

# Rotary

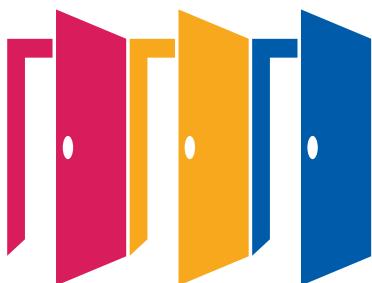


***PEOPLE OF ACTION***

# Strathfield Rotary Changeover Bulletin 2021-2022

**Dr Usha Garg**

President 2020-2021



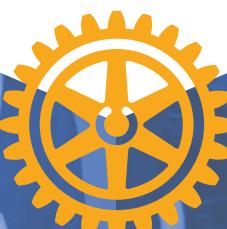
Rotary Opens Opportunities

**Thaya Ponniah**

President 2021-2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



# **Rotary Club of Strathfield**

## **Rotary International District 9675**

**Holger Knaack**

Rotary International President 2020-21

**Shekhar Mehta**

Rotary International President 2021-22

**Warwick Richardson**

District Governor 2020-21

**Jeremy Wright**

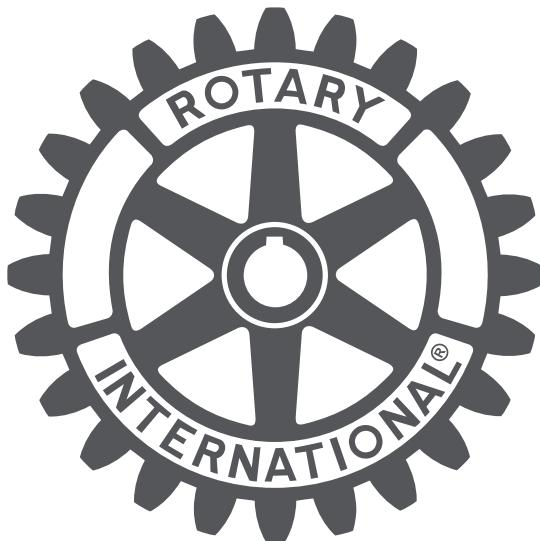
District Governor 2021-22

**Dr Usha Garg**

Club President 2020-21

**Thaya Ponniah**

Club President 2021-22



### **Strathfield Rotary Presidents**

#### **1971-2022**

Bill Boyce  
Peter Roach  
Clarrie Edwards  
Maurie Moroney  
Ron Thurgar  
Merv Perry  
Bob Taylor  
Peter Foss  
Lew Wilson  
Brian Hennell  
Gordon Gillett  
David Croft AM  
Bob Templeman  
Harley Tarrant  
Paul Lehman  
Terry Rohan  
George Hanlon

Kevin Lawrenson  
Max Douglas  
Brian Driver  
Bert Houston  
Doug Potter  
John Elvy  
Euan Watson  
Joseph Saad  
Peter Manenti  
Ian Albertson  
Angelo Franco  
Peter Kilkeary  
Raymond McCluskie  
Roger Vince  
Stephen Taylor  
Keith Stockall  
Keith Byrn

George Hallworth  
Rod McDougall  
Brian Johnson  
Grahame True  
Kevin Freund  
Peter Smith  
Trevor Duxbury  
Ray Wilson OAM  
Suzanne Freund  
Allan Teale  
Allan Petersen  
Stephen Taylor  
Rick Vosila  
Charles Pitt  
Arie Pappas  
Usha Garg  
Thaya Ponniah

# 2021-22 Changeover Dinner

Strathfield Event Centre

26 June 2021

Master of Ceremonies PP Peter Manenti

Pre-dinner drinks

Music

Call to Order by Sergeant Nick Hamilton-Kane

National Anthem

Welcome and Introduction - MC Peter Manenti

Acknowledgement of Country - PDG Dianne North OAM

Toast to Rotary International - PDG David Croft AM

Response to Toast to Rotary International - DG Warwick Richardson

Raffle Announcement - Andrew Aravanis

Entree and Music

The Maurie Awards

Guest Speaker - Dr.Fiona Martin MP

Guest Speaker - Jane Ruston, Children's Medical Research Institute

Dinner and Music

Dessert and Coffee

Outgoing Presidents Address - President Usha Garg

Presentation of Awards - President Usha Garg

Changeover Ceremony

Presentation of Collar of Office and Pin to Incoming President

Floral Presentations

Presentation of Past President Pin to Outgoing President

Incoming President's address - President Thaya Ponniah

Introduction of 2021-22 Board and Club Officers - President Thaya Ponniah

Address by District Governor Warwick Richardson

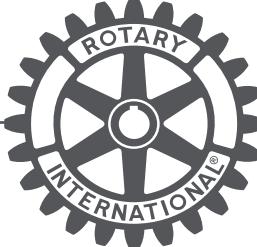
Invitation to Guests to Extend Their Wishes

Raffle Draw - Andrew Aravanis

Closing Remarks - MC Peter Manenti

Fellowship

*Due to the declaration of lockdown in Greater Sydney from June 26, 2021, this event could not be held*



# President's Report



**"We must all either wear out or rust out,  
every one of us. My choice is to wear out."**

Theodore Roosevelt.

**WELL, WEDIDIT!** Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the many obstacles it presented, our club not only survived in its 50th year, but thrived! This year's Rotary theme was "**Rotary Opens Opportunities**". Serendipitous indeed, as in this year, it was all about opening new doors and innovation. And this turned out to be the best blessing.

To our board, Thaya Ponniah, Dimitry Palmer, Rod McDougall, Janice Barrett, Alexey Prokopenko, Allan Teale, Peter Smith and Arie Pappas, my profound thanks for your contribution and continuous adaptation to the changing circumstances which faced us.

A president needs a good secretary and I was lucky to have Dimitry (for his second stint!). His attention to detail and diligence towards meetings is commendable. Peter Smith successfully carried through the youth projects and some extra-curricular projects, including graffiti removal and Red Shield! Allan Teale was busy with his work in the latter half of the year, but was available for a friendly chat when needed.

I was delighted to welcome Alexey and Janice to the board (their first time), both relatively new Rotarians. I commend their sincerity of purpose and achievements.

Rod's sound, timely advice and practical help was invaluable throughout the year and like many of my predecessors I benefited immensely from him.

Thaya's presence was a blessing indeed - not only did he manage International Service, but later in the year, as president-elect, he found time to suggest, promote and support many events outside his portfolio.

Please take the time to read their individual reports which follow. They make excellent reading.

It was March 2020, the peak of the pandemic,

when I assumed the role of president, (whilst still president-elect), when most clubs were effectively closed. We were one of the earliest to start virtual (Zoom) meetings which continued for many months.

Realizing that the BEDROCK of this year was weekly meetings, as the year started in July, we decided to bring back in-person meetings as a priority. Although meeting personally was on alternate weeks, nevertheless this was a great joy for members who wished to meet personally and share a drink, all the while seated 1.5m apart!

Good speakers, good sergeant sessions, good attendance, good food, good venue and, of course, good fellowship followed, thanks to Janelle Watson, Nick Hamilton-Kane, Giulian Vaccari, Alexey Prokopenko and Rod McDougall. This was a big step forward.

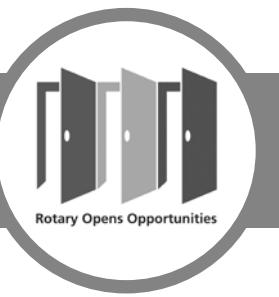
In parallel with meetings, our second BEDROCK was good communication. With a need for staying in touch with members, we raised the communications bar this year. The bulletin and the website, both well established communication mainstays, courtesy of Bradley Ayres and Raymond McCluskie, expanded with more input from members. This was a great blessing for those who were at home attending only virtual meetings or none. The regular updates and prints throughout the year were appreciated by one and all.

