



# Rotary

## Club of Strathfield



*Namaste*

# STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675  
2nd June 2021

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

<i>Year 2021</i>		
-	UN	International Year of Peace and Trust
-	UN	International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
-	UN	International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
-	UN	International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
<i>Month of June</i>		
-	Rotary	<b>Rotary Fellowships Month</b>
<i>Weeks of June</i>		
27th May – 3rd June	Aust	National Reconciliation Week
<i>Days of June</i>		
3rd June	UN	World Bicycle Day
3rd June	Aust	Mabo Day
4th June	UN	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5th June	UN	World Environment Day
5th June	UN	International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
6th June	UN	Russian Language Day
7th June	UN	World Food Safety Day
8th June	UN	World Oceans Day

### *President's Report*



**Usha Garg**  
President

*“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... it has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which gives value to survival.”*

– C.S. Lewis

It is often said that in ROTARY, people find themselves standing in the right place at the right time doing the right thing with the right people. And so it was on the night of Saturday, the 29th of May, when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Strathfield with a gathering of 160 Rotarians, partners, friends and guests at the Strathfield Event Centre.

Months of diligent work came to fruition in this perfect event that left everyone absolutely glued to their chairs, listening to the speakers in pin-drop silence, interspersed with the sweetest of music and the loud hum of conversation whenever a break allowed, thereby creating one great festive atmosphere.

I and membership of our club are deeply indebted to the 50th Anniversary Committee Chair PP Roger Vince and his team, PDG David Croft, PP Peter Manenti, PP Rod McDougall, PP Raymond McCluskie, PP Rick Vosila, Dir Alexey Prokopenko, Ying Ho, P-n Andrew Aravanis, P-e Thaya Ponniah and many others. Thinking creatively and working consistently, this mega-horsepower team put this event together that in the end exceeded expectations.

Special mention for PP Raymond McCluskie for creating long list of names from the past years and diligently following them up almost to the last day, without which we would not have the presence of many members and friends who had moved to other clubs and locations.

Never-fail PP Rick Vosila as MC provided the perfect commencement to the evening and instilled a kind of upbeat energy which kept the entire evening full of life while ensuring speakers around the lectern delivering the best.

The perfect show was laden with mirth as four great orators (PPs Roger Vince, Raymond McCluskie, Peter Manenti, and Arie Pappas) from our club reminisced the bygone years, the people (some of 'character') and projects (some 'failed ones') in which the club had been involved. Each relating their quarter of the 50 years with their unique style and excellence that we have come to expect from a Rotarian. These stories had the audience in absolute stitches.

PDG Lloyd Roever provided early anecdotes and a warm toast to Rotary Club of Strathfield, and PDG David Croft beautifully summarised the evening and thanked the guests, members, partners, friends and former members, some coming from afar to attend the gala event.

Many thanks to our District Governor Warwick Richardson for his wonderful words of praise for the achievements of our club in these 50 years and bringing to us the warm message from RI President Holger Knaack. Thanks also to Ms Jacqui Thorburn for bringing to us the message of congratulations from Ms Jodi McKay MP, our State representative and presenting the Hansard from the Parliament of NSW.

A great highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by three gorgeous young musicians, our own Music Muse dear Ying Ho (on the keyboard), with vocals from dear Tanisha Ponniah and violin by dear Justine Zhang. These melodious music interludes were accompanied by a delectable entrée and dinner provided by our gracious host Forte.

But there was more. Every now and then, the screens came alive with stunning effects as the meticulously curated 200 slides rolled on, thanks to the impeccable collection compiled by Alexey covering

the 50 years. Thanks to PP Rod McDougall for putting the program booklet together and Leslie Smallwood of Select Print for producing the attractive printing in a short time frame.

And what is a Rotary event without a mega raffle (courtesy Andrew Aravanis) not to mention the delightful spontaneous break-out auction from PP Peter Manenti. With some super prizes, including a diamond ring, the evening generated over \$3,400 for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

And whereto from here -- clearly, MC Rick Vosila had given much thought to the future directions of our club. So thoroughly presented was this futuristic management plan that I was transported back to my University days recapitulating on a missed MBA lecture. If this is the future, the incoming presidents have their work well and truly cut out.

P-e Thaya Ponniah, Jan Barrett, Jan Vince, and many members spent hours at the venue (no doubt helping AA!) in setting the memorabilia in those special formations.

