



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

THE SPOKE

1st-February-2017

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

info@strathfieldrotary.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/strathfieldrotary>

Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

Month of Feb	Rotary	Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month
Weeks of Feb	United Nations	World Interfaith Harmony Week (1st – 7th Feb)
Days of Feb	United Nations	World Cancer Day (4th Feb)
	United Nations	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (6th Feb)

Steve's Snippets

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2017.

I hope all members and their families have enjoyed the unusually long Xmas Rotary break, and that you're all ready to get involved with the clubs activities over the next five months.

As the year is more than half over and tonight is a club assembly, I thought I would go over the first six months of my year and what is being proposed by the directors and myself for the next five months.

Vocational Service (projects undertaken by Gulian Vaccari and Usha Garg)

The introduction of more detailed and expansive members talks I believe has been very successful, and this program will continue through the year.

The Police Officer of the Year awards were exceptionally well attended and supported by the officers of Burwood and Flemington commands. I never cease to be amazed by the professionalism, character and bravery of our officers in the field.

Similarly the Pride in Workmanship awards this year were even bigger and better than last years with the

quality of nominations so high we couldn't separate two nominees, so we presented joint awards. Usha Garg did an amazing job organising the awards, the citations and the seating. I am convinced these awards are some of the most worthwhile things we do in the community.

Club Service: Director Bradley Ayres

Brad is a very busy guy at work, at home, at sport and with Rotary. He has overseen our new look bulletin "The Spoke", the speaker program with Ed Dunlop, and coordinated David Croft's fantastic "famous people who are Rotarians" Bradley also oversaw what I believe was an improvement in meal quality.

Youth Service: (Arie Pappas)

So far this year Arie has been very busy with our three interact clubs, worked with Peter Smith on the new ROTARACT club and then to finish off the year oversaw the RYLA selections with David Croft and Peter Smith (again) Some of Arie's extracurricular activities saw him promoting our BBQ services to Bunnings and Masters.

Community Service: Andrew Aravanis

The "human sausage cooking machine", "Amazing Andrew": or whatever you want to call him, Andrew has been involved in almost everything this year

I think over 1,300 sausages cooked in a four – five-hour period is simply amazing. Andrew ran a number of successful sausage sizzles, and the club finances are certainly improved due to his organization, his donations, and his clever ordering.

International Service and membership: Director Rick Vosila
Rick has been very busy his year assisting with MC work, developing the stroller derby and working very diligently and positively on developing new membership initiatives.

Secretary Peter van der Sleen and Treasurer Rod McDougal have carried out their roles efficiently and diligently, and I am grateful for the advice and guidance received from them.

Memorable moments

There have been some great evenings this year. The first was the impromptu "Olympic night" celebrating the women's Rugby 7's win, and of course "Rugby, Rio and Rotary", the announcement of our global grant application, thanks to Ross Brown's generous gift, and the awarding of PHF's to John Manenti, Ross and Joan Brown, and Joan Templeman.

The visit to Bankstown Airport with Mike Keenan and his subsequent talk was also well received.

Each week Graham True has done a great job extracting fines from members and I am incredibly grateful to Anu and Umesh Kamkolkar for their efforts with the raffle each week, not forgetting their generous gift for the Stroller Derby prize. Keith Byrn has also done a terrific job with "Heads and Tails" each week, a segment that members seem to enjoy.

Please remember that we are moving to a rotating Fines Chair format, so please check the spoke each week. If your name comes up for the next week it is your responsibility to organize the fines session. If you can't

do it, it is your responsibility to call the next person on the list

Also Anu and Umesh are in India selling some property until early March, so in the meantime Andrew Aravanis has kindly agreed to look after the raffle.

AND..... the bad news..... dinner fees increase to \$30.00 this week. All members who have paid their dues by this week, which includes 3 x \$25 dinner vouchers, will receive a discount for three meals. If you haven't yet paid you might find the Treasurer asking you for another dollar each week.

Membership changes.

Obviously we lost Andrew Kowalski, as noted below, Chandra Banargee did not renew, and both Kevin Freund and Alan Petersen have resigned. So unfortunately, our 38 at the start of the year is now 34 members.

The things you never want to have happen !

Early in the Rotary Year Joe Saad lost his beloved mum, and in December we lost our friend and colleague Andrew Kowalski. Many club members attended the funeral to honour Andrew.

And very sadly just this week Gulian Vaccari lost his dad and his father-in-law. More details when I have them.

The agenda for the next five months.

First up is our District Conference on from the 10th to the 12th of March in Wollongong. Our confirmations are very low at present, so please consider attending this event. Remember the hotel is across the road from the beach, and right next to a fantastic bike trail and the Rotary content shouldn't be too bad either.

On March 27th (a Monday) the club will have a change of venue to Burwood RSL to support Burwood Rotary Club. The dinner is to celebrate the work of RAWCS, an amazing program we have not had a lot to do with, but which has grown significantly over the last few years. I strongly urge you to please attend this evening, and of course it is a partners night. Details will be provide in the spoke.

And now the big one..... THE STROLLER DERBY.

Our hopefully big fundraiser will be on SUNDAY APRIL 30th. And we are ready to go. The website, online registration and donations have been set up. The Facebook page is up, a brochure has been designed, and six banners ordered to assist with advertising.

