

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
28th July 2021

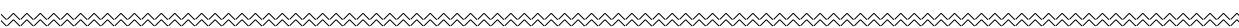
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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<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/Aug</i>		
1st – 7th Aug	UN	World Breastfeeding Week
<i>Days of July/Aug</i>		
28th July	UN	World Hepatitis Day [WHO]
30th July	UN	International Day of Friendship
30th July	UN	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
30th July	Aust	Schools Tree Day
31st July	UN	World Ranger Day
1st Aug	Aust	National Tree Day
4th Aug	Aust	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (NAICD)



President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

When I am out in public, I always try to smile at others. It's my way of reaching out to people who might need to see a friendly face. Most of the time, I get a genuine smile in return. But during this time when I am mandated to wear a

facemask, I realised that people could no longer see my mouth, thus no one could see my smile. It is sad, but I'm not going to stop. Maybe they'll see in my eyes that I'm smiling. There's actually a bit of science behind that idea. The muscles from the corners of the mouth and the ones that make the eyes crinkle can work in tandem. It's called a "Duchenne smile", and it has been described as "smiling with the eyes."

What am I trying to say here? We started this Rotary year with the lockdown and thought we would wait for some time to get our plans implemented. We developed our comprehensive strategic plan last year and thereafter prepared our strategic goals for this year. We also spent the last few weeks preparing our strategic implementation schedule. And now - whether there is lockdown or not - we have decided to execute our plans one by one and step by step. We are not going to wait for the pandemic to be over. In other words, although we can't show our mouths when smiling - we are going to smile with our eyes.

COVID-19 has definitely brought the word "perspective" to the forefront for us all. Across Rotary's global network of clubs and its members, COVID-19 has placed us all in unprecedented territory. Far from life as normal, far from business as normal. Members and leaders at all levels of our organisation are faced with decisions they have never believed they would encounter, and they are asking for guidance on how to deal with this global pandemic with regards to Rotary. As most of you will agree, vaccination is one of the ways to minimise the impact of this deadly Delta variant. In line with the stand taken by Rotary International which was also supported by our Rotary District - we, at the Rotary Club of Strathfield, are embarking on a project to use social media to campaign for the

vaccination. Please refer to the Rotary International Publication regarding Rotary and the coronavirus impact.

We have had very lively weekly Zoom meetings this month with interesting and informative guest speakers. Members' attendance was relatively high, and their engagement and enthusiasm was infectious. Whilst spending some time thinking of the opportunities, not just the challenges, we have already started working on a few programs. I have summarised a few activities below for the member's information:

- With the lengthy and productive board meeting on 12 July 21, we have all been busy planning our projects and events for the year.
- Treasurer Rod, President-elect Andrew and I are working on new formats and templates to plan and perform well financially.
- A few board members are already applying for district grants.
- Secretary Nick is getting ready for our second board meeting on the 2nd of August 21.
- We have already got a prospective member attending the last weekly meeting.
- Club Service Director Arie and Program Chair Gulian are doing a good job getting great guest speakers. We would like all of you to suggest some good speakers. We can even have overseas or interstate guest speakers on Zoom.
- Bulletin Editor Bradley and Social Media Guru Raymond are spending many hours on the bulletin as well as on social media. Please give information as much as possible for the bulletin, to make our bulletin more informative and interesting as our members have plenty of time to read during the lockdown.

Friends, no matter how we come together - online or face to face - we will continue to be members of a club where "service comes before self", always supporting each other, our local communities and the world.

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

As always, in service above self!

Yours in Rotary,

Thaya Ponnia

Director Reports



Rick Vosila
*Community Service
Director*

Reflecting on our new Strategic Plan – 2021 to 2024, this year we want to focus our Community Service efforts on:

1. Building a **strong and sustainable finance base** – so we have the financial capacity to deliver service programs with impact
2. Developing a **powerful fundraising engine** – so we can feed and build upon that financial base, to make a meaningful difference; and
3. Establishing ourselves as a **pillar of service leadership in our community** – so the communities that we serve know we are there for them

We have already identified a number of meaningful and impactful projects we'd like to run with this year. They're described briefly below, and some ideas are still forming:

1) St Paul's Church Burwood – Parish Pantry

We have established a good service relationship already with Father James of St Paul's Burwood, and have assisted with the Parish Pantry initiative. There is more to do, sadly, as the needs of the homeless and needy are increasing in this area. The Parish Pantry needs a cool room to store perishable food items, and we're going to help them get it! We need to raise \$6,000.00 to plug the funding gap they currently have. We're initially looking for local business donations to make up that shortfall and provide this essential service. We hope we can do this quickly. Any suggestions of willing businesses, please let me know.

