



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# Rotary Club of Strathfield



## STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

27th-September-2017

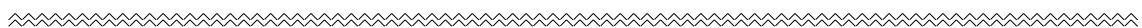
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### *Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes*

Month of Sept	Rotary	Basic Education and Literacy Month
	Australia	National Biodiversity Month
	-	International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
	-	International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Weeks of Sept	-	-
Days of Sept	United Nations	World Tourism Day (27 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
	United Nations	World Rabies Day (28 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
	United Nations	World Maritime Day (29 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
	United Nations	International Day of Older Persons (1 <sup>st</sup> Oct)
	United Nations	International Day of Non-Violence (2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)
	United Nations	World Habitat Day (2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)
	-	World Animal Day (4 <sup>th</sup> Oct)



## *President's Report*

### **Last week's speaker**

Well, the quality of our guest speakers each week continues to impress! We were lucky enough to have two very inspirational and entertaining speakers join our Club this last week.

Firstly we had Shahi Uddin from Homebush Boys High School report on his RYPEN experience, following on from the Meriden girls presentation the week before. Again, the RYPEN attendees never fail to express what a life-changing experience that camp is for them, and

how it always exceeds their expectations. It was also fun to hear Shahi discuss his conversations with other RYPEN boys about their 'romantic' pursuits. I don't know I've heard too many teenage boys discuss this topic in terms of 'romance' before!

Then we had another fascinating, well-travelled and (you would think) slightly over-educated speaker (did I hear her say she had 17 university degrees!) – Dr Jill McRae. As we know, Dr J (as I like to call her) is a cousin of our own Peter Smith. There

were some rather uncharitable comments at the end of the night about the possible uneven distribution of intellect in the family Peter and Jill belong to! Oh, why are they so unkind, Peter? Anyway, please see the Speaker Report prepared by Secretary Rod McDougall for a complete summary of Jill's speech to us.

### **Board updates**

There were a few updates I gave in my President's Report last week that I'd like to ensure all members are across:

#### *Membership Development*

Just before the Board Meeting there was a Membership Development meeting held, chaired by Committee Chair, Gulian Vaccari. At this meeting we agreed several tactics to continue to attract the right members to our Club, including: reconnecting with our 'lapsed' members (recently resigned); holding Membership Development nights (like the Rotary Means Business evening held back in May this year); and progressing the membership of those visitors that we believe will make good members. In that vein, I'm pleased to advise that we are proposing four new members at the moment. They are all being presented to the Club Membership for consideration, before we move on to induction ceremonies in the coming weeks. Great news.

#### *Club Health Check*

Many of you will remember that at the beginning of this Rotary year, one of the actions I suggested we should undertake is a self-assessment of our Club's condition using the Rotary Club Health Check Tool. Well, we finally did this as a Board during the meeting, responding to the many

questions, as we believed the situation to be, at 1 July 2017 (i.e. the beginning of the Rotary year). We scored 60 out of a possible 100. 60 is considered to be 'good', so we should all be proud! Our goal is to be 'great', however, and that will need a score of around 90. We now have clarity regarding what we need to do to achieve this outcome (not just a score on a spreadsheet, but a tangible improvement in Club performance). We'll make some plans, share them, and see if we can move the needle in the next 9 months. We'll do this Health Check again in June next year and I'll report our result at the Changeover presentation.

#### *Child Protection*

We have a new Child Protection Officer – Ed Dunlop. Peter van der Sleen has held this role for the past few years, however Peter is quite busy away from Rotary at the moment and unable to give this role the time it needs. We wanted to ensure we didn't drop the ball with this important activity, and so whilst Peter will remain involved, Ed will take the lead. Thanks to both Ed and Peter for their work in the critical role in our Club.

### **Vale Gerry Whalan**

It has come to our attention via past member Peter Foss that another past member of this club – Gerry Whalan – passed away last Thursday, 21 September 2017. When Gerry left our Club he relocated to the Central Coast of NSW. Gerry's funeral will be held this Friday, 29 September 2017, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Terrigal at 2.00pm.

### **This week**

And so here we are, at one of the most important evenings on our

calendar – the Rotary Club of Strathfield Police Officer of the Year Awards. I can't wait to hear the citations and stories of the work of our wonderful police officers, from the Burwood and Flemington Local Area Commands. This promises to be another fabulous evening; one where we can all show appreciation for our

women and men in uniform, protecting people and property in our local communities. I still can't figure out why I wasn't allowed to be MC again this year? Anyway, enjoy the night!

*Rick*



## *Previous Guest Speaker: Dr Jill McRae*

Jill was introduced by PP Peter Smith. As Jill's cousin, Peter was well equipped to provide us with a glimpse of her family background in Narrabri, summarise her extensive academic achievements - and to reflect on her passion for human rights. He highlighted her achievement in forming International Campaign for Humanitarian Relief of Syria (ICHRS) – a significant NGO whose distinguished board includes PDG Paul Sarks.

Jill began her talk by giving us an insight into her academic career, including the incredible amount of travel (to over 20 countries) that was part of her life over many years. She has numerous degrees from universities around the world, including a doctorate and two masters from Harvard.

Through connections at the World Bank, she had applied for enrolment at Harvard. In fact, the World Bank support did not eventuate, but Harvard offered her scholarships anyway! Not bad for a girl from Narrabri!

She lived in the Middle East for a considerable period, developing a deep affection for the region. Her qualifications and familiarity with the area led to a position with DFAT with whom she worked for fifteen years.

