



Serving Through Rotary for 85 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**

15 September 2026

Club Project Update Tee Up for Mental Health Golf Day

I think we would all agree that the prime purpose of the Rotary Club of Traralgon is to make a difference in our Community – whether that be local or International.

One of our best fundraising events (and has been for a number of years now) is our Annual Golf Day – which is getting very close – taking place on the Grand Final Eve holiday, on Friday week, September 25th.

This day, the culmination of twelve months work undertaken by members of the Club, along with our Community Partners Lifeline and ACSO, raises some \$30,000 each year, shared equally between the Rotary Club of Traralgon and Lifeline Gippsland. The influx into Lifeline Gippsland helps keep its local activities – particularly based around mental health and suicide prevention – in place. For the Club itself, we used our share of the money throughout the first four years at least, in running Mental Health First Aid courses in and around Traralgon. These were well received across a variety of sectors in the Community.

Over the past three years, our use of the money has changed, allowing us to be more involved in project-based assistance. Projects coming readily to mind, which have had a profound positive effect on those involved, have been the financing of 'Alexander's fence' (an initiative which allowed a family to construct a safe, high fence around their property to keep their level 3 Autistic son within the confines of the property but still able to run and play outside), Equine Therapy (a combined effort which we have helped finance where Headspace counsellors and – up until last year, the Morwell Pro-Active Policing Unit) which allows 'at risk' young people to develop relationships with horses as well as being able to chat with Counsellors and Police in a nonthreatening, friendly environment and, as we heard last meeting, the family camp which Lesiel Iliafi and her family (including twin daughters with Williams Syndrome) was able to attend, bringing great enjoyment and joy to the family as a whole. Equally we have been able to support year 11 students who could not afford the cost, to attend live in programs to prepare them for year twelve and give them opportunities to feel more comfortable about this final year of school

Many other projects of similar type have been able to be supported through our share of the Golf Day profits and I believe we should all be extremely proud of what we are able to do through this annual event, knowing we are continuing to do good in the Community and assist those who are in need

Charlie Speirs



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 1 September 2026

Sergeant Lorraine called the meeting to order. President Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the international committee and their partners who are preparing for a visit to the community of Taba'a which we support in the Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands Visit Planned

Brian Lythgo gave an informative run down of our involvement with Taba'a. The Solomon Islands experienced the devastation of cyclone Namu in 1986. Part of the destruction included over 100 schools. The Australian Governments offered help to rebuild 60. Past Rotarian ... Kopp visited the islands and challenged Rotary Clubs to help rebuild some more.



The Rotary Club of Traralgon took up the challenge and was connected with the community at Taba'a. What began as a project has become a relationship that has spanned some 30 years.

The school was built. Then it became obvious that a medical clinic was needed in the community. We undertook to build that too. A team went, flying to Solomon Islands Capital Honiara, then going by boat the island of Malaita. From there a long car journey took them across the mountains to the other side of the island. Then began a 4 hour walk in quite rough country to the village. Local villagers carried the team's luggage and the building equipment for them.

Construction included locally sourced wood milled by chainsaw. Local people were taught building skills and were very involved in the construction. Some have gone on to have a good trade in building including work in Honiara.

Providing Nursing through the medical clinic has proved to be important but challenging. Supply of suitably trained nurses is limited. So Traralgon Rotary undertook to pay for the training of a local person who was likely to stay in the community. Jesse completed his nursing training, and got married to a fellow nursing student. He returned to the community, but there is insufficient funding to provide work for two nurses. He now lives and works in a larger town, and travels to Taba'a regularly to run a medical clinic there.

The trip in September this year is to assess possible options for community wealth development and will include conversations with SI government, Agriculture and marketing, World Vision, Education and Health authorities. Possibilities include developing a commercial crop. There is also the possibility that another nurse could be trained.

Local leader Timothy Dick has been a regular contact and advisor. Andy, Brian and Eric set off on 19 September for a three week

Reports and Reminders

Terry Carmichael commented on the recent BBQ. He said Rotary is the most inspiring thing on earth – people making a difference. Rosters for 3 September and 12 September were filled.

Gavan encouraged members to attend the Rock and Roll Dance on 19th September in aid of Rotary Centenary House.

Norm Butler brought greetings from past member John Caruana who visited from Sydney this week

Guest Speaker

Lesiel Iliafi is the mother of identical twin girls with William Syndrome. Traralgon Rotary recently sponsored them to attend a Family Holiday at Phillip Island Adventure Park. "It was the best camp ever.

