



# President's Report

It was an honour to lead this great club over the past year. My year as president was supported by an exceptional board along with a hardworking and passionate club membership. I never imagined how the second half of our year would play out, bushfires, floods then the unthinkable, a world pandemic, something not experienced in any of our lifetimes. Despite all this, our club stuck together to not only survive but to thrive!

Our club's achievements throughout 2019-2020 resulted in our club achieving a Rotary Citation with Presidential Platinum Distinction. Whilst the eligibility criteria were relaxed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our club met the requirements as originally specified. In addition, our club's herculean efforts have put our club in the running for the Best Club in the District Award (winner yet to be announced). This is due to the unrelenting efforts of our board and members.

Our hardworking board consisted of Treasurer PP (Past President) Rod McDougall, Secretary Dimitry Palmer, Club Service Director PP AG (Assistant Governor) Rick Vosila, Community Service Director PE (President Elect) Usha Garg, International Service Director PP Thaya Ponniah, Vocational Service Director Paul Anton, Youth Service Director PP Peter Smith, and IPP (Immediate Past President) Charles Pitt.

As our country was in lockdown mode for the final quarter of the year, this resulted in many projects being postponed or cancelled. All fund-raising efforts were severely hampered and "in person" meetings cancelled. Despite these challenges, our board and members rose to the occasion to ensure that our club continued to stay connected through weekly zoom meetings and to undertake numerous community service projects to assist those affected by the pandemic

Whilst there are too many to mention, below is a summary of some of our combined club's achievements and highlights over the past year:

## **Community Service: Director PE Usha Garg & Director PP Thaya Ponniah**

### ❖ COVID19 Relief projects:

- Mother's Day Celebration Gifts
- Free food distribution and volunteering to assist homeless people
- Recognition of more than 100 Cleaning Staff at Concord Hospital on International Cleaner's Day
- Donation towards computer equipment for Chalmers Road School

### ❖ Yuendumu Community Project (Northern Territory)

### ❖ Drought Relief Project (Wellington NSW)

### ❖ Graffiti Removal Project

### ❖ Bowel Care Program

## **International Service: Director Thaya Ponniah**

### ❖ Rotary Foundation contribution US\$13,395 thanks to Major Donor PP Roy Ellis

### ❖ Spinal Cord Project (Sri Lanka)

### ❖ Prevention of Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS Project (Sri Lanka)

### ❖ Sister Club arrangement with Rotary Club of Colombo South (Sri Lanka RID 3220)

### ❖ Polio Awareness Day Project



**Vocational Service: Director Paul Anton**

- ❖ Hosted the Police Officer of the Year Awards, including significant donation to Police Legacy
- ❖ Raised external sponsorship to fund the awards

**Club Service: Director - Assistant Governor PP Rick Vosila**

- ❖ Co-ordinated vital efforts to allow online zoom meetings which enabled member engagement and communication. This major initiative has set the platform for future meetings both locally and internationally

**Youth Service: Director PP Peter Smith**

- ❖ Sponsored 3 participants to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) program
- ❖ Sponsored 3 students to attend RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) program

Serving as president allowed me a different perspective on the many facets of running a service club. I am truly grateful to all our members for their unwavering support. Every member has a special place in our club which makes a difference. I would like to highlight the following individuals who when called upon provided support, assurance, energy and passion. PP Thaya Ponniah "The Little Engine That Could", I cannot speak highly enough for the passion and energy that Thaya has to help his fellow man and make a difference. Thaya has been inspirational to me and I am forever grateful for his support and friendship.

PP Rod McDougall "The Backbone Of Our Club" need I say anymore. Thank you Rod for your daily grind to support all efforts and bring us all together. PP Raymond McCluskie "Mr Can Do" this gentleman who does not have the word "no" in his vocabulary. Not only gets it done but with impeccable efficiency and with his usual charm. Paul Anton "Whatever you need", always stood tall and beside me throughout the year ready for any challenge. PP Roy Ellis "Everyone's Best Mate" nothing pleased me more when standing at the lectern at our weekly meetings than to see Roy smiling back at me. The epitome of a gentleman, Roy is the heart of our club. PP PDG (Past District Governor) David Croft "The Club Statesman" thank you for being the voice of reason and acting as a sound board when required. PP AG Rick Vosila "Mr Personality" thank you for your humour, warmth and positivity which has shaped our club's culture.

Whilst being president of our club is a great honour, this responsibility requires time, effort and the support of your family. I would like to acknowledge and thank my wife Athena and all Past President's partners for the key role they have played throughout the years.

Finally, to Incoming President Usha Garg and her board, best wishes for the year ahead 2020-2021! Whilst you will be challenged by the current climate I have no doubt that this will be a great year in the history of the Rotary Club of Strathfield particularly as we Celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

*Arie Pappas*  
President



# Vocational Service Report

## Police Officer of the Year Awards 2019

Congratulations to Strathfield Rotary for raising \$3,000, which was donated to NSW Police Legacy who provide services to police legateses and members of the wider, police family across the State.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield hosted the 2019 Police Officer of the Year Awards night on Wednesday 18th September 2019. On this day, fourteen Police Officers, nominated by their peers from the local Police Area Commands (PAC) of Auburn and Burwood received awards.

Auburn and Burwood Police Area Command encompasses; Auburn, Strathfield, Burwood, Ashfield and Five Dock Police Stations.

