



FORUM LIFE

April 2026

At the end of March, many of our Forum members came together for our first combined meeting of the year - an event aptly titled *Forum Fusion*. It was a vibrant and engaging gathering that truly lived up to its name, bringing together energy, talent, and connection in one room.

The program showcased five outstanding speakers - Margaret Townsley, Leanne Walker, Andrew South, Helen Goleby, and Adelia Berridge - each delivering speeches that were both engaging and memorable. Their presentations captivated the audience from start to finish, offering a wonderful mix of insight, storytelling, and entertainment.

Adding further depth and variety to the day, Toni Risson and Margaret Townsley shared a series of practical public speaking tips, providing valuable takeaways for members at every level. Elaine West challenged us all with a thoughtfully designed quiz that kept minds active and spirits high, while Peter Clem stayed true to the theme of "Humour in the House," delighting everyone with his trademark wit and well-timed jokes. Pam Tranter set the tone beautifully at the beginning of the meeting with an engaging icebreaker that encouraged participation and connection from the outset.

Overall, *Forum Fusion* was a resounding success. It was a day filled with learning, laughter, and lively interaction. New friendships were formed, familiar faces reconnected, and a strong sense of community was evident throughout. It was a wonderful reminder of the value of coming together to share, support, and celebrate one another. Save the date for our next *Forum Fusion* – July 18, 2026!



FORUM FUSION PHOTOS



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What's Happening at our Forums?

BAYSIDE



Bayside members were thrilled to have the State President, Rosie Arnold, visit recently for her official visit, a requirement of office to attend all Forums when possible. In this 85th year of Forum, Rosie encouraged all members to realise how important everyone is and to celebrate the planned activities during the year. In particular, this includes the Forum Fusion events plus the convention in September. Thank you Rosie.

Five Bayside members also attended the Forum Fusion event just a few days later – *Humour in the House*. Helen Goleby (pictured right) represented Bayside on the day and did us proud. *Humour in the House?* What house? so many houses became the topic of humour. Well done Helen and all speakers and presenters on the day.

Members are currently preparing for our meeting on 27 May when their invited guests come to speak to the broad theme of HISTORY. This will include presentations about – old local buildings (Di Hill), heritage listed Willard's Farm (Pam Spence, Birkdale Progress Assoc), personal history spanning 2 continents (Chris Seymour, Wynnum Manly Historical Society), researching family (Paul Barry) and Forum history (Anna Bowman). What a treat. Everyone is welcome to attend and support Bayside. This is a free event followed by a light supper.



What's Happening at our Forums?

BREMER



Leanne, Toni, Peter and Rosie recently attended Ipswich City Council's Staff Development Day, where Toni and Leanne presented several tips on speaking confidently and running effective meetings. It was a fun day, as you can see from this picture of Toni, and we look forward to working with the council again in the future.

One of our newer members, Andrea, is an Ipswich artist, and on behalf of her local artists community IPSARI (Ipswich Artist Run Initiative), she presented a speech at the Ipswich City Council's Creative Summit, expressing the need for more funding, space and community awareness regarding the importance of artistic expression in our daily lives.

Andrea is pictured (right) receiving the Rex Hills' trophy from our current President, Peter.

Rex Hills was a much loved member of Bremer Forum who passed away in 2018. In honour of his legacy, this trophy presented at each meeting to a member who made an outstanding contribution. The award recognises growth in areas such as confidence, speech delivery, and speech construction skills. Rex was also a dedicated mentor, and this tribute ensures his spirit of encouragement and support continues to be a part of our Forum.



What's Happening at our Forums?

CLEVELAND

Cleveland Forum members have been actively raising their profile in the community and warmly inviting visitors to experience their meetings.

Recently, they hosted a pop-up stand at Capalaba Park Shopping Centre, engaging with local residents and sharing the benefits of Forum membership. In addition, members have been promoting their meetings through *The Community Leader* - a monthly publication across the Bayside and Redlands areas - and maintaining a strong presence on local Facebook community pages.



E-FORUM

E-Forum members continue to meet on the second Monday of each month from 7.00 - 8.00 pm. These sessions are deliberately informal, with no set procedure, focusing instead on speaking opportunities and targeted learning segments. Attendance typically ranges from eight to ten members. While some also belong to other Forums, most are dedicated E-Forum participants.

The group's diversity is a particular strength - Foster joins from Nigeria (where it is 11.00 am local time), Theresia connects from Ballarat, and Christine logs in from the Gold Coast. This broad mix of locations and perspectives creates a rich and engaging environment, where members not only develop their communication skills but also gain insight into life across different parts of Australia and around the world.

FOR THE WORDSMITHS

LEXOPHILIA: the love or obsession with words and languages, often characterised by a fondness for puns, wordplay, and clever phrases.

Examples: England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool; I changed my iPad's name to Titanic – it's syncing now; I did a theatrical performance about puns – it was a play on words; I'm reading a book on anti-gravity, I just can't put it down; Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

Featured Member

MIKE GOEBEL

CHERMSIDE FORUM

Celebrating Community Spirit: Mike Goebel Honoured for Outstanding Service

In November 2025, Chermshire Forum member and Mundoolun resident Mike Goebel was formally recognised for his exceptional contribution to his community, receiving a well-deserved community award. The presentation was made by the Lord Mayor of Logan, John Raven, to acknowledge the significant and lasting impact Mike has made over the last two decades.

