



**Annual Report
Of the
Rotary Club of Encounter Bay**

2025/2026



Rotary District 9510



President's Report – Gill Houlihan

The board of the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay experienced some major changes three months into this Rotary year.

We began the year under the very competent hands of Sue Morisset as President.

Sue also brought onto the board Sue Dixon as the Club secretary and Vincent Kok as Club Treasurer. Both board members added some new initiatives as they established their roles. At the time I was the Incoming President Elect and through that fact I was looking forward to a year of growth and development in preparation for my role in 2026/2027.



Unfortunately, with a set of differing situations, employment changes, personal challenges and ill health the board had to undergo a major change in its structure. I became President, Mary-anne Woodman took up the role of secretary and one of our newest members Rob Mulhern, took on the role of Treasurer. To add to that, the position I had previously filled on the board also became vacant. I was most pleased when Phil de Courcey willingly accepted the role of Club Service Director and became the newest member on the board. I am extremely grateful to these three people as they have proved a real asset to the board.

I am grateful that through her preparation and numerous meetings with fellow board members, Sue had already set up the groundwork for the coming Rotary year. Thank you Sue for this established framework. It certainly made my task much easier. Likewise, Vincent, through several initiatives, had set up a framework from which Rob could manage the budget whilst still becoming familiar with club and Rotary International financial policies.

Many thanks to Sue Morisset, Sue Dixon and Vincent Kok for their contributions to the club leadership.

The Rotary International mantra for 2025/26 was Unite for Good and I am very happy to say that the whole club followed this sentiment and got behind the fledgling members of the board ensuring that our initiation into the new roles was smooth. I thank the entire club for your support during this period.

One of my personal goals during this year was to promote our club within the community and to increase public awareness of our club's activities and impact on community projects.

Each of our directors have included a comprehensive report so I won't elaborate extensively on the many individual projects. However, I would like to acknowledge a few of our achievements and the members who made them possible.

The Goolwa and Port Elliot Markets. These have been the lynch pin of our fundraising programme and hence our ability to sponsor many local activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cherilyn Fleming and her band of permanent supporters. Cherilyn's dedication to her role as market Director, has added many hours to her responsibilities as she attends all the local government meetings regarding development of the Wharf precinct and the role of the market and the management of the market to ensure it remains one of the club's major projects.



In line with increasing our public awareness I would like to acknowledge a dedicated team who ensure that the club's publicity, through reports to the local media, Facebook, our website and communication with the entire club through weekly bulletins. Thank you, Ken Carter, John Haynes, Phil de Courcey, Madeleine Jenkins and Marilyn Shaw.

Public awareness is also fostered by the many projects we have undergone, and our directors will elaborate on these, but I would like to acknowledge some of our outstanding activities,

- Funding a free Family Day at Urimbirra for disadvantaged families
- Ongoing sponsorship of the SCOTS vehicle lease, "Bob Hall"
- Mentoring Year 11 students at Victor Harbor High School
- The organisation and running of the Wally Bradley Quiz night in conjunction with the Fleurieu Foundation
- Sponsoring the RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver awareness program with our partners, Bendigo Community Bank and Goolwa Rotary Club. Thank you, Bob McFarland, for your continued work with this program.
- Supporting Domestic violence Initiatives and awareness, both in the Fleurieu working in conjunction with the Zonta club and Purple Waves of Change through our group 5
- Our continued support of the New Life Africa School in Kenya. (this is the 20th year). With the support of the Virgin family the club made a large donation of \$10,000 to complete the project.
- We also continued our International Responsibilities through donations to shelter box, End Polio Now and the Rotary Foundation.



Our Rotary Dinner meetings have provided us with many opportunities to further our horizons and knowledge through our Guest Speaker programme organised by Peter Francis. Possibly even more valuable has been the fellowship and support that members provide each other.



One notable evening featured bagpipes and haggis and the celebration of Rabbie Burns. Similarly, the running of the 200's club has been an eagerly anticipated event on the club program. Thanks to Barrey Niven!

Several club members and their partners enjoyed a lively weekend away in Mannum, thanks to Alan Kluske, and we need to acknowledge Sergeant Ken's contribution to our dinners, by way of Peter's Christmas Cracker "jokes"

Also, birthday cakes have been shared on the occasions of the 90th birthdays of Bob Hall, Des and Jan Schirmer and Barry Pryor.

Congratulation on these remarkable milestones.



The club also celebrated the achievement of Des Schirmer who was awarded the Local Councils "Citizen of The Year" on Australia Day.

