspiring night as we heard brief stories of several amazing females. It also whet my appetite to find out more, as 2 to 3 minutes did not seem to do justice to these brave and strong Women. I have added extra pages to this newsletter to try and give an overview of each of these special women. Starts Page 3

Rotary Science and Engineering CHALLENGE Briefing 2pm Dinner 6pm Monday 30th March

Challenge Tuesday 31 March 2026 Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre

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Izabella Van Der Merwe

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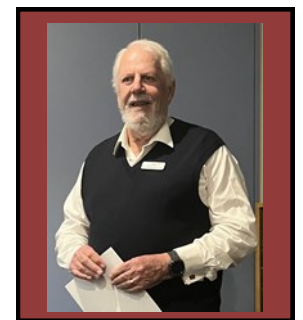
she couldn't understand any of the language. She made lots of friends which she was grateful for and they helped her to understand what was going on in classes. Outside of school she was going out with friends as they showed her around Bauru. Bella also met other exchange students from different countries, and she loved hearing all their stories about how their exchange was going,

Bella said her host family are so kind and welcoming and she is loving the different foods that they have. Last month Bella finally started to feel more settled. She is getting more used to the language, the culture, and her daily routine. Bella said "the water over here is so warm compared to the water in Australia!" She also went to the zoo with her host family.

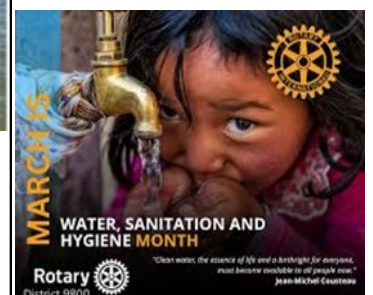


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Vice President: Kim
President Elect: tba
Community Services: all
Youth Services: Mary and Michelle
Club admin & Public image: Pam F
Membership: Christopher
Projects: David E
Public Officer & TRF David F
Bulletin: Mary
Pride in Work tba
YEP Counsellor: Bronwyn



We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gumbaynggirr people, the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where we live, learn and work.



Farewell to KIM Thompson



A sad part of the last meeting was saying good-bye to our wonderful member Kim Thompson. It was with mixed feelings that Kim is leaving as she is very excited about her new venture moving to the Gold Coast, where she will be closer to her daughters and their families.

Kim has been part of the Woolgoolga Rotary Club for the last 10 years, joining in April 2016. (photo shows Kim at her induction with then President Leslie Casey and Patty Delaney)

Even though working full time, Kim was always there at the Auction helping out. We always knew of Kim's whereabouts as we could hear her contagious laugh from anywhere in the vicinity of the Auction.

Not long after joining the club, Kim volunteered for Treasurer for the 3 years from June 2017 to June 2020. At the end of 2017-18 Kim was awarded Rotarian of the Year for her vital contribution, especially as Treasurer, as well as many hours at the auction shed, assisting with other activities and representing the club.



In 2019 as Treasurer, Kim received a certificate of recognition from the Commonwealth Bank Not-for-profit Treasurers Award program for her role as Treasurer of our Club. Kim's innovation of the internal accounting system continued to provide major benefits for the Board, and facilitates preparation of the Annual Report. This award was presented by District Governor Lorraine Cottee and then President Pam Fayle. (photo).

Kim was then President during the two years from 2021 to 2023. She's been on the RAM Committee since we first had one, and remains on DV Safe Phone Committee and has been in that project from very early on. She has remained on the Board and was always phoning in on the meetings on the way from work. Great dedication.

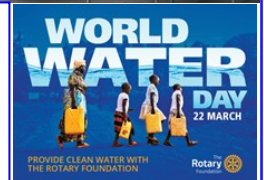
We Farewelled Kim at the last meeting as a club, then about 10 of our members joined Kim at Rod and Bronwyn's house, on Sunday 15th for a "pot luck" lunch. It was a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. We wish Kim all the best in her new venture in Queensland. Kim has already sussed out the local Rotary Clubs in her area and will transfer there after she has had time to settle in. Our loss will be their gain.



Anzac Day 25 April 2026

We hope to have a group marching behind our banner on the morning so please mark the date on calendars.

Rotary members are working tirelessly to complete projects that provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene sustainably, in all the areas of the world where they see a great need



DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

20–21 March 2026 D9660 - D9685 2026 District Conf'ence

"Together for Tomorrow" Newcastle

Showcase at Sawtell on 16th and 17th May



International President **Francesco Arezzo**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles.

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	23 March Board/Club Meeting	13 April Meeting	27 April	11 May Meeting
Reminders	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm	ANZAC Holiday	Order Meal by 6pm
Welcome/Fellowship	Kyle	Jenny S		Jenny W
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Pam	David E		Peter L
Vote of Thanks	Alison	Geoff		Peter Mc
Guest Speakers or Event	No speaker due to Board meeting.	Rod and Bron's NZ Exchange trip- Chase Saban RYLA		tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program
- ◆ Parkinson Support Group
- ◆ Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre

Kim spoke about the **Generational Changes** by women through our late 20th and 21st Century. These Baby boomers and Gen X women of the 1970's and 80s went into paid work while still carrying on with the responsibilities at home, as wife and mothers, which they had modelled on their mothers' generation of the 1950s housewife, of full time home-maker with the male breadwinner. Arlie Hothschild, one of the most influential sociologists of the 20th and 21st Century, described this whole situation as a "stalled revolution". This idea of 'superwoman' promoted the idea that women should 'have it all' plus 'do it all'. The result was a persistent double burden that shaped women's health, finances and career trajectories and that many Gen X and Millennial mothers are still negotiating today.



Peter Lacy spoke about **Jacinda Adern**, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand. After becoming New Zealand's youngest prime minister in 150 years, Jacinda Ardern continued to challenge the norm by giving birth while in office. Resigning from her position after six years, she had reshaped what global leadership looks like. Her determination to prioritise humanity became a defining quality of her public life. Peter spoke with admiration of the many things she achieved while serving her country during many difficult periods.



Andrew Pryor's little known woman of history was **Maria Teresa de Filippis**, who was the first woman to ever compete in a Formula One World Championship race. Born in Italy in 1926, she began racing as a challenge from her brothers. Determined to prove their idea of her being too slow, she competed in her first race in 1948 and finished second. This sparked her passion and so she continued to race throughout Europe. In 1958, she made history by entering Formula One with Maserati. She successfully competed in the 1958 Belgian Grand Prix, finishing tenth. Her participation broke barriers and challenged stereotypes during the time of male-dominated races. Maria de Filippis opened the door for future female drivers and is remembered today as a pioneer who proved that talent and determination matter more than gender.



Alison gave her talk about **Sally Ride**, the first American woman in space. She made history in June 1983 aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. Encouraged by her family she pursued her passion for science and sports earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Bachelor of Arts in English. Then later earned a Master's degree in English and Ph.D. in Physics in 1978. It was that year in which she was selected as part of NASA's Astronaut programme. After her training to become eligible she flew on the STS-7 mission of the Space Shuttle Challenger and became the first American woman to fly into space. She followed this with another flight in 1984. Sally Ride was a strong advocate for science education, inspiring young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Her legacy continues inspiring countless individuals to 'reach for the stars'.



Kyle spoke about **Emma McKeon**, Australia's most decorated Olympian, having won a total of 14 Olympic medals across three games (2016 – 2024). Medals. These 14 medals (6 gold, 3 silver, 5 bronze) surpassed previous records held by Ian Thorpe and Leisel Jones. At the Tokyo Olympics she became the first female swimmer and the second woman ever to win seven medals at a single Olympic Games. Her 20 (inc 14 Gold) Commonwealth Games medals holds the record for the most in Commonwealth games history. Emma has amassed 20 World Aquatics Championship Medals breaking the Australian record held by Grant Hackett. Since retiring Emma has focused on inspiring the next generation of athletes and has been in Advocacy work as a UNICEF Ambassador.



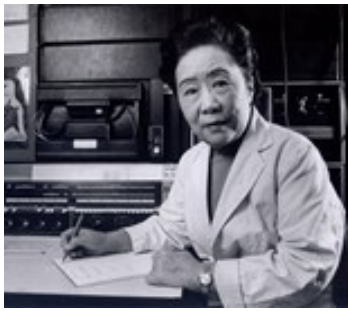
Peter Mac's story was about legendary Australian retired Paralympic swimmer and disability advocate, **Ellie Cole**. After losing her right leg to cancer at the age of three, Ellie took up swimming as rehabilitation and went on to compete in for Paralympic Games (2008 – 2020). Ellie concluded her career at the 2020 Tokyo games (where she was the Australian flag-bearer), with a record-breaking total of 17 Paralympic medals (6 gold, 8 silver and 6 Bronze). Beyond swimming Ellie also competed in wheelchair basketball for Victoria, winning the National League's Best New Talent award in 2013. Ellie is a regular host on Nine's Wide World of Sports and sits on the Paralympics Australia Board. Ellie Cole is a lead campaigner for the #WeThe15, a human rights movement for people with disabilities, and acts as a campaigner for APM (Advanced Personal Management) which is a global provider of health, employment and disability services. Ellie was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to sport and advocacy.



David Fayle spoke about a woman of history in the Clarence Region of Northern NSW, **Theodosia De Burgh**. (Squatter's Castle / George Farwell.) Theodosia de Burgh (1838–1886) was an Irish-born woman who married Australian pastoralist Edward David Stewart Ogilvie in 1858, becoming a notable figure in New South Wales colonial history. She was the daughter of Reverend William de Burgh, and she and her husband settled at "Yulgilbar," a large station on the Clarence River. She was an early pioneering woman who suffered the hardships of early Australian farm life while raising 10 children



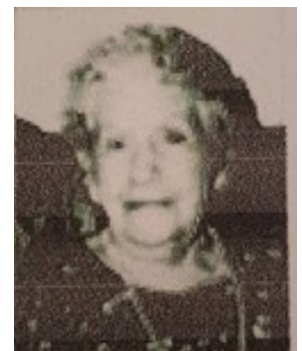
Pam gave a her talk on **Chien-Shiung Wu**, a pioneering Chinese American experimental physicist. Through her ground-breaking experiments, she radically changed the way scientists viewed the fundamental laws of the universe. Wu's father, Zhong-Yi Wu, instilled in her a strong belief in the power of education and equality for females. Born in a small village near Shanghai, China, in 1912, Wu went to an elementary school founded by her father that promoted education for girls at a time when it was still uncommon for girls to go to school. In 1936, Wu moved to the US, where she earned a doctorate in physics at the University of California, Berkeley and became a world leader in experimental physics, particularly in the field of beta decay. In 1956, upon learning of her extraordinary expertise in the subject, fellow Chinese American physicists Tsung-Dao Lee and Chen Ning Yang approached Wu for help in devising an experiment that would test their theory that the law of conservation of parity didn't hold during beta decay. Wu designed and performed an experiment that sent shockwaves through the physics community. This led to a Nobel Prize for both Lee and Yang, while Wu's pivotal experimental work didn't receive the same level of recognition. She spoke out about the discrimination faced by female scientists later in her career. In her later years, Chien-Shiung Wu became an advocate on various social issues such as equal opportunities in STEM education for males and females. Wu also continued to be an influential figure in the world of physics until her retirement in 1981. She became the first female president of the American Physical Society and the first person to win the prestigious Wolf prize in 1978.



Wu designed and performed an experiment that sent shockwaves through the physics community. This led to a Nobel Prize for both Lee and Yang, while Wu's pivotal experimental work didn't receive the same level of recognition. She spoke out about the discrimination faced by female scientists later in her career. In her later years, Chien-Shiung Wu became an advocate on various social issues such as equal opportunities in STEM education for males and females. Wu also continued to be an influential figure in the world of physics until her retirement in 1981. She became the first female president of the American Physical Society and the first person to win the prestigious Wolf prize in 1978.

Rod spoke about his grandmother **Violet Janet (VJ) Hansen** (1893 – 1987).

Violet married in 1918 to Frederick Elworthy in Gudagai NSW then moved to Albury. In 1919 while traveling in a sulky, the pony toppled over, snapping off the two shafts. The sulky swung forward and both Violet (who was 5 months pregnant at the time) and Fred stepped to the ground without suffering "any inconvenience at all". After separating from her husband VJ and the children stayed on at Burrenderry, Gundagai, where VJ care for her brother-in-law and did the farm's books. Rod remembers her as a strong pioneering woman who dealt with the hardships of everyday farm life, while also working in the Community. When Rod spent holidays there in his early life, he remembers the fuel stove, outdoor laundry and a meat room storing the Turkeys for Christmas. VJ, at one stage, had her thumb chopped off during the beheading of one of their turkeys. Rod chose his grandmother, because she represented a generation of women who battled through hardships and carried on caring for families without any of the mod cons we have today.



Bronwyn chose someone who wasn't famous but was an unsung hero. A woman of great substance, resilience, independence and determination, who made a huge impact in so many areas. **Deidre Williamson**. Born in 1915 with a WW1 childhood, Deidre was from a well-to-do family and one of 3 daughters of a pioneering family of the film industry in England, so had a privileged childhood. At 16, Deidre was abandoned by her family who migrated to Australia. Left to her own devices, Deidre became a teacher. During WW2 as a sign of her devotion to others she prepared and escorted evacuated children to Canada and Australia in highly dangerous convoys. Deidre did 3 trips and one time was stranded in Vancouver after their ship sunk. On her last trip she became stranded in Australia until after the war. She looked after her father in his later years and between 1950 – 1955 she looked after stray children as a registered emergency carer. These were often disabled, unwanted and abandoned and drawers were often used as makeshift cots.

Deidre, who had a knack of drawing people from all walks of life, was renowned for her generosity and ability to befriend people guiding and supporting them in times of need.

An example was Sunnyfield, a school for severely intellectually and physically disabled students, which gave unconditional support for parents on weekends and holidays, providing much needed respite.

Bronwyn asserts that this is such a small snapshot of a woman who weathered a lifetime of struggle with fierce determination and an enduring, deep-rooted love for humanity. She encapsulates the ability of women to rise above and beyond their own hardships to support others and be a positive and powerful influence in Society.

Bronwyn said "I'm particularly proud to have known this woman. Luckily for me, she hung on to one of the 'strays' and adopted me in 1952."

Photos of Bronwyn's mum Deidre, and Bronwyn as a little and her mum (a very special story of unconditional love)



Jenny Storum's woman was an early local, her mother, Dulcie Lee (nee Blackadder) , a strong woman who had a fascinating story. " Dulcie Blackadder, my Mother, was born in 1918 in Grafton, one of 12 children. Living in Woolgoolga, she married Hubert Lee and had five children. Dad was offered a mining engineer job in Malaya and decided to take it and along with Dulcie and daughter Nancy (2 months old) boarded a ship.



It was a wonderful life there until war broke out, and in 1941 Dad joined the Malay Armed Forces. He managed to make it back to Singapore to get Mum out before it fell to the Japanese. An American ship picking up Rubber and Tin picked her and six other women up whilst being strafed by bullets from the Japanese. She had a two-year-old and was pregnant. They had many close shaves nearly being blown up with mines until they were safely able to disembark in Fremantle.

Mum eventually arrived back in Woolgoolga awaiting news of Dad. It was not good as he had been captured and spent three years in Changi Internment camp. He left Australia 16 stone and came home unrecognisable at 6 stone. Mum and Dad built the first Guest House in Woolgoolga on the corner of Queen and Market Sts. The original part is still there. They also owned a farm and Mum drove the local taxi.