This was the 17th year that Strathfield Rotary recognised the vital role these men and women of the NSW Police Force serve and protect our society.

With over 110 guests in attendance the event was held at the world leading Strathfield Golf Club in the Strathfield Event Centre catered by Forte Catering. We thank Ross Mitchell and his team for providing exceptional service and a great dining experience.

Detective Superintendent Gary Merryweather Chair, NSW Police Legacy provided the room an overview of the work that the Legacy provide to the Police family and was much appreciative of the funds raised and work that Strathfield Rotary do each year.

Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Loy who was representing Commissioner Michael Fuller joined us as our keynote speaker and to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our Police force and share he's experience and inspired all in the room.

Inspector Craig Miller from Auburn PAC and Acting Inspector Simon Moore from Burwood PAC introduced the finalised and shared their outstanding acts of courtesy, bravery, courage, compassion and devotion to duty of our their Officers and presented them with their plaques. We congratulate the following awardees from Auburn PAC;

Detective Senior Constable Robert Duggan  
Senior Constable Caitlin Fowler  
Plain Clothes Senior Constable Kutlu Gurbuz  
Constable Julian Kruckas  
Constable Hayley Ryu

Senior Constable Marie Vial  
Constable Christopher Williams and from Burwood PAC;

Detective Sergeant Andrew Brennan  
Senior Constable Andrew Fuller  
Senior Constable Gavin Taylor  
Senior Constable Douglas Gannon  
Senior Constable Rabih Wazir  
Constable Nickala Edye  
Constable Michael Galla

Congratulations to Constable Christopher Williams from Auburn PAC and Detective Sergeant Andrew Brennan from Burwood PAC for being selected the Police Officer of the Year winners. We thank Detective Superintendent Phillip Rogerson from Auburn PAC and Detective Superintendent Paul Devaney from Burwood PAC for their leadership and been available to proudly acknowledge their Officers.

Thank you to all local dignitaries that joined us to acknowledge the work our local Police do to keep the community safe and uphold the law.



We are very grateful of our event sponsors because without them we could not bring the great event our local Police deserve. Thank you to the following event sponsors Select Print, Roy Ellis, Alvaro Bros Builders, Aravanis, Joseph P Saad & Co, Mayor Antoine Doueihy, Strathfield Council, Cumberland Council, Burwood Council, Forte Catering, Strathfield Golf Club.

As much needed funds are required by the NSW Police Legacy we would also like to thank the following raffle sponsors, Wests Tigers NRL, Strathfield Golf Club, Manenti Quinlan & Associates, Costco, Officeworks Greenacre and Five Dock, Bunnings Greenacre and Ashfield, Dan Murphy's Strathfield, Burwood and Leichhardt. With all your help we raised a record \$3,000 for NSW Police Legacy.

*Paul Anton*

Director - Vocational Service





# Community Service Report

This year nature tested the resilience of the community and the community services of our club in numerous ways throughout the year. First it was the ongoing severe drought in the countryside, then came the tragic bushfires and before one could reach out to the fire victims, the pandemic was on our doorsteps. However, with all these difficulties, our spirits were not dampened, rather it brought out the best in all of us. We witnessed many community service fundraising events, thanks to the generous efforts of our Rotarians who contributed their valuable time and resources and worked tirelessly in the community teams. By making donations to our causes, we fulfilled our responsibility to the public for their generous donations.

## **National Tree Day Event, Saturday 28 July 2019 (Bressington Park)**

Around mid-July, at very short notice, the BBQ team led by Chair Andrew Aravanis and PP Peter Smith were able to put a great show for Rotary on this day. Selling a few hundred sizzling sausages, we raised over a thousand dollars in those cool hours of the morning for Chalmers Road School.

## **Strathfield Spring Fair, Saturday 7 September 2019 (Strathfield Park)**

With the change in season, and the onset of warmer temperatures, came the Strathfield Spring Fair, an annual major event in partnership with Strathfield Council. Another successful BBQ where almost a third of our club members participated from early morning to late in the evening. Led by Andrew Aravanis and PP Peter Smith, we raised over \$2K on the day. On a beautiful sunny day, the wind gusts created some challenging moments for our volunteers. This event presented a great opportunity to interact with our local community.

## **Spring Fling Social Event 12 October 2019 (Nonna's, Nth Strathfield)**

Early in the year, we received confirmation District that our bid for the District grant was successful and we received \$4000. To raise the remaining \$6000, a fund raising event was organised by PP Allan Teale and Mollie Teale at Nonna's in North Strathfield. Eighty people united to raise all the money needed to lay the perfect foundation for this project in the service of our indigenous people.

## **Marquee , 29 October 2019 (Strathfield Square)**

This was the year we ordered the Rotary Strathfield Marquee - a 6m\*3m cover for our BBQs and outdoor events. Incidentally on a rainy day, we had the perfect opportunity to test the marquee for the first time in early 2020 at a membership event at Strathfield square

## **Carols in the Park, Saturday 7 December 2019 (Bressington Park)**

In the face of many adversities such as fire bans, bushfires and smoke, a spectacular 'Carols in the Park' was pulled off by Strathfield Rotary together with Strathfield council. A fabulous committee, chaired by PP Raymond McCluskie was supported by many Rotarians, Councillors, local members and Council staff. Our charity 'drought relief' inspired the Council to support our charity with by a special donation. And many people joined our fabulous raffle and helped us raise much funds on the day for a very worthy cause.

