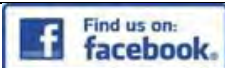




SIGNPOST

Volume 68, No. 7 13 August 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

Lindsay's notes

I am providing some notes in lieu of President Cora who was away unwell for last Thursday's meeting at The Foundry Hotel. We hope that she makes a speedy recovery. We also wish Bob a successful comeback from his recent hip operation; he is now home.

Questions of our meeting speaker John Shaw of the Victorian Goldfields Railway could have gone on forever. There was no limit to what you could ask about rail tracks and sleepers. Mark, at least, was able to get in a question about the trains themselves.

John managed the rebuilding of the Castlemaine-Maldon line and associated bridges. Much of this work was done by volunteers. He brought with him many years of experience from Puffing Billy, which he first got involved with as a teenage volunteer.

We were delighted to welcome Jing Wen (Kow Jing Wen) and Nivetha (Nivetha A/P Balakrishnan) to our meeting. They are part of the group of eight experienced Malaysian Special Education teachers who are spending almost four weeks in Bendigo and Echuca to learn about Victoria's approach to Special Education. Of course, they will contribute their own expertise to their Victorian counterparts.

Jing Wen and Nivetha gave a brief outline of themselves. They are spending their time at the Bendigo Special Development School. Both are currently home hosted by Heather and will move onto Scott Wilkinson (Deputy Principal of East Loddon P-12 College) for the second half of their stay. The success of this program relies heavily on the hosts, whom we are very thankful for.

Please have a look at the advertisement for the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee, on Friday 18 September. It will be a significant event for those who have been involved in the Committee's work over the years, as well as for those who have an interest in Timor-Leste, particularly Maubisse. Attendees will include Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Her Excellency Ms Inês Maria de Almeida, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Australia.

Lindsay Jolley



Guest speaker John Shaw (left) with Chair Peter Kilpatrick



Peter receiving the banner for the Rotary Club of Melawati banner from Nivetha and Jing Wen





The banner highlights the many contributors to the visit by the Malaysian Special Education teachers



Jing Wen (far left) and Nivetha, with Heather (far right) welcomed to the Bendigo Special Development School by Angie Kloft (a past participant in the program) and Principal Kirshy McAinch.



Nena and Lindsay hosted Jing Wen and Nivetha on their first night.

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**

Professional International Learning Exchange
(Bendigo Special Developmental School)



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. 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



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.

Bote 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



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

We can't wait



WCW Chair: **Tony Stokes**
wecantwait631@gmail.com



Ready to visit the EWASH Project in Ethiopia?



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.

Volunteers wanted

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

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 - plantony24@gmail.com) (not to his Bigpond address).

Meeting program

Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
AUGUST THEME: MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION				
Thurs 20 Aug	Street Peace -Holly Phillis	Bernie	George & Graham	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.			
SEPTEMBER THEME: BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY				
Thurs 3 Sept	DV Phone Safe – Lizzie Mettam	Merlyn	TBA	Lake View Hote
Thurs 10 ^t Sept	District Governor’s visit	Gary	TBA	Lake View Hote
Thurs 17 Sept	Life as a UK Bobby talk – Alf Anderson	Ian Ellis	TBA	Lake View Hote
Thurs 24 Sept	Vocational Visit – JL King – Details TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA



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