



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

19 May 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2025—2026

President
Janne Speirs

Immediate Past President
Charlie Speirs

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President's Prattle

Hi all

First may I say a huge thankyou particularly to Carol for her fantastic effort with Pride of Workmanship at our last meeting and also to everyone else involved in the evening. Darren Chester was a great speaker and everyone seemed to have a wonderful evening.

We had a very busy Board meeting on Tuesday evening and Secretary Glenn will be getting a breakdown to you all in the next couple of days but I did want to mention that with

sincere regret, we accepted Ray Scheffer's letter of resignation. He will still maintain his involvement with the Christmas Parade and Centenary House but is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain his regular Rotary commitments. We will formally recognise his involvement at a later date.

Mothers' Day wrapping went really well with \$1188 raised in donations. People - especially young Dads were absolutely thrilled to know they didn't have to wrap the gifts themselves!!!! We had a lot of fun and there was some real interest in what Rotary is and does.

Tonight we will be finalising our Friends of Rotary concept so that we will have another way of recognising those who work so hard with us in our service projects but for whom joining Rotary at this time is not feasible. You will all have had the opportunity to examine the paperwork which Glenn will have put out along with the notice of meeting. Please make sure you've read the document carefully so we can make a wise decision.

President Elect Simon won't be with us tonight but his year - and Board - are really starting to take shape and I believe we're in for a great year of service and enjoyment!! There will be some changes on the Board and that is an important aspect of our future as a Club. He will be taking us through his plans at our Club Assembly in June so that is something to look forward to!

We have a number of things to discuss tonight so it should be a good evening and I look forward to seeing everyone.

Cheers

President Janne



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.

Meeting Notes 6 May 2026

Among Club announcements, P Janne Speirs presented an Honorary Membership pin to Len Jones and thanked him for his many hours of volunteer work at Rotary events and weekly with the gardening group at Rotary Centenary House.



Pride of Workmanship 2026

Carol Crewe welcomed those present, specifically Counsellor Dale Harringman, BDG Bill Degnan, Judy Degnan who will be District Chair of Inner Wheel next year. She welcomed recipients of Pride of Workmanship awards, together with family and friends PDG Bill Degnan offered the toast to Rotary International.



He stated that Rotary is a fantastic organization with over 1,200,000 members, 35,000 clubs in 221 countries. There are 36 members here in Traralgon which is part of District 9815, a district which takes in Gippsland and south east suburbs of Melbourne.

Traralgon has achieved a lot this year - Christmas parade, international water project, time capsule, and tonight Pride of Workmanship. Bill mentioned he was very proud when one of his employees received the award.

Francesco Arezzo is Rotary International President. He is a respected orthodontist, has extensive leadership and experience. The theme for this year is "Unite for Good". We can emphasize the bridge that divides or the shared dream that unites us and excites us, so we are encouraged to expand the global impact of Rotary, strong clubs transform global challenges into local projects.

Response by PDG Charlie Spiers. What does Rotary do? Approached by a speech therapist to help a non-verbal client needing an outdoor play area. We provided a fence which allowed free play outside. Sarsfield lost houses in the Black Saturday fires. Rotary was involved in helping supply a community hall. The community was able to decide what they wanted. 10 years later they have opened a beautiful hall meeting the needs of their community. We want to make sure the community moves forward in a positive way. He thanked Bill for the toast and all present for the way it was received.

Guest Speaker The Hon Darren Chester.



PP Carol Crewe introduced our guest speaker saying: It has been an honour to work with Darren when she was at Centenary house. She appreciated his work for them and across the community. He is one of the best members of parliament. It is a pleasure to welcome him tonight.

Daren began explaining his early encounter with Rotary. As a young 19 year old junior journalist he attended the local Rotary meeting to report on their work in return for a free meal.

