



# Rotary

## Club of Strathfield



## STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675  
18th May 2022

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[info@strathfieldrotary.org.au](mailto:info@strathfieldrotary.org.au)

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

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

<i>Year 2022</i>		
-	UN	International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development
-	UN	International Year of Glass
-	UN	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
<i>Month of May</i>		
-	Rotary	<b>Youth Service Month</b>
<i>Weeks of May</i>		
1st Apr-31st May	Aust	Australian Heritage Festival (National Trust)
<i>Days of May</i>		
20th May	UN	World Bee Day
21st May	UN	International Tea Day
21st May	UN	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22nd May	UN	International Day for Biological Diversity
23rd May	UN	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

### *President's Report*



**Thaya Ponniah**  
*President*

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

#### WHAT'S THE "SPIRIT" OF ROTARY?

As we are preparing ourselves for a big charity event, the Rotary Charity Ball, it is pertinent to rekindle the question, 'What

is the spirit of Rotary?' And have we ever tried to describe it?

Firstly, our motto of "Service Above Self" describes our purpose – we strive to provide service for the benefit of others. When it comes to activities in clubs, our focus should be on providing service through the use of our labour and/or resources, or through funding the provision of it.

We are not a fundraising organisation! We are a service organisation that fundraises with the purpose of supporting service

activities. When fundraising, we remember to always promote the purpose of fundraising – what we are doing and why we are doing it. This helps with member engagement, and this approach may attract interest from potential Rotarians!

Let's now focus on our organisation. We have many challenges, including retention of members. It is often said that to get a new member involved, give them a responsibility, to encourage ownership.

Consider: what are the jobs? How are they decided and distributed? How are they handed on? Do we have succession plans? How are members' skills recognised? Are the skills used for the benefit of our purpose?

As Rotarians, we say we are 'People of Action', and through our collective actions TOGETHER, we are 'doing good in the world'. We are problem solvers. We are opportunity creators. We are community builders – and we are much more!

We also say that, as a team of Rotarians, our output is greater than the sum of our parts. For this to occur, all parts need to be working in continuous harmony – and that's the clue to the Spirit of Rotary!

- Every Rotarian is generous with their time and acts in good faith. We respect what members can do and value all contributions and the time they invest.
- Everyone does their part – individuals agree on what they can and they do it. When agreeing to do something, get it done in a timely manner. Show and gain respect. It is both earned and given.
- Everyone plays their part(s) on time and in sync. Agreed, cooperation is a relatively straight forward concept, and with it, together we can achieve great things.

- Everyone has a position or role, and they play within it, not trying to occupy, undermine, usurp, or get in the way of someone else's position or role. They run their race, along their track and pass the baton once they complete their race.

In short, everyone supports one another through cooperation and goodwill to achieve the completion of their respective tasks. Everyone plays a team game, with mutual respect, while living the Four Way Test.

Along the way, we have great fun, enjoy mutual friendships and gain fulfilment through service to others.

Does this seem like the spirit of Rotary to you?

Each of us can act to ensure behaviours that have the potential to inhibit us and disengaging members are eliminated from our organisation. We lead by example by modelling the type of behaviour fit for our organisation.

Here are four ways in which we can express kindness and generosity towards others by giving:

- Time: It can mean the world to a person who's hurting or lonely.
- Talent: An organisation like Rotary, uses the talents of gifted individuals to serve the community.
- Treasure: Financial support. This is why we do fundraising from time to time, whether it's through Rotary BBQ or Rotary Charity Ball.
- Touch: Everybody we meet struggles with anxieties and fights battles they usually don't talk about. So, our smile and words of encouragement can be like a lifeline that helps keep them afloat that day.

At times, selfishness is so innate in each one of us that it's like breathing; we do it without realising. So, in order to change, we must rearrange our priorities and reprogram our minds and decide, "I will not let this day pass until I have said or done something to help, bless, and encourage another human being." That is a classic example of 'Rotary Spirit'.

From what I learned recently, if we like to conquer selfishness, become more generous, and be influenced by the 'Rotary Spirit'.

- Give away something you would prefer to keep. The goal is to break your emotional attachment to material things.
- Progression to anonymous benevolence. Leave a needy person a cash gift in an envelope. Don't put your

name on it, and don't tell anyone you did it.

- Make time for someone during your busy schedule.
- There are a few necessary components in giving. Giving that is selfless, secretive, strategic, and, of course, sacrificial!

***"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."***

**— John Wesley, Letters of John Wesley**

Rotary Service to you,

*Thaya Ponniah*

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### *Speaker from last week: Chris Haseldine*

I would like to thank Chris on a very difficult topic that it not always visible to us all.

