



SIGNPOST

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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

Meeting chair's note

City of Greater Bendigo Intercultural Ambassadors Program
Sandy Joffe, Hetty Chidziva, Valentine Joe and Arianne Ballantyne

We had the honour to welcome four members of the International Cultural Ambassadors Program, a voluntary leadership opportunity for members of various ethnic communities residing in the City of Greater Bendigo and its surrounding districts that started in 2019. The program provides an opportunity for multicultural community members to share their culture, connect with others, and enhance understanding and cultural diversity.



Under the leadership of Sandy Joffe, we heard podcast stories from our visitors, relating and sharing their journeys and experiences in settling to their new country Australia. This enhanced

our member’s cultural knowledge and understanding of cultural diversity, particularly to their early settlement here in Bendigo, from the City’s three ambassadors namely:

1. Valentine Joe – Val arrived in Australia, from Zimbabwe, Africa; settling in Queensland with his family at the age of 18. He travelled around Tasmania and New South Wales, before settling in Bendigo in 2016, where he enrolled and graduated at La Trobe University. Val talked about the issues of belongingness, being seen and valued and his journey being the ambassador of his community. Val currently works in the areas of mental health.
2. Annie Christopher – was born in Kollam, India, migrated to Australia, arriving in Bendigo in 2010 with her husband and two young daughters. Annie talked about the issues of “culture shock“, specifically the cultural differences of parenting, referred to her as “helicopter Mum”. Annie also talked about food, belongingness and life in Australia itself.
3. Hetty Chidsiva – was born and grew up in Ghana, Africa, living and raised by her grandparents and close family members. Hetty arrived in Bendigo in 2020, during Christmas time with her husband and three young children. Hetty talked about isolation and many encompassing issues upon arrival in a new country. Hetty shared her experiences and journeys, specifically emphasising children’s curiosity about race and skin colours. Hetty works as a Child Educator, in the areas of Childhood Education with Special Needs Children. She is currently studying Migration Law.



Sandy Joffe, meeting chair and incoming President Cora Fuentes-Mahnic,
Acting President Peter Kilpatrick, Annie Christopher, Hetty Chidsiva and Valentine Joe.



Works continue on the foundations for the new games room at Camp Getaway. Camp Getaway Board member Graham Neivandt is cleaning up the site for the pouring of the concrete floor and footings, assisted by Paul Gibbons, Camp Manager Benji and RC Bendigo members.

**Next week's guest speakers
Secondary scholarship recipients**

At our Club Meeting on 7 May we will recognise our six 2025 Secondary Schools Scholarship recipients. The awarding of these scholarships has a long history within our Club. The recipient is selected by the school; not a "high flyer", but a student who would benefit from financial assistance to continue their studies in Year 11 and beyond.

At this stage, four of the six recipients have indicated that they will attend, along with a parent or parents. These are the students from Girton Grammar School, Bendigo South East College, East Loddon P-12 College and Catherine McAuley College Bendigo. Each student will give a short presentation covering their personal journey, education, hopes for the future and how they have used/plan to use the \$500 provided by the Club.

I hope a large number of Members can attend on this special evening.

Mark Tracy
Secondary School Scholarships Co-ordinator

Annie North Gardening Working Bee.

A working Bee has been scheduled for Saturday May 23 commencing at 9pm and finishing by 12.30pm followed by lunch provided by Annie North Staff. As well as our regular team members any other club members are welcome to join us. Main task will be spreading mulch underneath the playground equipment and in some of the garden beds.

Those members wanting to attend who are not members of the regular team need to bring their current working with children's check and their driver's license to be cleared at the administrative office on arrival. A police check will not be required. Closer to the event please let me know if you can attend so I can pass on numbers for catering purposes. Some extra wheel barrows, rakes and shovels would be useful too.

The Club Facebook Page

Recently former member Matthew Scott handed over the management of the clubs Facebook page to Tony Plant. Members who have their own Facebook pages should find the club page and have a look. From time to time there may be some posts you might like to share or comment on. If any members have a photo and some description to go with it please email to Tony to his Gmail address (planttony24@gmail.com), not his Bigpond address. Events other than BBQ photos will be preferred but an occasional Bbq will be posted if the event is clearly supporting an identified local partner that can be identified within the post. Perhaps if one is going to supply a BBQ photo try to include something or someone that identifies the recipients. If this information is included the focus can be the subject of the story posted.



The guest speaker the previous week regarding the proposed Bendigo nursing memorial sculpture was Jenny Trewartha (left) with meeting chair and former nurse Heather Nixon.

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.

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.

Sunday May 10 th	Mother's Day Classic Breakfast Canterbury Park Eaglehawk	8am – 11 am 4 Volunteers. Also need more volunteers as course marshalls
Wednesday 13 May	Bendigo TAFE Charleston Road Campus	11am – 1 pm. 4 volunteers
Tuesday 2 June	Bendigo TAFE Hargreaves Street Campus Reconciliation Week BBQ	10am – 2 pm 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 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



Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
MAY THEME: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH				
Thurs 7 May	School scholarship recipients	Mark Tracy	Bob and Geoff	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 14 May	Zahrorn Super yacht industry	Tony Plant	George	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 21 May	Directors End of Year Reports. Board Meeting	Lindsay Jolley	Paul Sherwood	Lake View Hotel
Sun 24 May	District Assembly			Camberwell
Thurs 28 May	La Trobe Uni Scholarship recipients	Rod Spitty	Merlyn	Lake View Hotel
JUNE THERE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH				
Thurs 4 June	Maubisse movie night	Tony Plant		Star Cinema
Thurs 11 June	PE Cora – The year ahead	Lindsay / Cora		
Thurs 18 June	Changeover Board meeting			
Thurs 25 June	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