She "fell in love with Lebanon". Beirut was of special interest and she lectured in Beirut College, teaching English as a foreign language and drawing on her internationally recognised linguistic qualifications.

Jill's personal connections in the Middle East run deep and extend to members of the Jordanian royal family!

Over time she developed a strong interest in the conflict in Syria and resolved to make a contribution to improving the situation in some way.

The failure of the Geneva II Syrian Peace talks in 2014 was a turning point and led Jill, with Hadi Bourghiba, an imam from Auburn, to set up ICHRS - with the special aim of helping women, children and elderly victims of the Syrian conflict.

Jill pointed out that the demand expressed by those in need was a little unexpected... more mobile phones! Staying in touch with relatives and friends in a war zone is important!

In fact ICHRS wishes to go well beyond phones and to establish a radio station in Jordan run, by Syrian refugees for the exclusive use of Syrians. Fundraising is underway.

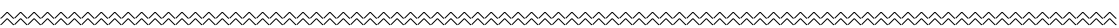
Jill impressed us with her intellect and her passion for "doing good" in Syria. She showed an amazing understanding (to the extent it can be understood!) of the situation in the region and shed some

light on a conflict that seems to defy logic.

Summary by Rod McDougall



Jill McRae with Rick Vosila



*This Week's Speaker: Frank Mennilli*  
*Strathfield Rotary Police Officer of the Year*

The Police Officer of the Year (POOTY) is one of our club's showcase events. It is our way of publically saying 'thank you' to our local Police Officers from the Burwood and Homebush Local Area Commands. This night also has a

great tradition over the years of having the attendance of Commissioners and Assistant/Deputy Commissioners. This continues tonight as we welcome Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli.



## Next Week's Speaker: Sandra Guy

Next week's speaker will be Sandra Guy from Sydney Wild Life.

Sandra is a member of Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service, which rescues, rehabilitates and releases all

native wildlife species in the Sydney area and is actively involved in educating the community about the importance of our native fauna. Her specialty is flying foxes.



## Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>			
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Event/speaker</i>	<i>To introduce</i>	<i>To thank + speaker write-up</i>
Wed 27th Sep 2017	<b>Police Officer of the Year</b>	-	-
Wed 4th Oct 2017	Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife <b>Sandra Guy</b>	Charles Pitt	Rabat Sinha
Wed 11th Oct 2017	Lessons from Life & Business <b>Peter Watson</b>	Chris Haseldine	Guru Singh
Wed 18th Oct 2017	Shine for Children <b>Dennis van Someren</b>	Bala	Joe Saad
Wed 25th Oct 2017	Fizzics <b>Ben Newsome</b>	Raymond McCluskie	Usha Garg
Mon 30th Oct 2017	Rotary Club of Burwood School Speech Night	-	-
Wed 1st Nov 2017	Transfer meeting to Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-	-
Fri 3rd Nov 2017	WHG Rotary Club Cultural Event	Belhaven Manor Function Centre	-
Wed 8th Nov 2017	Refereeing in Rugby Union <b>George Ayoub</b>	Arie Pappas	Peter Manenti

<i>Birthdays</i>	
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Joe Saad
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Athen Pappas

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Gulian and Simone Vaccari
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Christopher and Toni Virgona



## *Do You Know? Celebrities and Projects*

**The procedure for a prospective member** to be proposed for Rotary club membership is clearly outlined in the bylaws of Rotary. The "proposer" is the key person in the growth and advancement of Rotary. Without a sponsor, an individual will never have the opportunity to become a Rotarian.

The task of the proposer should not end merely by submitting a name to the club secretary or membership committee.

Rotary has not established formal responsibilities for proposers or sponsors, however, by custom and tradition, these procedures are recommended in many clubs. The sponsor should:

1. Invite a prospective member to several meetings prior to proposing the individual for membership.
2. Accompany the prospective new member to one or more

orientation/informational meetings.

3. Introduce the new member to other club members each week for the first month.
4. Invite the new member to accompany the sponsor to neighbouring clubs for the first make-up meeting to learn the process and observe the spirit of fellowship.
5. Ask the new member and spouse to accompany the sponsor to the club's social activities, dinners or other special occasions.
6. Urge the new member and spouse to attend the district conference with the sponsor.
7. Serve as a special friend to assure that the new member becomes an active Rotarian.

When the proposer follows these guidelines, Rotary becomes stronger with each new member.

*David Croft*

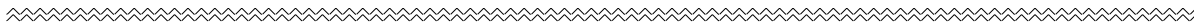




## *The statistics*

Attendance last week	18
Leave of absence	4
Apologies	9
No apology	4
Club membership	<b>35</b>
Partners & Guests	4
Members Rotary activities	Week ending 13-9-17: <b>28</b> [hours]

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$160.00
Sergeants session	\$80.70



## *Your Committee 2017-2018*

President	Rick Vosila	Secretary	Rod McDougall
President Elect	tba	Sergeant	Anuradha Kamkolkar
Immediate Past President	Stephen Taylor	Treasurer	Charles Pitt
Youth	Arie Pappas	Community	Andrew Aravanis
International	Prabhat Sinha	Vocational	Paolo Giammarco
		Club Services	Bradley Ayres

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master & Facebook	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	Selectprint	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari



## *Out and About: RYPEN visit to our Club*

**Wednesday 20th September 2017**



One of the students from Homebush Boys High who we sponsored to attend RYPEN  
(he is the one on the left 😊)