I know I come from a different position growing up in Redfern and seeing domestic violence and its scars.

I can visualise Chris in a safe room with a stressed client and calming them down with dulcet tone of his voice.

Chris discussed the 2-year cycles associated with domestic violence.

I vote Chris return to us for another talk earlier than 2 years.

Thank You Chris

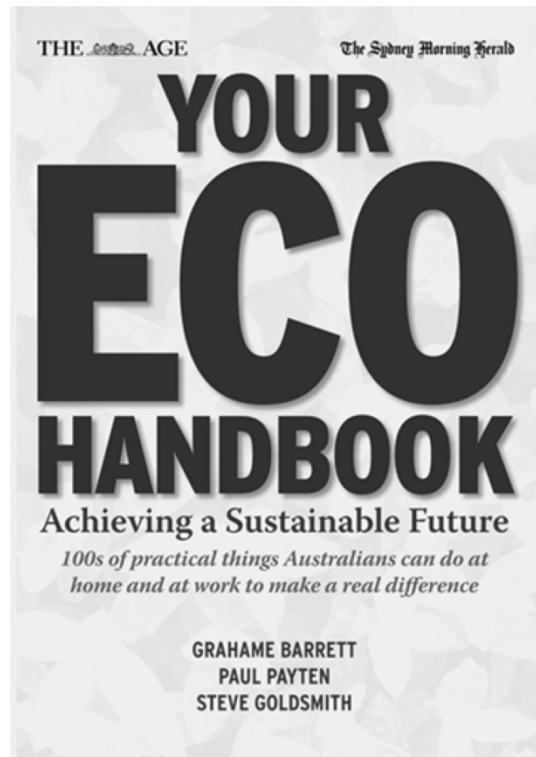
*Writeup by Steven Argyris.*

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### *Speaker for this week: Steve Goldsmith*

Steve Goldsmith has a background in architecture and, becoming both aware and concerned about Earth changes, has been studying the effects of Earth changes and sustainability for more than 15 years.

He co-authored "Your Eco Handbook" 2008 (Fairfax Publishing)

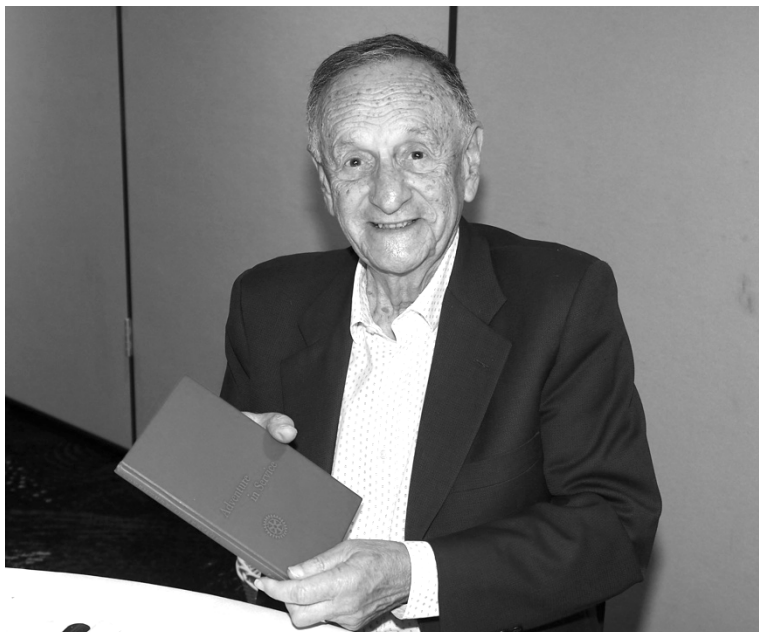


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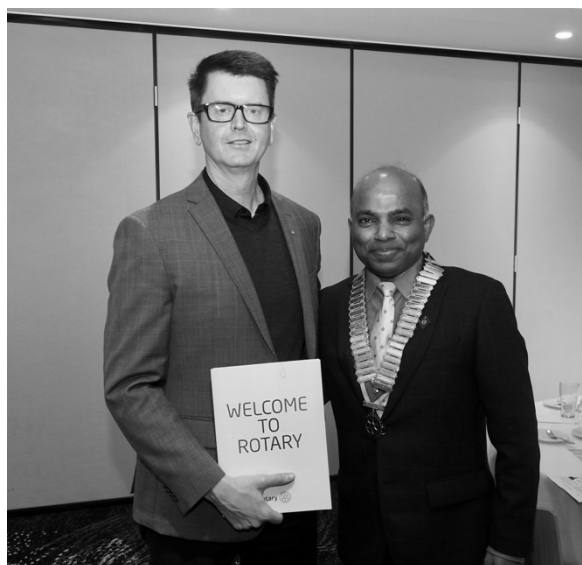
### *Club News: Peter Manenti*

Seems like Roger Vince was not the only Rotarian to receive a book. The only difference is that PDG David Croft seemed

to have an extra one, and he presented it at our previous meeting to another long-serving member, namely Peter Manenti.



