Rotary Bendigo South

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

SIGNPOST

Volume 68, No. 19, 05 November 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

Hello Fellow Rotarians,
Good day to each and every one of you!
It was wonderful to see all of you at our meeting last Thursday. I hope you enjoy reading this week's Signpost.

We had a huge turnout last Thursday, with 20 people in attendance.
We welcomed our visitors, Mr Ray Farrell, and Ms Laura Ramirez.

We were also privileged to welcome Mr. Andrew Cooney, CEO of The City of Greater Bendigo as our guest speaker. Mr Cooney, gave a very informative, detailed and comprehensive report of current and future programs, projects and activities in our local government.

Mr. Cooney talked about our city's current population, home to 125,000 people; and its growing multicultural communities; emphasising the best of inner city and rural living; mentioning our leading sectors and our economic output, as well as our challenges. For example challenges on how to overcome flooding and fire risk.

He went on to inform how our City managed our growth strategies, its new directions, mentioning our key growth areas in Maiden Gully, Marong, Strathfieldsaye and Huntly.

Another interesting part of his presentation was the City Centre Action Plan for 2026-2029; Key initiatives e.g. Re- opening of Hargreaves Mall to traffic and the relocation of Bendigo Art Gallery to CBD, Bendigo Town Hall as well as our City's major developments. For example: the approval of seven hotel planning applications and increase/enhance La Trobe University student accommodation to 220 beds. He also talked about Bendigo as "The Education City", mentioning our secondary schools, higher education at Bendigo Kangan TAFE, tertiary education at La Trobe University and Monash Rural Health.

He also shared information on our current transport system; cycling, busses, trains and air travels; connecting our constituents to have active travel and safer journeys; also stating that our current Bendigo Metro Rail is a unique train service in regional areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rotarian Rod Spitty for inviting Mr Cooney and Rotarian Gary Pinner for chairing the meeting. Speaking of our very own Rotarian Gary, we would like to congratulate and wish him an early Happy Birthday as he celebrates his special day next week.. HIP...HIP... HOOORRRAAAYYY...

Reports:

Mark Tracey – provided information about the Presentation Nights for our young scholars; contact him to attend the presentation nights and for venues/dates/ time (more info at Signpost)
Ian Ellis – provided an update on the availability of Christmas Puddings and Cakes
Rod Spitty - shared information about Catherine McCauley College's interest in participating in the upcoming Science and Engineering Challenge
Endel Vallack – updated members on the Street Peace Project and shared the outcome of his meeting with Holy Phillis, Street Peace Administrator. According to Endel, they are looking for volunteers to provide assistance with kitchen duties e.g. heating and food preparations. Endel will send more details to the board regarding future involvement and to talk more at next week's meeting, encouraging members to volunteer
Cora: - A reminder about our club's upcoming AGM on Thursday, 19th November. Secretary Bernie has forwarded through e-mail a copy of last year's AGM Minutes (please, read or bring along a hard copy with you).
Also on that night, we are going to induct new recruits, Vicky Reyes (Filipino) and Laura Ramirez (Columbian).... Please, come along and join our club to welcome our new Rotarian members.

Yours in Rotary
Cora Fuentes-Mahnic
President



Our guest speaker, Mr Andrew Cooney, with our Members, Rod Spitty (far right), Gary Pinner (far left) and President Cora Fuentes-Mahnic

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Next week's Guest Speakers

Nigel Preston - President - Athletics Bendigo and
Craig Burnett - Chair - Bendigo Gift

Nigel is President of the Bendigo Athletics Association and is a committed athletics enthusiast. Nigel is also a main organiser of Energy Breakthrough conducted annually at Maryborough.

Craig Burnett is a retired primary school Principal, Chair of AFL Central Victoria's Tribunal which covers Five football leagues. Also Chair of the Bendigo Gold Nugget Gift committee, Board Member and Vice President of the Victorian Athletic League.

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Member's Report

Rotary Club of Bendigo South 2026/2027 School Scholarships Program:

The Rotary Club of Bendigo South's Secondary Schools Scholarship Program has moved to the next stage where we need to organise Club Representatives to attend the Awards Nights as shown below. Attending is not an onerous task; you sit in a designated spot and come on stage to present a certificate (and possibly the $500 - depends on the school). You do not have to make a speech. You may be asked to participate in a photo with the scholarship recipient.

Please note the information below and email me (tracym8699@gmail.com) if you are able to assist.

Note:
Jan P has indicated that she will attend the Bendigo SSC Ceremony.
Normally I attend 3 of the ceremonies, but this year I am unavailable for the Girton and Bendigo South East events. Someone will need to fill these vacancies.
I'm happy to attend several of the others.
An asterisk (*) indicates final confirmation is yet to be received.