## **Sausage Sizzle 29 December 2019 (Ashfield Bunnings)**

The last event for 2019 with almost a third of our club members participating, was a great exercise in teamwork and camaraderie. Very successful fund raiser and display of exemplary team work and spirit. Raised a few thousand dollars.



### **Croquet January 2020 (Strathfield Croquet Club)**

Around mid January, many members and guests joined together at the Strathfield Croquet Club for fellowship and a game of croquet.

### **Trish Golf Day 20th February, 2020 (Strathfield Golf Club)**

Thanks to Niall King OAM and Ray Wilson OAM along with their team for organising Rotary Club of Strathfield Golf Event supporting the Trish MS Research Foundation. The event had 72 golfers entering the challenge of Strathfield Golf Course. Two members of our club (PP Joseph Saad and PP Charles Pitt) sponsored holes. Thanks to many members, their partners and colleagues who played golf, attended the dinner - and sold (and bought) raffle tickets! A very worthwhile \$13,227.00 was raised which was allocated by the Trish MS Foundation.

### **Miscellaneous BBQs Homebush**

With a small team of Rotarians organised together by PP Allan Teale, some unusual BBQs popped up around Homebush. These were in Rochester Street and the ARH from November to January to support the various causes.

### **Drought Relief Partnership with Rotary Club of Wellington**

Money was raised for drought relief at many of our events and BBQs. Many Rotary clubs were contacted through RAWCS for distribution of funds and we chose Rotary Club of Wellington NSW and formed a partnership with them. Funds were donated through the RAWCS compassionate grant program combined with funds from Rotary club of Wellington - a total of \$20, 000 was donated to farmers in need in the form of gift vouchers for use within the township of Wellington.

### **Virtual Anzac Day Service, 25th April 2020**

In keeping with the pandemic times, on 25th April Anzac day, thanks to Janice Barrett, we arranged on our screens a complete Anzac service. This included, the opening hymn, reciting of "In Flanders Fields", by Vanessa Hamilton-Kane & Patrice Aravanis, the ode of remembrance by Andrew Aravanis, and the Rouse by our young bugler Ian Stemming.

### **The lockdown and the COVID19 Community work**

From March onwards, the situation changed. The lockdown from the pandemic made it difficult to continue with outdoor community activities, such as BBQs, so with some quick thinking on the need of the hour, we continued our community work through Covid-19 community projects. Our focus shifted to helping community groups who were adversely affected by the pandemic lockdown. This was carried forward under Covid-19 project by Thaya Ponniah, our International Director who at this stage also took over the responsibility of community service to relieve me to take on the President-elect duties.

### **In Conclusion**

During this entire year, I received enormous support of my board colleagues, our membership, community, local authorities and most importantly my husband Dinesh. With all this support, I was able to bring all the above opportunities to fruition. I express my sincere thanks to all who rallied around the community service and contributed significant time and effort, sometimes obvious and sometimes behind the scenes, and without whom none of the above could have been accomplished. We are a strong cohesive club capable of forming good partnerships with the local authorities and community.

# Community Service (Cont)

## President-elect

With President Arie Pappas on leave for a few months from March, as President-elect, I was now called on to fulfil the duties of the President and all this while there were courses to complete in preparation for being a good President!

Our last meeting at the Strathfield Event Centre was on 11th March and for a while there was no organised contact among members. The most important work was to restore some communication, so we expanded on the weekly Bulletin and many members contributed great personal stories, of past and present life to maintain a personal touch with members. These stories were read with interest and I am grateful to members for their contribution.

After a gap of one month, on 15th April we met again in a virtual environment through our screens, sitting in the comfort of a safe home environment. Thanks to our Club Service Director, PP Rick Vosila, ZOOM had arrived on our doorstep. For the next three months we continued with all our normal meeting activities on screen up to the end of the year.

Usha Garg

Director - Community Service & President Elect







# International Service Report

The International portfolio of the Rotary Club of Strathfield had a significant year in 2019-2020. Although there were a few challenges, such as the unprecedented pandemic, we have considerable activities and achievements to celebrate this year. I would like to thank our President Arie Pappas for his leadership and am grateful to our board and the members for all their contribution and encouragement. I would like to thank specifically PP Rod McDougall for all his assistance and insight.

Our financial support for The Rotary Foundation was substantial, encompassing contributions by both the club and by members. Many thanks to those members who regularly make personal contributions. We are grateful to our new Major Donor, Roy Ellis, for his magnificent contribution to Rotary Foundation. Roy's generous spirit and contributions always help our club immensely.

Our total contribution of US\$ 13,300 for Rotary international was probably the highest in the recent past from our club and certainly the highest from a club in the district this Rotary year. It allowed us to exceed the club's goals of contributing US\$ 4,500 to the Annual Fund and US\$ 1,500 to the Polio Fund.

We started our Rotary year by establishing sister club arrangement with the Rotary Club of Colombo South, in Sri Lanka. We also organised a Polio Awareness day coinciding with our Districts' "Polio Awareness Train Ride". In addition, our club also sponsored candidates for both RYPEN and RYLA.