This award was contributed to the many hours of service Des has given to our community.

As this goes to print I would also like acknowledge that Des was awarded an OAM in the Kings Birthday honours list. Congratulations Des, and Jan who has been by his side in support.

Congratulations to the board members of 2025/2026 for the outstanding commitment and service you have performed for the club and the advice and support you have given to me.

In finishing I wish to thank you all, the Members of the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay for the ongoing support you have shown to me and the board at a time when we were fledglings as a board.

You really did “Unite for Good”

Gill Houlihan - President



Treasurers Report – Rob Mulhern



In late October I was asked if I would take on the role as treasurer, as the previous member had resigned due to new work commitments.

Not having had any experience in the Xero accounting system, I said that I would have a go, but to be aware of my limitations.

I am therefore not able to be accountable for the July to September period but trust the previous treasurer was able to prepare them as all of those financial records appear to be correct.

Being a very new member, it has been interesting to learn about the many organisations that we continue to support in a monetary way. I have endeavoured at the end of every month to provide the members with a bank statement update of our finances in each of the following accounts: Credit card, General, Fundraising and Term Deposit accounts.

I am very pleased to announce that our club is in a very healthy position financially due to the Rotary Markets, I urge members to consider this fact because if we do not retain the Port Elliot and Goolwa markets for 2027 and beyond this may not remain the case.

Some yearly statistics for member interest.

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| • Club fines | \$670.40. |
| • Interest | \$895.65 |
| • Dinner meeting expenses | \$1607.79 |

Our Major Funded projects were:

- New Life School Nakuru, Kenya: (International).
- SCOTS (Southern Communities Transport Scheme) vehicle lease - Bob Hall car.
- 2 Wheelchairs for kids (International)
- Rotary Foundation
- End Polio
- Purple waves of change against Domestic Violence (Group 5)
- Local community small grants for RFDS, Riding for the disabled, Women's workshop, Pt Elliot Ensemble, Waitpinga School hall, Mercy ships, Shelter Box, Steam Ranger, OARS, Fleurieu Families, Operation Flinders.



I also would like to take this opportunity to mention the amount of work the International Committee has contributed, through David and Janice Virgin's leadership and with a special group of Friends of Rotary who formed a craft group. They were able to raise a sizeable amount towards the New Life School and to also supervise the expenditure of this money in Kenya.

We must also applaud Cheryl Fleming for her huge commitment in keeping the markets operational. This is our primary income source and has allowed us to support such a diverse range of community projects.

All accounts have been paid and there are no outstanding invoices. Finally, I would like to thank all members for their support.

Yours through Rotary

Rob Mulhern
Treasurer

Club Service Report – Phil de Courcey

Committee

The Membership of the Club Service committee for the 2026/27 year has been updated. A few positions are yet to be filled and we aim to do that by 30 June.



Website

The Club website was recognised as needing update. The best value of the website is seen as a brochure site for promoting the club, including information for potential members and those interested in Rotary. It can also act as an information portal for those seeking support and grant assistance for community groups. Some areas currently listed are no longer relevant and need to be removed. A review will be undertaken a refresh developed in the first quarter of the new Rotary year. Input from the Board and members to improve the website is requested.

Newsletter

The newsletter is a valuable and reliable source of information for all members and will continue to be distributed by email and on the website.

Action: I'm not sure how widely it is distributed, if not currently done, I suggest that it be sent to the whole membership group including honorary members and Friends of Rotary.

Program and the Trial Program

The program so far this year has been informative and engaging. It is a huge undertaking to develop the program and coordinate worthy speakers and presenters; this year's success is largely based on Peter's significant efforts.

A trial program was implemented for the Apr-June period with the intent to determine if meetings on 1st and 3rd Thursday each month would meet club needs. The trial was conducted to determine if it would be beneficial or worthwhile to reduce the impost on members' time. The trial period has some significant disruptions, Easter etc which seemed to have impacted the flow of meetings. The question is open as to whether the trial was successful or not.

Action: That the trial will be discussed at the Club Assembly on 2 July 2026, the first meeting of the new Club year. A program for the new Club year will be developed after review is conducted at the Assembly. Fellowship and Welfare - Club excursion to Mannum.

Alan Kluske coordinated an excursion for club members to Mannum which I believe was a great success.

Phil de Courcey
Club Service - Director

Community Service Report – Stuart Ellis

Community Service Committee members:

- Valerie Kok
- Marilyn Shaw
- Phil Becket
- Bob Oliver
- Vincent Kok
- Des Schirmer
- Shane Lutz
- Stuart Ellis



Community Grants. The Committee administered Community Grants for the Club to a total value of \$20,407.

