



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

1st September 2021

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

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 Sept</i>		
-	Aust	National Biodiversity Month
-	Rotary	Basic Education and Literacy Month
<i>Weeks of Sept</i>		
1st – 7th Sept	UN	World Breastfeeding Week [WHO]
<i>Days of Sept</i>		
1st Sept	Aust	National Wattle Day
4th Sept	Aust	National Walk to Work Day
5th Sept	UN	International Day of Charity
7th Sept	Aust	National Threatened Species Day
7th Sept	UN	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
8th Sept	UN	International Literacy Day

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

Whether you are seeking support for a new idea or project, trying to recruit new

members, or restructuring your Rotary club and its meetings, the “Early Adoption” is very critical. Whilst we are trying to cope with the deadly pandemic, we are also getting the best out of technological advancements.

People “adapt” new ideas at different rates. Some people naturally resist change and may never engage with anything different. It is common to hear: “We’ve tried that before,” or “We’ve

always done it this way.” Individual personalities are diverse. Some people are very cautious and conservative and may find it challenging to shift from the comfort of their default positions, whilst others readily embrace change and new thinking.

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world since 1905. We Rotarians have been "early adapters" for us to strive and thrive doing humanitarian work for more than 100 years with the same passion and vigour as the founders.

Last Sunday's district changeover was another classic example of adapting and embracing change. A large number of Rotarians gathered virtually through zoom to witness Immediate Past District Governor Warwick Richardson handing over the helm of Rotary District 9675 to Governor Jeremy Wright.

What was significant for the Rotary Club of Strathfield was that our club was publicly honoured with two awards:

- Rotary International President's Citation for 2020-21 – in recognition of the club achieving its Rotary goals for the year.
- Best District (9675) International Service project for 2020-21. This was for the Indian Covid-19 emergency relief project.

It is timely to look at a few aspects – how we achieved these milestones. This is in addition to all the projects we completed which you will see in detail in our changeover bulletin next month.

2020-21, whilst disrupted, was an extremely successful year for the Rotary

Club of Strathfield under the leadership of our Immediate Past President, Dr Usha Garg. In addition to all our tangible achievements, member and partner engagements, fellowship and other qualitative aspects were at their peak.

The first club to initiate regular alternate meetings (virtual and in-person) at an early stage and maintained the same pattern and regularity till the end of the year. No meeting was cancelled due to the conditions. The virtual meetings allowed us to invite speakers who were not within travelling distance or could not travel due to the pandemic.

We also held an extraordinary event – the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Attended by 160 people, this mega event was graced by all distinguished people with almost half the attendance from former members, presidents and their extended families, who travelled long distances to be there. The event raised funds generously for the Children's Medical Research Institute. We always maintained a strong membership base, and this has been around 45 for the last many years. During the COVID19 era where many clubs have lost members and even folded, we have maintained our membership. We lost two people this year and have inducted four new members.

A contingent of members attended the district assembly, and many other members attended other training programs, including PETS. After a gap of many years, we prepared a comprehensive new Strategic Management Plan.

Indian Covid-19 Relief Project: Responding to this calamity of the century, Rotary Club of Strathfield (9675) together with Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) and Rotary Club of The Hills – Kellyville (9680),

embarked on an emergency relief project to send essential items of personal protective equipment (PPE) and Oxygen Concentrators to India immediately by air freight. It was originally initiated by the Rotary Club of Strathfield and in no-time it gained momentum. We have been working with other like-minded organisations including many Rotary Clubs in both districts of NSW.

It was well-appreciated by the community here in Australia – especially the immigrant community, as well as the recipients in India. We acted very swiftly, involving many stakeholders. We planned and executed at the same time due to the gravity of the crisis. Emergency relief and

urgent actions were critical and paramount. With our generous Rotarians and all the civic-conscious citizens of our community, we conceived this project within a few days, executed it and completed it within a couple of months.

“This is a changing world: we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again”. - Paul Harris, Founder – Rotary Movement

Yours in Rotary,

Thaya Ponnia

Director Reports



Rod McDougall
Treasurer

District 9675 Handover

Last Sunday many Strathfield club members attended the district "handover". Conducted via Zoom, attendance was well over 200!! Surely a record.

PDG Warwick Richardson reported on 2020-21, a successful year under difficult pandemic circumstances. Strathfield was honoured with two awards:

- Rotary Citation for 2020-21 - in recognition of the club achieving its

Rotary goals for the year. This is a Rotary International award of which PP Usha and the whole club can be very proud.

- Best international service project for 2020-21. This District 9675 Award was for our Indian Covid Relief Project, created and managed by President Thaya and which saw medical equipment air-lifted to many Indian cities.