If possible could as many members as possible allocate the Saturday April 29th for setting up, and Sunday April 30th to provide assistance please.

In June there might be a party night to celebrate some Rotary milestones and this might tie in with hopefully a big cheque presentation to The Infants Home, from the Stroller Derby.

In the next few months we will also be visiting Camelot, possibly another visit to Bankstown Airport, dinner at TAFE and/or Parliament House, the induction of our local MP Jody McKay as an honorary member. And John Manenti returning to speak more about RUGBY, at what I hope will be a membership development evening.

There will be other surprises as well, but as you can see we have a busy few months ahead.

I wish all of you and your families happiness and good health, and particularly good Rotary meeting attendance and involvement in the clubs activities if possible

President Steve



This Week's Speaker: Club Assembly

The club assembly is a meeting that all members should attend to discuss club programs and activities. The assembly allow members to:

1) Brainstorm ideas for projects and activities

- 2) Set goals and develop action plans using the Club Leadership Plan
- 3) Coordinate committee activities
- 4) Review the club's strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses
- 5) Learn more about Rotary and its programs

Ref: <http://www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org/programs/14-may-2012-club-assembly/>



Next Week's Speaker: Vocational talks

Next week we will be treated to talks from one of our newest members,

Andrew Aravanis and one of our most experienced, Peter Smith.



Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>	
Wednesday 8 th Feb 2017	Vocational talks by Andrew Aravanis and Peter Smith
Saturday 11 th Feb 2017	Presidents Elect Training (PETS)
Wednesday 15 th Feb 2017	Elizabeth Pooley & Sue Anne Randazzo: Early intervention centre for babies and young children with hearing loss, and their families.
Wednesday 22 nd Feb 2017	Jamal Lazar: You have Something Special
Wednesday 1 st Mar 2017	tba
Wednesday 8 th Mar 2017	No meeting
Fri 10 th to Sun 12 th March 17	District Conference - Wollongong

<i>Birthdays</i>	
10 th January	Marlene Smith
5 th February	Danielle Aravanis

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
14 th January	Grahame and Penny True,
14 th January	Arie and Athena Pappas
20 th January	Stephen Taylor (Rotary)
30 th January	Peter and Anne Manenti,
30 th January	Paolo and Patricia Giammarco
1 st February	Peter and Marlene Smith
1 st February	Rod McDougall (Rotary)
1 st February	Charles Pitt (Rotary)



The Statistics

Attendance last week	n/a
Leave of absence	n/a
Apologies	n/a
No apology	n/a
Club membership	34
Partners	n/a
Guests	n/a
Members Rotary activities	n/a [hours]

<i>Funds raised last week</i>	
Raffle	\$ n/a
'Heads and tails'	\$ n/a
Sergeants session	\$ n/a

Your Committee 2016-2017

President	Stephen Taylor	Secretary	Peter van der Slesen
President Elect	Rick Vosila	Sergeant	Grahame True
Immediate Past President	Allan Petersen	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Arie Pappas	Community	Andrew Aravanis
International	Rick Vosila	Vocational	Gulian Vaccari
		Club Services	Bradley Ayres

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	Selectprint	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari



RIP Andrew Kowalski

As members would be aware, our fellow Rotarian and Bulletin editor, Andrew Kowalski passed away on 15th December 2016. Editing the Bulletin is both challenging and rewarding. His work in this regard over the past few years was much appreciated.

Rotarian Paolo Giammarco penned the following reflection on Andrew:

"He gave of himself to Rotary in every way that he could:

The Bulletin, the BBQs, the Graffiti, the Eastern Creek Motor Sports days and did things as he saw fit, never asking for recognition; though in my opinion, we as a club, have been short coming towards him on that. He had a knack at identifying strategies needed for achieving certain goals.

Since joining Rotary we've talked at length about strategies for the Strathfield Rotary Club. His thoughts were constantly on revitalising of the club. And I was counting on having him as one of the team in VS directorship next Year.

I had expected to see him at the BBQ on the Xmas Carols night. But he wasn't there, and I was calmly concerned. I rang him on Monday and Tuesday no answer and I thought a little strange for he normally rang back. Tried again on the Wednesday. He was not at the Xmas party. I did know he was undergoing some medication programme but he never let on with any particulars. Suddenly, with no warning, no hint of what may have drastically happened, reality has now hit.

Andrew was a gift to all of us and, though has been untimely taken to that higher order, his legacy of motivating, targeting and achieving the goals for benevolence remains with me, and hopefully with you all. He touched each and every one of us and leaves us his legacy of tolerance and benevolence. He was a good friend. He has been a close friend and a work mate for years. Since 1977 in fact I am happy and proud to have known him. What can you say when close friends pass? You're in shock, and words become lost in the grief.

It was a pleasure to be a work mate and in recent years a fellow Rotarian with him. I/we are in deep sympathy and in sorrow along with his family and am sure other work related mates, befitting of loss of one of one's own family.

It was two or three weeks back, we last talked for a good period and shared coffee and lunch. He loved pizzas, he loved limoncello, and I am remised at been slack that we weren't able to enjoy these as much lately. All of a sudden, you're late, you've missed the boat. Now, sharing of our lives with Andrew is over.

We will miss you Andrew.

Paolo

Out and About

Croquet – Wednesday 18th February 2017



