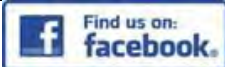




SIGNPOST

Volume 68, No. 6 06 August 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

Next week's meeting (Thursday 13 August) will be at Foundary Hotel Zinc Room

President's Report

Hello Fellow Rotarians.

Greetings...At last week's meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming our visitor, Vicky Reyes a Filipino migrant who has settled in Bendigo since 2024.

Lindsay Jolley sent his apology.

We also had the pleasure of hearing Shishu Domondon give her Member's talk. Shishu, together with her sister LeiLee Clarke and Rotarian Annette Deveraux were inducted into our Club at our Changeover dinner in June 2026.

Shishu shared her life's journey, growing up with her family and three sisters in Bicol, Philippines, at the foot of the famous Mayon Volcano, (one of the world's seven wonders famous for its perfect cone).

She spoke about her educational background both in the Philippines and Australia, and her migration to Australia as an international student together with her husband Nino. Shishu also spoke about her role/s as community volunteer and work commitments in supporting other migrants navigating their settlement process.

Shishu shared about her two young children Zion and Zoe, the challenges and family dynamics involved in supporting her son's special needs while having limited family support and both parents working/studying full time, adding that these experiences were the driving force which taught them incredible flexibility and resilience.

Shishu added that she is excited and looking forward to fulfil her personal aspirations as a Rotarian especially in working alongside and collaborating with likeminded people servicing the community.

Members Report:

George Ellis – Provided information about upcoming BBQ rosters. A sheet was circulated for volunteers. Dates can be viewed in this week's Signpost.

Tony Plant- Provided logistical information regarding the venue arrangements and circulated sheets for our upcoming social dinner.

Heather Nixon – reminded us for our upcoming combined Social Dinner/Meeting with members from Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat. Further details in this week's Signpost Bulletin.

I would like to thank Jan Pagliaro for a job well done in chairing this week's meeting.

Yours in Rotary
Cora Fuentes-Mahnic
President

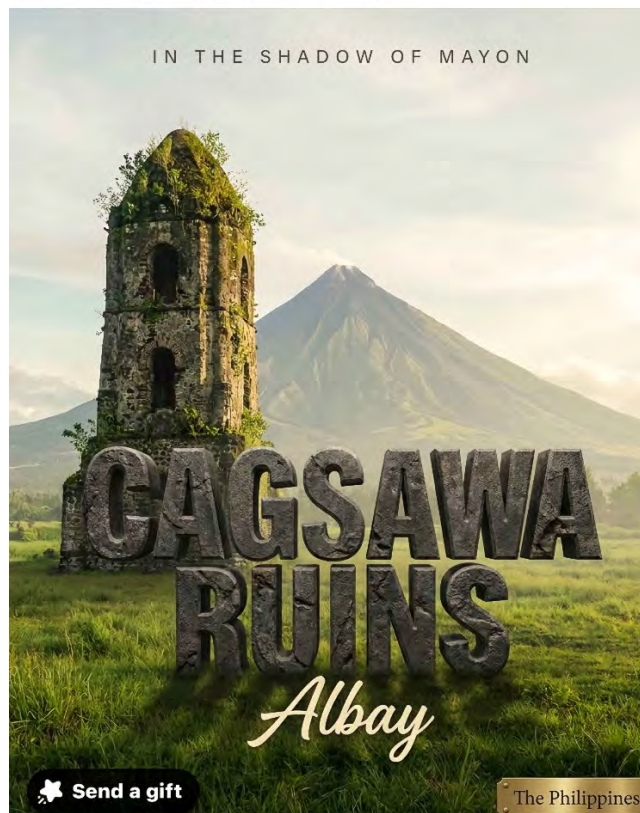


*Guest speaker, Shishu Domondon , our new Rotarian (on the right) and
Chair, Jan Pagliaro*

IN THE SHADOW OF MAYON

The Cagsawa Ruins in Albay are all that remain of a church buried by the 1814 eruption of Mayon Volcano — its lone bell tower still standing against the perfect cone behind it. Hauntingly beautiful.

 **Daraga, Albay**





Meet the eight visiting Malaysian Special Education teachers

Rotarians are invited to a graduation lunch to meet the eight visiting Malaysian Special Education teachers before they depart Bendigo and Echuca. The lunch will be held on Saturday 29 August at the Lake View Hotel, 204 McCrae Street, Bendigo. The lunch starts at 12 noon. Meals can be ordered at the bar. Please let Lindsay Jolley know by Monday 24 August if you wish to attend. Phone 0416192032 or email lj@joll.net.

