



# SIGNPOST

Volume 67, No. 36 19 March 2026

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



[www.bendigosouthrotary.org.au](http://www.bendigosouthrotary.org.au)

[www.twitter.com/RotaryBendigoS](https://www.twitter.com/RotaryBendigoS)

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

Email: [secretary@bendigosouthrotary.org.au](mailto:secretary@bendigosouthrotary.org.au)

## **Club Visit to the Central Deborah Gold Mine - 19th March**

Our last meeting was a Vocational Inspection to the Central Deborah Gold Mine facility. 23 Rotarians, partners and friends attended.

The gold mine staff were terrific in the way they presented the facility and looked after us, we were hosted by:-

- Sarah-Jane Fawcett - Tourism and Marketing Support Officer
- Bill Allen - Senior Tour Guide and Curations Coordinator
- Phil DeAraugo - General Manager Major Projects

Bill Allen provided us with a full surface inspection and history of the facility.

Phil DeAraugo provided a strategic update of the Mine Complex, current operations and future development plans. Some 64000 people visit the mine complex annually and the facility generates \$7.5 million to the Bendigo economy annually. Set out in the attachment below is a fact sheet for Stage 1 Revitalisation of the mine complex.

Both presentations were excellent and extremely interesting and appreciated by all in attendance. There were many questions and subsequent discussion.

The facility is first class and is a National Tourism/Heritage Icon.

Our group was fed with fresh pizzas prepared and cooked on the premises and an optional drink. Members enjoyed the visit and the insight into historical mining operations. In the attachment are details of Stage 1 Development.

The Club made a \$500 donation towards the Restoration of Berdan Pans.  
A letter of Appreciation has been forwarded to Central Deborah Gold Mine Staff.

Yours in Rotary  
Vocation Director  
Rod Spitty





**Next week's guest**

Margaret Keech, OAM,  
Dragons Abreast Bendigo

**History of Dragons Abreast**

In 2001 two Bendigo Breast Cancer Survivors travelled to Melbourne each week to train with the first Victorian "Dragons Abreast" boat crew, and then competed in the Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival in March of 2002.

After receiving interest from many Breast Cancer Survivors in Bendigo it was decided to start a team locally. We were put in touch with the Gunbower Aquatic Festival after being informed that they had a boat, which they would gladly hand over to Dragons Abreast. After many hours of labour from some helpful members and their families and some kind donations of materials from local businesses, we were able to refurbish the boat and were training on Lake Weeroona by November 2002.

We have been involved in many Dragonboat regattas and other community events since that time including trips to Canberra, Adelaide, Darling Harbour, Falls Creek, Geelong, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Tasmania. The camaraderie and the friendships we have made have enriched our lives.

We have many "able breasted friends" as a support crew.

Margaret will be able to tell us more about this fabulous Club.



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## City of Greater Bendigo works depot Breakfast BBQ



Continuing the tradition over some years of supporting the COGB and its works depot with a BBQ breakfast of egg and bacon rolls. Despite some challenges with the lighting on site early on the team was well organised. With over 185 rolls consumed, the highly focused team of 7 members ably led by Team Supremo Gary had the whole event done and dusted by 8.15am.

Thanks to members Merlyn, Bob, Rod, Paul S, Geoff Mck for their efforts.

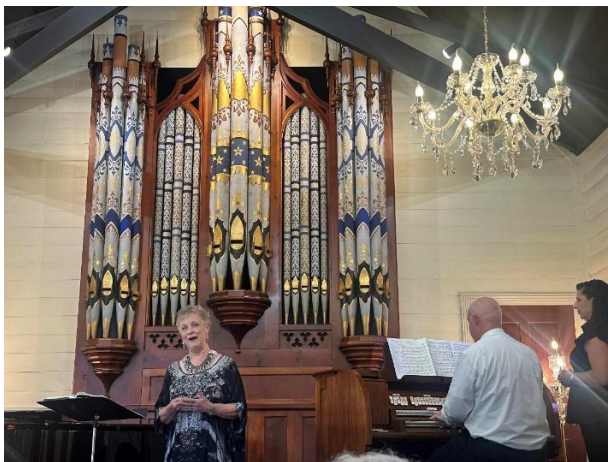
Paul Gibbons

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## Songs for the Centuries at Langley Estate Concert

Merlyn Quaife AM gave a stunning concert at Langley Estate, accompanied by Thomas Heywood on both the magnificent 1875 pipe organ and the beautiful Yamaha C7X grand piano.

Rod Spitty



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# INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BENDIGO'S

## MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

PROCEEDS TO HARCOURT FIRES

### MIDWINTER BREAK

26<sup>th</sup> March  
6.30pm for a 7pm Start  
Star Cinema  
Town Hall Eaglehawk



**BOOK ONLINE:** [starcinema.org.au](http://starcinema.org.au)

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### 9800 Rotary District Conference MARCH 27-29



## THE MULTI DISTRICT IMPACT SUMMIT.

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



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

[www.rotaryimpactsummit.org](http://www.rotaryimpactsummit.org)

*If you are intending to attend the Convention in Horsham, please go to the provided website to organize your booking.*

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

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**DATES HAVE CHANGED**

**We still need home hosts for visiting Malaysia Special Education teachers for  
6 August – 5 September 2026**

Our Rotary Clubs ensured that the 2024 training program for eight visiting Malaysian Special Education teachers was a great success. The Malaysian education department recognised the value of the visit and later welcomed our two local teachers, who visited Malaysia for two weeks in early 2025 to pass on their skills and experience.