- \$1,000 for RFDS Support Group to assist with fund raising.
- \$1,000 to the Encounter Centre to lay carpets in the shed
- \$ 500 to Rotary Group 5 'Purple Waves of Change Day'
- \$3,000 to Riding for Disabled
- \$1,114 to Fleurieu Neighbourhood Network
- \$ 500 to Horseshoe Hub for community network
- \$1,128 to Victor Harbor Sea Scouts
- \$1,500 to Waitpinga Progress Association
- \$1,065 to Elliot Ensemble
- \$200 to Pt Elliot Town and Foreshore Association
- \$1,300 to Goolwa Community Association
- \$1,000 to Pt Elliot and Middleton Probuss
- \$5,000 to Fleurieu Families for \$5,000 to meet the 'gap payments' for medical specialists when families requiring assistance have children with specialist appointments
- \$2,000 to Steam Ranger

SCOTS Lease. The Committee had oversight of the \$ 8,000 Club donation to lease a vehicle for the Southern Communities Transport Scheme (SCOTS), our largest single community donation.

Domestic Violence Safe Phones. 21 used phones donated by Club members, have been sent to 'DV Safe Phones', to assist with those suffering from domestic violence.

Supporting the Victor Harbor Christmas Padget. Committee members and Friend of Rotary assisted in marshalling during the annual Victor Harbor Christmas Padget organised by the RCVH.

Hosting the Family Day at Urimbirra.

On 22 March, club members together with 'Fleurieu Families' invited over 20 families to a free visit to Urimbirra followed by a sausage sizzle and gift packs. It was a fun occasion and a great opportunity for hands-on involvement supporting local families



Zonta Expo. While not a specific Community Service Committee activity, Club members promoted the RCEB at the Fleurieu Zonta Club on 15 March 2026, during their Expo, together with many other local community groups.

Stuart Ellis
Community Services - Director

International Report – David Virgin

Shelterbox

Shelterbox and Rotary International. Have formed a collaboration to enhance the ability to respond quickly to disasters. The main reasons for this port. The conflict in national disasters such as earthquakes and floods. This year we provided \$2000 towards the partnership, which supports thousands of people and families in approximately 20 countries.



NLAI (New Life Africa International)

Once again money was raised at the International Fundraising night and combined with the donation coming from the efforts of the local NLAI Craft group this amounted to \$3000. Our Club has provided an extra \$7000 so that the next big project can go ahead. Please funds will assist the completion of the brand-new kitchen facility and dining area in the school community of NLAI In the Nakuru, Kenya.

Last 20 years this school has grown from a few classrooms with dirt floors and stick walls, to now providing education for some 800 students in quality buildings, as well as supporting an outreach programme for about thousand families.

NLAI was a established to provide education for children living in the slums and others living in the on the streets of the city or residing at the city rubbish dump. As well as the education the school was providing 2 meals a day to all students and during the holiday period, staple grains and beans are provided to support families. In addition. The 130 children living permanently in the children's homes are fed 3 meals a day for 365 days of the year. The existing kitchen facilities are old and

by sick and having been replaced with new facility, and adjoining dining hall. This is how this substantial amount of money our club has donated is being used and the main construction will occur early next year. The steam cookers are very expensive, but this will mean faster and more environmentally friendly cooking.

David Virgin
International - Director

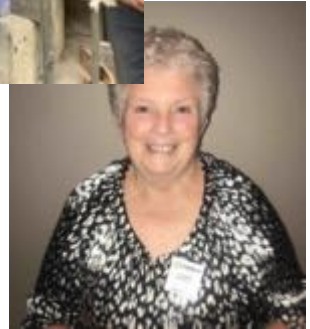




MARKET REPORT – Cherilyn Fleming

Rotary Club of Encounter Bay – Port Elliot and Goolwa Wharf Markets

In 2025-2026 the Port Elliot and Goolwa Wharf Markets continued to demonstrate their success in terms of stall holder participation, income, community assistance and high visitor numbers for the Fleurieu and wider regions. These popular markets have been organised by the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay for over 11 years. This report is compiled with 2 further Goolwa Wharf markets scheduled during June 2026.



Rotary Club of Encounter Bay has more than 20 volunteers who manage the markets and are rostered on to ensure the smooth running at each venue. The Club has an outstanding, hardworking group of stall holders who attend the markets and support each other in many ways. Lakala Reserve, Port Elliot and Jaralde Park, Goolwa are ideal locations for markets in the Alexandrina Council area. There are >40 sites in Port Elliot and >80 sites in Goolwa.

