



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



Namaste

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
3rd February 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 February</i>		
-	Rotary	Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month
<i>Weeks of February</i>		
1st – 11th Feb	Rotary	International Assembly, virtual
1st – 7th Feb	UN	World Interfaith Harmony Week
<i>Days of February</i>		
4th Feb	UN	International Day of Human Fraternity
6th Feb	UN	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
10th Feb	UN	World Pulses Day

President's Report



Usha Garg
President

"Religion to me is devotion to work and devotedly working is being religious."
Narendra Modi

For our first evening back, we had a well-attended assembly and a wonderful dinner. I must say, I was missing the meetings, the fellowship, the venue, the dinner and Amanda's welcoming smile.

The assembly gave me an opportunity to thank members for their generous contributions in all possible ways, particularly in the last six months. The Board members recapped on their goals

and presented a review of progress to-date outlining plans for the coming months.

The latter part of the evening was dedicated to Strategic Planning, through a 'ideas' session moderated by Nick Hamilton-Kane, in the absence of Chair Rick Vosila. The Strategic Planning Committee has initiated work on developing a 3-5 year plan and would appreciate input from all members.

We now have the privilege of fellowship with clubs in many countries through our motto of Servis Above Self. We are supporting Education at the War Victims' Rehabilitation Centre, focusing on Basic education & literacy in Sri Lanka, we are a notional partner in a Global Grant Project helping a school in a remote area in India in need of renovation, providing safe & clean drinking water, toilets, science lab and facilities in library and last but not the least is our Sister Club Arrangement with the Rotary Club of Fusagasugá, COLOMBIA, where we are helping provide basic education and literacy to the school children.

In February, Janelle Watson, brings us a wide spectrum of interesting speakers, so try not to miss any evening. Graffiti Removal action comes up on 28th March and our Anzac day service on 25th April. All things going well, perhaps this year we may be able to hold the Youth Awards around the Youth Week.

In keeping with the theme of completing 50 years, this time I have been tempted to go back 72 years when Angus Mitchell from Rotary Melbourne was nominated RI President in 1948. Here are some valuable words from his acceptance speech:

"I hope that Rotary never departs from the simple but vital principle of friendly service.

When we become friendly with members of our club, we cannot help pulling our weight in the club.

It follows, likewise, if we are friendly with our associates in business we deal fairly with them.

If we are friendly with our fellow citizens we become involved in the community, and if we make friends with people from other countries, we will contribute to international understanding and peace."

A seat commemorating the founder of RI Paul Harris and Angus Mitchell, the first Australian President of RI can be found in the Rotary Club of Melbourne's Place of Remembrance at Domain Road.

<https://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/people/humanitarian/display/95551-paul-harris-and-angus-mitchell>



Australia Post has announced that we will have a special stamp in 2021 for our centenary. There will be several "products" including first day covers, stamp packs and inclusion in the annual collection. Ideal for collections, gifts, thankyou's for speakers, Rotary archives, memorabilia and more.

Have you heard of the Rotary Leadership Institute recently? The Rotary Leadership Institute Program seeks to provide quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills to Rotarians interested in developing their Rotary participation and to those identified by Rotary Clubs as having a potential in club leadership. These



educational opportunities provide skills that will benefit the members in their lives and in their volunteer service. (<https://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org/index.html>).

This Wednesday, we will hear from a young poet and author Pooja Mittal Biswas who has written many books and has many awards.

Look forward to our meeting.

Usha Garg

Speaker for this week: Pooja Mittal Biswas

Pooja Mittal Biswas is the author of seven books, including a novel, four books of poetry and two books of academic non-fiction. She has been reviewed and interviewed in The Age, The Australian and ABC Radio National's The Book Show, and has been anthologised in both The Best Australian Poems and The Best Australian Poetry.

Pooja has written for Writer's Digest and has been widely published in literary journals such as Meanjin, TEXT, Hecate and Jacket. She has been invited to speak at literary festivals such as the Emerging Writers' Festival and the National Young

Writers' Festival. She was also selected as the national representative for UNESCO's Babele Poetica project.

Pooja is currently pursuing a PhD in English from the University of Sydney, where she is also a LINK Critical Fellow and a sessional academic teaching Creative Writing. At the University of Sydney, she has been awarded both the Research Training Program Stipend Scholarship and the Stanley Sinclair Bequest Scholarship. She completed a Master of Research in Creative Writing at Macquarie University under a Research Excellence Scholarship in 2019.

Reports from Directors



Janice Barrett
*Vocational Service
Director*

It is very exciting to be back. A few things coming up:

Anzac Day

We were going to have an afternoon BBQ in Strathfield Park but after discussion at the last week's Rotary meeting, members were more in favour of a morning service. We have made contact with our forever

helpful bugler, Ian Stenning, and he has advised that at this point he is unsure of what is happening with services and hence cannot confirm a time. So please stay tuned while we confirm but it is looking like the event will be held at Strathfield Golf Club on 25th April at 'brunch time'.

The School Garden Project

Bunnings have been approached and they will be assisting in this project, however, they are awaiting advice from their

project manager as to details of this assistance. Unfortunately due to COVID they no longer assist in the labour support for planting etc.

Walking Tour

The Strathfield/Homebush Historical Society has been approached to ascertain whether they will be able to assist in a tour of the local area. We are awaiting their response.

Look forward zooming in on Wednesday.

Reports from Members

Roger Vince

It was planned to hold our 50th anniversary dinner and celebration on 13th March 2021 - the actual date of our charter was 14th March 1971 and the charter was presented to our Club at a special dinner at Macquarie University on 19th April 1971. This is an important year for Strathfield Rotary Club celebrating 50 years and for Rotary in Australia celebrating 100 Years.

The organising committee had to make a decision early January whether the event should go ahead because of the uncertainty still surrounding COVID-19 and it was decided to postpone the event until later in this Rotary year. Below are

some of the reasons for the decision made early last month.

- The uncertainty of the number who would be allowed to attend because of spacing requirements.
- There was a resurgence in the number of cases in NSW
- Virus concerns are an issue for many that we are likely to invite, especially those of more mature years.
- The vaccination situation remains unclear, as does the wearing of masks.
- Another outbreak could occur in the Sydney area - as has happened in other places recently

Thanks & regards forever.

Roger Vince

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 3rd Feb	Pooja Mittal Biswas “Myth and Memory in Midnight's Children”	President Usha Garg	Janelle Watson	Zoom
Wed 10th Jan	Rafaele Jourdy “How to wake up ear & brain vitality with Sound Therapy”	Janelle Watson	Janelle Watson	Golf Club
Wed 17rd Feb	Alan Kirkland “Product & consumer – Choice for now & in the future”	Janelle Watson	Janelle Watson	Zoom
Wed 24th Feb	George Siopis "The importance of physical activity and overall fitness to reduce the risk of adverse Covid-19 outcomes"	tba	tba	Golf Club
Sun 28th Mar	Graffiti Clean-up Day	-	-	tba

<i>Birthdays</i>	
5th February	Danielle Aravanis
7th February	Prabhat Sinha
8th February	Helen Pakchung

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
8th February	Ray and Ann McCluskie (Wedding)
8th February	Dimitry and Abbie Palmer (Wedding)



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (27-01-21) - in person	20
Club membership	44
Partners	0
Guests	0



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

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