



SIGNPOST

Volume 68, No. 1, 2 July 2026

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



Find us on:
facebook

www.bendigosouthrotary.org.au

www.twitter.com/RotaryBendigoS

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

Email: secretary@bendigosouthrotary.org.au

President's Report

I would like to thank our newly elected Members of the Board for the year 2026/2027. I envisaged that we, as a group, would continue to have a positive and encouraging start to our club's new Rotary Year. I am looking forward to working together as we build on the strengths of our club, by supporting one another and in continuing to make a meaningful difference to our local community.

I also would use this opportunity to acknowledge all members of our club for their continual support and encouragement throughout the process of my new role.

Last Friday, 26th June, it was an honour to represent our Club to attend the Changeover Dinner of Rotary Club of Eaglehawk, welcoming new President Lindsay Walkington and the newly appointed Board Members for 2026 – 2027; with our new Rotarian ShiShu Domondon.

I was also involved with the Sri Lankan Community Event, on Saturday, 27th June at the Bendigo East Community Hall, attended by approximately 600 guests. The "Poson Dansala", a prestigious cultural and religious event in the art of giving back to the community. I am in my various hats as community leader, broadcaster and a Rotarian.

As we kicked off last Thursday's meeting for the first meeting of the new Rotary year. Rotarian Geoff McKenna chaired the meeting. I would like to welcome our seasoned Rotarian Gary Pinner (Member's Talk) to talk about his life's journey. Gary was born in Mooroopna and relocated to Bendigo in 1968 where he pursued his Primary education at Quarry Hill P.S.; then was enrolled in Kangaroo Flat Secondary School mainly enrolling in trade subjects; focusing to be successful in the fields of Auto Mechanics.

He began his career in 1972 as Motor Mechanic, aiming to assist achieving his goals and focus to establish his own business; emphasising the essential of working long hours to make his business successful, spending 52 years. Adding that, along the way he employed many apprentices throughout the years.

Gary's Family.... Gary has 3 children's, 5 grandchildren's and his partner Sharon, according to Gary "His Rock". Gary talks about his sporting prowess in the fields of cricket, cycling, football at Marong Football Club, and in assisting the administrative roles of the Club. Gary also talks about his involvement with Sandhurst Football Club and his heavily involvement in Drag Racing during the 80's and his involvement in Indoor Cricket.

Gary's Rotary Years... According to Gary, he joined The Rotary Club of Bendigo South in June 1990, his first Job was selling stickers, eventually joined the Board and became past Rotary President in 1996/1997. He was a PHF recipient in 1992.

Gary added that, 36 years later, he is still very active, giving back to the community and making a difference. Gary also talked about his latest project, a joint project of other Rotary Club establishing an emergency relief operation.

We also heard from Paul Sherwood , who spoke about his Royce Abby Award
We also welcome our visitors, Ronald McKee and Ms. Nina Podesta, members of the Executive Committee of Bendigo Australian Indonesian Club (BAIK). Both Ronnie and Nina are interested to join our club in the future.

I am looking forward to another productive and enjoyable year together with all valuable members of our club... The Rotary Club of Bendigo South.

Cora Fuentes-Mahnic
President



*From the left: Gary Pinner and
Geoff McKenna (chairperson).*



Visitors, Ronald McKee and Nina Podesta, from the Bendigo Australian Indonesian Klub (BAIK).



Premier Jacinta Allen during the Poson Dansala Event of Sri Lankan Community.



Award Acceptance and Thanks

Paul Harris Award

What a lovely surprise to receive a Paul Harris Award! Over the time I have been a member of the RCBS, and having been involved on the Board, many BBQs, events, etc, this was such an honour to be recognised for such.

Thank you
Sue Duncan

Max Ellis Award

Again, thank you for this recognition of my efforts with being awarded the Max Ellis Award - from a club of many worthy recipients, this is much appreciated.