DG Jeremy outlined his goals for 2021-22 and introduced the district team. PP Usha and PP Rick were specially mentioned for their roles as assistant governors.

This year many clubs had virtual changeovers and it is fascinating to see how rapidly Rotarians have adopted new meeting technologies.

Speaker from last week: Joanne Gianotto

I am inspired by Joanne Gianotto, who have been a volunteer with the NSW State Emergency Service since 2006 and at the same runs her family-owned business (Brand for Brands).

NSW SES started in 1955 as NSW Civil Defence then change their name to NSW SES in the late 80s. NSW SES main responsibility are for flood, storm and tsunami, however, NSW SES also assists other emergency services when they are performing major operations. These services include

- NSW Police Force : help with land search
- Fire and Rescue NSW + NSW Rural Fire Service: back up for fire rescue when building collapsed.
- Ambulance Service of NSW: volunteers in the rural communities have been trained as "Community First Responders" by the Ambulance service. This started in mid 2020, NSW SES volunteers will provide support till an ambulance come.

On the rare occasions, Strathfield experience flash flooding on Parramatta Rd, North Strathfield. The image below was taken last year when someone got stuck.

When NSW SES get a call, they will prioritise the call as per flow chart below.



An interesting statistic is 1 in 5 people call NSW SES in their life time.

Joanne unit now have around 70 volunteers. Overall, there are around 10,000 volunteers.

The main reasons for volunteering with NSW SES are to help others and giving back to the community, sometimes it's to look good on their CV and uni.

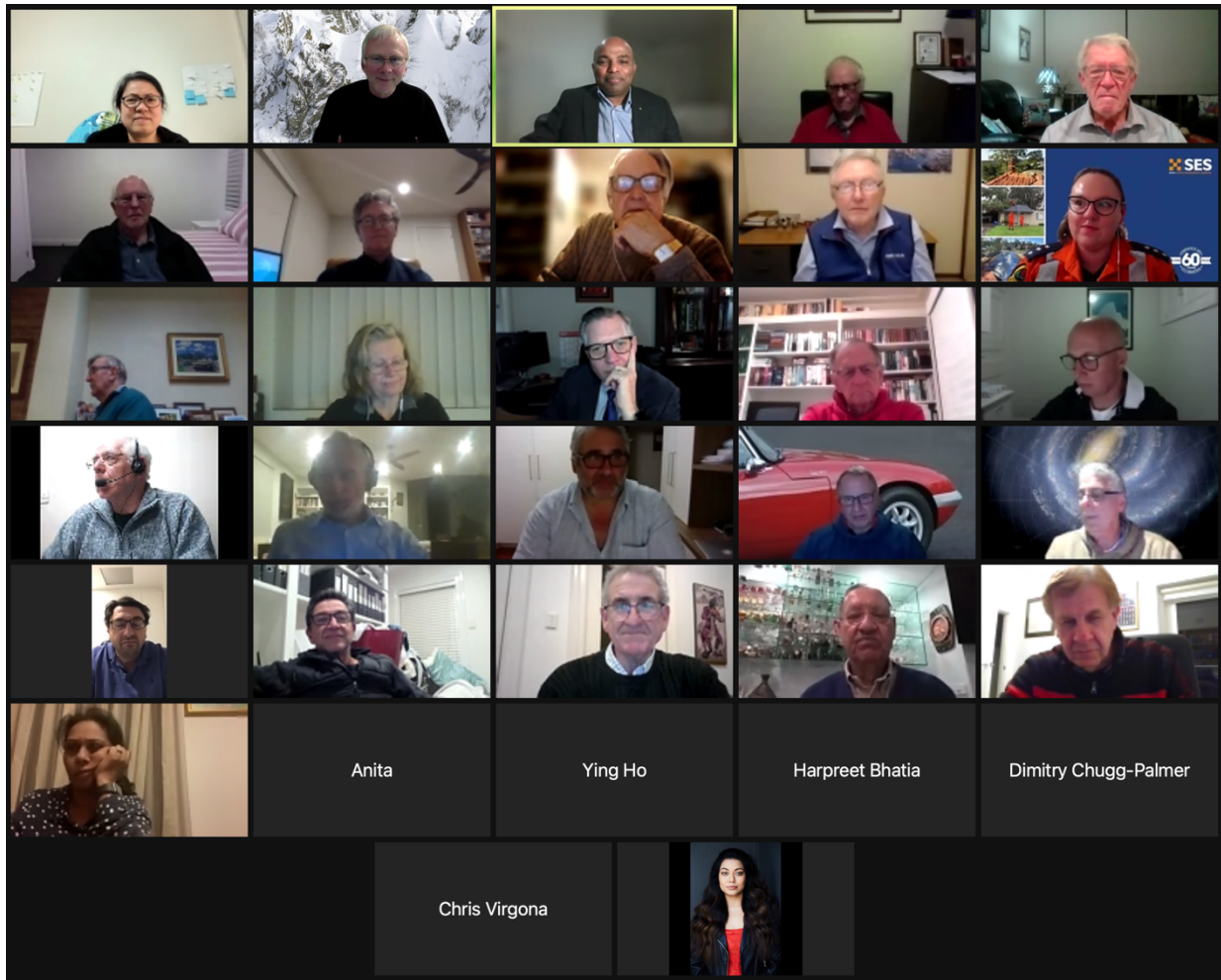
No matter the reason, I am so thankful for NSW SES volunteer who have given up their time and at times risk their lives to help others.

