



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

18 November 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

Well, we may not have had a meeting since the middle of October but we have been BUSY!! Sandwiches have continued and we only have a couple of sessions to go before the end of the year, Debby has been chasing up the Nominations for our Year 12 Citizenship Awards at Traralgon Secondary College and Lavalla as well as our Year 10 Awards at St Paul's (which next year, will be Year 11 and the following year move to Year 12. Helen, Debby and I have been working through the nominations - some very worthy ones at that and have been impressed with the spirit shown by these young people. Those Awardees for the Secondary College and Lavalla have been selected and the St Paul's ones should be completed this week. Award season will commence at the end of November!!



Lorraine is still having some wins with remaining personal letters from the Time Capsule as we are now turning our attention to the burial to take place on December 10th – 10.30 for an 11am start behind Monmeath Senior Citizens building in Victory Park. A short formal proceeding will include the reburial of the Time Capsule for which businesses and individuals are now preparing their items. Our own Club offering will include some of those photos and pieces of information from the 2000 Capsule as well as quite a lot of information about the Club itself as we sit in 2025. Photos and examples of our pull up banners, brochures, programs like Pride of Workmanship and the Changeover, projects, annual report for 2024-5etc will all be included. The Express is coming to the burial as are a number of Latrobe City Councillors as well as the new Mayor who will take part in the formal program. Invitations will go out to specific invitees during this week. The winners of the raffle for the two bottles of wine from the previous capsule will also be drawn. A press release will go into the Express on the week of the 24th November reminding people of the event and the fact that the final day for item acceptance will be December 1st. Behind the scenes Chris Gavan and Paul have been repairing and rejuvenating the Capsule itself and preparing it for another 25 years underground.

As well as all this, St Paul's Secondary Campus had their Wheely Day for Wheelchairs for Kids on Thursday and apart from the wind which really

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.

whipped up at about 11.30, the kids were fantastic, very positive, very enthusiastic – and because they were working for House Points, QUITE competitive. On the other hand it was lovely to often see kids from different Houses working together on the laps of the Basketball courts. More photos and information will be available to us very soon. The Year 10 cohort commenced the day, followed by the Year 9s, Year 7s and Year 8s! Final donation figures are not yet complete and there is still time for us as Club members to support the drive through our own project account, after which Peter will deposit a single amount to the School. Many thanks to Simon and Simon for initiating this project.

TCP had its 40th celebrations during last week and on Friday I was privileged to speak on behalf of the Community and Service Organisations in thanking the Plaza for all they do to encourage a Community spirit in Traralgon. It was a pleasure to do so as we are very fortunate in the support we receive from Plaza Management.

The Board met as usual last Tuesday evening and much was covered. You will find a separate message in this bulletin covering major points, decisions and thoughts from the meeting, including the fact that Norm Butler is going to review our bylaws against the recommended / revised set that came out recently and report back. Thanks Norm. As we meet tonight to go through our Annual General Meeting process, it would be great to see a really strong member turnout. There will be few short details to cover afterward but then we will have a relaxing night.

Cheers

President Janne

Report of 21 October 2025

Sergeant Gavan Hodgson opened the meeting at 6.30 pm and welcomed visitors Carol and Murray Johnstone, Ari and Rohan O'Brien, Partners Li Azlin and Trish Elliott and all Rotarians to the 3815th meeting of the Rotary Club of Traralgon.

Invocation was read by Debby Butler. **Toast:** "Peace in the Middle East"

President Janne Speirs thanked all for participating in the "**Lift the Lid**" campaign by wearing hats and in the **Polio Eradication/Polio Plus** Program by wearing something red.

Janne mentioned the **Time Capsule Raffle** where two bottle of red wine put into the capsule in the year 2000 are on offer, first prize a magnum of Narkoojee 1998 Cabernets (Chris O'Brien says very good) and second prize a bottle of 2000 Yellowglen shiraz. Members were asked to take books of 4 tickets to sell. Will be drawn on 10 December 25.

It was Peter Wallis's birthday, so Janne gave him our best wishes. (Later, during the Sergeant's session we sang "Happy Birthday to You" as well)

Rae Mackay gave a report about the Christmas Parade. All preparations are going well. To date \$20,000 has been raised to defray expenses. Adele is doing a fantastic job organising participants. As the number of cars that wish to join the parade has grown, there will be a "Show and Shine" on the south side of Kay St where the cars can be admired. There are 67 stalls filled for the Christmas Market (an increase on last year). Because the APEX Club is unable to participate as marshalls, Rotary is running the show this year. Rae requested as many Rotarians participate as possible to do marshalling duties. The Parade will be held on 30 November 2025 commencing at 10.30am, however preparations will commence at about 8.30am

Rae also told us that the Christmas banners would be used as street decorations this year again. He said that Latrobe City have adopted the idea for Morwell and Moe as well.