We worked very diligently this year focussing on executing three international projects – in spite of a year full of challenges and therefore relatively quiet year.

The following is the summary of the three projects engaged and executed:

1. Under Rotary's focus area, Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, our club partnered with the Rehabilitation Project for Spinal Cord Association of war victims of the 30-year-old ethnic war in Sri Lanka. This HEALTH EQUIPMENT REPURPOSING Project was relevant and well timed for those who are recovering from the war.

2. We partnered with the Sri Lankan Rotary and Lions clubs on a Prevention of Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS project conducted in Sri Lanka. This included Seminars in the schools in 5 districts with an all Island Essay competition. This was under Rotary's focus area - Disease prevention and treatment.

3. In the process of implementing a project in Colombia under focus area - Basic education and literacy, we were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Working for Colombian Children's project was the continuations of last year's project, to provide school kits, school supplies, shoes and uniforms to children in Colombia so that they can continue their education.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield carried out all the above-mentioned projects by collaborating and partnering with many organisations.



The following are a few we worked with directly and indirectly this year:

- ❖ Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)
- ❖ Rotary People of Action – Donations in Kind (Australia)
- ❖ Rotary Clubs of The Hills – Kellyville, Australia (RID 9685)
- ❖ Rotary Clubs of Colombo South, Sri Lanka (RID 3220)
- ❖ Rotary Club of Colombo Mid-City, Sri Lanka (RID 3220)
- ❖ Rotary Club of Fusagasugá, Colombia (RID 4281)
- ❖ Australian Medical AID Foundation (AMAF)
- ❖ Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injuries Association, SRI LANKA
- ❖ Government of Sri Lanka
- ❖ Australian Engineers Association

We wouldn't have had such a significant year without the support of all our committee members of our International Portfolio. Thank you for all your time, energy and advice. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all our members, sponsors and partner organisations including Rotary clubs of Hills—Kellyville, Colombo South in Sri Lanka and Rotary club of Fusagasuga in Colombia.

*Thaya Ponniah*  
Director - International Service



# Club Service Report

This was a year of two-halves for our Club (to steal an old sporting term), and by extension for Club Service. For the first half of the year the club was operating 'normally', in a great venue, with great caterers, having great fun, fellowship and interesting speakers visiting us. The second half, commencing in early March 2020, became distinctly 'abnormal' due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the physical contact restrictions we firstly imposed on ourselves, which quickly became the Rotary norm, and then law. Many of our regular Club Service activities came to a sudden halt at this time. We did however respond extremely well and kept the club informed and reconnected in no time. So, in that context allow me to reflect on some of the great contributions made during the year in the Club Service portfolio.

Tradition dictates that I firstly make special mention of our Bulletin Editor – Bradley Ayres. In fact, I would make this my first mention even without the tradition! Bradley had once again produced a wonderful, grammatically correct, and informative Bulletin week-in, and week-out – not to mention taking dozens of photos whenever he is around. He is ever reliable and always willing to help wherever needed. He has also produced this very publication (the Changeover Bulletin) this year (with a little assistance from Treasurer Rod McDougall on the Bulletin cover). Thanks for everything, Brad!

Before the lockdown, and whilst still meeting at the Golf Club, I want to mention the fabulous food and service we received

from Forte Group, and especially 'our Amanda'. Amanda is always smiling and engaging with our members and ensures our every catering need is attended to during our meetings. Thanks Amanda!

Also, before the lockdown, we leveraged a number of club rosters to good effect: the (ever popular) Raffles Roster, the Speaker Introduction Roster and the Speaker Thanker Roster. This continued to get members involved and provided great variety of weekly raffle prizes, as well as presentation styles for the guest speaker duties. Thanks to all club members for participating so willing in all these rosters and making them a success.



As we entered our COVID-19 imposed lockdowns, we quickly moved to online meetings on the Zoom platform (it seems the whole world has moved to Zoom). Thanks again to Treasurer (and IT tragic) Rod McDougall for taking on the administration of our Zoom service under his always capable stewardship. Our regular Zoom meetings now run like clockwork,



with great attendance being recorded each meeting. We have even had several international club visits on Zoom (from Colombia and Russia). The Zoom platform really has opened a new world of opportunities for global collaboration.

This last year (pre and during the Pandemic) saw a resurgence in activity on our website and Facebook page by evergreen Past President and Web Master – Raymond McCluskie. Raymond has built and maintains a club website that has everything we need on it; it is easy to navigate; is colourful and well-structured and continues to resist any and all attempts to be replaced by something 'more contemporary'. Importantly, the content is dynamic; this is the key. It has and continues to stand the test of time. I say we keep it going forever! Additionally, Raymond has started posting more content to our Facebook page, keeping our (now limited) activities publicised to our followers. Thanks Raymond; great job again!

A very key role in any club is that of Programmes Chair. This year we had two. Rotarian Farrukh Mirza held this position for the first half of the year, until he left the club. Rotarian Nick Hamilton-Kane then quickly and diligently stepped into this role to keep our guest speaker roster active and current. Thank you to both Farrukh and Nick for your efforts in bringing great guest speakers to our club; an important element for every meeting.

The other role that has grown somewhat in

importance through the pandemic is our attendance management. Rotarian Gulian Vaccari has worked to make the weekly email reminder clear, inviting, colourful and informative, with all the required information to connect to our Zoom sessions from the day they started. We have regularly had over 20 participants in all our Zoom meetings since they started. Thanks for being ever reliable in this key role, Gulian.

