



Rotary Club of Palm Beach WA

Bulletin

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026



On the road again . . .

A CREW of Palm Beach Rotarians gathered at the Dawsons' home, bright and early last Friday, to collect a new batch of corflutes to be placed around Rockingham.

The new ones were publicising activities within the city from mid-October to early November. They replaced other corflutes dealing with law and order.

The weather couldn't have been kinder so it made the job quite pleasurable.

PICTURES

ABOVE: Frank Moelands and Charlie Marino unloading the corflutes at the Wanliss Street car park. **RIGHT:** Kevin Fahie fastening a corflute to a lamp post in Bell Park.



Containers For Change — PBR account number C105661798

The Rockingham Rotary Club and the Salvation Army Corps Rockingham invite your organisation, and its members and supporters, to join us for



Combined Service Clubs Dinner 2026

Monday, October 26, 6pm



**At the Rockingham Salvation Army Corps,
corner of Read Street and Willmott Drive, Rockingham**

We will be celebrating the clubs and organisations within our area and the amazing things they do to make our community a kinder and better place to live.

It will be a night of networking, learning and collaboration as we all come together come to share ideas and build connections.

Rather than a traditional sit-down event, the

evening will feature a convention-style showcase in a section of the building, with clubs invited to host display tables featuring banners, brochures, photos, project information, and other materials that highlight their impact in our community.

The showcase format is designed to encourage people to move around, meet new people, and

learn more about the great work being done by other clubs and organisations. Guests can enjoy a meal, explore the displays, chat with members from other clubs, and take part in raffles and door prize draws throughout the evening. While networking is encouraged, there will also be plenty of seating available for anyone who would prefer to relax, sit down, and enjoy a conversation.

Booking through

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/combined-club-services-dinner-2026-tickets-2002247689739>

or search "Combined Services" on Eventbrite

Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes, entry, food, and drinks as well as entry into the door prize

Booking closes on October 17

Bungaree School to get Backpack Buddies

BUNGAREE Primary School has been selected as the Rockingham school where Palm Beach Rotary will subsidise the Backpack Buddies program next year.

Club president Donna McDonald announced the decision at Wednesday's club meeting, in the absence of youth director Clint Fitzpatrick, who was working away from home.

Clint suggested the program, which is run by the Mandurah-based Bridge Builders charity, and organised speakers to tell the club how the program works.

After this week's meeting, Donna said the program would start early next year and she believed it could cater to a maximum of 20 children for the \$8000 cost.

Each Friday, the selected Bungaree youngsters will be given backpacks containing nine meals and snacks to feed them and their siblings over the weekend.



DONNA McDONALD: the program will start early next year and cater to a maximum of 20 children for the \$8000 cost.

All the backpacks look different so the youngsters can't be identified as charity recipients by their peers.

It has also been decided that the club

will promote Backpack Buddies to other service organisations at the combined service clubs' dinner in the Rockingham Salvation Army headquarters on October 26.

The club will also promote this year's Rockingham Beach Cup at the event.

The 2026 Combined Service Clubs' Dinner is being run by the Rockingham Rotary Club with a very different format to past events. It will feature a convention-style showcase with clubs hosting display tables highlighting their impact in the community.

The format is designed to encourage people to move around, meet new people, and learn more about the great work done by other clubs and groups, according to the organisers.

Guests can enjoy a meal (probably finger food), explore the displays and chat with people from other clubs.

There will be raffles and door prizes.

► **Booking details, PAGE 2**

Rotary Train Ride for Polio

From Kwinana Rotary president Genevieve Carr:

I AM on the Rotary WA District committee for the Rotary Train Ride for Polio, and so am heavily promoting this one!

On Saturday, October 24 — World Polio Day — Rotarians and friends will ride the Perth railway network, wearing distinctive red or blue shirts with the logo End

Polio Now. The purpose is to raise public awareness of Rotary's polio eradication program whilst raising funds.

Last year it was found that the most successful engagement with the public occurred when groups of Rotarians and friends travelled together.

My plan is for folks from Kwinana and Rockingham clubs to meet at Kwinana

train station at 9.30am on Saturday, October 24. We can travel together and stop off somewhere for coffee or morning tea. We can then go somewhere else for lunch, and then continue on in the afternoon as desired.

In other words, it can be a good social day!

There is no obligation for anyone to travel the entire day.

