



# STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN



DISTRICT 9675  
8th December 2021

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

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

<i>Year 2021</i>		
-	UN	International Year of Peace and Trust
-	UN	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
-	UN	International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
-	UN	International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
<i>Month of Dec</i>		
-	Rotary	<b>Disease Prevention and Treatment Month</b>
<i>Weeks of Dec</i>		
6th-12th Dec	Aust	Coastcare Week
<i>Days of Dec</i>		
9th Dec	UN	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
9th Dec	UN	International Anti-Corruption Day
10th Dec	UN	Human Rights Day
11th Dec	UN	International Mountain Day
12th Dec	UN	International Day of Neutrality
12th Dec	UN	International Universal Health Coverage Day

## *President's Report*



**Thaya Ponniah**  
*President*

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

### **Strathfield Christmas Carols!**

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 Strathfield Christmas Carols. We

kicked off the festivities with a visit from Santa, performances by community groups, dancers, and singers, as well as a special movie screening of a Christmas Carol and Australia's first drone light show!

The Rotary Club of Strathfield partnered with the Strathfield Council to successfully celebrate Strathfield Christmas Carols last Saturday, 4th December 2021. More than twenty of our

members and their spouses participated, and a few members brought their kids to help us sell the raffle tickets.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield Christmas Raffle was one of the event's main attractions as we had lovely prizes. First, three prizes sponsored by Richardson and Wrench Strathfield - pioneer real estate agents in Strathfield - were a Smart TV, Smart Phone, and Smart Watch. Ten consolation prizes were sponsored by the Arie Pappas family and the Paul Anton family.

It was the first BBQ fundraising we did after the loss of the late Peter Smith. Arie and Rod took over the BBQ trailer and the BBQ station together with all other related utensils. However, we were all made to realise what a legend Peter was to handle so much equipment alone in a meticulously organised way. Our sincere gratitude to Mrs Marlene Smith for storing all the Rotary stuff at her garage even after Peter's death.

We also appreciate all the efforts put in by Keith Byrn to repair and give a facelift to our BBQ trailer. It was a completely new look when we saw the trailer on Saturday. Thanks to Roy Ellis, we can now park the trailer at his home and store our BBQ related equipment.

We are also thankful to Arie Pappas, who took a few days out of his busy life by picking up the trailer, pink slip, registering the trailer at RMS, coordinating plumbers and gas fitters, and testing the trailer. Arie was also the first to come and last to go, organising bread and sausages and cleaning up the trailer with the help of Roy Ellis.

Our Christmas raffle was a great success this year. Rod McDougall, Rick Vosila and Nick Hamilton-Kane worked very hard, from designing and printing the tickets in

no time, to distributing and selling the tickets and disbursing the prizes to the relevant winners. A special thanks to generous Chris Virgona, who donated the first three prizes for the Raffle and helped me to draw the raffles at the Carols.

Charles Pitt, Rod McDougall, Mathew Ellias and Kimberly helped us with cash and accounts handling from raffles sales and BBQ sales. Thank you very much.

Paul Anton and Roy Ellis were busy with the BBQ station, while Rotarians Janelle Watson and Trudy Ho ably staffed the sales counter, together with Kimberly. We appreciate all your tireless efforts.

We also had our professional photographers Bradley Ayres and Steven Argyris, capturing every action. Thank you for your commitment despite the rain at times.

Thank you, Raymond McCluskie, for posting this event on social media and for your presence and for looking after the logistics. Our 'BBQ man' Andrew Aravanis – we appreciate all your efforts in planning and providing items free of charge, even though you couldn't be present.

A special thanks to Homebush Boys School Interactors and Rotaractors for helping us sell the raffle tickets. We are also grateful to the teacher in charge for interactors, who is also the spouse and sister of our own Rotarians, Georgia Anton.

All our Rotarians who brought their spouses and the kids – kindly convey our gratitude for their assistance and encouragement.

Finally, a massive thanks to our team leader Marvin Manrique-Velasquez, without whom our event wouldn't have

been a great success. Marvin was very attentive to details, well organised, and always ready to help.

Although we are finalising the accounts, I am sure we would make more than \$5,000.00 from this event. Given the pandemic restrictions and adverse weather conditions, I call this a great success. It was an excellent example of what a few generous Rotarians can achieve under any circumstances with determination, commitment, and hard work. I was personally amazed by the

positive vibe and the unity in diversity I saw that night. No one builds community spirit better than Rotarians!

***"Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time". – Paul Harris (Founder of Rotary Movement)***

Yours in Rotary,

*Thaya Ponniah*

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## *Event from last week: Annual General Meeting*

### CONGRATULATIONS

President Elect Andrew Aravanis' team for 2022-2023:

- President Nominee: Nick Hamilton-Kane as vice-president elect (president in 2023-2024)
- President Thaya Ponniah as immediate past president
- Secretary: Steve Argyris
- Treasurer: PP Rod McDougall

- Vocational Service Director: Alexey Prokopenko
- Youth Service Director: Ying Ho
- Club Service Director PP Arie Pappas
- International Service Director: Jaya Challa
- Community Service Director: PP Rick Vosila
- Sergeant-at Arms: Gulian Vaccari.

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## *Speakers for this week: Doug Abdiel, John Frearson & Arpan Singh*

Purpose and Growth Initiatives provides job skills and employment to people who are under served in the Australian employment market such as refugees, veterans, and once-troubled young people, while providing a competitive return to potential investors.

