



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

"Creating Lasting Impact Through Service"

The great Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world. The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. In a gentle way, you can shake the world."

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" • THEME 2026-27: "CREATING LASTING IMPACT"

INTRODUCTION

These words beautifully capture the spirit of Rotary and the reason why we choose to serve. In today's world, there has never been a greater need for compassion, kindness, and action. Across communities and nations, people continue to face challenges such as global hunger, access to clean water, domestic violence, limited educational opportunities, mental health struggles, homelessness, and the need for safe shelter and support.

As Rotarians, we have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference. Through our commitment, our partnerships, and our willingness to serve, we can bring hope to those who need it most. Whether it is supporting vulnerable families, empowering young people through education, promoting wellbeing, or simply lending a helping hand to someone in need, every act of service contributes to building a better world.

As we commence the Rotary year 2026–27, I feel deeply honoured and humbled to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Our theme this year, "Create Lasting Impact," is a powerful reminder of why Rotary exists and why our work matters.

Rotary has always believed that ordinary people, united by a shared purpose, can achieve extraordinary things. For more than a century, our motto "Service Above Self" has inspired millions of Rotarians around the world to put the needs of others before themselves and to turn compassion into meaningful action.

This year, our focus will be on strengthening our club, members engagement, building new friendships, welcoming new members, developing impactful local community projects, technology modernisation, and creating partnerships that deliver real benefits to the people we serve. Together, we will continue to build on the proud legacy of the Rotary Club of Strathfield and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Rotary is more than a club. It is a movement of people who believe that service can change lives. Together, let us embrace this year with enthusiasm, compassion, and purpose. Let us continue to be the change we wish to see in the world and "Create Lasting Impact" through service.

Thomas D'Souza, President 2026–27

Rotary Club of Strathfield

1. OUR BOARD

I'm delighted with the Board (Bill Carney, President Elect, Andrew Aravanis, Club Service Director, Aruna Chandrala, International Director, Bradley Ayers, Youth Director, Anjali Jain, Vocational Director, Paula Nicolas, Community Director, Charles Pitt, Treasurer and Steven Argyris, Club Secretary) that came together for our brainstorming session on 6 June 2026 at Strathfield Golf Club, where we mapped out our plans for 2026-27.

With the addition of Thaya Ponniah as Advisor and Rick Vosila as Strategic Advisor, our board is well equipped to help the club do good in the community, both locally and internationally. Thank you to the board for attending this informal session. The ideas raised, and the plan presented, were very well received.

2. CHANGEOVER DINNER – 1 JULY 2026

Our Changeover Dinner celebrated the achievements of the 2025–26 Rotary year and welcomed the new leadership team for 2026–27. We were honoured to be joined by District Governor Shane Burnette, Strathfield Mayor Benjamin Cai, along with members, partners and friends of Rotary. The Razzmatazz Band provided fantastic entertainment, MC Gulian Vaccari kept the evening running seamlessly, and Strathfield Golf Club hosted a wonderful buffet dinner.



We also acknowledged the resignations of Immediate Past President Ying and Club Service Director Alexey, thanking them for their service and wishing them every success in the future. As we begin the new Rotary year, we remain united by our motto, "Service Above Self," and look forward to working together to create lasting impact for our community.

3. GUEST SPEAKER APPRECIATION

It has been some time since our club last presented appreciation gifts to our guest speakers. I'm pleased to share that this initiative is now back on track. If you've noticed, we've been gifting (new branded) Pen with a torch. This is a small but meaningful way of thanking our guest speakers for generously sharing their time, knowledge and experiences with our club.



4. NEW WEBSITE & EMAIL UPGRADE (TECHNOLOGY MODERNISATION)

We are launching a brand new website for our club in a few weeks time. ClubRunner is a comprehensive, cloud-based website and club management platform built specifically for Rotary clubs and districts. It brings together our website, membership, events, communications and administration in one place. Key benefits include:

- **Professional website:** a modern, up-to-date site showcasing our projects, news and impact, available 24/7
 - **Membership growth:** easy enquiry and contact forms to attract prospective members
 - **Event promotion:** online registration for meetings, fundraisers and community events
 - **Sponsor recognition:** dedicated logos, business profiles and website backlinks for sponsors
 - **Online donations:** secure giving for individuals and businesses supporting our projects
 - **Member management:** a central directory, attendance records, committees and communications
 - **Improved communication:** newsletters, invitations, announcements and reminders sent directly to members and supporters
 - **Enhanced public image and SEO:** fresh content that builds trust and improves our visibility online
- In short, ClubRunner will be the digital hub of our club — helping us attract new members, engage the community, promote events, recognise sponsors, facilitate donations, and strengthen our public image and operational efficiency.



Club Email Upgrade: Our club has recently migrated its official email address, info@strathfieldrotary.org.au, to the Google platform, providing a more reliable, secure and feature-rich communication system. The move became necessary after our previous email provider indicated they would no longer be able to support the service.



The transition has been completed successfully, and our club now benefits from improved reliability, accessibility, collaboration tools and long-term stability. We are now in good hands and better equipped to communicate efficiently with our members, partners, sponsors and the wider community.