## *Club News: New Member, James Cook*



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## *Club News: Susan Templeman - Part of our story*

On Mother's Day, I (Charles Pitt) was at the Hawkesbury Show, there to catch up with my fellow beekeepers, The Hawkesbury Beekeepers Association. After a chat on honey sales, a discussion on bee's wax, I wandered around the show ground and came across the stand for the local federal member, Susan Templeman MP.

It had been many years since I had last met with Susan, now grey and unrecognisable to me, but I introduced myself. No hesitation, Susan knew me, and the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

Her father Bob Templeman was past President and for least 30 years, going forward from 1978, was a pillar of this Club. Susan was an exchange student in the early 1980s, in Mexico. As then Bulletin Editor, I would read Susan letters and taking parts for the Club Bulletin.

Susan on returning from Mexico, settled back to life in Strathfield, going on to study journalism, become a political

reporter in Canberra, then marrying and moving to Blue Mountains. But although Susan always had a long interest in politics, success came in 2016, when she was elected to Federal Parliament as the member for Macquarie.

Back to show ground. Chatting, the Show was finishing up, Susan was waiting for the five o'clock closure, then off to see Mum, Jan, with brother coming by. Leaving Susan, with my bright red show bag, labelled, Susan Templeman, "fighting for Macquarie", I wandered back to the beekeepers, who were packing and counting up. Another conversation, this time, with the NSW President of the Beekeepers Association, a local resident, along the lines of: "I met Susan Templeman, I know the family through Rotary,"..."oh! It explains her strong community commitment".

The Club's early support for a member of the Australian Parliament, representing the people Hawkesbury and lower Blue Mountains, is part of the story of the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

Susan gave me an update on Bob, his health could be better, as now into his early 90s, but will be pleased to hear I called by.

*Writeup by Charles Pitt.*

## Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>				
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Event/speaker</i>	<i>To introduce</i>	<i>To thank + <b>Speaker write-up</b></i>	<i>Venue</i>
Wed 18th May	<b>Steve Goldsmith</b> Climate change	tba	tba	Strathfield Golf Club
Wed 25th May	<b>Vocational Service Evening</b>	-	-	Strathfield Golf Club
Sun 29th May	<b>Rotary Charity Ball</b>	-	-	La Montage
Wed 1st Jun	<b>No meeting</b>	-	-	-
Thur 9th Jun	<b>Youth Achievement Awards</b>	-	-	Strathfield Town Hall

<i>Birthdays</i>	
19th May	Rick Vosila
22nd May	Ying Ho

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
21st May	Dinesh and Usha Garg (Wedding)
23rd May	John-Paul Baladi (Rotary)
23rd May	Thaya Ponniah (Rotary)



## *The Rotary Statistics*

Attendance last meeting (11-05-22) – in person	21
Club membership	<b>54</b>
Partners	0
Guests	2

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$170.00
Sergeant's session	\$104.10

*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

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

*Upcoming event: Gala Ball*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

*Save the Date*

Strathfield  
**Rotary**  
Club



**Rotary Charity Ball**

Sunday 29 May 2022 

6:30 for 7:00 pm

Le Montage Function Centre

\$150 per person - all inclusive

All Proceeds To

The Rotary Foundation

Strathfield Rotary

Local Community Projects



Enquiries

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[info@strathfieldrotary.org.au](mailto:info@strathfieldrotary.org.au)

*Upcoming event: Youth Achievement Awards*  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June**



**NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN**

The Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of young people who go to school, live, work or train in the Strathfield Local Government Area. Running since 2003, the Awards are organised by the Rotary Club of Strathfield, and feature categories of Arts and Culture, Environment/Community Service, Science and Technology, and Sport.

**Do you know an exceptional young person who deserves  
their achievements to be recognised?**

Enquiries: [info@strathfieldrotary.org.au](mailto:info@strathfieldrotary.org.au)

*Nominations close 5:00pm Wednesday 18 May 2022*



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