In the year of the pandemic, the raffle, an important source of funds, was a challenge. Our thanks to Peter Manenti and Andrew Aravanis for getting us through, with great innovations (that may continue in the years to come) and generous contributions. The results were excellent.

Always a Rotary priority, we continued to induct new members throughout this difficult year. Ying Ho, Steven Argyris, Saroni Roy and Harpreet Singh Bhatia joined as active members. They are great additions, particularly as they bring new professions and interests to our club. With Federal MP Dr Fiona Martin joining as an honorary



# President's Report



member, we now have both local State and Federal MPs as honorary members.

Despite the obstacles, our service work and signature events such as the Ashfield BBQ, Pride of Workmanship Awards, Polio Train Ride, Hat day, Christmas Party, Youth Awards, picked up, although some activities such as Police awards were impacted. But beyond this, we were able to introduce new initiatives, most of which I believe will continue:

- Our inaugural International Women's Day event. This highly successful premiere event in honour of women was in perfect alignment with the RI theme for the year: Rotary Opens Opportunities.

- LEST WE FORGET Anzac Day Commemoration 25th April 2021. After a short hiatus, this year we returned with a moving commemoration for ANZAC DAY at Strathfield Event Centre. A highlight was the bugle player - young Liam McLucas.

- Strategic Planning returned to the forefront after a long hiatus and Rick Vosila and his team (David Croft, Thaya Ponniah, Andrew Aravanis, Rod McDougall, Nick H-K and myself) completed Phase 1 of a 2021-2024 plan. Phase 2, annual goal setting is now progressing.

- I would also mention the fundraising for the COVID19 situation in India. Thanks to generous donations of many club members, neighbouring clubs and the Indian community, almost \$10,000 was donated for medical equipment to India.



It was our Club's golden jubilee year and a celebration worthy of the occasion was needed. What a night it was! With a gathering of over 150 Rotarians, partners, friends and guests at the Strathfield Event Centre on 29th of May, months of diligent work came to fruition, under the guidance of committee chair Roger Vince and his team, David Croft, Peter Manenti, Rod McDougall, Raymond McCluskie, Alexey Prokopenko, Ying Ho and Andrew Aravanis. \$3,500 was raised for the Cancer Medical Research Institute.

At the beginning of the year, I committed to some special projects: to contribute to Concord Hospital research and care, to celebrate a magnificent 50th anniversary, to work towards environment and sustainability by developing food producing gardens in primary schools and to achieve a presidential citation. All have been achieved, with the exception of the Gardens Project, which is a work in progress and will continue into next year.

I wish incoming president Thaya Ponniah all the best and look forward to working with him.

It does not seem long ago that the thought of leading the club was unimaginable to me. But today, I feel very privileged to have been the President. The year has taught me to come out of my favourite back seat and I am indebted to one and all within our amazing club.

I am very thankful to my husband Dinesh who not only encouraged me to take this journey, but has been with me all through, a constant companion, providing advice, encouragement and support as I travelled this path. I am also grateful to my children who were helpful and understanding when Rotary took precedence over family activities.

**You are entitled to action, not to the fruit thereof; perform your duty and let go. (Bhagavad Gita).**

**DR USHA GARG**  
PRESIDENT

# Vocational Service Report



## Police Awards

Due to the devastation caused by the unrelenting bushfire season, floods and COVID, all emergency services were put under great pressure and assisted in many roles outside of their core duties. This unfortunately resulted in the Annual Police Awards not proceeding for this year. Processes are already in place for the Police Awards to proceed in the 2021-22 year.

## 8th - 15th November NAIDOC week

This year NAIDOC Week was commemorated 8th - 15th November, being held later in the year due to COVID restrictions. The theme for this year:

Always Was, Always Will Be.

Recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

## Remembrance Day, 11th November

Strathfield Rotary Club commemorated Remembrance Day on 11th November at a face to face meeting at Strathfield Golf Club. The 'War and Peace' video was shown which was released for Remembrance Day 2020 by the Museums Discovery Centre, Castle Hill.

To acknowledge both NAIDOC Week and Remembrance Day, excerpts from 'Aboriginal presence on Gallipoli grows' by Michael Bell were read. This can be accessed through the Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/aboriginal-presence-on-gallipoli-grows>

This was followed by the reading of 'The Inquisitive Mind of a Child' which can be accessed through:

<http://www.timeforassembly.co.uk/The%20Inquisitive%20Mind%20Of%20A%20Child.pdf>

## Pride of Workmanship Awards

On Wednesday, 25th November with the easing of COVID restrictions we were able to proceed with our annual Pride of Workmanship Awards.

What a great response we had, over 100 people in attendance. Recipients of the Awards were:

- Mr Abderrahim Abbou, Homebush Boys High School.
- Ms Hanadi Arabi, Strathfield Private
- Mr Rowan Castro, Strathfield Council
- Ms Agnes Dening, St Patrick's College
- Ms Neridda Hutchison, Santa Sabina College
- Ms Suzana Isajlovska, Strathfield Girls High School.
- Mrs Joanne La Manna, Newington Public School.
- Ms Amanda Lee, Forte Catering and Events
- Ms Carolyn Mirabito, Meriden School.
- Ms Ann Sahajdak, Chalmers Road School.
- Mr Sam Shaw, Strathfield Council.

Mrs Joanne La Manna was the recipient of the Ray Sherry Shield which was presented by Mrs Nancy Sherry. Proceeds from the event raffle went to Concord Hospital Sydney Cancer Survivorship Centre, consisting of four main teams: Survivorship Clinic, Survivorship Cottage, Survivorship Gym and Survivorship Research. This evening also included the induction of Dr Fiona Martin MP, Honorary Member, Member for Reid. Congratulations to all.

## Ladies Afternoon Tea

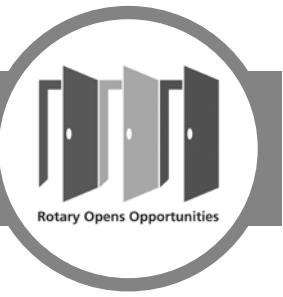
On Saturday, 19th December, an inaugural ladies afternoon tea was held hosted by Rotarian Jan Barrett. A number of male members responded that they would be in attendance but the only male in attendance was the home resider, Peter, who made all ladies feel very welcome offering a welcome drink on arrival. In all 10 ladies were in attendance and a number had responded that they could not attend due to the busy Christmas period. Penny True won the lucky door prize which was a hand knitted Christmas stocking. It was a fun afternoon and it was decided that this event should be on the repeat list.

## ANZAC Day

This was Strathfield Rotary Club's first Anzac Day Breakfast Service at the Event Centre, Strathfield Golf Club and what a memorable day it was, with 41 Rotarians, partners and friends in attendance.



# Vocational Service Report



It was an emotional day and included a brief overview of the history of war and family experiences in Italy by Rotarian Paolo Giamarco. The keynote speaker was Rachael Day, CEO of Frontline Yoga. Rachael gave us great insight into the effects of PTSD on the brain and the beneficial effects of trauma aware yoga. Liam McRae recited The Last Post and Rouse. An event raffle was held, with all proceeds being donated to Frontline Yoga.

As with all events, these events have been made possible by ongoing donations of time, goods and services by Rotary Members, partners and friends. Thank you.



**JANICE BARRETT**  
DIRECTOR – VOCATIONAL SERVICE

# Community Service Report



Thank you for the opportunity to be a member of this year's board to the club members and fellow board members. During this time of Covid19, to my disappointment, due to my immune system deficiency, I have been unable to attend face to face meetings. Pleasing though, I had my first vaccine and attended the magnificently organised 50th Rotary anniversary.