The banner is for one of the three schools taking part in Bendigo and Echuca.

Rotary invite for BMFC 20th celebration

Dear friends,

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration is fast approaching, and we'd love you to join us as we celebrate two decades of friendship and partnership between the Bendigo and Maubisse communities. Planning for the evening is well underway, and we're delighted to present an exciting program featuring Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Her Excellency Ms Inês Maria de Almeida, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Australia.

We're also delighted to announce that Paulo Almeida and Friends will perform during the evening. A highly regarded Timorese-Australian musician with more than 25 years of international performing experience, Paulo is renowned for music that celebrates Timorese culture, identity and connection.

Hosted by Jonathan Ridnell, the evening will also include historical displays reflecting on twenty years of partnership, opportunities to reconnect with old friends and supporters, and the ceremonial cutting of our anniversary cake.

Friday 18 September 2026

Bendigo Club

6.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Tickets are \$36.50 per person and include finger food throughout the evening, with drinks available for purchase from the bar.

As this is a special anniversary celebration, numbers are limited and bookings are essential. As a valued supporter of BMFC, you're receiving this invitation before tickets are released to the wider community, so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

[Book online HERE](#)

Whether you've travelled to Maubisse, sponsored a scholarship, volunteered your time, supported a fundraiser, or simply cheered us on over the past twenty years, we'd love to celebrate this milestone with you.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope to celebrate with you on 18 September.

Warm regards,

Rod Flavell

President

[Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee](#)

Email: bendigomaubissefriends@gmail.com

The poster features a rainbow logo with the text 'BENDIGO-MAUBISSE FRIENDSHIP' and '20 YEARS 14 SEP 2002 - 14 SEP 2022'. It announces a celebration on 'FRIDAY 18 SEP, 2026' at '6:00 PM' at the 'BENDIGO CLUB'. It mentions 'Featuring live music from Paulo Almeida & Friends'. Two portraits are shown: 'H.E. Ms. Inês de Almeida, Ambassador of Timor-Leste' and 'Dr Kirsty Sword-Gusmao, Founder of the Aloia Foundation'.

The collage includes a photo of four men in a field, a photo of children in a classroom, and a logo for 'ina International. needs.'.

Our Local Lead Partner

INA works exclusively through trusted local partners that ensure a deep knowledge of the needs of the community they belong to and tailored technical expertise.

Bole Bible Baptist Church Child Care and Community Development (BBBC) has implemented integrated development projects for the past 20 years aiming at creating access to opportunities for a better standard of living for underprivileged and vulnerable communities.

INA x Rotary Partnership

The Rotary Club of Box Hill Central, through its entity, We Can't Wait (WCW), has been very active in international water and sanitation projects since 2015, two District Grants, nine Global Grants and five Direct Grants have either been completed or are in progress across India, Ethiopia, and Nepal.

For the past five years (FY 2020-26), INA has worked in partnership with the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central in their capacity as an authorised cooperating organisation that is recognised by The Rotary Foundation and has successfully completed a Global Grant and a Direct Grant in the Shurmo District in Ethiopia in partnership with We Can't Wait (WCW). INA has a proven track record with WCW.

Since July 2024, INA and We Can't Wait have renewed their collaboration through the EWASH project in Ethiopia, and other exciting projects are yet to come!

The total value of all we can't wait projects completed or in progress since inception is AUD\$2,000,000.

Find out more about us

INA We can't wait

INA International Programs
Manager: Davide De Micheli
davidedm@ina.org.au

WCW Chair: Tony Stokes
wecantwait6531@gmail.com

Rotary **Box Hill Central**

we can't wait

Ready to visit the EWASH Project in Ethiopia?

ina
International.
needs.

The EWASH Project

Since July 2024, We Can't Wait (the registered Business Name of Operation Toilets Australia) and International Needs Australia (INA) have been implementing an exciting project in Ethiopia to improve access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices for individual households, communities, schools, and health clinics.

Supported participants: around 2,000 adults from the most vulnerable Households and 7,000 children in 15 schools.

Objectives:

- Increased awareness and skills in water service, sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Increased access to improved water and sanitation infrastructure (latrines and handwashing facilities)
- Increased access to and management of water service (water points/lines)

What are we working on?

