

Rotary

Club of Encounter Bay



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary 



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PRESIDENT & PRESENT ELECT – Gillian Houlihan 2025-2026

Weekly Newsletter and Program

“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 2279: 23 OCTOBER 2025

Venue: Grosvenor Hotel

The meeting was called to order by Acting Sergeant Bob who welcomed members and guests Sally and Paul Willoughby. He then handed over to President Gill who explained member Ken is still having treatment. She then highlighted Barry's Rotary anniversary before alerting members to the forthcoming summit on membership matters to be held on 15 November at the Walkers Arms Hotel from 9.30 to 3.30. President Gill will be attending and would welcome one other member to join her and possibly share drive. President Gill also asked members to consider and let Colin Francis know if they can volunteer as mentors for the High School Exploring Ideas and Identities project on 13 November.

President Gill then handed over to Chair Stuart who called for contributions from Directors. Cherilyn, speaking on behalf of Mary-anne, notified members that minutes of the most recent Board meeting will be available shortly. As Market Director, she was pleased to report 82 market stalls present in total last week at Goolwa and Port Elliot. Stuart explained that Ken has written an article on club grants for the local paper and an advertisement for community grants which will be open until 19 November. Lastly, domestic violence posters are available to put up in local hotel toilets. Feedback on this would be welcome.

Bob McFarland then reported that 222 students attended the RYDA program this year, making a total of 30,000 to date. The cost of the program to Goolwa and Victor Harbor clubs was \$703. Finally, Chair Stuart asked for the 200 Club Draw to be conducted, and Des Schirmer was the winner.

Introducing Guest Speaker Sally from the Rotary Club of Murray Bridge, Chair Stuart explained she is a Past President of Rotary and currently on the District Committee for 'Rotary Says No to Domestic Violence'.

President & President Elect: Gill Houlihan
Secretary: Mary-anne Woodman
Club Service: Phil De Courcey
International Service: David Virgin

Treasurer: Rob Mulhern
Community Service: Stuart Ellis
Youth Service: Colin Francis
Market Director: Cherilyn Fleming



Sally began her presentation by noting the success of 'Walk for Respect' on 11 October which was very effective in raising public awareness of the issue. She also noted the current Australian of Year made a very moving speech on the matter, having experienced violence as a child. Sally herself has been personally impacted. Now recovered, she still feels upset occasionally.

She reported being naive when she married and was first abused by her husband on a trip to the UK. She felt both guilty and diminished. When it happened again she believed she was the cause. By the end of the trip she was ill from beatings and a pregnancy but was not allowed to inform her parents. When her son was born she was beaten again and made to feel hopeless as a mother. Back in Australia this behaviour was repeated with the birth of two more children. At this point she felt she needed a way out but found it hard to articulate the issue. Her husband threatened suicide if she left. When he struck her with a fork she rang the women's switchboard and with the help of a doctor and solicitor obtained a non-molestation order and was then legally separated. With a new partner she was accused of being the instigator of the separation. Her daughter stayed with her, and her sons with their father. Later she won custody of the sons. All children are scarred, as well as grandchildren. Sally explained she felt domestic abuse was like polio - it will take a generation to change and so it is important to make every effort. One in three women and one in fourteen men are affected. She also emphasised that on the 23 November at the the Purple Wave of Change event it will be important to have collection boxes.

In response to questions, Sally explained that the issue is now much better advertised. She also explained that the Rpyal Commission last year issued 136 recommendations and coercive control is now a crime with a sentence of seven years in prison. There is a house on Hinmarsh Island with a purple door

which is a refuge and would be good to publicise. Lastly, members agreed it is a good thing for clubs such as Rotary and Zonta to work together on this issue.

Chair Stuart then thanked Sally for sharing a very sobering personal life experience. It was then agreed there would be no fines session and President Gill thanked Sally again for an excellent and very moving presentation.

President Gill then alerted members to the \$2million dollars donated to date by the Bendigo Bank to Southern Fleurieu Communities. Peter reminded members that next week's meeting will be at the RSL at 5.30pm followed by a presentation on the Zulu Wars at the Grosvenor. The banner 'Unite for Good' was once again noted by members and the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

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 **Secretary 0448 217 725** no later than **1600 hrs the day before (Wednesday)**.

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

30 October	5.30pm 6.30pm for 7.00pm	VHRSL Museum Grosvenor Hotel	Bob Suba The Zulu Wars	Barrey Niven
6 November	6.30pm for 7.00pm	Grosvenor Hotel	Daniel Western City of Victor Harbor AI and the Local Community	Shane Lutz
13 November	6.30pm for 7.00pm	Encounter Bay Football Club	Combined Service Clubs Meeting	

Members present: 16

Apologies:11

Guests: 2

Market Rosters – Contact Market Director Cherilyn Fleming for details

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