Thank you
Sue Duncan

I would like to say the Paul Harris award was totally unexpected and I was very surprised but am very appreciative of the recognition from the club.

Thanks
Trevor Hawking

Member Baby Photo Competition Thursday July 9th, 2026

Please bring along a photocopy or email Heather your special baby photo for your fellow members to guess who belongs to which photo.

The theme for July is Maternal & Child health, so maybe you could tell us about 1 of your memorable childhood illnesses or vaccination story



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

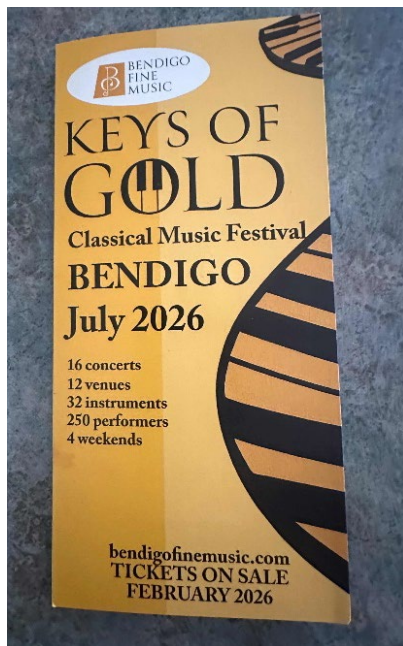
Club's Social Program.

The program committee for this year will be coordinated by Heather, Tony with input from President Cora. We will determine club speakers and meeting process for the meetings conducted at the Lake view Hotel although we will rely on all members to provide ideas and suggest speakers during the coming year.

We are also aiming to have the last meeting each month where possible as a social/ excursion event to be organized at other locations other than the Lake View Hotel. We are asking **each non-board member** to take one turn during the year to organize working in groups of 2 to 3 others to help organize. These events could be a booking for dinner at a café, hotel or restaurant, a visit to another rotary club, a workplace or tourist venue excursion are some examples. These events **do not** necessarily have to be held on a Thursday night but within the scheduled week. We are looking for and encouraging your ideas.

Please open the attachment containing a timetable that was circulated at our meeting last Thursday with a couple of alterations included. Look at the dates available requiring some event to be completed or organised from the beginning. If you are not a board member, find a spot where you could assist and let Tony know. At this stage names next to a date will be enough and you can decide on the activity later. This sheet will be circulated again at the next meeting, and we would like to have it completed by the end of July.

Member Activities



Merlyn Quaife AM and Thomas Heywood performed at the opening of the Keys of Gold Festival Concert on Friday evening at Langley Estare. The Organ/Soprano duo was first class.

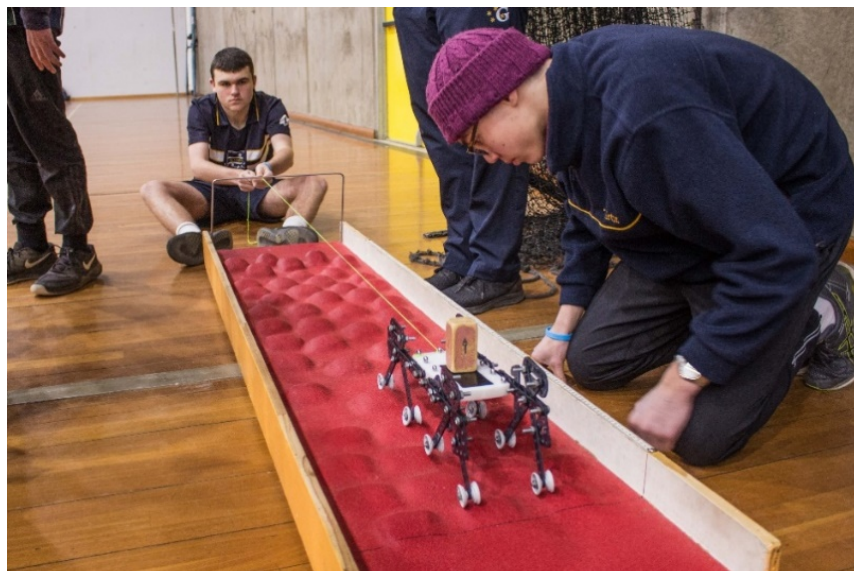


Christmas in July at Sacred Heart Cathedral where Merlin was again part of the Festival Concert Program attended by approx 1500 people including some 25 choirs throughout Victoria. The Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo is the third largest Cathedral in Australia.

