



Rotary
Club of Strathfield



Namaste

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
1st July 2020

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

info@strathfieldrotary.org.au

<https://www.facebook.com/strathfieldrotary>

Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<i>Month of July</i>		
-	Rotary	Start of new Rotary year
<i>Weeks of July</i>		
5th – 12th July	Aust	National NAIDOC Week
<i>Days of July</i>		
4th July	UN	International Day of Cooperatives

Reports from Directors



Usha Garg
President

The big moment is here. It feels like only yesterday but it was eight months ago that I received the call from PDG David Croft. We were on the outskirts of Perth in a tourist bus and the connection was not very clear. Just as well, because it gave me some time to absorb the shock.

Although initially feeling inspired and excited, for the next few months, I did wonder, with a club so full of talented and capable members, if I was the best person to lead for this year.

That said, I now stand here feeling very honoured and privileged in accepting the

role of president of this club in its 50th year. While on the one hand I am thinking of the huge commitment of time and energy which could be challenging at times, on the other hand I also see this great opportunity to touch the lives of many people.

I have been a member for six years and this is the start of my seventh year and in these years Rotary taught me to come out of my favourite back seat to stand here in front and fulfil my commitment to serve my community.

In this journey, my husband Dinesh has been with me, a constant companion, providing encouragement and support wherever needed. Thanks also to my children for their understanding when Rotary demanded most of my time.

In the last few years, I have also had the chance to work with many capable presidents and experienced the joy of working in different roles in the board and with many committees. Today I thank you all for those wonderful experiences together and for all that I learnt from you. Thank you also for your commitment to Rotary and for being with me today and sharing our Rotary journey together.

Our club is blessed with members coming from many different professions and occupations, all with high achievements and ethical standards of service. Through this year, once again, I have the privilege and opportunity to honour those skills by aiming to work together to bring change where it is most needed. My experience in the recent past has shown me how efficiently we work together, encouraging and bringing out the best in each other to achieve excellence in what we do.

Rotarians work for the community and with the community. Through our membership and their networks, we are introduced to people in the community who need our help to change for the better and also meet people from the community who work with us shoulder to shoulder to bring this change. We also meet people we would never meet otherwise, which gives us a chance to grow.

Our primary goals and aims for this year will continue to be to bring longer term change wherever we step in, change that we hope outlasts us when we leave and move on. However we will also never shy away from charitable help in times of crisis.

Rotary is not entirely about our DG, or about our club president. In the life of the club we come in for a year, where no doubt we get a crash course in perhaps what could be called the best leadership experience. But more than that to me,

Rotary is about our personal commitment and individual contribution as a member that we make when we enter the fellowship and then work together to achieve our goals.

This year's theme:

Rotary Opens Opportunities

This is a year that is asking us to open new choices, new doors and new opportunities and create a new kind of change. With the prevailing climate making it difficult to catch up with our regular events, it is definitely the year for some creative thinking and doing.

The conditions are not ideal but our commitment to serve should remain firm during this time. Some of our board members have already been very active in providing support, solace and appreciation to workers in the community in these difficult times.

In closing, I would like to digress and take some important words out of our incoming RI president Holger Knaack's address:

"This is an interesting time to come in as President after this pandemic and lockdown and in these circumstances our primary concern is how we will continue functioning, how we will raise money, how we will open our doors to charities, to friends and to the public. We hope to take control of this situation by thinking outside the box, through discussions and working together. Most importantly, we need to keep our commitment strong to survive and thrive. And don't forget to have FUN."

I love nothing more than a good discussion, a good brainstorming session and I will always have the door open to ideas. This just might be the year of new ideas.

More in the next Bulletin. Till then...

Usha Garg

Get to know your incoming Directors:



Dimitry Chugg-Palmer
Secretary

Origins: Born & bred in Strathfield, Australia. Russian heritage on Mum's side, Australian on Dad's side.

Age: Not the youngest in the club!

Marital Status: Married for nearly 5 months to Abbie (time flies!).

Education: HSC at Trinity Grammar School (2013), Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney (2014-2019), near completion of Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from the College of Law.

Employment: Government Relations Consultant at Insurance Australia Group Ltd (IAG).

Languages: English, AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language).

Hobbies: Skiing, Learning Golf, Rugby Leeg.

Why did I Join Rotary?

Initially I thought Rotarians were just 'the people that do BBQs', but that's only a small part of the experience! Rotary plays an important role in bringing the community together at a time when many forces are trying to divide us. Being able to give back to our community and meeting the diverse range of members from different walks of life prompted me to get involved! I've been lucky enough to find many mentors in our club, which is one of the big reasons I became a Rotarian, despite being of 'Rotaract age'!

How did I Join Rotary?

Inquired through Gulian Vaccari and inducted in 2018.

