



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



Namaste

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
24th March 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 March</i>		
-	Rotary	Water and Sanitation Month
<i>Weeks of March</i>		
21st-27th March	UN	Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
<i>Days of March</i>		
24th Mar	UN	World Tuberculosis Day
24th Mar	UN	International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
25th Mar	UN	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
25th Mar	UN	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members
28th Mar	Int	Earth Hour

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## *President's Report*



**Usha Garg**  
President

***"Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement"***  
Golda Meir (1898-1978)

The highly successful premier event in honour of women on 10th March was also in perfect alignment with the RI theme for 2020-21, **Rotary Opens Opportunities**, which encourages Rotarians to seize opportunities to open doors and create pathways to connect with communities.

We are thankful to our distinguished guests for joining us on the 10th evening - DG Warwick Richardson, State Opposition Leader Jodi McKay MP, Principal Burwood MLC Ms. Lisa Moloney, Strathfield Councillors Gulian Vaccari representing the Mayor, Karen Pensabene and Maryanne Duggan, PDG David Croft, DG-e Jeremy Wright and DG-n Janice Hall. PP Allan Peterson from Concord Rotary also joined us with Welwyn as did Rotarians from many clubs including members from the new passport club of Sylvania Waters. Great to see a big turnout from our club members and partners.

This magical evening was born out of the efforts of a group of fabulously creative, bright, cheerful and hardworking Rotarians, who decided to spread the message of this year's International Women's Day "choose to challenge inequality". And in doing so, we connected with women in our community and the world.

Many thanks to our P-e Thaya Ponniah, for starting the ball rolling, and consistently staying with the project to see it through. And I am at a loss of words to capture the creative contribution of our newest Rotarian Ying Ho, who has been with us for less a year but has cemented her position in our club and in Rotary very strongly. Between the two of them and supported by the rest of the team, we created history - the first ever International Women's Day celebration in our club.

It was a perfectly coordinated evening, non-stop entertainment, delectable choice of food, drinks at the bar, perfect ambience, live music - instrumental and vocal, meaningful talks and plenty of breaks to connect with each other.

The pleasant sounds of the MLC Jazz Ensemble interspersed with soul touching vocal singing by Trinity and Sofia brought the perfect breaks and interludes between practical, meaningful and down to earth speeches. The pin drop silence in the room listening to the informational talks, interspersed with the beautiful rolling pictures of women with significant achievements and their messages completed the scene.

Alexey Prokopenko's generously contributed his technical skills and time when he and Ying worked through curating hours and hours of recordings and pictures (collected by Thaya, Ying and Jan Barrett) to find the ideal cuts of film, song, speech and picture and joined them together to form the perfect collage. When this beautiful collection was played on the screen, the hall came alive with pictures and words with stunning effect. Many people asked for copies of the pictures and video collage of speeches.

Our MC for the evening, Nick Hamilton-Kane kept things moving along at just the right pace, with a gentle touch of humour, ensuring nothing was pushed while also allowing moments for guests to catch up with friends. Thanks to PP Peter Manenti for the brilliant double toasts and what would we do without Bradley Ayres photography skills which leave us with beautiful memories every time. And one more perfect raffle (how many in the stack?) from PP Roy Ellis and his team for the day - Jan Barrett, Trudy Ho, Maree McDougall. Thanks to all who contributed to the raffle.

And last but never the least, we appreciate the experienced hand of PP Rod McDougall, always available for any information, discussion and back-up. All in a day's work.

We are thankful to Forte for their excellent catering service and the room arrangements and to Select Print for printing our Bulletins week after week.

This week we look forward to hearing from Julian Day Founder & CEO Consensus Group Australia and Past President of the Rotary Club of Iron Cave (2018-2019) and Bruce Wren CEO, of 1WordFlow, and a winner of the Consensus Innovation Award in 2020.

*Usha Garg*

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## *Speaker from two weeks ago: Lisa Moloney*

Last Wednesday week, we had the privilege of hearing from Ms. Lisa Moloney, Principal of MLC Burwood, our keynote speaker for this gala evening. Her frank and honest presentation of the challenges and achievements in her professional and personal life to reach where she is today made mesmerizing listening.