Over the course of the year there were a total of 47 markets (28 in Goolwa and 19 in Port Elliot). Several Port Elliot Markets were cancelled due to weather events. This year, Easter fell on our normal weekend and the bi-annual Wooden Boat Festival in Goolwa was held on the 4th weekend in April. Markets were held every weekend in the busy holiday months of December and January.

The significant funds raised for the 25-26 year will allow the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay, to assist many groups and organisations; financially and with in-kind activities. The picnic shelter, the club built in Jaralde park is used as an office on market days and used constantly by visitors to the wharf area.

The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay proudly supports many local programs and organisations. Community Grants have, again, been a focus in the Fleurieu Region. Grants and donations have been distributed with an amount of \$28,407 going to benefit groups working in the community.

Club members have focussed on continuous improvement this year through, for example:

- Attending meetings of the Alexandrina Council, Business Hub, Goolwa Wharf Operators Group to liaise and share information. The Club is participating in the Alexandrina Council Holistic Review workshops “Building Solutions Tomorrow” to identify opportunities for growth and improvement in the Goolwa Wharf Precinct.
- The placing of 6 signs around Port Elliot on market days. And the placing of a sign on a corner at Jaralde Park, Goolwa indicating that there is a Rotary market on the following Sunday.
- Music has been provided on a number of occasions by The Elliot Ensemble and Anne Bavin, a sax player. Stall holders and visitors have appreciated the quality and atmosphere they bring to the markets.

- The Club's social media is also a focus with the aim to reach as many locals and tourists as possible (please see the following section of this report supplied by members Phil de Courcey and John Haynes).
- Local community groups are offered and have used the markets, at no charge, to promote their organisations and to raise funds. They have included, among others, the RFDS Fleurieu Group, Neighbourhood Watch and Armfield Slip.

Market Report – digital marketing channels - Phil de Courcey and John Haynes

Google

We have two Business profiles, PE Rotary Market (google search Port Elliot Rotary Market) and Goolwa Wharf Rotary Market. Both listings have been updated and assist in promoting our markets, both locally and with visitors from outside the region. The impressive results in the table below are evidenced by the meticulous work of Phil de Courcey and John Haynes.

Business Profile Searches:	Google Search with Mobile	Google Search with Desktop	Google Maps with Mobile	Google Maps with Desktop	Interactions with the Call Button	Request for Directions	Interactions with the Website Button	Total Interactions
Port Elliot Market	2407	671	1835	215	32	1146	603	6909
Goolwa Wharf Market	17609	3538	4522	825	91	1898	2395	30878
Total	20016	4209	6357	1040	123	3044	2998	37787

Facebook

Port Elliot Rotary Market boasts a following of 2,500 on Facebook, with a weekly reach of approximately 200 people. Meanwhile, Goolwa Wharf Rotary Market has a more substantial Facebook presence with

7,700 followers and a weekly reach of about 450 people. These figures surge significantly during peak tourism periods, often more than doubling.

Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) a national online resource connecting tourism operators with relevant organisations, such as the state government, councils, and town information centres. We have two profiles listed "Goolwa Wharf Rotary Market" and "Port Elliot Rotary Market". Both profiles have been updated and are available to organisations such as SA tourism, fleurieu.com.au, Alexandrina and Victor Harbor councils now have access to these updated profiles.

Market Websites Acknowledging the importance of these markets as major tourism attractions and regional drawcards, two new websites have been created. Portelliotrotarymarket.com.au and goolwawharfrotarymarket.com.au serve as digital brochure platforms. These sites are designed to enhance the visibility and reputation of the markets, attract more visitors, and expand the variety and capacity of stallholders.

These sites will connect to and complement our main Rotary Encounter Bay website. These sites demonstrate and elaborate how and when the revenues generated by the markets are leveraged by our volunteers. A notable benefit that maximises the contribution to the community across the whole Southern Fleurieu Peninsula.

Thank you to all who are involved in the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay Markets in Port Elliot and Goolwa. Thank you to the Board and Club Members, Phil de Courcey and John Haynes. A brilliant effort by all.

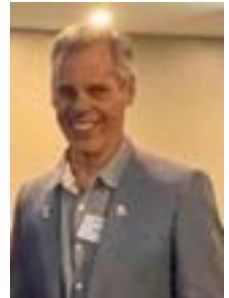
Cherilyn Fleming

Market - Director



Youth Service - Colin Francis

The Youth Committee continued to support a range of educational, leadership and youth development opportunities throughout the 2025–2026 Rotary year.