All this and more from the evening has been captured in-toto by our very professional photographer Bradley Ayres and his new acquired protégé Steven Argyris. I heard they even managed to squeeze 25 or so PPs together for a shot! Onya Bradley! [Photos & video will be ready next week – Ed]

Last but not the least, my apology if I have missed anyone, but I can say that seen or not, mentioned or not, all members contributed in spirit, if not by their presence. Such events only succeed with the effort and good wishes from all.

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The **Youth Awards** preparations are going great with Ed Dunlop and his team (Peter Smith, Arie Pappas, Steve Argyris, Bradley Ayres) making good progress. The committee met this week to discuss and finalise the distribution of awards. Thank you, team, for your valuable time and excellence in putting this all together for the awards presentation night on 18th June.



Our last Board meeting of the year this month will be a joint one with the existing and incoming Board. Please bring to attention any issues or matters of interest.

This week we will have the opportunity to hear from **Tracy Burjan & Margaret Coote** on the “**The importance of music in young people**”.

Please note that this is an in-person meeting at the Strathfield Event Centre.

Look forward to our meeting.

*Usha Garg*

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## *Member Announcements*

### **Roger Vince**

What a wonderful night we had last Saturday celebrating a milestone in the history of our great Club. To reach 50 years and still have

a strong membership in these challenging times is an achievement in itself.

I would like to thank all the members of Strathfield Rotary Club who have been so supportive of the Committee's endeavours.

A testament of the support we received can be gauged from the number of visitors and partners at the event. A contingent from our Mother Club Burwood and a wonderful toast from PDG Lloyd Roever added to a great night of fellowship. There were 26 Past Presidents from our Club who attended together with a large number of our current and past members and their partners. Sadly, a number of Past Presidents and Club members are no longer with us and several were unwell or unable to travel. There was an impressive number of Rotarians from other Clubs including District Governor Warwick Richardson, DGE Jeremy Wright and DGN Janice Hall and several Past District Governors. Also present was Mayor

Antoine Doueih, several Council members and staff of Strathfield Council.

Special thanks to the members of the Committee and others who have spent many hours planning the program and ensuring everything would run smoothly. A splendid job by all who had particular roles to play on the night. Thank you to FORTE and Amanda and staff who looked after us so well

Events like this encapsulates what Rotary is all about – a celebration of fellowship within the Club and an acknowledgement of the service we give to our community and to the world to help make lives better .



Ex-Presidents of the Rotary Club of Strathfield (plus the current President)  
in attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



### *Speaker from last week: Nella Hall*

Nella delivered a fascinating and insightful presentation. Starting with her family background, music and volunteering; through to her Commerce degree and working in the area of Insolvency up to her current professional position of working in the NSW Parliament.

Nella spent some time as a radio announcer on community radio 2RDJ –then onto the Board of that station. This led to other Board memberships, including a school board and a member of the board of the Bendigo Bank.

Nella spoke passionately about her time on community radio and the process of developing and delivering a live radio show. Music has played a very important part in Nella’s life. She was in a church choir and then the Music Director of that church choir. Nella mentioned that her younger self was in a band.

Throughout her presentation, Nella’s passion for life, caring for others and service to the community shone through. Nella’s mantra is to “Keep Walking”. Opportunities

present themselves and it is important to take on board these opportunities because they always lead to further opportunities and add to one's life experience. She has volunteered with various community groups.

In 2019 Nella started work as an Executive Assistant in the Office of Mark Latham in the NSW Parliament.

Nella was awarded Joint Citizen of the Year for Strathfield in 2017 and she was elected to Strathfield Council that same year.

Nella Hall is a Councillor on Strathfield Council and a Past Deputy Mayor of Strathfield.

Rotarian Charles Pitt encouraged Nella to become involved with Rotary and now Nella is a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Strathfield and was asked to speak by Janelle Watson.

*Write-up by Janelle Watson*

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### *Speakers for this week: Tracy Burjan & Margaret Coote*

Symphonia Jubilate is a symphony orchestra organisation made up of students predominantly from primary and secondary schools in the Strathfield education area. Founded in 2013 by Tracy Burjan and Luke Wallace, Symphonia Jubilate aims to provide students with an opportunity to rehearse, learn and perform quality orchestral music from a diverse range of musical styles, as well as to foster a new level of music appreciation and skill.