She believed that while legislation protected women's right to be treated equally, the often unconscious belief that women need to lead like men to be effective was still prevalent and this is what women need to keep challenging. She spoke about not letting other's opinions about your personal choice of dress or hair influence you and believed in leading by example.

There were moments in her life where a simple thing such as speaking gently and working co-operatively with emotional understanding was seen as a weakness for management roles. In rare instances, she was advised to be more firm in her communications to take on leadership, clearly based on such perceptions.

When asked for her opinion on an often debated topic of co-ed school vs single sex

school, her calm response and advice was to focus on understanding the child's individual personality and the need to take that into consideration and consult with the child in the selection of the school.



Ms. Moloney was proud of the achievements of her (MLC) girls. Under her leadership, MLC School has been named the No.1 IB School in Australia and figured among the top 50 Global IB Schools in 2021. This came in backdrop of the fact that she had previously taught only in co-ed schools.

In concluding, she noted that women need to continue to **#choose to challenge** inequality to harness their full strengths and capabilities and in doing so build an Australia committed to the equality of women in every way.

(Ms Lisa Moloney is an educator, with over 30 years experience in Australia and overseas. Her early education was in music (double bass) followed by higher education in Environmental Science, Educational Leadership and advanced studies through the Harvard Graduate School of Education.)

<https://www.thebuzz.net.au/mlc/article/from-the-principal-93/>

<https://www.thebuzz.net.au/mlc/article/mlc-school-principal-and-performers-at-strathfield-rotary-club-for-iwd/>

*Write-up by Usha Garg*

## *Speaker from two weeks ago: Jodi McKay MP*

Leader of the Opposition, Jodi McKay MP, started by saying how very much she valued being an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield and how she enjoys joining our activities and events.

In the brief time available to her, she stated that the theme of her talks this year has generally been focussed around highlighting the need to listen to, understand and respect women and the message they give. In keeping with this theme, she has also been encouraging the Government to develop programs that convey this message. We thank Ms. Jodi McKay for joining us. Her presence means a lot to us.



*Write-up by Usha Garg*

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## *Speaker from two weeks ago: DG Warwick Richardson*



District Governor Warwick Richardson was the last the speaker of the night and the first thing he noted that in his speech, by way of joking, how the last speaker has all his thunder stolen by the previous speakers who had covered things he had intended to say. Careful to not repeat anything, he made

important points about women in Rotary, one of them being that Rotary was undergoing rapid diversification as a goal. To set an example, while the Rotary clubs had an average of 30% women, he had 70% women in his district leadership team. Great work and great thinking DG. Rotarians commend you and support you.

*(DG Governor Warwick Richardson hails from the Rotary club of Wollondilly North Inc. and has been in Rotary 14 years, His primary interest has been in Disaster and Humanitarian Relief. He is Owner of a business with his wife Denise called Warden Mobile Repairs & Maintenance, Greater Sydney Area for the last almost 30 years).*

*Write-up by Usha Garg*

## Speaker from last week: Peter Marzec & Alexey Prokopenko

Peter is the Managing Director of Elm Professional Services.

Alexey Prokopenko is the Managing Director of Kite Union.

This was a very interesting joint presentation titled “The magic behind bringing Tech and Process together”

The emphasis here is using technology to improve business processes by streamlining systems and operations to achieve efficiency, productivity and profit.

One could have glazed over with the words AI – Artificial Intelligence – however Peter and Alexey provided the Zoom audience with good explanations and clear examples and graphics so all was much easier to understand. There was information, with workplace examples, about Virtual Reality