All the remaining Club Service roles not specifically mentioned are equally important and continued uninterrupted before and after the lockdown. Thank you to all members of the large Club Service portfolio; you keep the club activities ticking over like clockwork. Thanks to each of you for your individual contributions.

And finally, special thanks as always to Lesley Smallwood at Selectprint in Homebush for looking after us in all our printing needs with a smile. Thank you for your ongoing support, Lesley!

Rick Vosila  
Club Service Director



# Guest Speakers





# Out and About





# Youth Service Report

We are fortunate that we have a Committee - and a membership - of passionate and dedicated Rotarians who believe in the positive change that youth and young adults can bring to the community they serve. Through Interact and Rotaract, our youth learn the values of Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity and Leadership, the core values of Rotary, which enable them to contribute in a significant and meaningful way to the community.

Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the bushfires, which unfortunately caused the cancellation of several events, we were still able to engage with the youth in a meaningful way – particularly in the last half of 2019 and early 2020.

## **Interact and Rotaract Clubs**

Many thanks to PP Roger Vince for his many years of dedicated service, as the Rotary Coordinator, for Meriden Interact.

The Interact Club at Meriden School is unique for its longevity – and is probably one of a very few clubs who actually have a waiting list! In a recent Report to District Roger gave the following update “It has been a very difficult year for the schools and meetings by the Meriden Interact Club have been generally curtailed by the strict COVID 19 provisions enforced by the school. They did join a Strathfield RC ZOOM meeting to tell the members of their December trip to Laos to help at a remote school. Unfortunately they were not able to hold their dance this year to raise funds for their chosen charity. Meriden have always strongly supported Interact for over 40 years by having a dedicated school coordinator look after them.

Homebush Boys High School has also been effected by the pandemic- particularly the some 42 International Students who have been separated from their families for several months. However, the HBHS Interact Club continues to flourish and prior to the shutdown the club was able to run a couple of school based activities such as a Pizza Day, a BBQ and the World’s Greatest Shave (supporting the Leukaemia Foundation). The Interact lads also help Concord Rotary at their Concord Growers Market – which is the major source of Interacts funding. My thanks to Ms Georgia Anton, as the school based coordinator of Interact, for her help during the year.

Strathfield Rotaract, while active at the Concord Markets struggle for numbers. However, with a few new members (mainly former students from HBHS) membership is now 10.

## **RYPEN - Rotary Youth Program of eNrichment**

RYPEN camps are a fun residential weekend for secondary school students generally aged 14 to 17 where the participants have the opportunity to listen to inspirational guest speakers and to participate in a range of outdoor activities designed to build their self-worth and use their belief in themselves constructively in a team environment.

The August 2019 the camp was held at the Sutherland Royal National Park and was attended by Madeline Ayres (Meriden), Winston Li and Evan Xiong (HBHS). Through the generous sponsorship of Concord Rotary a further 3 HBHS Interactors were able to attend the camp – Benjamin Lian, Titus Charoensri and Danny Li.

### **RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

RYLA is a 7 day residential program for young people generally aged 19 to 25, which is designed for personal development, leadership and a sense of community. RYLA 2020 was held at the YMCA Camp at Yarramundi on 5 to 11 January. RYLA recruits only the highest calibre participants who have already been identified to have exceptional leadership potential. This year we were fortunate to have 3 outstanding candidates, Skye Kim, James Hamilton-Kane and Amaan Ansari (who is now a Rotaractor!). Many thanks to PDG David Croft (Chair) for his help and guidance with RYLA.

### **Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards**

Unfortunately, these awards were yet another casualty of COVID-19 pandemic. The Strathfield Town Hall, which is a great venue, will now not be available until perhaps September 2020 – and then there is every likelihood that there will be a limit on allowable numbers. So watch this space!

However, Bradley Ayres (Chair), Dimitry Palmer and PP Arie Pappas have all done a sterling job in receiving and assessing some 23 nominations across 6 categories.

With all the excellent work done, by Bradley and his team, it will ensure that the awards can proceed expeditiously once a suitable date is available.

### **Rotary Citizenship Awards**

Since 1973 Strathfield Rotary, has been pleased to present an annual Rotary Citizenship Prize to all 17 Primary and High Schools within the Strathfield LGA. In lieu of a book we have entered into a partnership with Dymocks of Burwood to provide a Gift Certificate (in the student's name).

The prize is awarded by the school to a student who has made a positive difference or contribution to their school or local community.

Where possible, prizes were presented by a Rotarian at each schools' annual Presentation Day. Many thanks to the 13 Rotarians who attended and represented the various trophies' to the 17 schools – your help was greatly appreciated.

### **National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)**

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a number of residential programs to encourage young people in their passion for science. The programs show the wide variety of engaging, rewarding and inspiring study and career options available in science, technology and engineering fields.

The flagship program is the NYSF Year 12 Program. This runs in January each year for students about to enter year 12. Since 1984, more than 12,000 young Australians have progressed through the NYSF Year 12 Program.

Rotarians Usha Garb and Ed Dunlop interviewed Anastacia Pappas for endorsement to attend the 2020 NYSF program. As Anastacia was such an outstanding and inspiring candidate she was naturally approved by District to attend. However, due to the January 2020 bushfires (more particularly the impact of the smoke in Canberra) the NYSF 2020 event was unfortunately cancelled.