How did I get on the Board?

You all voted for me! I enjoyed the challenge of being Secretary in 2019-2020, and look forward to supporting our club for another year.



Janice Barrett
Vocational Service Director

I have a degree in Psychology and Education with Macquarie University and Masters of Special Education from Sydney University. I work at an SSP school (School for Specific Purposes) teaching children with profound and complex needs. I was born in Bankstown Hospital with a very strong link to the Queensland farms where my parents grew up, so I have a great respect for the primary industry sector – I can milk a cow and chip peanuts! I drove a tractor from about the time I was 12 on the farm taking cows to the dip which of course is no longer legal. I have only been a member of Rotary for 12 months but prior to this attended many functions as my husband has been a Rotarian for many years (following the steps of his father who was a member of the Rotary club of Albury and was known as the 'quiet achiever'). In rural areas you are always assisting people who need help and this is something that I feel strongly about and of course this is what Rotary does well. I am looking forward to learning more about Rotary and hopefully contributing as a member of this Board in the capacity of Vocational Service Director.



Peter Smith
Youth Service Director

I was country born, bred and educated – Collarenebri, Limbri and Tamworth.

I joined the Commercial Bank of Australia (now part of Westpac) in the early 1970's. I was soon attached to their relieving staff and worked in over 23 bank branches throughout NSW.

When I left the banking system I spent some time in the within finance industry before starting my own finance broking business in 1987. All in all I have had over 50 years in the finance and banking industries.

I have lived in Badgery Avenue Homebush since 1973, I am married to Marlene and have one daughter and two wonderful grandchildren (who also live locally). I am truly blessed).

I am – or have been – involved in a variety of different organisations, Jaycees, Girl Guides, Carnarvon Golf Club, Strathfield Council, School P&C's, Santa Sabina College, the Salvation Army – and perhaps a couple more.

I joined Rotary to make a difference in my community. I've stayed because I think I am.



Rod McDougall
Treasurer

Origins: Born in Sydney. Lived in Strathfield for over 30 years. Fifth generation Australian.

Age: Carries a seniors card!

Education: Homebush Boys High (the good old days of the Leaving Certificate) University of New South Wales - Bachelor of Economics

Married to Maree. Two children, four granddaughters None of whom live in Sydney.

Languages: English, Strine (spoken)

Graduate of the Maurie Moroney school of Grammar

Joined RCS: 1994 at Grahame True's invitation.

RCS President: 2006-07

Paul Harris Fellow: Yes. Maree is also a Paul Harris Fellow.

DG aspirations: None

Vocation: Information Technology. Currently unemployed.

Hobbies/interests: Software, photography, cycling, share market, philosophy, travelling

Love for Rotary: Good people doing good things. No politics / no religion philosophy.; Deep admiration for its longevity and basic principles.

Proudest moment: Being elected club president.

Why the board: Still learning to say "no" in Rotary!

Someone has to keep the president, presidential!

Greatest Rotary concern: The next three "District" years.



Nick Hamilton-Kane
Sergeant at Arms

Has been a Rotarian for some three years. He arrived in Australia at the beginning of 2017, prior to which he lived in Hong Kong for over twenty years. For Nick, Rotary provides a great opportunity to engage in Strathfield community activities while enjoying some great fellowship. He has no military experience to justify his position of Sergeant.

But we think we can give that experience to make him a great sergeant.



Alexey Prokopenko
Club Service Director

He was born in Rostov-on-Don city, Russia. First 30 years of his life he lived in Russia, then he moved to Sydney. It happened 12 years ago. He has 3 university degrees. The first two, Master in Information Technologies and PhD in philosophy, were graduated by Don State Technical University in his home town. The third, Master of Business Administration, was graduated by Macquarie Graduate School of Management in Sydney.

Alexey runs his own software development company and builds mobile and web app solutions for different businesses. He speaks fluently Russian and English. As a free time interest, he likes drawing people's portraits and playing guitar.

Rotary club official story: started about one year when he was invited as a club member although he had attended many meetings before joining the club as the

guest speaker and a guest of another club member of the Rotary club. His relative was also a member of Interact club in Russia. So he sees Rotary Club as the good way to help community growing and developing.

He is very keen and proud to accept the club services director role because he believes that he can invest his best knowledge and energy to develop a better club and attract many new members or guests of the club.



Allan Teale
Community Service Director

My wife researched my family tree, and at 40 years of age, I was informed my great grandmother was a member of the Wiradjuri people from the Parkes area in Western NSW. My family lived in the western parts of the state, and I was born in the township of Dubbo, NSW. I spent my early years in the town, and my mother moved around the state, while I completed my schooling at Cobar NSW.

