



SIGNPOST

Volume 67, No. 35 26 March 2026

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

NO Meeting this coming week, due to Easter BBQs

Meeting Report

Margaret Keech OAM was our guest speaker for our March 26 meeting. She told us of the history and activities of Dragons Abreast Bendigo and Dragon Boating in general. Dragon Boating originated in China over 2000 years ago. It requires teamwork and community spirit with competitive and recreational racing and is now a hugely popular world-wide activity. It was first associated with Breast Cancer survivors in 1996 when Abreast in a Boat was formed in Canada by a sports medicine practitioner.

Margaret shared her personal journey with Breast Cancer and her ensuing involvement with Dragons Abreast. There are 29 teams in Australia. The Bendigo team trains at Lake Weeroona and they get involved in many Regattas in Australia and overseas. They are a self-funded organisation passionate about paddling - yes paddling because they go forwards of rowing where they go backwards! Margaret had many fabulous pictures to share with us.

Merlyn Quaife AM

*Our guest speaker:
Margaret Keech OAM*



Study Tour to Timor Leste

THE TOUR

-  Led by experienced BMFC guides from **Bendigo** with 15+ visits to Maubisse.
-  In-country English speaking driver /guides from **Timor Indigenous Tours**.
-  Meet with BMFC partners in Dili and Maubisse.
-  Travel in air-conditioned 4WD vehicles with experienced drivers.
-  Enjoy twin-share accommodation in a mix of hotels and guest houses.
-  All-Inclusive meals & bottled water, and entrance fees.
-  Intimate group size ensures a personal and enriching experience.
-  100% of profits from the tour support the Nurse Educator at Maubisse Referral Hospital.



MAUBISSE

Nestled in the highlands of Timor-Leste, Maubisse is a vibrant town known for its breath taking landscapes, coffee plantations, and warm hospitality.

At 1,300m above sea level, it offers a cool, scenic retreat from Dili, where visitors experience both history and cultural traditions.

BMFC 20TH ANNIVERSARY STUDY TOUR

13-20 OCTOBER 2025



A UNIQUE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

BOOK NOW

PLACES LIMITED. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A TOUR LEADER:



Deborah Blake (above)
mobile: 0417 365 672

Jennifer Feiss (below)
mobile: 0400 615 307

Email: bendigomaubissefriends@gmail.com
Website: www.bmfc.org.au



- 8 days
 - 7 nights
- 13th – 20th October 2025**
- Dili
 - Maubisse
 - Balibo

DISCOVER, CONNECT, SUPPORT

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Timor-Leste as part of the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee's 20th Anniversary Study Tour.

This immersive experience offers an opportunity to engage deeply with local communities, visit significant sites, and witness firsthand the work of BMFC partnerships.

PRICING & BOOKING

Tour Cost: \$3,650 (twin-share)
Single Room Upgrade: +\$650
Flights not included
• 30% deposit due by 1st May
• Full payment required by 1st August, 2025.



EXPERTISE & COMMITMENT

20 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

BMFC has spent 20 years fostering deep, lasting partnerships between the communities of Bendigo and Maubisse. Since 2006, we have worked in education, health, arts, and economic development, supporting locally-led initiatives.

TIMOR INDIGENOUS TOURS

Timor Indigenous Tours is a community-focused tour company dedicated to preserving Timor-Leste's cultural and natural heritage while ensuring local guides benefit from sustainable tourism.

WHO MAY BE INTERESTED?

- BMFC members & supporters
- Education sponsors
- Anyone passionate about deepening their engagement with Timor-Leste

ALL IMAGES BMFC 2025

*Photos from Japan – President Lindsay Jolley & Helena (Nena) Romero Herrera
Nena and Lindsay in front of the main worship area of the Dazaifu Tenmagie Shinto Shrine,
Fukuoka, Japan. Their first day of rain in two weeks.*



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) , Message or WhatsApp - I indicated the last two in case I am travelling.

Lindsay Jolley
President, Rotary Club of Bendigo South

BBQ Volunteer Bookings.

Friday April 3 rd	Good Friday BBQ Pall Mall Market	8am – 3 pm ; 2 Shifts 6 Volunteers Per Shift
Saturday April 4 th	Awakening of Dragon	Women of Note Volunteers
Sunday April 5 th	Bendigo Chinese Assc Pre Procession BBQ Bridge Street	9 am – 1pm 6 Volunteers
Sunday April 19 th	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 th	Mother's Day Classic Breakfast Canterbury Park Eaglehawk	8am – 11 am 4 Volunteers
Sunday June 28 th	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 th	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 rd	La Trobe Uni Open Day Edwards Road Plaza	8am – 1 pm 6 Volunteers
Sunday August 23 rd	RMIT Flight School BBQ Bendigo Airport	10am – 2 pm 3 Volunteers
Friday November 20 th	La Trobe Uni	11am – 1 pm 4 Volunteers
Sunday November 29 th	Mandurang Christmas Market BBQ	9am – 3pm 2 Shifts
Monday December 7 th	CFMEU Christmas BBQ Bendigo Jockey Club	9am – 3 pm

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator George Ellis if you can assist.

Email: george_ellis55@outlook.com

Mobile: 0438353414

Meeting Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
APRIL THEME: ENVIRONMENT MONTH				
Thurs 2 Apr	No meeting as Easter BBQs			
Thurs 9 Apr	CEO Matt Parkinson – Mad Cow Organisation	Tony Plant	Mark & Shireen	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 16 Apr	Brian Coman – Author - Bendigo's Backyard Birds' Board meeting	TBA	Endel & Paul G	Lake View Hotel

Thurs 23 Apr	Jenny Trewartha – President Bendigo Base Hospital Trained Nurses League Honouring Bendigo’s Nursing Heritage	Heather Nixon (TBC)	George	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 30 Apr	Sandy Joffa Intercultural Ambassadors	Cora Fuentes- Mahnich	TBA	Lake View Hotel
MAY THEME: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH				
Thurs 7 May	Scholarship Winners x 6ppl Details to follow	Mark Tracy	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 14 May	Maubisse night movie			
Thurs 21 May	Directors End of Year Reports. Board Meeting	Lindsay Jolley	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 28 May	La Trobe Uni Scholarship Recipients to speak	Rod Spitty	TBA	Lake View Hotel
JUNE THERE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH				
Thurs 4 June	TBA			
Thurs 11 June	TBA			
Thurs 18 June	Changeover Board Meeting			
Thurs 25 June	President – Changeover Dinner			



MARCH IS

**WATER, SANITATION AND
HYGIENE MONTH**

Rotary 
District 9800

*"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone,
must become available to all people now."*
Jean-Michel Cousteau

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, 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: 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 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, 2nd Tuesday of the month,
Mechanics Institute Hall, 8/12 School Street, California Gully
Bernadette: 0407051722