National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)



During the year, the Club received applications from Investigator College students Isabella Hudson and Noah Fitton to attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program.

Following interviews and Board approval, the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay agreed to sponsor both students, contributing \$3,000, representing half of the total participation costs.



Both students successfully completed the NYSF program in January 2026 and reported that the experience was outstanding and highly beneficial. Noah Fitton presented to the Club on 12 February 2026, while Isabella Hudson delivered an excellent presentation on 5 March 2026, sharing their experiences and the value gained from the program

Sam Watters – International Sailing Representation

The Club continued its support of local sailor Sam Watters, assisting with travel costs associated with attendance at a sailing regatta in Thailand.

During the year, the Board approved an increase in support from \$1,000 to \$1,374, covering the full cost of Sam's return airfare. Promotional activities were undertaken in conjunction with Ken Carter, Stuart Ellis and John Haynes, including the development of promotional photographs.

Sam was also scheduled to address the Club in March 2026 to report on his sailing experiences and achievements.



Victor Harbor High School EIF Mentoring Program

The Youth Committee assisted with recruitment of volunteers to support the Victor Harbor High School EIF Mentoring Program, conducted in November 2025. This initiative provided Rotarians with an opportunity to contribute directly to the development and mentoring of local students.

Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge – One and All

In early 2026, the Club considered and approved support for Summer Radcliffe to participate in the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge aboard the One and All.

The Board agreed to subsidise half of the participation cost, contributing \$645 towards the total voyage fee of \$1,290. Summer Radcliffe's application was subsequently approved, allowing her to participate in the April 2026 voyage.

Victor Harbor High School Operation Flinders Program

In May we contributed \$2000 towards helping 10 students participate in Operation Flinders

Financial Summary

Youth Committee expenditure for the 2025–2026 year:

- NYSF Sponsorship – Isabella Hudson & Noah Fitton \$3,000
- Sam Watters – Thailand Sailing Regatta Airfare \$1,374
- One and All Youth Sailing Challenge – Summer Radcliffe (approved subsidy) \$645
- VHHS Operation Flinders \$2000
- Total Youth Committee Support \$7,019

Conclusion

The Youth Committee has continued to focus on providing opportunities for local young people to develop their skills, broaden their horizons and pursue excellence in science, leadership and sailing. The Committee thanks the Board and Club members for their ongoing support of these valuable youth initiatives.

Colin Francis

Youth Services – Director

Obituary



Deidre served her community through Rotary and Rotary Initiatives since she joined the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay in 2026.

She began setting milestones from the date she joined as she was the first woman to be accepted in the club. She was quickly accepted by club

members as she immediately demonstrated outstanding organisational skills, commitment to Rotary ideals and provided initiative in a range of service areas.

The respect her fellow club members had for Deidre was such that she was elected as club President in 2009 and provided leadership skills that promoted the club's activities within the wider community. In recognition of her contribution to the club she was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship at the end of her term as President.

It was in 2011 that the then district of 9520 recognised her talents and she was duly elected as Assistant District Governor. Her support for the Presidents and members of the clubs in this District was tireless and she always offered practical solutions and also personal support for any club or club president that was struggling. Her commitment to this office led to her representing District 9520 at the International Convention in Sydney in 2014. Her service to the district was such that she was awarded her second Paul Harris Fellowship by district 9520.

The Rotary Club of Encounter Bay took on the management of the Goolwa and Port Elliot markets in 2013 and endeavoured to upgrade the quality of stalls and products available and to provide entertainment to the public. It was when Deidre took on the overall management of the markets in 2014 that they became the fund raiser that the club envisaged. Her management style meant an almost daily liaison with approximately 150 stall holders, some of whom had personalities that would only respond to Deidre's firm guidance! The result was the club had up to \$80,000 to distribute to local needy community organisations, and to set aside funds for humanitarian international Rotary projects. She was awarded a Sapphire Paul Harris fellow for her contribution to Rotary commitments Internationally.

In due recognition of her outstanding service to the Community, in 2023, Deidre was Awarded 'Australian of the Year' by the City Council of Victor Harbor.

It is an indication of Deidre's drive to support her community that she still contributed where she could even though she was battling ill health.

At her passing she was still an active member of the Probus Club of Granite Island and an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Encounter Bay.

Gill Houlihan

President

Rotary Club of Encounter Bay.