



## Serving Through Rotary for 85 Years District 9815 Victoria

The Club meets on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**1 September 2026**

### Club Project Update Rotary Centenary House Garden from Ray Scheffer



The development of the gardens around Centenary House started at the end of the building of Stage 1. Stage 1 opened in 2006 and featured mainly Australian native plantings.

As stage 2 developed in 2012 we started planning a surrounding garden area that would embrace the current and future development of GRCH—an attractive, colourful, peaceful surround that was welcoming to our guests on arrival and on returning from having treatment as the Hospital. The arbour that covers part of the walk to the hospital and water features were introduced around this time.

When Stage 3 was developed in 2019 extensive gardens and lawn areas were introduced to complete the garden areas around the House. Recently one small area was designated as a tribute and acknowledgement to all the Volunteers and has become the Volunteers Garden where every volunteer and person involved with the running of GRCH has planted a plant in the garden.

Beautiful conifers, lemon, lime and grapefruit trees, passionfruit, azaleas, roses, box hedging etc. etc. to name a few are now all combined to make the gardens as lovely as they are all year round as the plants mature. The feedback we get from the house guests makes everything so worthwhile and this is only achieved by the regular group of volunteers we have that turn up every Monday, their various skills cover on-going maintenance on the House and the gardens. The reputation of GRCH and the gardens has spread far and wide and every year we have groups come and visit and go on a tour—from the gardening groups and local service groups to Cancer Council and Blue Ribbon.

The gardens would also not be possible without the generous support through donations—thanks to local Rotary Clubs, local businesses, service clubs and private individuals. Centenary House continues to receive wonderful support from various Rotary club members from the Committee of Management through to the volunteers.



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.



# Rotary South Pacific Conference 2026

**Friday, 30 October 2026 - Sunday, 1 November 2026**

**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)**  
(1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, VIC 3006)

Melbourne 2026 will connect global vision with regional action. From international keynote addresses and

leadership streams to fellowship, collaboration and community impact, this is more than a conference — it is a movement for regional impact.

## Meeting Notes 18 August 2026

Sergeant Gavan Hodgson opened the meeting and welcomed guests Charlotte and Tom Anderson and partners Li Azlin and Trish Elliott

Invocation was said by Glenn Azlin

President Simon thanked Gavan for standing in as Sergeant for the evening.

Terry Carmichael asked for volunteers for the next regular Bunnings BBQ to be held on 12 Dec 26. Janet, Tom and Janne volunteered to fill in the time slots. Terry said that the last Bunnings BBQ was fantastic and thanked all who had volunteered,

Gavan Hodgson advised that Bunnings had asked our Club to assist with a Father's Day Family Night BBQ to be held on 3 September 26 from 5.30 until 7.30. Volunteers will need to be there 1 hour beforehand.

Janet Wallis asked for assistance with the Tee Up for Mental Health BBQ on 25 September 26. Janet has sent out a roster.

Glenn Azlin spoke about the Club's commitment to help the Footy Club with traffic Control and parking at the Grand final to be held at Traralgon Football Ground on Saturday 19 September 26. Glenn requested volunteers for this project.

Janne Speirs spoke about the Rotary South Pacific Zone 8 Conference to be held at the Melbourne Conference Centre from 30 October 26 to 1 November 26. Janne encouraged all Rotarians to attend. The Zone Conference will involve Rotarians from 18 or 19 countries and will have several significant speakers. The theme will be "People-Planet-Peace" Details are on the Conference Website.

Ron Elliott – Rotarian Behind the Badge. Ron chose to speak on his introduction to Rotary. He said that he had no knowledge of Rotary in his younger life, and his first recollection was seeing the Rotary Sign on the Princes Highway en route to his teaching job in Orbost many years ago. In the early 1990s, Ron's first real contact was as Principal of Traralgon Secondary College. He found that Rotary approached the school to make Citizenship Awards to students and Rotarians came to school Awards Nights to present the awards. As it transpired, Charlie Speirs was Chair of the School Council and he invited Ron to join Rotary. Due to pressure of work Ron declined, but upon retirement Ron accepted the invitation and joined the club in 2008. Ron became Director of Youth in 2011 and became Club President in 2014.

Ron's memory of his first Board meeting was an intense discussion about continuing the Solomon's Islands project. As current activity attests, the Project was agreed to and continues with success in the training of a nurse for the medical centre. Another project was establishing the MUNA program, under



the leadership in John Caruana. The first MUNA for the Club was at Forest Edge, at the foot of the ranges north of Warragul. The first Golf Day in 2014 was another event from Ron's year – a small event initially but in 2019, with an enormous amount of work by Russell North MP became the Tee Up for Mental Health Golf Day. In recent times, combining the event with ACSO, it has now grown to a large event with 150 players last year. From his involvement in schools, Ron has concerns about children with Mental Health Issues.

