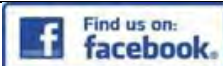




SIGNPOST

Volume 67, No. 23 4 December 2025

We meet Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm at the Lakeview Hotel, McRae Street (TBC weekly)



www.bendigosouthrotary.org.au

www.twitter.com/RotaryBendigoS

Rotary Club of Bendigo South
PO Box 346, Bendigo, VIC 3552

Email: secretary@bendigosouthrotary.org.au

**** Next meeting, Thursday, 11 Dec will be held at Mechanics Institute, 8/12 School St, California Gully VIC 3556.**

Lindsay's notes

Last week we met at the Reservoir Hotel (The Rezzie), Kennington to learn much about organ donations. Danielle Dobie, Nurse Donation Specialist at Bendigo Health outlined the sobering statistics on the shortage of eligible donors, as well as indicating the difficulties that are often involved for families. She was well supported by Richard Betteridge and his wife Julie. Richard had a liver transplant five years ago. Even though there are quite a few issues and side effects from the anti-rejection drugs post the transplant, he is positive about it giving him a life to spend with his family. Danielle emphasised the need to make sure that you are a registered donor. The registration is shown on only one State's licence, South Australia. It was removed from all others. Danielle is available to speak to other Rotary Clubs about organ donation. The funds raised by the Rotary Mandurang Christmas Market will go towards the purchase (\$6,500) and installation (\$500) of a designated patient transport monitor for the organ donation unit at Bendigo Health. The State Government does not fund these units.

I preceded Danielle and Richard's talks with the presentation of a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) to Past President Ruth O'Connell. Rotary International recognised Ruth with the PHF for her donation of over USD1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. She continued her regular donations after she left our Club a few years ago. We thank Ruth for her significant financial contribution over the years.

It was good to hear from Gary that since June our six BBQs have brought in over \$20,000 for community use. Thanks to Gary for his great effort in organising our BBQ program and for the Members in their BBQ work.

It has been a busy time over the past week with Members working at the Rotary Mandurang Christmas Market and at our major CFMEU BBQ. Thanks to Lyn for helping co-ordinate the market with the Rotary Club of Bendigo. On the day, we were fortunate that most of the rain stayed away.

Our sponsored RYLarian candidate, Eric Chu - dentistry student at LaTrobe University - spent his week at the Camp Getaway RYLA Camp. At Thursday night's RYLA dinner, Eric told Jan that he found the week life changing

Tony has indicated that the Christmas trailer raffle is up a little bit from last year on funds raised. We appreciate the work being done by the seven Bendigo community groups selling the tickets, and by Tony, Glen, Gary, Paul G and Trevor who have been moving the trailer around, alongside Geoff Gallagher (President, RC of Eaglehawk).

Please let Tony know urgently if you are going to our Christmas Party combined with the RC of Eaglehawk on Wednesday 17 December. He needs to give the caterers ample warning.

Sue is being kept busy in coping with venue changes for our meetings. For our next meeting on Thursday 11 December, Tony was able to arrange for it to be held at the Eaglehawk Mechanics Institute, 8/12 School Street, California Gully. As usual, 6:00pm for 6:30pm. The bar will open at 6:00pm and we will have pizzas for dinner. The cost is \$15 each and the EFTPOS machine will be there. A Board meeting will follow the Club meeting. Tony needs to know by Thursday morning if you will be attending; he needs to order the pizzas.

Lindsay Jolley



Lindsay Jolley presenting the Paul Harris Fellow with certificate to Past President Ruth O'Connell for her donation of more than USD1,000 to the Rotary Foundation.



Danielle Dobie, Nurse Donation Specialist.



Richard Betteridge, a lung transplant recipient, and Julie.

Guest Speaker for coming week is Jamie Roberts of Bendigo Guided Tours.



