



Rotary Club of Traralgon

Serving Through Rotary for 84 Years District 9815 Victoria

The Club meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday each month, Traralgon Golf Club. 6.00pm
Attendance and apologies to Secretary Glenn Setches by 7.00 pm on Sundays please. Ph 0409 568 386

16 September 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2025—2026

President
Janne Speirs

**Immediate Past
President**
Charlie Speirs

President Elect
Simon Hemming

Vice President
Ron Elliott

Secretary
Glenn Setches

Treasurer
Peter Wallis

Youth Services
Helen O'Brien

International
Simon Trebilcock

Rotary Foundation
Simon Hemming

Community Services
Ian Keith

Vocational Services
Charlie Speirs

Membership
Glenn Azlin

Public Relations
Lorraine Paulet

President's Prattle

Hi all and welcome to tonight's meeting. I am an apology as I am in Emerald on District International duties, but I welcome warmly PP Glenn and Rhonda Brand tonight and hope they enjoy the evening, as much as I am sure Glenn's presentation regarding the Time Capsule opening in 2000 will also be valuable



The Time Capsule opening on 10th December will form one of the two main discussion items tonight – the other being the preparations for the Golf Day on September 26th. Janet and Peter have volunteered to take responsibility for the BBQ side of things on the day and a roster will be coming out for those happy to help on the BBQ. Other volunteer roles will be discussed tonight. This is our major fundraiser for the year, particularly to support work we undertake to assist in the mental health area so please support it where you can.

Our Plaza gardening crew of Ian, Glenn S, Andy R and Andy Theissling did a wonderful job completing the transformation of the MacDonald's garden on the corner of the Highway and PO Place last Tuesday with the spreading of 4 cubic metres of tanbark over the area. It looks brilliant. That must have been a real workout for the four guys!!!!

Remember that there is no recycling pick up tonight, but old specs can come into Simon T, and phones can be given to Charlie (preferably cleaned out, but at least with the simcard gone). These will help Domestic Violence survivors, giving them a secure means of making contact with those they need to talk to.

Lorraine would be grateful for any unwanted buttons to help create student artwork to help brighten up St Pauls and also assist with engaging students with challenges. Again, these can be given to Charlie.

Thanks to Jan Inglis and Gavan for helping with the Bunnings Fathers' Day evening BBQ on Sep 5. It was certainly a BBQ with a difference with Jan

Traralgon Rotary Club meets on the traditional lands of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past present and emerging and thank them for their long history of care for this land and its waterways.

and me making cheese sandwiches which Gavan then grilled on the BBQ and Charlie dealt with the customers. It actually went quite smoothly with some 200 delivered in about 2 hours!!! As I write this, the normal Bunnings BBQ has started for the day, with a full roster and hopefully a pleasant day weather wise. Thanks to all for who have said they can assist.

Sandwich making winds down over the next week or so as School holidays approach rapidly and again, that group of volunteers does an amazing job with their 460 sandwiches for delivery to 8 Schools or Campuses in and around Traralgon. It is a big job but a very important one. Well done Ron, Kaye and all the team.

Please note the summary of the Board meeting from Tuesday 9th Sep which follows this message – as mentioned previously, this is a way in which the Board can let everyone know what is happening and keep the Club in the loop of Board business.

Cheers and again, have a great night tonight – and special thanks to Gavan for holding the fort on the catering front while Ann and Co take a well earned holiday

Cheers

President Janne

Report of 2 September 2025

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

Sergeant Gavan opened the meeting, welcomed all and proposed a toast to Spring.

Chair for the Evening: Heather Den Houting took the chair. Ron Elliott will be chair next meeting. Heather reminded all of the Fathers' Day events being held at Bunnings on 4 September, 4pm until 7pm. One more volunteer is needed. Toasted cheese sandwiches will be served

We have also been invited to the Australian Flag Day ceremony to be held at Traralgon Centre Plaza tomorrow morning. All are invited to attend.

