



Rotary
Club of Strathfield



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

THE SPOKE

16 November 2016

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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

Month of November	Rotary	Rotary Foundation Month
Days of November	United Nations	14 World Diabetes Day Development 16 International Day for Tolerance

President Steve's Snippets

Hi everyone,

This week has been a real down and up week for me. Last Tuesday was a particularly bad day when I was advised that only 9 Rotarians in total would be visiting the Infants Home at Ashfield.

On Wednesday I was again very disappointed for the staff of the Home, who had stayed back to welcome us and give a very informative briefing on what they do, and the children's and their families lives they positively affect.

This was a regular meeting of our Club at the regular time, perhaps only 5 or 6 kilometres from where we normally meet, there were no meeting fees, and yet the attendance was only a third to a half what would normally be expected.

I think that's all I should say on the matter, otherwise I'll get into more trouble.

On to more positive thoughts, because I refuse to let these letdowns get the better of me. On Sunday afternoon I visited my good friend and great supporter of Strathfield Rotary, Rotarian Peter Manenti's home.

For some time now, Peter has been aware of the work of the Infants Home, and has attended a number of their functions and BBQ's.

Following some discussion, Peter has willingly agreed to sponsor two of the main prizes for the Stroller Derby. That means that with the very generous Gold Coast holiday offered by the Kamkolkars, also great supporters of Rotary, that we now have the main prizes locked in for the Stroller Derby.

Following this wonderful news, my thankfully very tech savvy daughter Lynda came over and assisted me in setting up the web page, event details, prizes and fundraising element for the Stroller Derby. That process is now about 50 percent complete, and will be much closer this week when Treasure Rod sets up the payment portal on the new website.

This web site, event entry, and participant fundraising will now allow entrants to fundraise for the event, and obtain sponsors, just as Rick did for the recent Oxfam walk, very likely increasing the fundraising potential of the event.

So progress is being made and the event will be able to be launched shortly.

As I have also indicated recently, Rotarian Usha Garg, is doing a fantastic job organizing the Pride of Workmanship awards. On her own initiative Usha asked the Strathfield Council for sponsorship for the event, and I am very pleased to report that they have given us \$1,000.

Together with our other great regular sponsors, this means that we can now offer complimentary dinner to the partners of award nominees, something I felt was necessary to make it comparable with the Police Officer awards.

It also looks like we have either 17 or 18 great nominations, and another very difficult Ray Sherry award decision.

I am very thankful for the work of the Club's directors and committee chairs. Thanks to you our Club is punching above its weight.

Finally, in accordance with our Constitution and our newly adopted and carefully considered policy of keeping in contact with all our members, we will be reviewing all attendance records for the last six months. Unfortunately there are a couple of problem memberships, however we will be respectfully and carefully talking to others, to see what we can do to help them attend more regularly if possible. It is very much in every members interest to try and find new members, however we must also work tirelessly to retain our existing members. I told you I had learnt a lot from the difficult period this last June.

Finally, this piece is written on a Sunday night, so the Tuesday email for this weeks attendance is still in the future.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a return to good numbers

President Steve

Last Week

Visit to the Infants Home at Ashfield

Last Wednesday, a small band of Rotarians paid a visit to the Infants' Home at Ashfield. Hosted by Anita Kumar (Chief Executive Officer) and Anne-Marie Byrne

(Communications and Development Manager), it is obvious why our Club has supported this wonderful organisation over a number of years.

Dedicated to helping children and parents since 1874, they do inspiring work in assisting families who have a diverse background and level of challenge in their lives. For every child, they strive to develop both the social aspects of a child's development, not just the normal 'ABCs'. The social aspects include promoting an environment of inclusion, and critical social skills such as how to make and preserve friendships.

The Infants' Home specialises in three key aspects;

1. early education and care for children
2. early intervention for families in need
3. clinical services for the community

The magnitude of the operation is an eye-opener. They are licensed for 283 children per day, and around 2,500 children, aged up to five or six, access their services at some point each year.

Financed by fees and donations, our Club will again proudly help the Home via funds raised at next year's inaugural Stroller Derby. Bradley Ayres

The Rotary Foundation

PDG Paul Reid shared Strathfield's recent and total contribution to the Foundation by noting that we have donated just under \$108,000 since 2013. To put this in perspective, Paul indicated that, on average, just \$1,000 is enough to save a life. So 108 people are alive today, thanks to the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

To give an appreciation for the magnitude of the Foundation, in the year 2014/2015, the Foundation provided staggering amounts, including

- Global Grants - \$68,700,000
- District Grants - \$25,200,000
- Polio Plus - \$128,900,000
- Peace Scholarships - \$4,000,000

The Polio Plus programme is one of which, as Rotarians, we should be immensely proud. From around 350,000 cases in 1988, in 2016 there have been just 27 reported cases and there is a real hope that the disease can be entirely eradicated.

With impacts such as this, Paul left the club with a message that, whether today or via bequest, we individually give consideration to supporting the Rotary Foundation.

Rotary Celebrities and Projects

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, who served as the 35th President of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963, was a member of the Rotary Club of Hyannis Massachusetts, USA.

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

Founded in 1947, **the Ambassadorial Scholarships program** was the largest non-governmental and most international scholarship program in the world. Scholars studied in a country other than their own where they serve as unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. Over 37,000 scholars from some 110 countries received scholarships at a cost of almost US\$446 million. The program ended in 2013. Scholarships are now funded by Rotary Foundation district and global grants and are offered directly through Rotary clubs.

November is Rotary Foundation month when it is worth reflecting on the goals of the Rotary Foundation

1. Eradicate polio, our top priority
2. Build a sense of ownership of our Foundation among Rotarians through their contributions to the Annual Programs Fund, the Permanent Fund, and our Rotary Peace Centres
3. Continue our progress on the Future Vision plan and align our service projects with the six areas of focus: Peace and conflict prevention/ resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, Economic and community development

The Rotary Foundation is now receiving more than \$85 million each year for educational and humanitarian work around the world. David Croft

Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>	
Wednesday 16 November	Member vocational talk
Friday 18 November	District 9675 AGM
Wednesday 23 November	Pride of Workmanship Awards, Partners Night
Wednesday 30 November	tbc
Wednesday 7 December	ROTARY CLUB OF STRATHFIELD AGM
Saturday 30 April 2017	Strathfield Rotary Club Stroller Derby

Your Committee 2016-2017

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

Bulletin Editor	Andrew Kowalski	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	SelectPrint	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari

The statistics

Attendance last week	9
Leave of absence	2
Apologies	18
No apology	9
Club membership	38
Partners	1
Guests	1
Members Rotary activities hours	tbc

Funds raised last week

Raffle	\$0.00
Sergeant	\$0.00
'Heads and tails'	\$0.00

<i>Birthdays</i>	
18 November	Devi Bala, Umesh Kamkolkar
10 November	Jan van der Sleen
<i>Anniversary</i>	
20 November	George and Catherine Hallworth
<i>Rotary Anniversary</i>	
19 November	Kevin Freund

Infants Home at Ashfield



The Symbol



The Rotarians