Jamie Roberts is the Founder and Guide of Bendigo Guided Tours Launched in February this year. Living in Bendigo for 27 years, Jamie has developed a passion for the incredible history of the gold rush, along with modern day culture including our flourishing food and wine scene. Jamie previously ran a local video production business for 15 years along with a career as a Youth Worker. He lives in Eaglehawk with his wonderful wife Emma, 13YO son James and enjoys researching history, bike riding and playing music in his spare time.

This year Bendigo Guided Tours is the winner for Best New Tourism Business in the Victorian Tourism Awards as well as our popular Foodie Tours being named by Tourism Australia in their October 2025 Hot List.

RYLA report by Jan Pagliaro

I had the privilege of attending the RYLA dinner on Thursday night, organized by The Castlemaine Rotary Club. I had the pleasure of meeting Eric Chu, the student sponsored by our club, Rotary South. This was my first experience attending the RYLA dinner, and it was truly a remarkable and memorable night.

After dinner, the students and young adults invited some participants to share their stories, including how they heard about RYLA, their expectations, and key takeaways. Several students spoke about their experiences of living socially isolating lives and retreating into themselves. It was heartwarming to hear how the RYLA program had such a profound impact on their lives, giving them the confidence to stand and speak in front of a group of strangers.

The sense of trust and friendship between participants was palpable as they encouraged one another after each story. Some students played their guitars, and everyone joined in, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere. The evening was filled with music, laughter, and genuine camaraderie, making it an unforgettable experience.

Overall, it was an amazing night and a very transformative program that truly makes a difference in the lives of young people. I'm grateful for the opportunity to witness such a positive and impactful event.



RYLA participants



Jan with Eric Chu, our sponsored RYLarian candidate

Raffle Books Reminder

Please Note: This coming week is the last meeting to return raffle books and cash to Trevor.

Member Reminders: Christmas Function RSVP & Thursday Meeting Details

1. A Reminder to any members who have not let me know if attending the Christmas function on Wednesday Dec 17 to please do asap. Also to those attending to check that you have paid your \$35 per attendee into the club account.
2. The arrangements for the club meeting this Thursday is as follows: 6 for 6.30 at The Mechanics Institute in School Street California Gully. Bar will open during this half hour. Pizzas will be provided at 6.30 and we will eat as soon as they arrive with the speaker to follow. A Board Meeting will commence by 8 pm. Cost will be \$15 so bring your card (no cash) and pay on entry. Cash can be used to purchase drinks as well as card from the bar. To assist with the pizza order please message me by the morning of the meeting if you are attending. If not attending I don't need to be advised.

Tony Plant

Vale Ken Gittins PHF



Ken Gittins was a committed member of the Rotary Club of Bendigo South for some 36 years, joining in 1980 and on concluding membership in 2016 was awarded Honorary Membership of the Club and was a keen reader of the Signpost each week until his passing on the 15th. November. A proud "Square" boy, Ken's Classification on admission to Rotary was Butcher/ Sheep Grazing, and on leaving butchery, he became and enjoyed many years as a very successful farmer. Ken was a dual winner of the Max Ellis Presidential award, the "Best & Fairest" award each year, and in 2005 was honoured to receive his Paul Harris Fellow recognising the outstanding service he gave to the objectives of Rotary.

On leaving Rotary, Ken enjoyed regular coffee catch ups with three other retired members, Bill Hoare, yours truly Laurie O'Farrell, Gerald Kavanagh and occasionally Graham Neivandt, and but for Rotary, the four may never have even met each other, though Ken & Gerald did know each other from their farming activities.

Ken in his earlier years, played football for Golden Square, was an accomplished foot runner, and a champion Rifle Shooter.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife Gwen, two of their three children David & Carolin, with Stephen predeceasing Ken, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Vale Alan Kenneth (Ken) Gittins.

Laurie O'Farrell.
Honorary Member.

Rotary Mandurang Christmas Gate Entry prize Winner



Russell Conn was the lucky winner of the Rotary Mandurang Christmas Gate Entry prize — a beautiful painting by local artist Kim Lowe.

