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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 2304: 16 July 2026

Venue: Hotel Grosvenor

Sergeant Ken called the meeting to order and informed members that on this day the first airmail was sent from Melbourne to Sydney in 1914, parking meters were introduced in America in 1935, a TV licence cost 225 guineas in 1959, and Apollo 2 was launched to fly to the moon in 1969.

President Elect Phil then welcomed guest speaker Hamish McMillan and handed over to meeting chair Colin.

There being no reports from Directors, Colin handed over to Sergeant Ken who duly fined Barrey for his appearance on Facebook, Madeleine for a serious error in the last newsletter, Peter for losing weight, Bob Hall for being unfined, and Bob and Des for golden, or not so golden moments.

Chair Colin then handed over to Hamish who teaches Art and English at Victor Harbor High School. Hamish began his presentation by thanking the club for the donation towards Operation Flinders which took place this year from 14 May in the northern Flinders Ranges.

Hamish explained Operation Flinders was very much boot camp style originally and included an 8 day trek, but it is now more focused on wilderness therapy. Ten students from Victor Harbor High School were in the group and formed very much the 'A' team this year. The cost of the exercise is \$50,000 so fund raising is critical. Results, however, include long term critical changes in students' lives.

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Immediate Past President: Peter Francis
Secretary: Mary-anne Woodman
Club Service: Phil De Coursey
International Service: David Virgin
Media and Communications: Ken Carter

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

An 80 kilometer hike is completed over 8 days and other activities include a cultural night. Homesickness is common but by day 6 students are keen not to go home and want to return. Participation is worth 20 points towards the SA Certificate of Education.



Feedback from students this year included a rediscovered love for poetry, increased resilience, trust in adults and appreciation of family. Challenges enjoyed included the weather, vegetation and snakes. Hamish once again expressed his appreciation to the club and explained as costs increase the initiative has become more of a challenge for the school. It takes place every two years now and is very much worth the cost and effort for all involved.

In response to questions he explained the targeted age group is 12 to 21 but the initiative suits Year 10 and 11 students best.

Selection is through expression of interest and interviews with staff. Funds are raised through quiz nights, sausage sizzles and, of course, our club donation. Food and sleeping bags are provided by Operation Flinders. Mentors' costs are covered by the \$50,00 and volunteers support the program as team leaders. Data is kept on demonstrated benefits by Operation Flinders. Hamish finished by thanking members again and offered to email a map of the initiative after the meeting.

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Chair Colin thanked Hamish for his presentation and handed over to President Elect Phil who closed the meeting at 8.25pm.



FORWARD PROGRAM – Rotary Club of Encounter Bay

Partners and guests very welcome

For catering and/or attendance purposes at formal meetings, 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.

23 July	6.30pm for 7pm	Fellowship meeting with an interview and opportunity to share yarns	Grosvenor	N/A
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Members present: 15

Apologies: 20

Guests: 1

Market Rosters – Contact Market Director Cherilyn Fleming for details

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