They set out to prove a concept — the concept that it is possible for businesses to give the most overlooked people in our society a chance at long-term

employment without fear that literacy, numeracy, previous experience, or a host of other issues will hold them back. They have already proven that this is possible in paper tube manufacturing but view this as just the beginning. They are looking to partner with other companies with similar values and vision.

*The Speakers:*

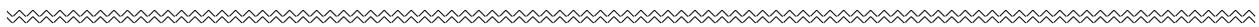
**Doug Abdiel** - Chairman and Non-Executive Director

Doug is a Major in the US Marine Corps Reserves (18 years), and an Executive at Google Australia (7 years). He holds an MBA from Columbia Business School, and an MA from the Australian National University in International Relations. His deployments in the Marine Corps took him to places like Haiti, and Afghanistan where he worked to train individuals from impoverished backgrounds to be self-sufficient. His work at Google is currently centred around creating small businesses which resell Google's products across the Asia-Pacific region.

**John Frearson** - Non-Executive Director and Head of Safety John's career has been in the aviation industry as an airline pilot, manager, consultant, regulator, inspector, and strategy/policy developer. His career has involved posts in a number of countries including many years in Korea and the Philippines. John's undergraduate

degree was in economics, and he has an MBA from the University of Melbourne. John currently works as a Team leader with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. His passion in the community is the Scouting movement where is a Group Leader in his local Scout Group.

**Arpan Singh** - Non-Executive Director, Outreach and Marketing. Arpan came to Australia as an International Student and studied a Master of Commerce in Marketing at Macquarie University. He is a passionate marketer and has almost 7 years of experience in the same field. Other than his day job as an Inbound Marketer and a Digital Marketing Specialist, he has a strong passion for entrepreneurship, sustainability, mental health advocacy and women's rights & safety.



## Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>				
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Event/speaker</i>	<i>To introduce</i>	<i>To thank + Speaker write-up</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Wed 8th Dec	<b>Doug Abdiel, John Frearson and Arpan Singh</b> Purpose and Growth Initiatives	Anita Sajo	Raymond McCluskie	Zoom
Wed 15th Dec	<b>Club Xmas party</b>	-	-	Golf Club
Wed 22nd Dec Wed 5th Jan	<b>Club recess</b>	-	-	-
Wed 12th Jan	<b>Croquet</b>	-	-	Strathfield Croquet Club
Wed 19th Jan	<b>Club Assembly</b>	-	-	Golf Club

<i>Birthdays</i>	
30th December	Catherine Hallworth

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
9th December	Rod and Maree McDougall (Wedding)
23rd December	Jaya and Praveen Challa (Wedding)
28th December	Thaya Ponniah and Subo Thayaparan (Wedding)
14th January	Grahame and Penny True (Wedding)
14th January	Arie and Athena Pappas (Wedding)



## *The Rotary Statistics*

Attendance last meeting (1-12-21) – in-person	25
Club membership	<b>50</b>
Partners	0
Guests	1

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$194.00
Sergeant's session	\$178.15



## *Your committee 2021-22*

President	Thaya Ponniah	Secretary	Nick Hamilton-Kane
President Elect	Andrew Aravanis	Sergeant	Keith Byrn
Immediate Past President	Usha Garg	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Ying Ho*	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Roy Ellis	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	Rod McDougall	Club Service	Arie Pappas

\* Position was held by the late Peter Smith

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	SelectPrint	Apologies	Peter van der Slessen
Social Media	Alexey Prokopenko	Programs Chair	Gulian Vaccari



## *Food for Thought*

### **The journey is short**

A young lady sat in a bus. At the next stop a loud and grumpy older lady came and sat by her. She squeezed into the seat and bumped her with her numerous bags.

When the young lady remained silent, the older lady asked her why she did not complain when she hit her with her bags.

The young lady replied with a Smile, "There is no need to be upset about something so insignificant, as our journey together is so short, because I'm getting off at the next stop"

Each of us must understand that our time in this world is so short, that darkening it with useless arguments, jealousy, not forgiving others, discontentment and bad attitudes are a ridiculous waste of time and energy.

*Did someone break your heart?*

Stay calm.

The trip is too short

*Did someone betray you, intimidate, cheat, or humiliate you?*

Relax - Don't be Stressed

The trip is too short

*Did someone insult you without reason?*

Stay calm. Ignore it.

The trip is too short

*Did someone make a comment that you didn't like?*

Stay calm. Ignore. Forgive, keep them in your prayers & love them still.

The trip is too short.

Whatever the problems some bring us, it is a problem only if we think of it, remember that our journey together is too short

No one knows the length of our trip.

Nobody knows when it will arrive at its stop.

Our trip together is too short

Let us appreciate friends and family.

Let us be respectful, kind, loving & forgiving.

Because we will be filled with gratitude and joy, after all...

Our trip together is very short.

Share your smiles with everyone. Choose your path to be as beautiful as you wish it to be.

Our trip is Very Short

*Anon*



## *Out & About*

**Saturday 4th December – BBQ at Chalmers Road School – Council election day**



Raymond M, Thaya P, Grahame T, Andrew A, and Rod M (taking the photo!)

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## *Out & About*

**Saturday 4th December - Carols in the Park**











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