# Youth Service (Cont)

Rotarians Usha Garb and Ed Dunlop interviewed Anastacia Pappas for endorsement to attend the 2020 NYSF program. As Anastacia was such an outstanding and inspiring candidate she was naturally approved by District to attend. However, due to the January 2020 bushfires (more particularly the impact of the smoke in Canberra) the NYSF 2020 event was unfortunately cancelled.

## MUNA – Model United Nations Assembly

Model United Nations Assembly is a Rotary District project designed to create an awareness of the role of the United Nations in mediating international issues. MUNA is actually a United Nations initiative and there are a variety of MUNA events held throughout the world.

While HBHS were unable to participate in MUNA this year Strathfield Rotary were able to facilitate attendance of PLC Croydon.

PLC Croydon was successful in the Western Sydney MUNA competition which entitled three students to participate in the Finals in Canberra on 16-18 August 2019. They were unable to obtain a sponsor (for travel and accommodation) and approached Strathfield to sponsor their attendance. While they represented Strathfield Rotary the cost was covered by the school Bursar. PLC were appreciative of the (non-financial) help provided by the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

Peter Smith  
Director - Youth







# Thanks President Arie





# Treasurer's Report

It was an interesting year to say the least. The first half very much as expected. A new president and board – and many innovative ideas. But then, early in the second half, the coronavirus pandemic presented itself, and our world changed!

## Summary

The pandemic significantly reduced fundraising opportunities. Despite this we were able to make donations totalling \$47,284. To a major extent this was due to success in attracting District, community and corporate grants, Thanks especially to Paul Anton, Usha Garg, Arie Pappas, Thaya Ponniah and Gulian Vaccari for their significant efforts.

A full, audited report will be presented at the AGM. In summary, the club finished 2019-20 with a deficit of \$8,200. The deficit was a result of decisions taken by the board to support compelling projects which, due to the pandemic, were not fully funded. Surplus funds brought forward from 2018-19 facilitated the deficit result. Total cash turnover for the year was \$120,000.

## Projects and Donations

Beneficiaries of our service work are shown in the accompanying table.

Club supporters are also shown. Grants totalling \$6,500 from Strathfield Council and \$4,000 from District 9675 were significant. Once again, we saw many of our own members come forward to sponsor and support programs.

A major club fundraiser was the Trish Golf Day where \$10,672 was realised and donated. Another tribute to organiser Niall King OAM and our members.

The Yuendumu Garden Project was completed, thanks to the efforts of on-site project manager Mollie Teale. A significant, \$10,000, project,

major contributions to the funding were the D9675 grant - and the proceeds of the Spring Fling event, conceived and organised by Allan Teale and realising \$5,400.

In Paul Anton's capable hands the police awards were a success with \$3,000 being donated to NSW Police Legacy. This signature event of our club has contributed a substantial amount to this very worthwhile charity over many years.

Drought and bushfire relief quickly became fundraising priorities. Usha Garg and her barbecue team were there! At Bunnings, Strathfield Square, etc. Over \$6,500 was realised from barbecues during the (abbreviated) period available. A relationship was formed with RC of Wellington in NSW and through RAWCS grant facilities we were able to turn \$5,000 each from our clubs into \$20,000 worth of gift vouchers for in significant need of drought relief.

As the pandemic worsened, Thaya Ponniah decided it was time to "Bring together the haves and the have nots" – inspiring us all. See his report above for the many, many initiatives overseen by "the little engine that could". Sorry Thaya – but it fits so well!

Thaya also organised a significant international project which saw \$2,000 donated to a Sri Lankan spinal cord program assisting war victims. Locally, Peter Smith facilitated a \$2,000 donation to Sydney Cancer Survivorship Centre.

The activities of the graffiti removal project were subdued during the year, but the project remained self-funding thanks to the efforts of Peter Smith over many years. Our support for Bowel Care continued. Although this year Peter Smith took on the whole job of distributing and collecting kits. We were able to collect \$1,700. Somewhat reduced due to the pandemic.

Our club's support for The Rotary Foundation was strong, although diminished due to the pandemic, totalling \$AUD3,700. Member contributions were substantial: From funds raised as part of a visit to the Alvaro's in Bowral, to contributions made every year by so many members. Congratulations to our wonderful Roy Ellis on becoming a personal major donor to the foundation.

### Conclusion

I would like to pay tribute to James Heesh, Partner, Hales and Reddon Chartered Accountants. Over many years James has conducted, pro bono, the audit of our accounts. Often completed at short notice, the audit is always professional, giving members confidence in our accounts.

Well, It was another stint in the back office – I must be starting to like it! Once again, my enormous thanks to the "assistant treasurer", my wife Maree, for her unstinting, almost daily, assistance - and common sense approach.