There is a plan for District

9423 folks to get together in the evening for drinks at The Island Bar in Perth. DG Veronica has organised with the City of Perth for Council House to be lit up in red during the evening in recognition of World Polio Day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Palm Beach Rotarians were invited to order shirts, emblazoned with the End Polio Now logo. The deadline for orders is now past.

in brief

ROCKINGHAM Senior High School's 2026 Tryathon for Telethon has raised \$44,000 so far, club president and school principal Donna McDonald reported on Wednesday.

And staff and students have raised "just shy of \$600,000 over 14 years", she said. This was a remarkable achievement from a low socio-economic school population. "It's a big deal," she added. Every cent of Telethon donations goes directly to funding grants supporting sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

She thanked club members who organised and ran the lunchtime barbecue on the big day.

■ ■ ■

THIS year's club Christmas party will be at Laurie Smith's home on December 12, president-elect Rachel Fletcher said at Wednesday's club meeting.

The earlier board meeting discussed catering. Rachel complained that caterers' quotes were ridiculously priced.

Other options were debated. It seems hams and salads will be sourced from other suppliers and some dishes may be supplied by club members.

■ ■ ■

THE club's annual general meeting will be held on October 21 and the hunt is on for someone to take over the



MORNING MEETING: Kevin McDonnell (right) with some of the crew collecting corflutes from the Dawson home last Friday morning. From left, John Simmons, Neil Wall, Frank Moelands and Kevin Fahie.

international director's portfolio.

Kressley Gunn's resignation has been accepted with regret by the board. She's away so often for work that she has decided it would be better to stand down. But she accomplished a huge amount in a short period.

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THE November 11 board meeting has been cancelled because of the pressure of events – particularly the Rockingham Beach Cup and Rotary community 14 and 15. If anything demanding immediate board attention comes up, a brief special meeting will be held before or after a club meeting.

■ ■ ■

KEVIN McDonnell has been lauded

for helping secretary Tarryn Fitzpatrick with banner and corflute distribution. He is trying to ease club secretary and beach cup chairwoman Tarryn's workload, she said.

■ ■ ■

THE bush dance being organised by Jill Wright has had to be postponed. The new date is April 3.

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THE club board is starting to think about its booth at the WA Rotary Expo 2027 in Perth's Forrest Place on April 17 next year — celebrating 100 years of Rotary in WA. Fifty WA clubs will show what they are doing. Perth (the first WA club) was chartered on April 15, 1927.



END
POLIO
NOW

SWAN 2 SURF RCG LIQUID
GOLD POLIO DINNER

Key Note Speaker:
Professor Barry Marshall AC - Nobel Laureate
Date: Friday 23 October 2026
Cost: \$75/pp 2 course plated meal
Cash Bar available.
Time: 6.30pm for 7pm sitdown.
9.30pm close.
Dress: Business Casual. (no denim)
Royal Perth Golf Club

Book your ticket now!
<https://www.trybooking.com/DP12B>

Swan 2 Surf RCG



AI expert to speak to club

Dr Yanda Shao PhD — a Curtin University lecturer in AI and machine learning — will be guest speaker at Palm Beach Rotary's October 28 meeting.

His research focuses on the development and application of artificial intelligence,

machine learning and computer vision methods for engineering and scientific problems. His work aims to improve data-driven modelling, measurement, monitoring and decision-making in real-world applications.

Sandgropers top contest

THE \$100 that Palm Beach Rotary gave as second prize in the Rockingham Writers Centre/RMK Online 2026 short story award was won by Zali Griggs, a young Bunbury woman.

Club president Donna McDonald told Wednesday night's club meeting she had attended the award presentation on October 3.

Zali won the award for a rather long short story — 2000 words, she added.

Club friend Dale Kerferd, who donated the \$500 first prize, said Zali's story cleverly wove current environmental and economic issues. Competition judge, acclaimed author Lee Battersby, said Zali's yarn had a sense of activism and power dynamics but still felt deeply personal.

The \$500 first prize went to Katherine Royce of Bennett Springs for a remarkable 500-word entry entitled *A Bride's Blessing*.

Kylie Sturgess of nearby Yangebup, received the judges' commendation for *The Griffin Fairies*.

Donna was pleased the two cash prizes went to Western Australians because



RUNNER-UP, ABOVE: Bunbury Writer Zalia Griggs took out second prize for her story *Green Grenades*. She is pictured with Palm Beach Rotary president Donna McDonald. **INSET LEFT:** Bennett Springs writer Katherine Royce's story *A Bride's Blessing* won first place.

the competition was a national one.

