



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN



DISTRICT 9675
15th December 2021

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

info@strathfieldrotary.org.au

<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 Dec</i>		
-	Rotary	Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
<i>Weeks of Dec</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of Dec/Jan</i>		
18th Dec	UN	International Migrants Day
18th Dec	UN	Arabic Language Day
20th Dec	UN	International Human Solidarity Day
27th Dec	UN	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
4th Jan	UN	World Braille Day

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

Very Merry Christmas & Healthy 2022!

As this is the final edition of our Rotary bulletin for 2021, Subo and I take this

opportunity to thank all our club members, families and all our friends of Rotary for all your contributions, support, and friendship.

We would also like to thank all the members of the District, including the leadership team, for their ongoing support.

We had an amazing six months of this Rotary year, and I would like to summarise below with a brief update:

Club service

- A 50 Member Club - now
- Introduced 100% Attendance Recognition Program
- Fireside Chat for new members – **reintroduced**

Community Service

- Parish Pantry Cool Room Project - completed
- “Mind Your Health” Social Media Campaign with Multicultural NSW Grant – In progress
- GoFundMe Online Fundraising – In progress
- COVID-19 Vaccination Promotion via Social Media - Completed
- Mental Health Day – Event on 31 October 21 Contribution for Australian Rotary Health - Completed
- District Governor’s Partner Program, the ‘Aboriginal Child and Family Health Program 2021-23’ – In progress

Vocational Service

- Foundation Grant - **empowering indigenous youth for workforce** – Total Cost A\$50,000 – In progress
- Annual Police Awards – In progress
- Annual Vocational Service Awards – In progress

International Service

- Inaugural AHIMSA Peace Symposium 2021, a cultural diversity initiative - completed
- Partnership contribution of A\$25,000 for Matching Grant Projects - completed
- Global Grant Project on COVID-19 and Maternal Health in Northern Sri Lanka – total cost A\$120,000 – In-progress

- Global Grant Project on COVID-19 and Maternal Health in Southern India – total cost AU\$60,000 - In-progress

Youth Service

- Formation of Rotaract Club of Strathfield – Completed
- Citizenship awards for 15 local schools – Completed
- NYSF and RYLA Nominations for 4 candidates each – In-progress
- District Grant for Peter Smith Youth Awards for Youth Empowerment – In-progress

Once again, I would like to thank all our service directors for their exceptional leadership in their respective portfolios. **Let’s do everything possible to be the catalyst between the haves and the have-nots.** And with your help, we will make next year a great one too.

We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and healthy 2022.

“Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values” – THOMAS S. MONSON

Yours in Rotary,

Thaya Ponniah



Speakers from last week: John Frearson & Arpan Singh

“Purpose and Growth” was the title for our two guest speakers John Frearson and Arpan Singh.

Our guest speakers were entrepreneurs with a non-profit organisation that created a business enterprise that could make money, but whose agenda was to provide opportunities for a potential employment base of Refugees or Asylum Seekers (mainly Afghan) that through no fault on their part, their circumstances inhibited their ability to fit into our Australian work force. Both John and Arpan were introduced to our members by Rotarian Anita Sajo.

John Frearson set the scene and described how their chairman Doug Abdiel with his military experience, his training of marginalised individuals, and his business acumen, was able to develop a business that could provide a chance for the most overlooked people in our society; and not just to get employment, but maybe develop their own business too.

John explained how there were many issues to achieving their goal of being a catalyst in providing hope and putting that hope into tangible and practicable successful results. The business they started was cardboard tubing manufacture, mobile vaccination testing centres, and the manufacture of facemasks. John’s focus was on safety, and he held the role of safety director in this special enterprise. John showed us a short video of the manufacturing process (www.pgpapertubes.com.au). The company collaborates with other companies to further employment. Incidentally, 50% of the profits are diverted to profit sharing.

Then a passionate Arpan Singh spoke. Arpan told us how they were achieving their goal. He told us how they targeted refugees to help gain a fulfilled life in Australia. Refugees have a different cultural background and are not familiar with Australian working conditions, particularly when it comes to

safety issues, for example. The program when they join Purpose and Growth doesn’t just simulate working conditions but places the clients in a real work environment.