This year has seen a great president for our 50th anniversary, Usha Garg. I have had the pleasure to get to know better during the year has been a great mediator for the club during these times. Usha's humble approach to management is similarly portrayed through Thaya

Peter Smith, Janice, Dimitri, Nick and Alexey. The difficulties of covid have made club fund-raising difficult this year. But with the energies, enthusiasm and generosity of our great club members, it was made possible throughout the year. I'm sure moving forward with the new and current members and the young and inspiring board members that have served this year, the Rotary Club of Strathfield is in excellent hands.

## Bunnings BBQ 10th October

First, thank you to all those that attended and took part in this year's first return to Bunning's BBQ. With Covid19, we had few opportunities to interact in fundraising; this was one such opportunity.

It was such a delight to work with the barbecue chair, Andrew Aravanis, whose philosophy of looking for a solution to issues was admirable. Our club president Usha Garg as always was in attendance giving generous support wherever needed. Rod McDougall did what Rod enjoyed doing and organised the ATM and collecting the money from the many patron. The Bunning's team commented during the day, on how well-oiled and drilled our team operation was on the day. The crew were fantastic, led by the barbecue Cordon Bleu Chefs Andrew and Roy displaying supreme cooking skills. The team included Gulian, Peter VDS

Mathew, Nick, Marvin, Arie and our special guest Ying. They all did an excellent job, at time under pressure from many anxious and sometimes desperate diners wanting the Bunning's Rotary sausage on a roll served with a smile and a purpose to raise money.

Past President Rod was once again diligent in his efforts to help those that help people in need, by offering our left-over sausages and bacon to Father James located at St Paul's Parish Pantry -who were delighted to accept them. The meat had been kept under the ice all day, and Father James and Rod loaded it into the church freezers. Father James asked that his gratitude be conveyed to our club. It just proved once again the old saying 'There is no I in team'. Thank you all those that attended the day, and I am sure each time we meet we will enjoy the outing.

In closing, once again, thank you for the opportunity to be a member of this great club and a board member over the past year.

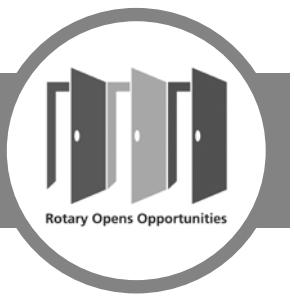
I wish Thaya and his new board a successful coming year. I am sure it will happen under this most inspirational humble, and generous Rotary ideals inspired leader. I believe he will continue with the Rotary ideal and commitment that Usha Garg portrayed throughout her leadership, Service above Self.



**ALLAN TEALE**

DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Second Wave of Covid in India



*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*

— Mother Teresa

The true scale of the COVID-19 outbreak in India is impossible to accurately quantify. Official reports say 254,000 people have died in India since the start of the pandemic, but the IHME estimates the true toll is more than 750,000—a number, researchers predict, will double by the end of August 21. Since the beginning of May, dozens of bodies have washed up on the banks of the River Ganges, with some villagers saying they were forced to leave the dead in the water, amid soaring funeral costs and shortages of wood for cremation.

Responding to this calamity of the century, Rotary Club of Strathfield (9675) together with Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) and Rotary Club of The Hills – Kellyville (9680), have embarked on an emergency relief project to send essential items of personal protective equipment (PPE) and Oxygen Concentrators to India immediately by air freight. We have been working with other like-minded organisations including many Rotary Clubs in both districts of NSW.

This project covers many focus areas of RI - disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and child health.

As mentioned already, these items include Oxygen Concentrators, BIPAP units and PPE items such as Masks, Gowns, Gloves, Shoe Covers and Coveralls which are in great demand at the moment. We received many pallets of items from NSW Health Services and medical supplies from private companies and other associations. We received donations from other organisations like doctor's associations, South Asian diaspora and private enterprises.

These items were sent to New Delhi and then distributed across several NGO's, including Rotary and Red Cross. They were working on the ground in the outskirts of Maharashtra, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh states.

The project was supported by all the members of our club. Many other clubs in the district contributed through our club as well as directly to the RAWCS account. It was well appreciated by the community here in Australia – especially, immigrant community, as well as the recipients in India. We acted very swiftly, involving many stakeholders. We were planning and executing at the same time due to the gravity of the crisis. Emergency relief and urgent actions were critical and paramount.



**THAYA PONNIAH**  
DIRECTOR – INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

# International Service Report



The International portfolio of the Rotary Club of Strathfield had a significant year in 2020-2021. 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 Usha Garg for her leadership and am grateful to our board and the members for all their contribution and encouragement.

We established a sister club arrangement with the Rotary Club of Fusagasugá, Colombia (RID 4281). We also organised a Polio Awareness day coinciding with our districts' "Polio Awareness Train Ride". We worked very diligently this year, focussing on executing three international projects despite a year full of challenges.

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

**• REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR WAR VICTIMS:** Under Rotary's focus area, Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, our club partnered with Rehabilitation for Spinal Cord Association of war victims of the 30-year-old ethnic war in Sri Lanka. This Education and Recreation Project was relevant and well-timed for those who are recovering from the war.

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION**  
A ROTARY AREA OF FOCUS

**RETURN To SCHOOL KITS**

To THE CHILDREN OF UYIRILAI SPINAL CORD INJURY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

A PROJECT OF  
ROTARY CLUBS OF

COLOMBO SOUTH (RID 3220), KILLINOCHCHI TOWN (RID 3220),  
BANGALORE ULSOOR (RID 3190),  
STRATHFIELD (RID 9675) AND THE HILLS-KELLYVILLE (RID 9685)  
DHANVANTRI & TAMIL ENGINEERS FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

Dhanvantri

Rotary Australian Districts

Rotary Australia World Community Service

Engineers Channelling



**• SCHOOL CHILDRENS' EDUCATION AND RECREATION PROJECT:** We also carried out a project in Colombia, which was a rapid impact project restoring a playground and a recreation area affected by the war and the conflict. This will bring recreation, psychomotor development of children and adolescents as this was bombed during the war in 1994 by the guerrillas. This project will fit into two focus areas: Rotary Peace & Conflict Prevention and Resolution and Child Health.



**• WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE AND BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROEKT:** Rotary Club of Strathfield is a (notional) partner in a Global Grant GG2010887 7 project approved on 26/3/2021 by Rotary Foundation (India) (RF(I)) and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) to provide toilet blocks

# International Service Report



renovations, furniture and hygiene education to the Government High School in Khatawali (Rewari), India. This was submitted by the Rotary Club of Bhiwadi (District 3053) as the host club where Rotary Club of Strathfield is the national partner. The award is in the amount of US\$43,471.02 and aims to fulfil and enhance the educational and basic needs of 178 students and overcome the shortfalls in Infrastructure. It is anticipated that this will help enrol large number of non-school going children, raise the level of confidence, reduce the dropout rate and ensure good overall development of the students.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield carried out all the above-mentioned projects by collaborating and partnering with many organisations such as - 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 Fusagasugá, Colombia (RID 4281); Australian Medical AID Foundation (AMAF); Uyirilai Spinal Cord Injuries Association, SRI LANKA; Tamil Community Empowerment Council Australia; Government of Sri Lanka; Rotary club of Bhiwadi, India; Rotary Club of Concord and Rotary Club of Blacktown. These items were sent to New Delhi and then distributed across several NGO's, including Rotary and Red Cross. They

were working on the ground in the outskirts of Maharashtra, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh states.

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

**THAYA PONNIAH**  
DIRECTOR – INTERNATIONAL SERVICE



# Club Service Report



It was only over a year ago that I joined this wonderful Rotary club and I had no idea that I would be on the Board as Club Service Director so early. After recovering from the pleasant shock, it was a coming down to earth to realise the extent to which I had committed. With my work keeping me busy on many fronts, this was a great opportunity and a great challenge.

