



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
9th February 2022

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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<i>Year 2022</i>		
-	UN	International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development
-	UN	International Year of Glass
-	UN	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
<i>Month of Feb</i>		
-	Rotary	Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month
<i>Weeks of Jan</i>		
7th-11th Feb	Rotary	International Assembly (virtual only)
12th-13th Feb	Rotary	Presidential Conference – Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil
<i>Days of Feb</i>		
10th Feb	UN	World Pulses Day
11th Feb	UN	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
13th Feb	UN	World Radio Day
13th Feb	Aust	Anniversary of the Apology to members of the Stolen Generations

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

SERVICE, when it comes to ROTARY – it's ABOVE SELF

With Omicron's surge peaking in most parts of the globe, experts this week sounded a note of optimism that better

times are ahead. But they warn that prospects of an "end" are murky, with the likeliest scenario being one in which the virus shifts from pandemic to a more manageable endemic mode. After almost two years, Australia will reopen its international borders and welcome back fully vaccinated tourists on February 21.

As people of action, we, Rotary members from the Rotary Club of Strathfield, are engaged in our communities—gathering for projects and offering help to those in need.

Our Rotary members are also ramping up efforts to help communities navigate the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic: vaccines. Rotary will tap into its decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication to highlight the power and efficacy of vaccines. Rotary's tenacity, strategic partnerships, and innovation can all support the effort to protect communities from COVID-19.

The embodiment of Rotary clubs and their ultimate purpose is to embrace and support communities in need, and thus the world needs Rotary more now than ever before. Never in our lifetime has humanity been better equipped to crush a

threat to our wellbeing of this dimension. We have the technology to track it, the science to beat it, the media to coordinate our united action, and the heart to fight back. It is through our determination and commitment that we give hope and healing to the world.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted, and behold, service was joy." - Tagore

Yours in Rotary Service,

Thaya Ponniah

Speaker from last week: Clare Pearson

Clare is a Clinical Psychologist in Child and Adolescent Welfare in the Not-for-Profit sector.

Little Wings (LW) provides free transport for sick children from birth to up to 18 years old. It is for medical needs, not emergency transport, which is the remit of the Flying Doctor Service.

The service in particular caters for cancer treatment and treatment for severe burns as these conditions require regular visits to a major hospital. LW works with and through formal agreements with The Children's Hospital Randwick, The Westmead Children's Hospital and John Hunter Children's Hospital as well as the Royal Far West Children's Health.

They are focussed on nurturing the family unit. Without this service, children needing regular visits to a major hospital often involve splitting the family and loss of employment.

"Heath" small boy with a fractured skull and serious burns needed regular transport from West Wyalong to Westmead weekly over 18 months. Because of LW his mother was able to retain her part-time job and the family unit was able to stay together.



LW was established in 2012 when a pilot who enjoyed regularly visiting regional NSW, realised that he could

easily take children to Sydney for treatment.

Operating out of Bankstown Airport, LW now owns three twin engine, Beechcraft Baron aircraft of various vintages. It is

typically operating 30 flights per week, has travelled 3 million kilometres, and helped 600 families since inception. All pilots are qualified commercial pilots and are volunteers, as are 80% of staff. Nevertheless, it cost \$1,500 per flight which typically carries 3 to 4 children. LWC has 6 full time staff and is funded by fundraising and corporate and individual donors.

To be eligible, the journey must be at least 3 hours' drive from Sydney and must require more than four treatments. The Hospitals determine eligibility and refer clients.

A new service "Medical Wings" sponsored by Newcastle Permanent, operating through LW was commenced in 2020.

Kids with respiratory illness are at severe risk if taken to a large Hospital. John Hunter Hospital were the first to trial service which flies specialist doctors out to regional areas for 3 to 4 days at a time can provide medical services in regional NSW areas. This 'temporary' service looks like continuing for some time.

A short video of burns victim "Armani" from Coonamble demonstrated the value of LW.