Writeup by Trudy Ho

Local Flash Flooding



Strathfield Un



Yet another great Zoom rollup

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### Speaker for this week: Jane Ruston

Jane is currently the Fundraising Operations Manager for the Children’s Medical Research Institute.

She is a passionate and collaborative people leader, with experience in aged care, the not-for-profit sector and in the financial services/banking industry.

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COVID Capers

This week, Nick Hamilton-Kane has provided a glimpse into his COVID life. And Thaya has followed up with some general *observations* about life.

Earlier this year, to celebrate the first anniversary of our exciting new era of Covid-19, I decided to buy a new bicycle.

From Nick:

Club Secretary’s Covid Caper – Get on yer Bike!

To replace my previous vehicle, a rusting ex-hire model, I purchased a sleek drop handle-barred “adventure bike” with chunky tyres and far, far more gears than

are justified for a quick trip down the less than mountainous terrain of the Cook's River cycleway. The salesman, clearly too much of an enthusiast for his own good, tried to convince me that the rather slick gear shifters would not only enhance my riding experience but also be a sure-fire pick-up feature, especially when accompanied by some obligatory lycra shorts - a doubtful sales strategy if ever there was one. Anyway, with my shiny new machine, but thankfully without the shiny new sportswear, I happily wobbled away from Vic's Velocipede Emporium and into my new world of "adventure biking".

The problem is that my local path, the Cook's River Cycleway, has become a main artery for those using their one hour of daily freedom to escape the tedium of imposed lockdown. To ride down the Cycleway is to battle with the hordes of other cyclists, pedestrians and activewear-clad joggers getting their daily breath of less-than-fresh air, each exuding, as our leaders would have it, a noxious viral miasma infecting all who pass within the statutory one point five metres anti-social distance.

As a cyclist, I fairly soon lost my tolerance of other users of the pathway. I questioned what those pedestrians are doing on the cycleway at all. I wanted to do what I did as a kid when, whilst being pushed along an aisle in a in a supermarket trolley, I shouted out in a very loud and imperious infant voice: "Get out of my way! Get out of my way!" Actually, I have started to realise quite how random and unpredictable small children are. I once politely rang my bell to warn an oncoming urchin on a scooter of my presence, whereupon the tyke promptly dropped his scooter in my path and ran to his mother, screaming. Why don't people keep their toddlers, let alone their dogs, on a leash, I ask? (Of course, as

a pedestrian, I am happy to complain about those dangerous hooligan cyclists who have no business to be hogging the footpath.)

Unfortunately, long distance cycling excursions are currently limited by the 5km radius for exercise around my home address. This means I can cycle up to, and through, Sydney Olympic Park but, bizarrely, I can't cycle around a deserted and remote part of the Park without the fear of a NSW Covid official, armed with a clipboard, radius finding app and mobile EFTPOS terminal, touching me for a \$5,000 fine and shaming me on TV for straying outside my permitted zone. Ever felt like you're on The Truman Show?

Anyway, here's looking forward to a ride down to Botany Bay, albeit with a vaccine passport and lycra hazmat suit, when the partying starts again in November... or December... or January.... In fact, anybody fancy joining me in 2023?

Nick Hamilton-Kane

From Thaya:

ABOUT LIFE:

- I had amnesia once - or twice.
- Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.
- All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.
- I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.
- If the world was a logical place, men would ride horses side-saddle.
- What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- They told me I was gullible .. and I believed them.
- Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he

- grows up, he'll never be able to edge his car onto a motorway.
- Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.
 - Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.
 - What if there were no hypothetical questions?
 - One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.
 - When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to look like a nail.
 - A flashlight is a carrying case for dead batteries.
 - What was the greatest thing before sliced bread?
 - I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
 - The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

- How can there be self-help "groups"?
- Is there another word for synonym?
- Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?
- Is it possible to be totally partial?
- Is Marx's tomb a communist plot?
- If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?
- Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.
- It's not an optical illusion. It just looks like one.
- Is it my imagination, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?
- Why is there only one Monopolies Commission

Thaya Ponniah

Correspondence from District

Dear President Thaya and Immediate Past President Usha,

I was absolutely thrilled to see that the Rotary Club of Strathfield received the District Award for best International Project for 2020-21 as well as receiving the Rotary Citation recognising the club's hard work during the year.

