

Rotary

Club of Encounter Bay



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FOR
GOOD**

Rotary 



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PRESIDENT 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 2301: 11 June 2026

Venue: Hotel Grosvenor

This evening's Guest Speaker was Dale Francis, Paramedic and Clinical Team Leader Fleurieu, S.A Ambulance Service. Prior to the meeting being held at our usual venue, the Hotel Grosvenor, members were invited to visit the ambulance station strategically located on Adelaide Road Hayborough and only just over 12 months in use having been officially opened in April 2025. The purpose built facility has 60 – 65 paramedics available and advanced emergency equipment ready to use.

Dale showed us through the complex, and demonstrated to us how the various items of medical equipment can help to save lives. These include a medical cardiac depression device and specialized person raiser which literally will raise someone from a prone to seated position without any effort required on their part. (See photos of club member Peter Francis experiencing an elevation under the direction of son Dale.)



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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: Cheryllyn Fleming
President Elect: Phil De Coursey

Included in the building is a kitchen, bathrooms, lecture rooms and restorative rooms, especially provided to allow working paramedics space to deal with recent trauma and extreme demanding situations.

There is also a spacious garage for the ambulance vehicles which we were given the opportunity to inspect.

Overall the visit was an eye-opening opportunity to see first-hand how the Ambulance Station is set up and run. It also brought home very clearly how fortunate we are to live here and have such advanced medical equipment available, but most of all the amazing care that can be provided by the highly skilled and trained paramedics.

On completion of our visit members made their way to the Hotel Grosvenor where in due course they settled in, most with a glass in hand and meal ordered, in preparation for the official meeting. It was a very good turn-out with the happy buzz of conversation and laughter.

Sergeant Ken Carter welcomed all members as well as Guest Speaker Dale and three guests; John Dawkins, Peter Dixon and Paul Houlihan. Fiona Haynes did not attend the meeting but joined us for the tour of the Ambulance Station.

Ken commenced the meeting with congratulating Des Schirmer on being acknowledged with a gong through the King's Birthday Honours. Des was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia and members stood and applauded him for his achievement. A little later Des gave a short speech, thanking everyone and explaining how he has been involved in community voluntary service for most of his life. Well done and deserved Des.



This was followed by Ken naming those members who were celebrating a birthday as well as wedding and Rotary anniversaries.

Club members were then very pleased to welcome Peter Lineham who was officially inducted into the club by President Gill. We look forward to sharing convivial times with Peter together with working to help our local community and on Rotary projects throughout the world.

Sergeant Ken then handed over the meeting to President Gill who reminded us that the annual club changeover is being held on Friday 26th June at the Port Elliot Surf Lifesaving Club and costs \$40 pp. Payment is now due. Gill also advised that Sabine De Courcey's nomination as a member of our Rotary Club has been accepted and she will be inducted at the handover dinner on the 26th.

Bob McFarland as Chair then took over the meeting and formally introduced Dale Francis, Paramedic and Clinical Team Leader Fleurieu inviting him to speak. His presentation was "What is a Paramedic and what do we do?". He certainly held a captive audience giving an informative and interesting background to what is required and involved to work in the demanding field of paramedicine.

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Initial requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Paramedic science, 3 years
 - Internal Internship process, 1 year

Reaccreditation

- Ongoing Training and professional development
 - Inservice requirements
 - AHPRA specific requirements

What Next?

Around 3-5 years post qualification

- Clinical Instructor
- Clinical Education and Innovation
- SPRINT Paramedic
- Operations Support
- Further study



Team Leader's (read Dale's) emergency vehicle

Specialised roles

Intensive Care Paramedic



-Post graduate diploma or equivalent with competitive internal internship process

Extended Care Paramedic

Special Operations Paramedic

Retrieval Paramedic

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Clearly we can feel confident that our paramedics are very capable of taking care of us medically if required!



On conclusion of Dale's presentation, Chairman Bob asked Barry Niven to spin the wheel and select three separate winners for the club draw which he did resulting in two wins for Sue Morisset and the third for Barry Pryor.

This was followed by a Fines Session courtesy of Sergeant Ken, with identified and charged members happily searching for coins.

President Gill then closed the meeting, reminding members that the next formal meeting is the changeover on Friday 26th June, but also that there will be an informal meeting held next Thursday evening at the Hotel Grosvenor, usual time (6.30pm for 7.00pm) following a meeting of Board members which is being held earlier at the hotel (5.00pm).

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