Christmas Dinner. Rae has booked Narkoojee for our Christmas Dinner on 16 December. The cost is \$60 per head. The dinner is for Rotarians and friends. As there is a 65 person limit at the venue, Rae advised to book early (with him).



Lorraine Paulet. Rae said that Lorraine is now home as of this afternoon at 4pm

Terry Carmichael: Terry reported on last Saturday's Bunnings BBQ. 14½ packages of sausages were sold with lots of soft drinks. The earning for the day was \$1175.65 plus a \$200 contribution from Ray Duxbury, Gippsland Boat Supplies – a total of \$1375.65. Terry said that our last BBQ for the year would be on 29 November 25

Chris O'Brien reported on progress with the **Time Capsule**. Chris said that the collection process is well underway at the MacFarlane Burnet Room in the City Offices. There are 2 more days to go. He needs volunteers to staff the room on 28 October from 12 until 3pm.

On 10 December the **Time Capsule** will be put back into the ground for the next 25 years. We will be seeking contributions to go into the capsule. On that day Chris plans to have an official function and a BBQ.

Janne Spiers, as President has received an envelope from the Time Capsule which was sent from the President of the day, Glen Brand. The parcel included Photos from the recovery of the capsule in 2000, photos of past Rotarian personalities, Richard Jeffery, Ron Skinner, Paul Chivers, Glen Brand and Nancy Boyle and the 2000 club calendar of activities. Janne will put these on display at a later date. Janne said that we need to put current photos of Traralgon into the capsule when it is next buried.

Alana Storey Job Talk. Alana gave a talk about her job in Traralgon. Alana works for the Gippsland Regional Public Health Unit, based at Gippsland Regional Hospital. The origins of the unit were during the COVID epidemic and has continued to this day to assist public health in Victoria. Alana's position is Prevention and Public Health Officer covering Baw Baw and Latrobe municipalities. The work involves much collaboration with those Councils. There are a wide variety of projects operating, covering public health issues such as smoking prevention, healthy eating, heart health, whether people in the area are accessing existing health support networks and organising Gippy Girls Camps. There is considerable work in the Breastfeeding area with the Latrobe area having a low rate of breastfeeding.



There are concerns that vaping is on the rise and heart issues are a major cause of deaths. The Hazelwood Health study, although aimed at the effects upon health of the emissions from the Hazelwood Mine Fire, discovered major underlying health issues which needed addressing. This resulted in the Latrobe Health Assembly being created.

President Janne thanked Alana for her interesting talk.

Lift the Lid Day. To mark the occasion, a photo of all present (with hats on) was taken.

Janne then showed a Lift the Lid Video, an initiative of Australian Rotary Health. Janne said that this initiative aligns with our own "Tee off for Mental Health" Golf Tournament and other projects such as Alexanders Fence and Equine Therapy.



Polio Eradication/Polio Plus Janne spoke of the polio eradication/ polio plus program and the need for ongoing work to ensure that the scourge of polio is eliminated entirely from the world, Janne showed photos of her visit to Muradabad in India where Rotary Volunteers were assisting vaccination of children. Janne described the big parade in this big Indian town with photos of the volunteers and children involved. The whole town is canvassed before the vaccinations begin so that coverage is as complete as possible, There is wide acceptance of the vaccinations and appreciation for the work being done,

Janne said that Bill Gates was a major sponsor of the program and has underwritten it to \$100 million. As long as Polio exists anywhere in the world it is a threat. Without ongoing immunisations it is said that one case could become 255,000 cases within 10 years. Places like Pakistan are not polio free – that is without polio for at least 3 years. When polio is eradicated, it will be the greatest advance in public health ever. Rotarians were asked to donate to both of the above causes.

Sergeant's Session. Sergeant Gavan broke the ice with a rabbit joke to myxo'd reaction. Really Gavan, you should not do that to us!! Andy Ringin was chastised for not lining up the holes in Jarlsberg cheese and various other imaginative fines were levied. Lastly it appears that Moscow Circus does not want a lion to be barman.