Mike has called the area of Mundoolun home for 19 years and has been at the heart of its growth and community spirit from the very beginning. As the inaugural President of the Mundoolun Progress Association, a role he held for approximately five years, Mike played a pivotal role in shaping the identity and cohesion of the estate.

One of his most notable achievements was helping to bring the community hall to life. When the estate was first subdivided, residents contributed a portion of their purchase price towards the development of shared community infrastructure. Under Mike's leadership, this vision became reality, with he and his committee driving the construction of what would become a central hub for connection and community life.

However, the journey was not without its challenges. Following local government boundary changes between 2008 and 2010, the area was absorbed into Logan City Council. Despite prior arrangements under Beaudesert Shire, the new council initially declined to honour the land allocation for the hall and moved to assume control of the building. In response, Mike and fellow residents stood firm, advocating for their right to manage their own community asset. Their determination paid off, and the community retained control of the hall - an outcome that continues to benefit residents today.



Featured Member

MIKE GOEBEL

continued....

Beyond infrastructure, Mike's contribution has always been about people. He has successfully secured grants to support community initiatives and has remained actively involved, even as newer generations have stepped up to share the load. Perhaps most recognisable to many is his role as the community's Santa Claus - a tradition he has proudly upheld since 2009, bringing joy to families year after year.

The community hall, now air-conditioned and thriving, has become the centrepiece of local life. From the first community function in 2009 to recent events hosting hundreds of residents, it stands as a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration and commitment. In fact, the 2025 Christmas celebration attracted over 500 attendees, with Mike once again donning the red suit.

The strength of the Mundoolun community has also been evident during times of hardship.

Following the devastating tornado that struck the region on Christmas Day 2023, residents rallied together. With many left without power and water, the community leaned on one another, with the Jimboomba hall and nearby

services becoming vital support points. Volunteers, including groups such as the Lions, provided hundreds of meals daily, while neighbours looked out for each other in practical and meaningful ways.

Looking ahead, that same spirit continues. Plans are underway for regular community "cook-ups" at the hall, offering affordable meals, entertainment, and connection for those doing it tough. It is a simple but powerful reflection of a community that takes care of its own.

Mike's recognition is not just for a single achievement, but for years of steady leadership, quiet determination, and genuine care for others. His contribution has helped shape Mundoolun into a resilient, connected, and compassionate community - and his legacy will continue to be felt for many years to come.



Looking Back

The Forum Newsletter was first launched in 1965. It has had many styles over the years and has always been full of interesting information.

Club News from some of the 33 Forums in 1965 allow us a small window into their activities, such as the Dalby club moving from monthly to twice monthly meetings to allow their 40 members a greater opportunity to speak.

The Brisbane club inducted a canine member, Mischa, when a new, sight-impaired member joined. Both were issued with name tags.

The July 1966 edition reported on the new club opening in Fiji with 29 members, who were given the use of the library for their meetings.

June 1974 included a plea from the Dais President for more members to take office at all levels of Forums, Regional Councils and Dais (now known as the State Committee). This was identified as Forum's greatest weakness. The greatest strength was that women of all ages, education, interests, and with widely differing views co-existed in Forum without friction.

Wonderful stories abound of country members getting to meetings. One member drove through mud and slush by tractor to get to her car to drive to the meeting. Another needed a four-wheel-drive, and two others were bogged for an hour and arrived just as the meeting finished.

Emerald No 16 club were very proud to have written the Forum Grace after a visiting Assessor's suggestion. After using it for 10 years, they shared it in the newsletter in 1976: "*Lord, we thank you for this food and the gifts you have bestowed on us. Help us to use the talent of speech in truth, kindness and thoughts for others. Amen*" And we still use it today!

1941

At the Inaugural Meeting on 30 July 1941, Miss Ruth Don was elected President. The name Forum Club was adopted to stress the link with Rostrum, and with the traditions of oratory in Ancient Rome.

The Club met over dinner so members could fit a meeting in between the day's activities and the war work that occupied their evenings. Many members went on to night patrol on the river, watching for enemy mines or with the Air Observer Corps, watching radar screens for enemy aircraft. It was difficult to find a room where a meal could be had along with privacy for speakers. After several short term venues the Red Cross Café proved a happy home for over two years, in spite of some competition from wedding receptions and the distraction of the acrobatic rats racing around picture rails.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR 2026?

YOU HAVE TO SET GOALS THAT ARE ALMOST OUT OF REACH. IF YOU SET A GOAL THAT IS ATTAINABLE WITHOUT MUCH WORK OR THOUGHT, YOU ARE STUCK WITH SOMETHING BELOW YOUR TRUE TALENT AND POTENTIAL!!

credit: Steve Garvey

OUR ONLINE FORUM IS ALSO AVAILABLE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO ATTEND FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

- Do you need to present confidently at work?
- Do you get nervous when asked to stand up and speak in front of others?
- Do you need to deliver a speech at a wedding?
- Do you attend meetings and want your opinion to be heard?

If you answered YES to any of these questions – then FORUM is for YOU!!

**FORUM COMMUNICATORS
TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF
PUBLIC SPEAKING SINCE 1941**



Forums meet regularly in the following areas:

[Chermside](#)
[Cleveland](#)
[Ipswich](#)
[Wynnum](#)
[Online](#)

Do You Need More Information?

If so - visit our website:

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