They moved to Newcastle in 1959 where Dad died aged 54 in 1964. Mum later moved back to Woolgoolga. Her youngest daughter Vivienne married an American movie director/writer Don Bellisario who, when he won an award for Best Director, invited Mum and I over to the US for the ceremony, and, in front of a big crowd, upon his acceptance speech proceeded to relate the story of Mum's escape from Singapore. Mum received a standing ovation as he reiterated her love for the Americans who rescued her and her children. Mum was 81 at that stage with a wonderful memory of that night. She passed away in 2003 at the age of 85. A life well lived!

Jenny Witcombe chose one from the newer generation of strong Australian females, her granddaughter.

Jenny is very impressed by her 14yr old Granddaughter because:

At the age of 14 she has made a very big decision for her future.

She has decided to join the Aust. Air Force and hopefully become a pilot.

So to obtain this ambition:

- 1) She has been learning to fly an aeroplane.
 - 2) learning Marshall Arts for a black belt
 - 3) working very hard at School and in this she has been very successful.
 - 4) She has joined the local Life Saving Club and working towards being the youngest Patrol Captain in QLD and perhaps AUST.
 - 5) She also trains in Acro. and Silks to be very fit and strong.
 - 6) She has also had to ride every ride at a theme park (this was a girl who was terrified of them) to be able to stand G forces and fly with the local Aerobatics team.
- She loved every ride and is looking forward to the flight.



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Woolpi Whisper

Club President
Rod Mackenzie
District Governor
Evan Burrell
Rotary International
President
Francesco Arezzo

Meetings each month
2nd & 4th Mondays
6-8pm Woolgoolga C. ex

PO Box 436, Woolgoolga NSW 2456
www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofwoolgoolga
woolgoolgarotaryclub.org.au
woolgoolgaheritagewalk.org

The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 15 11 May 2026

LAST MEETING : Monday 13 April



Rod and Bron gave us an overview of their Rotary Exchange trip to New Zealand. District 9930 is situated in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand with 46 clubs from Waipukarau in the south to Huntly in the north with over 1175 Rotarians. They visited five different clubs in 15 days: Hamilton – Waikato Sunrise, Havelock North, Lake Taupo, Papamoa, and Morrinsville

Waikato Sunrise has a vibrant and youthful membership of men and women. They raise funds by serving in the hospitality tents at local rugby games and other major events in the Waikato, along with the sale of tickets to Circus Quirkus – a human circus performed annually at Founders Theatre in Hamilton.

Havelock North Rotary Club works closely with the other nine Rotary clubs in the Hawkes Bay – Tairāwhiti region. This cooperation is called the Rotary South Pacific First Light Community Group

Club 3 – Lake Taupo



Lake Taupo Rotary is an amalgamation of the Rotary Clubs of Taupo, Taupo Moana, and Taupo Espresso and is a vibrant club or around 45 members. They hire out their Rotary House which is a versatile and flexible event venue for public meetings, community meetings, and theatre productions

Club 4 Papamoa –

Papamoa Rotary Club located in the fastest growing suburb of Tauranga, have a great relationship with the local Surf Life Saving Club and to date have raised funds to present them with a longboat and an ATV and has donated more than \$120,000 to community projects.

Club 5 Rotary club of Morrinsville

Nestled in the heart of the Waikato dairy producing region the Rotary



Club of Morrinsville was founded in 1945 and currently has over 40 members. In association with the Senior Citizens Club, they have secured a 30 year lease and naming rights for the building, “The Morrinsville Rotary Community Centre.”

Also at the last meeting **Chase Saban** gave us feedback on his RYLA leadership training course for the upcoming RYLA Camp (16–23 May at Yarra Adventure Park) . We look forward to hearing how he goes as a facilitator.

NEXT MEETING : Monday 11 May

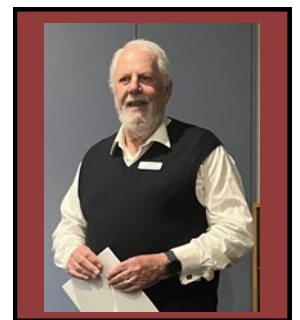


Pam and David Fayle will talk about their memorable Outback Tour with the Clarence Valley Orchestra and renowned soprano Mirusia. The Narrabri concert was organised with the help of Narrabri Rotary, and raised around \$8,000, half each to Rotary and CVO.



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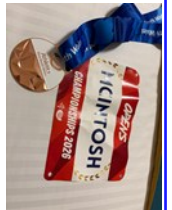
Anzac Day 25 April 2026

On Friday 25th April, seven of our members represented our Club at the 11am March and Service at the RSL War memorial. It was great to see so many people in the Community either participating or attending as supporters of this special day. Jenny Storum laid the wreath for our club



Update on our youngest member, Kyle, and his latest Running Achievements

In March Kyle ran the 1500 at State and won Bronze in 4:27.20 then later on he was invited to run at the Marie Plant in Melbourne a very prestigious race and Gold event on the World athletics calendar. He ran 4:23.22 a great time showing improvement in a tough race and rain. Friday 10th he ran at Nationals in Sydney 1500 and about 3 weeks later he flew to Melbourne for Run The Tan and then in May he's representing the Regional Australia in Darwin for the 1500. Then Cross Country started at the end of last month. Lots happening lots of travelling. Exciting times for him.



Update on our Outbounder 'Bella' in Brazil

Hi everyone,

I hope you're all doing well back home! Here's an update of some of the stuff I've been up to here in Brazil. School has been really interesting and different here, I still can't understand all of what's been happening in class but my friends have



been a big help in helping me understand what's going on. I have afternoon classes on Friday that go for about an hour, and students stay in one classroom while the teachers move around classes.

My Rotary has been amazing they are all so nice to talk to and welcoming, through rotary I've gotten to meet lots of amazing people. They have made a real effort to include me in meetings and events. Learning Portuguese has been the most difficult part so far during my exchange but it's really cool to see the progress I've made with understanding and speaking Portuguese. I can still not speak properly yet but I'm understanding, which I'm really happy with at the moment!

The food over here is amazing. I'm eating stuff that I never would have in Australia. Some of my favourite foods are pão de queijo which translates to cheese bread, rice and beans, that I would have never imagined me eating in Australia but here I eat it almost everyday as it's a very common dish here in Brazil, and pastel which is a pastry that's been deep fried and you can have what ever fillings you want. At meal times we always sit down at a table and talk about our days, which also helps me get better at practicing speaking Portuguese.

There are many cultural differences between Brazil and Australia. When greeting people here in Brazil you usually kiss on the cheek and hug, while in Australia I never did that around non family members. One thing you learn really quickly over here is that Brazilian's are always late, you are never there in time.

I've been in Brazil for about 3 months now and I'm still having the best time, it has been amazing meeting new people, getting used to a new language and environment. I am very thankful to Rotary for giving me this opportunity, and believing in me! .

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

- 16 May Pop-up at Marine Rescue Markets
- 29th June Changeover



International President **Francesco Arezzo**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles.

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	11 May Meeting	25th May Board + meeting	15 June Meeting	29th June Changeover
Reminders	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm
Welcome/Fellowship	Jenny W	Pam	Jenny S	Rod
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	Peter L	David F	Geoff	na
Vote of Thanks	Peter Mc	Alison	Bronwyn	na
Guest Speakers or Event	Pam & David Outback tour	tba	tba	na

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
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The Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 16 25 May 2026

NEXT MEETING : Monday 25 May inc Board Meeting 6pm for 6.15pm start

Our meeting will be an update on projects for the coming year and preparations for the Changeover on 29 June. Also feedback on the Neighbourhood Centre's 30th Birthday display, last Saturday, showcasing local Community Groups. Feedback also on how the volunteers went helping out at the Outrigger Day in Coffs Harbour, on Friday 16th.

LAST MEETING : Monday 11 May

Pam and David Fayle gave a presentation about their memorable Outback Tour with the Clarence Valley Orchestra and renowned soprano Mirusia. The Narrabri concert was organised with the help of Narrabri Rotary, and raised around \$8,000, half each to Rotary and CVO.

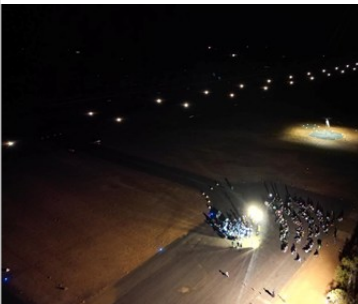


At the end, the outstanding audience was standing as one (as at the other four venues). The touring group was treated to a very classy and most delicious treat by the Narrabri Rotarians: gourmet pizzas from their own pizza oven, both before and after the gig! Thank you Narrabri Rotary! Worth consideration for larger clubs in our region, eg for future Outrigger National Carnivals?



At Lightning Ridge the concert was after sunset on the tarmac at Lightning Ridge Airport, and raised \$5,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. [Drone photo]

The tour was enriched greatly by Peter Smith, whose experience and network of contacts throughout the region was extraordinary. Peter's notable career was shaped by the Rotary Group Studies Exchange he went on when young. Peter says the 1996 GSE was "absolutely a life-changing experience which opened doors to take a brass band to England and France."



We were treated to videos of Mirusia singing Je Veux Vivre at Narrabri and captaining paddleboat Japara near Bourke; and at Lightning Ridge a Medevac training flight landing during a number; and Danny Boy played with just faux miners' headlamps on, in memory of those who died mining.



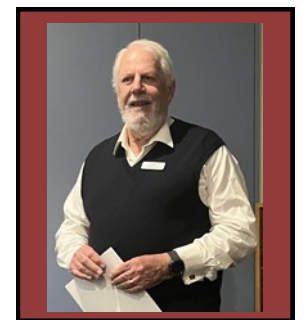
At left: War memorial in Broken Hill.

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POP-UP Stall at Marine Markets

It was a beautiful, sunny day for the last Pop-Up Stall at the May Marine Markets. Thank you to Rod, Bron, Peter Mc, Michelle, Kyle and Jenny who are always volunteering to set up and run the stall each month. Although the profit from these stalls is minimal for the amount of hours spent there, it is a reminder to the Community that Rotary is still active in Woolgoolga. The profit this month came from the 100's board and the small Mothers' Day raffle. Let's hope the weather is as kind next month for the 13 June Markets.



Update on our Outbounder 'Bella' in Brazil

Izabella Van Der Merwe 12/4/26



This month had definitely been the busiest month yet. At the start of the month, I went kayaking and zip-lining, which was amazing, the scenery was so pretty. I also went to the circus, it was different from the circus's I've seen in Australia but was still cool to see.

My third host family took me with them to the beach, they are also hosting an Australian exchange student named Hayley, which was nice to go with them. It took us about six hours to drive there, it's also one of the closest beaches from my city which is kinda crazy to think about cause back home I'm a 2 minute drive from the beach. Me and Hayley also made ANZAC biscuits on ANZAC day for our host families, everyone really liked them, my host mum's mother-in-law even asked me for the recipe which was nice to share the recipe.

One of the biggest highlights was going to Foz do Iguaçu with my host family, we went on the giant Ferris wheel, and the view was amazing, you could see Argentina and Paraguay from the top which is so cool because in Australia were not close enough to actually see another country. We also watched a show where people performed the traditional dances from Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil. We even walked from Brazil into Paraguay and got to go shopping in Paraguay, we were meant to go to Argentina after, but we didn't have enough time to go.



This month has been amazing, but I can't wait to go on my Amazon trip next month!

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June

- ☑ Reconciliation involves action by everyone
 - ☑ Recognises the dates of the 1967 Referendum and the Mabo decision
- National Sorry Day (26 May) and Mabo Day (3 June)



We as Rotarians acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

DATES FOR ROTARY Diary

Wednesday Jun 17, 2026 Coffs H Rotary Changeover

Sat June 27th - District 9660 Changeover Dinner

29th June Woolgoolga Changeover



International President **Francesco Arezzo**, is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa in Sicily, Arezzo has been part of Rotary for more than three decades. He has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, RI director, and chair of the 2023 International Convention Committee for Melbourne, among other leadership roles.

MEETING DUTY ROSTER Please swap nights if you cannot attend

Date	25th May Board + meeting	15 June Meeting	29th June Changeover	6 July Meeting
Reminders	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm	Order Meal by 6pm
Welcome/Fellowship	Pam	Jenny S	Rod	Peter L
Introduce Guest Speaker/s	David F	Geoff	na	Peter Mac
Vote of Thanks	Alison	Bronwyn	na	David E
Guest Speakers or Event	tba	tba	na	tba

PROJECTS

- ◆ DV Safe Phone
- ◆ World War 1 Restoration and Relocation Project (joint with RSL sub-branch)
- ◆ Pop-up shop selling high quality clothing
- ◆ Pride in Workmanship awards
- ◆ Youth Exchange Program
- ◆ Parkinson Support Group
- ◆ Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre

Agenda for Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 28 Jul 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies:

1 Issues arising from the Minutes of the 9 Jun Board discussion and meeting.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 28 Jul:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 142.15	02117253 (Project)	\$ 6,881.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 8,155.43	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,865.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 22,995.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,265.84
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,398.76

Interest on both term deposits is 4.55% per annum paid monthly on 25th.

DF noticed on 28 Jul that the monthly interest payments were missing from both term deposit accounts and has confirmed with BCU that something is amiss. The TD team will contact DF when they have ascertained the problem.

3 **Outstanding donation:** A\$200 donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes (approved last meeting). **Action:** GR to initiate payment.

4 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre:** RM has taken on the Presidency of the Woolgoolga Seniors Centre, with Bronwyn Mackenzie assisting on their committee.

5 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program:** Richie Goddard (Area 4 Rotary Community Leader) has a potential Woolgoolga candidate he would like us to consider for RYLA. RM has asked for more information on the candidate. 4–11 October at Yarra Adventure Park. Closing date 5 September.

6 **Domestic Violence/purple t-shirt project:** initiated by Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond and covered in a recent article in Jul/Aug Rotary Down Under magazine p27. RM suggested that the Domestic Violence Zone 8 initiative appears to fit in well with our DV Phone project but it's unclear what resources and time it may entail. Contact is President Rob (Chilly) Chilman
rotaryclubofballinaonrichmond.org.au/rotary-zone-8/#sthash.zzeJL3J1.dpbs

7 **Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.** 6 further collection boxes have been purchased – 5 for Coffs City Rotary that include Toormina and Yarrila Place libraries, and one for us, for Woolgoolga Library. Mayor Nikki Williams has given her support to deploying them in the three libraries. We have a batch ready to post.

8 **Rotary corflute backboards for DV phone collection boxes.** 8 of these are needed – 3 with Woolgoolga Rotary and 5 with Coffs City. **Action:** DF to order these from Signs Express.

9 **New Outbounder for Youth Exchange Program (YEP):** Izabella (Bella) Van Der Mewer (Merwe?) lives with her father, Dewald, mother Judi, brother and grandmother on their property in Woolgoolga. The Club had confirmed our sponsorship in principle of an Outbound student. Bella has been selected to be an Outbound Youth Exchange Program student in 2026 by the D9660 YEP Committee. Bella will be going to Brazil where our current Outbound student Aliyah is now. Bronwyn Mackenzie and RM had high recommendations from the D9660 YEP Committee but wanted to

confirm their opinions, and have done so. Bella and parents attended our Pride of Workmanship Awards and are also attending this evening's meeting.

10 **Memorials Projects:** update (BB)

11 **Woolgoolga CWA** [RM].

12 **D9660 Public Speaking Competition:** (no information on this found)

13 Missing **Rotary presidential chain.** GR was wearing this at handover to Pam Stone, but it was not used in the small abnormal changeover, held at the auction shed, to Julie Marshall. Julie confirms that she never received it, and it has been missing ever since. Perhaps it was taken to a jeweller for updating and never collected? DF has emailed Pam Stone asking her to check at home.

14 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop.** Update.