2) Mental Health Research – Australian Rotary Health

You will all know that we have been solid supporters of Australian Rotary Health over the years, and this year will be no different. We want to support mental health research in a meaningful way again and are on the lookout for impactful ideas. If you have a great idea for what we can do, please let me know. Remember... think BIG.

3) Online Fundraising Initiatives – Humanitarian Project Support

With the unpredictable nature of lockdowns, and community movement

restrictions we're facing in this new COVID-impacted world, we need to get creative regarding our fundraising. I'm not sure we'll have much opportunity for large physical fundraising events (gala balls, dinners, etc.). So, we'll be looking to leverage online fundraising approaches to meet these needs. We particularly want to effectively support meaningful humanitarian projects. Stay tuned for

more on this later, and again all ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Thanks in anticipation to you all as we look to live our new vision, "*... to be a leading Rotary Club in our District, delivering high-impact service projects to those most in need in the communities we serve.*"

Speaker from last week: 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 and is PP of Balmain and Kings Cross Rotary Clubs. David 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:

- Advanced Level (A-level/Year 12) in Kenya 1980
 - BSc. & MSc.- Rajasthan and Raipur Universities in India 1981 -1987
 - PhD (Awarded World bank Scholarship) - Auckland University in New Zealand in 2001
 - JSPS Fellowship Post-Doctoral - Kyoto University in Japan 1999-2002
- PhD

When David completed his A-levels in 1980, Kenya had only one University in Nairobi and a few colleges around the country offering diploma and technical certificate level courses. David travelled the world to seek education and hence speaks several languages including Luhya

(his tribe), English, Swahili and Hindi. He also understands Japanese.

Kenya gained independence from the British in 1963 and there were very few schools in the country. A lot of support in setting up schools and health facilities in African countries came from volunteers such as missionaries, other religious organisations, NGOs, etc. In the early days these systems depended upon volunteers from western countries including, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, USA, Canada, Europe, etc. The volunteers were missionaries/Peace Corps as teachers, doctors, nurses etc. David was taught by these volunteers in secondary and high schools.

Rotary is now the new player in Africa, supporting community projects including education, health, agricultural, poverty eradication, war zone recovery etc. Several countries share one District Governor (DG), e.g. D9212 is composed of four countries, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Southern Sudan and Kenya.

Community projects and Services

Australian Rotarians provide great support to African projects as shown by RAWCS website (<https://rawcs.org.au>). Balmain and Kings Cross Rotary Clubs supported an international project for a patient transport vehicle for community

in western Kenya, RAWCS project is 38-2012-13, delivered in October 2020.

David organised with Pink Umbrella Foundation (www.pinkumbrellafoundation.com), a donation of medical teaching equipment to a medical college in Bungoma County, Kenya. Phillip Isaacs AOM RAWCs project number 31-20011-12 organised a donation of computers to some primary schools in Kenya. In 2007, David bought two 1000L water tanks for a school with around 1000 students in his village to harvest rainwater.



David visiting Mapera Prima School 1

After joining Rotary in 2008, he soon became the President of Balmain Rotary Club. He then moved to Kings Cross Rotary Club, the Club receiving the best district 9675 community award when David was the club president 2019 to 2020. David treasures being a Rotarian, and knows that charity begins at home, as he grew up with it in his community.

In New Zealand, apart from studying, David was the secretary for Auckland African community in the early 1990s and volunteered to support the African refugees settle in New Zealand. David organised a monthly African music entertainment and fundraising night, being assisted by his Kiwi friends, to

support the African community in the region.

In Japan, when not working on the fisheries stock enhancement project, David interacted with fundraising organisers of different charities. Schools in Kansai area invited him to fundraise as a guest speaker to talk about different African cultures and to teach African cuisine cooking. He was regularly invited to fundraise in different places in the Kansai area, with funds being donated to some charities in Japan supporting projects mainly in Asian countries. He appeared on several local Kansai area Japanese TV channels and in local newspapers. He also accommodated foreign guests in his Japanese traditional house (machiya), when visiting his department in Kyoto University. Other foreigners, living in different parts of Japan, stayed when visiting Kyoto for sightseeing. The house door was always unlocked, people came and went, leaving a 'thank you' note to indicate that they had been there.