Lesiel and her family came from Tonga and settled in Traralgon in 2017. They chose Traralgon because of the special school here. This is the first camp of this sort that they have attended. Others families attend every year, some for as many as 20 years. She described William Syndrome as somewhat similar to Downs Syndrome, being a genetic disorder. They are the first family in Australia to have identical twins with the syndrome. Her girls thrive on music, are very happy and enjoy life. They are kind and so are loved by their teachers. They have difficulty with development and learning. One of the amazing things about the camp was being in the company of other families who totally understand what it means to live with a child with this syndrome. Siblings were also included in some amazing activities and it was great to see how their other children interacted with children from other families. The range of activities included ropes course, a flying fox, and swimming. The programme was extremely well organized and the food was really good.

Lorraine conducted the fine session.

Glenn advertised Open House Latrobe – an opportunity to visit some historical building in the area. The Welsh Male Choir will perform in Traralgon on 27 September. Li Azlin won the 'swindle'.

President Glenn thanked those with input into the evening, including the Solomon's team and Lesiel and encouraged us to remember that all we do creates lasting impact



"Create Lasting Change"



Tee up for Mental Health Golf Day

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Golf Balls Needed

BBQ roster speak to Janet
0417 030 768

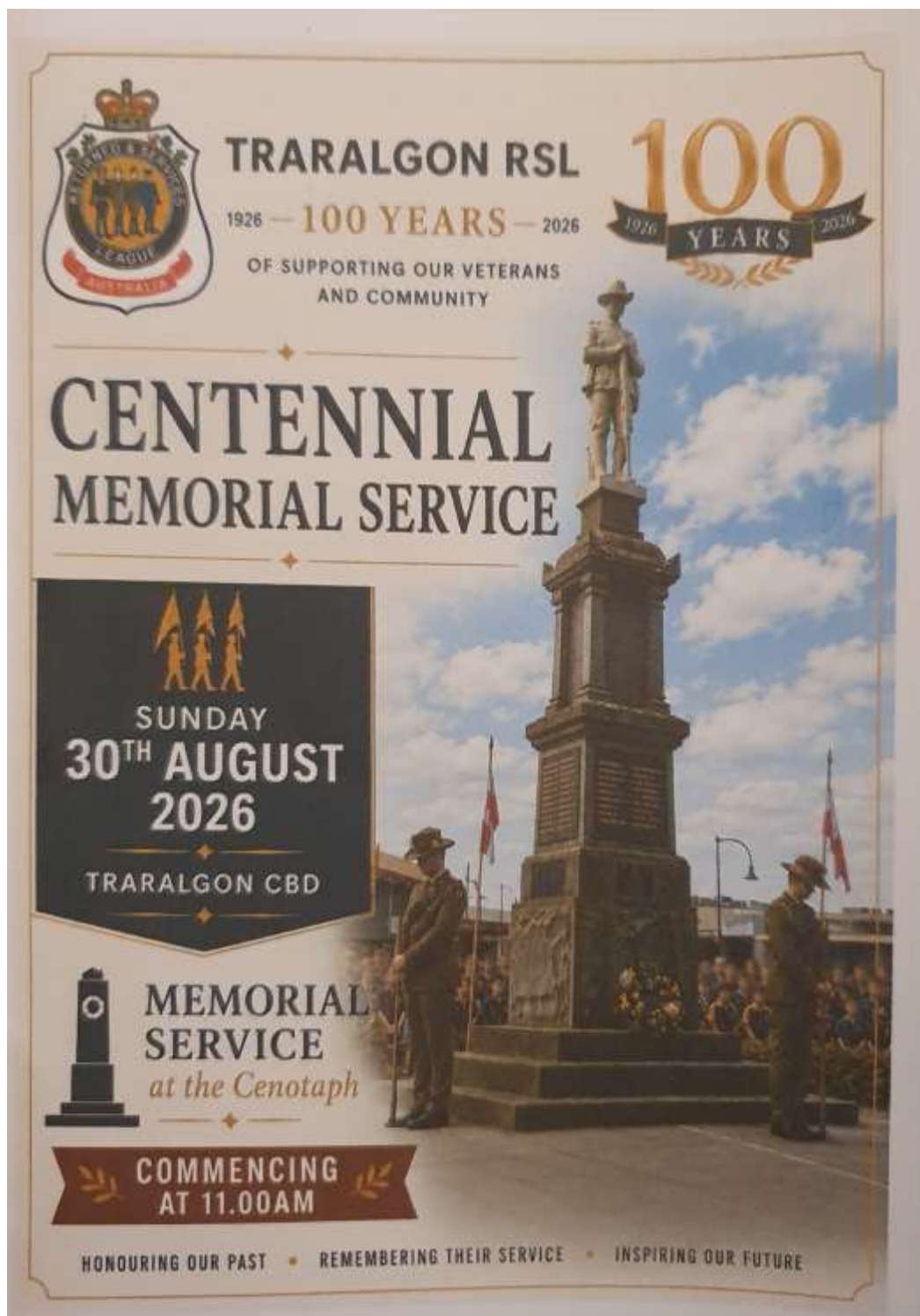
The Traralgon RSL sub-branch celebrated their 100th anniversary with a Centennial Memorial Service at the Cenotaph in Kay Street on Sunday 30th August 2026.