15 **Induction of new member Andrew J Pryor.** Postponed again at Andrew's request.

16 Other business.

Agenda for Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 25 Aug 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: Bob Breen

1 Issues arising from the Minutes of the 28 Jul Board discussion and meeting.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 22 Aug:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 127.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 6,529.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 5,360.37	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,513.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 22,995.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,265.84
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,398.76

Interest on both term deposits is 4.55% per annum, and is supposed to be paid monthly on 25th.

DF noticed on 28 Jul that the monthly interest payments were missing from both term deposit accounts. BCU local Branch Manager Carly Angela ascertained that the missing monthly interest payments since the start of our two Rotary term deposits will be "remediated" and will appear with the next monthly payments – this should have happened today, 25 Aug.

3 **Outstanding donation:** A\$200 donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes. **Action:** GR to initiate payment. RM suggested transferring the money through the Post Office via Western Union.

4 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. On 21 Aug, Rachael Kelleher, RSE's Central Coast / Hunter and Regional NSW Program Coordinator, phoned DF to advise that RSE (Road Safety Education Ltd) had negotiated with Woolgoolga, Dorrigo and Orara High Schools to run RYDA at Wiigulga. She has asked us to advise on any local Rotarians and/or volunteers who may be able to assist, and specifically about the availability of the two facilitators for the Speed & Stopping session. DF's personal commitments for November will not be firmed for some time yet; Rachael has been advised accordingly.

Another development relevant to our ongoing involvement in RYDA is that Transport for NSW on 4 Aug opened the Community Road Safety Grants program 2025 (round 11) for applications, which close at 4pm on 15 Sep 2025. To the best of DF's knowledge, Rotary Clubs remain excluded from eligibility for support to run RYDA, and DF has not yet tackled the challenge of getting the NSW Government to fix its flawed policy that causes our ineligibility. The timeframe is tight, and the radical change in the timing of RYDA raises a question about just what we could apply for to support a 2026 RYDA.

Rachael also mentioned possible involvement of another Coffs Harbour school and Bellingen High. DF pointed out the logistic problem that the Board Room cannot take group sizes a lot larger than in previous RYDAs. The tables will need to be removed anyway, as Orara plans to bring 70 students. DF enquired whether RSE intended paying for Wiigulga and the Dorrigo bus (which he pointed out doubles as a shuttle bus). DF also mentioned the disappearance of Subway and the question of Wiigulga catering. Note that WHS canteen catered for the S&E Challenge; however, in earlier years they would not have been able to handle RYDA due to lack of volunteers.

- 5 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program**, 4–11 October at Yarrahappini Adventure Park. After a personal interview with five members present, Board has agreed out of session to support Chase Saban up to the full amount needed (\$1450 which includes all board and all activities), and RM has requested Chase’s employer Caringa Australia to consider contributing to that sponsorship.
- 6 **Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.**

Placement of boxes in Woolgoolga , Toormina and Yarrila Place libraries. Although Mayor Nikki Williams has given her support to deploying them in the three libraries, an adverse Council Workplace Health and Safety report has rejected the idea on spurious grounds. Paul McKeon of Coffs City Rotary and DF are gathering facts to counter the adverse report, including the fact that there are already collection boxes in 20 NSW libraries and 21 in libraries in other States. DV Safe Phone says: “Libraries are actually very good collection points for us, so any additional libraries we can get would be fantastic.”

DF packed and posted a batch of 32 phones and a Blackberry on 18 Aug. The corflute backboard has been placed on the Seaview collection box. AR and DF submitted an article promoting the collection boxes for the Sep Woopi News issue. Publicity photos of a DV collection box and donated phone batch were sent to Woopi News and DV Safe Phone.
- 7 **Shed upgrade:** on 21 Aug an additional reimbursement of \$1449.20 was made to Jason Farr, Home + Yard, for part of the expenditure on the upgrades to the shed: Hardiflex cladding, timber, moulding, nails, and Solarsmart Reflect PC to replace two Alsynite roof panels.
- 8 **Secretary handover:** DF and AR discussed the possibility of swapping Secretary and Assistant Secretary positions at the beginning of 2026. The discussion also touched on what could be done in the vacant International Director position.
- 9 **CWA viability:** RM to report on CWA’s medium– and long–term viability, including discussions with CWA President Trish Stabback.
- 10 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre:** RM to report on progress.
- 11 **New Outbounder for Youth Exchange Program (YEP):** Izabella (Bella) Van Der Merwe.
- 12 **Memorials Projects:** update (RM)
- 13 Missing **Rotary presidential chain.**
- 14 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop.** Update.
- 15 **Induction of new member Andrew J Pryor.** Monday 8 Sep.
- 16 Sponsorship Request for our Presentation Assemblies
- 17 Other business.

Agenda for Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 22 Sep 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: Bob Breen

1 Issues arising from the Minutes of the 25 Aug Board discussion and meeting.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 19 Sep:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 1,109.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 5,589.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 6,810.37	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,513.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 18,655.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,423.86
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,635.81

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, and to be paid monthly on 25th.

BCU has deposited the missing interest payments with the 25 Aug maturation payment, and DF has checked that they have done this correctly. The expected 25 Sep interest payment should appear in each TD – this needs checking.

3 **Outstanding donation:** A\$200 donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes. **Action:** GR to initiate payment. RM suggested transferring the money through the Post Office via Western Union.

4 Sponsorship Requests for school Presentation Assemblies. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools, but no payments have yet been made.

5 **Proposed District Grant Application, for Parkinson's Disease Support Group.** RM proposes the submission of an application for a District Grant, due 25 Oct. See Addendum.

A necessary precursor to submitting an application is to identifying a member willing to manage the Project, though the expectation is that this burden is likely to be relatively light.

To be eligible to apply, we need to **complete the expenditure and submit our final report for the DV Phone project** by that date. This constrains the period available for eliciting further interest in funded phone collection boxes, intended by way of publicity of our offer to fund boxes, in the Sep District Newsletter. Unfortunately the Editor neglected to include the article, and DG Evan Burrell declined to allow a Supplement to be circulated to members, but promised to post the offer on the D9660 and his personal Facebook sites. The response is likely to be very small, as Rotarians must join up to see anything on the D9660 site, and there is a lag time before approval, so nobody not already joined up will see this post. As of 5pm 19 Sep, the item had not been posted.

6 Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.

5.1 The idea of publicising the availability of funded phone collection boxes using the District Newsletter has foundered [see Item 4], so the likelihood is that we will need to expend remaining grant funds by way of two payments to DV Safe Phone to assist with phone refurbishment. The shortfall in expenditure from club funds will need to be paid from the Project Account, so that the total club contribution is \$800. The remaining funds from the Grant Account will also need to be paid to DV Safe Phone.

5.2 No progress has been reported by Paul McKeon (Coffs City Rotary) on efforts to get approval to place phone collection boxes in Woolgoolga, Toormina and Yarrilla Place

libraries. It is likely that an alternative location for the Woolgoolga Library box will need to be identified.

- 7 Apparently the Club has agreed to host the **Men's Health Educational Rural Van (MHERV)** 13–14 Oct 2025 (Mon/Tue). The Member(s) Coordinating the Visit and the accommodation arrangements (including organisation and funding of same) need to be decided. The Club's expenditure needs to be documented.
- 8 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. Rachael Kelleher, of RSE (Road Safety Education Ltd), advised that all Facilitators had now been locked into place for this RYDA Day, which RSE is running. No extra schools are to be added. We have declined a request to cater via sausage sizzle.

The Community Road Safety Grants program 2025 (round 11) has already closed for applications, so this option for supporting a RYDA next year is not available for a March event, even if the flawed Government policy could be changed.
- 9 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program**, 4–11 October at Yarrahappini Adventure Park. Caringa Australia declined to contribute to sponsorship of Chase Saban's attendance, meaning that the Club will cover the cost (\$1450 which includes all board and all activities).
- 10 **Rotary Showcase** – Country to the Coast [AR]
Celebration of Rotary energy and creativity at the District Showcase in Coffs Harbour, 21–23 November 2025. Register here <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1451176>

If participation is contemplated, a member will need to volunteer to organise any display plus coordinate people to staff it.
- 11 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre**: RM to report on progress.
- 12 **Memorials Projects**: update (CC or RM)
- 13 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop**. Update.
- 14 **Status of new member Jenny Storum**.
- 15 Tonight's general meeting: Izabella van der Merwe and her family and Tyler Knight, Aliyah Knight's father are coming to the meeting tonight. Also invited is Chase Saban, our RYLA participant.
- 16 Marine Rescue 60th anniversary request for support.
- 17 Other business.

ADDENDUM

Request for funding by Woopi Parkinson's Support Group

From: Wendy McCallum <wenmccallum@gmail.com>

Date: 6/9/25 12:06 pm (GMT+10:00)

To: rotarywoolgoolga@gmail.com

Subject: Woopi Parkinson's Support Group

WOOPI PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Phone: 0410056730 Team Leader Email: wenmccallum@gmail.com

The Secretary Attn: Rod MacKenzie
Rotary Club of Woolgoolga
rotarywoolgoolga@gmail.com

Request for Support – Sponsorship for Woopi Parkinson's Group

My name is Wendy McCallum and I am writing to you not only as a local community member, but also as someone living with Parkinson's Disease.

As you may know, Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition that currently has no cure. It affects movement, speech, and many aspects of daily life and the number of Australians and world wide diagnosed each year continues to grow.

It was not until I found I was no longer able to drive, that there was very little support in the Woolgoolga area for people living with Parkinson's, as everything is in Coffs Harbour and you suddenly become very dependent on family, friends and neighbours.

Some months ago I decided to try and form a Woopi Parkinson's Support Group with the assistance of Vince Carroll (Coffs Harbour Parkinson's Nurse) . At our first meeting I was expecting about 5 people. Over 35 folk turned up and this number continues to grow as more are diagnosed.

It was discovered that many are like myself ,wishing to find out more about Parkinson's and where we could get the required help and information without having to travel to Coffs Harbour.

We formed a small committee and on the 4th Wednesday of each month we hold a meeting and invite speakers to advise members and their Carers on where and how we can receive the vital information to navigate this terrible disease.

Up until recently we were fortunate to have sponsors to cover the costs of our monthly meetings (The cost is the hire of a room \$50 per month for 2 hours at the Senior Citizens Centre). Unfortunately this support is no longer available.

Rather than discontinue this much needed group, we are asking for sponsor or sponsors to assist us with the costs of the hire of the room (Total Cost of the hire of the room is \$500 per year) and this would be paid directly by the sponsor to the Senior Citizens Centre Woolgoolga.

The Woopi Parkinson's Support Group would be extremely grateful if your Club would consider supporting us in any way possible to enable us to continue bringing speakers and those living with Parkinson's together in the Woolgoolga Area.

Thank you so much for the work you already do in our community—and for considering this cause that is so close to my heart.

Warm regards,

Wendy McCallum

Agenda for Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 27 Oct 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: Bob Breen

1 Issues arising from the Minutes of the 22 Sep Board discussion and meeting.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 23 Oct:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 1,002.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 3,612.45
02117254 (General)	\$ 5,082.60	02117256 (Grant)	\$ zero
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 19,095.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,453.19
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,679.81

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, and to be paid monthly on 25th.

The Sep interest payments were made into both TDs on 24 Sep.

3 Sponsorship Requests for **school Presentation Assemblies**. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools, but no payments have yet been made.

Representation at the ceremonies also needs attention.

4 **Induction of new member Jenny Storum** follows at tonight's General Meeting.

5 **Grant Project Completed: Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.**

The Final Report was accepted on 21 Oct. Key information from the Final Report:

Directly benefitting were 14 Rotary, Rotaract or Satellite Clubs that received 1 or more \$85 phone collection boxes, 29 boxes in all, in 15 geographic locations: in D9660, Belmont, Morrisset, Narrabri (4, for Wee Waa, Boggabri and Narrabri), Port Macquarie, Wee Waa [Rotaract], Wellington, Kempsey West, Nambucca Valley, Warners Bay (5), Bourke, Coffs Harbour (9), and Woolgoolga Library [*note -approval recently granted, due to the efforts of Coffs Harbour City Rotary*]. Outside of D9660, boxes were provided to Byron Bay (D9640) and Corowa (D9740). When all boxes are deployed, there will be **29 new locations where people may donate phones**.

DV Safe Phone has already received many phones collected by some of these boxes. They also directly benefit from our **\$1,968 donation towards phone refurbishment**, which averages \$75 per phone, so **about 26 phones**.

Indirect beneficiaries are of course those who receive a phone, which may be the difference between life and death, or good health instead of physical and/or mental ruination.

	Acquittal	Receipts	Expenditure
Collection boxes			\$2,465.00
Backing panels for boxes			\$550.00
Postage and packing of donated phones			\$117.75
Donation toward phone refurbishment			\$1,968.25
SUBTOTAL			\$5,101.00
D9660 Grant funding		\$4,250.00	
Club funding		\$850.00	
Public donation		\$1.00	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$5,101.00	

6 **District Grant Application submitted, Rotary and the Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre Unite for Good.** The application compiled by RM was submitted 22 Oct 2025.

Budget Income Items

DDF Funds	\$3,500.00
Woolgoolga Club Funding	\$750.00
Activities and Donations	\$500.00
Income Total:	\$4,750.00

Budget Expense Items

Parkinsons Group Support and Activities	\$2,000.00
Knit with Love wool supply	\$200.00
Exercise and Activity Equipment	\$500.00
Education, Seminars and Information Sessions	\$900.00
Bus transport, Excursions and Activities	\$500.00
Stationary, Newsletters, Miscellaneous	\$150.00
Social and Support Groups Functions	\$500.00
Expenses Total:	\$4,750.00

- 7 **Rotary Showcase** – Country to the Coast [AR]
Celebration of Rotary energy and creativity at the District Showcase in Coffs Harbour, 21–23 November 2025. PF has agreed to help judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition to be held at the Showcase. **The extent and form of any additional participation** needs to be resolved today, to allow sufficient time to organise.
- 8 **AGM and Xmas Party** date and arrangements.
- 9 **For the record: the Men’s Health Educational Rural Van (MHERV)** 13–14 Oct 2025 identified 30 people needing follow-up. The report from Michelle McIntosh is attached as an Addendum.
- 10 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025.
We will need to ascertain which club members are available to be a Group Monitor.
- 11 **Memorials Projects:** update (CC). Some background is attached in the Addendum. It is worth reiterating that our Club has resolved not to take a view on the location of the reconstructed WWI Memorial, but to leave it to each member to answer the Council survey, which offers 3 options plus a place where an alternate option could be entered. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the Addendum, Option 1 is the one preferred by CC and the others detailed in paragraph 2.

RM was invited to a meeting held last Fri 24 Oct convened by Allan Rutherford, an ex-Serviceman who has been very helpful to the reinstatement of the Memorial (for which the team is most grateful) but who is not a Project Team nor Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch Member. CC was away and unable to attend.

A second meeting will be held tomorrow at 11.00 am (Tue 29 Oct 25) – see Addendum.
- 12 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop.** Update.
- 13 The death is noted of **Geoff Morrow**, key member of our Heritage Walk team. His funeral is 11:30am this Wed 29 Oct at Hogbin Drive Crematorium.
- 14 Other business.

/Addenda

ADDENDUM : MHERV VAN REPORT by Michelle McIntosh

Firstly I'd like to thank Alison, Peter .Andrew, Christopher and Jenny for volunteering to assist at the van as well as Rod and Browyn for coming on Tuesday to assist and David for bringing the DV phone box which now stays with the van.

Nurse Richelle was amazing and kept stats on the people that came.