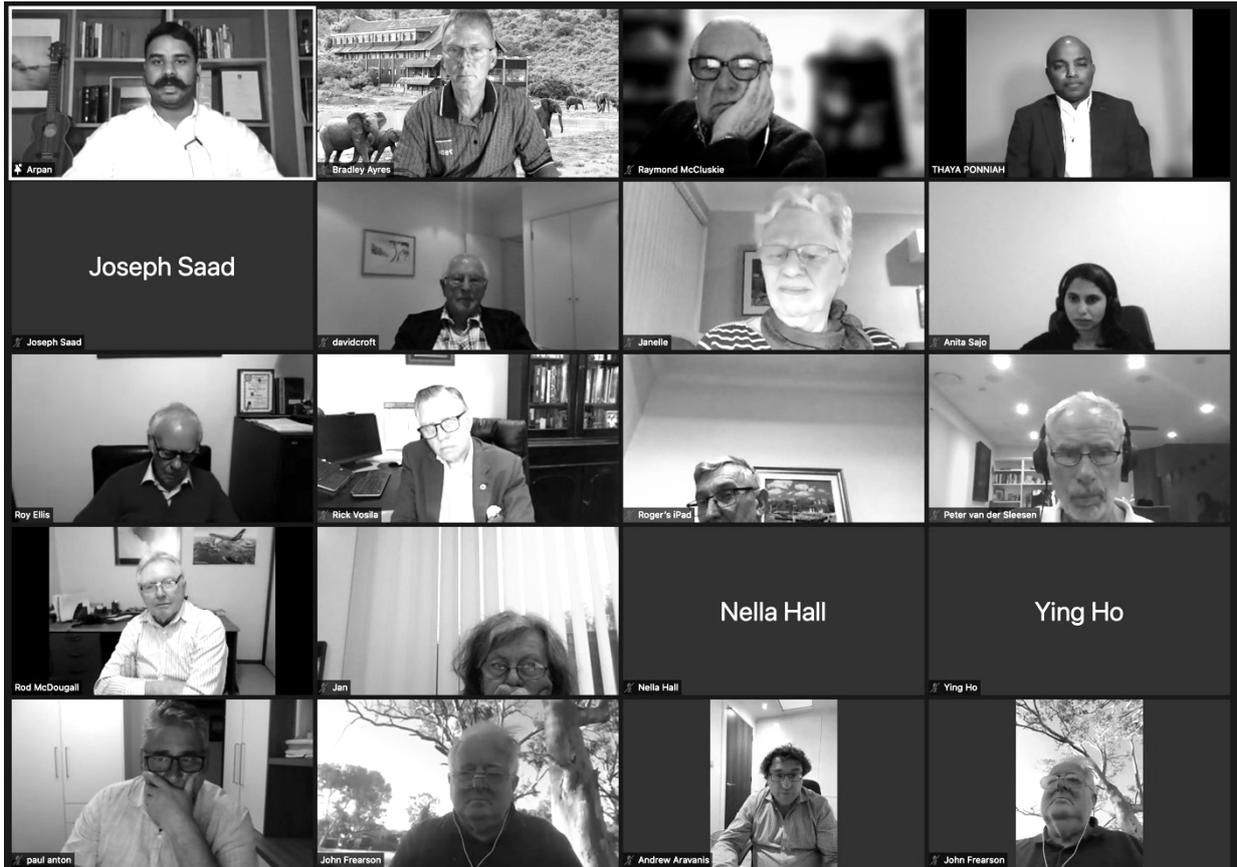
Purpose and Growth gives the new arrivals the chance to examine the job market from a real-life perspective. Purpose and Growth has partnered with other organisations, they have secured laptops not only from funds raised but also companies like Lenovo. They have marshalled volunteers with like-minded concern for refugees from the workplace and Universities to enhance the skill and expertise base of 'Purpose and Growth'.

A real-life software program that allows their clients to undergo a real interview and this software program (Audrie) then analyses issues such as accent, confidence, communication skills, and even gives a 'nervous' rating. It allows the client to develop and practice skills that make success at job interviews.

Purpose and Growth are seeking our like-minded organisations to help with their project help refugees who are traumatised and not aware of the human resource requirements of getting productive employment or harnessing their latent entrepreneurial skills by transitioning from their former culture into the Australian market.

PP Raymond McCluskie thanked our enthusiastic and passionate guest speakers for giving up their time to explain to Strathfield Rotarians how they are trying to make a better way of life for people like refugees and asylum seekers by providing a program for them to assimilate into the 'Australian way' not just providing skills but being the catalyst for hope, determination, and success.

Raymond McCluskie



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 15th Dec	Club Xmas party	-	-	Golf Club
Wed 22nd Dec Wed 5th Jan	Club recess	-	-	-
Wed 12th Jan	Croquet	-	-	Strathfield Croquet Club
Wed 19th Jan	Club Assembly	-	-	Golf Club

<i>Birthdays</i>	
30th December	Catherine Hallworth

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
23rd December	Jaya and Praveen Challa (Wedding)
28th December	Thaya Ponniah and Subo Thayaparan (Wedding)
14th January	Grahame and Penny True (Wedding)
14th January	Arie and Athena Pappas (Wedding)



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (8-12-21) – Zoom	18
Club membership	50
Partners	0
Guests	2

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

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

* 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

Some highlights - July 2021 - December 2022
Mind Your Health Launch - Hat Day





Strathfield Carols in the Park





Merry Christmas

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SelectPrint

16 The Crescent
Homebush NSW 2140

T: 02 9746 6434

E: selecthomebush@gmail.com