



SIGNPOST

Volume 68, No. 8 20 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

REMINDER: NO MEETING NEXT WEEK, Thursday 27 Aug

Instead, it is a Social Night at Rotary Gateway Park, High Street, Kangaroo Flat | 6:00 pm (details below)

Vice President Lindsay's notes

Again, I am providing the weekly notes as President Cora is still unwell. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery.

On behalf of Cora, I would like to say, well done everyone, your achievements in 2025-26 have been recognised. Our Club has earned *"the Club Excellence Award, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2025-26"*. Rotary International recognised that our Club *"demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future"*.

Our speaker this week, Talitha Hunter from Street Peace, gave us a lot to think about. The group is establishing itself in Bendigo to help at-risk youth. Its vision is, *"to see the lives of at-risk youth transformed through relational connections, guiding them into lives of purpose and hope"*. It attempts to provide the family support that at-risk youth often miss. Initially, the voluntary Street Peace youth mentors met with the youth in Hargreaves Mall each Wednesday evening. Pizzas were provided free by a Bendigo donor. They now have premises near the railway station which provide a drop-in centre, the Nest, on Wednesday evenings. All mentors are fully screened before taking part. At present, the group is seeking assistance for weekly catering for the Nest.

Mark provided an update on the 2026 secondary scholarship program, for which this year's school contact is now underway. He indicated that the reports by the 2025 students on how they used their scholarship funds gave good feedback on the usefulness of the scholarship.

Lyn outlined various market activities. Organisation of the Mandurang Christmas Market is well underway and discussions are being held with the Lansell Square owners about the Rotary Club of Bendigo and our Club jointly managing a weekly market on its site. The Lansell Square owners and site manager are keen to work with us on this and will have the stall sites marked out.

Lyn also advised that our Intention application for a District Grant of \$7,000 for a joint project with the Rotary Club of Bendigo to supply goods to Sunshine Bendigo for distribution to parents in need had been accepted and that the final application has been approved by the Board. The grant would match funds raised by this year's Christmas Market. The goods would include prams, car seats and cots.

Please do not forget to bring your credit card for paying on the night next Thursday 27 August at our joint social dinner at Kangaroo Flat Gateway. There will be no facility to accept cash.

Lindsay Jolley



Guest speaker Talitha Hunter with meeting chair Bernie Young.
Geoff McKinna holds Talitha's son Arlo in temporary custody during her presentation.

Out and about with the Malaysian special education teachers



Seven of the eight Malaysian Special Education teachers visiting the Echuca Farmers' Market with Rob Foran, RC Echuca Moama, and Heather Nixon, at back.



Nevitha and Jing Wen with Heather on the Pevensey, cruising the Murray River at Echuca, and Aidil up close with a kangaroo at the Kyabram Fauna Park.



2025-26
CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF

Bendigo South

FOR FOSTERING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ITS MEMBERS
 AND REFLECTING THE VALUES OF ROTARY


 FRANCESCO AREZZO
 President, Rotary International


 HOLGER KNAACK
 Chair, The Rotary Foundation

Meeting program

Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
AUGUST THEME: MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION				
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 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

BENDIGO FINE MUSIC **AGNICO EAGLE**
FOSTERVILLE

EXCLUSIVE EVENT!
UNDERGROUND PIANO CONCERT
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF GOLD IN BENDIGO

FEATURING
YASMIN ROWE & IAN MUNRO

CENTRAL DEBORAH GOLD MINE,
BENDIGO
FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026
YOUR EXPERIENCE BEGINS AT 4PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
bendigofinemusic.com

Bendigo Fine Music event

Bendigo Fine Music Celebrates the 175th Anniversary of the discovery of Gold with a piano concert down the Central Deborah Mine! Never before has a grand piano been put down a mine - plenty of concerts in the adits of mines - but this is a first!!

Merlyn Quaife

The Club Facebook Page

Send pics of your Rotary activities with captions to Tony's gmail - planttony24@gmail.com

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

Sunday 4 October	Bendigo Fire Brigade Open Day BBQ Deborah St Quarry Hill	10am - 1pm 2 volunteers
Friday 20 November	La Trobe Uni BBQ	10.30 – 1.30 4 volunteers
Saturday 28 November	Activism Against Family Violence BBQ Canterbury Park Eaglehawk	8 am – 11 am 3 volunteers
Sunday 29 November	Mandurang Christmas Market BBQ	9am – 4 pm 2 shifts 9am – 12.30 & 12.30 – 4Pm 4 volunteers each shift
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

SPECIAL EDUCATION EXTERNSHIP FOR MALAYSIAN EDUCATORS 2026 (SEEME)

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Professional International Learning Exchange
(Bendigo Special Developmental School)



Sponsored by The Rotary Foundation Global Grant **GG2686151**

"Building Inclusive Education Through International Collaboration"

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 invitation for Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee 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



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