Day 1 Monday there were 16 males and 16 females 32 altogether

Category 1: Normal 16

Category 2: Needing follow up 16

Day 2 Tuesday 12 males and 5 females 17 altogether

Category 1: 3 Normal

Category 2: 14 Needing follow up

Everyone that Alison and I handed out the flyers to were very obliging and said they were happy it was coming and a great idea for the community. I would like to acknowledge the following places: Diggers they even put flyers on the tables and it was announced over the microphone for 2 days while people were in the club , CEX club, BCU, Post Office , Butcher in Arcade Dobbs and Co , the Library ,the Seniors Centre, put one on the wall near NAB the Lotto shop said yes unfortunately not enough room.


Someone gave a donation . Which is great

A discussion came up about moving the van to a place with more foot traffic as Richelle said the van relies on that a great deal. However that can be looked at another time BECAUSE Christmas is not far away it is already in the shops and we are getting ready for another raffle So....

If you wouldn't mind when shopping, put an extra tin of fruit etc , or small puddings ,biscuits , cards, anything like that into your shopping basket. Crazy Sams has heaps of Christmas tinsel trees, cards, bags ,ribbon and at good prices.

I've included the MERHV article from the local paper if you didn't get a chance to read it before.

MHERV's in Woopii ^{10/10/25}
News of the Area.



By Andrea FERRARI

SAVING local lives is the objective of the Rotary Men's Health Education Rural Van (MHERV), which is back on the Coffs Coast.

It will visit Woolgoolga on Monday and Tuesday, 13-14 October, between 9.30am - 4.15pm.

The van will be situated in The Diggers carpark with a Registered Nurse in attendance.

The nurse will conduct a checkup on blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes and advise participants of their results, Woolgoolga Rotary's MHERV Project Manager Michelle McIntosh told News

Of The Area.

"The MHERV van is a vital initiative for regional areas as it provides a free service that only takes five minutes [and which] can identify symptoms like high blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol, which don't always present themselves.

"I encourage everyone to attend as it may just save a life," she said.

The MHERV project has been operating for eight years, travelling around regional and rural NSW offering free health checkups to people who may not have seen their doctor in years.

Without checkups, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels may have reached seriously high levels.

Since starting in August 2017, 10,237 people have been tested - 436 men were in immediate danger, mostly because their blood pressure was through the roof.

"They were recommended to seek medical help right away," Ms McIntosh said.

Last year more people dropped into the MHERV than expected, including women.

"All were welcomed for the check to see if anything health-wise required further investigation."

The service is offered in a relaxed, confidential and informal setting

ADDENDUM : WWI MEMORIAL LOCATION by Christopher Chayko

Rev David Hanger has kindly set up a Meeting at the Beach Reserve with Sam Newman and other interested parties at 11.00 am on Tue 29 Oct 25, when I will be able to be present. I had previously agreed to meet Sam but then declined when the RSL sub-Branch was accused of deciding the outcome of the reinstatement and its location as 'a small select group'. That was/is untrue, as the Project, and indeed the reinstatement at the preferred Beach Reserve site 'facing the dawn', have both been consultative and heavily publicised in the Woopi News, on social media and via direct mailings and the Mayor's office for well over a year. That precise proposal was taken to Council on 24 Jul 25. The overwhelming feedback from respondents has been in favour of the location facing the beach. As such, I was content to let the Community Consultation determine the outcome, but with the RSL sub-Branch continuing to advocate our preference. Then, Allan got involved and 'we are where we are'. I have asked Allan to postpone the Friday Meeting until next Tuesday and am awaiting a response.

Nevertheless, and to inform Rotary Members' views, the unanimous position of the RSL sub-Branch's 70 ex-Service Members, as well as all ex-Service folk who are not Members with whom we have contact, is that the original 1923 Memorial should be reinstated central to the Beach Reserve 'facing the dawn' and in view of the beach. Our reasons are:

- The Memorial, commemorating over 100,000 Australian Great and Second War Dead including 17 named from Woolgoolga and District, warrants a most prominent location and should not be hidden away. The site facing the beach has the advantages of a 'heritage connection' to ANZAC Cove; and the opportunity for surfboats to honour the Landings in full view of ANZAC Dawn Services. No other site provides these advantages.
- As there is already a light at the site – power is available with minor electrical works required; a flagpole could be installed as part of the Project; there is sufficient flat ground to accommodate thousands of Dawn Service attendees back to Beach Street without any requirement to move or turn during the Service; and the risk of inundation or erosion – negligible to nil and of the same risk to all Beach Reserve structures – could be addressed in construction. These are 'objections' that have been raised, all of which have been addressed as per this paragraph.

Although alternatives have been proposed, and everyone is entitled to a point of view, most of these have been unworkable. In particular, Woolgoolga Headland is: too unprotected; too steep to access easily on foot; not level enough for Commemorations at scale; and has insufficient parking and no toilets. Returning the Memorial to the Diggers Club site would not work either. There is already a Memorial there that will be modernised to reflect Service since 1946; the car park is not a respectful place; and there is no room at the old location beside Beach Street. Outside Bluebottles on Beach Street is too small for Commemorations at scale and would require expensive and inconvenient road closures. The swimming pool site is not respectful, facing the back of the surf club, and has insufficient level ground for large Commemorations. The most recent alternative proposed, on the Reserve but behind trees and not in view of the beach, defeats the heritage connection to ANZAC Cove.

(continued)

All RSL sub-Branch Members and, although gained from an on-line Survey and social media feedback, over 400 supporters believe that the reinstatement of the Woolgoolga and District Great War Memorial, central to the Beach Reserve and facing the dawn in sight of the beach, is the optimum and most respectful outcome for the Project. All of those folk have been requested to 'vote' accordingly, and for **Option 1**, in response to the Council Consultation.

EARLIER, Christopher reported:

Following his return from leave on 18 Aug 25 the Project contacted Steve Bayliss, Director of Business Services Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC), to enquire about participation in the CHCC Consultation in respect of the Reinstatement of the Great War Memorial. Mr Bayliss responded, by email, on 2 Sep 25:

'Planning for community engagement is underway with consultation expected to commence later in September. A report will then be prepared for Council's consideration. We'll be in touch ahead of the consultation to ensure you and other key stakeholders have ample time to prepare a response. We've compiled a list of stakeholders and community groups to contact directly. Could you supply your contacts, particularly any groups involved in past ANZAC Day marches, so we can ensure everyone is included and has an opportunity to contribute to the consultation.'

In reply, Mr Bayliss was provided with a list of contacts including Woolgoolga Chamber of Commerce, Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club, Woolgoolga Lions Club, Woolgoolga Red Cross and Woolgoolga Legacy Chapter, all of which have indicated organisational support for the Reinstatement at the site on the Beach Reserve, unanimously proposed by RSL sub-Branch Veterans. Once further advice is received from Mr Bayliss I'll pass that on. Note that the Reinstatement is not yet listed on Council's 'Have Your Say' portal. I'll provide a separate reply to the Flooding Report issue.

Agenda for Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 24 Nov 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 5:00 pm

Apologies: Bob Breen, David Edwards

1 Issues arising from the Minutes of the 27 Oct Board discussion and meeting.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 21 Nov:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 765.15	02117253 (Project)	\$ 3,625.20
02117254 (General)	\$ 6,122.60	02117256 (Grant)	\$ zero
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 19,095.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,402.63
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Jan 2026)			\$ 8,481.68
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Jan 2026)			\$ 12,722.54

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, paid monthly on 25th.

3 Sponsorship Requests for **school Presentation Assemblies**. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools; payments were made to two schools on 8 Nov.

Peter Lacy represented us at Woolgoolga High's event, AR will attend Mullaway's, and MB Woolgoolga Public's.

4 **Rotary Showcase** [report from AR] – Country to the Coast 21–23 November 2025.

5 **District Grant Application, Rotary and the Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre Unite for Good**. Outcome announced at Showcase.

6 **AGM and Xmas Party** 6pm on Monday 8 Dec, at Woolgoolga Community Gardens. Update.

7 **RYDA Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. Report from CC.

8 **Memorials Projects**: update (CC).

9 **Christmas Raffle, Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop**. Update.

10 We welcomed **new member Jenny Storum**, inducted on 27 Oct.

11 Other business.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Start Time: 6:15 pm

1. Welcome & Opening

Acknowledgement of Country: 'We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gumbayngirr people. We pay our respects to elder's past, present and emerging'.

- Apologies: David Edwards, Christopher Chayko, Rod Mackenzie
- Confirm quorum: 5 required, _____ attending, quorum met/not met

2. Minutes & Actions

- Approve November 2025 Meeting Minutes:
Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed
- Review old business action items and progress:
 - Treasurer's Annual Return – Geoff was to determine what D9660 requires.

3. Governance & Compliance - Treasurer's report (account balances, etc.)

Treasurer: Bank balances as of (17/2/26):		See below	
Account - BCU	Balance	Account	Balance
Debit Card 02117252	\$245.15	Project 02117253	\$3,326.40
General 02117254	\$6,391.02	Grant 02117256	\$3,500.00
SEC 02117257	\$26,595.51	Pop-up Shop 02133292	\$8,399.05
Term Deposit 242113114 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$8,569.63	Term Deposit 242113121 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$12,854.47
NAB	\$0.0	As of 12/1/2026 + 5 weeks account will be closed	
Member Fees:			
Payments/Donations:			

Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed

- Membership summary: 17 members, 4 Honorary
- Compliance updates (insurance renewals): Geoff

4. Finance & Fundraising

- Market Update – Bronwyn Mackenzie: No report – no dates set.
- Xmas Raffle Summary – Michelle
- District Grant Status – Geoff
- Budget adjustments (if needed) – Discussion

5. Operational Updates

- President's monthly report - Kim VP:
 - District Conference, Newcastle 20-21 March, volunteers needed
 - City of Coffs Harbour (CoCC) will be holding an evening event on March 10 to discuss major issues affecting Coffs. Will be held at the Bunker Cartoon Gallery, 5:30 pm. Food and drink will be provided. Bookings required on Eventbrite.
 - Rotary's Education Support Officer is looking for carer's feedback.
 - May 16 is Rotary Service Day. Coordinate existing activity for that day and register event on-line.

- Secretary's monthly report – Alison:
 - Annual Report submitted by David Fayle to NSW Fair Trade (Form A12-2), paid \$57.
 - International Women's Day – 6th March
 - New schedule sent out for updates, revised version attached.
 - RYPEN -Rotary Youth Leadership Program of Enrichment, school years 7-12, ages 13-17, online information available.
 - Bob Breen has terminated membership.

- Activity reports:
 - District Grant – Parkinson's and Senior Centre – Rod: no report.
 - Science and Engineering Challenge – Mary
 - Rymarine – Mary
 - Youth Exchange Program – Bronwyn: no report.
 - War Memorial Siting – Christopher Chayko (submitted on-line):
 - Members may know that the RSL sub-Branch/Rotary Project to Reinstate the Woolgoolga and District Great War Memorial, central to the Beach Reserve, was conditionally approved by Coffs Harbour City Council at its Meeting in December 2025. Most unfortunately, the Project has stalled (slightly) as the gentleman holding the Memorial stones (rocks only, not plaques) refuses to surrender them to the Community and the Project. He was a willing supporter at the Project relaunch in 2023. Advice (including legal advice) has been sought from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs and NSW Office of Veterans Affairs on how the Project should proceed and deal with the gentleman - and is awaited. In the very worst case, a near exact replica to which the plaques can be fixed, that may be cheaper and more durable than a reinstatement, may have to be considered. In that case, fresh Council approval will be required.
 - DV Phone Program – David Fayle
 - RYDA Volunteers – David Fayle
 - Anzac Day – Christopher Chayko: no report.
 - MHERV – Michelle
 - Pride of Workmanship – Proposed by Bob Breen prior to resignation from Rotary (submitted on-line):

The Dick Matthews Pride of Workmanship Award Ceremony has been scheduled for Friday, 19 June, at Wiigulga Centre (same format). The proposed schedule for 2026 proposed as follows:

- Opportunity to nominate recipients in the April Edition of Woopi News and other media. Nominations submitted by 15 April.
 - Consideration of nominations, finalisation of recipients (upper limit of 10), and preparation of publicity for the presentation night by 30 April. Articles, photos and announcements of recipients ready for the June edition of Woopi News by 15 May. Plaques and certificates organised and received by the first week of June.
 - The June edition of Woopi News announces the recipients (photos of recipients and employer representatives, along with testimonials) and invites the Northern Beaches community to attend the presentation night on Friday, 19 June, at Wiigulga Centre. Hopefully, Gurmesh Singh will be available to present plaques and certificates (parliament is not sitting).
- Government Grants – Pam Faye: no report.
 - RYLA – Alison Ratliff:
Applications close on 16 April. Event will be held on 16-23 May at the Yarra Adventure Park, Grassy Head, NSW. Chase Saban (our participant last year) is returning in a Leadership role.
 - AGM Meeting – Alison: No activity until November.
 - School EOY Presentations - Rod: No activity until November.
 - Meeting Speakers – Mary (coordinator):
From Alison Ratliff: Rotary’s March Theme is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. If the group is interested, I can do a presentation on water, sewer and stormwater inspection technologies to improve system performance and extend the service life of these systems.
 - Working With Children Updates – Alison:
 - Update with NSW Office of Children’s Guardian has been updated with Alison’s contact information.
 - WWC update – Kyle updated and confirmed; David Edwards due next.

6. Review Schedule for Upcoming Deadlines

- Schedule provided to all with the meeting agenda. Changes should notify Alison.

7. Policies & Procedures - Approvals for new or updated policies: none identified.

8. Board Development - Training needs or governance workshops:

- Secretary – 19 February on-line training scheduled.

9. New Business

- Items raised by board members,
- Community feedback or stakeholder issues,
- Any urgent matters not covered elsewhere.

10. Meeting Close

- Summary of new action items,
- Confirm next meeting date: Meeting – March 9, BOD March 23.

Agenda Accepted: Kim Thompson (online approval) Date: 18/2/2026

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 23, 2026

Start Time: 6:15 pm

1. Welcome & Opening

Acknowledgement of Country: 'We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people. We pay our respects to elder's past, present and emerging'.

- Apologies:
- Confirm quorum: 5 required, _____ attending, quorum met/not met

2. Minutes & Actions

- Approve February 2025 Meeting Minutes:
Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed
- Review old business action items and progress:
 - None identified

3. Governance & Compliance - Treasurer's report (account balances, etc.)

Treasurer: Bank balances as of (26):		See below	
Account - BCU	Balance	Account	Balance
Debit Card 02117252	\$445.15	Project 02117253	\$3,356.40
General 02117254	\$7,371.02	Grant 02117256	\$3,500.00
SEC 02117257	\$30,251.91	Pop-up Shop 02133292	\$6,687.55
Term Deposit 242113114 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$8,599.11	Term Deposit 242113121 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$12,898.68

Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed

Member Fees:
Payments/Donations: David F: Motion to donate \$100 each to Eisteddford instrumental and choral. Moved: DF Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed Alison mailed DV phones - \$22.60

- Membership summary: 17 members, 4 Honorary:
- Compliance updates (insurance renewals): None identified.