Heather mentioned that she had been in Melbourne attending a multi-cultural event on Sunday and that many of the people there had been upset by the anti-immigration demonstration being held in the city.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Glenn reported that our membership is 37 members, but that would be reduced to 36 when the transfer of Endel Vallak to the Rotary Club of Bendigo South was finalized. No Birthdays or anniversaries to report. Norm Butler was inducted into Rotary on 1 September 1979

Terry Carmichael: Terry mentioned that, earlier today, 1 million tonnes of plasma had been ejected from the sun – a CME event. (Chair Heather commented that there is a good aurora predicted tonight) Terry called for volunteers for the Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 13 September. Tom Corrigan volunteered for the 8 to 11 shift, Alana Storey and Glenn Azlin for the 11 to 2 shift and no takers to fill the gaps in the 2 to 5 shift. Helen O'Brien volunteered for the cash count. Volunteer needed for final clean up.

Swindle: Ray Scheffer said that the swindle sheet was going around. After the meal Ray asked Heather to draw the swindle. Winner, with a barely legible signature, was Norm Butler.

Spec-tember Project

Simon Trebilcock introduced the Spec-tember Project where members, during September, are asked to collect used spectacles for the **Eyes for Africa** project.

Simon spoke about work being done in Ethiopia where a Rotary Project is



carrying out eye testing and surgery and has a desperate need for used spectacles. This project is being led by **Rotarian Les Brear** of the Rotary Club of Nunawading.

Unlike in our country where spectacles and eye surgery are taken for granted for many years, this is not so for everyone in the world. In Ethiopia **Rotarian Julie Tyers OAM** has been working to get spectacles to support surgery. **Eyes for Africa** has set up a primary Clinic in Ethiopia for this purpose, Optometrists screen local schools to assess children's optical needs, including the need for surgery and for glasses. The team in Ethiopia have people to assess the strength of the donated glasses and to fit new lenses as needed. The Rotary Club of Nunawading have been providing lenses for this purpose.

The **Spectember Project** is to gather as many used spectacles and sunglasses as possible to send to the **Eyes for Africa** team this September. Glasses must be a good condition – lenses not scratched, and frames not broken. It is understood that the magnifier spectacles obtained for chemists are suitable. Donations to assist with transport would be appreciated

Members were asked to seek out used glasses from friends and relatives and other places that old and unused glasses may be.

Chair Heather thanked Simon for his presentation and presented him with an Adopt a Tree Certificate



EYES FOR AFRICA

<https://www.eyesforafrica.org/>

<https://directory.rawcs.com.au/45-2011-12>

President Janne spoke about an appeal for secondhand phones for use by domestic violence survivors. In discussion it seems that only 4G and above phones would be suitable.

Sergeant Gavan then led a fines session peppered with some imaginative stories and imaginative fines. The top 8 AFL supporters paid out of course.

Chair Heather then closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance and participation

Unite for Good



Tee up for Mental Health Golf Day

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025
TRARALGON GOLF CLUB

Hosted by Martin Cameron (MLA) Member for Morwell

**Club Service
Can you help?**

**The need for helpers will
be discussed at our
meeting on Tuesday night**

**BBQ roster speak to Janet
0417 030 768**

BOARD ITEMS FOR BULLETIN SEP 16

The Time Capsule opening in December (Wednesday 10th) will be discussed at the meeting on September 16 with PP Glenn Brand giving a short presentation about the opening in 2000 (when he was President of the Club). Members who were in the Club then will also be requested to give their memories of that occasion so we can flesh out the program and importantly the invitation list.

Simon Hemming requested 6 months leave of absence which the Board has accepted.

Due for further surgery in early October, Lorraine also requested leave of absence, however after discussion and the fact that Lorraine will still be continuing her involvement with Public Image, Board and Christmas Parade commitments – ie anything she can do remotely! – we adapted her leave to physical meetings as she will be out of action with her second knee surgery.

The flier Simon T has completed for “Spectember” was presented and accepted with one minor change. We encourage all members to advertise this project widely and see how many pairs of specs and sunglasses we are able to receive.

Our support of Taba'a village in the Solomons continues with an email to authorities regarding the staffing of the Medical Clinic and consideration of some refreshing of the clinic in terms of painting etc.

