



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

21st July 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 July</i>		
-	Rotary	Start of new Rotary Year – Transition Month
-	Aust	Plastic Free July
<i>Weeks of July</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of July</i>		
26th July	UN	World Mangrove Day
28th July	UN	World Hepatitis Day [WHO]

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

This year the theme for Rotary clubs throughout the world is "Serve to Change Lives". Shekhar Mehta, the Rotary International president for 2021-22, selected this theme based on the impact on himself of his own experience in

participating in service projects through Rotary. His work in Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathise more with the needs of others.

As Rotarians, we always seek to serve the community and live up to the ideals of service above self. We work in hands-on projects and raise funds for worthy causes that assist disadvantaged and deserving people. I have heard an interesting mantra for this time of quarantine, social distancing: "A day is a week, a week is a month, and anything beyond a month is out of sight." Sometimes it feels like time is standing

still even though unexpected changes are happening every day. But the work we do, our relationship with our community and those we help, change us as individuals.

Life as a member of our Rotary club is not only about service – we also have a lot of fun with social events and get-togethers, when permitted according to the restrictions. Our club embraces diversity and has a good mix of women and men as members. We are flexible and open to change. We value the opinion and contributions of all our members and our community of friends and supporters.

This is our third week into the new Rotary year. We spent the whole of the first week honouring and celebrating the late Peter Smith. We devoted the bulletin for him and spent time remembering him at our first meeting of the year. Last week we had our first board meeting with presentations from each service director outlining the plan for the year. It was a fruitful meeting. We will be discussing more about our strategic implementation plan in detail at our club assembly soon. We also had our weekly zoom meeting

with 26 participants. Two of our new members Saroni and Harpreet presented their vocational talk.

We are facing an extraordinary time, where serving one another may actually be critical to our future. During these uncertain times, we Rotarians can help others work through this stressful situation by serving others in many ways. Although most of us are facing many limitations with the current lockdown, we, Rotarians, are determined to do whatever we can and spend more time planning and strategizing our projects and programs.

Together, we will get through this challenging time. Stay healthy – and stay safe.

As always, in service above self!

Yours in Rotary,

Thaya Ponniah

Director Reports



Alexey Prokopenko
Club Service Director

Fellow Rotarians,

I am excited to start writing my first report as the Vocational Service Director. In brief, I plan to keep doing standard Vocational Projects and introduce a couple of new projects. Moreover, current President Thaya Ponniah and I have come up with a plan to

introduce a significant project and plan to raise funds as much as possible. I look forward to working closely with Rotarians and our board. I believe we have a significant year ahead with a lot of plans and improvements despite Covid and lockdown situations.

The following are the Vocational Service Projects in my portfolio: Vocational Award, Police Officer of the Year, Anzac Day and International Women's Day.

As you know, all events are face-to-face, and the current changing situation does not allow us to plan properly yet. However, our

community will be supported and recognized.

The first event which is planned and coming soon is the Police Officer award, and we will keep you updated about the date and format of the event as soon as it is finalized. All the other events will be planned later this year adapting to the situation. The International Women's Day was so successful last year, and many Rotarians and their friends and guests enjoyed it so much. We will continue in the 2021-2022 year.



Ying Ho
Youth Director

Dear fellows,

I am extremely grateful to our President, Thaya Ponniah for the opportunity to be the new Youth Service Director. It is an honour to take over from the great work of the late Peter Smith. Peter has been the front-man for Youth Services for a long time and has been instrumental in the development of our Youth Programs and establishing relationships with schools such as Homebush Boys. I hope to continue to strengthen those relationships and programs as well as establish new initiatives.

My portfolio will include the Annual Youth Achievement Awards, Citizenship Awards, RYLA, RYPEN and MUNA nominations, and the Maurie Moroney Memorial Debate. We have already sponsored two students for the NYSF (National Youth Science Forum)

nominations this year, one from PLC and one from Meriden.

We also plan to set up joint projects with other Interact and Rotaract Clubs as well as initiate new Interact and Rotaract Clubs.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead working with the board and my fellow Rotarians.