4. Finance & Fundraising

- Market Update – Bronwyn
- Xmas Raffle Summary – Michelle
- District Grant Status – Rod:
 - Senior Centre/Parkinsons Grant Update

- \$500 grant request to upgrade signs - entrances to Woolgoolga and Senior Citizens Centre which Rotary built and was opened early 2000.
- Budget adjustments (if needed) – Discussion

5. Operational Updates

- President's monthly report - Rod
 - District Conference, Newcastle 20-21 March
 - May 16 is Rotary Service Day. Coordinate existing activity for that day and register event on-line.
 - Damaged Heritage and Walk Signs.
- Secretary's monthly report – Alison:
 - Revised schedule, attached.
 - District Public Image Survey - discussion
- Activity reports:
 - Science and Engineering Challenge – Mary
 - Youth Exchange Program – Bronwyn
 - War Memorial Siting – Christopher Chayko
 - DV Phone Program – David Fayle:
 - 16 phones mailed to DV Phones 13-3-26
 - RYDA Volunteers – David Fayle
 - Anzac Day – Christopher Chayko
 - MHERV – Michelle McIntosh:
 - May 26 – 27 for van in Woolgoolga. City permit submitted. Waiting for confirmation of location.
 - Pride of Workmanship – Set up small committee to plan event.
 - Government Grants – Pam Fayle: no report.
 - RYLA – Alison Ratliff: No report.
 - AGM Meeting – Alison: No activity until November.
 - School EOY Presentations - Rod: No activity until November.
 - Meeting Speakers – Mary (coordinator):
 - Working With Children Updates – Alison: Everyone has up-to-date WWC clearance.

6. Review Schedule for Upcoming Deadlines

- Schedule provided to all with the meeting agenda. Changes should notify AR

7. Policies & Procedures - Approvals for new or updated policies: none identified.

8. Board Development - Training needs or governance workshops: none identified.

9. New Business

- Items raised by board members:
 - Damaged Heritage and Walk Signs.
- Community feedback or stakeholder issues.
- Any urgent matters not covered elsewhere.

10. Meeting Close

- Summary of new action items.
- Confirm next meeting date: General Meeting April 13, BOD April 27.

Agenda Accepted: Rod Mckenzie Date: 17/3/2026

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MAY 25, 2026

Start Time: 6:15 pm

Please note changed meeting dates in June due to the holiday:

Membership – June 15, Changeover Board Meeting – June 29

1. Welcome & Opening

Acknowledgement of Country: 'We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people. We pay our respects to elder's past, present and emerging'.

- Apologies:
- Confirm quorum: 5 required, _____ attending, quorum met/not met

2. Minutes & Actions

- Approve February 2025 Meeting Minutes:
Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed
– Review old business action items and progress: None identified

3. Governance & Compliance - Treasurer's report (account balances, etc.)

Treasurer: Bank balances as of (-----):		See below	
Account - BCU	Balance	Account	Balance
Debit Card 02117252	\$	Project 02117253	\$
General 02117254	\$	Grant 02117256	\$
SEC 02117257	\$	Pop-up Shop 02133292	\$
Term Deposit 242113114 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$	Term Deposit 242113121 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$

Moved to Accept: _____ Seconded _____ Passed/Not Passed

Member Fees:

Payments/Donations:

- Donation of \$200 to the Woolgoolga Art Gallery – at the May 11 membership meeting, Moved RM, Seconded DE – approved.
- Donation to Rotary Health
- Woolgoolga Art Gallery – \$200 Donation approved at General Membership Meeting, moved RM, seconded DE, passed.
- Rotary Anniversary ????? – table for Woolgoolga???
- Donation request – John Hunter Hospital School

- Membership summary: 17 members, 4 Honorary:
- Compliance updates (insurance renewals): District insurance coverage updated – GR/DF

4. Finance & Fundraising

- Market Update – Bronwyn
- Outrigger National Carnival – Woopi volunteers for Coffs Harbour Event
- District Grant Status – Rod:
 - Senior Centre/Parkinsons Grant Update
 - \$500 grant request to upgrade signs
- Budget adjustments (if needed) – Discussion

5. Operational Updates

- President's monthly report – Rod:
 - Possible Qantas Grant \$5000 for the Senior Centre
 - Senior Centre Table, 23 May
- Secretary's monthly report – Alison:
 - National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June), National Sorry Day (26 May) and Mabo Day (3 June)
- Activity reports:
 - Science and Engineering Challenge Final Financial Report – Mary/Peter
 - Youth Exchange Program – Bronwyn: Inbound Juliet from Marseille in January 2027 for six months.
 - War Memorial Siting – Christopher: issue with WWI stones – looking at alternatives.
 - DV Phone Program – David Fayle
 - MHERV – Michelle McIntosh:
 - May 26 – 27 for van in Woolgoolga
 - Pride of Workmanship – Set up small committee to plan event.
 - Government Grants – Pam Fayle: no report.
 - RYLA – Alison Ratliff: Event May 16 – 23 in Tamworth, Dinner date not yet confirmed (probably 23rd).
 - AGM Meeting – Alison: No activity until November.
 - School EOY Presentations - Rod: No activity until November.
 - Meeting Speakers – Mary (coordinator): Ray Willing to speak on Glenreagh Rail & Tallowood in July or August – Rod to contact to confirm.
 - Working With Children Updates - Alison (No Activity)

6. Review Schedule for Upcoming Deadlines

- Schedule provided to all with the meeting agenda. Changes should notify AR.

7. Policies & Procedures - Approvals for new or updated policies: none identified.

8. Board Development - Training needs or governance workshops: AR requested additional help from the District in updating dacdb officers for the year, the web site was updated and nothing is intuitive.

9. Old Business – Damaged Heritage and Walk Signs – David. Council has approved new signs, unknown time frame for completion.

10. New Business

- Items raised by board members:
- Community feedback or stakeholder issues.
- Any urgent matters not covered elsewhere.

11. Meeting Close

- Summary of new action items.
- Confirm next meeting date: General Meeting June 15, BOD June 29.

Agenda Accepted: Rod Mckenzie Date: _____

(2 attachments)

DRAFT

National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June),

National Sorry Day (26 May) and

Mabo Day (3 June)

We as Rotarians acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

(AIATSIS) National Sorry Day, 26 May

Acknowledge the Stolen Generations

In 2027, it will be 30 years since the Bringing Them Home Report. Many actions still to do National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June

ALL IN for RECONCILIATION'

Reconciliation involves action by everyone. Recognises the dates of the 1967 Referendum and the Mabo decision Mabo Day, 3 June. Date of the High Court Mabo decision, in favour of the Meriam people of Murray Island, which led to the Native Title Act 1993

Overturn of 'terra nullius' The 1967 Referendum – not that long ago! The 1967 Referendum: AIATSIS corporate website National Sorry Day.

The Healing Foundation -- Have a look at the ABC program on the High Court (Cases Which Changed Australia), which featured the processes leading to the Mabo decision. It's an important part of our history.

Judgment: Cases That Changed Australia : ABC IVIEW

What can clubs do to recognise National Reconciliation Week and the fairness, equity, inclusion principles that are inherent in reconciliation? Here are some possible options: Resources for National Reconciliation Week, prepared by Reconciliation Australia are available at National Reconciliation Week - Reconciliation Australia. Perhaps your club could have a reconciliation Choir event in your local area? The song for this year is Midnight Oil's Beds are Burning. Or start a reconciliation bookclub?

Contact your local Aboriginal community organisations and find out what they are planning and whether there is an opportunity for your club to support the events (and remember NAIDOC week is coming in July, so there is another focal opportunity to work together then) If your club does not already offer an Acknowledgement of Country at events, or isn't sure how best to do an Acknowledgement, or doesn't know who can do a Welcome to Country, then now is a good time to find out more and develop a protocol.

Find out about the health or education or justice needs of Aboriginal people in your area – what does community think would make a difference? Find out how your club can contribute to

infrastructure, health, homelessness, education, employment and justice initiatives in remote communities. Fundraising? Hands on help? Connections? Always Ask First, so projects are community led and community feel safe to be involved in them.

Grow your knowledge and understanding, and listen for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in your area: perhaps you can invite a leader of a local Aboriginal organisation – Land Council, health service, housing service, cultural programs? Or a First Nations author? Or screen a movie about the First Nations experience, with a discussion panel afterwards? If you are an urban club, perhaps you can partner with a club in a rural part of our District? Learn about the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in your community.

I am writing to you today seeking your club's support for a very worthwhile and meaningful project that I have personally supported this Rotary year, the John Hunter Hospital School Project. The John Hunter Hospital School provides education, care, encouragement and normality for children who are admitted to hospital, both short-term and long-term. The number of children supported by the school each year is staggering, with many coming from communities right across Rotary District 9660. It is highly likely that every club in our district would know of a child or family from their area who has needed and benefited from the services provided by the John Hunter Hospital School.

The Rotary Club of Charlestown has proudly supported the school for a number of years and is already well on the way to raising \$20,000 for this important project. However, additional support is needed if we are to truly make a significant impact.

The school receives only minimal government support and, outside of providing space for the school to operate, there is very limited financial assistance available. Funds raised through this project are not used for salaries or administration costs. Instead, every dollar goes directly towards providing the "little extras" that help make a child's hospital stay a little easier and help enhance their schooling experience during what is often a very difficult time for families.

I am asking if every Rotary club in District 9660 could contribute just \$250 or more before the end of the Rotary year, it would collectively make an enormous difference. It would also provide a wonderful opportunity for Rotary to be recognised for supporting children and families during some of the toughest moments of their lives.

Importantly, the John Hunter Hospital School has now obtained tax deductibility status, making donations even more beneficial for supporters.

Should district-wide support be achieved, the long-term vision is to help extend this service model across all hospitals within the Hunter New England Health District, an area that closely mirrors our Rotary district footprint. Donations can be made directly to the dedicated project account below:

John Hunter Hospital School Project

*BSB: 637000 (Greater Bank)
Account Number: 720692856*

Thank you for considering supporting this important project. Together, Rotary can help bring comfort, education and hope to children and families when they need it most.

*Yours in Rotary,
Evan Burrell
District Governor 2025-2026
Rotary International District 9660*

DRAFT

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 28 Jul 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm to 5:49 pm

Apologies: none

1 The Minutes of the 9 Jun Board meeting were approved.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 28 Jul:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 142.15	02117253 (Project)	\$ 6,881.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 8,155.43	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,865.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 22,995.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,265.84
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,398.76

Interest on both term deposits is 4.55% per annum paid monthly on 25th.

DF noticed on 28 Jul that the monthly interest payments were missing from both term deposit accounts and has confirmed with BCU that something is amiss. The BCU TD team will contact DF when they have ascertained the problem.

GR noted that the usual bills to Rotary International, Rotary Down Under, and District 9660, were due.

Approved motion (GR/RM): to retain the rates and conditions for members the same as last year, including a 6-month no-fee period upon joining the club.

3 **Outstanding donation:** A\$200 donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes (approved last meeting). GR reported that the problem was due to an international transfer limit restriction that needed fixing. **Action:** GR to initiate payment.

4 **Donation approved** (RM/MB): A\$200 donation to the knitters' group Blankets with Love (based at the Seniors Centre) to purchase wool. The \$200 will come from the proceeds of the Pop-Up shop. This is part of a larger group that has knitted over 600,000 blankets for the needy globally.

5 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre:** RM has taken on the Presidency of the Woolgoolga Seniors Centre, with Bronwyn Mackenzie as Secretary, GR as Treasurer, and Jenny Witcombe, Peter McIntosh, Peter Lacy, and DE assisting on their committee of 14. 40 new members have joined also. RM reports that the Centre is financially sound and approximately breaking even; that governance has been good; that they had a large grant to fix their water heater; that they own a 12-seater bus. A major problem is a month-by-month lease from CoCH, that provides no future security and excludes eligibility from applying for many grants. RM is seeking a 20-year or 10-year renewable lease.

A vote of thanks to all the Rotarians involved was approved.

6 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program:** Richie Goddard (Area 4 Rotary Community Leader) has a potential Woolgoolga candidate he would like us to consider for RYLA. The candidate is Chase Saban (0455 142 733) of Corindi (brother of Riley Saban whose bocce team we sponsored some years ago). RYLA is 4–11 October at Yarra Adventure Park. Closing date 5 September.

7 **Domestic Violence/purple t-shirt project:** initiated by Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond and covered in a recent article in Jul/Aug Rotary Down Under magazine

p27. Board agreed that we did not have the resources at present to increase involvement beyond our current project.

- 8 **Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.** 6 further collection boxes have been purchased – 5 for Coffs City Rotary that include Toormina and Yarrila Place libraries, and one for us, for Woolgoolga Library. Mayor Nikki Williams has given her support to deploying them in the three libraries. We have a batch ready to post.

Rotary corflute backboards for DV phone collection boxes. 8 of these are needed – 3 with Woolgoolga Rotary and 5 with Coffs City. [Subsequently, DF ordered these from Signs Express, collected them, and delivered 5 to Paul McKeon].

Action: (1) AR undertook to draft an article for Woopi News, publicising the collection boxes. Woopi News deadline is the 15th of the month. (2) DF to organise publicity photography of a DV collection box and donated phone batch.

- 9 **New Outbounder for Youth Exchange Program (YEP):** Izabella (Bella) Van Der Merwe lives with her father, Dewald, mother Judi, brother and grandmother on their property in Woolgoolga. The Club had confirmed our sponsorship in principle of an Outbound student. Bella was selected to be an Outbound Youth Exchange Program student in 2026 by the D9660 YEP Committee. Bella will be going to Brazil where our current Outbound student Aliyah is now. Bronwyn Mackenzie and RM had high recommendations from the D9660 YEP Committee but wanted to confirm their opinions, and have done so. Bella and parents attended our Pride of Workmanship Awards and are also attending the meeting that followed this Board meeting, where Bella spoke. Bella is looking for casual work to help fund her year. She already has work from AR.

- 10 **Memorials Projects:** BB updated Board on progress with these two projects, noting two key advances:

9.1 Council (CoCH) at their 24 Jul meeting unanimously supported reinstallation of the WWI memorial, and resolved to have a further public consultation on its location;

9.2 Owner of the Diggers Club, Wyong Leagues Group, has agreed to fully fund the redevelopment of the main war memorial on its land, as part of a \$2.2m upgrade of the area in front of the club's main entrance. As a result, the plaques that belong to the WWI memorial can now be removed from the existing memorial, for mounting on the WWI memorial when reconstructed.

- 11 **Woolgoolga CWA.** RM had discussions with CWA President Trish Stabback with a view to ensuring that CWA (landholder of our shed) remains viable.

- 12 **D9660 Public Speaking Competition:** Board agreed that we did not have the resources at present to initiate or stimulate any involvement locally.

- 13 Missing **Rotary presidential chain.** GR was wearing this at handover to Pam Stone, but it was not used during Covid time in the small abnormal changeover, held at the auction shed, to Julie Marshall. Julie confirms that she never received it, and it has been missing ever since. Perhaps it was taken to a jeweller for updating and never collected? DF has emailed Pam Stone asking her to check at home.

- 14 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop.** Plans for 9 Aug market include a "100 Board".

- 15 **Induction of new member Andrew J Pryor.** Postponed again at Andrew's request.

- 16 AR suggested consideration of a gold coin donation each meeting to help fund the Sandy Beach Breakfast Club's purchases of items such as honey and cereal.

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 25 Aug 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Attending: Christopher Chayko; Apologies: BB

1 The Minutes of the 28 Jul Board meeting were approved (RM/AR).

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 22 Aug:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 127.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 6,529.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 5,360.37	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,513.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 22,995.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,265.84
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,398.76

Interest on both term deposits is 4.55% per annum, and is supposed to be paid monthly on 25th.

DF noticed on 28 Jul that the monthly interest payments were missing from both term deposit accounts. BCU local Branch Manager Carly Angela ascertained that the missing monthly interest payments since the start of our two Rotary term deposits will be “remediated” and will appear with the next monthly payments – expected today, 25 Aug.

3 **Member Fees** are due.

4 **Outstanding donation:** A\$200 donation to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes. **Action:** GR to initiate payment. RM suggested transferring the money through the Post Office via Western Union.