Planning for the Golf Day is well underway, with a very big field assembling and sponsorship dollars mounting up well. The Golf Day will be the second item of business on the 16th September

Lorraine continues to request photos of things we do in the Community so we can use them on facebook – many thanks to those who do assist in this way. Please ensure permission is received if people are in the photo.

Christmas Parade planning continues to go well.

The revised Strategic and Action plan should be out during the coming week. Some of the areas raised in the Club Culture Survey have been incorporated to ensure we act on those concerns.



Spectacular Spectacles

During September 2025, the Rotary Club of Traralgon are collecting spectacles and sunglasses to support an eye care program in Africa. Our "Spec-tember" appeal.



Spectacles and sunglasses are sent to the Meki Eye Clinic, in the Oramia District, Ethiopia, about three hours drive from Addis Ababa. This poor region has over 60,000 people that previously had no access to eye care. Eyes for Africa has restored sight to some 4,000 people living in remote areas of Ethiopia who would otherwise have remained visually impaired. Recently, Eyes for Africa set up a permanent Primary Eye Clinic. It has employed a full time local ophthalmic nurse, and amongst other services, school children are being checked, treated and fitted with "reused" spectacles.

Donated spectacles analysed and prescription noted, and then matched to individual patient's needs. Sunglasses are particularly useful for protection after eye surgery.

Please collect spectacles and sunglasses as follows:

In good condition - can be worn without the need for any maintenance.

Hard spectacles cases are useful.

If spectacles or sunglasses are not in a hard or soft case, please place in a sandwich sized in zip-lock bag, with an air pocket to act as cushioning.

Bi-focal glasses are OK.

But no to multi-focal spectacles as they are too hard to match to a patient. If the frames are in good condition and the lenses can be removed, please collect just the frames.

Spectacles and sunglasses are to be brought to the Rotary Club of Traralgon scheduled meetings on Tuesday, 16 September, or Tuesday, 7 October 2025. (6 pm at the Traralgon Golf Club.)

The Rotary Club of Traralgon will then send the glasses to the Eyes for Africa coordinator in Queensland for shipment to Ethiopia.

Thank you for participating in this program.

For further information: <https://www.eyesforafrica.org/>

Please direct enquiries to The Secretary, Rotary Club of Traralgon: glenntatches@gmail.com

Statistics for 2 September 2025

Apologies:

Carol Crewe, Gradwell Fredericks, Paul Gardiner, Simon Hemming, Rae Mackay, Darryl Marks, Adele Nardino, Lorraine Paulet, Andy Ringin, Endel Vallak, Janet Wallis, Peter Wallis, Virginia Gissara.

Visiting Rotarians:

Partners: Trish Elliott

Guests:

| Statistics | |
|--------------------|----|
| No of members | 37 |
| Member Apologies | 13 |
| LOA | |
| Members Present | 24 |
| Visiting Rotarians | |
| Partners | 1 |
| Guests | |
| Total | 25 |

Recent and upcoming Celebrations and Anniversaries :

| | |
|---------------|---|
| INDUCTIONS | |
| BIRTHDAYS | 25 September Adele Nardino |
| ANNIVERSARIES | 19 September Helen & Andy Ringin; 22 September Terry & Claire Carmichael; 27 September Russell & Chris Davidson |

ROTARY INVOCATION

For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve through Rotary, we give thanks.

THE 4 WAY TEST

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

1. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
2. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all

This is our club's 3812th dinner meeting. We have hosted 129 Business Breakfasts

District Website: Information relating to Clubs within our District may be found via the following address:
<http://www.district9820.org>

Club website: www.traralgonrotary.com

Facebook : 'Traralgon Rotary', like us and request to become a friend.

| | This Meeting 16 September 2025 | Next Meeting 30 September 2025 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Programme | Club Service—Golf Day | Vocational Visit |
| Speaker | Ron Elliott | Gippsland Water |
| Speakers Chair | | |
| Sergeant | Glenn Azlin | |
| Cashiers | Carol Crewe & Virginia Gissarra | |
| Greeters | Terry Carmichael & Russell Davidson | |
| Bulletin | Norm Butler | Janet Wallis |