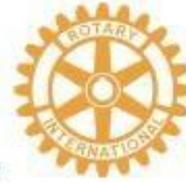


Rotary

Club of Encounter Bay



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FOR
GOOD**

Rotary 



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PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT 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 2286: 11 DECEMBER 2025

Venue: Hotel Grosvenor

Acting Sergeant Bob McFarland called the meeting to order and introduced President Gill Houlihan who welcomed the 19 members in attendance, and guests Jan Schirmer and Meredith Abbott. Nine members sent their apologies for the meeting.

All those present created a happy atmosphere chatting and catching up on news and gossip while settling in to dutifully do what had to be done, i.e. participate in the official club AGM. Beautiful Bon Bons placed around the table were tugged open, and the paper hats contained within perched on heads, some of which were polished and glowing. The offered jokes were shared and duly all collected by Peter Francis to pass on to our Joke Supreme Master, member Ken Carter. But perhaps more importantly everyone looked forward to sharing and celebrating a special occasion for a long-serving respected member of the club. More details on this later.

Past President Peter Francis then took centre-stage as Chairman for the meeting.

He acknowledged the one year anniversary of Valerie and Vincent Kok joining the club; the upcoming wedding anniversaries of Jo and Stuart Ellis, Ken and Kathy Carter and David and Janice Virgin and birthdays for Bob Oliver and Sue Dixon. He advised that Alan Kluske was now safely back home after being hospitalized for a short period.

President & President Elect: Gill Houlihan
Immediate Past President: Peter Francis
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: Cheryllyn Fleming

Treasurer Rob Mulhern advised that the Board had agreed with his suggestion that the club should thank both the Bendigo Bank and Price Accounting for their support during the year and accordingly a suitable hamper had been purchased and delivered to both businesses as a Christmas gift from RCEB.

As previously discussed and agreed, a total donation of \$400 has been provided to OARS (Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of SA).

President Gill then presented Directors' badges to three members who have stepped up to manage senior roles within the club. This follows a rather bumpy start to the current year which saw Gill Houlihan take over as Club President; Mary-anne Woodman become Club Secretary and Sue Dixon Assistant Secretary; Rob Mulhern accept responsibility as Club Treasurer and Phil De Courcey become Director for Club Service. President Gill thanked our 'new' team members for accepting these positions in the club for the remainder of the Rotary year 2025-26 and it is certainly very evident that they are managing their responsibilities very well indeed!

The 200 club was then drawn three times by club official Barrey Niven but with two winners, not three. Phil Beckett won both Draws no's 12 and 41 and Des Schirmer won Draw no. 52, which was a fitting result for him on this special evening (more info later).

Meeting attendees then all dived for cover as A/Sergeant Bob swung into action with the Fines Session, managing to fleece a substantial number of coins from meek and mild members, some of whom actually offered to sacrifice themselves by offering individual stories of misdemeanours. Of particular interest was a quite fascinating offering by Brenton Abbott quoting from memorabilia he had discovered after a very long period being tucked and hidden away in a bottom drawer – somewhere.

It was then time for the AGM, which proceeded with due pomp and ceremony. All details will duly be available when the Minutes are circulated by Club Secretary Mary-anne. However at this juncture it can be advised that the required leadership renewal as mandated by Rotary International has been confirmed with Gill Houlihan continuing as Club President for 2026-27 and Phil De Courcey taking on the role of President Elect for that year.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Christmas BBQ 18th December 2025 Kent Reserve - 5.30 pm

Details – see invitation attached.

2. Fundraising International Night at the Virgin's – 29th January 2026 6pm start

-3 Knights Beach Walk Port Elliot

2 Course meal \$25 / per head

Bring your own drinks.

RSVP by 22 January to allow for catering.

Janice 0408812622 David 0427988004

This well-established annual event is of course high on members' social calendars and you are reminded that guests and past members are very welcome to attend.

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3. **Footy Tipping** – proceeds from last year have been donated to pay for food at the Christmas BBQ. We are very pleased to advise that Peter Manuel will be organizing the competition again next year.

Club members and friends were delighted to celebrate with Des his amazing milestone –

Happy 90th Des Schirmer!

Best birthday wishes from everyone at the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay.



Des and Jan with Birthday Cake – celebrating Des's 90th. Special thanks to Gill Houlihan who made and donated the magnificent cake

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