If we think about where the world is today it can be a bit overwhelming with wars, tragedies in Alice Springs and it is easy to think "I feel hopeless" He challenged us with words from three people:

Desmond Tutu. "Do your bit of good where you are it is those little bits of good that overwhelm the world."

Steve Waugh quoted: "Attitudes are contagious is yours worth catching?"

And Neil Donahue said "When all is said and done more is done than said." I encourage you on your journey to be the person who does more and talks less.

Rotary has the 4 way test: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

People who join Rotary have positive attitudes and so do tonight's award recipients. That attitude does change lives in our community. You can change lives in a small way that makes a difference.

People are being recognized tonight for taking pride in their work. We don't do that enough. It is OK to be proud of your work. "Do it once and do it right" [the motto of Pride of Workmanship] and don't fall into the trap of talking yourselves down or talking the country down - because this is a great place.

We recently celebrated Anzac Day – The 103,000 Australians who have died in armed conflict can be honoured. Anzac Day is not that controversial - turn up and honour those who served and those who died. Some of the greatest moments in our lives are because of those who serve our country to make it safe. When you see people who want to 'boo' it is inappropriate and disrespectful, we are better than that. We can be proud of what we've achieved. It is not that hard to be respectful of those who have been here for 65,000 years. Australia Day is a bit of a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to pause and reflect that we are not perfect, but we are pretty good. And we need to celebrate that. Acknowledge our past, but also know it is not just because of what we have - mountains and rivers - but because of our people

Tonight we are recognising people who do their best in our community I want to congratulate you for that.

We have to believe in ourselves more. We are only here for a short period of time. We have a choice to make about what our contribution is to this time [in history]. Be forward looking, optimistic and choose to be responsible.

Congratulations to those recognized tonight.

Carol thanked Darren for speaking and presented a tree adoption certificate as a thank you and small sign of our appreciation for him being here tonight.



Presentation of Awards:

Ron and Heather read the citations (see pages 4 & 5). Darren Chester and Dale Harriman presented awards.

Reply on behalf of organisations by Daniel Logan TCP Thanks for the incredible support for our community and being able to recognise the work of our employees. TCP nominated a security person a couple of years ago and he is still grateful. Thank you for tonight and future impact on our community and our recipients.

Reply on behalf of recipients by Ann Hamden Mental Health First Aid. Ann reflects on the journey. Doing the Mental Health First Aid course, attending the golf day, it is a real honour to be part of this group. Looking around the room it is clear this room is full of people who care about our community and doing a good job it is about pride in the little things that often go unnoticed.

It is about the unexpected benefits - opportunities for informal conversations those chats that can lead to other things that are significant. Thanks to those who nominated us all. We are truly grateful.

Traralgon Rotary President Janne Spiers was invited to close the event. It is great to have a new cohort of awardees and be able to recognise people who make a difference in our community. This is a very special event for the club

Thank you all for coming tonight - to special guests, fellow Rotarians from other clubs, awardees, nominees and supporters. Hope you have enjoyed the evening. And don't forget:



Unite for Good

Pride of Workmanship Award 2026 Recipients

Allison Kerrigan – Senior Administration Officer, Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre



(Tess Poole, GRAC Manager)

Allison is our go-to person for just about everything. She manages rosters, handles complaints, oversees memberships, and keeps on top of all account payments and defaults. She also takes care of the behind-the-scenes work that many of us don't even realise is happening—but that keeps everything running smoothly. Beyond her role, Allison is someone the entire team feels comfortable turning to.

Her work is consistently exceptional, and she holds herself to a very high standard. She's incredibly reliable—someone we can always count on, without ever having to question whether something will get done. Allison never seeks recognition or praise, which makes her even more deserving of it. This award is a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and care she brings to our team every single day.



Rosalie Davey – Volunteer, Gippsland Rotary Centenary House



(Tania Whitehead, GRCH Manager)

Rosalie has been a volunteer at GRCH for more than 20 years. Along with her close friend she was one of the very first volunteers. Her initial duties were general cleaning and laundry. While guests are encouraged to do their own laundry and cleaning, making sure we have enough linen for 30 rooms is no mean task.

