



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

8th September 2021

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

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 Sept</i>		
-	Aust	National Biodiversity Month
-	Rotary	Basic Education and Literacy Month
<i>Weeks of Sept</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of Sept</i>		
8th Sept	UN	International Literacy Day
9th Sept	UN	International Day to Protect Education from Attack
12th Sept	UN	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
12th Sept	Aust	National Bilby Day
15th Sept	UN	International Day of Democracy

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of

worthy enterprise, expressed as these four principles:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions, recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his/her occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his/her personal, business and community life.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional people united in the ideal of service.

As we had our third board meeting on Monday the 6th of September, it would be good to focus on a few projects we have undertaken within the last couple of months.

The power of Rotary comes from club membership. Rotarians contribute time and expertise to make a difference – helping those who need it and encouraging youth to reach their potential.

“Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living.” – Albert Einstein

Yours in Rotary,

Thaya Ponnia

Community Service

Our experienced Assistant Governor, PP Rick Vosila has initiated many projects including a few fundraising initiatives adapting to the “New Normal”.

This lockdown is taking a huge toll every way, and the St Paul’s Church Parish Pantry is an amazing service provider; left open in the Inner West area that can assist our citizens in need with essential grocery, health, and daily consumable items. The demand is surging right now.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield is committed to assisting the Parish Pantry in any way we can. We have been partnering with Parish Pantry since the

pandemic started last year, providing support to their program. Now, there is a very direct need for a cool room to store perishable items to be supplied to the needy in this area. The total cost of this cooler room is \$12,200. We are in the process of collecting the funds from the businesses known to our Rotarians. Arie and Rick are in the process of finding the right contractors to build the Cool Room.

Vocational Service

Our Vocational Service Director Alexey is developing a Technical and life-skills Training Program in order to **prepare indigenous communities for the workforce.**

The purpose of the project is to help the indigenous community to get beginner level skills in the new digital and technological world. The demand for IT, technical or soft presentation knowledge has increased dramatically in the last few years. Skillset requirements are high in understanding how to use computer apps and IT tools, how to deal with security, how to get access to mailboxes or any other general IT skills. Soft presentation skills are in demand to understand how to present yourself, how to pitch ideas, how to talk. Moreover, new technical skills are required to meet new standards in the digital world. Therefore, the Rotary Club of Strathfield is looking forward to structuring a technical training program, running it, and designing a similar program for other Rotary clubs to be able to run and help the Indigenous community.

The program objectives are to teach and deliver the three main knowledge spheres:

1. IT skills - Such skills will open the potential to understand the basic package of the program available on the market to open skills such as

structuring CV, writing a cover letter, sending an email, searching on the internet and so on.

2. Technical skills - For trade specialities, it will open the opportunity to learn about new tools, such as digital levels, understanding electrical principles, mobile apps for construction sites, managing types of machinery and so on.
3. Soft skills - It will link and open the basic skills of presentation, understanding people skills, understanding how to talk, how to use presentation materials and how to write cover letters

In order to take this program to the District level after piloting it from the Rotary Club of Strathfield, we approached our District Governor Jeremy Wright for assistance. We are glad to note that the DG Jeremy is looking at our request very favourable.

Youth Service

Our Youth Service Director Ying Ho has been busy strengthening our existing Interact and Rotaract clubs with the assistance of our club's coordinators PP Roger Vince and PP Rod McDougall. She has also embarked on forming a few new clubs starting with the Rotaract Club of Strathfield. There are many prospective young members showing interest and we are planning to have an information session very soon.

In addition, Ying is also very busy with Youth Awards and Youth Empowerment Programs. We have already sponsored three candidates for National Youth Science Forum which will be held in Canberra soon.

International Service

Under the leadership of our International Service Director PP Roy Ellis, we have already submitted our first Global Grant

Project with our sister club, the Rotary Club of Colombo South to rehabilitate and equip a rural base hospital in northern Sri Lanka.

