



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Rotary Club of Townsville Saints

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.21 pm): Turning 13 is always a milestone—those teenage years. I am sure we all look back on ours fondly. The moment you officially enter your teenage years is a time of growth, energy and finding your place in the world. Today I rise to celebrate the 13th birthday of the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints who were proudly chartered on International Women’s Day, 8 March 2013.

Thirteen years ago, alongside a group of passionate and community-minded women, I had the privilege of helping establish the club and serving as its charter president. We wanted to create something a little different—a Rotary club built around friendship, service and supporting our local community as a group of women. What started as a small group of women who simply wanted to give back has grown into a strong and vibrant club that continues to make a real difference in Townsville.

A special part of the Saints Rotary Club story is Sylvia, our club’s dedicated icon, named in honour of Sylvia Whitlock, the world’s first female Rotary president. Sylvia represents the pioneering spirit of women in Rotary and reminds us why the club was created—that is, to empower women to lead, serve and make a difference in their communities.

The club has always had a strong focus on supporting women and children, particularly through initiatives that promote education and mental health. Through fundraising, volunteering and community partnerships, the Saints have worked tirelessly to support programs that help young people thrive, strengthen families and build a healthy community. We are especially proud of the partnership with the Townsville City Council in creating the remembrance garden—a beautiful and meaningful space that provides comfort for families who have lost a loved one and a place for reflection in our community.

Over the years members have rolled up their sleeves time and time again, volunteering at markets, supporting local charities and stepping up whenever the community needs a hand. Their work truly reflects Rotary’s spirit of service above self. It is incredibly fitting that the club was founded on International Women’s Day because the club itself was founded by women passionate about making the community better.

Today I congratulate the Rotary Club of Townsville Saints on reaching this wonderful milestone. Happy 13th birthday, Saints Rotary and a happy International Women’s Day to Saints Rotary and all our young women.