



# 99th ANNUAL REPORT

**2023-2024**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**Rotary**  
Bendigo



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

## **ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO**

**Established July 30, 1925 - Charter No 2104**

**A member of Rotary International - District 9800**

**PO Box 131, Bendigo Victoria, 3552 - Website: <http://www.rotarybendigo.org.au>**

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ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023-2024**

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## OFFICIALS 2023-2024

District Governor 9800  
Ron Payne (RC Eaglehawk)

Assistant Governor (Goldfields North)  
Alison Bacon (RC Eaglehawk)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Daniela Ionescu	Past President	Peter Reading	Vocational Service	Brian Figg
Vice President	Hugh Wheeler	Club Service	Colin Nankervis	Youth Service	Michael Pearson
Board Secretary	Kaye Lehmann	Community Service	Tom Dobeli	Membership	Peter Reading
Treasurer	Glenda Bryson	International Service	Liz Bannon		
President Elect	Michael Pearson	Rotary Foundation	Wayne Smith		

## CLUB OFFICIALS

Protection/OHS Officer	Tom Dobeli	Public Officer	Wayne Smith
Association Secretary	Wayne Smith	Communications	Noel Hobley

## PAST PRESIDENTS

E M Vains 1925-1926  
M G Guidice 1926-1927  
W J Long 1927-1928  
O Flight (Snr) 1928-1929  
J Jeffrey 1929-1930  
W Tredinnick 1930-1931  
W Tredinnick 1931-1932  
F Levy 1932-1933  
A L Bolton 1933-1934  
G V Lansell 1934-1935  
G Eathorne 1935-1936  
G Long 1936-1937  
O V Morris 1937-1938  
T H McNaught 1938-1939  
H P Y Wright 1939-1940  
W A Draper 1940-1941  
L L Dungey 1941-1942  
G P Hibberd 1942-1943  
A E Davies 1943-1944  
E B Pederick 1944-1945  
G A Pethard 1945-1946  
F.E.R. Biggs 1946-1947  
B Mundy 1947-1948  
A H Jones 1948-1949  
J. Barton 1949-1950  
E F Granger 1950-1951  
N J Oliver 1951-1952  
E A Cambridge 1952-1953  
R H Trethewey 1953-1954  
C W Baker 1954-1955  
K W Hesse 1955-1956  
R V Brock 1956-1957  
T B Keith 1957-1958  
R Campagnolo 1958-1959  
H A Moors 1959-1960  
W G Sones 1960-1961  
S J Tongway 1961-1962  
G E Mayne 1962-1963  
A C Sandow 1963-1964  
E M Monotti 1964-1965  
J N Sutherland 1965-1966  
J C M Jeffrey 1966-1967  
K H G Ross 1967-1968  
W N Johanson 1968-1969  
J W Henderson 1969-1970

D L Martin 1970-1971  
C Bell 1971-1972  
K Mill 1972-1973  
F A McManus 1973-1974  
L Williamson 1974-1975  
R W Cambridge 1975-1976  
J M Adams 1976-1977  
W J B Derham 1977-1978  
J M Cartwright 1978-1979  
R J Slattery 1979-1980  
D T Watts 1980-1981  
K G Scarrott 1981-1982  
R W Paulsen 1982-1983  
D J Samson 1983-1984  
D T Potter 1984-1985  
H J O'Sullivan 1985-1986  
V F Moyle 1986-1987  
P A Joseph 1987-1988  
E J Rankins 1988-1989  
W F Gray 1989-1990  
N R Phillips 1990-1991  
D W Brown 1991-1992  
B T McMahon 1992-1993  
B L Kinross 1993-1994  
H G Wheeler 1994-1995  
K A Reilly 1995-1996  
R Poyser 1996-1997  
G McLeod 1997-1998  
C M Nankervis 1998-1999  
G R Gunnell 1999-2000  
L J Winzar 2000-2001  
I R Monotti 2001-2002  
B W Doherty 2002-2003  
C J Burns 2003-2004  
J M McLean 2004-2005  
M J Andrew 2005-2006  
J Krakowiak 2006-2007  
H G Wheeler 2007-2008  
N A Hobley 2008-2009  
A H Hampton 2009-2010  
J Gallagher 2010-2011  
W W Smith 2011-2012  
B P Figg 2012-2013  
T G Seddon 2013-2014  
R McDonald 2014-2015

L J Winzar 2015-2016  
G A Reilly 2016-2017  
V J Broad 2017-2018  
E A Hughes 2018-2019  
M B Pearson 2019-2020  
G S Clarke 2020-2021  
T G Dobeli 2021-22  
P D Reading 2022-23  
D M Ionescu 2023-24

Members who are Past Presidents  
of other clubs

M B Pearson 1994-1995, 1995-1996  
Tennant Creek.  
P B Hyett 2000-2001  
Echuca/Moama  
R V Edgar 2001-2002  
Frankston North  
H Rasmussen 2004-2005  
Knox  
B P Figg 2007-2008  
Mildura  
L Bannon 2009-2010, 2017-2018  
Kangaroo Flat  
J M Walklate 2010-2011, 2013-2014  
Bendigo Strathdale  
P J Luxford 2014-2015  
Bendigo Strathdale  
K M Longford 2017-2018  
Bendigo Strathdale  
G L Bryson 2019-2020  
Keilor

Members who have served as

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR

A L Bolton 1936-1937  
E F Granger 1962-1963  
R Downey 1977-1978



This past year has been a blend of challenges and fulfilment. Serving as President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo and representing our members locally and

It is hard to believe how quickly this year has passed, and I am amazed by our achievements! Time flies when you're having fun. I am particularly proud of our contributions locally and internationally, especially our positive impact on youth.

We initiated positive changes in our meeting program layout, recognizing the need for variety. After discussing this with our Program Chair, PP Graeme Clarke, Sergeant Chair, PP Noel Hobley, and Workplace Member Visit Chair, PP Brian Figg, we agreed that this was a valuable improvement. Alongside our regular Guest Speaker sessions, we introduced monthly Club Information sessions, covering various club operations and projects, benefiting both new and longstanding members. Additionally, we added Social Meetings to complement our Fellowship events and Vocational Visits. It was gratifying for me to share my language and culture and extend greetings in languages known to some club members or their partners.

A heartfelt thank you to the Program, Vocational, and Sergeant teams for consistently delivering quality speakers,

While our directors, chairs, and project leaders will provide detailed reports on their specific areas, I am delighted to highlight the activities that our club has been involved in over the past year.

**July:** Our committee and volunteers managed WorkSafe concerns at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo, raising funds for agricultural scholarships. Proceeds from donated wool sales supported Down Syndrome Australia. Freja Dahl, our exchange student from Denmark, began her year-long journey on 19 July. To close the month, four ladies from flood-affected Rochester attended the Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff.

**August:** The club was well represented at the 90th Anniversary function of the Inner Wheel Club of Bendigo helping them celebrate this achievement. We visited Safescape, a successful Bendigo business, and enjoyed a well-attended fellowship dinner. DG Ron Payne and his wife Deb concluded the month with a visit, sharing RI and D9800 goals and new initiatives.

**September:** Early in the month, 9 members



regionally has been an immense honour that I will forever treasure. Balancing these duties with caring for my mother, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2014, has been demanding. Yet, this experience has fuelled my determination to give my utmost in every aspect of my responsibilities.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to our Rotarians and Board members for their unwavering support in realizing my goals of empowering women and advocating for mental health. Aligned with this year's theme, 'CREATE Hope in the WORLD', these objectives echo the priorities set by Rotary International President Gordon McNally and District Governor Ron Payne.

Inspired by DG Ron Payne's mentorship, I emphasized informing, inspiring, and positively impacting our members and the broader Bendigo community through our initiatives and projects.

arranging engaging visits, and maintaining professionalism in our meetings throughout the year. Special appreciation goes to Domenic Coia for his exceptional work managing the roster and to the Bendigo Club Facility team for their prompt communication and support with venue arrangements.

Recognizing a communication gap within our club, I prioritized keeping everyone informed. Whether through meetings, the Fossicker, or Facebook, connectivity is key. I led by example, ensuring robust communication channels. Weekly meetings and detailed reports in the Fossicker offered comprehensive updates. Acknowledging attendance challenges, I aimed to bridge the gap by sharing meeting details. Special thanks to Communication Chair PP Noel Hobley who, with help from Larisa Wasiljew, ensured dissemination of my detailed reports. Credit to the Communication team for sharing news and events on our platforms.

volunteered at Camp Getaway, repairing the fence around the renovated sports court. Also, the club supported the Run for Dads to raise prostate cancer awareness and funds. FoodShare's presentation highlighted its operations, prompting end-of-year donation consideration. The club sponsored two students for the Defying the Drift program. On 23rd September, a small group of us attended Echuca-Moama Rotary's 75th Anniversary. On behalf of our club, I reenacted the presentation of their Charter, an experience I will cherish for a long time. A few of us attended the Opening of the 30th Season of Rochester Little Athletics where the proceeds from the 2022 Christmas Market was presented to RLA President. Another group of ladies from flood-affected Rochester benefited the Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff.

**October:** We began the month with a bittersweet celebration of 'Barry Ackerman:

This is Your Life, Bendigo Chapter' as he moved to Melbourne. I represented the club at the Bendigo Ladies Probus Club's 35th anniversary. Once more our club supported the Bendigo Open Studios event financially and with volunteers. Rotarians assisted with car parking at the Beach Party Raceday, and on 22 October, members and Freja joined the 'End Polio Now' walk at Lake Weeroona. During the month, a third group of ladies from flood-affected Rochester attended the Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff. Lastly, a group of Rotarians travelled to Rochester to cook a BBQ for the community affected by the 2022 floods.

**November:** We kicked off with a Melbourne Cup fellowship event, dressing up as if at the races. Volunteers helped with catering at the Bendigo Swap Meet (the last one to be involved in) and managed car parking for Caravan and Camping Leisurefest. Our Rotarians were very supportive of Larrie Winzar's book launch, 'Bliss', and attended in large numbers. The month ended with the Christmas Market at Mandurang Winery, with proceeds

Bunnings BBQ commitment, raising much-needed funds. Freja, Nacho and Michael sat for an interview on Phoenix FM Community Radio Station.