The main objective of the project is to provide medical equipment to establish an operating theatre and Treat COVID Patients at the Chavakachcheri Base Hospital, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The Chavakachcheri Base Hospital is the main hospital serving the needs of over 100,000 people living in the surrounding areas where the Hospital is located. The hospital currently does not have an operating theatre as it was destroyed during the 30-year civil war in Sri Lanka. Every year, due to the lack of facilities available at Chavakachcheri Hospital for urgent operations, patients from the region in desperate need of life-saving operations are forced to transfer by ambulance to the main Jaffna hospital. Approximately 2,000 patients were relocated to Jaffna Teaching hospital (the main hospital in the region). Besides, Chavakachcheri hospital has no facilities to treat Covid-19 patients from the vast area.

Jaffna hospital is the main centre for COVID 19 treatment in the province. Due to a large number of Covid-19 patients, the hospital is required to utilise the available space and staff for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The ICU beds of the hospital must be shared by Covid-19 patients. As a result of this, patients requiring other life-saving operations are required to wait for longer periods of time. Establishing an operating theatre at the Chavakachcheri hospital will greatly reduce the waiting period and enable the Jaffna hospital to provide more effective treatment to Covid-19 patients from other areas of the province

The total cost of the worthy cause would be US\$90,000 and our club's contribution

would be the US\$10,000. More than half of this project cost will be borne by community-based organisations.

Club Service

Our club Service director PP Arie Pappas is focussing on fellowship and growth of the club. Although the environment is not very conducive with lockdown, online meetings and limited avenues for fellowship and fundraising. Despite all the challenges, PP Arie and our Program Chair Gulian Vaccari are doing a tremendous job with some remarkable guest speakers with an average attendance of nearly 30 Rotarians weekly at each meeting in the recent past.

We are also having many guests attending our meetings and many of them have shown interest to join our club. What a way to complete our membership development month, August.

We also have our social media campaign supporting vaccination and it is good to note our bulletin editor Bradley Ayres and Web Master PP Raymond McCluskie work very diligently with all our members and our local community to engage and involved in serving others.

Thaya Ponnia

Director Reports



Arie Pappas
Treasurer

100% Attendance Monthly Winner

Congratulations to the following members who are the monthly winners of our draw for a bottle of wine (delivered to their homes).

August 2021 – Steven Argyris
July 2021 – David Croft OAM

Speaker from last week: Jane Ruston

Jane is the Fundraising Operations Manager at the Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI). Her topic is “Challenges posed by the pandemic”.

Jane started her presentation by thanking the Rotary Club of Strathfield for the recent donation of \$3,800 to the CMRI (raised on the occasion of the Club’s 50th birthday celebrations). Fundraising is difficult at the best of times but during the pandemic it is even more challenging. Jane said that this donation is especially appreciated and needed during this time.

Jane talked about the background of the CMRI. “Where have we come from and why are we here?”

Jane talked about the sixty years of the CMRI. The CMRI was founded in 1958 by Dr. Lorimer Fenton Dods and co-founded by Dr. John Fulton. Dr Dods saw the need to establish a research institute, as at the time there was no affiliated teaching of paediatrics and mortality rates for children were high, from things such as tetanus. There was a desperate need for research to find the appropriate

treatment and cures and possibility prevention of serious diseases in children. There was a fundraising telethon in 1958. From humble beginnings in a cottage at Camperdown, there was an initial upgrade to become Fulton laboratories. The move to Westmead preceded the Children's Hospital re-locating there. A two storey building was constructed to house 170 scientists at the Westmead site. Now there is a six storey tower over a portion of the two storey building. The CMRI works closely with the Children's Hospital but are independent from it even though they are located adjacent to each other.

A snapshot of achievements of the CMRI - During the 1960's there was research undertaken into premature babies. In the 1970's, pioneer research into micro surgery. During the 80's, cystic fibrosis and foetal alcohol syndrome. By the 2000's research into cells and how they change and how a single gene can be responsible for cleft palate in newborns and research into a new drug for epilepsy. 2016 saw research into the causes of specific cancers - changes that occur in individual human cells that lead to cancer and genetic disease. Research is undertaken into metabolic disorders, neurobiology, cancer, embryology and gene therapy to establish the causes of specific cancers.

The CMRI is a world leader into cancer research and gene therapy. The aim is to make the un-curable curable. Research means finding the right treatment for the particular cancer. Jane Ruston said that one child in twenty is born with a defect or genetic disease.

Fundraising for the CMRI covers several different avenues. The "K for Kids" is basically a crowd funding program. "Jeans for Genes" is probably the most recognised brand. This program has been

going for over 25 years. Historically, the program is held on the first Friday in August and involves many volunteers. The "Great Cycle Challenge" is in its eight year.