We can now continue the program with a visit by another eight Malaysian teachers in 2026. It is planned that four of the teachers spend four weeks in the Bendigo special schools and the other four spend their time in Echuca. We expect the Bendigo-based teachers to **arrive in Bendigo on Thursday 6 August and leave on Saturday 5 September 2026**. Each of the Bendigo-based teachers will be located at either the Bendigo Special Developmental School or at Kalianna School for their full four weeks. They will need to be transported to and from their school. Please let me know if you can home host one or more of the teachers during that time and for how long.

I can be contacted by phone (0416 192 032), email ([lj@joll.net](mailto:lj@joll.net)) , Message or WhatsApp - I indicated the last two in case I am travelling.

Lindsay Jolley, President, Rotary Club of Bendigo South

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**BBQ Volunteer Bookings.**

Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good Friday BBQ Pall Mall Market	8am – 3 pm ; 2 Shifts 6 Volunteers Per Shift
Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Awakening of Dragon	Women of Note Volunteers
Sunday April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Chinese Assc Pre Procession BBQ Bridge Street	9 am – 1pm 6 Volunteers
Sunday April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Strikers Netball BBQ 11.30- 4 pm Car Parking 11.30 – 4 pm CMC Junortoun	BBQ 3 Volunteers Car Parking 6 Volunteers
Sunday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Classic Breakfast Canterbury Park Eaglehawk	8am – 11 am 4 Volunteers
Sunday June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Strikers Netball BBQ 11.30 – 4 pm Car Parking 11.30 – 4 pm CMC Junortoun	BBQ 3 Volunteers Car Parking 6 Volunteers
Sunday July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Strikers Netball BBQ 11.30 – 4 pm Car Parking 11.30 – 4 pm CMC Junortoun	BBQ 3 Volunteers Car Parking 6 Volunteers
Sunday August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	La Trobe Uni Open Day Edwards Road Plaza	8am – 1 pm 6 Volunteers

Sunday August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	RMIT Flight School BBQ Bendigo Airport	10am – 2 pm 3 Volunteers
Friday November 20 <sup>th</sup>	La Trobe Uni	11am – 1 pm 4 Volunteers
Sunday November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mandurang Christmas Market BBQ	9am – 3pm 2 Shifts
Monday December 7 <sup>th</sup>	CFMEU Christmas BBQ Bendigo Jockey Club	9am – 3 pm

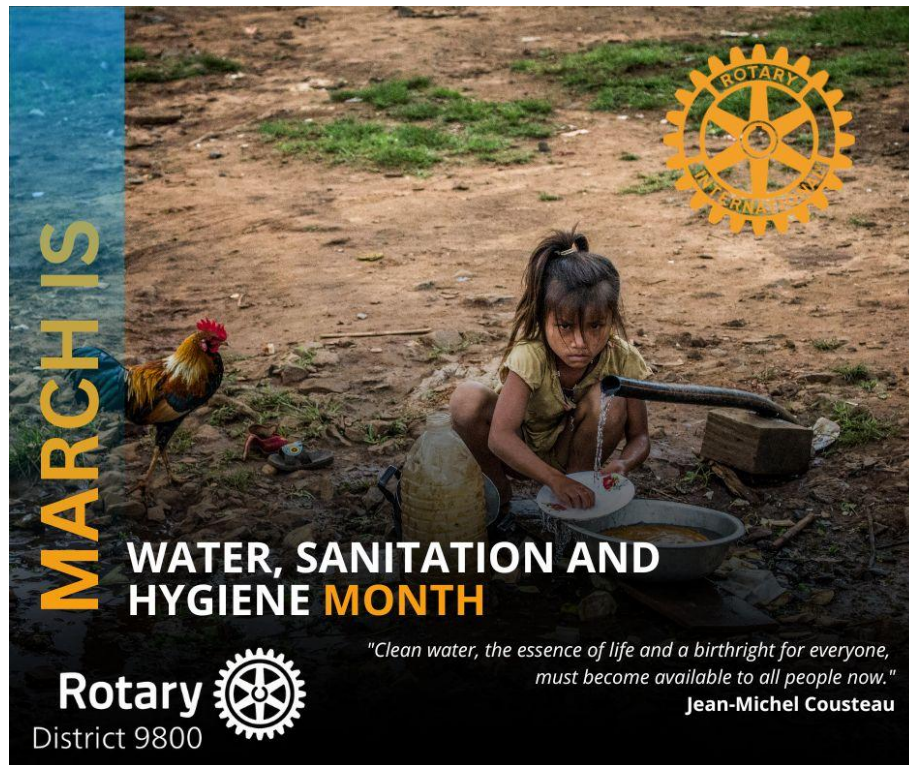
Please contact Volunteer Coordinator George Ellis if you can assist.

Email: [george\\_ellis55@outlook.com](mailto:george_ellis55@outlook.com).

Mobile: 0438353414

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Meeting Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
<b>MARCH THEME: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE MONTH</b>				
Thurs 26 Mar	Margaret Keech – OAM Dragon Boat Story	Merlyn	Cora & Sue	Lake View Hotel
Mar 27-29 Horsham	Multi District Impact Summit	See advertisement above		
<b>APRIL THEME: ENVIRONMENT MONTH</b>				
Thurs 2 Apr	No meeting as Easter BBQs			
Thurs 9 Apr	CEO Matt Parkinson – Mad Cow Organisation			
Thurs 16 Apr	Brian Coman – Author - Bendigo's Backyard Birds' Board meeting			
Thurs 23 Apr	TBA			
Thurs 30 Apr	Sandy Joffa Intercultural Ambassadors			



#### **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
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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, 22A High Street, Kangaroo Flat  
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:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6.30pm at the heritage courthouse,  
community chat is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 8am at Rochester Hotel

**RC EAGLEHAWK:** Wednesday 6pm,  
Mechanics Institute Hall, 8/12 School Street, California Gully  
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month,  
Mechanics Institute Hall, 8/12 School Street, California Gully  
Bernadette: 0407051722