Sponsoring the competition "was a great thing for us to do," she added.

This was the first time the Rockingham Writers Centre has run a national short story competition. The competition's title, *A Twist in the Tail*, indicated what was expected. It attracted more than 100 entries from around Australia.

RWC president Jean Frost said she was delighted with the response to the competition and thanked the sponsors RMK Online Business Directory for the first prize of \$500 and the Rotary Club of Palm Beach for the second prize of \$100.



Travel time is

By MERRELYN HUNTER

I CAN'T believe that we've been on the road for nearly 11 weeks (so much for our original plan of only being away for three months).

We're currently in Mareeba, staying with Merril (my bridesmaid) and her husband Grant. Merril's brother Phil is also here so we're having a great catch up.

There is still so much that we want to see and do in Queensland so we're going to have to start moving a bit faster when we finally leave Mareeba.

We've stayed at some fabulous campsites and farm stays, which have provided a pleasant break from caravan parks.

Our time spent in Dinosaur Country was fabulous. Kronosaurus Korner in the small town of Richmond is an amazing museum.

It is home to the actual fossilised skeleton of a 98 per cent complete plesiosaur. Most of the fossils in

the museum have been found locally and are the real deal, not casts of the original fossils.

The dinosaur stampede at Lark Quarry, near Winton, is the world's only known dinosaur stampede. There are more than 3300 footprints from at least 150 dinosaurs.

We spent time in Longreach, at Lara Wetlands and Lake Dunn before continuing our dinosaur trail in Hughenden and visiting Porcupine Gorge.

Lake Dunn has a 200-kilometre sculpture trail which we thoroughly enjoyed seeing. There are about 40 sculptures, most made by local sculptor Millynda Rogers, aka Scrap-metalsheila.

We also spent time in both Normanton and Karumba before heading to Talaroo Springs and Undara Lava Tubes.

The Atherton Tablelands are beautiful. We spent five days at a lovely little spot



PICTURES

TOP LEFT : the night sky from Porcupine Gorge.

TOP RIGHT: glorious colours in the outback landscape.

CENTRE LEFT: the Hunters' vehicle and van at the Camooweal Billabong camp site.

BOTTOM LEFT: this was the Hunters' campsite at Glen Walton Dam.

calendar



just racing by

between Atherton and Yungaburra then headed to Mossman for a couple days and on to Cairns.

Merril, Grant and Phil had been in the United States and didn't get home until September 28 so we pushed our times out so that we could catch up.

We had planned to spend only two nights with them but the car's ERG heat sensor is playing up and needs to be replaced.

The Ford dealership has ordered one to be air freighted from Melbourne but it's going to take at least a week to get here. It was going to be three weeks by road.

Monday is a public holiday here so that doesn't help either. We're hoping that the part will be here on Tuesday and that they can fit it on Wednesday.

There are still quite a few things that we want to do in Queensland so I can't see us being home before the end of October.



PICTURES

TOP LEFT : the Australasian figbird, native to northern and eastern Australia, southern New Guinea and the Kai Islands.

TOP RIGHT: a brolga in the Lara wetlands.

CENTRE RIGHT: a Kronosaurus Korner exhibit.

BOTTOM RIGHT: a horseman on the Lake Dunn sculpture trail.

October 14: 4.20pm Rockingham Beach Cup committee meeting and 6pm club meeting

October 21: club meeting and annual general meeting

October 23: Liquid Gold Dinner at Royal Perth Golf Club — raising funds for polio eradication

October 24: Rotary Train Ride for Polio

October 26: Salvation Army combined service clubs' dinner

October 28: club meeting — guest speaker, AI expert Dr Yanda Shao

November 1: Mind the Walk

November 4: club meeting

November 8: Kwinana Fair

November 11: club meeting

November 14 and 15: Rockingham Beach Cup and Rotary Community Festival

November 18: club meeting

November 25: club meeting

December 2: club meeting

December 12: Christmas party.

December 16: club meeting

BREAK UNTIL JANUARY

January 10: welcome breakfast at John Rana and Leonie Oxley's home

January 13: club meeting

January 20: club meeting

January 27: club meeting

February 3: club meeting

February 10: board meeting and club meeting

February 17: proposed debate night

February 24: club meeting

March 3: club meeting

March 10: alumni evening