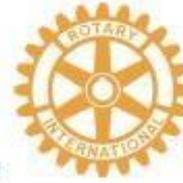


Rotary

Club of Encounter Bay



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary 



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PRESIDENT Gillian Houlihan 2026-2027

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 2287: 5 FEBRUARY 2026

Venue: Hotel Grosvenor

Sergeant Ken called the first formal meeting of the year (following meeting number 2286 held on 11 December) to order. He noted that in 1869 the Welcome Stranger nugget was found near Bendigo and that there are 322 days to Christmas. He then welcomed President Gill and invited her to open the meeting.

President Gill congratulated Des on the award of Citizen of the Year and reminded members of three previous Citizens of the Year who were club members at the time – Bob, Paul and Peter Francis. Des thanked all those who called and sent him good wishes. President Gill then welcomed back Sergeant Ken, Alan Kluske and honorary member Jeanette. She then welcomed the six members of the South Coast Chamber Orchestra who, members noted, are Group Citizens of the Year. She also thanked David Virgin for a very successful and enjoyable International Night.

Secretary Mary-anne then apologized for her phone and email system not working. Members noted it will be functional by the 14 February. International Director David Virgin thanked all who attended the International Night and especially those who helped with cooking and cleaning. \$3100 will be given to the Treasurer. Colin Francis advised a speaker is planned to present to the club on the National Youth Science Forum and enquiries are also arriving for the One and All experience.

The 200 Club draw was then conducted with winners being Janice Virgin, Phil de Coursey, Bob MacFarland, Sue Morissett and Bev Kluske.

President: Gill Houlihan
Immediate Past President: Peter Francis
Secretary: Mary-anne Woodman
Club Service: Phil De Coursey
International Service: David Virgin

Treasurer: Rob Mulhern
Community Service: Stuart Ellis
Youth Service: Colin Francis
Market Director: Cheryl Fleming
President Elect: Phil De Coursey

Peter Francis then informed members of upcoming guests and presentations which include NYSF students, Isaac Lush speaking about the Solar Challenge, a presentation on AI in High Schools and penguins. Members also noted a forthcoming event in Hindmarsh Valley on 29 March.

Sergeant Ken collected fines from Ken, Faye, Bob and Joan Oliver for their wedding anniversaries, Colin Wormald for a PHF anniversary, Peter Manuel for his birthday, Paul Houlihan for an 80th birthday, Phil de Courcey (whose wife mistook Sergeant Ken for Peter Francis), Peter Francis, Stuart, Meredith and David Vale for appearing in the paper, Bob Oliver for his adventures with a canary, Madeleine for her phone, Mary-anne for passing notes, and Peter for giving Ken a gift of a book of riddles. Golden Moments included the birth of a great grandchild, and a poem from Bert Flushbucket congratulating Des on his award.

President Gill then invited the South Coast Chamber Orchestra to perform for members and the repertoire was much enjoyed. Their forthcoming concert was noted.

In closing, and with a sad heart, President Gill reminded members of the upcoming funeral of past President Deirdre at 12.30 on Friday. She asked members attending to wear their Rotary shirts and badges and offered to organise car shares to Strathalbyn. Members noted donations will be sent to Mercy Ships through our club financial account and were asked to include their names. The meeting was then closed at 8.30pm. Please see overleaf for two additional reports from our President.

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 the **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.

12 February	6.30 for 7.00pm	Grosvenor Hotel	Artificial Intelligence in Schools	TBA
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Members present: TBC

Apologies: TBC

Market Rosters – Contact Market Director Cherilyn Fleming for details

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Reports from our President

Deidre Hughes 30-1-26

Our club is sad to report the passing of Deidre Hughes, ex president and Paul Harris Awardee (3 in fact) Deidre became the first woman to be accepted into our club in 2006 She demonstrated outstanding skills and total commitment, organisation and initiative in a range of service areas. Her commitment was such that she was elected club president in 2009 and by 2011 had been elected as Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 9520. She became widely respected by the many clubs in the region and was instrumental in helping them deal with a wide range of service through her guidance. Her assistance and management of the Rotary club of Encounter Bay markets at Goolwa and Port Elliot ensured they become very successful fund raisers for the club. Deidre's funeral was conducted at the Strathalbyn function centre on Friday 6th Feb. The high regard and respect for Deidre by members was evidenced by the attendance of 21 members and partners, all wearing their Rotary shirts as a sign of respect for her work in our club. Vale Deidre.

In lieu of flowers her family has requested that donations be made to :-

The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay

BSB 633 000

Acc No 202 989 018

Please mark it Mercy Ships - Deidre Hughes and include your name so the family can acknowledge it.

International Night 29-1-26

The International Committee again held its Major fundraiser at David and Janice Virgins home. This has become an annual dinner and fellowship event eagerly attended by members as the first meeting of the year,

Forty guests gathered together and enjoyed donated nibbles and curries, stroganoff and accompaniments prepared by Gill Houlihan, Sabine De Courcey and the Virgins followed by strawberry smashed pavlova dessert constructed by several helpers under Janice's watchful eye. As a fundraiser, raffle prizes were donated, as well as a valuable bottle of Rockford wine which was auctioned. The event raised \$1110 for New Life Africa International school and orphanage in Nakuru, Kenya.

This amount was bolstered to over \$1200 through the efforts of a group of "friends of Rotary" who produce craft items and sell them through several functions held at the Virgin's home.

To make these fundraisers the success they have become, members, invited guests and Friends of Rotary manned the entry table, bought raffle tickets and participated in the successful wine auction.

Members and partners were especially helpful with preparing and serving the dinner, as well as aiding with the general cleanup especially the dishwashing. A big thank you to all!

The club thanks David and Janice for allowing us to use their beautiful home.

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