**February:** We began the month by honouring PP Geoff McLeod for his 50 years of extraordinary service and achievements within our club, embodying 'Service Above Self.' We launched a new project, the Girls in STEM Club, offering free weekly science, technology, engineering and maths experiences for girls in grades 5 and 6. I attended and reported on these sessions. Mid-month, we visited the Chinese Museum, followed by a well-attended fellowship lunch. Bowls night included the 2022-2023 awards presentation.

**March:** The month kicked off with the Legendary Lehmann Brunch, a well-attended social event for our members. This was followed by a two-day car parking effort at the Lost Trades Fair. At Strath Village, we held a BBQ fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital Friday Appeal and also provided a free BBQ for participants walking to raise awareness

the project showcase venue. We also displayed our compelling youth and community projects, including the Agricultural Scholarship, Girls in STEM Club, StarThrower, and international projects in Nepal, Samoa, and Timor-Leste. Additionally, we managed car parking events at Golden Mile Race Day and at the Red Hot Summer Tour. We supported the clusters' project by providing accommodation for Malaysian Specialist Teachers. Also, we hosted a BBQ for the open day at Imagine Village in Strathfieldsaye. Finally, the board approved financial support for the Papua New Guinea Midwifery Buddy Project.

**May:** Financial support was approved for the Bendigo Winter Night Shelter, though the project was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers. The funds will be reserved for the 2025 project. We hosted a farewell lunch for the team of eight Malaysian specialist teachers who trained in Bendigo and Echuca-Moama. Towards the end of the month, we held a second Bunnings BBQ. We should not forget the afternoon tea at the Rasmussen residence, a fellowship event that extended well into



being directed towards Bendigo Sunshine, which provides baby items to families in need.

**December:** The month began with the Formal Blazer Presentation in Woodend, highlighting the outgoing students program. We attended the RYLA dinner at Camp Getaway and the Foundation Dinner for Goldfields clusters with fellow members and other clubs' representatives. Our Christmas Party followed. We bid farewell to Charmaine Soulsby, our outgoing exchange student heading to the Czech Republic. Carols by Candlelight successfully raised funds for Dementia Australia. Our club was allocated management of the Christmas Mobile Food Pantry both in December and January.

**January:** We kicked off the second half of the Rotary year with a social meeting well attended by Rotarians and their families. On January 21, we geared up for our first

for SPAN (Suicide Prevention Awareness Network Central Victoria). PE Michael attended the 30th Anniversary and Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of White Hills, while I was attending the Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Spring Gully. The month culminated with our largest fundraising event, the Art Show, which involved setting up and running the exhibition. To conclude the month, three Rochester ladies affected by the 2022 floods travelled to Point Lonsdale to participate in the StarThrower project and its programs.

**April:** The beginning of the month found us at the Town Hall dismantling the art exhibition. The opening ceremony of the Playing Courts Restoration Project at Camp Getaway happened early in the month, with many of our members attending. The District 9800 Conference was held in Bendigo, where our club assisted with setting up and dismantling

the evening. Additionally, we supported Hannah Crothers' application for a Rotary Post Graduate Global Grant Scholarship.

**June:** The second group of Rochester ladies affected by the 2022 floods travelled to Point Lonsdale to benefit from the StarThrower project. I was interviewed on Phoenix FM Community Radio Station about my year as the President of Rotary Club of Bendigo.

In conclusion, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished this year. Despite the challenges, our club has made significant contributions both locally and internationally, impacting countless lives. It has been an honour to serve as President, and I am grateful for the support and dedication of every member.

Together, we have truly created hope in the world.

Dr Daniela Ionescu  
President 2023-2024

# MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

ABBOTT Tabitha - Travel Services  
ACKERMAN Barry - Rubber Processing  
BAKER Marion - Midwifery  
BANNON Liz - Nurse Midwife  
BROAD Val - Music Education  
BRUCE Joy - Primary Education  
BRYSON Glenda - Accounting  
BUTTOLPH Daniel - Pharmacy  
CARTWRIGHT John - Optometry  
CLARKE Graeme - Lighting Retail  
COATES Ian - Regional Banking Services  
COIA Domenic - Hairdressing  
DeZILVA Tilika - Catering  
DOBELI Tom - Health and Safety  
DOHERTY Brian - Insurance Brokerage  
EDGAR Bob - Landcare  
FIGG Brian - Body Corporate Services  
GALLAGHER John - Plumbing Service  
GRAVES Kaye - Community Health  
GRAY Bill - Bearing Services  
GUNNELL Garry - Project Management  
HAMPTON Andrew - Funeral Directing  
HARRISON Jacinta - Client Relations Management  
HOBLEY Noel - Media Services  
HUGHES Libby - Friendly Soc. Pharmacy  
HUGHES Mike - Information Technology  
HYETT Peter - Farm Management  
IONESCU Daniela - Engineer Education  
KRAKOWIAK John - Social Education  
LEHMAN Kaye - Human Services  
LONGFORD Ken - Coach Operation  
LOWE Kim - Business Services  
LUXFORD Pamela - Window Furnishings  
McDONALD Rod - Human Resources  
McLEOD Geoffrey - Motels  
McMAHON Bryan - Mktng Advertising\*  
MACDERMID Jan - Disability Service  
MAHONEY Jim - Agricultural Supplies\*  
MARTIN Andrew - Liquor Distribution  
NANKERVIS Colin - Civil Engineering  
OBERIN Leanne - Executive Assistant  
O'KEEFE Megan - Comm. Health Nurse  
PAULSEN Margaret - Business Admin.  
PEARSON Lisa - Nursing  
PEARSON Michael - GP Medicine  
PEMBERTON John - Business Banking  
PENNA Barry - Locksmithing\*  
PETRIE Dianne - Counselling

PETRIE Richard - Marketing  
RASMUSSEN Henry - Hospitality  
READING Peter - Signwriting  
REILLY Glenn - Electrical Retailing  
RICHMOND Ken - Super Consultancy  
ROBINSON Alida - Sales and Marketing  
ROGERS Ron - Insurance\*  
SAMMON Marty - Accounting  
SAMSON Des - Confectionery Dist.  
SHRESTHA Umesh - Electricity Design  
SMITH Wayne - Water Engineering  
TREVORAH Evan - Accounting\*  
VANDENBERG Richard - Chtd Acct  
VANSTAN Rosalie - Pharmacy Admin  
WALKLATE Jan - Business Agent  
WASILJEW Larisa - Workplace Training  
WATTS Daryl - Legal Office Admin  
WHEELER Hugh - University Edn Admin  
WINZAR Larrie - Career/Life Coach

\*Honorary Member



## VALE MARGARET PAULSEN

May 30, 1940 - June 10, 2024  
Rotary Club of Bendigo member 657  
Inducted April 1, 2008  
PHF May 18, 2007  
Sapphire May 7, 2020

Margaret Paulsen joined our Club on 1 April 2008, under the classification of Business Administration, an induction overseen by President Hugh Wheeler.

However, her connection with Rotary predates this formal induction, as she actively supported her husband Ray Paulsen in his District and Club roles, particularly within the Youth Exchange committees.

Upon becoming a member Margaret seamlessly continued this commitment, partnering with Ray in hosting 25 Youth Exchange students, serving as counsellors for numerous others and acting as Country Coordinators for Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

Her dedication to the Youth Exchange program earned Margaret recognition from our Club with a Paul Harris Fellow in 2007. District 9800 also acknowledged her continued efforts, bestowing upon her a Paul Harris with Sapphire in 2020. In addition to her remarkable contributions to Youth Exchange, Margaret played a significant role in various other aspects of Youth Programs and committees, including Music for the Memory and Nepal Projects.

Margaret's legacy goes beyond her tangible achievements. Her kind and compassionate nature left an unforgettable mark on our club members. Her absence will be deeply felt, but her memory will continue to inspire us as we uphold the values she held dear.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Director: Tom Dobeli**

A service to the Community is an enjoyable challenge for Rotarians, as they mingle with the public on many occasions. Our services have been required at many events where people power is sometimes stretched to the limit and other organizations are co-opted to meet the need of safety and service. The major events involved countless hours of volunteer work in the community, to benefit the community needs.

Our involvement at public entertainment events requires parking attendant teams for horse racing events, music festivals, caravan and camping shows. Conducting barbeques with proceeds donated to worthy causes, e.g. Royal Children's Hospital and Suicide Prevention Awareness Network (SPAN), with teams rostered to provide a service for the benefits of the community. Barbeques at Bunnings and the opening of Villawood Imagine Estate at Strathfieldsaye, have been opportunities to contribute to the funds to be distributed amongst the many community needs.

The Art Show under the leadership of Brian Figg and his committee, keep giving us a bigger and better event each year which enable artists to have their work displayed to compliments the Easter festivities in Bendigo.

The Swap Meet brings people from all over Australia to the showgrounds and Libby Hughes guides members from all the Bendigo Rotary Clubs, to the tasks of countless hours in servicing the needs of these bargain hunters.

The Christmas Market team under the guidance of Libby Hughes, in conjunction with Rotary Club of South Bendigo, has expanded on the site at Mandurang winery with benefits being distributed to worthy community causes.

Carols by Candlelight again provided quality entertainment to the community of Bendigo under the guidance of Colin Nankervis and Valerie Broad OAM, and their team, enabling the community to enjoy the biggest annual event in Rosiland Park.

Larrie Winzar's promotion of the "The Star Thrower Program" to the Community of Rochester has benefitted many couples still suffering from the floods in 2022.

Must make mention of the donation of two pallets of educational material that Graeme Clark and I collected, and then Kay Lehmann arranged delivery to DIK.

Let's not overlook Pres. Daniela's new project, Girls in STEM Club, with free access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics experience for year 5 and 6 girls.

To all these leaders and all Rotarians who volunteered their time to make these events so successful during the year, a big thank you, as your service has made a difference.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**Chair: Colin Nankervis**

This year (2023) perfect weather conditions resulted in the largest audience for many years.

The Club was pleased to announce the Bendigo Bank as the major sponsor for

Carols 2023 and additional sponsorship from Great Wall Motors Bendigo, all helped to cover the increased costs of presenting Carols.

Once again, an excellent musical program was professionally compiled by PP Ms Valerie Broad OAM and Ms Beverley Leeson.

Rotary again, for the second year, welcomed the addition of an early program contribution presented by the Bendigo Theatre Company. This was aligned to the entertainment of children in the audience whilst waiting for the main program to commence. It was an excellent presentation and we hope to be able to include the Bendigo Theatre Company in future Carols programs.