I am most thankful for President Usha Garg for inducting me on her Board. Usha and Rod McDougall together helped me through the initial phases of learning all about this complicated portfolio (perhaps one of the biggest) and worked with me. My first and biggest challenge was to allocate members to all the duties that came under my portfolio.

I realised that the club service needs a great deal of effort behind the scenes. I also understood that it was my position to oversee all these weekly tasks. Gradually I was able to build the great team which made my duties manageable.

The weekly reporting through our bulletin has kept all our members informed. Bradley Ayres always kept up to date with the news and with a regular President's column. I would like to thank Bradley Ayres and President Usha Garg for 100% attendance, not missing any column or bulletin during the year. I also thank Rod McDougall for stepping in whenever necessary. Thanks to all members for providing articles for the bulletin and last but not the least,



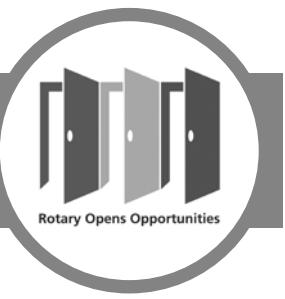
Lesley Smallwood of Select Print Homebush for her generous efforts in printing each week.

All Rotarians know how difficult it is to arrange a speaker week after week. Congratulations to Janelle Watson who seems to be able to pull out informative speakers week after week. We did not miss a speaker any week. We covered a wide variety of topics and many interests. This all when we were having alternate in-person and virtual meetings. Well done and thanks to Janelle for handling this portfolio with great flair in this difficult year.

I thank Raymond McCluskie our webmaster, for continuing with the great work he had been doing for a long time. Through the web page he has been keeping the world informed and updated with the Rotary Club of Strathfield's activities. His frequent updates and maintenance ensured all bulletin stories, president's



# Club Service Report



updates and all event news and photographs were always current and relevant. He also kept updates on all district news and RI news. I am lucky to have Raymond continue this year and will always be grateful for his excellence.

Bradley Ayres and later Steven Argyris superbly handled all photos, whether it was weekly meetings, out and about or major events such as the 50th Anniversary. They were capturing the good, the bad and the ugly. Thank you guys for a super job.

I am very grateful to Giulian Vaccari for performing for managing weekly notice of meetings and apologies, without fail. And once again, my great blessing to have an opportunity to work with our Councillor whose punctuality was an example to me.

Very soon I came to realise that when it comes to Rotary protocol matters, we all talked to PDG David Croft, also (I gather) sometimes referred to as Mr. Rotary. Our club is lucky to have you.

The history of the club has been well worked on by Roger Vince – archives are very important in seeing how our club has changed over time. He has written and re-written club history and it all came to attention at the 50th celebrations. The talks by the four orators capture many important aspects of history written by him.

Keith Byrn our welfare officer, offered to continue and did an excellent job on following up on the well-being of our members. We were kept informed as well.

This one responsibility fell on me. Luckily it coincided with my professional expertise and it was a pleasure to set up the beautiful Power Point slides from President Usha and Sergeant Nick Hamilton-Kane. I enjoyed the process extensively. Major events challenged me to put more time and expertise in AV presentations, but the rewards were sweet and compliments flowed in abundance. Thank you to my club members for sharing these moments with me.

**ALEXEY PROKOPENKO**  
DIRECTOR – CLUB SERVICE

Rod McDougal managed the catering side of things week after week. This was a tough call as in this year of the pandemic, numbers fluctuated a lot, meetings changed patterns from in-person to virtual and events added another layer of complexity. Thank you Rod for a sterling job. I would not recommend replacing him.

Rod McDougall, has filled numerous spaces under my portfolio. There was assisting with the website; keeping Rotary records; helping with meeting setup; being public officer; the change over bulletin and anything I needed assistance with. We all have a lot to thank you for.

In this year of the pandemic this was the most challenging. Two wonderful persons emerged from the woods to save my life. In the first half of the year Peter Manenti managed all raffle sessions including in virtual meetings from his own home and the second half of the year was covered by Andrew Aravanis. Many thanks to both of you, the year was able to raise funds through raffles.

Ed Dunlop continued as Child Protection Chair and kept continuously updates on members WWCC expiry dates. His meticulous follow up is exemplary.

Finally last, but definitely not the least, the Change over report is no easy task and cost me some sleepless nights. With some good help from Rod McDougall and Usha Garg, I got through. I hope members will read and enjoy the end result.

I would like to add that this has been a great year for me. I thank the club and President Usha for giving me a chance on the Board - this experience has been invaluable. I thank all members who helped fulfil my duties under this portfolio and I thank all club members for working with me all through the year at various times. I see this experience as a growth in my human potential and will no doubt be valuable in my future life.

I look forward to working with President Thanya and the new Board in 2021-2022.

# Youth Service Report



Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, which caused the cancellation of many events, we were still able to engage with the youth in a meaningful way, more so in the second half of 2020-21.

RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) camps are a fun residential weekend for secondary school students generally aged 14-17 where the participants listen to inspirational speakers and participate in outdoor activities designed to build self worth and use their belief in themselves constructively in a team environment. This year RYPEN camp was held starting on 7th May and Benjamin Lian and Dane Perrottet from HBHS participated.

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a seven day residential program for young people generally aged 19 - 25, which is designed for personal development, leadership and a sense of community.

SYAA (Strathfield Youth Achievement Awards) event run by Strathfield Rotary with support from Strathfield Council was held on 18th June at Strathfield Town Hall.

Thirteen bright students were presented with awards as the evening was graced by our State and Federal members, our Mayor of Strathfield and councillors along with awardees, families and friends. A great team effort with good

presentations and fellowship. Guest speaker Courtney Krahe, the district Rotaract representative, talked about her journey from a young Interactor to a Rotaractor and how it changed her life. Thanks to many Strathfield Rotarians who gave their time to put this event together. **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. The prize is awarded by the school to a student who has made a positive difference to their school or community. These prizes were presented by Rotarians at annual presentation days.

NYSF (National Youth Science Forum) runs a number of residential programs in January each year for students about to enter year 12 to encourage young people in their passion for science. The programs show the variety of inspiring, career options available in science, technology and engineering. This year Vernica Mehta from Meriden attended

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) is a Rotary District project designed to create 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.



**PETER SMITH**  
DIRECTOR – YOUTH SERVICE



# Interact and Rotaract



Through Interact and Rotaract, youth learn the values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership, the core values of Rotary which enable them to contribute in a significant way to the community.

The Interact Club at Meriden School was chartered on 23rd September 1987 in the late PP George Hanlon's year. 30 foundation members governed by an enthusiastic committee with the help of Mrs Christine Hughes and our own dedicated Interact Chair the late PP Max Douglas got the Meriden Interact Club off to a flying start. The enthusiasm generated has not faltered over the years and the Club has remained strong. Currently they have over 50 enthusiastic members under the guidance of Mr Kuhan Rajalingam and their dedicated Committee led by President Sandra He. Many worthwhile causes and charities have benefited from the fund raising and hands on activities of the members. Last year and this year have been difficult with COVID19 but they managed to hold a very successful dance this year raising funds for their chosen charity Mission Australia. Several Rotarians helped with security at the dance held in May.

The Interact Club at Homebush Boys' High School was originally chartered by the Rotary Club of Lidcombe, who unfortunately had their

Charter terminated in 1975-76 due to dwindling membership. The Rotary Club of Strathfield came to the rescue and helped the Interactors hold two dances in the School auditorium that year. In PP Brian Hennell's year, 1980-81 he mentions a thriving Interact Club but the HBHS Interact Club did not survive until being resurrected in PP Ray Wilson's year 2012-13 under the guidance of New Gen. Director PP Allan Teale.

