



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

## THE SPOKE

24 August 2016

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### *Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes*

Month of August	Rotary	Membership and New Club Development Month
Days of August	United Nations	International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 23 August International Day Against Nuclear Tests 29 August
	Australia	International Science Week 13-21 August

### *President Steve's Snippets*

Hi everyone

If anyone had any doubts about the power of Rotary, they would have been satisfied last week.

Here was a wonderful lady, Camille Kafka, who we provided some material assistance and assistance in kind to through our networks a few years ago, and there she was a lady who was determined to succeed and became a successful ballerina in Prague and Brno in the Czech Republic

Camille Erskine (now Kafka) spoke exceptionally well about her experiences in Europe, and is obviously very grateful to this day, for the assistance given to her by our club, and especially dedicated members like Ray McCluskie.

As I have said previously, there are important things, sometimes only seeming to be small, but that can only be done by great Rotarians. We have some busy weeks ahead, particularly with our BBQ, however I am hopeful as many of you as possible can give some time this weekend to the Parkinson's walk BBQ, instead of walking as many of you have been kind enough to do over the last seven or eight years.

I would like to have an alternative venue for our Christmas party this year, so if you have any great ideas, please speak to either Brad Ayres or myself.

And please, don't forget to commit to Wednesday 7 September, the night of our DG's visit, an important night for the Club

## *Last Week's Guest Speaker*

We were treated to a presentation by one of the 'family' of Strathfield Rotary, Camille Kafka (née Erskine), accompanied by her husband, Radim, and mother

Camille started dancing as a six-year-old. By the age of 10, her family moved to Strathfield, where she attended School at Santa Sabina. Her ambition to develop as a dancer called strongly, and she convinced her mother to send her to McDonald College. She started there in year eight and completed year 12 exams as dux of the college in 1999. To further develop her career, she sought and was accepted into the National Ballet School in New Zealand. This stage of her development was supported by Strathfield Rotary. Over a period of three years, studying and dancing six days a week, she successfully completed the course. During that time the connection to Rotary continued because in the last year of the course Camille stayed with a Rotarian family in Wellington.

In early January 2003, whilst looking to further her ballet career, Camille landed in Europe and auditioned for a number of ballet troupes. The competition was intense as there were sometimes hundreds of applicants for each position. Her desire and hard work paid off when the Czech ballet in Prague offered her a contract on the same day she auditioned.

This new chapter in her life lasted for over seven years. Moving halfway around the world, to a country where English was not spoken and where the weather was certainly nothing that she had experienced in Australia, was quite daunting. However Camille rose to the challenge and forged herself a successful career in her newly adopted country. Whilst it was a culture shock, the Czech Republic was one that much very appreciated the arts, particularly ballet. As well as learning a new language, and landing roles in a number of performances, she also landed herself a partner. Camille was married in 2009. With her new husband, who was also involved in ballet, they moved to Brno in the Czech Republic, where they remained for another five years.

Injuries and wear-and-tear on the body are an issue in ballet, and the medical set-up for dancers in the Czech Republic was not as good as it is in other countries. The effects of the rigors of dancing did take their toll on her body, and Camille decided to retire in June 2015. Upon telling the ballet troupe of her decision, they she was told the troupe was actually about to offer her an extension to her contract. However, her mind was made up, and in August 2015 Camille and her husband moved to Australia.

Never one to stand still, Camille had commenced an arts/law degree from UNE whilst in the Czech Republic. She continued with the arts portion of the degree on her return and will complete this soon. Not surprisingly, Camille has also turned her attention to teaching the next generation of ballet dancers. It was a pleasure for the Club to hear Camille, a person of great energy and enthusiasm, speak and to hear her give appreciation to the role that Rotary has played in her life