The program compere Mr

Bruce Roberts of WINTV once again, in his usual professional manner, kept the program to the tight time schedule to make the night a successful event.

The continuing use of social media, the WINTV television commercials and the Bendigo Advertiser leading up to the event, ensured a large audience attended on the evening and resulted in a successful evening of Carols in the Park.

Simulcasting of the program by Radio 105.1 continues to be successful and, in 2023 their contribution to pre-event publicity, widened the Carols audience reach.

Excellent work by Club members with the logistics of the event starting at 7.30 am on the Sunday morning and, following the completion of the program, then began packing up of the stage and other items finishing around 11.00 pm, when Rosalind Park was returned to public use on the Monday morning.

Collection of donations at each entry gate this year was improved with the use of cash terminals, in addition to the gold coin donations, and together with large audience numbers resulted the Club being able to present the nominated charity, Dementia Australia, with the largest donation (\$7000) in many years.

Thanks to the collective efforts of the Club members, the Bendigo Rotary Carols Committee, along with the support of performers, sponsors, and equipment suppliers, we successfully presented another memorable Carols by Candlelight program.

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

**Chair: Libby Hughes**

What an amazing day we had on Sunday November 26.

We had 59 Stall holders utilising 61 sites. All the Stall holders were busy and enjoyed their time, many saying they wanted to come back next year.

Not sure yet exact numbers, but far more than last year which we estimated at 3000 people.

More milk and coffee cups (we started with 300 cups), more sausages and more carparking. One of the neighbours offered his paddock to use as extra car parking space when he saw how busy it was and that soon filled up!

Thankyou to everyone who volunteered on the day - everyone just pitched in and helped where needed. Freja was making coffees and then did a stint on the BBQ. Henry thought he was coming to the



Market, but before he got through the gate he had on a high-viz vest and was delegated to one of the paddocks, car parking!!

But gold stars are needed for 2 people who went above and beyond.

Lyn Comer, RC Bendigo South, who co-ordinated all the stall holders and liaised with them for months. Her work started in August and she was still allocating sites on Saturday. Everything went very smoothly because everything was well organised. Thank you so much Lyn.

Wayne Smith, RC Bendigo, and his team of Garry Gunnell and Tom Dobeli were marking out sites in the rain on Friday. Came back on Saturday to complete the tasks and was at the market at 8 am on Sunday, helping everyone get to their allocated sites. Once the patrons started arriving at 10 am he and his team took over the car parking!!

Congratulations and thank you to all. You all did a great job.

Below is an email received from a stall holder:

*Good Afternoon Lyn*

*I just wanted to say that was the most professionally run market I have attended so far. The staff were lovely to deal with and really took care of the stall holders. It was the most successful market I have had, I've only been doing this for two months, but I couldn't be happier.*

*Thank you so much*

*Amelia*

## CAR PARKING

**Chair: Peter Reading**

Over the 2023-24 Rotary year our Club was involved in our car parking activities where we provided our services for six events at the Bendigo Jockey Club.

Events were (days involved) Beach Party (1), Bendigo Cup (1), Camping & Leisure Show (3), Lost Trades Fair (2), Golden Mile (1) and the Red Hot Summer Tour (1). This totals 8 days and amounted to over 780 man-hours from our volunteers.

After considerable negotiation over the past two years and we have been able to increase our fees, which makes car parking a major contributor in our fund raising activities. A special thanks to all our volunteers who helped us raise over \$27,000, over the past twelve months.

Over the past few years it has become extremely difficult to find volunteers in our Club, so in an effort to retain these fundraising events we have looked outside our Club to attract younger and willing

volunteers to help us. We have secured the services of the Bendigo Harriers, Strathfieldsaye Lion Club, Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail and the Rotary Club of Bendigo South.

Not only is our club able to raise funds for our community projects, but this unified approach has allowed those organisations to use their share of the financial distribution to achieve their community involvement as well. A great result for everyone.

## GIRLS IN STEM CLUB

**Chair: Deniela Ionescu**

In February, our club inaugurated a new youth initiative that deeply resonates with my values. I firmly believe that as engineers, it is our responsibility to pave the way for future generations.

Therefore, in partnership with the Discovery Science and Technology Centre, the Zonta Club of Bendigo, and McClure Civil Management, our industry partner, we launched a program offering girls in years 5 and 6 the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields free of charge.

This program aims to provide them with a glimpse into alternative career paths beyond the traditional fields, with the aspiration of fostering more equitable gender representation in the STEM sectors moving forward.

## EASTER ART SHOW

**Chair: Brian Figg**

Congratulations to all Club Members, Partners and Friends, and the Art Show Committee, for a very successful 56th Art Show, at the Bendigo Town Hall.

The Show kicked off with the Preview Evening on Thursday, March 28, and this was warmly received by members and around 220 patrons and sponsors. Sales were solid but below our record of 36 for the previous Preview Evening. Thanks to the well-dressed Graeme Clarke for stepping in to be a marvellous MC.

The show, held over the four days of Easter, was well attended with approximately

2200 patrons viewing the exhibition of 835 artworks. The tougher economic conditions were not as kind as in previous years, but still a very respectable 17.8% selling rate was achieved, a tad below our normal average 20%. Still a strong showing for a Regional Art Show and one the Club should be proud of. The diversity and quality of work on display continues to be the hallmark of our Art Show.

Our honorary judge for 2024 was Richard Stork, who did a fabulous job which was very well received on Preview night when expanding on why he had awarded the winning exhibits.

Our 'Artist in Residence' Terry Jarvis was very committed to his attendance, being around for the most of the show. He was very popular chatting to patrons and budding artists demonstrating his superb talents. Terry sold six paintings – well done Terry and thank you for the donation of the major raffle prize. A great friend of Rotary and recipient of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Special thanks also to our long-standing supporter Geoff Paynter who provided the curation team with invaluable support and guidance – the committee and club truly appreciate Geoff's efforts, given he had some challenging personal circumstances this year. Geoff has previously been recognised by The Club with a Paul Harris Fellow.

A big mention to our curation team who do a wonderful job each year in hanging the paintings – this is one of the more difficult tasks of the Show. Well done.

**Award Winners for the 2024 Bendigo Easter Art Show were:**

Rotary Club of Bendigo Best in Show \$2,500 No 188 titled "Arrival" by Lachlan Drake.

Bendigo Times Best Oil / Acrylic \$1,500 No 270 titled "Gippsland Flood" by Janet Green

Bendigo Club Best Watercolour \$1,500 No 479 titled "Forest Raven" by Reza Matin



Goldfields Urology Best Drawing/Other Media \$1,500 No 508 titled "Bowl of Natives" by Helen Miles

Stork & Bee Best Small Image < A4 \$750 No 175 titled "Sheep" by Cherie Davies

### Highly Commended

(\$250.00) sponsored by Villawood, Turners Crossing and Ace Body Corporate No 92 titled "53 Belair" by Jessica Cameron

No 201 titled "Whispers of the Breeze" by Leanie Erasmus

No 478 titled "My Happy Place" by Jan Mathers

No 533 titled "Afghan Girl" by Joanne Morris

No 777 titled "The Boardwalk Café" Lake Weeroona" by Nina Volk

No 789 titled "Pod" by Linda Weil

### People's Choice Award

This year we introduced a People's Choice Award, which provided an opportunity for patrons to vote on their favourite exhibit.

Winning by some margin was exhibit number 776 'Bendigo at Night' by Nina Volk, who was awarded \$250.00.

A big thank you to our platinum sponsor The Bendigo Club for their ongoing support of our Easter Art Show and the Rotary Club of Bendigo in general.

Appreciation to our major sponsors, The Bendigo Times, Goldfields Urology, Turners Crossing, Stork and Bee Framing, Villawood Properties and Ace Body Corporate Management – all significantly contributing to making the Easter Art Show a financial success.

Other supporters provided invaluable assistance and are key to the success of this event: David Wilkinson and Family (lighting), Bart'n'Print (Program), Mandurang Valley Wines, Fitzpatrick's Home Timber and Hardware, and Vanstans Pharmacy for their donation of items for the popular raffle.

As Easter Art Show Coordinator and on behalf of the Club, I extend an enormous thanks to, firstly, the hardworking Art Show Committee comprising Daniela Ionescu, Tom Dobeli, Graeme Clarke, Glenda Bryson, Diane Petrie, Jan Walklate, Des Samson and Kim Lowe.

Secondly, thanks to the many Club members (and many partners) for their fantastic efforts in making the 56th Easter Art Show another wonderful success – again it really was evident the willing volunteer commitment and camaraderie that makes this show such a special annual event for the Rotary Club of Bendigo.

With the success of the show in 2024, we were able to hand over a cheque of \$35,000 from the Art Show Committee to President Daniela Ionescu at our night meeting 18 June 2024.

## SWAP MEET

### Chair: Libby Hughes

Once again we participated in the Annual Bendigo Swap Meet, held at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds, in November, 2023.

This was the first Swap Meet after a four year break having had three years of Covid and a year cancelled due to floods in the Rochester/Echuca area.

The five Bendigo clubs combined together and recruited volunteers from four other organisations. We also included some 'friends' to help out given all clubs are struggling to fill rosters.

The crowd was down in numbers this year which was reflected in the overall profits.

At a committee meeting in the wash up of the event the catering committee decided, after consulting with each club, that given the difficulty all clubs are facing in providing the required volunteers the Rotary Clubs would no longer provide the catering service.

The decision was further reinforced by the very little return to each club and participating organisations. Eventually the decision was unanimous from all clubs.

On behalf of the members of the committee we would like to sincerely thank all those who gave their time for this busy weekend.

## STARTHOWER

### Chair: Larrie Winzar

With the floods in Rochester in October 2022, we began hosting women who were out of their damaged homes with the Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff.

We have an amazing team in Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff that I coordinate, women who host other women in their homes, provide amazing group meals, relaxation massages, art classes, chair yoga, meditation, time at the beach, time to browse and buy in our beautiful villages and a ferry trip to Sorrento across the bay.

The women also all receive a generous gift box of beautiful toiletries.

Everything is provided free of charge for our guests, including travel which is sometimes by private vehicle, but mainly by V/Line coach and train, for a 3 night 4 day wellbeing experience.

We host between 2 and 6 women every 6-8

weeks. So far we've hosted over 30 women and the feedback has been a joy.

When they return home, they have more energy and, most importantly, know that they haven't been forgotten. They have created their own group of 'Starcatchers' and meet regularly.