5 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. On 21 Aug, Rachael Kelleher, RSE's Central Coast / Hunter and Regional NSW Program Coordinator, phoned DF to advise that RSE (Road Safety Education Ltd) had negotiated with Woolgoolga, Dorrigo and Orara High Schools to run RYDA at Wiigulga. She has asked us to advise on any local Rotarians and/or volunteers who may be able to assist.

Another development relevant to our ongoing involvement in RYDA is that Transport for NSW on 4 Aug opened the Community Road Safety Grants program 2025 (round 11) for applications, which close at 4pm on 15 Sep 2025. To the best of DF's knowledge, Rotary Clubs remain excluded from eligibility for support to run RYDA, and DF has not yet tackled the challenge of getting the NSW Government to fix its flawed policy that causes our ineligibility. The timeframe is tight, and the radical change in the timing of RYDA raises a question about just what we could apply for to support a 2026 RYDA.

DF pointed out to RSE the logistic problem that the Board Room cannot take group sizes a lot larger than in previous RYDAs. The tables will need to be removed anyway, as Orara plans to bring 70 students. DF enquired whether RSE intended paying for Wiigulga and the Dorrigo bus (which he pointed out doubles as a shuttle bus). DF also mentioned the disappearance of Subway and the question of Wiigulga catering. Note that WHS canteen catered for the S&E Challenge; however, in earlier years they would not have been able to handle RYDA due to lack of volunteers.

6 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program**, 4–11 October at Yarrahappini Adventure Park. After a personal interview with five members present, Board has agreed out of session to support Chase Saban up to the full amount needed (\$1450 which includes all board and all activities), and RM has requested Chase's employer Caringa Australia to consider contributing to that sponsorship.

7 **Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.**

Placement of boxes in Woolgoolga , Toormina and Yarrila Place libraries. Although Mayor Nikki Williams has given her support to deploying them in the three libraries, an adverse Council Workplace Health and Safety report has rejected the idea on spurious grounds. Paul McKeon of Coffs City Rotary and DF are gathering facts to counter the adverse report, including the fact that there are already collection boxes in 20 NSW libraries and 21 in libraries in other States. DV Safe Phone says: "Libraries are actually very good collection points for us, so any additional libraries we can get would be fantastic."

DF packed and posted a batch of 32 phones and a Blackberry on 18 Aug. The corflute backboard has been placed on the Seaview collection box. AR and DF submitted an article promoting the collection boxes for the Sep Woopi News issue. Publicity photos of a DV collection box and donated phone batch were sent to Woopi News and DV Safe Phone.

- 8 **Shed upgrade:** on 21 Aug an additional reimbursement of \$1449.20 was made to Jason Farr, Home + Yard, for part of the expenditure on upgrades to the shed: Hardiflex cladding, timber, moulding, nails, and Solarsmart Reflect PC to replace two Alsynite roof panels.
- 9 **Secretary handover:** DF and AR agreed to swap Secretary and Assistant Secretary positions at the beginning of calendar year 2026. The discussion also touched on what could be done in the vacant International Director position.
- 10 **CWA viability:** RM reported on satisfaction with CWA's medium- and long-term viability, after discussions with CWA President Trish Stabback.
- 11 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre:** Board congratulated the new Seniors Centre Board, and its impressive work and progress so far. Club members involved are RM, Bronwyn Mackenzie, GR, Jenny Witcombe, Peter McIntosh, Peter Lacy, and DE. Council (CoCH) has agreed to fund a \$3000 fire safety system to be shared by the Seniors Centre and adjoining Croquet Club.
- 12 **New Outbounder for Youth Exchange Program (YEP):** Izabella (Bella) Van Der Merwe.
- 13 **Memorials Projects:** Christopher Chayko updated Board and General Meeting. Progress included agreement by CoCH Council (July meeting) to (1) the reinstatement of the WWI memorial; and (2) to open another round of community consultation to settle on its location. CC reported that a post showing the memorial in a beachfront location "facing the dawn" was opened by 2000 people, eliciting 150 positive responses and just one single complaint.
- 14 **Membership Drive:** Christopher Chayko has sent 58 letters to selected local business owners with aim of stimulating interest in joining the Club. So far the response has been zero.
- 15 A **Pop-up Shop** will be held on 13 Sep, weather and volunteer availability permitting.
- 16 **Induction of new member Andrew J Pryor** is planned for Monday 8 Sep.
- 17 A Sponsorship Request for our Presentation Assemblies from Woolgoolga High School was noted.
- 18 No progress reported on finding the missing Rotary presidential chain.

Meeting concluded at 17:53

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 28 Aug 2023 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: David Fayle, Pamela Fayle Mary Bryant

Meeting opened 16.35

1. Issues arising from the Minutes of the previous Board meeting.

None

2. Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 NAB incompetence. NAB has yet again demonstrated its incompetence and contempt of its customers, in failing to terminate our \$10,000 term deposit, or change the signatories on that and our six other accounts, despite the paperwork all being properly complete and lodged in time.

2.2 Balances as at 24 Aug:

Project	\$ 7,637	General	\$ 840	(Grants)	\$ 4.53
S&E Challenge	\$ 13,015	Term deposit			\$20,000 (mat. 26 Jun 2024)

The expected interest on the TD is 4.6%.

The term deposit of \$10,000 maturing 4 Aug 2023 was supposed to be terminated, but as at 24 Aug it is still there.

Confirmed by Treasurer, no accounts outstanding for payment. A couple of membership payments are still due however.

Treasurers report accepted nominated David Edwards, seconded Dick Matthews

2.3 Board has resolved out of session to move all accounts to BCU, and to establish a debit card there as well. No action has yet been taken to progress this, except for attempting to terminate the due term deposit. NAB accounts will be kept open until definitely not used, then closed. The Term deposit will be terminated on maturity 26 Jun 2024.

Action needed: each of the five signatories (RodM, GR, DF, MB and KT) if not already an account holder at BCU, need to establish an account. Then we must initiate the process of establishing equivalents at BCU, plus a debit card, probably in GR's name. The option of multiple smaller term deposits with varying terms should be discussed. Whether some of the future lease income should be transferred to the new Project Account ad hoc as needed should be agreed upon.

Signatories will need to show 100 points of ID and minutes of the meeting with the names of signatories, and their positions. No need to open a personal account. Woopi Rotary currently does not have an account with BCU and the Board will need to decide exactly what accounts need to be opened. Eg do we need a separate Science & Engineering account as we do now?

Rod will circulate the minutes for everyone regarding who are signatories.

2.4 Rotary International (\$743) and District D9660 (\$400) invoices were both paid on 25 July.

Payment acknowledged

2.5 The school end-of-year \$200 payment to Woolgoolga High School had to be paid by cheque, which was deducted on 18 Aug. A more viable method needs to be provided by each school for payment. The other five school payments should be made soon.

It was noted that cheques were used last year

2.6 Jason Farr has still not changed his destination for payment from the Project Account to the General Account, so it was resolved to provide the new BCU General Account details when that account has been established. Meanwhile,

his payments are being periodically transferred from Project to General Account.

Acknowledged

3. Our Charitable Fundraising Authority has been renewed, from when it lapsed 22 May 2022 until 21 May 2025. Thank you to RodM for achieving that, and to DF for providing key information to assist.

Acknowledged and noted that it will be useful for further fundraising and is worthwhile maintaining. Also noted that fundraising events we must make clear what the funds will be used for to the public.

4. Fundraising Projects

Need ideas from members of what could be needed in the community and what is practical for us to achieve & run. It was noted that most fundraising is a lot of effort for little result. General discussion around a once-a-year signature event e.g show & Shine Vintage Car Club/Hot Rod Club, Bush Dance, Amateur talent quest (in partnership with Lions – noted the first event was highly successful but subsequent have not been)

Dick suggested a project in line with a grandparent Plant a tree for your grandchild. ? plant an avenue of trees (perhaps at Wiigulga sports) suitable for Koalas. Appeal to the public to buy a tree and have a plaque located at the base.

5. Honorary members: what to do this year.

Huge list of honorary members listed in the annual report that don't seem to have been reviewed or updated for a long time. It was proposed that to remain on the list the person must still have some association with the club, the list should be reviewed annually and we should have criteria. Regarding the criteria, the by-laws should be referenced. Rod would like to have this sorted out by January 2024. Also a suggestion to invite those on the list to attend a meeting or have a morning coffee with us.

6. Club Business Plan

Rod has a rough draft which includes:

- the rent to subsidise membership fees
- Fiscal- we have \$30,000 in term deposits so we should not spend more than \$10,000 on projects this year without fundraising to replenish or contribute significantly
- A list of our current projects eg RYDA etc and establish how much outlay is anticipated
- Review our imageing eg new shirts & caps
- Membership is ongoing and continue to encourage new members to promote the club their networks

7. President Elect (needed for grant applications)

Need a president elect to put on the grant applications. Rod can put his name temporarily but we will need someone to nominate for 2024-2025 year. ? would any of the new members be interested.

8. District 9660 Grants Project and Application. Note that DF is on The Rotary Foundation Grants Committee of D9660, and has been learning about the grant process in detail from that perspective.

Need a project to apply – the closing date is October 2023

9. Woopi Gardens Stall 24 September: RodM accepted an invitation from Glenda from Woolgoolga Community Garden, to share a stall with Woolgoolga Lions Club there on Sunday 24 September. This is the day after Curryfest Main Day, and also the day of a Curryfest-related event in the evening that is not yet publically announced.

Action needed: Member availability, interest, aim, and materials needed including marquee, need to be ascertained. PF and DF will not be available.

Who is available: Rod and Kim should be. What will we present? Members to think of ideas. We will share a gazebo with Lions club. Perhaps set up some jars with labels of donations e.g. homelessness, End Polio, Malaria, Child Health and allow people to pop spare change in cause they choose.

10. Possible Saturday Marine Rescue Markets Stall or Curryfest Stall 2023 and/or 2024.

Rod will contact to confirm the price which we believe is approx. \$25

11. RI President's Community Projects letter requesting Rotary Clubs internationally to action an initiative for Community Week in September was circulated to members on 10 Aug.

Initiative for Community Week, Rod proposed we use the WW1 Memorial project and Board members concurred

12. Pride of Work

Dick has proposed that the presentation of the awards be at the 25 September meeting. Dick will get brochures out to the public for individuals to nominate rather than businesses. 3 awards and we can also use Facebook to promote.

13. MHERV Van

17 & 18 October and to be located in the RSL carpark. WE will need 2 nights accommodation. Rod & Bronwyn may be able to accommodate and if not we will arrange a motel.

14. Club image, visibility and marketing

See item 6

15. Science and Engineering Challenge Support

Coffs Haroubr tem came 3rd and they may ask for further support. The next Science & Engineering challenge will be run at the High School as Wiigulga was too expensive.

16. RYDA. Next year's date should be a Thursday in mid-March (14 or 21 Mar) but has not yet been discussed with the school. The absence of a well-organised champion at WHS will be an issue.

Hold over until next Board meeting when David is present

17. District Public Speaking Competition

No candidate

18. Social Events for Members

Melbourne cup perhaps at Rod & Bronwyns, put out to members for other suggestions

19. Dolphin Marine Conservation Park.

Huge amount of debt and Rod pointed out that this is a private business and feels the Woopi Club should not be associated as an entity.

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 22 Sep 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: BB, DE

- 1 The Minutes of the 25 Aug Board meeting have not yet been compiled – apology from DF.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 22 Sep:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 1,109.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 5,589.50
02117254 (General)	\$ 6,810.37	02117256 (Grant)	\$ 2,513.15
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 18,655.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,423.86
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,635.81

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, and to be paid monthly on 25th.

BCU has deposited the missing interest payments with the 25 Aug maturation payment, and DF has checked that they have done this correctly. The expected 25 Sep interest payment should appear in each TD – this needs checking.

- 3 Sponsorship Requests for school Presentation Assemblies. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools, but no payments have yet been made.
- 4 **Donation:** A A\$200 donation (ZAR 2201.36) was completed to the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside in South Africa, for a project providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls and adult nappies for several old-age homes. GR opted to transfer the money fee-free via his own account, and will initiate reimbursement from the Project Account.
- 5 **Donation:** A \$200 donation was approved to the **Woopi Parkinson's Support Group** (RM/AR). This will cover the room cost for about 40% of the year. The group numbers around 40.
- 6 **Proposed District Grant Application, for Parkinson's Disease Support Group.** RM proposes the submission of an application for a District Grant, due 25 Oct.

A necessary precursor to submitting an application is to identifying a member willing to manage the Project, though the expectation is that this burden is likely to be relatively light.

To be eligible to apply, we need to **complete the expenditure and submit our final report for the DV Phone project** by that date. This constrains the period available for eliciting further interest in funded phone collection boxes, intended by way of publicity of our offer to fund boxes, in the Sep District Newsletter. Unfortunately the Editor neglected to include the article, and DG Evan Burrell declined to allow a Supplement to be circulated to members, but promised to post the offer on the D9660 and his personal Facebook sites. The response is likely to be very small, as Rotarians must join up to see anything on the D9660 site, and there is a lag time before approval, so nobody not already joined up will see this post. As of 5pm 19 Sep, the item had not been posted on that site.

[Subsequent note: the posting on the DG's personal Facebook is eliciting some interest, including a request from Rotary Club of Corowa (NSW, D9470), completed 24 Sep.]

7 Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.

5.1 The idea of publicising the availability of funded phone collection boxes using the District Newsletter has foundered [see Item 3], so the likelihood is that we will need to expend remaining grant funds by way of two payments to DV Safe Phone to assist with

phone refurbishment. The shortfall in expenditure from club funds will need to be paid from the Project Account, so that the total club contribution is \$800. The remaining funds from the Grant Account will also need to be paid to DV Safe Phone.

5.2 No progress has been reported by Paul McKeon (Coffs City Rotary) on efforts to get approval to place phone collection boxes in Woolgoolga, Toormina and Yarrilla Place libraries. It is likely that an alternative location for the Woolgoolga Library box will need to be identified.

8 The Club declined to host the Men's Health Educational Rural Van (MHERV) 13–14 Oct 2025 (Mon/Tue), as there were no volunteers, either to run it or assist.

9 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. Rachael Kelleher, of RSE (Road Safety Education Ltd), advised that all Facilitators had now been locked into place for this RYDA Day, which RSE is running. No extra schools are to be added. We have declined a request to cater via sausage sizzle.

The Community Road Safety Grants program 2025 (round 11) has already closed for applications, so this option for supporting a RYDA next year is not available for a March event, even if the flawed Government policy could be changed.

10 **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program**, 4–11 October at Yarrahappini Adventure Park. Caringa Australia declined to contribute to sponsorship of Chase Saban's attendance, meaning that the Club is covering the whole cost (\$1450 which includes all board and all activities). Chase reported at the following general meeting that he had completed his traineeship at Caringa, and that a former RYLA participant had phoned him with useful information about the week.

11 **Rotary Showcase** – Country to the Coast. [AR]

AR is exploring Club participation in the District Showcase in Coffs Harbour, 21–23 November 2025.

12 **Woolgoolga Seniors Centre**: RM reported good progress, with 270 members, 3 new computers, and a bus trip to Lawrence organised.

13 **Memorials Projects**: community consultation is expected to commence later in September. RM forwarded to CC a flood/inundation report that may be relevant.

14 **Coffs Coast Conservation Sanctuary vouchers and Pop-up Shop**. No pop-up shop was held in September or October. November and December remain as possible, depending on volunteer availability.

15 **Status of new member Jenny Storum**. Board approved Form A, and Form B has been signed by Jenny Storum.