Rod McDougall
Treasurer

It is "dues time" and my thanks to those members who have been prompt with their payment - including the eight members who paid the day the invoice was issued! The first in-person sergeant's session will be expensive for your treasurer (I promised a happy-buck for the first three payments, but will extend it to include all day-one payments).

A reminder that the due date is 31 July 2021. EFT is preferred, but payments may also be made by credit card. Simply contact me on 0416 163 090 with you MasterCard or Visa card handy.

Members would have noticed that dues have been maintained at \$220 for six months - with 50% discounts for members under 30 years of age and partner members. The discounts were introduced in PP Arie's year and have been maintained since that time.

If you have not received your dues invoice by email, please contact me.

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## *Speakers from last week: Saroni Roy & Harpreet Bhatia*

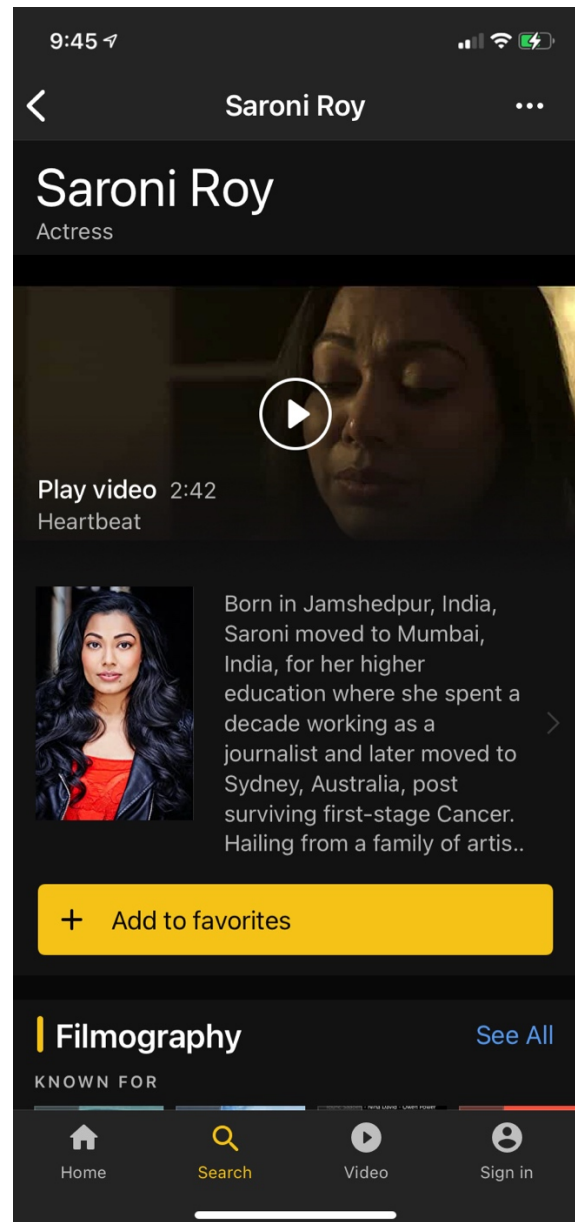
### **Saroni Roy**

Saroni Roy comes from small town in India near Kolkata. Studied at university in Mumbai. Out of University worked as a journalist. Mumbai being a fast town prepared Saroni for life. Lived there for 10 years. Job involved interviewing actors, photographers, and high profile people. Following on from getting married Saroni moved to Bangalore, in the south of India- a culture shock. It's an IT place, lacking in creatives and so switched to public relations work.

Not long after Saroni was diagnosed with cancer, having not long before noticed a lump in the throat area. Thyroidectomy followed as did a reevaluation of life priorities, including a move to Australia, particularly Strathfield, sharing accommodation with others initially. Early days in Strathfield saw a struggle to find work in chosen fields, taking jobs in customer service at Telstra amongst others. Further health issues followed this time with debilitating pain.

Inspiration from a local actor led Saroni to enroll in an acting course and Saroni had finally found her true career inspiration, launching into acting and modelling. Saroni finds acting very therapeutic, assisting with her various health issues. Her attitude is to say yes to every life opportunity. Saroni is the co-chair of an actors' union representing the disabled. [See Saroni's IMDb entry on this page! – Ed]

In the future Saroni's desire is to move toward film production but currently COVID has effectively closed down whole acting industry so it's all on hold. Saroni has contributed in the charity space, particularly humanitarian and peace building. She has joined Rotary as a way to extend this work.