Rosalie, despite her own health issues, is still active carrying out these duties every Monday. Rosalie does not need a GPS to find her way to the stage 1, 2 & 3 laundry cupboards. Recruiting new volunteers these days is problematic, so

Rosalie's commitment and diligence is greatly appreciated by the staff and committee of management at Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

Kelly Logan – Retail Manager, Sportsgirl



(Adele Nardino, Traralgon Centre Plaza)

Kelly has been a valued part of Traralgon Centre Plaza for over 20 years. She began as Store Manager at Sanity, and when the store closed in 2022, she transitioned seamlessly into the Store Manager role at Sportsgirl, bringing her experience, adaptability, and passion for retail into the new environment. Kelly demonstrates an outstanding work ethic—often arriving before opening and staying back to ensure the store is immaculate and ready for the next day. She sets exceptionally high standards in store presentation, customer service, and team relationships, earning deep respect from her staff. She runs a tight, efficient operation and

continually looks for opportunities to grow, improve, and drive sales. Above all, every customer is greeted with her warm, friendly smile. Kelly's loyalty, professionalism, and dedication truly embody the spirit of the Pride of Workmanship Award, and she is highly deserving of this recognition.

David Valentini – Retail Manager, The Reject Shop

(Daniel Logan, Traralgon Centre Plaza)



David has been a dedicated employee of The Reject Shop for more than 20 years. Throughout this time, he has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, reliability, and genuine pride in everything he does. During his time at TCP, he has also built strong relationships and contributed positively to the broader community within our Centre. His tireless efforts and commitment to high standards never go unnoticed, and his impact extends well beyond the store.

David leads by example, supports his team, and continually goes above and beyond to ensure the store operates smoothly, this shows in the exceptional results his store delivers. His loyalty, professionalism, and positive attitude make him a truly deserving recipient of this award.

Ann Hamden and Susanne Lampitt – Mental Health First Aid Program



(Ian Keith, Traralgon Rotary)

Ann Hamden and Susanne Lampitt are credentialed mental health nurses who delivered Mental Health First Aid Courses run in the Gippsland area by the Traralgon Rotary Club between 2020 and 2023. Both Ann and Susanne have more than forty years' experience in the mental health sector, are highly qualified and have had senior roles in management and education and training. In delivering the courses, Ann and Susanne demonstrated their wealth of knowledge and lived experience in a friendly and engaging way.

This is evidenced by the wonderful feedback they received from course participants. The courses were delivered in a difficult period, mainly due to COVID, yet Ann and Susanne dealt with any issues in a relaxed manner. Travelling was no problem whether it be to Bairnsdale or Foster, IT issues were overcome, and courses were delivered at night during the week or on successive Sundays during the day. Their work in the wider community is well recognised and, in the light of current high rates of mental health challenges, is extremely valuable. Both Ann and Susanne are passionate, committed and dedicated. They are worthy recipients of a Pride of Workmanship Award.

Thomas Anderson – Marketing and Communications Officer, Latrobe Community Health Service



(Charlie Speirs, Traralgon Rotary and Charlotte Anderson, Australian Community Support Organisation)

In his role as a Communications Officer with Latrobe Community Health Service, Tom consistently demonstrates a high level of expertise and creativity. However, it is his generous contribution beyond his formal role that truly distinguishes him.

Tom has played an integral role in the success of the annual Rotary, ACSO, and Lifeline "Tee Up for Mental Health" Golf Day. Drawing on his exceptional graphic design skills, he has developed a comprehensive suite of high-quality

materials including event signage, QR codes, posters, and writable PDF entry forms. His work is not only visually polished but also highly functional, enhancing both participant experience and event efficiency.