16 Tonight's general meeting: Mark Mihai, Manager of the Seaview Tavern, and his wife Renee will attend. Izabella van der Merwe and her family and Tyler Knight, Aliyah Knight's father are also coming, as well as a Rotarian from Albany WA. Chase Saban, our RYLA participant, and his partner will join us also.

17 Marine Rescue 60th anniversary request for support: held over.

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 27 Oct 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 4:30 pm

Apologies: BB, DE, CC, KT

1 The Minutes of the 22 Sep Board meeting were approved.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 27 Oct:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 1,002.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 3,612.45
02117254 (General)	\$ 5,332.60	02117256 (Grant)	\$ zero
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 19,095.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,124.78
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,481.68
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,722.54

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, and to be paid monthly on 25th.

The interest payments were made into both TDs on 24 Sep and 25 Oct.

2.2 Sponsorship Requests for **school Presentation Assemblies**. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools, but no payments have yet been made.

Representation at the ceremonies also needs attention. AR will attend the Mullaway Public School one.

3 **Induction of new member Jenny Storum** followed at the General Meeting.

4 **Grant Project Completed: Mobile phones for those at risk of domestic violence.**

The Final Report was accepted on 21 Oct. Key information from the Final Report:

Directly benefitting were 14 Rotary, Rotaract or Satellite Clubs that received 1 or more \$85 phone collection boxes, 29 boxes in all, in 15 geographic locations: in D9660, Belmont, Morriset, Narrabri (4, for Wee Waa, Boggabri and Narrabri), Port Macquarie, Wee Waa [Rotaract], Wellington, Kempsey West, Nambucca Valley, Warners Bay (5), Bourke, Coffs Harbour (9), and Woolgoolga Library [*note -approval recently granted, due to the efforts of Coffs Harbour City Rotary*]. Outside of D9660, boxes were provided to Byron Bay (D9640) and Corowa (D9740). When all boxes are deployed, there will be **29 new locations where people may donate phones**.

DV Safe Phone has already received many phones collected by some of these boxes. They also directly benefit from our **\$1,968 donation towards phone refurbishment**, which averages \$75 per phone, so **about 26 phones**.

Indirect beneficiaries are of course those who receive a phone, which may be the difference between life and death, or good health instead of physical and/or mental ruination.

	Acquittal	Receipts	Expenditure
Collection boxes			\$2,465.00
Backing panels for boxes			\$550.00
Postage and packing of donated phones			\$117.75
Donation toward phone refurbishment			\$1,968.25
SUBTOTAL			\$5,101.00
D9660 Grant funding		\$4,250.00	
Club funding		\$850.00	
Public donation		\$1.00	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		\$5,101.00	

- 5 **District Grant Application submitted, Rotary and the Woolgoolga Seniors' Centre Unite for Good.** The application compiled by RM was submitted 22 Oct 2025.

Budget Income Items

DDF Funds	\$3,500.00
Woolgoolga Club Funding	\$750.00
Activities and Donations	\$500.00
Income Total:	\$4,750.00

Budget Expense Items

Parkinsons Group Support and Activities	\$2,000.00
Knit with Love wool supply	\$200.00
Exercise and Activity Equipment	\$500.00
Education, Seminars and Information Sessions	\$900.00
Bus transport, Excursions and Activities	\$500.00
Stationary, Newsletters, Miscellaneous	\$150.00
Social and Support Groups Functions	\$500.00
Expenses Total:	\$4,750.00

- 6 **Rotary Showcase** – Country to the Coast– a Celebration of Rotary energy and creativity at the District Showcase at Coffs Harbour C.ex Club, 21–23 November 2025. PF has agreed to help judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition to be held at the Showcase. AR is working on the extent and form of any additional participation, such as a Club display. Note that on Saturday 22 Nov 2025, successful District Grants will be announced; DF is on the team assessing these at present (abstaining of course in the case of our new application).
- 7 The **AGM and Xmas Party** will be held at 6pm on Monday 8 Dec, at Woolgoolga Community Gardens.
- 8 **For the record: the Men’s Health Educational Rural Van (MHERV)** 13–14 Oct 2025 identified 30 people needing follow-up. The report from Michelle McIntosh is attached as an Addendum. Our thanks to Michelle for the excellent organisation.
- 9 **Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025. **Club members are asked to notify DF whether or not they are available to be a Group Monitor.** A current Working With Children clearance is required. We do not yet know whether a shuttle to the track will be used, so do not volunteer if your mobility is compromised.
- 10 **Memorials Projects:** update. Some background is attached in the Addendum. It is worth reiterating that our Club has resolved not to take a view on the location of the reconstructed WWI Memorial, but to leave it to each member to answer the Council survey, which offers 3 options plus a place where an alternate option could be entered. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the Addendum, Option 1 is the one preferred by CC and the others detailed in paragraph 2.

RM attended a meeting held last Fri 24 Oct convened by Allan Rutherford, an ex-Serviceman who has been very helpful to the reinstatement of the Memorial (for which the team is most grateful) but who is not a Project Team nor Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch Member. CC was away and unable to attend.

A second meeting will be held tomorrow at 11.00 am (Tue 29 Oct 25) – see Addendum.

- 11 **Christmas raffle:** as mentioned by Michelle McIntosh in her MHERV report, a Christmas raffle is planned, and donations are sought (details in Addendum).
- 12 For information: Rod and Bronwyn Mackenzie will be going on a 2-week **Rotary Friendship Exchange visit to New Zealand** in February (and staying there a further week).
- 13 The death is noted of **Geoff Morrow**, key member of our Heritage Walk team. His funeral is 11:30am this Wed 29 Oct at Hogbin Drive Crematorium.

/ Addenda

ADDENDUM : MHERV VAN REPORT by Michelle McIntosh

Firstly I'd like to thank Alison, Peter .Andrew, Christopher and Jenny for volunteering to assist at the van as well as Rod and Browyn for coming on Tuesday to assist and David for bringing the DV phone box which now stays with the van.

Nurse Richelle was amazing and kept stats on the people that came.

Day 1 Monday there were 16 males and 16 females 32 altogether

Category 1: Normal 16

Category 2: Needing follow up 16

Day 2 Tuesday 12 males and 5 females 17 altogether

Category 1: 3 Normal

Category 2: 14 Needing follow up

Everyone that Alison and I handed out the flyers to were very obliging and said they were happy it was coming and a great idea for the community. I would like to acknowledge the following places: Diggers they even put flyers on the tables and it was announced over the microphone for 2 days while people were in the club , CEX club, BCU, Post Office , Butcher in Arcade Dobbs and Co , the Library ,the Seniors Centre, put one on the wall near NAB the Lotto shop said yes unfortunately not enough room.

Someone gave a donation . Which is great

A discussion came up about moving the van to a place with more foot traffic as Richelle said the van relies on that a great deal. However that can be looked at another time BECAUSE Christmas is not far away it is already in the shops and we are getting ready for another raffle So....

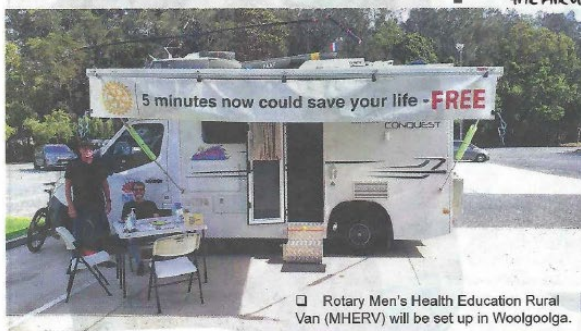
If you wouldn't mind when shopping, put an extra tin of fruit etc , or small puddings ,biscuits , cards, anything like that into your shopping basket. Crazy Sams has heaps of Christmas tinsel trees, cards, bags ,ribbon and at good prices.

I've included the MERHV article from the local paper if you didn't get a chance to read it before.

MHERV's in Woopi

10/10/25
News of
the Area.

By Andrea FERRARI



□ Rotary Men's Health Education Rural Van (MHERV) will be set up in Woolgoolga.

SAVING local lives is the objective of the Rotary Men's Health Education Rural Van (MHERV), which is back on the Coffs Coast.

It will visit Woolgoolga on Monday and Tuesday, 13-14 October, between 9.30am - 4.15pm.

The van will be situated in The Diggers carpark with a Registered Nurse in attendance.

The nurse will conduct a checkup on blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes and advise participants of their results, Woolgoolga Rotary's MHERV Project Manager Michelle McIntosh told News

Of The Area.

"The MHERV van is a vital initiative for regional areas as it provides a free service that only takes five minutes [and which] can identify symptoms like high blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol, which don't always present themselves.

"I encourage everyone to attend as it may just save a life," she said.

The MHERV project has been operating for eight years, travelling around regional and rural NSW offering free health checkups to people who may not have seen their doctor in years.

Without checkups, blood pressure, blood sugar and

cholesterol levels may have reached seriously high levels.

Since starting in August 2017, 10,237 people have been tested - 436 men were in immediate danger, mostly because their blood pressure was through the roof.

"They were recommended to seek medical help right away," Ms McIntosh said.

Last year more people dropped into the MHERV than expected, including women.

"All were welcomed for the check to see if anything health-wise required further investigation."

The service is offered in a relaxed, confidential and informal setting

ADDENDUM : WWI MEMORIAL LOCATION by Christopher Chayko

Rev David Hanger has kindly set up a Meeting at the Beach Reserve with Sam Newman and other interested parties at 11.00 am on Tue 29 Oct 25, when I will be able to be present. I had previously agreed to meet Sam but then declined when the RSL sub-Branch was accused of deciding the outcome of the reinstatement and its location as 'a small select group'. That was/is untrue, as the Project, and indeed the reinstatement at the preferred Beach Reserve site 'facing the dawn', have both been consultative and heavily publicised in the Woopi News, on social media and via direct mailings and the Mayor's office for well over a year. That precise proposal was taken to Council on 24 Jul 25. The overwhelming feedback from respondents has been in favour of the location facing the beach. As such, I was content to let the Community Consultation determine the outcome, but with the RSL sub-Branch continuing to advocate our preference. Then, Allan got involved and 'we are where we are'. I have asked Allan to postpone the Friday Meeting until next Tuesday and am awaiting a response.

Nevertheless, and to inform Rotary Members' views, the unanimous position of the RSL sub-Branch's 70 ex-Service Members, as well as all ex-Service folk who are not Members with whom we have contact, is that the original 1923 Memorial should be reinstated central to the Beach Reserve 'facing the dawn' and in view of the beach. Our reasons are:

- The Memorial, commemorating over 100,000 Australian Great and Second War Dead including 17 named from Woolgoolga and District, warrants a most prominent location and should not be hidden away. The site facing the beach has the advantages of a 'heritage connection' to ANZAC Cove; and the opportunity for surfboats to honour the Landings in full view of ANZAC Dawn Services. No other site provides these advantages.
- As there is already a light at the site – power is available with minor electrical works required; a flagpole could be installed as part of the Project; there is sufficient flat ground to accommodate thousands of Dawn Service attendees back to Beach Street without any requirement to move or turn during the Service; and the risk of inundation or erosion – negligible to nil and of the same risk to all Beach Reserve structures – could be addressed in construction. These are 'objections' that have been raised, all of which have been addressed as per this paragraph.

Although alternatives have been proposed, and everyone is entitled to a point of view, most of these have been unworkable. In particular, Woolgoolga Headland is: too unprotected; too steep to access easily on foot; not level enough for Commemorations at scale; and has insufficient parking and no toilets. Returning the Memorial to the Diggers Club site would not work either. There is already a Memorial there that will be modernised to reflect Service since 1946; the car park is not a respectful place; and there is no room at the old location beside Beach Street. Outside Bluebottles on Beach Street is too small for Commemorations at scale and would require expensive and inconvenient road closures. The swimming pool site is not respectful, facing the back of the surf club, and has insufficient level ground for large Commemorations. The most recent alternative proposed, on the Reserve but behind trees and not in view of the beach, defeats the heritage connection to ANZAC Cove.

(continued)

All RSL sub-Branch Members and, although gained from an on-line Survey and social media feedback, over 400 supporters believe that the reinstatement of the Woolgoolga and District Great War Memorial, central to the Beach Reserve and facing the dawn in sight of the beach, is the optimum and most respectful outcome for the Project. All of those folk have been requested to 'vote' accordingly, and for **Option 1**, in response to the Council Consultation.

EARLIER, Christopher reported:

Following his return from leave on 18 Aug 25 the Project contacted Steve Bayliss, Director of Business Services Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC), to enquire about participation in the CHCC Consultation in respect of the Reinstatement of the Great War Memorial. Mr Bayliss responded, by email, on 2 Sep 25:

'Planning for community engagement is underway with consultation expected to commence later in September. A report will then be prepared for Council's consideration. We'll be in touch ahead of the consultation to ensure you and other key stakeholders have ample time to prepare a response. We've compiled a list of stakeholders and community groups to contact directly. Could you supply your contacts, particularly any groups involved in past ANZAC Day marches, so we can ensure everyone is included and has an opportunity to contribute to the consultation.'

In reply, Mr Bayliss was provided with a list of contacts including Woolgoolga Chamber of Commerce, Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club, Woolgoolga Lions Club, Woolgoolga Red Cross and Woolgoolga Legacy Chapter, all of which have indicated organisational support for the Reinstatement at the site on the Beach Reserve, unanimously proposed by RSL sub-Branch Veterans. Once further advice is received from Mr Bayliss I'll pass that on. Note that the Reinstatement is not yet listed on Council's 'Have Your Say' portal. I'll provide a separate reply to the Flooding Report issue.

Minutes of Board Meeting of Rotary Club of Woolgoolga

Monday 24 Nov 2025 at C.ex Cinema Room Woolgoolga – 5:00 pm

Apologies: BB

1 The Minutes of the 27 Oct Board meeting were approved.

2 Treasurer's report and payments due

2.1 Bank Balances as at 24 Nov:

02117252 (Debit card)	\$ 1,002.65	02117253 (Project)	\$ 3,591.25
02117254 (General)	\$ 6,122.60	02117256 (Grant)	\$ zero
02117257 (SEC)	\$ 19,095.81	02133292 (Pop-up shop)	\$ 4,402.63
242113114 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 8,511.21
242113121 Term deposit (5 month; maturing 25 Aug 2025)			\$ 12,766.84

Interest on both term deposits is 4.1% per annum, and to be paid monthly on 25th.

The interest payments were made into both TDs on 24 Nov.

Sponsorship Requests for school Presentation Assemblies. \$1000 has been transferred to the debit card to cover payments to five schools; payments were made to two schools on 8 Nov. [Note: payments were made to 3 further schools on 25 Nov.]

Peter Lacy represented us at Woolgoolga High's event, AR will attend Mullaway's, and MB Woolgoolga Public's.

3 **Rotary Showcase** – AR and RM attended the District Showcase at Coffs Harbour C.ex Club, 21–22 November 2025. AR set up a Table displaying our DV Safe Phone project; some attendees from other clubs were influenced to propose that their club become involved. Most of the displays were aimed at selling things rather than showcasing Clubs, and displays like ours tended to suffer in visibility. The PA sound was very poor for the presentations, which RM found were worthwhile for building contact networks, but rarely inspiring – a contrast to the District Conferences.

At the general meeting following this Board Meeting, RM announced that our Application for a District Grant had been successful.

PF helped judge the Rotary Public Speaking Competition at the Showcase venue on the following day. The four contestants were all of exceptional quality, and the winner was an outstanding speaker from Wee Waa, a female of African refugee background, Ayisha Titimira. The other three finalists were Brody Taylor from Gloucester, Ehsaas Gujural from Quirindi, and Georgia Heaney from Coonabarabran.