I just had to send you and all your club members my sincere congratulations for a job well done!

Kindest regards
Di

Dianne North OAM
District Governor 2019-20
Rotary Club of West Wollongong
Club Foundation Chair 2021-22
m. 0429 774 363
email: dianne_north@bigpond.com



Out and About: Raymond McCluskie

It's been quite some time since I've been able to report on members of our club being out in the community.

Congratulations to Raymond McCluskie CF 1973.

Congratulations to Raymond McCluskie CF 1973 who has made substantial contributions to the CFA of New South through his longstanding membership and promotion of its activities.

The work Raymond did to overhaul the CFA's database of members and his commitment to sourcing prizes for the annual dinner raffle has been invaluable.



For those wondering, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is an organisation established in 1965 following the death of Sir Winston Churchill.

The Trust was formed with the principal objective of perpetuating and honouring Sir Winston's memory by the awarding of Memorial Fellowships, to be known as 'Churchill Fellowships'.

Each year The Churchill Trust Board recognises outstanding contributions by Churchill Fellows to their Churchill Fellowship Association and to the Trust.

The President of NSW CFA Ian Krimmer said Raymond was recognised for his enduring and active relationship with the Trust and for inspiring others to contribute in a similar way. Raymond was presented with a citation letter outlining his contribution to the Churchill Trust and to the NSW CFA.

NSW Board Director Andrew Leake presented Raymond with a limited edition print of a botanical illustration of a Sir Winston Churchill rose drawn from life by 1988 Churchill Fellow Gilbert Dashorst. Gilbert is one of Australia's leading botanical illustrators.

What they do:

The aim of the Trust is to provide an opportunity to Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in their chosen field. It also aims to reward individuals who possess passion and a commitment to make a difference in Australian society. Since 1965 we have awarded over 4500 Fellowships.

There are no prescribed qualifications to apply for this the Churchill Fellowship award. Australian citizens, from all walks of life, can apply for a Churchill Fellowship. The topic of your proposed project is limitless, provided benefit to Australia is evident and a willingness to share your findings with the Australian community is displayed. Read more about our Fellows and their diverse range of projects here.

<https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/projects-and-fellows/?toggle=project>

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 1st Sept	Jane Ruston Fundraising Operations Manager Children's Medical Research Institute- Challenges Posed by the Pandemic	Nick Hamilton- Kane	Janelle Watson	Zoom
Wed 8th Sept	Fiona Martin Federal Electorate of Reid	Dimitry Palmer	Bill Carney	Zoom
Wed 15th Sept	DG Jeremy Wright AM	TBA	TBA	Zoom
Wed 22nd Sept	Jodi McKay State Electorate of Strathfield	TBA	TBA	Zoom
Wed 29th Sept	Robert Jordan Supporting Ovarian Cancer Sufferers	TBA	TBA	Zoom

NOTE: Due to the latest COVID outbreak and subsequent lock-down, the above program may change

<i>Birthdays</i>	
4th September	Margaret Croft
5th September	Janelle Watson

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
5th September	Domenico Alvaro (Rotary)
7th September	Peter van der Sleen (Wedding)
7th September	Janice Barrett (Wedding)





The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (25-08-21) – Zoom	28
Club membership	46
Partners	0
Guests	4

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

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## Your committee 2021-22

|                          |                      |              |                    |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| President                | Thaya Ponniah        | Secretary    | Nick Hamilton-Kane |
| President Elect          | Andrew Aravanis      | Sergeant     | Keith Byrn         |
| Immediate Past President | Usha Garg            | Treasurer    | Rod McDougall      |
| Youth                    | Ying Ho <sup>1</sup> | Community    | Rick Vosila        |
| International            | Roy Elis             | Vocational   | Alexey Prokopenko  |
| Public Officer           | Rod McDougall        | Club Service | Arie Pappas        |

<sup>1</sup> Position was held by the late Peter Smith

|                  |                   |                |                       |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Bulletin Editor  | Bradley Ayres     | Web master     | Raymond McCluskie     |
| Bulletin Printer | SelectPrint       | Apologies      | Peter van der Slessen |
| Social Media     | Alexey Prokopenko | Programs Chair | Gulian Vaccari        |

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Bulletin kindly printed by