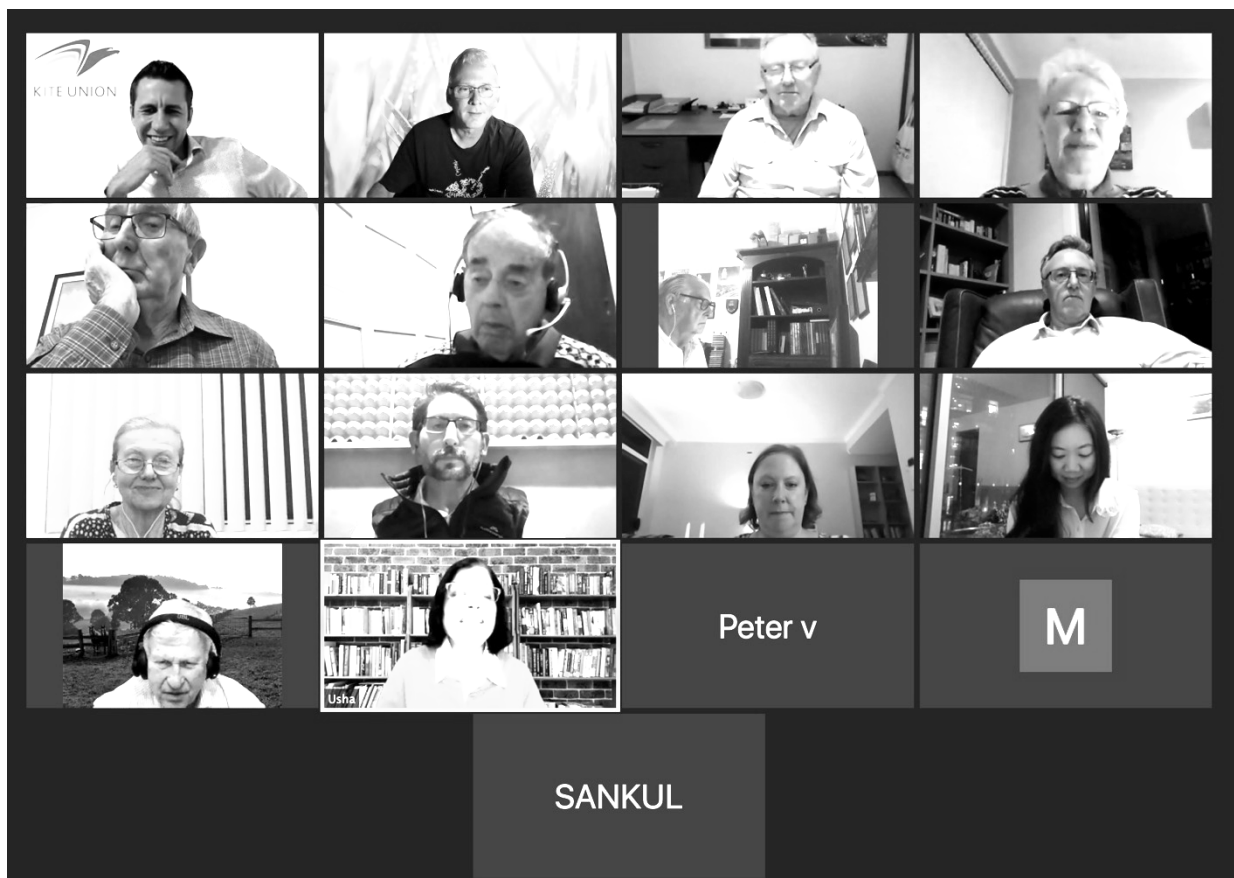
(VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR).

Overall, a very interesting presentation of how technology has advanced and future possibilities for industry and our everyday lives. In particular the involvement of Peter and Alexey and their businesses.

Both these two are Rotarians and on the Board of their respective clubs. Peter with the Kings Cross Rotary Club and Alexey, with Strathfield Rotary Club. It was interesting to learn about Alexey’s working world as most of us only see the Alexey with his Rotary hat on. So thank you to both Alexey and Peter.

Peter Marzec was recommended by Rotarian Alexey Prokopenko).

*Write-up by Janelle Watson*



## *Speakers for this week: Julian Day & Bruce Wren*

**Julian Day** is Founder & CEO Consensus Group.

Jolly is a visionary pioneer, author, photographer, editor and technology innovator with end-of-game business outcome vision from inception to completion. He is an accomplished Project Manager and has delivered 200+ projects with proven Change Management expertise across multi-functional teams in Banking & Finance, Government, Information Technology, Retail, Distribution, Warehousing, Manufacturing, NFPs and small-medium sized businesses.