I was introduced to Rotary in the early 1970s through my Uncle, who was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Cobar NSW. On moving to Sydney to join the Navy and before joining The Rotary Club of Alexandria in 1981 I was a member of the Manly Rotaract club for three years. While at Alexandria Rotary, Past President Max Douglas encouraged me to join Strathfield Rotary on or about 1985. I have served on the board of the club, and have had the honour to be the president of this great club and work with many great Rotary members during that time.

Having spent many years in the property sector, consulting to corporate and high net worth investors on property, valuation

and planning matters, I have increasingly sought to utilise my skills and knowledge in support of a socially beneficial agenda. Specifically, this has included pursuing academic credentials and undertaking a PhD investigating issues of transparency and governance in transportation infrastructure planning and the communities' voice in the decision-making process. My focus is mainly on the inclusion and voices of First Nation peoples in this process. I work with the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal community and hold a position working with the land council, where I support a number of community benefit programs and research agendas in the Community and other remote communities in NSW.



Thaya Ponniah
International Service Director

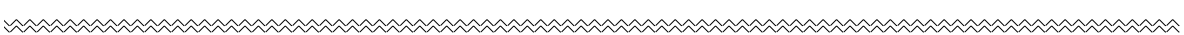
Thaya is a business entrepreneur with nearly 30 years' experience in the ICT industry with insight across a range of disciplines including: entrepreneurship, enterprise sales & marketing, strategic planning, investments, channel development and people management.

He was an Advisory Group Member to the Ministry of Interior and the Prime Minister's office of Sri Lanka. He has participated and contributed in many International Conferences and Study Visits organised by US Department of State, United Nations, European Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, and Microsoft. He also worked as a part time consultant with World Bank.

Thaya obtained his Master's in Business and Technology from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and completed Harvard Disruptive Strategy Program with Prof Clayton Christensen from Harvard Business School. He also completed a Mergers and Acquisition Program at Stanford University.

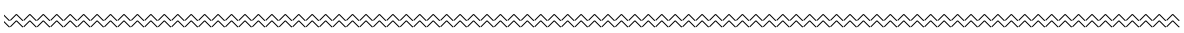
Thaya is married to Subo who works for the Federal Government and they both are blessed with two girls, Tanisha (studying at UNSW) and Tishona (studying at Meriden School).

He is a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow (Major Donor) of Rotary International and a devout Christian.



Speaker last week: Cathy Jones

No report received.



Event for this week: Club Changeover

Out with the 'old' and in with the 'new'! A fabulous job was done by (now) PP Arie Papas and his Board in certainly unique

circumstances. Tonight, the baton will be officially passed on to President Usha Garg and her Board.



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 1st July	Club Changeover Assistant District Governor, District 9675 Renga Rajan , PHF (Community Service Director – Rotary Club of Granville)	-	-
Wed 8th July	Club Assembly	-	-
Fri 10th July	Centenary of Rotary Australia Virtual Launch	-	-
Wed 15th July	Tony Benner Social Media Chair - District 9675	Rick Vosila	tba

<i>Birthdays</i>	
4th July	Sue Byrn

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
1st July	Grahame True (Rotary)
2nd July	Usha Garg (Rotary)



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last (Zoom) meeting (24-06-20)	27
Club membership	45
Partners	1
Guests	2

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$n/a
Sergeant's session	\$n/a
Heads and tails	\$n/a

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## *Your Committee 2020-21*

|                          |               |              |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| President                | Usha Garg     | Secretary    | Dimitry Palmer     |
| President Elect          | tba           | Sergeant     | Nick Hamilton-Kane |
| Immediate Past President | Arie Pappas   | Treasurer    | Rod McDougall      |
| Youth                    | Peter Smith   | Community    | Allan Teale        |
| International            | Thaya Ponniah | Vocational   | Janice Barrett     |
| Public Officer           | Rod McDougall | Club Service | Alexey Prokopenko  |

|                  |               |            |                   |
|------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| Bulletin Editor  | Bradley Ayres | Web master | Raymond McCluskie |
| Bulletin Printer | Selectprint   | Apologies  | Gulian Vaccari    |
| Facebook master  | Charles Pitt  |            |                   |

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Out and About: Chalmers Road School Presentation

COVID-19 Project: Chalmers Road School Presentation

Another busy week closing the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

On Monday, President Arie, Thaya Ponniah and I were privileged to be able to deliver a cheque for \$1,000 to Chalmers Road School, to be used for laptops and related equipment to support remote schooling.

We saw first-hand the very significant needs of the school and the achievements of their amazing principal, Michelle Davies.

Our club has supported the school over several years and there are many opportunities to continue and extend our involvement - including perhaps accepting an invitation to take a role on their P&C (great idea Thaya).

Watch this space.

Rod McDougall



President Arie, Principal Michelle Davies, and COVID-19 project chair Thaya Ponniah



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