Russell was so excited with his win, sharing that he had never won anything before. He has since contacted Kim to personally thank her for her generous contribution. The painting is valued at approximately \$350.00.

Marist Brass presents Carols at St. Kilian's



About Marist Brass

Marist Brass Band was founded in 1910 and has continually provided Bendigo and surrounding communities with live music at community events. We are a not-for-profit charity, run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Our Learner Program

The band established the Marist Brass Academy program in late 2013, a beginner group for people of all ages wishing to learn a brass instrument.

We hope to continue to engage younger generations in the fun and educational activities involved with playing an instrument and belonging to a band.

You can find more about the Marist Brass Band and our Academy program [here](#).

Our Christmas Fundraiser | Sunday 14th December

Our annual Christmas event, 'Carols at St Kilian's' which will take place on December 14th, at St Kilian's Church, Bendigo.

The evening consists of performances by the Marist Brass Band, the Marist Academy Groups, and the Marist College Choir.

It has always been a popular and very well-attended event. It's open to the general public, and a raffle is held on the night to raise funds for our learner program.

We would very much like to see you there, to celebrate Christmas in community, music and song.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Olney

Secretary

band@maristbrass.org.au

Christmas Party Extravaganza

Combined Rotary Clubs-Bendigo South & Eaglehawk

When: **Wednesday 17th December.**

Starting Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm.

Where: Home of Brian and Gail Fitzpatrick

Address: 3 Chaplin Court Eaglehawk.

Cost: \$35 per person

Catering: a two-course meal supplied by Goldfields Catering.

BYO drinks.

NB. RSVP to Tony by no later than Thursday 11th December

Payments to be made by direct transfer to Bendigo South Bank account.

BSB. 633 000 Acc no.103 497 236

*** Please include payee name and reference-Xmas P*

Save the date for High Tea with a twist



Profits from this event will support 1 of our International Projects
Wheelchairs for Kids

Date Sunday 18th January 2026 - to kick off the new year

Venue Bendigo Retirement Village Community Hall

33/53 Mandurang Rd

Spring Gully

Time 2.30pm

Cost \$15.00 / person – EFTPOS facilities available.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a plate of food to share

There is a bar offering soft drinks \$2, Bourbon & Cola \$6, Bundaberg \$3
Stubby beer \$3 plus wine \$2.50. Prices correct at time of printing!

NO BYO - The bar man is our club's 1 & only George Ellis

Guest speaker event - Gemma Sisia, of St Judes School Tanzania

Good morning fellow Rotarians. I'm just bringing to your attention an opportunity to join together to share a special guest speaker early in the new year.

Gemma Sisia, of St Judes School Tanzania, will be in Victoria for a week next year and will visit Bendigo on Tuesday, February 17 to be guest speaker at a special evening meeting.

Gemma has featured as guest presenter at many international events including our own, and other, Rotary district conferences.

Please consider making it a special Rotary Club meeting for your club or just notifying members of the opportunity to attend this special event.

Either way please mark your calendars and let your program coordinators know, we will be looking for numbers come the new year.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 6 pm for 6.30 pm start - Bendigo Club



Gemma Sisia OAM, is an Australian humanitarian who founded The School of St Jude in Tanzania in 2002. The school provides free, high-quality education scholarships to over 1,800 of the brightest and most deserving Tanzanian children, with boarding for its 1,400 secondary students.

Noel Hobley
President
Rotary Club of Bendigo
District 9800

9800 Rotary District Conference MARCH 27-29

The district conference will be held in Horsham as a combined event with districts 9510 and 9780. There has been regular feedback to previous district governors, especially from country club members, that our conference venue should be held within Victoria and be within driving distance. Not an interstate event requiring further expenses associated with getting there. DG Peter has taken this on board so it is up to us now to support him by turning up.

If we think back to the great weekend we had together in Barham some time ago we could come together in Horsham and rediscover a bit of that same sharing of friendliness and comradeship that was evident during the Barham experience.