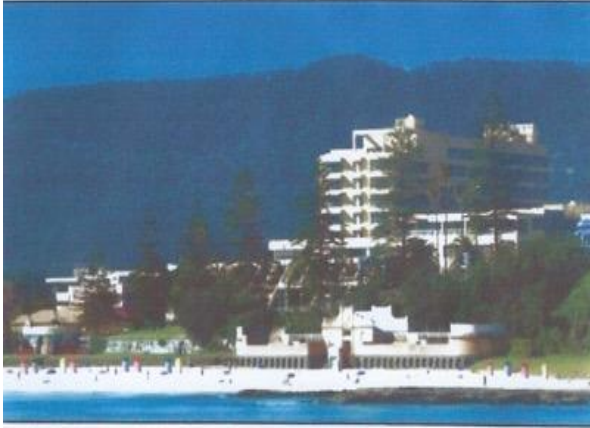
# Dates for the Calendar



Rotary Events	
Wednesday 17 August 2016	Camille (Erskine)Kafka – My life in Czech ballet
Wednesday 24 August 2016	Anna Perdriau - Speaking to Hearts and Minds: Public Speaking to engage, energise and elevate
Saturday 27 August 2016	Bunnings BBQ Ashfield to assist The Infants Home
Sunday 4 Sept 2016	Strathfield Spring Festival
Saturday 24 Sept 2016	Rotary Club of Concord's sixtieth Anniversary Concord Function Centre Tom Burlinson and his Orchestra

**Rotary  
District 9675**

**Conference Dates: 10th - 12th March 2017**



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<i>Birthdays</i>	
22 August	Ann McCluskie
23 August	David Martin
25 August	Angelo Franco
26 August	Menai Touma
<i>Rotary Anniversary</i>	
22 August	David Croft
<i>Anniversary</i>	
24 August	Welwyn and Allan Petersen

## *This Week's Speaker*

### *Anna Perdriau, Speaking to Hearts and Minds*

Public speaking designed to engage, energise and elevate

#### **Note to Pat Giammarco**

Hi Pat

I think you may have been the first to suggest that the club send flowers to Carole. Thanks to Margaret Croft's efforts, including a visit to see Carole, this has now occurred.

Please see the attached photo of her great selection, which I understand was appreciated by Carole.

If you are planning to visit her yourself, please touch base with Niall beforehand.

Please encourage others to do the same.

All the best.

Rod Mc Dougall

#### **Oxfam Sydney 100 km Trailwalker Event**

Oxfam works with the poorest of the poor and the most disempowered of the disempowered. Click on this link to see what a difference you can make.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD3sXvHDK5U>

**Please consider making a donation to this very worthwhile cause by clicking on the link below**

<https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/my/team/23274> Gulian Vaccari

#### **Working with Children Number**

##### **Please act now**

All members should go through this **very simple online procedure** so that we can be up to date to be able to be audited at the end of August.

All members should apply online through the NSW *Government Office of the Children's Guardian* website.

<http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/> as soon as possible.

Peter van der Sleesen

## Rotary Celebrities and Projects

**Margaret Thatcher**, the [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](#) from 1979 to 1990, received a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1995. Mrs. Thatcher was an honorary Rotarian.

**The Rotary Club of Burwood used to be called 'The Home of The Community Chest'.**

The Community Chest was set up to provide community benefits on a local and global level. 51 percent of the Chest income remained in the country and the remaining 49 percent was earmarked for overseas aid.

Twice a year, the Community Chest creator/manager Walter Bock would organise a cement mixer to mix the hundreds of kilos of Community Chest tickets to find the winner of the car prize.

From its inception in 1992 until the project was taken over by the Rotary Club of Holroyd in 2011, the Rotary Club of Burwood raised some \$14.5 million at a rate of about \$20k per week. This supported projects within Australia and some 614 international projects to the value of approx.. \$9 million, including contributions from AusAID etc., **What a wonderful achievement by Walter Bock and the Rotary Club of Burwood.**

*David Croft*

## The Statistics

Attendance last week	18
Leave of absence	2
Apologies	7
No apology	11
Club membership	<b>38</b>
Partners	3
Guests	3
Members Rotary activities hours	

<i>Funds raised last week</i>	
Raffle	\$140.00
Sergeant	\$61.70
'Heads and tails'	\$23.50

## Your Committee 2016-2017

President	Stephen Taylor	Secretary	Peter van der Sleen
President Elect	tba	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

*Last Week*