There are several fundraising committees; those involved with local communities; appeals, individual gifts to the CMRI, community fundraising events and community partnerships (Rotary), corporate and retail partnerships, philanthropy/trusts/foundations, and bequests.

The video clip shown was very moving, particularly "Marley's story".

Challenge for the future - the current staffing levels have outgrown the building. There are plans to expand and Jane said that the critical mass of researchers needed is 300 at least. Remembering that one child in twenty depends on the research undertaken by the CMRI to "change the incurable to the curable".

Jane has rich connections with the Rotary Club of Strathfield. She is the daughter of a Rotarian and is a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Five Dock. Jane is involved with the Parish Council at St. Anne's Church in Strathfield and she has been a Church Warden as well. Jane Ruston attended the Meriden School in Strathfield and is part of the Meriden Alumni and is still actively involved with the school.

More information about the Children's Medical Research Institute can be found at their website - <http://www.cmri.org.au>

Writeup by Janelle Watson



Yet another great Zoom rollup with several visitors. Love the car choice for two of our members – Ed.

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*Speaker for this week: Fiona Martin*

From: <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/FionaMartin>

“Prior to entering Parliament, Fiona worked as a psychologist, academic researcher and small businesswoman.

Like many people who live in Reid, Fiona attended school locally, firstly at Santa Sabina College and then Rosebank College, before graduating from the University of Sydney and undertaking specialised training at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

In 2006, Fiona founded her own psychology practice. In the following year,

she completed her Ph.D., which focused on improving the social functioning of young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Fiona has previously worked as an expert consultant and ambassador for a variety of organisations including Only About Children, SafeWork NSW, Little Blue Dinosaur and Life Education.

Fiona became the first female Member for Reid in 2019. She continues her work to support small business, health, education and the most vulnerable members of our community.”

## *COVID Capers*

This week, the well-dressed Rick Vosila has provided a glimpse into his COVID life.

From Rick:

I LOVE LOCKDOWN!

These are truly the happiest days of my life! Lockdown has brought so much joy to me personally, I can hardly contain myself.

Since Lockdown began I have had the enormous pleasure of staying at home 24/7 with Christine – and earn a living. It's like being retired whilst working fulltime. We have never spent so much quality time together, as for most of our married life we'd both been busy working and rushing in different directions for all sorts of commitments. Now, Christine is finally officially retired, and I'm working from home – it's wonderful! I don't need to travel hundreds of kilometres into regional NSW each week as I have been; in fact... I don't need to go anywhere, so I don't! My daily commute is now zero, magic! In fact, after I write this I'm going to check the car to make sure the battery hasn't gone flat. I haven't been to a service station since June, and the only time I'm driven it in this period has been to Peter Smith's funeral. We're saving so much money on fuel and car maintenance too.

As far as working from home for me goes, I'm in heaven. I'm fortunate in that I have a really well setup study; this helps enormously. I have loads of desk space, all the gear I need, fast nbn™, and I can close the door for quiet and concentration all day long. I even have my own personal executive bathroom that Christine has setup for me! Periodically through the day Christine will tap on the door gently (in case I'm a Zoom call – and I'm in a LOT of

those these days) to check on what we might do for lunch and/or dinner. Or perhaps she'll let me know that a parcel has arrived for me. Each day at 11:03am she will text me the latest NSW COVID numbers (yes, she is hooked on that Gladys Show too).

With my daily commute at zero, I can now do so much more. I'm usually at my desk by 7:30am, reviewing my day's calendar and getting my head into gear. On a typical day, my first Zoom call is at 8:45am with my admin team, and 6-8 Zoom meetings later I finish my day by 5:30pm (yep, 5:30pm!). This is so I can get in a quick dash around The Bay Run and be home, showered, and ready to sit to dinner with Christine by 7:00pm. Of course on atypical days I might join the Zoom call of one of the Rotary Clubs I look after as AG (especially now for the DG Visits). The Darlings and The Coves have 7:30am meetings; Kings Cross and Sydney Inner West have evening meetings, and Sydney has lunchtime meetings. And then there's the District Zoom calls too.