Since 2013 the HBHS Interact Club was mentored by our PP Peter Smith who led the boys every Monday at lunchtime during term time. Over the past few years several boys have volunteered to help the Rotary Club of Concord at their market day held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month. This entailed Peter picking up 4 boys in the morning and dropping them home and picking 4 more up later in the morning to help clean up.

During 2021 they have been ably led by their current President Titus Charoensri and coordinator Ms Georgia Anton who overcame the difficulties presented by COVID19 for another successful year. The pandemic also effected the 42 international students who were separated from their families for several months. The Worlds greatest shave was held on 11th March raising over \$1000 for the leukaemia foundation and ROMAC and this was boosted by the bucket collections at the concord markets. Prior to shut down the club was able to run the pizza day, a BBQ, the world's greatest shave and the Red Shield door knock appeal.

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 ten.

**ROGER VINCE**  
CHAIR – INTERACT COMMITTEE

# Treasurer's Report



A challenging yet rewarding year influenced heavily by the pandemic. The club owes a significant debt of gratitude to President Usha, who never gave up on keeping the club going. And we came through. Despite heavily impacted fundraising opportunities we were able to make donations totalling \$35,490.

A full, audited report will be presented at our AGM. Beneficiaries of our service work are shown in the accompanying table. The many supporters of our club (members and non-members) are also shown.

Support for international projects was significant totalling \$13,617. International Service Director Thaya ("The Little Engine That Could!") is to be congratulated, as are many of our own members who came forward to sponsor and support programs.

Support for the Cancer Survivorship Centre at Concord Hospital was set as a key objective by President Usha and we were able to donate a total of \$5,080.

Despite reduced numbers of meetings and events, raffles were very successful, raising \$11,881. Our thanks to our many raffle organisers, especially Peter Manenti and Andrew Aravanis for their great efforts. No expense claims for prizes were received!! Thanks to our enterprising sergeant, Nick Hamilton-Kane, the fines sessions generated a total of \$1,496.

Sponsorship of the changeover was particularly encouraging with members Alexey Prokopenko (Kite Union), Peter Manenti (MQ), Prabhat and Neena Sinha, Mathew Elias (SmileconfIDENTAL), Jaya Challa (SMG Stone), Chris Virgona (Richardson&Wrench) all contributing, and with excellent support from Strathfield Event Centre and Selectprint. Please see the rear cover of this publication.

I would like to pay tribute to James Heesh, Partner, Hales and Reddon Chartered Accountants

who, over many years, has conducted, pro bono, a professional audit of our accounts.

## BENEFICIARIES

| BENEFICIARIES                        | \$            |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Covid Relief Items for India         | 9,001         |
| Cancer Survivorship Centre           | 5,080         |
| The Rotary Foundation                | 4,055         |
| Children's Medical Research Inst     | 3,585         |
| Rotary Club Fusagasuga               | 2,616         |
| Wisdomconnect                        | 2,160         |
| Sri Lnakan War Victims Project       | 2,000         |
| Sydney Sanskrit School               | 2,000         |
| St Paul's Parish Pantry              | 1,100         |
| School Citizenship Awards            | 1,080         |
| Frontline Yoga                       | 816           |
| Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment   | 650           |
| Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW      | 500           |
| Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) | 450           |
| Interact                             | 222           |
| Australian Rotary Health             | 175           |
|                                      | <b>35,490</b> |

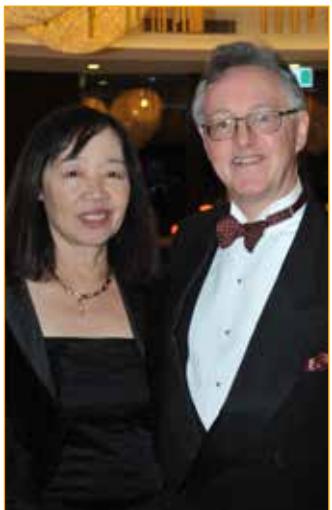
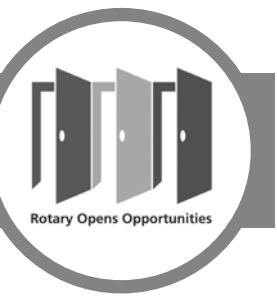
## SPONSORS / SUPPORTERS

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Alvaro Bros (Domenico Alvaro)         |
| Anurag Verma (Friend of or Club)      |
| Aravanis Insolvency (Andrew Aravanis) |
| Arie and Athena Pappas                |
| Chris and Christine Haseldine         |
| David and Margaret Croft              |
| Dinesh and Usha Garg                  |
| Gulian and Simone Vaccari             |
| Janelle Watson                        |
| Kite Union (Alexey Prokopenko)        |
| Marvin Manrique-Velasquez             |
| MQ (Peter Manenti)                    |
| Nick and Helen Hamilton-Kane          |
| Pallavi Sinha                         |
| Paolo and Patricia Giamarco           |
| Paul and Georgia Anton                |
| Peter and Janice van der Sleen        |
| Prabhat and Neena Sinha               |
| Premier Panel Beating (Keith Byrn)    |
| Rekha Nanda (Friend of or Club)       |
| Richardson&Wrench (Chris Virgona)     |
| Roger and Janice Vince                |
| Rotary Club of Blacktown City         |
| Rotary Club of Concord                |
| Roy Ellis                             |
| Selectprint                           |
| SMG Stone (Jaya Challa)               |
| SmileConfIDENTAL (Mathew Elias)       |
| Strathfield Event Centre              |
| Thaya and Subo Ponniah                |

**Rod McDougall**  
CLUB TREASURER



# Club Photos



# Secretary's Report



2020-2021 was a challenging year for our club's board. The largest challenge was managing and responding to the varying level of COVID-19 safety restrictions set by the State Government. Despite this, the board was still able to organise a number of high-quality and well-attended events throughout this year, which marked our club's 50th year.

Board meetings this past year took place mostly online which ensured business was carried out quickly and efficiently. I am proud to report that the minute taking record previously set at 6-minutes by myself in 2019-2020 was broken. The new record is now 30 seconds after the meeting's conclusion! (Hopefully this record stays standing for our 100th year!

Our club also welcomed the Federal Member for Reid, Dr Fiona Martin MP, as an honorary member of our club. Fiona is a fantastic supporter of Rotary and our club. Her dedication to Rotary's motto of 'Service above Self' is abundantly clear in her sacrificing of her successful child psychology practice and time with her four young children to represent our community in Canberra. Fiona's dedication to Rotary is also shown by her establishment of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of Rotary International. We are lucky to have been the first club to welcome her into the Rotary family.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in December 2020 and saw the election of President-Elect Thaya Ponniah's board and Presidential-nominee Andrew Aravanis. My best wishes are extended to the incoming board, in particular Nick Hamilton-Kane who takes on the Secretary's role – lawyers always make good club secretary's!

The AGM also saw the passing of a new Club Constitution and a revamped set of Club By-laws. This mammoth project of redrafting and formalising a number of club procedures

has set the standard for other clubs in our district. It ensures that our club is fit for the future in its administration and processes. My sincere thanks to the guidance and mentorship of PDG David Croft and PP Rod McDougall for their assistance on these reforms

The Club Christmas Party was jointly organised by Club Service Director Alexey Prokopenko and I. Our trip across the globe to see how Christmas is celebrated abroad certainly helped scratch the travel itch we've all developed over the past 18 months.

This changeover marks the completion of my two years serving as Club Secretary. It has been a great honour and privilege to have served our club and I am incredibly thankful for the trust placed in me by our members and board. I would like to thank President Usha Garg for inviting me on to her board and allowing a young voice to be included in decision-making.

I am incredibly proud to call myself a Strathfield Rotarian, as should each and every one of us. May our club continue to prosper for another 50 years!