Bendigo Rotary provided the initial funding and then Brighton North stepped in and donated funds and, on our behalf, also obtained a District 9800 Grant.

As well as Rochester, we approached District 9800 re-using funds for the women of Pomonal, who are displaced after the devastating bushfires earlier this year. They were in total agreement.

Although we haven't hosted anyone from Pomonal as yet, our experience tells us that it is a few months after a natural disaster that women look for the break we are offering.

We can be very proud of our 'on the ground' project. In Rochester, there are still about 200 women out of their homes.

Anglicare in Rochester, works with PP Heather Watson from Rochester to source the women, who are the most in need of time away from the hardship.

As well as funding, Brighton North also assists with transport as do members of our club. We also provide travel lunch packs. If club members or family members would like to be involved in accompanying our Starthrower guests from Bendigo Station to Southern Cross during one of the Starthrower visits, we would warmly welcome your support.

Starthrower is quietly involving other clubs.

As mentioned, Rotary Clubs of Bendigo, Rochester and Brighton North.



*Presenting Starthrower to the Rotary Club of Ocean Grove.*

We are also assisted by Ocean Grove Rotary who have three hosts living and hosting in Point Lonsdale and also Ararat Rotary working with a committee in Pomonal.

The District Governors of Districts 9800

and 9780 are both supportive of this heartwarming Starthrower project.

I have been the guest speaker, talking about Starthrower, at Ocean Grove Rotary and am booked to also speak at Brighton North.

The big picture is to expand our very own Starthrower Women's Wellbeing Experience project interstate. That will require funding, enthusiasm and leadership.

In the meantime, Starthrower will continue to support the women of Rochester and Pomonal.

## SHEEP AND WOOL SHOW

**Chair: Noel Hobley**

The workload of our committee and volunteers has increased as we deal with the Work Safe issues at the Sheep and Wool Show, held in Bendigo each year.

To this end we work the eight days from Monday to Monday encompassing the preparation days, 'Bump In' day, the three days of the show and then 'Bump Out' day, ensuring oversight of the OH&S issues inherent in such a large event.

Firstly let me congratulate all of our Rotarians, together with our three volunteers from Rabobank, who took on our regulation training from Worksafe, and carried out their duties of "health and safety officers" with great enthusiasm



Thanks also for PP Peter Reading's work with Hip Pocket, Golden Square, who have fitted us out with new Hi-vision vests at no charge to our Club.

It was most pleasing to hear from business people, that attend such events on a regular basis, that our officers were found to be courteous, helpful and professional in their duties. Far better than the OH&S personnel dealt with over many years.

Our team leaders for this year's show, Noel Hobley and Garry Gunnell, covered each day of the event and dealt with the day to day issues over many fields. This requires

good judgement and understanding in every situation. Noel met with the Worksafe officers, who are strict with their interpretation of the laws, and the site was assessed and authorised for the event.

Worksafe requested to view the Risk Assessment Document for the event that we were able to produce, in cooperation with the Sheep and Wool Show management, and they were satisfied that it covered off the necessary particulars relevant to such an event.

The only major issue raised by Worksafe was around the planning for the 'Bump In' day (Thursday prior to show start). As the Worksafe team arrived on site for a follow-up visit, they were witness to a truck full of display machinery trying to unload in a pedestrian traffic area as site holders were reporting to the Show office.

A separate Risk Assessment and Traffic Management plan for 'Bump In' will be forwarded to the Sheep Show team. This evolution of our OH&S documentation will only enhance our structure.

Our committee worked well together, taking on the differing tasks as OH&S officers, to sustain a high standard that makes the work of all members as rewarding as possible. Special mention to Bob Edgar and Peter Hyett, for their great work in organising the paperwork and folders, establishing our rosters, training our volunteers and negotiating a site in the technology tent to base ourselves in.

Again let us remember the great support of all Rotarians, as committee members and volunteers, and a big thankyou to Rabobank whose help has made this project a great success.

Money raised by the Rotary Club of Bendigo's participation in this project is used toward Scholarships and Educational Support associated with agricultural studies, with both local students and in Australia wide agricultural educational facilities.

At the culmination of the OH&S side of the Sheep Show we moved on to helping the Nutrien Ag team pack up the donated wool from the Fleece Competition. All the wool was pressed into bales and sent off for auction. Money raised this year was donated to Down Syndrome Australia.

A Rotary meeting on October 31 saw the Nutrien Ag and Rabobank present for an official wrap up of the show and presentation of Appreciation Certificate to Rabobank, while Margot Faulkner from the Australian Sheep & Wool Show was on hand to receive the cheque on behalf of Down Syndrome Australia.



*From left: Jack McPherson (Rabobank), President Daniela, Peter Hyett, Nicole Davies (Nutrien Ag) and Leon Fennel (Rabobank).*

## CAMP GETAWAY

**Chair: Wayne Smith**

The Camp has continued to thrive with the continued steady increase in mid-week bookings and the maintenance of the very high level of week-end bookings.

Our funding situation has allowed us to continue with offering fully sponsored camps to 'Special Needs Groups', and to actively seek out and encourage such groups to use the Camp. Where and when required, we have continued to provide catering for these groups free-of-charge.

We have welcomed other paying user groups, such as family gatherings, craft groups, school and church groups, etc. Many are repeat bookings, with some returning for more than the twentieth time. In addition we had 10 groups using the camp for the first time during 2023-2024. It was also pleasing to continue to host Youth Exchange, RYLA and RYPEN camps.

We look forward to hosting Bendigo Sandhurst's Changeover for the second time in July and the Bendigo Inner Wheel's Changeover for the first time soon after.

Work on the Playing Courts Complex Restoration Project was finally completed during this Rotary year and we were pleased to conduct an official opening of the project in April 2024, to acknowledge the generous financial support from the Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program and the Rotary Club of Balwyn. DG Ron Payne did the honours of revealing the commemorative plaque.

As further recognition of Agnico Eagle's support an additional sign has been added at the entrance to the camp.

In 2019, the camp took delivery of a 60kL disused gas tank to be used as a reserve



water tank for fire fighting purposes. With the later addition of some bogey wheels and a length of rail to one side of the tank, it began to resemble a steam train.



The structure was then painted in early 2023 and decal lettering will be installed along the side shortly. Finally, a mock drivers cabin will be built on the back so that children can drive the train to wherever their imagination takes them.

As usual, there have been a number of working bees by other D9800 Rotary Clubs to undertake building and grounds maintenance and minor repairs. This work together with on-going maintenance undertaken by our resident managing caretakers, Benji and Tara Harrold has the camp looking in fine fettle.

One working bee in particular, when the Rotary Club of North Balwyn visited, resulted in the complete demolition of a disused ex-army hut, which was moved from the Bendigo Ordinance Factory to the camp in the 1980s. It was a great weekend's work by a "mob of old blokes".

Regrettably, an immediate task in front of the Board is undertaking major repairs to one of the rooms in Dormitory 2. Two of the walls have been severely infested with softwood termites to the extent that all of the framing in the walls will have to be replaced. It is hoped that the termites have not got into the roof trusses because that will involve a rebuild of the whole room.

At the time of writing this report, the condition of the roof trusses is unknown. Only further inspection of the roof space will tell.

## CLUB SERVICE

**Director: Colin Nankervis**

The Club Service team has done another stellar job to keep the club engaged with informative speakers, social events and communication options aplenty.

Daryl Watts and his committee had us bowling in the rain but fed and hydrated us to much applause in the end. Winners are grinners and Peter Reading and his team are forever in print, but..... *Peter you need to give the cup back for next year.*

The Fellowship team, ably led by Pam Luxford, are to be congratulated on a great year and the Program team led by Graham Clarke, kept us informed with many interesting speakers across the year.

President Daniela's weekly newsletter, "The Fossicker", didn't miss a beat all year and her note taking skills seem legendary. Thanks to Noel and Larisa for getting it out each week.

Our website ranks very highly if you've made note of other Rotary sites and our social media options in Facebook and Instagram are both informative and entertaining thanks to the communications team.

Larrie Winzar still contributes as a Co-Chair of the We Care committee from afar, with Des Samson lending a hand as the 'on the ground' Co-Chair locally. Thankyou to you both for your commitment to our members.

The 100th Anniversary Committee is working hard on this big event with Sub Committee's focussing on Project and Entertainment options and last but by no means least, our meetings are overseen each week by a member of the Sergeant's Committee. Where would we be without them.

Thankyou to all Club Service members.

## BOWLS NIGHT

**Chair: Daryl Watts**

Our annual bowl night was held on Tuesday, 20th February 2024 at the South Bendigo Bowls Club.

The weather was a bit concerning early, but soon cleared up to a perfect wind and rain free night. A great night of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the South Bendigo Bowls Club for the use of the green, their facilities and the partners of the committee members for the preparations and serving of the excellent supper.

Also, thanks to the committee members for assisting with the running of the event. Furthermore, thank you to the donors of the prizes for the night.



Winners: Noel Holey, Michael Pearson and Peter Reading(s) 2 wins +17

Equal 2nd: 3 teams with 1 win + 2 shots up Freja Dhal, Peter Hyett, Mary Rasmussen and Shirley McDonald(s); Karyn Dobeli, Wayne Smith and Des Samson(s); Sarah Lewis, Pam Luxford, Jeni Watts and Hugh Wheeler(s).

Rolling to the ditch: David Bannon

Too many to mention received a prize for either a 'toucher' or bowling the bowl on the wrong bias.

*NB: The inaugural Bowls Night Cup will be kept by the skipper of the winning team until the following year.*

## FELLOWSHIP

### Chair: Pam Luxford

The monthly night meetings continued and this enabled partners and friends to join in and share fellowship, and enjoy the many and varied speakers throughout the Rotary year.

The first vocational visit for the Rotary year was to Safescape (mining) at Golden Square and then on to dinner at the Golden Square Hotel.

The many commitments we took on throughout the year included the car parking, the annual Sheep and Wool Show at the Show Grounds, the annual Swap Meet (Showgrounds), Christmas Market at the Mandurang Valley Winery, Carols by candlelight in the Park and the odd BBQ meant that informal socialising with members and often spouses and friends helping out.



We ended the year 2023 with our Christmas breakup Party at the Bendigo South Bowling Club, enjoying music provided by Peter Hyett's daughter and players, with the Christmas carol singer being a hit.