We're building 100 improved ventilated latrines for disadvantaged families, renovating water points in schools and health centres, conducting awareness and hand washing campaigns in schools and communities on best hygiene and sanitation practices, training girls in preparing sanitisation pads from locally available materials ... and much more!



Where and Why

Ezha District, Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, 60 to 80% of communicable diseases are attributed to limited access to safe water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene services. The baseline study showed only 12.6% of households have a latrine, 64.7% of households in our target communities practice open defecation and none of the households in the targeted area have a dedicated place for handwashing with water and soap.

This project will be implemented in Ezha Woreda of Central Ethiopia Region. Only 52% of the schools in the target areas have improved latrines separated for boys and girls, while only 35% of the schools have water sources. Along with schools, the participants of the project will be extremely vulnerable family with no access to sanitation and latrines.

Traditional latrine in Ezha



NEW school toilet



Join the visit!

Join the team from WCW and INA this coming November 2026 in their visit to the project sites to witness the impact of the project and hear from the communities we support on how the intervention is changing their life!

Our local partner will organise meetings with community representatives and groups, visits to schools, health facilities and individual project participants. All in total safety!

Here are tentative dates for the brief itinerary:

- **8th Nov:** Departing from Melbourne
- **9th Nov:** Landing in Addis Ababa and meeting with our partner's Board of Director
- **10th Nov:** Travel to Shurmo (project area) and meeting with the project team
- **11th Nov:** Project visit - schools & farmers
- **12th Nov:** Project visit - health centres
- **13th Nov:** Debrief with the team and travel to Ezha (project area 2)
- **14th Nov:** Project visit - schools & women saving group
- **15th Nov:** Goodbye and travel back to Addis
- **16th Nov:** Visit of Addis Ababa
- **17th Nov:** Visit to the Australian embassy in Ethiopia and departure from Addis Ababa

Total budget (including flights, accommodation, transportation and main meals): **3,750 AUD***
• price may vary slightly depending on the time of booking

Witness with your own eyes the needs and incredible strength of the communities in Shurmo and Ezha, while diving into the beautiful Ethiopian landscape and culture!

For further information, speak to Lindsay Jolley. He took part in the 2025 visit, and strongly recommends it.

Our Club provided \$4,900 in late 2025/26 for two x six unit latrines for school girls.

If you visit you might be able to see them.

Provision of transformer in Ethiopia

Last year our Club provided \$2,500 towards the \$16,330 cost to purchase and install a transformer for running an electric pump supplying water to the Shurmo community in Ethiopia. The following extract from a recent report shows progress on the project,

"...Ethiopia has experienced significant economic and logistical challenges over recent months, including the ripple effects of instability in the Middle East, which have contributed to increased fuel costs and disruptions to the movement of goods and services. Despite these challenges, the community remained committed to the project and successfully mobilised the required local contribution, allowing the initiative to continue progressing. We are pleased to report that payment for the transformer purchase has now been completed. The relevant government electricity authority has commenced installation works, with electricity poles already erected at the site. The next stage is the installation of the transformer itself. During a recent meeting with BBBC team, we were advised that the transformer is expected to be installed by August. Once installation is confirmed as complete, we will provide a further update, including details and pictures to be shared with everyone..."

The Executive Officer of BBBC, Kebede Wolde-Gioges, will be speaking at our Club meeting on Thursday 22 October.

MONTHLY *Social Dinner*

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY FOR A RELAXED
EVENING OF FOOD AND FUN.



THURSDAY

27.AUG.2026
6:00PM

GATEWAY PARK
FUNCTION CENTRE

PRICE/TICKETS: \$35 BUFFET DINNER
- HOST: ROTARY BENDIGO SOUTH

RSVP ON OR BEFORE 10 AUGUST 2026
BERNIE : 0467619258

Volunteers wanted

Thursday, August 13	TAFE Open Day, Hargreaves St & Charleston Rd	3pm – 5:30pm 4 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

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).

Meeting program

Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
AUGUST THEME: MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION				
Thurs 13 Aug	Gold Fields Railway – John Shaw	Peter	Merlyn & Jan	Foundary Hotel Zinc Room.
Thurs 20 Aug	Street Peace -Holly Phillis	TBA	TBA	Lake View Hote
Thurs 27 Aug	Social night will be held at Rotary Gateway Park, High Street, Kangaroo Flat at 6:00 pm, featuring a delicious Filipino dinner prepared by Shishu Domondon.			



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
VICE PRESIDENT	Lindsay Jolley
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