4 The **AGM and Xmas Party** will be held at 6pm on Monday 8 Dec, at Woolgoolga Community Gardens.

5 **Roadsafe Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Day** was held at Wiigulga Wednesday 19 Nov 2025, with Dorrigo and Woolgoolga High Schools attending. As this event was not run by Rotary as a club program, the non-Rotary version of the program name applied. Christopher Chayko attended as a Group Monitor, along with Rotarians Marianne Strang of Dorrigo and Tony Jorm of Coffs Harbour. CC reported at the subsequent meeting that the program went very well. Notable changes: students were divided into 3 groups, not 6; the Board Room did not need to be used for sessions; Speed and Stopping was not held at the track, but in a truncated, speed-limited (40 kph) session just outside the Wiigulga building; and catering was back to the old sausage sizzle days, courtesy of the Cricket Club.

- 6 **Memorials Projects:** briefly updated at following general meeting.
- 7 **Christmas raffle:** at the following general meeting, Michelle McIntosh documented extraordinary success in obtaining donations for the Christmas Raffle – truly impressive.
- 8 **Pop-up Shop:** booked for Sat 13 Dec. The previous one was successful, raising \$278.
- 9 We welcomed **new member Jenny Storum**, inducted on 27 Oct.
- 10 Nominations have been called for the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** week, 16–23 May 2026 at Mount Yarrahappini.
- 11 Nominations have been called for the **Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)**, a weekend camp for high school students aged 14–17, 6–8 Jun 2026.
- 12 For the record, our 2026 **Youth Exchange Program (YEP) Outbounder Izabella van der Merwe** will receive her blazer at the outbounders’ briefing weekend 29–30 Nov. She flies out to Brazil on 16 Jan.
- 13 RM reports that the **Seniors Centre** has obtained the 10-year lease sought from Council; congratulations to RM and his team.
- 14 Coming absences: Rod and Bronwyn Mackenzie will be going on a 2-week **Rotary Friendship Exchange visit to New Zealand** in February (and staying there a further week). PF and DF away 13 Apr (outback tour of Clarence Valley Orchestra).

BOARD MEETING NOTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

1. Welcome & Opening

Acknowledgement of Country: Kim Thompson provided.

Apologies: David Edwards, Christopher Chayko, Rod Mackenzie, Bronwyn Mackenzie, Jenny Storum

- Quorum: 5 required, 6 attending, quorum met

2. Minutes & Actions

- November 2025 Meeting Minutes Passed: Moved to Accept: AR, Seconded DF
- Review old business action items and progress:
 - Treasurer’s Annual Return – Geoff was to determine what D9660 requires – not completed.

3. Governance & Compliance - Treasurer’s report (account balances, etc.)

Treasurer: Bank balances as of (17/2/26):		See below	
Account - BCU	Balance	Account	Balance
Debit Card 02117252	\$245.15	Project 02117253	\$3,326.40
General 02117254	\$6,391.02	Grant 02117256	\$3,500.00
SEC 02117257	\$26,595.51	Pop-up Shop 02133292	\$8,399.05
Term Deposit 242113114 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$8,569.63	Term Deposit 242113121 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$12,854.47
NAB	\$0.0	As of 12/1/2026 + 5 weeks account will be closed	
Member Fees: Invoices will be sent to those not yet paid - GR			
Payments/Donations: Half-year dues to the District have been paid. Bill received from CeX for meeting room, grant has been approved.			

Moved to Accept: DF, Seconded: MB - Passed

- Membership summary: 16 Members, 4 Honorary Members
- Compliance updates (insurance renewals): District will contact us when due - GR

4. Finance & Fundraising

- Market Update – Bronwyn Mackenzie: No report – no dates set.
- Xmas Raffle Summary – Michelle will present summary at next meeting.
- District Grant Status – Geoff reports that funds have been received from District \$3,500, one year to implement.
- Budget adjustments (if needed) – Hold over to next meeting.

5. Operational Updates

- President's monthly report - Kim VP:
 - District Conference, Newcastle 20-21 March, volunteers needed
 - City of Coffs Harbour (CoCC) will be holding an evening event on March 10 to discuss major issues affecting Coffs. Will be held at the Bunker Cartoon Gallery, 5:30 pm. Food and drink will be provided. Bookings required on Eventbrite.
 - Rotary's Education Support Officer is looking for carer's feedback.
 - May 16 is Rotary Service Day. Coordinate existing activity for that day and register event on-line. Discussion: Our club will hold event under new grant, but it may not be on that specific day – will hold event at Senior Center for new grant activity.
 - Regionalisation is ongoing – more information later if our club is affected by changes.
- Secretary's monthly report – Alison:
 - Annual Report submitted by David Fayle to NSW Fair Trade (Form A12-2), paid \$57.
 - International Women's Day – 6th March: Our club will hold Parkinson's event, but may not occur that day.
 - New schedule sent out for updates, revised version attached.
 - RYPEN -Rotary Youth Leadership Program of Enrichment, school years 7-12, ages 13-17, online information available.
 - District is looking for photos/article to include in video program for Regional Conference. DF will send information to AR to send about DV program.
- Activity reports:
 - District Grant – Parkinson's and Senior Centre – Geoff reported that grant money has been received and a plan will be developed for this activity.
 - Science and Engineering Challenge – Peter reported that 2nd meeting held last week. Patti has 38 volunteers and will seek more, needs 4 for each activity. This may be last year for F&G Construction funding as bypass is nearing completion. Dinner cost \$35 and lunch on the day \$15. Speaker needs to be identified for dinner, volunteer training on the same day in the afternoon.
 - Rymarine – Mary reports no information can be found yet on this program.
 - Youth Exchange Program – Pam read out Bella's report in the recent program newsletter.
 - War Memorial Siting – Christopher Chayko (submitted on-line):
 - Members may know that the RSL sub-Branch/Rotary Project to Reinstate the Woolgoolga and District Great War Memorial, central to the Beach Reserve, was conditionally approved by Coffs Harbour City Council at its Meeting in December 2025. Most unfortunately, the Project has stalled (slightly) as the gentleman holding the Memorial stones (rocks only, not plaques) refuses to surrender them to the Community and the Project. He was a willing supporter at the Project relaunch in 2023. Advice (including legal advice) has been sought from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs and NSW Office of Veterans Affairs on how the Project should proceed and deal with the gentleman - and is awaited. In the very worst case, a near exact replica to which the plaques can be fixed, that may be

cheaper and more durable than a reinstatement, may have to be considered. In that case, fresh Council approval will be required.

- DV Phone Program – David Fayle reported that only two viable drop-off locations currently: PO and Lottery office. Seaview cannot locate their box, and library is temporarily closed for renovations. Alison has 8 phones currently to mail to DV phones.
- RYDA Volunteers – David Fayle: no activity at present, not sure if there will be program this year. We will not be pursuing the program until State changes policy on funding.
- Anzac Day – Christopher Chayko: no report.
- MHERV – Michelle: Better location is needed. Alison will attend the March 10 City Meeting (see President's report) and try to make some contacts to address location issue.
- Pride of Workmanship – Recommended holding this over to the next BOD meeting.
- Government Grants – Pam Fayle: no report.
- RYLA – Alison Ratliff:
Applications close on 16 April. Event will be held on 16-23 May at the Yarra Adventure Park, Grassy Head, NSW. Chase Saban (our participant last year) is returning in a Leadership role.
- AGM Meeting – Alison: No activity until November.
- School EOY Presentations - Rod: No activity until November.
- Meeting Speakers – Mary (coordinator):
From Alison Ratliff: Rotary's March Theme is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. Alison offered to do a presentation on water, sewer and stormwater inspection technologies to improve system performance and extend the service life of these systems.
From Bob Breen: Kim Townsend, local business owner and trainer, would like to attend a Rotary meeting and facilitate a presentation by Anthony Parker, who has spoken to other Rotary clubs, about supporting people with dementia. Discussion resulted in OK but April meeting is first opportunity to do this presentation.
- Working With Children Updates – Alison:
 - Update with NSW Office of Children's Guardian has been updated with Alison's contact information.
 - WWC update – Kyle updated and confirmed; David Edwards due next.

6. Review Schedule for Upcoming Deadlines

- Schedule provided to all with the meeting agenda. Changes should notify Alison.

7. Policies & Procedures - Approvals for new or updated policies: none identified.

8. Board Development - Training needs or governance workshops:

- Secretary – Can schedule with Di.

9. New Business

- Items raised by board members: PM raised the issue of a new stand for our new flag at a cost \$52.00. KT moved to purchase, MB seconded. Motion passed.
- Community feedback or stakeholder issues: no issues.
- Any urgent matters not covered elsewhere: none identified.

10. Meeting Close

- Summary of new action items: New flag stand purchase. / Confirm next meeting date: General Meeting – March 9, BOD March 23.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

MARCH 23, 2026

1. Welcome & Opening

Acknowledgement of Country: David Fayle provided.

Apologies: David Edwards, Christopher Chayko, Jenny Witcombe, Michelle McIntosh

- Quorum: 5 required, 7 attending, quorum met

2. Minutes & Actions

- February 2025 Meeting Minutes Passed: Moved to Accept: DF, Seconded GR, Passed
- Review old business action items and progress: None identified

3. Governance & Compliance - Treasurer's report (account balances, etc.)

Treasurer: Bank balances as of (23/3/26):		See below	
Account - BCU	Balance	Account	Balance
Debit Card 02117252	\$253.16	Operational 02117253	\$3,356.40
General 02117254	\$7,751.02	Grant 02117256	\$3,500.00
S&EC 02117257	\$31,501.91	Pop-up Shop 02133292	\$6,721.88
Term Deposit 242113114 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$8,569.63	Term Deposit 242113121 (5 month – matures 25 June, 2026)	\$12,854.47
NAB	\$0.0	As of 12/1/2026 + 5 weeks account will be closed	
Member Fees: Invoices sent to members not paid – two still unpaid - GR			
Payments/Donations: Motion to donate \$100 to Eisteddfod for Instrumental and choral. DF, Seconded RM, passed. AR mailed DV phone donations - \$22.60. New mahjong set for the Senior Centre.			

Moved to Accept Financial Report: PF, Seconded: RM – Passed

Motion: Transfer Grant balance \$3,500 (+ 20% Rotary contribution) = \$4,200 to Senior Centre – Moved RM, Seconded DF, passed. Rod to make written request before the end of the fiscal year.

- Membership summary: 16 Members, 4 Honorary Members
- Compliance updates (insurance renewals): Expires 30/6/2026, Public and Products Liability Insurance.

4. Finance & Fundraising

- Market Update – Bronwyn Mackenzie: March market cancelled due to rain, April booked.
- Xmas Raffle Summary – \$2,280.00 raised, written report from Michelle.

- District Grant Status – Meetings held monthly at the Senior Centre on topics related to Parkinson’s Disease health issues, approximately 20 attendees per meeting. Upcoming activities/ideas seeking grants/funding from Council, Costa, 3-4 grant submittals this week:
 - Dying to Know – end-of-life discussion workshops (June)
 - University of Technology – digital skills training for Seniors, 2 sessions remaining
 - Wellness Expo (July) – ½ day @ Wiigulga
 - Digital skills Training for Seniors – grant received to train 150 seniors over 12 months
 - Southern Cross University – TAFE – work experience discussions underway
 - Future presentations at WSC include UTS, Coffs Coast Dementia Alliance, ChiLL
- Budget adjustments (if needed):
 - (1) \$500 grant request to upgrade signs – possible entrances to Woolgoolga and Senior Citizens Centre which Rotary built and was opened early 2000. RM requested Woolgoolga Rotary be allocated \$500 (via DG Evan Burrell) applied for grant, no word yet on award.
 - (2) Change of signatures required now that Kim left Woolgoolga, when she transfers to another club.

5. Operational Updates

- President’s monthly report - Kim VP:
 - District Conference, Newcastle 20-21 March, RM will NOT attend.
 - May 16 is Rotary Epic Day of Service. Coordinate existing Activity for that day and register event on-line.
 - Zoom Meeting for Presidents: Rod participated and following items were highlighted:
 - Motto Theme 2026-27 – Create Lasting Impacts
 - Rotary looking at limiting club sizes
 - D9660 project 2026-27 - Say “No to Domestic Violence” program
 - D9660 project 2026-27 - Stand Tall and Don’t Fall
 - S&E Challenge – consider need to invite local Council members in 2027
 - Showcase Sawtell – Discussion followed and most members felt that our participation did not provide much benefit at this time
- Secretary’s monthly report – Alison:
 - New schedule sent out with Agenda for updates
 - Regionalization: Completed, Woolgoolga is Part of Region 9, still D9660
 - District promoting:
 - Overcoming Resistance to Change, review speech in District Brand Centre,
 - Rotary Basics – overview of how we operate today,
 - Programs of Scale – implement large-scale, high impact programs,
 - 2026 application cycle: same as 2026, no 2027 cycle,
 - Learn more – programs of scale @rotary.org,
 - Rotary testimonials – show value, download from Brand Centre (EN only),
 - SCAM mail – from DG Evan re Apple Gift Card, district does not approve or use gift cards as a form of payment,
 - District Public Image Survey: AR responded to survey on-line with outcome not requiring any immediate support from the District. Discussion following regarding our club’s ability

to successfully communicate with the community, have community support for events, update our FB page, and regularly provide articles for local publications.

- Activity reports:
 - Science and Engineering Challenge – Mary and Peter: Final list of volunteers and activities have been provided to all by Patti. Volunteer meeting on Monday, 30th March and Dinner 8pm on 30th March, Event on 31st.
 - War Memorial Siting – Christopher Chayko: no report.
 - DV Phone Program – David Fayle: 16 phones mailed to DV phones. Only two collection points currently: Lotto office and PO. Seaview has lost their box, AR has requested that they try to find it, Library is currently under renovation.
 - RYDA Volunteers – David Fayle: no report.
 - Anzac Day – Christopher Chayko: no report.
 - MHERV – Michelle: May 26 – 27 for van in Woolgoolga. City permit has been submitted. Waiting for confirmation of location.
 - Pride of Workmanship – RM requested that a 3-person committee be formed to develop this program for Aug-Oct. Table until later this year.
 - Government Grants – Pam Fayle: no report.
 - RYLA – Alison Ratliff:
Applications close on 16 April. Event will be held on 16-23 May at the Yarra Adventure Park, Grassy Head, NSW. Chase Saban (our participant last year) is returning in a Leadership role.
 - AGM Meeting – Alison: No activity until November.
 - School EOY Presentations - Rod: No activity until November.
 - Meeting Speakers – Mary (coordinator): April 13 - Rod/Bronwyn will speak about their NZ Rotary trip, Chase will speak about the RYLA.
 - Working With Children Updates – Alison:
 - WWC update – David Edwards updated, Jenny Storum has had problems with her application, she will reapply.

6. Review Schedule for Upcoming Deadlines

- Schedule provided to all with the meeting agenda. Changes should notify AR.

7. Policies & Procedures - Approvals for new or updated policies: develop procedures for Pride of Workmanship.

8. Board Development - Training needs or governance workshops: None identified.

9. New Business

- Items raised by board members: DF – Damaged Heritage and Walk signs: council has been contacted and in process.
- Community feedback or stakeholder issues: Positive feedback on raffles and Rotary leadership of the Senior Centre.
- Peter Lacy (via Rod) requested students supported by Rotary Woolgoolga be invited to talk to the Club about their experiences.
- Any urgent matters not covered elsewhere: none identified.

10. Meeting Close

- Summary of new action items:
- Confirm next meeting date: General Meeting – April 13, BOD April 27.
- Moved to adjourn: RM, seconded AR, passed.