In addition to his design contributions, Tom also volunteers his time as the event's photographer, capturing the spirit and impact of the day with professionalism and care. This contribution, offered outside of his regular duties, reflects his genuine commitment to the cause and the community.

Tom exemplifies the values of the Pride in Workmanship Award—taking immense pride in his work, applying his skills with generosity, and making a meaningful difference through his contributions. He is highly deserving of this recognition.

Anja Norwood – Administration Officer, ACSO Family and Carers Support Service



(Charlotte Anderson, ACSO)

It is with great pride that I nominate Anja for the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award. Anja is the embodiment of professionalism, dedication, and quiet excellence, consistently going above and beyond in her role and setting a standard that inspires those around her.

As an administrative professional, Anja demonstrates an exceptional eye for detail and an unwavering commitment to accuracy and quality. No task is ever approached with anything less than her full care and attention. She has an innate ability to anticipate needs, solve problems before they arise, and ensure that operations run seamlessly—often behind the scenes, without seeking recognition.

What truly sets Anja apart is her attitude. She approaches every challenge with calm determination, never complains, and consistently brings a positive, solutions-focused mindset. Her reliability and work ethic make her an indispensable part of the team, and her quiet strength fosters confidence in everyone she works with. Anja's innovation and initiative are equally remarkable. She continually looks for ways to improve systems and processes, enhancing efficiency and outcomes not only for her team but for the broader organisation and community.

A standout example of her contribution is her significant involvement in the annual Rotary, ACSO, and Lifeline Golf Day. Anja has dedicated countless hours, applying her administrative expertise to ensure the event's success. Anja's work reflects the true spirit of the Pride in Workmanship Award—taking pride in what she does, striving for excellence, and making a positive difference through her efforts. She is a valued and respected team member whose contributions deserve recognition and celebration. I wholeheartedly recommend Anja for this award.

Statistics for 5 May 2026

Apologies: Debby Butler, Norm Butler, Russell Davidson, Rae Mackay, Ann Moloney, Jan Riddle, Ray Scheffer

Leave of Absence: Simon Hemming

Visiting Rotarians: Bill Degnan, Judy Degnan, (RC of Traralgon Central) Roger Taylor, Robin Noakes (RC of Moe), Dave Swainsbury (RC of Morwell)

Partners: Li Azlin, Trish Elliott, Kaye Keith, Trish Lythgo, Sandra O'Brien

Guests: Hon. Darren Chester MP, Deputy Mayor Dale Harriman, Kay & Len Jones, Neville Carmichael, GRAC - Tess Poole, *Allison Kerrigan, Michael Musgrave, GRCH - *Rosalie Davey, Tania Whitehead, Melinda, Janine, son of Rosalie, TCP - Daniel Logan, Ellen Pyle, *Kellie Logan, Claire Tripodi, *David Valentini, Madison Mattick, Kylie Attlee, MHFA - *Ann Hamden, *Susanne Lampitt, Berwyn Lampitt, ASCO - Charlotte Anderson, *Tom Anderson, *Anja Norwood, Debbie McDonough, Sharon Stokes, Russ Stokes, Jenny Svboda, Michelle Fawkner, Amanda Breese, Doug Kelly

* Pride of Workmanship Awardees

Statistics	
No of members	35
Member Apologies	7
LOA	1
Members Present	27
Visiting Rotarians	5
Partners	5
Guests	34
Total	71

INDUCTIONS	28 May 2008 Janne Spiers
BIRTHDAYS	
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 3828th 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 19 May 2026	Next Meeting 2 June 2026
Programme	Club Service	Motor Bike Safety
Speaker		Shaun Lennard
Meeting Chair	Heather den Houting	Ron Elliott
Sergeant	Glen Azlin	Lorraine Paulet
Greeters	Tom Corrigan & Terry Carmichael	Ann Maloney & Darryl Marks
Cashiers	Debby Butler & Paul Gardiner	Jan Inglis & Ian Keith
Bulletin	Norm Butler	Janet Wallis