



Postal address; PO Box 243 Victor Harbor 5211
Email address: encounterbay@rotaryclub.org.au
Web address: rotaryencounterbay.org.au

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 2295: 19 March 2026

Venue: Hotel Grosvenor

Sergeant Ken called the meeting to order. He noted anniversaries of exporting gold from Victoria to Treasury Building Adelaide in 1852, and the opening of the Sydney Harbor Bridge in 1932 at which Francis De Groot was arrested and fined for slashing the ribbon. Paul Keating resigned in 1996. He then reminded members equinox will occur on Saturday and then handed over to President Gill who opened the meeting, welcomed new member Peter Lineman, guest Meredith and guest speaker Stephen Richards. She noted birthdays for Bev and Sabine, and thanked Phil, Stuart and Sue who worked with her at the Women's Expo on Sunday. A letter will be sent to Zonta and one from Zonta has been received. She advised members a letter from New Life Africa has also been received and will be circulated and then handed over to Chair Barry, who invited Directors to speak.

President Elect Phil asked members to visit the club's website and notify him of any suggestions for improvement. The login for members is 'Encounter'. Stuart then advised members he has received a report from grant recipient Horseshoe Hub and passed on their gratitude to the club. Members noted they are most welcome to attend Fleurieu Families Day from 11am to 1pm. 30 families are likely to attend. Alan notified members that the camping weekend will go ahead and circulated a list for members to indicate their interest. Chair Barry then introduced guest speaker Stephen from the University of the Third Age (U3A). Stephen began by explaining the Latin origin of the word 'university' as a council of people united in one body. The founder of U3A was French and started it with the aim of making the most of the third age of life. In 1973 a minimum joining age of 50 was established and in 1981 the UK member driven model was adopted. U3A was launched in Melbourne in 1984 and Adelaide in 1986. There are now 3,000 globally. Currently SA has 19.

President: 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: Cheryl F Fleming
President Elect: Phil De Courcey



Our South Coast U3A will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year and has 400 members. It is the third largest in SA with over 40 groups. Annual events include an AGM, a volunteers' lunch and a Christmas lunch. Research shows that health and well-being of members is improved with a 38% lower rate of Alzheimer's disease and 20% lower rate of mortality. Quality of social relationships has been shown to be key to improved life outcomes. A key outreach initiative next year will be to improve inclusion of lower socioeconomic groups. Personal recommendations are critical and any retirees wishing to offer a course are encouraged to contact U3A. Outstanding members include Beryl who joined as a computer student and at 92 is teaching watercolour painting, and Anna who has the record for 26 attendances. There are ongoing cost pressures which the organisation would much appreciate help with. In response to questions Stephen explained the WEA is focused on participants who are still working and U3A has a much broader offering of studies. Members noted the impressive range of subjects and the proven social and health impact of U3A before the Chair and President thanked Stephen for his presentation and assured him the Board will consider support for a very worthy initiative.

Sergeant Ken was then invited to conduct the fines session, which included Sue Morisset for a muddled food order, Peter Francis for the anniversary of a Paul Harris Fellowship, Stuart for a membership anniversary, Bev and Sabine for birthdays, President Gill and Barry for being in the local paper, Des for selling a pool table, Peter and Madeleine for their recent sign run, Peter for a poor joke about a bandstand, and Bob for having two cars in his garage. The auction which will contribute to the general fund for the handover dinner and the Kenya initiative was then held and the winner was Phil De Courcey.

President: 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: Cherilyn Fleming
 President Elect: Phil De Courcey



Alan advised 10 people have indicated they will attend the camp and they will need to ring Mannum Big 4 caravan park to book for Friday 8-10 May. The President then thanked guest speaker Stephen once again, thanked Meredith for attending and congratulated new member Peter once more before closing the meeting at 8.20pm.

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 **President** by email (pghouli@bigpond.net.au) or text message (0409695770) no later than **1600 hrs the day before (Wednesday)**. Remember also, when food is available, to advise of any dietary requirements.

26 March	6.30 for 7.00	Grosvenor Hotel	Sailing in the Australian Optimist Development Squad Sam Watters	Bob McFarland
-----------------	--------------------------	------------------------	---	----------------------

Members present: 21

Apologies: 8

Guests: 2

Market Rosters – Contact Market Director Cheryl Fleming for details

President: 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: Cheryl Fleming
 President Elect: Phil De Courcey