### **Harpreet Bhatia**

Harpreet Bhatia was born in 1977. He is from a defence family and his parents are still living in India. He has a younger brother. Trips back to India to see family are a common occurrence in non COVID times. Harpreet Bhatia migrated to Australia in 2003, becoming an Australian citizen in 2010. He has degrees in Public Administration and Political Science, and a Graduate Diploma in Information



Technology Management. Harpreet also has a Master's Degree in Computer Science. He has worked in the IT industry for the last 15 years.

Married 2007 moving to Sydney from Melbourne at that time. Harpreet has fashioned a professional life as an IT Architect currently working for Sydney Trains which is in the process of implementing trains capable of operating without guards- difficult industrial relations discussions underway between government and unions.

Married to Simeet who is a Psychologist. They have 2 children. Harpreet's interests include aviation (particularly fighter jets), writing and travel particularly exploring NSW with his family. An uncle in India inspired Harpreet toward Rotary when he was still resident there. He attended club dinners at his uncle's invitation which has inspired him to further involvement.

*Writeup by Gulian Vasari*



A great roll-up to hear from our two newest members

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### *Speaker for this week: (Zoom) AG David Mutoro PHF*

Dr. David Baraza Mutoro's career can be seen in three parts; Education, Fisheries...and Rotary.

David joined Rotary in 2008, is a past president of Balmain and Kings Cross Rotary Clubs. He is now an Assistant Governor for Western Harbour Rotary Clubs and was recently, awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by his Kings Cross Rotary Club.

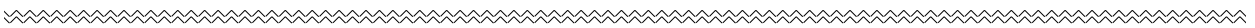
David's journey is associated with his education, and support from many volunteers along the way. Since 2005 to date, teaches science and numeracy in TAFENSW in a college in the Sutherland Shire.

- David completed his Advanced Level (A-level/Year 12) in Kenya in 1980
- In India 1981 -1987 (BSc. & MSc.), Rajasthan and Raipur Universities

- Auckland University in New Zealand PhD 2001 (Awarded World bank Scholarship)
- Kyoto University in Japan (JSPS Fellowship) Post-Doctoral 1999-2002

When David completed his A-level in 1980, Kenya had only one University in its capital

Nairobi. A few colleges around the country offered diploma and technical certificate level courses. Therefore, David travelled the world to seek education. Hence, speaks several languages including Luhya (his tribe), English, Swahili, Hindi, and can understand Japanese.



## Dates for the Calendar



| Rotary Events |                                                                                          |               |                                    |       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Day/Date      | Event/speaker                                                                            | To introduce  | To thank + <b>Speaker write-up</b> | Venue |
| Wed 21st July | <b>AG David Mutoro PHF</b>                                                               | Rick Vosila   | Jan Barrett                        | Zoom  |
| Wed 28th July | <b>Renga Rajan</b>                                                                       | Thaya Pooniah | Jaya Challa                        | Zoom  |
| Wed 4th Aug   | TBA                                                                                      | TBA           | TBA                                | TBA   |
| Wed 11th Aug  | <b>John Treloar</b><br>The Australian Tandem<br>Cycling Team –<br>1952 Helsinki Olympics | Rick Vosila   | Rod McDougall                      | TBA   |

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

| Birthdays |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 21st July | Janice Vince   |
| 29th July | Steven Argyris |

| Anniversaries |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 20th July     | Charles and Olga Pitt (Wedding) |





## *The Rotary Statistics*

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance last meeting (14-07-21) – Zoom | 25        |
| Club membership                           | <b>46</b> |
| Partners                                  | 0         |
| Guests                                    | 0         |

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

## *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 <sup>1</sup> | Community    | Rick Vosila        |
| International            | Roy Elis             | Vocational   | Alexey Prokopenko  |
| Public Officer           | Rod McDougall        | Club Service | Arie Pappas        |

<sup>1</sup> 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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