

'Connect to the Community'

# SignPost

## Welcome to this weeks edition of the SignPost...

At the meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April our guest speaker, Abhi Awasthi from La Trobe University, spoke about his role as Student Enrichment Officer, and also spoke about his life, and his journey to where he is today.

Abhi was born in India, in a small town called Mandi, 3425 feet above sea level, surrounded by snow capped mountains, with a population of 26,273 residents. Abhi lived with his family in a very culturally diverse town with a literacy rate of 84%. Abhi's family were very supportive of his educational choices, and as a result he undertook several areas of study before he settled on his current career at La Trobe University. Abhi has had a varied educational path: he studied first year in Aeronautical Engineering, then followed a Diploma in Information Technology achieved working with Microsoft. Abhi then studied an Engineering Degree in Biotechnology/Biochemistry at Cambridge University and India. Abhi's interest in studies overseas brought him to Australia where he undertook, and successfully completed his Masters in his Engineering Biochemistry, whilst teaching Biochemistry at La Trobe University. Abhi informed the members that he had applied for many scholarships, and was successful in gaining sixteen which was a great help to his completing his course, but also lead him to his present role working with the students. Abhi informed all that the role has had a few titles so far, and began as the Student Engagement and Transition Officer in Melbourne and then on to the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University.

Currently, Abhi is Chair of the Community Leadership Loddon Murray (CLLM) Inc, and covers areas from the Macedon Ranges to Swan Hill. Abhi was Employee of the Year – 2013 at the Bendigo Business Excellence Awards. In his job at Bendigo La Trobe Uni, Abhi works with new students, implementing orientation to the University and it's services available, gives ongoing support and advice, oversees on-line mentoring, and develops student Leadership and Mentoring programs, that are recognized on participating students Academic Transcripts. Abhi's role is available across all Faculties and to all students. Abhi is also involved with the Rotary Club of Bendigo Next Generation.

Over the weekend, the members of the Rotary Club of Keilor East and several of our Club members participated in the annual Working Bee at Camp Getaway. Friday evening was an excellent evening at the Axedale Tavern, where twenty three Rotarians and partners enjoyed dinner and fellowship. We were joined by several members of the RC Brighton East. The Saturday evening Dinner and Bowls was a great success, and overall a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship, with a few jobs completed at Camp Getaway, was experienced by those involved.

A few reminders: Next Thursday is the May Board meeting. Can all Board members please start compiling their annual reports for submission before the end of May, thank you. The annual 'Science and Engineering Challenge' is to be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Any Club members who would like to participate, or attend, please contact PE Rod Spitty for details. Volunteers are required to assist in the set-up of Camp Getaway for the upcoming MUNA Program, to be held next weekend, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. Assistance is also required in the preparation and serving of meals across the weekend. If any member is available and would like to assist, please contact me before Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May for details.

Our Club has been invited to attend the Combined Cluster Rotary dinner at the Bendigo Pottery Complex, next Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm for 7pm start. The guest speaker will be from the Bendigo Health Oncology Department, discussing aspects of the proposed Cluster 'Valentine's Day Ball', to be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2015, to raise funds for the Bendigo Oncology Department. The cost is \$30/person for a delicious smorgasbord dinner. If you would like to attend, please contact me ASAP.

PE Rod Spitty informed members of the successful result of a \$500 District 9800 Membership Grant. The Grant will be implemented in the 2014-2015 Rotary year for membership development. Rotarian Ros Chenery presented the Club with a banner from the Rotary Club of Kalamis, Turkey. Ros has returned from her three week friendship exchange to Turkey, hosted by the same Rotarians that our Club hosted last year. Ros had a wonderful adventure, and brought back a box of authentic Turkish Delight for all the members to sample. We look forward to hearing more from Ros about her travels.

**News from Anna, YE Student:** Anna is into her third week of touring, and she has just spent three days on Great Keppel Island, where she enjoyed the sun, relaxing, and looking over the Reef. On Monday, Anna will be on the Gold Coast, and a highlight for her will be attending Warner Bros Movie World. Anna returns to Bendigo this coming weekend.

Remember: Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

Helene Brown

PRESIDENT- *The Rotary Club of Bendigo South*

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### CALENDAR KEY:

- Family/ Social Events
- Guest Speakers
- Connect to Community Events
- Other Events

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE? (Details & Contact Info)
<b>May</b>	<b>Rotary Health</b>	
Thursday 1	Board Meeting/ Club Forum	Foundry Complex
Thursday 8	Guest Speakers– Kevin & Marion Hadingham (Education in the slums of Bhopal)	Foundry Complex
Thursday 15	Vocational Visit	TBC
Sunday 18	District Assembly	Tabcorp Park, Melton
Thursday 22	Scholarship Night	Foundry Complex
Thursday 29	Guest Speaker – Evan Davies from Organics Bendigo (Health benefits of naturally grown food)	Foundry Complex
<b>June</b>	<b>Rotary Fellowship</b>	
Thursday 5	Guest Speaker/ Joint Board Meeting	Foundry Complex
Thursday 12	Guest Speaker– Swags for Homeless	Foundry Complex

## PREVIOUS PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Thursday 17th April, being last Thursday before Easter, was the very successful and well attended Easter breakfast at Cafe Twenty2. A superb and delicious breakfast menu was organised and a big thank you to PP Wendy, and PP Ruth, for their work to achieve such an enjoyable outcome. There was continual conversation around the table, and good fellowship was the result. Some of the members stayed on after the breakfast until they had completed their chats.