As well as having a bit of fun it is a great opportunity for all attending to perhaps renew their vows to Rotary too!

I am asking you all to make a circle on your calendar around the last weekend in March next year and join me for a great time in Horsham. As more details come to hand, I will pass on the relevant information.

Tony Plant
On to conference campaigner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

1. Anyone who is intending to go and needs motel accommodation needs to book ASAP as it is limited.
2. The District Governor had also advised that the conference booking arrangements with prices for the various activities will be released very soon

Meeting Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
DECEMBER THEME: DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT				
Thurs 11 Dec	Jamie Roberts – Bendigo Guided Tours Board Meetings	Lindsay Jolley	Bob & Craig	Mechanics Institute 8/12 School St, California Gully VIC 3556.
Wed 17 Dec	Combined Xmas Function with Eaglehawk RC Details in the Signpost			
JANUARY THEME: VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH				
Sun 18 Jan 2026	A High Tea to welcome in our 2026 Year! Details to follow but save the date!			
Thurs 22 Jan	Gary Pinner as the speaker post his recent visit to the Community Care Centre Ballarat Board Meeting	Lindsay Jolley	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thursday 29 Jan	RCBS Progress Reports by committees	TBA	TBA	Lake View Hotel
FEBRUARY THEME: PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH				
Thurs 5 Feb	Speaker – Lindsay Jolley & his trip to Ethiopia re EWash	Heather Nixon	TBA	TBA
Thurs 12 Feb	Mick Cassey, Events Manager (ZOOM) Science and Engineering Challenge	Rod Spitty	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 19 Feb	Brian Westley, COGB Director Presentation & Assets Board Meeting	TBA	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Tues 24 Feb	Strathfieldsaye/Strathdale Bowls competition (TBC)	TBA	TBA	



THE FOUR WAY TEST

Is it the TRUTH

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned

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	Francesco Arezzo
DISTRICT 9800 GOVERNOR	Peter Shephard
DISTRICT 9800 NC VIC COMMUNITY LEADER	Alison Bacon

CLUB PRESIDENT	Lindsay Jolley
SECRETARY	Bernie Young
TREASURER & IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Peter Kilpatrick
COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT ELECT	Cora Fuentes-Mahnic
YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR	Jan Pagliaro
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR	Heather Nixon
MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING DIRECTOR	Tony Plant
CLUB SERVICE DIRECTOR	Sue Duncan
FUND-RAISING and MAJOR PROJECTS DIRECTOR	Gary Pinner
VOCATIONS DIRECTOR	Rod Spitty
CLUB PROTECTION OFFICER	Geoff McKinna
FOUNDATION OFFICER	Anne Peace
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Shireen Yeoh

D9800 Goldfields Cluster Club Meeting Times

RC KANGAROO FLAT: Monday 6pm, Rotary Gateway Park
Secretary - Geoff Wakefield: 0407 561 997

RC BENDIGO: Tuesday 12:45pm, Bendigo Club, Park Street, Kennington
Secretary: Daniela Ionescu – d.ionescu@latrobe.edu.au

RC ECHUCA MOAMA: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of month - 6 for 6:30pm,
Rotary Park Clubrooms, Rose Street, Echuca

RC BENDIGO SANDHURST: Wednesday 7am for 7.30am start,
Peppergreen Farm, 40 Thunder Street, North Bendigo
Secretary: Paul Henderson – 0428 177 314

RC ROCHESTER 2nd & 4th Thursday at 6.30pm at the heritage courthouse,
community chat is on the 3rd Thursday at 8am at Rochester Hotel

RC EAGLEHAWK: Wednesday 6pm, Mechanics Institute
Contact 0428 468 298

RC CASTLEMAINE: Wednesday 6:30pm, The Cumberland Hotel
Secretary - Lyndal McClure: 0438 391 160

INNER WHEEL CLUB of BENDIGO: 11.15am, 2nd Tuesday of the month,
Mechanics Institute, Long Gully.
Bernadette: 0407051722