This piece is really simply a reminder to look on the bright side. I see too many people focus solely on the negatives of Lockdown. We really don't know how good we have it – relative to the rest of the world. So my friends, at times like these I ask you to reflect on one of my favourite quotes from Shakespeare's Hamlet, "There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so." Who says we should be all 'doom and gloom' over Lockdown? Let's rejoice that we're lucky enough to be in 'lockdown' in Sydney and not in 'freedom' in Kabul.

Let me finish with a COVID poem from Rickespeare:

*Oh Lovely Lockdown, how do I love thee?  
Let me count the ways.*

*I love thee to the depth and breadth and  
height*

*That my Zoom calls reach, when feeling you  
are out of sight*

*For the ends of being and ideal grace.*

*I love thee to the level of every day's*

*Most quiet need, by my artificial laptop  
light.*

*I love thee freely, as addled men strive for  
freedom's right.*

*I love thee purely, as we battle this COVID's  
cunning fight.*

*I love thee as the vaccine saviour is put to  
better use each day*

*In my old griefs, and with my childhood's  
faith.*

*I love thee with a love I have restored from  
days long gone*

*With my lengthening hair and broadening  
girth. I love thee with the breath,*

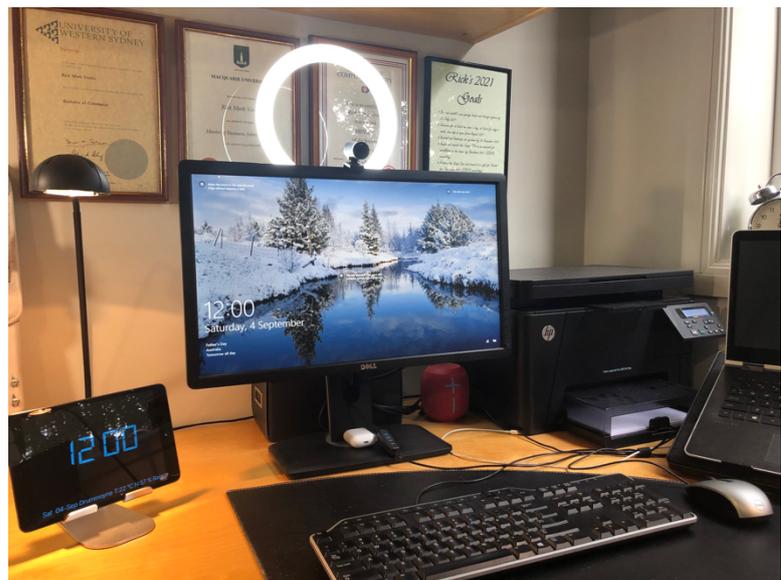
*Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God  
choose,*

*I shall but love thee better for this chance  
to learn what's good anew.*

*Rick Vosila*



**Rick's private 'throne' 1**



**Rick's private workspace 1**



## 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 Sept         | <b>Fiona Martin</b><br>Federal Electorate of Reid           | Dimitry Palmer      | Bill Carney                        | Zoom         |
| Wed 15th Sept        | <b>DG Jeremy Wright AM</b>                                  | TBA                 | TBA                                | Zoom         |
| Wed 22nd Sept        | <b>Jodi McKay</b><br>State Electorate of Strathfield        | TBA                 | TBA                                | Zoom         |
| Wed 29th Sept        | <b>Robert Jordan</b><br>Supporting Ovarian Cancer Sufferers | TBA                 | TBA                                | Zoom         |

**NOTE: Due to the latest COVID outbreak and subsequent lock-down, the above program may change**

| <i>Birthdays</i> |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 10th September   | Penny True   |
| 14th September   | George Helou |

| <i>Anniversaries</i> |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8th September        | Christopher Virgona (Rotary)    |
| 10th September       | Nella and Trevor Hall (Wedding) |



## *The Rotary Statistics*

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance last meeting (01-09-21) - Zoom | 24        |
| Club membership                           | <b>46</b> |
| Partners                                  | 0         |
| Guests                                    | 7         |

| <i>Funds raised</i> |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Raffle              | n/a             |
| Sergeant's session  | Honesty system! |

Stand-in Sergeant Janelle requested that fines last week be sent Treasurer Rod via direct deposit

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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 ¹	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Roy Elis	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	Rod McDougall	Club Service	Arie Pappas

¹ 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

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