**DIMITRY PALMER**  
SECRETARY



# Guest Speakers 2020-2021



| Date            | Title                                     | Details                       |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Wed 1 Jul 2020  | Club Changeover                           |                               |
| Wed 8 Jul 2020  | Club Assembly                             | President Usha Garg           |
| Wed 15 Jul 2020 | Rotary Public Image                       | Tony Benner                   |
| Wed 22 Jul 2020 | McGlade Gallery ANU                       | Lachlan Warner                |
| Wed 29 Jul 2020 | Toastmasters International                | Charmaine Langley             |
| Wed 5 Aug 2020  | The six phases of selling                 | Annlone Dalhoff               |
| Wed 12 Aug 2020 | St Paul's Parish Pantry                   | Fr. James Collins             |
| Wed 19 Aug 2020 | Rotarians - their story                   | Prabhat Sinha & Chris Virgona |
| Wed 26 Aug 2020 | Information & technology services         | Maria Calibo-Sales            |
| Wed 2 Sep 2020  | What's new at Strathfield Library         | Jack Britton                  |
| Wed 9 Sep 2020  | Transfer meeting                          |                               |
| Sat 12 Sep 2020 | Strathfield Rotary Celebration Dinner     | Arie Pappas & Usha Garg       |
| Wed 16 Sep 2020 | District Governor visit                   | Warwick Richardson            |
| Wed 23 Sep 2020 | Mongolia – A traveller's guide            | Munkh-Erdene Bayartai         |
| Wed 30 Sep 2020 | The power of music and music education    | Ying Ho                       |
| Wed 7 Oct 2020  | Improving the life skills in young people | Danijela Prahovic             |
| Wed 14 Oct 2020 | Update on the catering & events industry  | Ross Mitchell                 |
| Wed 21 Oct 2020 | NBN Co. update                            | Geeth Geeganganage            |
| Wed 28 Oct 2020 | Batman & mental health                    | Neil Jeyasingam               |
| Wed 4 Nov 2020  | Cognitive health & well-being             | Shannon Chin                  |
| Wed 11 Nov 2020 | Fellowship meeting                        |                               |
| Wed 18 Nov 2020 | Sydney Cancer Survivorship Centre         | Janette Vardy                 |
| Wed 25 Nov 2020 | Pride of Workmanship Awards               | Jan Barrett & Thaya Ponniah   |
| Wed 2 Dec 2020  | Annual General Meeting                    | PDG David Croft               |
| Wed 9 Dec 2020  | Transfer meeting                          |                               |
| Fri 11 Dec 2020 | Christmas Party                           |                               |
|                 | Club Recess                               |                               |
| Wed 20 Jan 2021 | Fellowship meeting                        |                               |
| Wed 27 Jan 2021 | Club Assembly                             | Usha Garg                     |
| Wed 3 Feb 2021  | Salman Rushdie – Myth & Memory            | Pooja Mittal Biswas           |
| Wed 10 Feb 2021 | Sound therapy for ear & brain vitality    | Rafaele Jourdy                |
| Wed 17 Feb 2021 | Choice: Products & consumers              | Alan Kirkland                 |
| Wed 24 Feb 2021 | Physical activity for fitness             | George Siopis                 |
| Wed 3 Mar 2021  | My story                                  | Ed Dunlop                     |
| Wed 10 Mar 2021 | Women in leadership                       | Lisa Moloney                  |
| Wed 17 Mar 2021 | Technology & processes                    | Alexey Prokopenko             |
| Wed 24 Mar 2021 | Predicting the future with online systems | Bruce Wren                    |
| Wed 31 Mar 2021 | Role of the energy & water ombudsman      | Narelle Brown                 |
| Wed 7 Apr 2021  | Club strategic planning                   | Rick Vosila                   |
| Wed 14 Apr 2021 | My story                                  | Jaya Challa                   |
| Wed 21 Apr 2021 | Transfer meeting                          |                               |
| Sun 25 Apr 2021 | ANZAC Day function                        | Jan Barrett                   |
| Wed 28 Apr 2021 | MIRVAC - Build to rent apartments         | Anthony Garagounis            |
| Wed 5 May 2021  | Disaster reporting                        | Malcolm Brown                 |
| Wed 12 May 2021 | Fresh food for families                   | Kate Domeney                  |
| Wed 19 May 2021 | Travel adventures on Easter Island        | Harry Kimble                  |
| Wed 26 May 2021 | My story                                  | Nella Hall                    |
| Wed 2 Jun 2021  | Symphonia Jubilate Strathfield            | Tracy Burjan                  |
| Wed 9 Jun 2021  | Fellowship meeting                        |                               |
| Wed 16 Jun 2021 | Undercover rescue operations              | Craig Wood                    |
| Fri 18 Jun 2021 | Youth awards                              | Bradley Ayres                 |
| Wed 23 Jun 2021 | Transfer meeting                          |                               |
| Sat 26 Jun 2021 | Club changeover                           |                               |

**JANELLE WATSON**

GUEST SPEAKER CO-ORDINATOR

# Strategic Plan 2021-2024



The Strategic Planning process for our Club commenced in January 2021. A committee was formed with the following members that guided and contributed to the process throughout: President Usha Garg; PE Thaya Ponniah; PN Andrew Aravanis; PP Rod McDougall; PDG David Croft; Rtn. Nick Hamilton-Kane; and myself.

The committee resolved to use the Rotary International Strategic Planning Guide as the process and template for our activity, as it provided a robust framework for Rotary-specific Strategies. We met on a monthly basis, creating and synthesising components of the plan as a team, culminating in the creation of a draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024 by early April 2021. This draft plan was presented for discussion and feedback at our Club Assembly on 7 April 2021.

An overarching aim of this activity was to ensure complete alignment with Rotary International, but with appropriate localisation where necessary. With this in mind, our strategy commences with a reminder to us all of the Rotary International Vision Statement, followed by Rotary's Strategic Priorities and Objectives, and finally Rotary's Core Values. We then articulated - in summary form, so as to be digestible by all - our own Strathfield Rotary Vision; Strategic Priorities (aligned with Rotary International); Strategic Issues; Aspirational Characteristics of our club; and a broad set of goals.

After presentation to the members in attendance at our April 2021 Club Assembly, we distributed the draft plan to all club members for review and comment by 23 April 2021. No feedback was received, and so on 11 June 2021



the plan was declared FINAL and an instruction issued to distribute this plan to all members - as our final overarching Strategic Plan for the club. This was the conclusion of Part 1.

Part 2, the final piece of work then fell to what we are calling the Strathfield Rotary Presidential Train: President Usha; PE Thaya; and PN Andrew, to extrapolate from the strategy the details of our specific annual goals for the next three years. This work will be completed by the end of President Usha's year and will be presented to the club membership by incoming President Thaya at our first Club Assembly of his year.

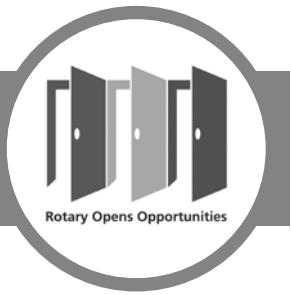
The annual planning process is then intended to 'roll-forward' with each new Presidential Train, ensuring consistency and continuity of our plans for the future.

Many thanks must go to the committee members for delivering such a great result for our club; a asset that should endure for years to come and which will provide continuing clarity and guidance to our priorities and efforts. Thank-you all!

**RICK VOSILA**  
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE



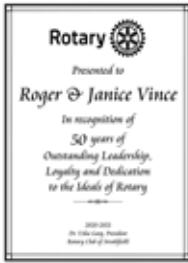
# 2020-2021 Recognitions



That we Rotarians, are strong, resilient and united could not have come across better than in this year, the year of our '**golden jubilee**' and the '**pandemic**'. Extraordinary leadership, diligence, dedication and initiative was shown by the board and club members who went way beyond their call of duty to serve in ways that earlier seem impossible. I have the honour and pleasure of recognizing the contributions with personal plaques:

## **Roger and Janice Vince -**

Landmark 50 years of outstanding leadership, loyalty and dedication to the ideals of Rotary.