The New Year kicked off with an informal lunch at the Reservoir Hotel.

2024 bought much enjoyment from a visit and lunch at the Chinese Museum, a purely social day at Lehmann's legendary

Lunch and our annual Afternoon Tea Party at Henry and Mary Rasmussen's home.

The annual Easter Art Show was a great opportunity for club members and family members to work alongside each other, and opportunities to forge lasting friendships.

Thanks to all the fellowship team members for making all our events enjoyable

## MEMBERSHIP

The current membership of the club stands at 65 members, of which 5 are Honorary Members. With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Margaret Paulsen, who departed from us a couple of weeks ago.

Regrettably throughout the year, four valued members have made the difficult decision to resign from our club, each for unique reasons. Greg Galloway expressed a sincere desire to explore new commitments and volunteering opportunities.

Tyson Gleeson found it challenging to balance the demands of a new job with the unexpected growth of his family, making the difficult decision to step away from our club.

Carol McCabe's resignation was prompted by the health challenges she has courageously confronted.

Julie Sloan needed to step away from our club due to extended work commitments.

As we bid farewell to these esteemed members, we do so with respect for their decisions and a touch of sadness. It is especially emotional to part with longstanding members who have dedicated themselves to enriching local and international communities.

Their absence leaves a void in our club, and they will be deeply missed. We extend our deepest gratitude for their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions whether small or great. Their passion and selflessness have made a lasting impact on our club and the communities we serve. Though they may not be with us physically, their legacy will continue to inspire us in our future endeavours.

On a positive note, as the Rotary year drew to a close, we had the pleasure of welcoming Jacinta Harrison as our newest Rotarian. Jacinta brings a wealth of volunteering experience from different organizations and various levels of involvement. For those Rotarians who haven't had the opportunity to meet Jacinta yet, I encourage you to do so and extend a warm welcome to her within our club.

Despite our best efforts, the club vision that the Membership team meticulously planned for this year unfortunately did not come to fruition. However, there remains optimism that it may materialize in the upcoming Rotary year. I extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the Membership team for their dedicated efforts and valuable contributions throughout the year.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Chair: Noel Hobley

Communications was a talking point all year with our Website, our Facebook and Instagram pages and the weekly Fossicker, all part of the conversation.

Our website [rotarybendigo.org.au](http://rotarybendigo.org.au) was ever present and kept up to date, announcing both our future speakers and our history with nearly 100 years of Presidents' reviews thanks to the good work of Johnny K.

We also tried to keep current articles about our projects published on our website and got a few of them into the Bendigo Times over the year.

Our website also included easy access to our Fossicker amongst our News stories for the interest of visitors.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

### Chair: Noel Hobley

The 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Bendigo will be celebrated with a Civic Reception in March 2025, to acknowledge the first meeting that took place to register an interest in creating a Rotary Club in Bendigo, led by Mayor of the day EM Vains.

The annual Changeover in June of this year will be a more low key event with a focus on an event planned for the Saturday of August 23 at the Ulumbarra Theatre.

This will be a black tie event with several courses served in the dining area before moving into the theatre for the entertainment of the evening.

Member of local Rotary Clubs, RC Melbourne and RC Geelong and Ballarat (both celebrating 100 years) will be invited.

Other events, such as a Past Presidents Cocktail Dinner at Christmas, a Time Capsule and a major Anniversary Project launch are planned on alternate months during the year to keep the momentum alive.

## PROGRAM

### Chair: Graeme Clarke

President Daniela planned her year with more opportunities for social meetings and Club information days. This took a bit of pressure off the team to arrange speakers every week and quality over quantity was a focus.

With around 20 guest speakers, 11 club information sessions, vocational visits to Bortana and the Chinese Museum, 15 fund raising events, inc. BBQs, carparking etc and about numerous social events, it was, as usual quite a busy year.

We all got a wake up call when Peter Hyett (not that one) visited us to talk about his Bowel Cancer experience. Peter is lucky to still be with us and is a reminder to be vigilant.



The Editor of the Bendigo Times visited us to share his journalism career and the story of the Times Group setting up a free paper here in Bendigo.



Year 10 students from Bendigo South East College attended our first monthly evening meeting to talk about their experience sailing from Adelaide to Melbourne, as part of the Rotary Tall Ship Challenge. It was also the first time our new exchange student from Denmark, Freja Dhal addressed the Club.



August saw our first Social Meeting and Club Strategy presentations, which were well received.

DG Ron Payne visited us on August 29 to introduce us to the Rotary International Action Plan adopted by D9800 and expand on areas of focus for Rotary International.



Our own Sue Clarke, big G's better half and Michelle Murphy of Foodshare Bendigo explained the ins and outs of this great local organisation that relies heavily on volunteer help, much of which is done by Rotarians.



The Innerwheel Club of Bendigo visited in September with President Gwen Rankins and Secretary Bernadette Storer on hand to discuss their history.

The big G (Clarke) donned the guest speaker role in October to explain the going on within KLFM and the role they play in our community, whilst we enjoyed an evening meeting with families of exchange students and our own Freja with some of her host families.



Tony Plant from RC Bgo South joined us in November to share all things Maubisse, after his trip to East Timor in July. Many of our own members are involved in the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Community and were on hand to support Tony and reinforce the message.



We had guest speakers, Natalia Trotter (a civil engineer and former exchange student) and Mick Hoban talk to us about the Bendigo Groundwater Project after the Club Secretary, Wayne Smith, whipped though the Annual AGM procedure to close out November.

December saw a couple of Social events in the Foundation Dinner and Christmas Lunch and we broke for a post Christmas break after the Carols event.



Special guest in late January was Glenda Serpell, the dynamic founder of Sunshine Bendigo. Glenda received a cheque from the Community Christmas Market team who were on hand to hear her speak.

Our Annual Bowls night dominated the program in February along with the Legendary Lehmann Lunch and a social meeting.



Peter Cox of the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival visited us in March to reflect on the festival's rich history.



We welcomed participants of the NYSE, RYLA and youth exchange sharing their



experience in these great Rotary projects.

We moved onto the Art Show in late March and our next guest speaker was on April 9 when the Bendigo Region Women's Shed Vice President, Sally Hutchison, brought her 32 years' experience in the public service to the fore and updated on the activity of BRWS.

Our very own Marion Baker updated us on her involvement with the PNG Midwifery 'Buddy Program' with an eye opening presentation in April.



Dementia Australia, a cause very close to President Daniela's heart, visited us and speaker Jade Rockliff, their community fundraising coordinator, was the recipient of our annual Carols proceeds.



Members and guests enjoyed a special visit by Beechworth Bakerie's CEO, Marty Matassoni.

A tenacious worker that started as a teenager working after school and is now the CEO. Marty kept the meeting enthralled with his story and the tales around the growth of this infamous bakery.



Des Samson called on his connections within the Bendigo bike riding community to welcome Alessia McCaig along as guest speaker. Alessia is part of the Australian Institute of Sport and was supported by the McCaig family on the night.

We also discovered there was some discrepancies amongst Des' cycling comrades about who was the fastest "back in the day" but by now Alessia will know if she is fast enough to be going to Paris for the Olympics.

Our guest speaker list was rounded out in June by a special appearance of the new CEO of the City of Greater Bendigo, Andrew Cooney. The 100th committee had been in communication with the COGB and as CEO Craig Neiman left the role and Andrew stepped in, we made contact to maintain the connection.

Andrew very kindly agreed to visit us as guest speaker where he faced many questions from a very engaged audience.



## SERGEANTS COMMITTEE

**Chair: Noel Hobley**

The Sergeants committee was a tight knit group this year and our members had to cope with some staffing shortages when work roles and ill health took it's toll.

Yes even these gallant heroes of the weekly meeting can fall prey to the frailties of the human condition.

But.... never daunted by the task at hand, the Sergeant of the day rolled in and the meeting was ushered onward, through thick and thin, hairy and bald, funny and not, but never dull and boring.

Let's be honest, life is too short to be serious, so the Sergeants job is to keep it moving, keep it on task, keep out the riff raff (unless they are serving lunch) and keep it informative.

Well at least we tried.

Suffice to say the usual fun and frivolity was attempted and many memory and general knowledge tests were employed to keep the attendees on their toes.

Thanks to the team and we look forward to another year ahead.

## WE CARE

### Co-Chair: Larrie Winzar

In our club, and I suspect in most Rotary clubs, we need every member to be on the We Care committee.

We need that because sometimes members and their families, 'fall through the cracks' in times of need. We hear too late that a member could have done with some additional support or an opportunity for a celebration is missed.

This can be because of the wonderful modern flexibility that we have in Rotary for attendance, but also our busy lives inside and outside Rotary, our own business or employment, health or family concerns.

The We Care Committee does its best and Co-coordinator Des and I really appreciate this. Indeed some members of the Committee this year were in need of We Care. We Care can only deliver the care if they know of members in need of it.

Please keep your ear to the ground and let the Coordinator of We Care and the President of our club know when you know someone could do with a little extra support. Remember too that

We care isn't only about sadness, illness or bereavements...it's also about celebrations and successes and let's hope we hear about more of those in our next Rotary year.

### Co-Chair Des Samson.

We Care continues to play an important role within our Club as we have an increasing number of ageing and long standing members who are unable to attend meetings.

During the year some members moved to supported living or care. We wish them well with this change in their lives.

We Care regularly contacts these members along with those experiencing health problems. Flowers are sent to members suffering family bereavements with visits or cards sent to those who are unwell.

An afternoon tea for ladies of Rotary and widows of Past Rotarians is organized bi-monthly by Rosalie Vanstan.

Many thanks to members for keeping us informed of members experiencing tough times.

My thanks to Co Chair Larrie Winzar and committee members Rosalie Vanstan, Margaret Paulsen, John Cartwright and Barry Ackerman for their contributions.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

### Director: Liz Bannon

It is a pleasure to report on the projects happening with our club as some very experienced hands are guiding our International Projects, and much credit is due.

Garry Gunnell seems to be itching to get back to Samoa to further the planning around projects in the pipeline and given our experience with Discovery Centre Bendigo the Imagine Science and Technology Discovery Centre in Samoa, sounds very exciting. Garry's experience over the journey and his contacts within the country are invaluable.

Libby Hughes has her hand in several pies around the Club and the East Timor Knitting Project is another community endeavour benefitting from her experience and commitment.

Nepal holds a special place for Larrie Winzar and the projects undertaken to help these communities are a credit to that commitment. From building toilets to sheltering families after disaster, we are there.