President Janne said that because of the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday falling on our next meeting date, our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18 November and will be the Annual General Meeting. Janne closed the meeting with the theme **Unite for Good**



Below is a summary of the Board Meeting

Beyond Bank—Peter has had further discussions and it was resolved to invest surplus funds in an Interest Bearing at call Account with Beyond Bank as the Bendigo Bank no longer offers interest on at call funds

Wheely Day at St Pauls AGS on Thursday.

Time Capsule Burial Planning for the 10 December at Victory Park - LCC Permit has been applied for the event and the fee has been waived , a Public Notice of the day will be placed in the LV Express, all other planning continuing well.

Bluelight Request - due to responses we will not participate in this event

Based on an email from Janet Wallis , a Mental Health presentation will be conducted at a Dinner Meeting early next year and there was a recommendation also to separate our Lift the Lid and End Polio Now evenings

Our club voted for PDG Linda Humphries for the Nominee for District Council of Legislation.

We are in the process of approving two nominations from each of Lavalla , Traralgon Secondary College and St Pauls AGS for Citizenship Awards

A Club Protection presentation by Ken Mirams will be booked in for a dinner early next year

DIK have items for distribution within our local community - Janne will look into the possibility of coordinating the distribution of these items with Community Policing



Eat Up.



It's officially spring, and we are so ready for a new season of impact!

Term 3 was a huge success thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, partners, and supporters. We can't thank you enough for the generosity and heart you've shown. Your hard work has made a difference for thousands of kids across the country, ensuring they have the fuel they need to thrive at school. Let's keep this momentum going all the way through Term 4!

In Term Three, 2025, we supported hungry students at over 1,100 schools across Australia.

We're celebrating a massive milestone: Eat Up has officially delivered 5 million sandwiches to kids across Australia! When we started in 2013, our goal was simple: to make sure no child in need went hungry at school. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, our amazing volunteers, donors, and partners, we've been able to turn that vision into a reality, one sandwich at a time. This milestone isn't just a number; it's 5 million moments of nourishment, dignity, and hope. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

1 in 4 Australian students at the schools we support need an Eat Up lunch*

In a country like ours, that's not really fair, is it? Children frequently arrive at school without the food they need to fuel their growing bodies and brains. Missing out on lunch has a big impact on children, with hunger causing fatigue and poor concentration. This commonly leads to learning difficulties and behavioural problems in school, with disadvantaged children falling further behind their peers. Many children come from homes experiencing financial hardship, substance abuse, violence, homelessness or are refugees.

Eat Up is Australia's only organisation providing free lunches to students on a national scale. To date, we have provided over 5 million lunches to Aussie kids in need! With the help of our partners and dedicated volunteers, each week, Eat Up makes and delivers over 40,000 lunches directly to schools for vulnerable children. Eat Up operates efficiently with a ratio of one staff member for every 700 volunteers!

Source: *Eat Up Evaluation Report, 2024



"The International Committee Chair, Simon Trebilcock, would like to thank Wells Humphrey of Chris Humphrey Office National (CHOM) for the use of the company boardroom on Thursday, 13th November 2025, for the conduct of the telecommunications meeting between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Honiara and the Rotary Club of Traralgon."

Statistics for 21 October 2025

Apologies: Carol Crewe, Gradwell Fredericks, Virginia Gissara, Paul Gardiner, Ian Keith, Brian Lythgo, Darryl Marks, Adele Nardino, Lorraine Paulet, Jan Riddle, Ray Scheffer, Glenn Setches, Simon Trebilcock

Leave of Absence: Simon Hemming

Visiting Rotarians:

Partners: Li Azlin, Trish Elliott

Guests : Carol Johnston, Murray Johnstone, Ari O'Brien, Rohan O'Brien

Guest Speaker:

Statistics	
No of members	36
Member Apologies	13
LOA	1
Members Present	22
Visiting Rotarians	
Partners	2
Guests	4
Total	28

Recent and upcoming Celebrations and Anniversaries :

INDUCTIONS	27 November 1989 Russell Davidson
BIRTHDAYS	19 November John Paulet; 22 November Paul Gardiner; 2 December Trish Lythgo
ANNIVERSARIES	

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?

3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all

This is our club's 3816th 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 18 November 2025	Next Meeting 2 December 2025
Programme	Annual General Meeting	Travel
Speaker	Social Night	Joy Martin
Speakers Chair	Janne Speirs	Heather den Houting
Sergeant	Glenn Azlin	Gavan Hodgson
Cashiers	Tom Corrigan & Peter Wallis	Jan Inglis & Ian Keith
Greeters	Russell Davidson & Heather den Houting	Michael Rossiter & Alana Storey
Bulletin	Norm Butler	Janet Wallis