*Rod McDougall*  
Treasurer

### SUPPORTERS

Alvaro Bros  
Antoine Doueih  
Aravanis Insolvency  
Arie Pappas  
Austral Dynamics  
B Plus A  
Bar Coco  
Bunnings  
Burwood Council  
C.M. Pitt & Co  
Club Members\*  
Cumberland Council  
Dan Murphy's  
District 9675  
Forte Catering & Events  
Janelle Watson  
Joseph P Saad  
Manenti Quinlan & Assoc  
Officeworks  
Paolo Giammarco  
Peter Revelos  
Richard Rodway  
Roy Ellis  
Selectprint  
Strathfield Council  
Strathfield Golf Club  
Wests Tigers NRL,

\* Rafles / sergeant's fines

### BENEFICIARIES

	\$
Trish Multiple Sclerosis Foundation	10,672
Yuendumu Garden Project	9,850
Wellington (NSW) Drought Relief	5,000
The Rotary Foundation	3,700
NSW Police Legacy	3,000
COVID-19 Relief Project	
Sydney Cancer Survivorship Centre	2,000
Chalmers Road School	1,000
Concord Hospital Luncheon	810
Mothers Day Chocolates	718
St Paul's Parish Pantry	In-kind
RYLA	2,340
RAWCS Bushfire Relief Project	2,000
Sri Lankan Spinal Cord Program	2,000
Bowel Care	1,700
Citizenship Awards	1,080
RYPEN	975
Strathfield Croquet Club	440
	<b>47,285</b>

# Secretary's Report



It was a great honour to be asked by PP Arie Pappas to serve as Club Secretary for 2019-2020. As one of our club's younger and newer members, I did not expect to be asked to join the club's board so soon, but I am incredibly grateful to the membership for the trust placed in me.

Board meetings are a central part of the secretary's role. The board met eleven times throughout 2019-2020. This included a transition to Zoom board meetings once the COVID-19 pandemic began and two extraordinary meetings to discuss how to adjust to pandemic conditions.

Meeting minutes are another key secretarial responsibility. I've tried to have a quick turnaround in issuing the draft minutes after the meeting. My best record for 2019-20 was a 6-minute turnaround in May – still room for improvement!

Our club AGM was successfully held on 4 December 2019 where President Usha Garg and her board (including yours truly) were elected unopposed. A great success by all accounts.

Zoom meetings have been an incredible asset to our club during the pandemic. It has allowed members that cannot usually attend in-person meetings to participate. The club has done a fantastic job transitioning online, particularly when compared to other clubs in our district. Some of our oldest members have put millennials and Gen Z'ers to shame! I hope that we continue to use Zoom in some format post-pandemic.

2019-20 also brought with it the first ever challenge to the District Governor nomination. I am proud of how our club conducted itself within the spirit and letter of the Rotary rules.

It would be remiss not to mention and thank a great mentor and friend in PP Rod McDougall. Rod taught me the key skills involved in being club secretary (and continues to do so). More broadly though, without Rod our club would fall apart. Rod, thank you for all you do.

I must also thank PDG David Croft OAM for his assistance with the club's AGM, constitutional matters and the District Governor 2022-2023 challenge. David, your wealth of knowledge about Rotary is one of our club's priceless assets (not sure how that fits into the balance sheet Rod!).

Thank you also to PP Arie Pappas – I hope the gamble you took in putting me on your board paid off! I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity you gave me in the role for personal development and service to our club.

Thank you to the 2019-2020 board for such a wonderful year – it was a pleasure serving with you.

Rotary plays an important role in bringing the community together at a time when many forces are trying to divide us. I hope that our club continues its strong growth and community engagement for many, many years!

Our club had a fantastic year in 2019-2020 and I'm excited to continue as Secretary for 2020-2021 under President Usha Garg.

*Dimitry Palmer*  
Secretary





# New Members





# Extracurricular Activities

I realise that several Directors may have reported elsewhere on the following activities. However, it has been suggested that I might highlight, in a little more detail, some of the club's extracurricular activities:

Unfortunately COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact on the last few months of the 2019-2020 Rotary year. However, much was achieved in the 6 months to December 2019. Here are some highlights:

ooOoo

The club's ongoing graffiti removal program had several successful clean-up days during 2019. This is thanks to the ten or so Rotarians who continued to give their time and energy to this programme. We also had several community volunteers – including Interactors, Rotaractors and former Rotarians active at various times – but more particularly during the State wide Graffiti Removal Day (GRD) in October 2020. The October 2021 GRD has already been cancelled – and will now be held in March 2021.

As we have significant hardware and consumables on hand year we did not apply for the annual \$2,000 Grant from re the NSW Attorney General & Justice Department. This will change during 2020-2021!

It is important to remember that the club's Graffiti Removal project it is entirely funded external of Strathfield Rotary. No funds or fundraising were diverted from the clubs other charitable and community donations.

ooOoo

Unfortunately, again due to COVID-19, the May 2020 Red shield Appeal was cancelled Australia wide.

However, with the efforts of a few local businesses, some generous Rotarians and 2 appeals at the Concord Growers Market we were still successful in raising close to \$10,000 for the Salvos.

ooOoo

Many thanks to the several Strathfield Rotarians who helped in the Rotary's BowelCare program in 2020.

Again, due to the COVID19, and the subsequent difficult financial circumstances for many, client purchases were down on previous years.

This year we were allocated 16 pharmacies, from Strathfield to Villawood – the participating pharmacies sold 115 kits – with total sales \$1,700. But more importantly the BowelCare program may have led to the early detection and successful treatment in some – and the peace of mind for the majority.