5. CLUB MEETINGS

Guest Speaker: Mason Webb — 15 July 2026



A truly memorable presentation from six-year-old Mason Webb — believed to be the youngest guest speaker in Rotary's history. Mason joined the Rotary Club of Norwest Sunrise at just five days old; his mother Krissie has been a Rotaractor and Rotarian for many years, and his father Robert Bredin is President of the Rotary Club of Norwest Sunrise. Mason had our members laughing and thoroughly engaged with his knowledge of dinosaurs — rivalling David Attenborough himself! We look forward to watching this young Rotarian go places.



Club Assembly — 22 July 2026



An important date on our calendar, where I presented my plan, vision, goals and expectations for the year ahead. Our club has already moved past its challenges — the focus now is on building forward. This year will be busy and, at times, will push us outside our comfort zone, but it will also be a lot of fun as we work together to take the club to the next level.

PCYC Auburn Basketball Court Refurbishment Project — 3 July 2026

Thaya Ponniah and I recently met with the team at PCYC Auburn to discuss an exciting opportunity for the Rotary Club of Strathfield to support the refurbishment of their basketball court.

The court is used extensively by young people, including many who are at risk or experiencing social and mental health challenges. Through sport, mentoring, fitness programs and PCYC's "Give It A Go" initiative, young people are encouraged to build confidence, resilience and life skills, while those interested in policing are given a pathway towards a career in the NSW Police Force.

This project aligns strongly with Rotary's commitment to supporting young people and strengthening our community. It represents an opportunity not only to improve an important community facility but also to invest in the wellbeing, development and future of local youth.

A funding proposal will be presented to our Board shortly for consideration. We are also delighted that PCYC Auburn will be joining us at our 21st Annual Police Officer of the Year Awards on 3 September 2026. While proceeds from our raffle will continue to support NSW Police Legacy, we will also be raising funds throughout the evening to help make the PCYC Auburn basketball court refurbishment a reality.



District 9675 News

A huge congratulations to Rotary District 9675 on the outstanding achievement of A huge congratulations to Rotary District 9675 on the extraordinary achievement of raising A\$2.9 million for The Rotary Foundation, earning the District an outstanding 8th place in the world.

This remarkable milestone reflects the generosity, dedication, and commitment of Rotarians across our District to making a lasting difference in communities both locally and globally. Special congratulations to our own District Rotary Foundation Chair, Thaya Ponniah, and Past District Governor, Renga Rajan, whose exceptional leadership and tireless efforts played a significant role in this incredible success. Their passion, vision, and commitment to The Rotary Foundation have inspired many and helped make what once seemed only a dream become a reality.

This achievement is a proud moment for every member of Rotary District 9675 and demonstrates the power of working together to Do Good in the World to "Create Lasting Impact".

Total Contributions			
Rank	District	Total Contributions	District Location
1	3141	\$9,709,424	INDIA—(part of Maharashtra - the revenue
2	3502	\$2,919,578	(part of) TAIWAN
3	3501	\$2,899,341	(part of) TAIWAN
4	3310	\$2,867,078	BRUNEI, (part of) MALAYSIA; SINGAPO
5	5020	\$2,677,834	CANADA—(part of British Columbia); USA
6	3203	\$2,615,001	INDIA—(part of Tamil Nadu)
7	3011	\$2,561,444	INDIA—(part of National Capital Region - S
8	3522	\$2,447,407	(part of) TAIWAN
9	5340	\$2,329,184	USA—(California)
10	9675	\$2,123,787	AUSTRALIA—(part of New South Wales)
11	3234	\$2,059,199	INDIA - part of greater Chennai corporatio
12	3192	\$1,997,462	INDIA—(part of Karnataka)



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New Member Induction - 29 July 2026

We were delighted to welcome Past District Governor Renga Rajan and Past Assistant Governor Bharathi Rengarajan to a special meeting where we inducted Amira Fanous and Mohan Yamasani as our newest Rotary members. Amira, a volunteer at St. Merkorious Charity, and Mohan a videographer at Cinemo, bring valuable skills, experience, and a passion for community service. We look forward to their contributions to the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Welcome to the Rotary family!



6. 21ST ANNUAL POLICE AWARDS – THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

Our flyer and Humanitix registration page are ready to promote and register guests — thank you to Rod, a great Rotarian who has provided excellent service to our club for many years. Thank you also to Anjali Jain, Committee Chair for the Police Awards & our Vocational Director, for organising this event. We are seeking:

- Donated gift prizes for our raffle
- Sponsorship from companies and business owners
- Sponsorship packages are available to help offset the cost of this major signature event, our "POOTY" 2026:
- Corporate packages: **\$5,000 and \$3,000**
- Smaller packages: **\$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2,000**



7. UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

12 August: PCYC (Police Citizens Youth Club) - Presentation by Tony Nguyen & Gary Farrelly

19 August: Experience the Hologram Zoo, Beyond Imagination - Presentation by Peter Sarju, Director

26 August: Unlock Your Potential: Transform your Business and Life - Presentation by Jose Anzures

Please contact Vocational Director Anjali for sponsorship package details, and share this opportunity with your network of friends, family and business associates.