David arrived in Australia in early 2000s and started teaching in TAFE NSW in 2005. A change to a career in education gave, and continues to give, him tremendous pleasure. TAFE NSW supports students who are struggling to complete studies in formal educational systems. David teaches in a formal classroom, but also spends most of the time at place of work providing support to many students "one on one" in several TAFE NSW Libraries or suitable settings. He recently encouraged some of his students to participate in RYLA programs in D9675. In 2020, Kings Cross Rotary Club sponsored one of his students to attend the RYLA camp.

Background information

In 1981, African countries negotiated with the Government of India to open up their universities to their students. This is a cheap fee structure (as for local students), making it economical for African parents to send their children to India to study. David studied BSc. (Biology and Chemistry) at Rajasthan University in Udaipur City, then MSc. Zoology (Fisheries) at Raipur University. David's community involvement in Kenya helped send eight students and four of his brothers to several universities in India. Returning to Kenya in 1987, David worked as a fisheries researcher on Lake Victoria, then moving to Jomo Kenyatta University as a Zoology Lecturer. He received a World Bank Scholarship to study a PhD in New Zealand in Marine Biology specialising in flatfish fisheries.

In 1996, organisers at Flatfish Symposium on Texel Island in the Netherlands mistakenly identified David as Japanese, due his name "Mutoro" and, based on this premise, he was accommodated with the scientific team from Japan. Leading the team was Prof. Masaru Tanaka, a senior staff member of Kyoto University, and an adviser to Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS). Prof. Tanaka invited David to apply for the JSPS fellowship, as his Post-Doctoral Host Researcher at Kyoto University. He joined the research team in 1999 that hatched Japanese flounder, releasing the juveniles into the Japan Sea for stock enhancement. Following his Post-Doc, David worked near Osaka for one year with a marine firm, gaining experience in Japanese marine sediments and sea life.

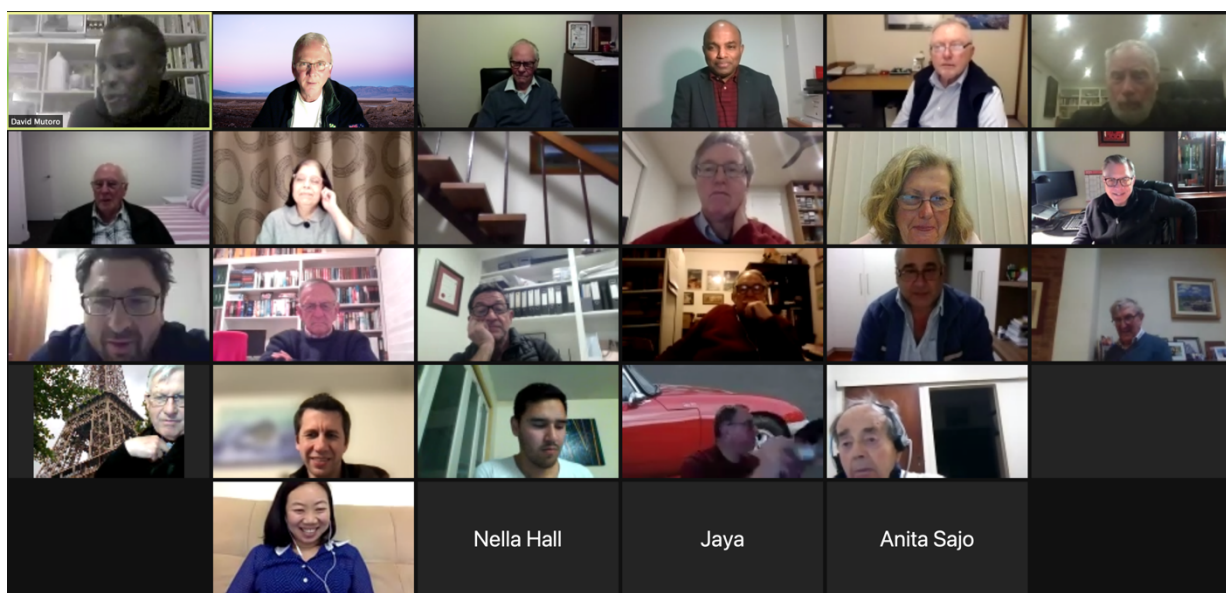


David with high school students in Kyoto 1

In 1985, David caused a great stir amongst local villagers and farmers (Kisan). When a group of locals saw him coming, they rushed to touch his black skin and tight curly hair. They believed that Lord Krishna had blessed them with his presence and they began bowing and “worshipping” this ‘god’ amongst them. This was the very first contact the locals had with an African person. Lord Krishna was black skinned with tight curly hair and David was, for a moment in time, Lord Krishna himself or, at the very least, part of his ancestry.

