

SIGNPOST

Volume 67, No. 24 11 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

Lindsay's notes

We continued our roving meeting locations. This time at the Mechanics Institute in California Gully, through the generosity of the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk. We appreciate that the Club let us take over their meeting room for the night. Alison even provided bar service for us. A meal of pizzas arranged by Tony started off the night before we heard from Jamie Roberts, owner and operator of Bendigo Guided Tours. With a passion for history and Bendigo gastronomy, Jamie has developed a variety of tours showcasing the two themes around Bendigo. Our city was designated Australia's first Creative City and Region of Gastronomy in 2019. Very recently, his tour company won the "Best New Tourism Business" at the Victorian Tourism awards 2025. Jamie will now be a finalist for the Australian award. We wish him well as he develops his business.

This was our last Club meeting of the year before our joint Christmas party with the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk this Wednesday 17 December at 6:30pm for 7:00pm. It will be at the home of Brian and Gail Fitzpatrick, 3 Chaplin Court, Eaglehawk. Do not forget that it is BYO drinks.

We rounded off the night with a well packed Board meeting. The report on this has been sent to all Members, continuing my commitment at the start of my term to provide a report on each Board meeting.

One of the matters approved was a \$2,500 donation towards the \$16,330 cost for the supply and installation of a transformer to replace a diesel generator. The latter costs more to run and its replacement will ensure a more regular and clean water supply for the Shurmo community in Ethiopia. Not only is the cost of diesel rising, but it can be difficult to obtain. The local community is providing \$4,200 towards the cost. The Shurmo project was one of those that I visited during my recent Ethiopia trip. An account of the trip can be seen at, <https://www.boxhillcentralrotary.org.au/Stories/to-ethiopia-and-back-our-e-wash-field-monitoring-trip>. I will present my account of the visit at our 5 February meeting.

We will welcome 2026 with the High Tea at the Village Retirement Village Community Hall on Sunday 18 January - please see Heather's note on this. Our first Club meeting will be on Thursday 22 January at the Lake View Hotel, followed by our first Board meeting for 2026.

To all of those whom I will not see at the Christmas party, all the Best from Nena and myself for a relaxing and peaceful Christmas.

Lindsay Jolley



Guest speaker, Jamie Roberts, Founder and Guide of Bendigo Guided Tours

Member Reminders: Christmas Function RSVP

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.

Details of the Christmas Party below

Tony Plant

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, Burbon & 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



HORSHAM TOWN HALL, VICTORIA. 27TH – 29TH MARCH 2026.

**DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S
EXCITING DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

CONNECT with other Rotarians from across Australia.

SHARE stories of positive social impact, locally and across the world.

LEARN how to enhance your Rotary experience, improve your club and serve your community.

- Inspiring keynote speakers.
- Stunning facilities.
- Breakout sessions.
- Showcase.
- Hands-on projects.
- Gala dinner and events.
- Spectacular entertainment.
- Set in beautiful Horsham.



REGISTER NOW <https://events.humanitix.com/multi-district-summit-2026>

www.rotaryimpactsummit.org

Meeting Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
DECEMBER THEME: DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT				
Wed 17 Dec			Combined Xmas Function with Eaglehawk RC Details in the Signpost	
Fri 19 Dec			Christmas Trailer Raffle Draw - Mechanics Institute, California Gully	

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	



DECEMBER IS

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

Rotary 
District 9800

"The prevention of disease today is one of the most important factors in line of human endeavor"
Charles Mayo



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
DISTRICT 9800 GOVERNOR
DISTRICT 9800 NC VIC COMMUNITY LEADER

Francesco Arezzo
Peter Shepheard
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