Write up by Peter van der Sleen

Member Announcements

Dear Strathfield Rotarian,

Last evening at our regular weekly meeting we received an excellent presentation from Ms. Clare Pearson, CEO, Little Wings Charity. Looking around the room as Clare spoke last night, and judging by the number of questions for Clare at the conclusion of her presentation, it was clear that members feel that this is an organization doing vital work.

Little Wings sole purpose is to transport children and teenagers living in regional NSW to their medical appointments in Sydney and Newcastle, by air. The majority of their people are volunteers, including pilots. They have just 6 employed staff, paid for by specific grants, so other than that 100% of the money they receive goes toward other costs of running

the service. Each service averages out at \$1500.

They receive no government funding and rely on regular and one-off donations from corporate Australia, and individuals like us.

We are going to work with Clare in organizing a field trip out to Bankstown Airport in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, have a bit of a look around their website and consider making a tax-deductible donation.

<https://www.littlewings.org.au/>

Cheers

Gulian Vaccari.



Speaker for this week: George Ellis

George Ellis is an Australian conductor, composer, and orchestrator. He works across a variety of styles including symphonic music, choral, opera, musical theatre, jazz, and pop, and has presented concerts conducting in Paris, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, New York, Boston Philadelphia, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Athens, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, and performed in every capital city in Australia.

Classically trained at the doctoral level in Australia and the USA, and experienced in performing pop/rock music, George Ellis has made a career of combining symphony orchestras with popular artists.

These include Lou Reed, The Church, Megan Washington, Josh Pyke, Sneaky Sound System, Art vs Science, Human Nature, Augie March, GangGajang, Guy Sebastian, Paulini, David Campbell, John

Williamson, Marcia Hines, Alex Lloyd, Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch, John Paul Young, Jimmy Little, Troy Casser-Daley, Doug Parkinson, Grace Knight, Jade MacRae, Jeff Duff, Felicity Urquhart and Don Spencer.

George's career has included Olympic opening ceremonies, Arts, and cultural Festivals, opening nights, ARIA Awards, and sporting finals such as the NRL & Davis Cup.

But there's more to George Ellis than his work on the big stage – he also loves working in Conducting, Composition and Film, Orchestrating and Arranging, Music Theatre and Opera, Education Concerts, and with the George Ellis Orchestra.

More information:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Ellis_\(composer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Ellis_(composer))

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 9th Feb	George Ellis Q and A with George Ellis	Nella Hall	Chris Virgona	Golf Club
Wed 16th Feb	Louise Murphy Australian First Responder Foundation	Raymond McCluskie	tba	Golf Club
Wed 23rd Feb	Social event	tba	tba	tba

<i>Birthdays</i>	
15th February	Dinesh Garg

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
-	-



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (02-02-22) – in person	14
Club membership	50
Partners	1
Guests	1

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$190.00
Sergeant's session	\$87.00

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	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Roy Ellis	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	Rod McDougall	Club Service	Arie Pappas

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

District News (repeat from last week)

District Conference Update - A message from Conference Chair PDG Sue Hayward

Dear Rotary friends

A big thank you to all of you who have registered for the conference so far (18-20 March). Numbers are looking good, and we are very busy putting together a spectacular range of speakers for the conference. I want to reassure all Rotarians in our district, that we are taking every precaution to make sure our event is safe and that it will be a rewarding experience for everyone.

The Warwick has a huge conference venue, that will take at least three times the number of people that will register for our conference. We will ensure that we spread out to make our event as risk free as possible. We also have an indoor/outdoor area where we will hold our well-ventilated cocktail event on the Friday night. This will also minimise the risk of forming large groups of people together. We will be asking everyone to confirm their vaccinations, again to ensure the safety of all. If there is some reason why you can't have a vaccination, and you do want to attend the conference, please write to me and I will pass your request on to DG Jeremy.

My details are on the District Website and Directory.

I will make another announcement next week with some more information about our speakers, and other updated information.

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