**Alexey Prokopenko -** Outstanding diligence and dedication as club service director.

**Andrew Aravanis -** Loyalty, dedication and generous giving to the ideals of Rotary.

**Bradley Ayres -** Outstanding contribution to club communications as editor.

**David Croft -** Leadership, dedication and outstanding guidance to our club

**Dimitry Chugg-Palmer -** Outstanding diligence and dedication as secretary.

**Gulian Vaccari -** Dedication to service and consistent contribution to club communications.

**Janelle Watson -** Dedication to service and outstanding contribution to weekly programs.

**Nick Hamilton-Kane -** Outstanding creativity and contribution to weekly meetings as sergeant.

**Peter Manenti -** Distinguished service, loyalty and generous giving to the ideals of Rotary.

**Peter Smith -** Outstanding service to the community, youth mentoring and dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

**Raymond McCluskie -** Distinguished service loyalty and outstanding contribution as webmaster.

**Rick Vosila -** Contribution to the ideals of Rotary and the future planning for our club.

**Roy Ellis -** Distinguished service, loyalty, and generous giving to the ideals of Rotary.

**Thaya Ponniah -** Leadership, dedication and willingness to serve as president-elect.

**Ying Ho -** Contribution to the ideals of Rotary through music.

## **Paul Harris Fellow (PHF):**

Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to humanitarian causes and educational programs. The recipient can be an outstanding leader in the community, or an ordinary person doing extraordinary things. It is named for our founder, Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer who started Rotary International with three business associates in 1905. This year we have the honour and pleasure of recognizing three PHFs:



**Janice Barrett -** Outstanding commitment and dedication to the ideals of Rotary and service to humanity.

**Rod McDougall -** Consistently outstanding commitment to the ideals of Rotary, club mentorship, fellowship and service.

**Pallavi Sinha -** Outstanding service and support to the community in the areas of domestic & family violence, mental health and social cohesion.

My sincere thanks to the commitment shown by all members, family and friends, and although you may or may not have mention on this page, I am well aware that you have contributed in some way somewhere, sometime that I may have overlooked. I wish you all well and hope that you will continue your selfless contribution to the community and towards economic betterment and world peace into the future.

**DR USHA GARG**  
PRESIDENT

# New Members



## FIONA MARTIN

Inducted November 2020 as an honorary member  
Vocation Politician  
Proposed by Dimitry Chugg-Palmer



## SARONI ROY

Inducted June 2021 as an active member  
Vocation Model/Actress  
Proposed by Usha Garg



## YING HO

Inducted November 2020 as an active member  
Vocation Musician  
Proposed by Alexey Prokopenko



## STEVEN ARGYRIS

Inducted April 2021 as an active member  
Vocation Sales Engineer  
Proposed by Bradley Ayres



## HARPREET SINGH BHATIA

Induction as active member being planned  
Vocation Information Technology  
Proposed by Nella Hall



# International Women's Day



This magical evening was created out of the efforts of a group of bright and hard-working Rotarians, who decided it was important to spread this year's IWD message "choose to challenge inequality". And in doing so, Strathfield Rotary connected with women in our community and the world.

My sincere thanks to team IWD10MARCH21 (Thaya, Ying, Rod, Roy, Jan, and Nick) for all your imagination and hard work into organising this wonderful evening. Thaya Ponniah conceptualised the idea and got the ball rolling. The creative contribution of our newest Rotarian Ying Ho, who has been with us for less a year, was admirable. Between the two of them and supported by the team, we created history - the first ever International Women's Day celebration in our club.

Present on the evening were many distinguished guests- DG Warwick Richardson, State Member Jodi McKay MP, Principal of Burwood MLC Ms. Lisa Moloney, Strathfield Councillors Gulian Vaccari representing the Mayor, Karen Pensabene and Maryanne Duggan, DG-e Jeremy Wright and DG-n Janice Hall. PP Allan Peterson from Concord Rotary also joined us with Welwyn as did many Rotarians from other Rotary clubs.

The evening was well coordinated with non-stop entertainment, delectable choice of food, drinks at the bar, perfect ambience, live music - instrumental and vocal, meaningful talks and plenty of breaks to connect with each other. The pleasant sounds of the MLC Jazz Ensemble interspersed with soul touching vocal singing by Trinity and Sofia provided the perfect interludes between the meaningful and down to earth speeches. The beautiful rolling pictures of women with significant achievements, running on the screens in the background, completed the scene.

**DR USHA GARG**

PRESIDENT



Alexey Prokopenko's generously contributed his technical skills and time with Ying in curating through the recordings and pictures collected by Thaya, Ying and Jan Barrett. When this beautiful collage was played on the screen, the hall came alive with pictures and words with stunning effect. Our MC for the evening, Nick Hamilton-Kane kept things moving along at just the right pace allowing moments to catch up with friends.

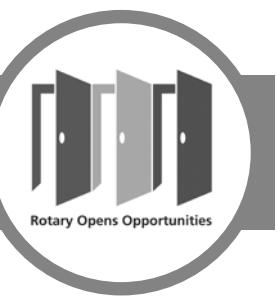
PP Peter Manenti provided the double toasts to Rotary and to Women. Bradley Ayres created beautiful memories of this wonderful evening with his mesmerising photography skills. And one more perfect raffle from PP Roy Ellis and his team. And last but never the least, we appreciate the experienced hand of PP Rod McDougall, always available for any information, discussion and back-up. The evening collected \$1000 which was donated to the Parish Pantry.



# 50th Anniversary



# 50 Years of Success



The presentation of the charter to the Rotary Club of Strathfield was made at a gala dinner held at Macquarie University on 19th April 1971 - and to celebrate 50 years of our active and vibrant club a celebration in the form of a formal dinner was held at the Strathfield Event Centre at Strathfield Golf Club on 29th May and attended by over 160 guests - Rotarians, partners and friends. Among the special guests were DG Warwick Richardson, DGE Jeremy Wright, DGN Janice Hall and the IPDG Di North. The Mayor of Strathfield, Antoine Doueihi attended together with several Council members and staff. There were many Rotarians present from our Mother Club, Burwood, with PDG Lloyd Rovere from Burwood delivering a very moving toast to the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Twenty-six of Strathfield's past presidents were present with apologies received from many past presidents and members unable to attend.

I was privileged to chair the organising committee which met many times over several months. My thanks to PN Andrew Aravanis, PP David Croft, Ying Ho, PP Peter Manenti, PP Raymond McCluskie, PP Rod McDougall, Alexey Prokopenko and President Usha Garg for our productive and successful meetings.

The spectre of COVID was ever present with real concern numbers could be severely affected. Happily, all was well when the special day arrived.

President Usha gave a very warm welcome to all present and MC for the event, PP Rick Vosila kept the evening moving, in his usual breezy way. Four current members regaled life of the club over the past 50 years in an entertaining way. I was able to introduce several people present with connections to our charter members and spoke of the early years of the club, highlighting the great service, fellowship and fun enjoyed in those early days. PP Peter Manenti spoke of the 1980/1990's

- which he named the Gatsby Years - a period of membership development, continued great fellowship and fundraising. PP Raymond McCluskie put on his Howard Carter hat and dug into the archives of the first ten years of the new century - highlighting the changes, innovations and memorable occasions of this dynasty. PP Arie Pappas took us up to the current times and PP Rick Vosila gave his thoughts with a management plan for the future. PDG David Croft ended the formal part of the evening with special thanks to all guests, many of whom had come long distances to join in our celebrations.