**Tracy Burjan** - Tracy is Symphonia Jubilate's Co-founder and Chief Conductor, having been in the post since the formation of the orchestra in early 2013. She graduated from the Conservatorium High School in 1980 on the clarinet, piano and composition with Ross Edwards. She continued her studies in singing and jazz harmony.

Tracy has played and sung with many professional ensembles, including Reel Matilda, Kith and Kin (an Irish band) and Hey Ba-Ba-Re-Bop, a 9 piece swing band, which she led with her husband Paul (who co-writes music with her).

Tracy has been teaching in the public school system for 17 years. She has created her own music programs and teaching style, which have been implemented into the Jellybeans

in Schools Music Program. She has also written music for school bands and orchestras. Working with people in a creative field is her forte and she has written, directed, appeared in and composed the music for five short films for Tropfest.

Tracy has written a number of musicals for schools; recently completing a family musical called "Posey and Prickle". Tracy wrote Expanding Horizons – Along the Silk Road for the Sydney Region Gala Concert featuring schools from the Sydney Region and China in 2009; and Kameruka for the Candelo Music Festival in 2011. This is Tracy's sixth year writing for the Festival of Instrumental Music. Her pieces this year are Galliard Irrégulier and an arrangement of Mango Walk. SJ's landmark piece in the 2013 Season was Lieto composed by Tracy, which has achieved acclaim from the public since its inception.

She shares Symphonia Jubilate's vision of expanding musical talent beyond virtuosity and remains a strong advocate for the promotion of music education in every public school. Tracy is the orchestra's resident composer.

**Margaret Coote:** Orchestra Manager (former Principal of Homebush West Public School)

Marg, a primary school teacher for 34 years, completed her teaching career by being principal of Homebush West Public School for ten years. She retired in 2009 but four years later, she was offered a chance to be involved with the wider Strathfield area youth orchestra. She loves music and loves the community of musicians she worked with while she was at Homebush West PS. It was these musicians who were going to

conduct and tutor the SJ orchestra, so she jumped at the chance. It was an opportunity for Marg, as a volunteer manager, to give something back to this wonderful community and to assist children and young adults experience being a part of an orchestra. She has not been disappointed, as the orchestra continues to flourish and to cater for young music students at all levels of performance.



## *The Object of Rotary*

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

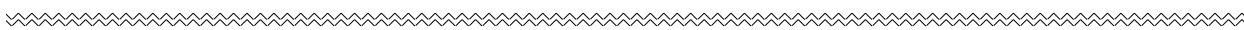
**First** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**Second** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the

dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**Third** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;

**Fourth** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



## *Dates for the Calendar*

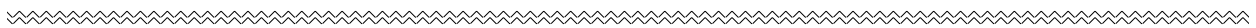


<i>Rotary Events</i>				
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Event/speaker</i>	<i>To introduce</i>	<i>To thank + Speaker write-up</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Wed 2nd June	<b>Tracy Burjan &amp; Margaret Coote</b> “The importance of music in young people” Strathfield Symphony Orchestra	Gulian Vaccari	Janelle Watson	Golf Club
Wed 9th June	No speaker	-	-	Zoom
Wed 16th June	<b>Craig Wood</b> “Undercover Rescue Ops – setting captives free”	Janelle Watson	Janelle Watson	Golf Club

Fri 18th June	<b>Youth Awards</b>	-	-	Town Hall
Wed 23rd June	Transfer meeting to 26 June	-	-	-
Sat 26th June	<b>Club Changeover</b>	-	-	Golf Club
Wed 30th June	TBA	-	-	Zoom

<i>Birthdays</i>	
7th June	Edward Dunlop

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
1st June	Joseph Saad (Rotary)
1st June	Allan Teale (Rotary)
6th June	Dr A and Devi Bala (wedding)



## *The Rotary Statistics*

Attendance last meeting (26-05-21) – Zoom	14
Club membership	<b>45</b>
Partners	0
Guests	1

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	n/a
Sergeant's session	n/a



## *Your Committee 2020-21*

President	Usha Garg	Secretary	Dimitry Palmer
President Elect	Thaya Ponniah	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	Raymond McCluskie		



# *Out & About: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

Saturday 29th June



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