Previous Editor “Software Magazine” and publisher of six technology directories, presenter at more than 30 Conferences and published 50+ technology articles. He founded Consensus in 1999 and has conducted 2000+ evaluations over the last 20 years, identifying the most innovative solutions in Australia and New Zealand.

Jolly is founder of Waterline Challenge, a vast charity event across Australia which will be run again in November this year and has personally walked most of the eastern seaboard of Australia (along every beach and over every headland), raising significant funds for multiple charities.

He was featured in 1st Edition of “50 Unsung Business Heroes” and is author of

two books. He is also Co-Founder of the new Rotary Club of Ginan Eora.

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**Bruce Wren** is CEO, 1WordFlow.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bruce-wren/>

Bruce is a serial entrepreneur and the Founder/CEO of 1WordFlow a four-year-old Aussie technology company, he set up to solve a major problem experienced in document-rich industries. The problem - that no one can find the content they need, because it's locked up in long PDF documents that are stored in massive repositories.

He imagined a world, where anyone via a browser could instantly access any page of any document from any device, from anywhere in the world – without a download.

Today, 1WordFlow Transform is a reality and the Company is growing quickly with customers and partners in ANZ, US and SE Asia.

In 2020, 1WordFlow was honoured to be awarded "Most Innovative Software" in the Consensus Awards, one of Australia's most prestigious technology awards..

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## *Details for Kiribati Project*

As mentioned by **Peter Marzec** (one of our speakers from last week)

Rotary Club of Kings Cross and the Kiribati Child Malnutrition Project

The Kiribati Child Malnutrition Project is being supported by the Rotary Club of Kings Cross. Peter Marzec has provided the

following information on the Project for the interest of Strathfield Club members and a possible joint project between clubs.

- 7% of children less than 5yo are malnourished and 3.5 % are wasted i.e. too thin for their height
- Warwick Nelson (Kings Cross Rotary International Services Director) has been working closely with Ruth Cross (President,

Rotary Club of Tarawa) and the Honourable Tinte Itinteang (Ministry of Health & Medical Services) to understand the problem and options on how and what kind of support Rotary could provide.

- It will be a big project to solve a big problem so we are looking to tap into the support of:
  - o Other Clubs  
(in Aust and internationally)
  - o RI
  - o Corporate Sponsorship
  - o Govt support Federal Aust /NZ

- o NGOs
- o Rich Listers/Philanthropy

A powerpoint presentation is available which highlights the nutritional deficiency amongst the population in Kiribati and its impact of anaemia and stunting and then the possible intervention programs and the way forward with assistance from Rotary and other organisations.

Peter Marzec  
Rotary Club of Kings Cross.

## 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 24th Mar         | <b>Julian Day</b><br>Founder & CEO Consensus Group<br>“Predicting the future – Consensus Awards”<br>and<br><b>Bruce Wren</b><br>CEO 1WordFlow<br>Consensus Award Winner 2020 | Janelle Watson      | Janelle Watson                     | Golf Club         |
| Sun 28th Mar         | <b>Graffiti Clean-up Day</b>                                                                                                                                                 | -                   | -                                  | Near Dan Murphy's |
| Wed 31st Mar         | <b>Narelle Brown</b><br>Community Engagement Officer<br>Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW<br>“Role of the Energy & Water Ombudsman”                                               | Janelle Watson      | Gulian Vaccari                     | Zoom              |
| Sun 25th April       | <b>Anzac Day Celebration Brunch</b>                                                                                                                                          | Jan Barrett         | -                                  | Golf Club         |
| Wed 5th May          | <b>Youth Awards</b>                                                                                                                                                          | -                   | -                                  | Town Hall         |

|               |                                                           |   |   |           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Sat 29th May  | <b>50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Strathfield</b> | - | - | Golf Club |
| Sat 26th June | <b>Club Changeover</b>                                    | - | - | Golf Club |

| <i>Birthdays</i> |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 25th March       | Mathew Elias |

| <i>Anniversaries</i> |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 27th March           | Nella Hall (Rotary) |



### *The Rotary Statistics*

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance last meeting (17-03-21) – Zoom | 14        |
| Club membership                           | <b>44</b> |
| Partners                                  | 0         |
| Guests                                    | 3         |

| <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 |            |                   |



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