And so it goes for Marion Baker, who, as a midwife herself, has supported the PNG Midwifery Buddy Program and gained support from the board for the project.

Let's not overlook the eight Malaysian Special School Teachers we facilitated training for, empowering them to enhance their skills in supporting children with special needs

Thank you to all involved in our International efforts. It's a great feeling to see how we are improving the lives of those we try to assist.

## SAMOA

### Garry Gunnell

Our connection with The Rotary Club of Apia and its members continued throughout the year, all be it from a distance as we have been unable to coordinate a suitable time for a personal visit by our members to Samoa. It has been a long period of time since our last visit mainly due to the years lost with Covid shutdowns.

A visit is required to investigate a suitable hands-on project for our members to undertake and hopefully this can be arranged in the near future. Lack of opportunity to travel to Samoa has not stopped the communication between our committee and local Rotary members. It is pleasing to see them very actively involved in the local community and assisting where the need is most required.

Our club again provided funds to help support the Rotary Club of Apia's local scholarship program. This is aimed at assisting disadvantage students to continue their education into university studies and is proving very successful for those granted the scholarships.

As reported last year I was successful in obtaining funding assistance towards the establishment of the Imagine Science and Technology Discovery Centre in Samoa. It is a very similar concept to Discovery Centre Bendigo.

The project development is well



underway with the Centre up and running in Apia, and the outreach component starting to roll out to village schools.

We see this project, especially the outreach component to the village schools as one of significant benefit to many generations to come. The project will engage teachers and students in STEM based activities, which foster creativity and divergent thinking alongside fundamental disciplines. It will educate primary school children and capacity build teachers with more knowledge, confidence and



enthusiasm, thereby further engaging students in science.

The project will help support students to improve at research, critical thinking and prepare them for work in an environment full of high-tech innovations. It engages Samoan Communities with Science and Technology, with the goal of inspiring more Samoan children to pursue science and technology subjects to a higher level.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Marion Baker, is involved in a training program for midwives in PNG - Papua New Guinea Midwifery Leadership Buddy Project 2018-2026.

The Rotary Clubs of Morialta, Adelaide and Port Moresby, PNG, in partnership with the PNG Midwifery Society (PNGMS) and the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) have completed three rounds of an innovative Buddy Leadership and Advocacy Program, for Papua New Guinean and Australian midwives.

Our 24 graduates from Stage One of the project, have built networks in their regions with advocacy and local community health initiatives to improve maternal health services.

The Board has recently approved support for this project.

## MALAYSIAN SPECIAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

This year marked the initiation of a new Goldfields clusters project, in which our club played a pivotal role. The project's inception can be traced back to a casual conversation during our club's 2023 changeover function between Rob Foran, Rod Spitty and myself, culminating in a preliminary agreement to participate.

By November, Rob had initiated extensive communication with his counterpart in Malaysia. In April we warmly welcomed a team of eight female special-school teachers who embarked on a four-week training program in Bendigo and Echuca, to enhance their skills in working with children with special needs.

Our members Graeme Clarke and Wayne Smith graciously hosted two teachers each during their stay in Bendigo. On 11 May, our club organized a heartfelt farewell lunch for the team, evoking intense emotions. The team proceeded to Melbourne for an additional two weeks of training. The sense of fulfilment derived from assisting these dedicated professionals acquiring training in an area where they lacked expertise is profoundly rewarding.

## EAST TIMOR KNITTING PROJECT

**Chair: Libby Hughes**

This longstanding project provides knitted clothing, rugs and toys for East Timor children, many of whom live in poverty in hillside villages. Sets of baby clothing are supplied to birthing centres and vaccination posts, to encourage mothers to attend centres for hygienic medical care.



Our aim is to supply knitted goods to mums and children in the Maubisse area of East Timor. Bendigo is connected to Maubisse through the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Group. I have now joined that group, so that the project is connected more closely to the BMFG. We get



feedback from Maubisse, which helps us send goods that they actually need and want. We have recently introduced jumpers for older children 6-9 yrs old. Two years ago we introduced rugs for the widows left after the war. Both of these items were requested by the

community. We have a specific pattern book for knitters to follow.

As well as helping in Maubisse, the ladies who knit in Australia are forming social groups to knit together for friendship and for a good cause. They then find ways of getting the knitted goods from all over Victoria, NSW and some from Queensland.



We then sort it into sets of knitted goods then into bags. Those bags go to Quality Wools in Bendigo and they are baled into specific bales, to go to Maubisse East Timor - newborn babies, in the hospital, health clinic and to villages in the mountains. They aim to encourage good health care for mums and babies with 600 babies born each year in Maubisse hospital. Many are also born in the villages.

It is a joint Rotary Project with Bendigo Sandhurst, Bendigo South, Eaglehawk and us. The four Clubs share the costs. The bales are sent to DIK in Melbourne, who pack them into containers heading to Dili. The container is met by Rotarians in Dili, who co-ordinate the delivery to specific recipients in Maubisse.

The ladies do all the sorting and packing into sets and the men look after the storage, baling and transportation. It is ongoing project where we can send bales to DIK and they will send 3 bales at a time to East Timor.

We are looking to create another project called 'Days For Girls' and Ann Cartwright has kindly donated an Overlocker for this. The aim is to enable women and girls to be able to go to work and school during their monthly periods by supplying them with re-useable sanitary products. Anyone wishing to get involved with this project or who has a stash of 100% cotton fabric they would like to donate, please get in touch.

We meet at "The Ranch" every Thursday morning 10-12. Come and have a look

or stay and help, any time. Behind the Mechanics Institute in School Lane, California Gully. Ann Cartwright, Rosie Monotti, Jan MacDermid, Pam Luxford, Larisa Wasiljew and myself will be there and we'll make you a cuppa and give you a job. A shout out to Glenn Reilly and Tabitha Abbott who act as drop off points at their businesses for people who can't get to the Ranch on Thursdays.

## NEPAL

Larrie Winzar

In June 2023, the wheels were put in motion for a toilet block to be built at a school in a remote village in Nepal. Having a toilet block for girls, donated by Rotary Bendigo, ensured that the girls would not be missing school for a week each month due to no private facilities being available for their menstrual cycle.



We received progress photos throughout the building project from Secretary Raj, Kathmandu Rotary and, in November 2023, the building was finished. As well as the toilets, there is a hand washing facility and a disposal unit.

We have had a highly positive update from Kathmandu Rotary that there has been a 90% increase in girls attending school since the toilet block was built.



On November 3, 2023, an earthquake hit Nepal and 157 people were killed and thousands injured, with widespread devastation to buildings and infrastructure. Again, Rotary Bendigo was able to quickly jump on board with some financial support. Rotary Bendigo is looking forward to continuing its close connection with Rotary Kathmandu.

## VOCATIONAL SERVICE

**Director: Brian Figg**

The club visited Safescape / Bortanna Vehicles in Golden Square in August 2023, followed by a fellowship dinner at the Golden Square Hotel with around 30 members and partners in attendance.



Safescape impressed attendees with their innovation and again was a great example of one of these quiet Bendigo business success stories.



In February 2024 members and partners visited the Golden Dragon Museum in the city, with the CEO providing an informative history about the museum.

Lunch was enjoyed by the 30 attendees at the Emperors Dragon Restaurant onsite at the museum.

## LIFE ON THE LAND

**Chair: Brian Figg**

This club project started in November 2019 after supporting local artist Terry Jarvis and partner Michelle Kent with their local art exhibition at the Bendigo Town Hall, titled "Life on the Land – Our Farming Heroes".

Terry entrusted the Club with the financial management/aspects of the project.

The Committee has widened the scope of the project from its initial drought focus to include Farming Families and Communities in Need.

The most recent donation made from the Fund was \$2,500.00 to Drought Angels (in Chincilla QLD), supporting their "Angels on the Road" program.

## FOUNDATION

**Director: Wayne Smith**

**Walk-to-End-Polio Month**

October was Walk-to-End-Polio Month and our club team the "Rotary Bendigo Bushrangers" raised just over our target of \$3,000 for the "End Polio Now" cause. It placed our team 4th on the overall D9800 Teams Leaderboard.

I am pleased to note that individual team members, Marion Baker and Daniela Ionescu, raised just over \$1,300 and \$800, which placed them 9th and 13th on the Individual Leaderboard, respectively.

I extend my sincere thanks to those Rotarians who joined the team and to the other Rotarians and friends who generously donated to the team.

I was also very pleased to see several Bendigo Rotarians and friends in attendance at the Rotary Club of Bendigo South's "Walk Around Lake Weeroona" on Sunday, 22nd October, 2023.

**Clusters Foundation Dinner**

The Goldfields Foundation Dinner was conducted on Friday 8th December 2023 at The Lakeside Hotel Bendigo.

Fifty One Rotarians and guests attended the dinner, which was less than previous years, but it was a successful and enjoyable evening. All cluster clubs, except Echuca-Moama and Rochester, which had conflicting events, were represented.

We also welcomed District Governor Ron Payne and Deb, and District Foundation Director Grant Hocking and Melissa to the dinner. Ron spoke about District issues and Rotary in general and Grant provided a very enlightening presentation on the Impact of the Rotary Foundation, highlighting all the good we do with the money donated by clubs and individuals.

We pretty-much broke even with ticket prices and venue/catering costs, but made a small profit on the raffle, which will be forwarded to the Foundation.

Historically, the Foundation Dinner has been conducted in November each year to coincide with Foundation Month. It would appear however that November is a very busy month for many of the cluster clubs and consideration should be given to conducting the dinner well away from the November-December period in the future.

**Rotary International Film Night**

Arrangements were initiated with all Goldfields Cluster Clubs to conduct a pre-



screening of the Australian made movie “The Way My Way” at the Bendigo Cinemas on Tuesday, 21st May, 2024.

However, it was discovered that the

Bendigo-Maubisse Friendship Committee (BMFC) had arranged a pre-screening of the same movie on Thursday, 6th June, 2024 at the Star Theatre, Eaglehawk.

Given involvement of all of the Bendigo Rotary Clubs’ with the BMFC’s activities, it was decided to cancel the RI event and support the BMFC’s event.

### Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions and Paul Harris Society

This year the club recognised the following Paul Harris Fellows:-

- PP Geoff McLeod (PHF+2 Sapphires);
- Beverley Leeson (PHF) (Non Member)

In addition personal contributions saw the following PHF recognitions:-

- Rotarian Joy Bruce (PHF+1 Sapphire);
- PP Garry Gunnell (PHF+2 Sapphires);

Rotarian Joy Bruce and PP Garry Gunnell also joined the Paul Harris Society and will be committing to donate US\$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation each year.

### Contributions to the Rotary Foundation

This year 14 club members made individual donations to either the Foundation or Polio Plus. This together with the Club’s pledges to the Foundation and Polio Plus takes the Club’s all-time giving to over US\$218,000.

## AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Chair: Bob Edgar

The Club awarded two scholarships in 2024 for the study of Agriculture at post-secondary level. The recipients were Siale Pitson from Bagshot and Bridie Casey from Birchip.

In 2023, Siale completed Certificate IV in Agriculture at Bendigo TAFE and is now studying for a Diploma in Agronomy at Longerenong College, Horsham. Bridie was dux of Birchip P12 school and is taking a Business Course at La Trobe University, Bendigo.

Since 2020 the club has awarded a total of six agricultural scholarships, the most recent being Indi Crone from Strathfieldsaye who completed a bachelor of Agriculture at Melbourne University and Alex Martin from Mandurang who is currently in third year Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga.

The club has also supported Agricultural Education for secondary school students.

### Defying the Drift

A three-day program for year 10 and 11 students that is organised by Rotary District 9780 at Longerenong College. The program is designed for students who are considering a career in agriculture.



Keelie Hogan and Bree Tuohey from Catherine McCauley College were supported in September 2024. Three students have been nominated to attend “Defying the Drift” in 2024.

### Bairchip Cropping Group Field Day

As a further way to increase student interest in careers in Agriculture and related industries, the Club sponsored a bus trip for 23 students from Catherine McCauley College and Bendigo Senior Secondary College to the Bairchip Cropping Group’s Field Day in mid-September 2023. The day provided the students with valuable exposure to both research methods in agriculture, on-farm cropping operations together with the opportunity to meet and talk with a number of farmers.

### Country Education Foundation (CEF)

The Club is exploring ways to provide tax deductibility for corporate and private donations towards the scholarship funds. This would enable the monetary value of the scholarship to be increased, as well adding a vocational stream to the scholarship.

With this in mind, membership of the scholarship committee has been expanded to include Jack McPherson from Rabobank and Nicole Davies from Nutrien Ag Solutions. Initial discussions have been held with representatives from the Country Education Foundation (CEF) based in Orange NSW. Working with the CEF may provide the opportunity to establish a foundation with tax deductibility status.

## YOUTH SERVICES

### Director: Michael Pearson

This Rotary year we welcomed Freja from Denmark. She has been hosted by 3 families who have kept her happy, healthy, safe, and driven her to many sporting events! We sincerely thank them for their contribution and generosity in welcoming Freja into their homes and family. Many Rotarians have helped Freja to learn about our culture, sport and introduced her to our food and wildlife. Freja has participated in many of our Rotary activities and spoke about her experiences with Youth Exchange on Phoenix Radio.

She also learnt the skills of a Coffee Barista after making many coffees at the Swap Meet and The Christmas Market. Thank you to Freja for enhancing our Rotary Club, she has been a delight to host. We wish Freja all the best for her future.



*“Hi, my name is Freja Dahl. I just wanted to thank the Rotary Club of Bendigo for the amazing opportunity they have given me. I’m really happy that I’ve been asked to join all the Tuesday meetings, so that I got to know everyone better and I especially loved the weekly chicken parmigiana.*

*Bendigo Rotary Club has made me feel very welcome and I have really enjoyed helping them out with their volunteer work and giving back to them.*

*I also want to thank my host families for everything they have done for me. Without them, none of this would have been possible and I really appreciate how they welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like part of the family. They showed me around*

*in Bendigo, helped me with getting ready for school, supported me in my sports and took me to amazing places like Sydney, Melbourne, Uluru and heaps of other places.*

*Last, but not least I am so grateful to all my friends who made my school time, sports and my free time so much more fun! Even though I talked a bit differently and didn't really know the school rules, they helped me find my way around and made an effort to try and become friends with me.*

*I'm sure I will miss Australia a lot when I return to Denmark, especially all the slang, the nature and of course all the fantastic people I have met in my year. I will definitely come back to Australia in a couple of years after I graduate from school and if anyone ever needs a place to stay in Denmark, just give me a call."*

We had return visits from Heini from Finland, Laure from France, Bill from America and we hear from many others who still have memories and friends they made while here with us for a year.

We believe, in the next Rotary year, we will have visits from a couple of other past in-bounds.

Sean, who was sponsored to Brazil many years ago, spoke to us, reflecting on his year and what he has been doing since then.



Charmaine Soulsby is our Outbound student who is on exchange in Czechia in a small town called Český Krumlov. She is enjoying her time and has sent us letters and photos about her experiences.

In mid-July we will welcome Maria Palomino Ruiz from Jaen in Spain to our Rotary Club.

Joy Bruce, Counsellor

### Rotary Youth Programs

This year we have continued to offer young people of the Bendigo area, opportunities to grow their skills of leadership and in particular areas such as science.

### Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge

It is always great to have the young people whom we have helped come back to speak to the club about their experiences. Last year, our club sponsored 3 students from Bendigo South-East College to take part in the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge during which they sailed for one week between Adelaide and Melbourne on the tall ship "One and All". Keely, Lachy and Kayla had a fantastic time and learned a lot about sailing and themselves. They spoke about how the experience had been transformative and how they had gained in confidence and ability to work with others to achieve difficult tasks. We will continue to offer the opportunity to take part in this program with more local students this coming year.

### National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

This is a program for Year 11/12 students, who were given an opportunity to take part in a 2-week program at the Australian National University, to gain a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and maths. Our club sponsored 2 students – Flynn and Harry, who revelled in learning about cutting edge research and meeting like-minded peers and gaining an insight into what a career in science would be like through spending time with scientists who have lived experience of such careers.



### Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Emmaleigh took part in this 7-day residential leadership seminar. She spoke to the club about this life-changing experience and her increased self-confidence. She engaged in activities which pushed her boundaries, and she is sure this will lead to new opportunities in her life.

### Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

Our Outbound Youth Exchange Student, Charmaine, took part in the RYPEN program, which was held at Camp Getaway. RYPEN provides an experience of ideas, problems, and social experiences which will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards and allow them to broaden their horizons culturally, socially and academically. Charmaine will take the skills and self-confidence she gained to augment her experiences during her year in Czechia.

### School Awards



In December President Daniela had the pleasure, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Bendigo, of presenting a Community Service Award to Shane Martens at Violet St Primary School. His teacher eloquently described him as "a polite and thoughtful student always willing to lend a hand with lunchtime games and younger students". Shane was a worthy recipient of the award.

The club was also involved in other Youth projects, including last year's Science and Engineering Challenge. The winning team were from Bendigo South-East College, one of the schools supported by our club.

Some of the students we supported also offered their help at the Rotary Club of Bendigo Carols by Candlelight.



*Exchange students were involved in a radio interview at Phoenix Radio.*

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

the rotary club of bendigo Recognises the outstanding contribution by these Rotarians and Rotary friends.

Barry Ackerman	Clark Jeffrey #	Ted Rankins (Sapphire) #
Malcolm Andrew #	George Jennings #	Henry Rasmussen*
Liz Bannon*	Warwick Johanson #	Bruce Reid #
Bruce Beasley #	John Krakowiak (Diamonds)	Glenn Reilly^ (Sapphires)
Valerie Broad	Frank Lean (Sapphire) #	Kevin Reilly (Sapphire) #
Reg Brock #	Beverley Leeson**	Bruce Roberts**
Joy Bruce (Sapphire)	Ken Longford* (Rubies)	Ron Rogers (Sapphire)
Bruce Burns #	Liz Longford* (Sapphires)	Des Samson (Sapphire)
Colin Burns	Pam Luxford*	Eugene Sandner #
Daniel Buttolph	Neil McLean #	Keith Scarrott #
Richard Cambridge **	Rod McDonald	Cas Sens #
Warren Cambridge #	Geoff McLeod (2 Sapphire)	Ron Slattery #
John Cartwright (Sapphire)	Bryan McMahon (Sapphire)	Wayne Smith (Rubies) (RAA)
Graeme Clarke	Jim Mahoney (Sapphire)	Alan Spalding**
Domenic Coia	Charlie Martin (Sapphire) #	Murray Stapleton **
Alan Cox #	Dal Martin #	Jack Svanosio #
Allan Dingle #	Bernie Masterson #	Joan Thomas # **
Tom Dobeli	Cyril Michelsen **#	Robert Trethewey #
Brian Doherty	Ron Meurer #	Tom Tweed #
Ray Downey (Sapphire) #	Ian Monotti #	Bob Vanstan #
Bob Edgar* (Sapphires) (RAA)	Hal Moors #	Rosalie Vanstan (Sapphires)
Brian Figg (RAA)	Violee Myers-Davey **#	Jan Walklate*
John Flood	Colin Nankervis (Sapphire)	Daryl Watts (Sapphire)
John Gallagher	Joe O'Sullivan #	Hugh Wheeler (Sapphire)
Greg Galloway	Margaret Paulsen (Sapphire)	David Wilkinson**
Bill Gray	Ray Paulsen (Sapphire) #	Ron Wilkinson #
Garry Gunnell (2 Sapphire)	Geoff Paynter **	Bruce Williamson #
Max Gunnell ** #	Jack Paynting #	Larrie Winzar (Sapphire)
Andrew Hampton	Michael Pearson	
Ken Hesse #	Barry Penna	
Noel Hobley	Carol Penna **	
Libby Hughes	Bruce Perrin (Sapphire) #	
Peter Hyett* (RAA)	Frank Perrow #	
Daniela Ionescu	Norm Phillips #	
Terry Jarvis**	Karen Quinlan **	

# Deceased  
\*\* Non-Member  
^ By Operation Cleft  
\* By previous club  
(RAA) Royce Abbey Award

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## RAY DOWNEY AWARD

Recognising the efforts of a member of the rotary club of bendigo - of five years or less - for outstanding 'Service above Self' and presented by the family of the late Ray Downey.