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break. I was lucky enough to have four days away from Bendigo, and relaxed visiting friends in Gippsland. It has come to my attention that the proposed and scheduled New Member's Seminar, that was to have been held by the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk, on Sunday, 29th April, has been cancelled due to lack of interest. It has been stated that with the country members of our district wishing to have more events held in the country, that without their backing and participation the District will no longer consider holding these events outside of Melbourne city.

Another important District event coming up in the next month or so, is our District Assembly to be held in Melton on Sunday 18th May. Any member who is interested in finding out more about the various Rotary projects, and may particularly wish to know what's involved in being a member of the Board, are invited to attend this event. Registrations are available up until 14th May, so if you are interested please either speak with PE Rod Spitty or myself.

News from our Youth Exchange Student Anna, who is presently on her three-week Safari, travelling from Bendigo through the centre, up to Uluru, Alice Springs, and then across the border to Queensland and the East coast to visit the Great Barrier Reef. Anna is having a great time, and enjoying all aspects of her trip so far. She is looking forward to the three days she will spend in the Whitsundays and on the Reef. Anna returns to Bendigo Sun 4th May. I am sure she will have some fantastic stories to tell on her return.

I'll see you all this coming Thursday at Rotary!  
Engage Rotary, Change Lives!

President Helene

# CLUB DUTY ROSTER - May (Rotary Health Month)

DATE	1st May	8th May	15th May	22nd May
ACTIVITY	Club Forum	Guest Speaker- Education in the slums of Bhopal	Vocational Visit- TBC	Scholarship Night
CHAIRMAN	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	Tony Plant
CASHIERS	Mark Mott & VACANT	Mark Mott & VACANT	Mark Mott & VACANT	Mark Mott & VACANT
REGALIA	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
FELLOWSHIP	VACANT	Ros Chenery	VACANT	VACANT
RAFFLE	Ros Chenery	VACANT	VACANT	Geoff McKinna
SERGEANT	Tony Plant	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT

*“Sorry  
about the hold up with  
the last few bulletins...  
Communications were  
down in the burrow.  
(Someone from Melbourne  
must be in charge!)  
  
I hope you are all well, see  
you Thursday!”*



## CONGRATULATIONS

**BIRTHDAYS:-**  
 29th April - JIM BOYER  
 7th May - TOM GLAZEBROOK  
 9th May - VERNA ASHMAN

**ANNIVERSARIES:-**  
 29th April - RUTH O’CONNELL



# ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO SOUTH INFORMATION

## THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

### *FIRST.*

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

### *SECOND.*

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

### *THIRD.*

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

### *FOURTH.*

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## WHO'S WHO?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT- Ron D. Burton

RI DISTRICT 9800 GOVERNOR- Ross Butterworth

ASSISTANT GOVERNOR (GOLDFIELDS CLUSTER)-

Grant Hocking

PRESIDENT- Helene Brown

PRESIDENT ELECT (Club Service)- Rod Spitty

HON. SECRETARY (Club Protection Officer)- Tony Plant

HON. TREASURER- Jim Boyer

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/ P.R.- Andrew Palmer

COMMUNITY SERVICE- Ian Ellis

ROTARY FOUNDATION & FELLOWSHIP- Wendy Learmount

VOCATION- Geoff McKinna

NEW GENERATIONS- Tony Plant

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE- Ros Chenery

PROGRAM COORDINATOR- Anne Peace

DIRECTOR OF CLUB COMMUNICATIONS-

Matthew Scott- [mattgscott@telstra.com](mailto:mattgscott@telstra.com)

## ATTENDANCE & MAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES

**DISTRICT 9800 GOLDFIELDS CLUSTER  
ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS**

**KANGAROO FLAT-** Monday 6pm, Rotary Gateway Park

**BENDIGO-** Tuesday 12:45pm, Bendigo Club

**BENDIGO STRATHDALE-** Tuesday 6pm, All Seasons

**BENDIGO NEXT GENERATION-** Wednesday 7pm, The Exchange (Beneath Bendigo Bank)

**ECHUCA MOAMA-** Tuesday 6pm, Border Inn Moama

**BENDIGO SANDHURST-** Wednesday 7am, BRIT Restaurant

**EAGLEHAWK-** Wednesday 6pm, Mechanics Institute

**ROCHESTER-** Thursday 6pm, Shamrock Hotel function room.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO SOUTH ATTENDANCE OFFICER

ROS CHENERY-  
[ros.chenery@visionaustralia.org](mailto:ros.chenery@visionaustralia.org)

TELEPHONE- 0407 802 801

Or 5445 5721

## THE FOURWAYTEST

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?