The Homebush Boys' Interact Club and Strathfield Rotaract Club continue to give of their support and time to assist the Rotary Club of Concord at the Concord Growers' Markets.

On the second and third Sunday of each month, the Rotaractors and Interactors take turns to either set-up or pack-up the various stalls, marques and safety barriers.







In recompense for their efforts they receive the daily proceeds of the charity bucket. The exit bucket can yield \$400 to \$800 each Market day – in excess of \$10,000 pa. Each club then nominates their chosen charity. Since 2014 the two clubs have supported **Shelter Box, The Smith Family, the Salvo's, PCYC, the Leukaemia Foundation, Concord Hospital, Chalmers Road School, Camp Quality, Exodus Foundation, Mission Australia, NSW Surf Lifesaving, Anzac Research Institute** etc. – with minimum donations of \$500 and maximum of \$2,000 to their recipients. Since 2014 a combined total of some of \$40,000 has raised by both youth clubs from this source.

*Peter Smith*  
Director - Youth





# COVID-19 – Relief Projects

In April this year, considering the deteriorating situation of COVID 19, our club launched a series of local community relief projects, which saw us act as the catalyst between the haves and the have-nots. The work met important needs, which in all likelihood would not have been addressed if it had not been for the projects.

A project chairman with a committee were appointed. We carried out many projects within a short span of time – partnering with many local organisations and authorities to serve more than 1,500 homeless people, support local senior citizens and encourage health workers.

Following are brief snap-shots of the projects:

- ❖ Mother's Day celebration gifts for mothers residing in two aged care facilities (more than 100 mothers) - 10th May 2020. Due to the lockdown during this period, no kids were allowed to visit their mothers for Mother's Day. We organised Mother's Day gifts for all of them, in co-operation with the age care authorities. It was well appreciated by all the mothers and their kids.

- ❖ Free Food distribution amongst 1,500 homeless people, refugees and overseas students in co-operation with three local charity organisations: Refugees Forum of Australia, St Paul's Parish Pantry and Burwood Foodbank. We worked with these foodbanks by contributing financial and in-kind food items collected from club members.

- ❖ Donations to more than 100 cleaning staff at Concord Hospital on International Cleaners Day, with an afternoon function and gifts - 17 June 2020. There was widespread public emphasis on the front line doctors and nurses during the pandemic. Our project recognised the cleaning staff and this great gesture was given publicity in the hospital magazine.

- ❖ Distribution of electronic equipment for the local school for differently-abled - Chalmers Road School, Strathfield. Online education has been the trend and we stepped in to donate funds for devices which were in critical short supply.

- ❖ Assisting our Probus club members and offering elderly citizens professional counselling services free of charge. This significantly reduced stress and the potential for panic attacks during the lockdown period.

- ❖ Partnering with Concord Hospital's Cancer Survivorship Program. Due to COVID 19, this program suffered severely as regular sponsors were forced to withdraw support. Our club rose to the occasion and contributed \$2,000 which was immensely helpful in allowing the program to continue.

- ❖ Volunteering with Foodbank twice a week in the mornings of Mondays and Thursdays - with the distribution of food items for the deserving people in our community.

The work was conducted during an unprecedented lockdown and exposed those involved to a level of personal health risks. Many club members were involved – especially with the parish pantry exercise - with many making significant donations.

Although formed at very short notice and with limited time for planning, the project was a great success. Although not a specific objective, important Rotary Club of Strathfield publicity resulted. This goodwill and "brand recognition" will be of benefit in future fundraising work.

*Thaya Ponniah*

Chairman - COVID 19 Relief Projects



# Paul Harris Fellows



## Rotary Club of Strathfield - Paul Harris Fellows

Warren Abbott	Bert Houston	Raymond Sherry
Domenico Alvaro	Mary Ingall	Guru Singh
Bradley Ayres	Ted Ingall	Lesley Smallwood
Kevin Beltrame	Brian Johnson	Shane Smallwood
Bill Boyce	Kamahl	Peter Smith
Joan Brown	Umesh Kamkolkar	Keith Stockall
Ross Brown	Eric Khu	Harley Tarrant
Keith Byrn	Niall King	Megan Tarrant
David Croft	Tony Lanzafame	Alan Taylor
Arthur Crossan	Kevin Lawrenson	Denise Taylor
Shirley Del Prado	John Leftwich	Stephen Taylor
Max Douglas	John Manenti	Allan Teale
Peter Douglas	Peter Manenti	Bob Templeman
Trevor Duxbury	David Martin	Janet Templeman
Roy Ellis	Raymond McCluskie	Denise Thomas
Peter Foss	Maree McDougall	Ron Thurgar
Angelo Franco	Rod McDougall	Sal Tosto
Kevin Freund	Maurice Moroney	Grahame True
Suzanne Freund	Belinda Noonan	Penny True
Connie Galletta	Arie Pappas	Peter van der Sleesen
Dr Usha Garg	Allan Petersen	Roger Vince
Paul Giammarco	Andrew Petersen	Chris Virgona
Fred Haddon	Moira Pieterse	Rick Vosila
George Hallworth	Charles Pitt	John Watkins
George Helou	Thaya Ponniah	Euan Watson
Brian Hennell	Douglas Potter	Janelle Watson
Jennifer Hennell	Terry Rohan	Ray Wilson
Richard Horwood	Joseph Saad	Tim Wynn Jones