Contributed by Rod Spitty

Science and Engineering Challenge Tuesday July 28

Once again, the Rotary Club of Bendigo South will be conducting the Annual Science and Engineering Challenge for year 10 students from several local Secondary Colleges. This year's event will be held in the multi-purpose facility at Girton Grammar. To ensure this will again be great learning experience for all those students who participate we do need additional activity supervisors. The time commitment is from 8 am until 2.30 pm with lunch provided. Supervisors work together in pairs, sometimes in threes and look after just one activity for the day. Prepared instructions are provided by the University of Newcastle usually 2 weeks prior to the event. Further instructions are also provided in the morning prior to activities commencing at 9.30 am. If you would like to help, please let Tony Plant know by phoning 0408590589 or email to anthony.plant@bigpond.com If you have already let him know of availability or otherwise, please ignore this request.



Photos from previous year



NEWS FLASH: The accommodation needed for two Malaysia Special Education teachers has been reduced to 13 nights, from 20 August to 2 September 2026

The teachers will be located at either the Bendigo Special Developmental School or at Kalianna School during their time in Bendigo. 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) or email (lj@joll.net).

Lindsay Jolley

The Club Facebook Page

Tony is now managing our Facebook page. Please remember to take pics of your Rotary activities and send with a brief description to Tony - planttony24@gmail.com) (not to his Bigpond address).

Volunteers wanted

Sunday July 12th	Bendigo Strikers Netball Club Marist Sporting Complex Junortoun Car Parking 12 noon – 3 pm	3 Volunteers required. BBQ on the same day is cancelled
Tuesday July 14th	Bendigo TAFE Hargraves St Campus NAIDOC week BBQ	10.30am – 1 pm 4 volunteers required.
Tuesday July 21st	TAFE Welcome Day Hargraves Street Campus 10 am – 1 pm	4 volunteers required
Tuesday July 28th	TAFE Welcome Day BBQ Charlston Rd Campus 10.30 – 1 30pm	3 volunteers required.
Sunday July 26 th	Ironbark Gully Friends BBQ Ironbark Gully Reserve Victoria St Ironbark	10am – 1pm 3 volunteers required
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 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 program

Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
JULY THEME: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH				
Thurs 9 July	Member Baby Photo competition	TBA	Shishu & Paul	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 16 July	Men's Shed- Barry Bell	Graham Neivandt	Jan & Ian	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 23 July	Justice of the Peace - Endel Vallak	TBA	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 30 July	Inner Wheel	Endel Vallak	TBA	Lake View Hotel

JULY IS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

Rotary District 9800

*Healthy mothers nurture healthy children.
Healthy children build a better world.*

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

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

DISTRICT 9800 GOVERNOR

Graeme Hope

DISTRICT 9800 NC VIC COMMUNITY LEADER

Peter Shephard

CLUB PRESIDENT

Cora Fuentes-Mahnic

SECRETARY

Bernie Young

TREASURER

Peter Kilpatrick

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

Endel Vallak

YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

Rod Spitty

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

Heather Nixon

MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Tony Plant

CLUB SERVICE DIRECTOR

Tony Plant/Gary Pinner

FUND-RAISING and MAJOR PROJECTS DIRECTOR

Gary Pinner

VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

Rod Spitty

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR & IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Lindsay Jolley

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Shireen Yeoh

CLUB PROTECTION OFFICER

Geoff McKinna

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