During the evening musical interludes were presented and performed by our own Rotarian Ying Ho who accompanied two very talented young people - singer Tanisha Ponniah (daughter of member Thaya Ponniah) and violinist Justine Zhang. Alexey Prokopenko put together a very informative and entertaining visual display of Strathfield Rotarians and events over the decades and Rotarians Bradley Ayres and Steven Argyris captured a great photographic and video record of the night. A very successful raffle organised by PN Andrew Aravanis with generous prizes donated by members and colleagues, raised a wonderful \$3,550 for the Children's Medical Research Foundation.

Special messages were received from RI President, Holger Knaack, DG Warwick Richardson, state and federal MPs and the Mayor of Strathfield.

The evening ended with many staying on to enjoy the fellowship and good feel generated by an exceptional event celebrating our first 50 years. Events like this encapsulate what Rotary is all about - a celebration of fellowship within the club and an acknowledgement of the service given to the community and to the world. It will long be remembered.

**ROGER VINCE**  
CHAIR, 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

# Paul Harris Fellows



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

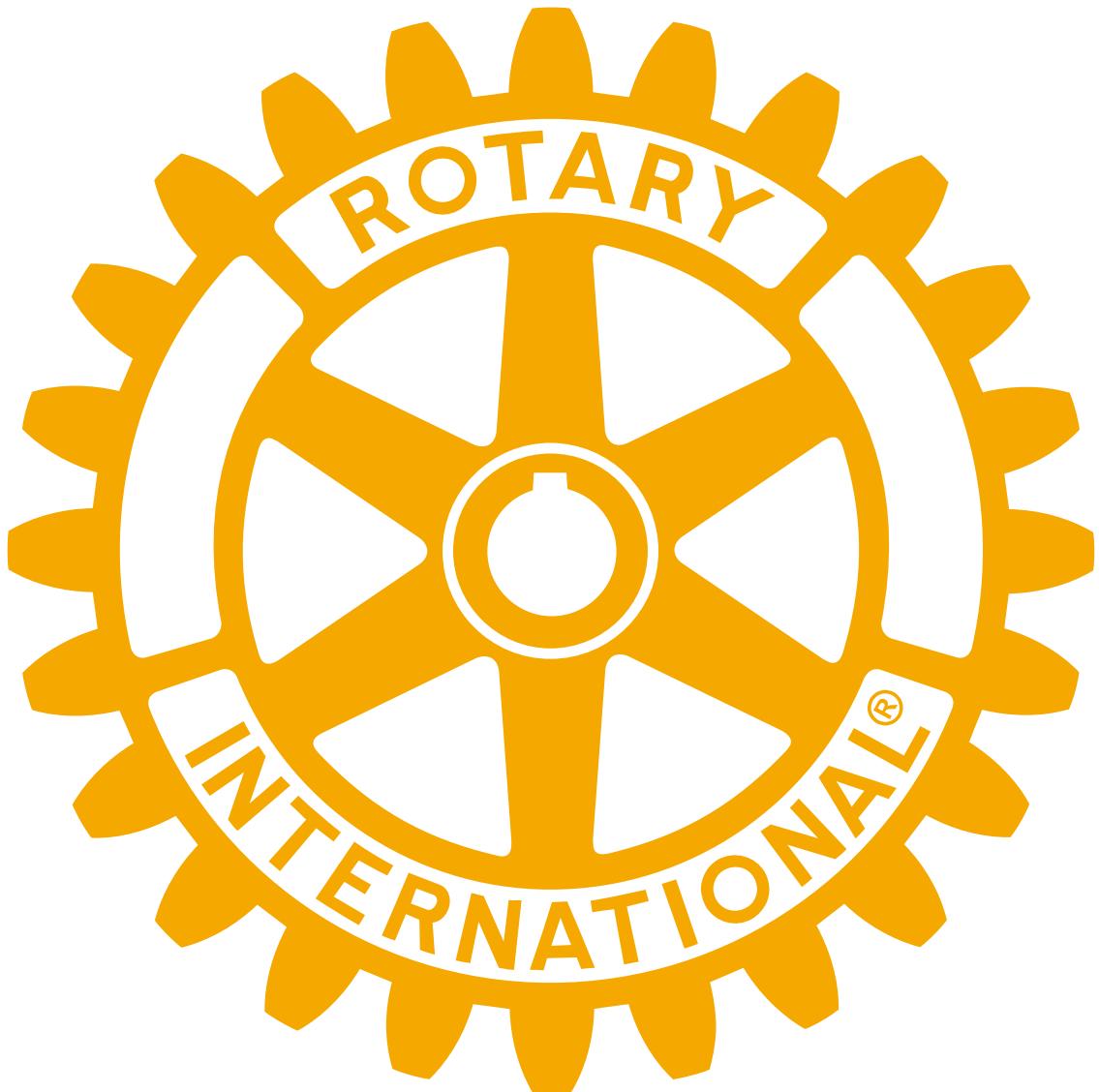


# Rotary Club of Strathfield

## Membership 2020-2021

|                            |                             |                         |                        |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alvaro, Domenico           | Building Construction       | McDougall, Rod          | Information Technology |
| Anton, Paul                | Property Management         | Pappas, Arie            | Real Estate Investor   |
| Aravanis, Andrew           | Insolvency Services         | Pitt, Charles           | Accounting Services    |
| Argyris, Steven            | Sales Engineer              | Ponniah, Thaya          | Information Technology |
| Ayres, Bradley             | Electronic Manufacturing    | Prokopenko, Alexey      | Information Technology |
| Bala OAM, A.               | Medicine, Physician         | Roy, Saroni             | Model/Actress          |
| Baladi, John-Paul          | International Relations     | Saad, Joe               | Commercial Law         |
| Barrett, Janice            | Special Education           | Sinha, Prabhat          | Medical Practitioner   |
| Brown AM, Ross             | Pharmacy                    | Singh Bhatia, Harpreet  | Information Technology |
| Byrn, Keith                | Motor Vehicle Repair        | Smith, Peter            | Finance Broking        |
| Carney, William            | Barrister                   | Teale, Allan            | Tertiary Education     |
| Challa, Jaya               | Business Administration     | True, Grahame           | Electrical Contracting |
| Chugg-Palmer, Dimitry      | Government                  | Vaccari, Gulian         | Pharmacy               |
| Croft AM, David            | Power Engineering           | van der Sleesen, Peter  | Electronic Engineering |
| Dunlop, Ed                 | NFP Management              | Vince, Roger            | Meat Export            |
| Elias, Mathew              | Dentist                     | Virgona, Chris          | Real Estate Management |
| Ellis, Roy                 | Plastic Injection Moulding  | Vosila, Rick            | Information Technology |
| Garg, Usha                 | Safety Management           | Watson, Janelle         | Library Administration |
| Giammarco, Paolo           | Development & Construction  |                         |                        |
| Hall, Nella                | Legal Services              | <b>Honorary Members</b> |                        |
| Hallworth, George          | Grocery Retailing           | Crossan, Arthur         |                        |
| Hamilton-Kane, Nick        | Financial Law               | Freund, Suzanne         |                        |
| Haseldine, Christopher     | Solicitor                   | Galletta, Connie        |                        |
| Helou, George              | Food Wholesale Distribution | Ingall, Ted             |                        |
| Ho, Trudy                  | Finance                     | King OAM, Niall         |                        |
| Ho, Ying                   | Musician                    | Leftwich, John          |                        |
| Manenti, Peter             | Hospitality Business Broker | Martin, Fiona           |                        |
| Manrique-Velasquez, Marvin | Commercial Cleaning         | McKay, Jodi             |                        |
| McCluskie, Raymond         | Vocational Education        | Wilson OAM, Ray         |                        |





# Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc

## Rotary International District 9675

With thanks to our great sponsors of this year's club changeover



Prabhat and Neena Sinha

