

Weekly Newsletter and Program



PRESIDENT PETER FRANCIS 2024 – 25



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'The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri people as the traditional custodians of our beautiful lands and surrounding waters and respects elders past, present and emerging.'

MEETING NUMBER 2262: 5 June 2025

Venue: Grosvenor Hotel

President Peter opened the meeting and welcomed members, and guest speakers Clive Mountford and Michael Rosser. He informed members that the Quiz Night had been very successful, raising about \$3000 with 120 attendees. He thanked Ken and Stuart for their assistance. The event at Victor Harbor High School had also been successful and a good mutual learning experience for members and students. A further meeting has been held with Bendigo Bank in relation to the \$5000 they are donating for RYDA. In relation to a 'Christmas in July' event, the majority of members said they preferred to meet on Friday 25th July.

President Peter then handed over to Chair Madeleine who invited the Club Secretary and Directors to speak. Secretary Marilyn emphasised the importance of members letting her know if they are attending the Changeover dinner. She also informed members that Jeanette had been run over by a cyclist and is recovering well at home. Director Mary-anne alerted members to a working bee to be held for the Youth Centre at the Encounter Community Centre at 9am on 13th and 20th June. Please advise Mary Anne if interested. Paint brushes, rollers and trays will be needed. Director Colin thanked all members who attended the very successful reset project event at Victor Harbor High School.

Sergeant Bob then conducted the fines session with fines including President Peter, Ken Carter and Gill for birthdays and PHF anniversaries, President Peter for not being in the local paper yet again (although his wife was), Barrey Niven for driving someone away, Ken Carter for being a Quiz Night winner, Mary - anne for a smiley face, all Port and Crows supporters, Peter Manuel for an expensive lunch and Bob Hall for a Fred Hollows letter.

Chair Madeleine then introduced guest speakers Clive Mountford and Michael Rosser, Squadron Leader and Commodore respectively of the Victor Harbor and Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron (VHGSRs). She explained Clive has spent many years working in the IT Industry and running his own business. Once retired he joined the West Beach SRS and then in 2017 the VHGSRs. He has been the Squadron Leader since 2021. Michael's career included P&O, the Royal Australian Navy and senior roles in the

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Commonwealth and NSW Health Departments. After moving to NZ he joined KPMG and led a new Command and Control system for the NZ Defence Force. He also joined the NZ Coastguard as a volunteer and, after returning to Australia, the Australian Red Cross Emergency Services team. He joined the VHGSRS when he moved to Victor Harbor and became Commodore in 2022.



Michael and Clive explained VHGSRS started in 1987 with its Headquarters on Bridge Terrace. In 2003 a second boat was acquired and housed at Goolwa. VHGSRS covers one of the largest areas in SA and the second busiest. They now have 4 boats, one for rivers, one for shallows, one for heavy weather and one on wheels. They have saved more lives than any other squadron in SA. Hand held radios are used and are currently being updated with versions with five times more power. Safety monitoring occurs 7 days a week for 12 hours mostly from homes. Incidents go direct to the Squadron Leader and there is now a Mobile Command Unit to assist. Training is provided for radio operators, as well as first aid, crew and skipper courses.

The Southern Ocean, Coorong, Goolwa Channel and Lake Alexandrina are all very different environments. Recently there has been a rise in drownings at the Murray Mouth. Once a year there is a formal emergency practice (SAREX) with other agencies. In the last 12 months there have been about 30 incidents. Before COVID this number was 90. Incidents can range from 2-3 hours to several days in length. Debriefing is critical, plus counselling if required.

Clive finished by emphasising VHGSRS wouldn't exist without members and, sadly of course, 'unthinking boaties'.

In response to questions, members noted that many people don't understand water and local conditions. Calls are received on mobile phones but they don't allow all to hear and have a limited range. SES is now at Kingston and provides grants for boats. Boat life is about 15 years. Boats can cost \$3 million and a trailer \$60,000. The squadron has four boats and ten private boats are also used. It has 84 members currently with 60 operational 24/7. Madeleine operates radio. Flares are used at a cost of over \$200. A public flare demonstration is being planned.

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After inviting members to go outside to look at the VHGSR vehicle, Chair Madeleine thanked Clive and Michael for their interesting presentation about a key volunteer service and presented them with a small gift.

President Peter then reminded members next Thursday's meeting will be addressed by David Virgin. He also asked members to consider assisting at the Encounter Centre on the 13th and 20th June and with the tree planting on 21st June. He also looked forward to seeing members at the upcoming Goolwa Rotary Club Anniversary lunch and advised members there will be a joint meeting of the old and new Board on the 19th June. President Peter then closed the meeting at 8.45 pm with a quotation from Plato: 'If a man neglects education he walks lame to the end of his life'.

Members Present: 20 (65%), Guests 2, Apologies and Leave 11, Total attendance 22

FORWARD PROGRAM – Rotary Club of Encounter Bay

Partners and guests very welcome

For catering and/or attendance purposes, if you will be an apology or are bringing guests you must advise **Fleurieu Crash Repairs 8552-4833** no later than **1600 hrs the day before (Wednesday)**.

Remember also, when food is available, to advise of any dietary requirements.

12 June	6.30 for 7pm	Grosvenor Hotel	Travels on Remote Islands – David Virgin	TBA
19 June	6.30 for 7pm	Grosvenor Hotel	Final Meeting before Changeover	TBA
27 June	6.30 for 7pm	Crown Hotel	Changeover meeting	TBA

Market Rosters –Contact Market Director Cherilyn Fleming for details

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