



SIGNPOST

Volume 67, No. 36 2 April 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

Peter Kilpatrick 's note

Thank you to everyone who has made yourselves available during the busy Easter period. Your support and willingness to step in at such an important time for the club is truly appreciated.

Gary Pinner's report

Details of Easter Bbq's

Good Friday income \$5547 up 4% on 2025 Easter Sarurday income \$4363 up 57% from 2025. Easter Sunday pre procession volunter Bbq cooked & served over 1000 sausages. Thanks to the Women of Note Choir and the Rotary volunteers for there fantastic efforts helping generate income of \$9910.00

Photos of Good Friday BBQ, morning shift.



The Rotary Club of Bendigo South conducted the Good Friday BBQ in perfect weather near the fountain with Queen Victoria looking from Rosalind Park



Sue Duncan manages the Cash/Fpost from a continuous public line 20 - 30m long.



Gary Pinner delving into the depths of the Cooler Trailer looking for something.





Easter Sunday BBQ

The Club served approximately 800 participants from the Bendigo Chinese Association, together with representatives from other Chinese associations across Australia, during the morning as they prepared for the Easter Sunday Parade.

The weather was perfect and the lead up during the morning was most enjoyable and appreciated by the Bendigo Chinese Association.

Dragon Marchers looking resplendent in their uniform/costumes.

Bridge Street is ready for the parade with all traffic diverted.







Next week's guest speaker

Matt Parkinson is the CEO of MADCOW – Make A Difference Change Our World. Matt has lived in Bendigo for 45 years where he has worked and raised a family. He is married with 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He has a background in small business and community service, with a heart to serve those in need. Over the past 16 years, Matt has taken a concept to reality by turning a dream of providing support to the most vulnerable in our community, into a self-funded social enterprise-based charity caring for the homeless in Bendigo.



Multi District Summit. Horsham - Tony Plant attendee

Having attended the Multi District Summit (Rotary District Conference) in Horsham initially my reaction was glass half empty but pleased to say that by its conclusion I was more glass half full. Given the rather haphazard lead up to the event with not much initial information on offer, perhaps a question if Horsham would be able to accommodate the potential large number of attendees given there were three districts attending and more relevant to my overall attitude as to why I was even bothering to go all led to my rather negative view of things.

Having signed up for the welcome function which I attended on the Friday evening and learning that quite a few people I knew had decided to skip this and go to the pubs instead- *a very wise move*. I was to soon learn that the conference attendee numbers would barely make 400, those who were in attendance in many cases looked ancient reflecting the average age of the rusted-on Rotarians and the food served was ordinary and the beer was limited. *I once again wished I too had found a pub.*

However, on Saturday morning we all found a seat in the wonderful Horsham Auditorium which proved to be a perfect venue. After the initial welcomes and usual formalities, the show opened with a comedian. Just what we all needed a good laugh. Even though he threw in the magic word a couple of times that stunned a few of the old and wrinkly the Bogan as he was referred proved to be a big hit with a very subtle message about dealing with mental trauma. From that point on we heard a great variety of speakers, some local ones too including our MC who was brilliant and highly professional. The Saturday dinner was held in a huge shed at the show grounds with some sheep brought along and de-frocked to get the night underway, some great music that Wayne Smith was able to dance to, some Luv a Duck for dinner and a good relaxed friendly night was had by all.

After a disjointed lead up to this event and a bit of a shaky start the three DG's were able to get it all together and those who attended from what I could ascertain thought the overall experience was valuable, enjoyable and even somewhat inspiring. **From Glass half empty to glass half full!** Next year's event will be another 3-district summit (same three districts) and the venue will be Warrnambool on a weekend in April. Already there are positive vibes that the invitations will be issued very early with early bird prices on offer and yes even some identified speakers will be known. Having declared that the Horsham conference would be my last, I just might go round once again.

Tony Plant





At the conference in Horsham, among other things on display was this one from Shelterbox. Given the situation with wars and natural disasters in many parts of the world at present these shelter box kits are in high demand.

From: Sandra Slatter <sdslatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 12:25 PM
To: Sandra Slatter <sdslatter@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Day correction - Monday 25th May

Carers give so much — often quietly, often without recognition.

People living with dementia and cognitive decline continue to show us strength, courage and humanity every day. On Monday **25 May**, we are bringing our community together to celebrate, honour and acknowledge them.

SAVE THE DATE – 25 MAY

Caring Together: A Celebration of Carers & Community

A day of connection, information, food, music and shared stories. Community organisations, support services, young ambassadors and volunteers will gather at **Reflections at Eppalock** to stand beside carers and those living with dementia. This special day — proudly supported by Carers Victoria — will also see the launch of our *Caring Together* booklet and the Bush-Inspired Community Care Model (BICCM).

Come for an hour or stay all day. - Bring a friend. Bring a carer. Bring your curiosity.



Monday 25 May
🕒 10.30am – 3.00pm
📍 Reflections at Eppalock, Kimbolton

More details coming soon.
Because caring matters.

Sandra Slatter CM

Dementia Alliance - Founder / President

Slatter









sdslatter@gmail.com


0417 350911

Study Tour to Timor Leste

THE TOUR

FEATURES

-  Led by experienced BMFC guides from **Bendigo**
-  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*

STUDY TOUR

25TH AUG- 1ST SEP 2026



A UNIQUE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

*Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee Inc.

BOOK NOW

PLACES LIMITED. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A TOUR LEADER:



Contact:

Anthony Plant

via

Email: bendigomaubissefriends@gmail.com

Website: www.bmfc.org.au



- 8 days
- 7 nights

25th August - 1st September 2026

- Dili >
- Maubisse >
- Balibo >
- Dili

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: \$3720 (twin-share)
Single Room Upgrade: +\$650
Flights not included

- 30% deposit due by 1st May
- Full payment required by 1st July, 2026



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

*At Himeji Castle, before the rain.
In the rain at the beautiful Shukkeien Garden, Hiroshima.*



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

East Loddon P-12 Turkey Excursion.

The students departed last week and arrived safely in Istanbul and now into their adventure. Given the current Middle East situation this is great news. Also, I have explored with the school leaders the possibility of our club re entering youth exchange in 2027/28 if they can provide the necessary and suitable host families. All is looking positive at this early stage that these arrangements could work. I will speak in more detail at a future meeting about how I envisage this arrangement would be operational.

Tony Plant

BBQ Volunteer Bookings.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Sunday April 19th | 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 28th | 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 12th | 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 23rd | 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 29th | 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 9 Apr | CEO Matt Parkinson – Mad Cow Organisation | Tony Plant | Mark | 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- Mahnic | 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 | | | |



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