The event commenced with the Traralgon Brass Band marching along Franklin Street in recognition of their playing at the train station for the troops in 1915. The service included laying of wreaths, the release of white doves and a fly over by planes from the Latrobe Aeroclub and a restored World War 2 Kitty Hawk plane.

The contribution of the Rotary Club of Traralgon was acknowledged in the event program along with the thank you to all the organisations that supported the day.

Following the service there was a community event at the Traralgon RSL on Grey Street.

Carol Crewe attended the ceremony and congratulated the organising committee on the anniversary. The committee in working on plans to install a plaque acknowledging the anniversary at the RSL.





“The Source Bulk Foods Traralgon is Gippsland’s largest specialised bulk food retailer! We are proud to bring you the most amazing array of products in a clean and welcoming environment. Come and enjoy our health food options, pantry staples or snacks.

The Source Traralgon was opened in March 2019 and is locally owned by Simon and Kirsty Quail – who share a passion for sustainability and wholefoods. We are located in the heart of Traralgon- next to the old post office on Franklin St!

We have over 350 amazing bulk products at our specialty store including oils, nuts, seeds, grains, herbs, flours, spices, dried fruit, superfoods, health foods, paleo cereal, protein powders, cooking ingredients, Organic gluten-free pastas, raw organic cacao products, a full range of cleaning products, delicious chocolates and sweets, a big selection of vegan products, quinoa – including Australian quinoa, Organic raw coconut oil, all you glace fruit and mixed fruit for Christmas baking and much more. I’d love to talk about the different dietary requirements we cater for like Gluten Free and Dairy free, also vegan friendly and we have some options for Keto and other diets.

I’d also like to talk about the concept of reducing your waste, being zero waste is amazing but it’s totally achievable to make small changes, in every household, every day. We are working towards a circular economy - will explain this further on the night.

I’ll give everyone a tour of the shop, and will give everyone a sample of our freshly ground nut butters, local honeys, organic Kombucha and our organic loose leaf teas and can go into more detail about these products and why I love them.”

We encourage you to bring your own reusable containers and to purchase as little or as much as you need. This is waste-free grocery shopping at it’s very best!”

29 September

Vocational Visit to the Source Bulk Food Store

135 Franklin Street, Traralgon

The dinner at Hotel Traralgon (formerly Ryan’s Hotel)



Statistics for 1 September 2026

Apologies: Carol Crewe, Gradwell Fredericks, Simon Hemming, Ian Keith, Rae Mackay, Darryl Marks, Ann Moloney, Adele Nardino, Helen O'Brien, Jan Riddle, Charlie Speirs.

Partners: Li Azlin, Trish Elliott. Trish Lythgo, Hellen Ringin

Guests: : Len & Kay Jones, Ray & Jackie Scheffer, Eric & Mary Howard, Virginia Gissara.

Speaker: Lesiel Iliafi

Statistics	
No of members	34
Member Apologies	11
Members Present	23
Partners	4
Guests	8
Total	35

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 3837th 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 15 September 2026

Next Meeting 29 September 2026

Programme	Club Service	Vocational Visit
Speaker	Final Golf Day Preparations	The Source Bulk Foods
		135 Franklin St, Traralgon
Meeting Chair	Simon Trebilcock	Dinner: Hotel Traralgon (formerly Ryan's)
Behind the Badge	Norm Butler	
Sergeant	Glenn Azlin	
Greeters	Janet Wallis & Wolf Becker	
Cashiers	TBA	
Bulletin	Carol Crewe	Janet Wallis