Another favourite project of Ron's is "Eat Up Australia" where Rotarians make cheese sandwiches for schools. This has been recently expanded to include fruit, Australia wide, Eat Up Australia makes and distributed 5 million sandwiches to schools each year. Our Club currently makes 460 rounds of sandwiches a fortnight..

### Guest Speaker



Peter Wallis then introduced our Guest Speaker, Charlotte Anderson. Charlotte is a Team Leader Family Programs at Australian Community Support Organisation. (ACSO) based in Traralgon.

Charlotte started off as a school teacher. She has 7 children and 11 grandchildren. The eldest grandchild is 18years old and the youngest is 18 months old. Charlotte is works full time in ACSO.

Charlotte spoke about the founder of ACSO, Stan McCormack who started the organisation in 1984 when he discovered difficulties in re integrating into the community after a spell in prison. He was very active in supporting others coming from prison and the scope of the work has expanded.

ACSO now does many things, including support for ex-prisoners, drugs and alcohol rehab, mental health and family issues. At present there are 500,000 people in drugs and alcohol rehab nation wide, at an average of 5 people per family that equates to 2,500,000 people being affected. ACSO looks after people awaiting detox and rehab, people coming out of prison needing housing, employment and health support.

Charlotte said that mental health problems do not discriminate. She said that mental health and addiction were connected.

Charlotte spoke about the initial ACSO golf day which like Rotary's started off in a small way. By combining golf days, the result has been a success. She was appreciative that the Golf Day spread the name of ACSO. Her view is that "not every family which needs us, knows us".

Peter Wallis in thanking Charlotte said that it was important to know that ACSO was out there and that the people of ACSO "do lots of work out of passion and commitment". Peter said that the CEO of ACSO had attended the last 3 golf days.

Peter presented Charlotte with a framed Certificate for Adoption of a Tree as thanks.

Charlotte issued an invitation to all Rotarians to attend a pre-Golf Day Event on Thursday 17 September at 5,30pm hosted by ACSO the lifeline Office Church Street Morwell (please note this is a change of venue to that announced on 18 August).

The Swindle was drawn. Terry Carmichael with number 11 was the lucky recipient.

Sergeant Gavan then lead a imaginative fines session attributing unsuspecting Rotarians to many misdemeanours – they all paid up.

President Simon closed the meeting with the Rotary Theme for 2026/27



### Statistics for 18 August 2026

**Apologies:** Debby Butler, Carol Crewe, Gradwell Fredericks, Simon Hemming, Ian Keith, Rae Mackay, Adele Nardino, Helen O'Brien, Lorraine Paulet, Jan Riddle, Andy Ringin, Glenn Setches

**Partners:** Li Azlin, Trish Elliott.

**Guests:** : Tom Anderson

**Speaker:** Charlotte Anderson (ACSO)

| Statistics       |    |
|------------------|----|
| No of members    | 34 |
| Member Apologies | 12 |
| Members Present  | 22 |
| Partners         | 2  |
| Guests           | 2  |
| Total            | 26 |

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2026-2027**

**President:** Simon Trebilcock;

**President Elect:** Vacant;

**Secretary:** Glenn Setches;

**Youth Services:** Alana Storey

**Rotary Foundation:** Glenn Azlin;

**Vocational Services:** Vacant

**Public Image:** Lorraine Paulet;

**Assistant Treasurer and Club Safety Officer:** Helen O'Brien

**Vice President:** Ron Elliott;

**Immediate Past President** Janne Speirs

**Treasurer:** Peter Wallis;

**International:** Charlie Speirs;

**Community Services:** Carol Crewe;

**Membership:** Janne Speirs;

#### **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 3836th 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](http://www.traralgonrotary.com)

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

#### **This Meeting 1 September 2026**

#### **Next Meeting 15 September 2026**

| Programme        | Lesiel Iliafi                                                            | Club Service                |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Speaker          | Williams Syndrome, the experience of the family camp the Club supported. | Final Golf Day Preparations |
| Host             | Janne Speirs                                                             |                             |
| Meeting Chair    | Simon Trebilcock                                                         | Simon Trebilcock            |
| Behind the Badge |                                                                          |                             |
| Sergeant         | Lorraine Paulet                                                          | Glenn Azlin                 |
| Greeters         | Anne Maloney & Darryl Marks                                              | Janet Wallis & Wolf Becker  |
| Cashiers         | Andy Ringin & Michael Rossiter                                           | Peter Wallis & Alana Storey |
| Bulletin         | Carol Crewe                                                              | Janet Wallis                |