Marshall Horne 2006-2007	Tom Dobeli 2012-2013	Kim Lowe 2018-2019
Ian Shelton 2007-2008	Libby Hughes 2013-2014	Larisa Wasiljew 2020-2021
Kaye Graves 2008-2009	Tabitha Abbott 2014-2015	Henry Rasmussen 2021-2022
Noel Hobley 2009-2010	Greg Galloway 2015-2016	Pam Luxford 2022-2023
Glenn Reilly 2010-2011	John Pemberton 2015-2016	Glenda Bryson 2023-2024
Joy Bruce 2011-2012	Julie Sloan 2017-2018	

# CONGRATULATIONS

## RECOGNISING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION BY THESE ROTARIANS

During this year there have been many examples of 'service above self' from members making a difference in the community. While I would hope we acknowledged them personally at those times, at the end of the year, it is traditionally a time to recognise the contributions of a few individuals with our most prestigious awards. On behalf of the membership of the Rotary Club of Bendigo and with thanks to the Horizons Committee members, I am pleased to make the following announcements.

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### BEVERLEY LEESON

#### 2023-2024 PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

Beverley Leeson, a non-Rotarian, has generously volunteered at the Carols by Candlelight for over 20 years and as a valued member of the Carols by Candlelight Committee, Beverley has fully committed herself to various roles, including organizing the program. Over the past 15 years that Beverley Leeson and Val Broad have worked together, Beverley has been instrumental in helping Val coordinate the program, assist artists with their audio needs, and develop the sound check schedule.

Beverley's contributions have been invaluable to the Carols by Candlelight organizing committee. Her quiet diligence and reticence about her contributions speak volumes about her humility and dedication. Beverley is a true volunteer who never seeks accolades, but continuously works behind the scenes to ensure the success of our events.

In 2024, Beverley informed us of her decision to resign from the Carols by Candlelight for a well-deserved retirement. Beverley's consistent and humble service over the years has made a lasting impact on all of us and embodies Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self.' Therefore, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of our Rotarians, to acknowledge Beverley Leeson's contribution to our community project and present her with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Congratulations Bev

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### WAYNE SMITH

#### 2023-2024 ROYCE ABBEY AWARD

The Royce Abbey Award honours past Rotary International President Royce Abbey, recognizing Rotarians who exemplify exceptional enthusiasm and outstanding commitment to Rotary's core ideals.

Wayne Smith served as President during the 2011-2012 term and his versatility and adaptability has seen him assume various roles including Secretary, Treasurer and Club Executive Secretary. Moreover, Wayne made significant contributions as Director of Community Service, Public Officer and Chair of the Horizons Committee. In addition to his leadership roles, Wayne's dedication extended to various club committees and teams and Wayne's firm commitment to the club's mission was evident in his role as Club Foundation Director since 2020.

Wayne has played a crucial role in the seamless execution of events such as the Bendigo Swap Meet, the Christmas Market, and Car Parking events. Furthermore, Wayne played a pivotal role in Camp Getaway.

On behalf of our members, I acknowledge Wayne's hard work and dedication. It is with great appreciation and pleasure that I present Wayne Smith with the well-deserved honour of the Royce Abbey Award.

Congratulations Wayne

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### GLENDA BRYSON

#### 2023-2024 RAY DOWNEY AWARD

The Ray Downey Award is a recognition of the efforts of a Club member, of five years or less, for outstanding 'Service Above Self' and is presented by the family of the late Ray Downey.

This year, Glenda Bryson stands as a truly worthy recipient. Glenda joined our Club on 21 June, 2022, following her relocation to Bendigo. She was a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Keilor since 5 April 2005, where she notably served as President in 2019-2020, earning multiple awards for her dedicated service.

Glenda's commitment extends beyond her club duties. She shared her CPA accountant expertise with the Camp Getaway Board, serving as Treasurer for several years. In 2022-2023, she took on roles as Treasurer for the Art Show Committee and Assistant Treasurer for the Club. Furthermore, Glenda extended her involvement by joining the Membership Committee, Sergeant Team and Workplace Member Visits Committee. Despite her increased responsibilities, Glenda seamlessly transitioned into the role of Club Treasurer in 2023-2024.

It is with utmost pleasure I present the 2023-2024 Ray Downey Award to Glenda Bryson.

Congratulations Glenda

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## CLUB SERVICE ACCOUNT

1 July 2023 to 12 June 2024

Note for full financial year reports will be presented at the Club's AGM

### INCOME

Carried Forward Profit Income	994.86
Change Over Function 2023	5,578.97
Fines Collections	1,344.05
Interest Received	4,397.78
Meeting Collections	8,902.88
Member Apparel	28.18
Membership Fees	16,755.10
Miscellaneous Income	206.90
Silverpot Collections	742.15

### EXPENDITURE

Administrative Assistance	100.00
Badges, Banners and Awards	173.18
Bank Fees	102.19
Bendigo Club Membership Fees	1,386.36
Changeover Function 2023	5,516.44
Meeting Costs	4,842.98
Member Welfare	970.91
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,617.72
President's Allowance	3,500.00
Printing & Stationery	1,535.82
Rotary D9800 Insurance Levy	2,477.09
Rotary D9800 Semi-Annual Dues	3,740.00
Rotary Down Under	2,073.44
Rotary International Dues	7,433.56
Website & Social Media Costs	577.62
Funds to be transferred to 2024-2025	2,903.56

*These statements have not been subject to a review.*

**TOTAL CLUB SERVICE INCOME**

**\$38,950.87**

**TOTAL CLUB SERVICE EXPENSES**

**\$38,950.87**

# CLUB PROJECT ACCOUNT

1 July 2023 to 12 June 2024

Note for full financial year reports will be presented at the Club's AGM

## INCOME

Art Show	35,000.00
Bar-B-Que Activities	6,407.95
Bees and Honey Project	283.62
Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show	7,500.00
Carparking Services	27,328.45
Community Carols By Candlelight	25,716.82
End Polio Now	217.90
International Knitting Project	1,073.85
Miscellaneous Donations	1,000.00
ROMAC	270.00
Rotary Foundation Dinner	4,480.08
Swap Meet Committee	2,700.00

## DIRECT PROJECT EXPENSES

Advertising/Promotional	1,818.18
Bank Fees	51.23
Bar-B-Que Activities	1,385.51
Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show	64.08
Carols by Candlelight	17,676.86
Eaglehawk Festivals Inc	250.00
Miscellaneous Project Expenses	837.61
Rotary Foundation Dinner	3,493.18

**Total Direct Project Expenses \$25,576.65**

## DISTRIBUTIONS

Agricultural Scholarship	4,000.00
Australian Rotary Health Research Fund	1,000.00
Bendigo Violet Street PS Community Award	50.00
Bendigo Winter Night Shelter	5,000.00
Bendigo Foodshare	5,000.00
Bendigo Region Women's Shed	1,000.00
Bendigo Youth Choir	1,000.00
Car Parking Activities:	
Friends of Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail	477.23
Harriers Athletics	4,602.52
Lions Club of Strathfieldsaye	2,827.56
Rotary Club of Bendigo South	2,879.89
Centenary Event	7,000.00
Dementia Australia	7,000.00
Domestic & Family Violence	1,000.00
Girls in STEM Club	15,000.00
International Knitting Project	1,300.00
Malaysia Specialist Teacher Program	1,000.00
Maubisse Days for Girls Program	500.00
Maubisse Scholarships	1,450.00
Nepal Distribution - Earthquake	3,000.00
Nepal Distribution - Toilet Block	2,500.00
PNG Midwifery Buddy Project	2,450.00
ROMAC	540.00
Rotary Foundation	6,000.00
Rotary Foundation - PolioPlus	217.90
Royal Children's Hospital Appeal	2,000.00
Royce Abbey Award	1,000.00
Run For Dad Event	750.00
RYLA District 9800	950.00
RYPEN	270.00
Science & Engineering Challenge	500.00
Youth Projects (NYSF + Exchange Student)	4,000.00
Funds remaining to be distributed	136.92

**Total Distributions \$86,402.02**

**TOTAL CLUB PROJECT INCOME \$111,978.67**

**TOTAL CLUB PROJECT EXPENSES \$111,978.67**

# AND INTRODUCING FOR 2024-2025 . . .

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9800 OFFICIALS

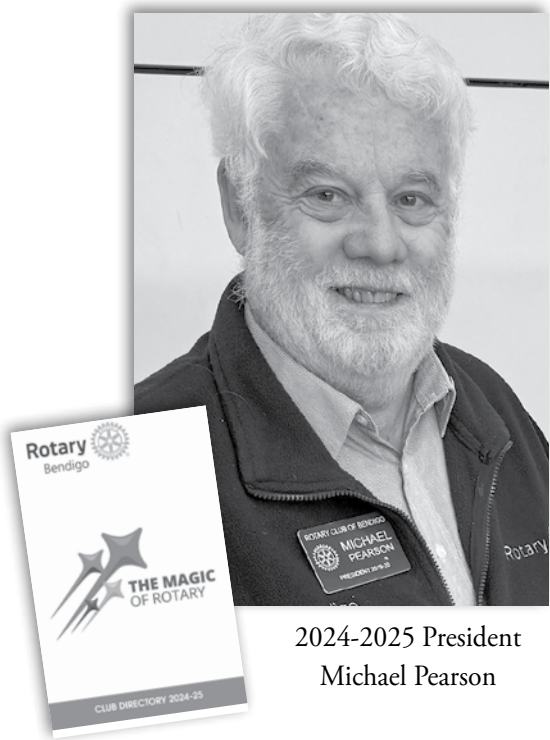
District Governor	Michael Lapina (RC Wyndham)
Regional Leader	Alison Bacon (RC Eaglehawk)

## ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Michael Pearson
Vice President	Noel Hobley
Immediate Past President	Daniela Ionescu
Board Secretary	Daniela Ionescu
Treasurer	Glenda Bryson
Rotary Foundation	Wayne Smith
Club Service	Lisa Pearson
Community Service	Joy Bruce
International Service	Garry Gunnell
Youth Service	Michael Pearson
Vocational Service	Brian Figg
Membership	Glenda Bryson

## CLUB OFFICERS

Protection Officer/OHS Officer	Tom Dobeli
Association Secretary	Wayne Smith
Public Officer	Wayne Smith



2024-2025 President  
Michael Pearson



2024-2025  
rotary international theme



Rotary Club of Bendigo - Established July 30, 1925 - Charter No 2104  
A member of Rotary International District 9800  
PO Box 131, Bendigo Victoria, 3552  
Website: <http://www.bendigorotary.org>