School	Ceremony Date	Time	Venue
Bendigo SSC (BSSC)	16/12/26	7.00pm	Ulumbarra
Girton GS (GGS)	3/12/26	6.00pm	Ulumbarra
Catherine McAuley College (CMCB)	10/12/26	6.00pm	Junortoun Campus Gymnasium
East Loddon P-12 Coll	17/12/26*	9.30am*	ELC (at the school)
Crusoe College (CC)	8/12/26	7.00pm*	J B Osborne Theatre
Bendigo SE College (BSEC)	11/12/26	9.30am	BSE Stadium

Mark Tracy
Scholarship Coordinator

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Maubisse sewing group







Four of the ladies in the Maubisse sewing group with some of their productions. Currently they work in a small room in Bendigo House (built by Bendigo Rotarians). When the four new sewing machines (funded by our Club) arrive, as well as another two second-hand ones on their way in the DIK container, the group will move into the larger adjoining room - shown in one of the photos.
Lindsay
(Maubisse, Timor-Leste)

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Meeting program

Date	Speakers	Chairperson	Meet & Greet	Venue
NOVEMBER THEME: ROTARY FOUNDATION				
Thurs 12 Nov	Bendigo Athletics Association	Rod	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 19 Nov	AGM & Member talk Rod Spitty Board Meeting	Cora	Shishu	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 26 Nov	Maubisse Film Night			TBA
Sunday 29 Nov	Mandurang Market			Mandurang
DECEMBER THEME: DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT				
Thurs 3 Dec	Vocational visit - Chinese Museum & dinner to follow	Rod		Chinese Museum
Thurs 10 Dec	TBA	TBA	TBA	Lake View Hotel
Thurs 17 Dec	Christmas Party combined with Eaglehawk	Glenn		Camp Getaway Axedale

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Volunteers wanted

Fri 20 Nov	La Trobe Uni BBQ	10.30 – 1.30	Fully crewed
Sat 28 Nov	Activism Against Family Violence BBQ Canterbury Park Eaglehawk	8 am – 11 am	2 more volunteers required
Sun 29 Nov	Mandurang Christmas Market BBQ	9am-12.30: Fully Crewed 12.30-4pm: 2 more	Fully crewed 2 more volunteers required
Sat 5 Dec	Lansell Square market BBQ	10am - 3pm.	I more volunteer required

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator George Ellis if you can assist.
Email: george_ellis55@outlook.com; Mobile: 0438353414

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Energy Breakthrough

Venue: Maryborough
Date: Wednesday, November 18th & or Friday, November 20th
Time: 9am – 4pm.

Volunteers required to assist running of the event.
In particular judging of the team's verbal presentation.

- Primary students: Wednesday
- Secondary student: Friday.

Great opportunity to be involved in a fantastic event as a judge or a track marshal.
Carpooling will be arranged prior.
If you would like to be involved register https://www.eb.org.au/volunteer/

Please advise Gary Pinner if you would like to carpool.
0408507868 or gary@gejayautomotive.com.au

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Rotary
Club of Echuca Moama
Shop Local Night
Come along for a great night out of shopping and fun!
Grab all your Christmas gifts while supporting local business
Door prizes & raffles
15+ participating shops
Exclusive specials
Thursday 19 November 2026
Meet from 5pm at Bar Lee
Shopping from 6pm
Tickets: $5 per person
Scan the QR code for tickets or visit:
www.trybooking.com/DQITQ
COMMITTEE FOR 4EM ECHUCA MOAMA

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FREE EVENT
Walk and run against family violence
Walk for Change. Run for Respect.
Saturday November 28, 2026 • 8am - 11.30am
Eaglehawk Precinct (Canterbury Park event space)
Join us for a free community event featuring:
• 8km Run
• 4km Run/Walk
Free activities
Children's craft activities –face painting – Storytime
Food and drink
Free fresh fruit – $3 egg and bacon rolls (Rotary) – Coffee with a Cop – Coliban Water Refill Station (BYO drink bottle)
Scan the QR code to register
Part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
www.facebook.com/GBAgainstFamilyViolence
RESPECT VICTORIA
SAFE+EQUAL
SUMMER OF PARKS
PETER KRENZ
BENDIGO

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Save The Date

Sunday 17th January 2027

High Tea at Camp Getaway Axedale

View the progress of our Ken Briggs Memorial Garden

Games to be played as well



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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 Shepheard
CLUB PRESIDENT	Cora Fuentes-Mahnic
VICE PRESIDENT& IMMEDIATE PAST 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, COMMS and 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	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

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