David often seems to have been in the right place at the right time. ‘In Kenya, it is said being born in the early morning hours, when the brightest star the sun is rising confers luck – this may well be so based on David’s fortune in life! His middle name Baraza means that he was born on a Monday during the time of the Chief’s weekly Meeting with the villagers from his community. David received support, scholarships and fellowships as he was at the right place at the time, without competing for them, in comparison to other people.

Writeup provided by Janice Barrett



Speakers for this week: PP Renga Rajan ADG and PP Bharathi Rengarajan

PP Renga Rajan is an Assistant District Governor in District 9675. He is a Professional Engineer working for the Australian Defence Industries.

PP Bharathi Rengarajan is the Lead Civil Engineer at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)

District News

Did you know that DG Jeremy Wright releases video bulletins? The latest can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Upvr3LXI84>

In the latest edition, he mentions the following dates for various District events:

- August '21 – RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) Cancelled
- January '22 – NYSF (National Youth Science Forum)

- Sun, 29 August '21 – District Changeover
- 27 August - 21 – Deadline for POOTY (Police Officer of the Year) nominations
- 25 August '21 – Lamington Day
- 14 August '21 – RESCA (Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards)
- 10 August '21 – Climate & Peace Forum Webinar

Rotary International News

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-and-coronavirus-impact-frequently-asked-questions#vaccinations>

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Q: Will Rotary have a role to play in COVID-19 vaccinations?

A: Yes. Rotary will tap into its decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, to highlight the power and efficacy of vaccines. Rotary's tenacity, strategic partnerships, and innovation can all support the effort to protect communities from COVID-19.

Rotary and its partners at the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) recently announced that it is ready to support vaccine introduction and delivery. The group is also committed to equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and lending its support to ensure that all communities have equal access to vaccines.

More information and resources will soon be available for clubs and districts.

Q: Are the RI Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees taking action in regards to vaccines?

A: Yes, they are. At a recent joint session, the RI Board and Trustees created a joint task force that will develop and execute a plan to encourage Rotary and Rotaract clubs to support vaccinations.

Q: How can Rotary and Rotaractors get involved?

A: There are several ways members can get involved. Members can enhance community education on COVID-19 vaccinations by sharing information from local and regional health authorities and supporting their efforts. They should contact local health departments to determine where assistance is most needed. Moreover, members can connect with local health officials, including World Health Organization and UNICEF where applicable, to advocate for and support

their efforts to ensure all communities receive equal access to the vaccine.

Q: What about vaccine misinformation and hesitancy? Are there ways to combat this?

A: Yes. Rotary is asking members to disseminate accurate, fact-based information as provided by local health agencies. It's important to spread the word that vaccines work by using #vaccineswork in their social media postings. Highlight Rotary's work on polio as a key example.

Members can invite medical professionals or local health officials to speak at club meetings. Try to also engage with local media, for example writing letters to the editor, in support of local efforts and vaccine safety and efficacy—using Rotary's success in polio eradication as a proof point.

Q: COVID-19 is still spreading around the world. What should members do to help stop the spread?

A: Members need to continue to participate in projects that support mask wearing, social distancing, proper hygiene practices, and donations of personal protection equipment.

More importantly, members should lead by example, by wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Share images online that reflect these lifesaving behaviors. Get vaccinated. When the time arrives for you to receive the vaccine, share your experience online.

Q: How can I share my efforts?

A: Let the Rotary world know what your club or district is doing to support COVID-19 vaccine introduction efforts by posting your initiatives and projects on Rotary Showcase.

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 28th July	Renga Rajan & Bharathi Rengarajan Community and Membership Development Initiatives	Thaya Pooniah	Jaya Challa	Zoom
Wed 4th Aug	TBA	TBA	TBA	Zoom
Wed 11th Aug	John Treloar The Australian Tandem Cycling Team – 1952 Helsinki Olympics	Rick Vosila	Rod McDougall	Zoom
Wed 18th Aug	Bill Crews The Work of the Exodus Foundation	Gulian Vaccari	Trudy Ho	Zoom

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

<i>Birthdays</i>	
29th July	Steven Argyris
3rd August	Paul Anton

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
-	-



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (21-07-21) – Zoom	25
Club membership	46
Partners	0
Guests	2

<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 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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