



# Rotary Club of Strathfield



## STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675  
18th August 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 August</i>		
-	Rotary	<b>Membership and New Club Development Month</b>
<i>Weeks of August</i>		
14th – 22nd Aug	Aust	National Science Week
16th – 22nd Aug	Aust	Keep Australia Beautiful Week
<i>Days of August</i>		
18th Aug	UN	World Humanitarian Day
21st Aug	UN	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
22nd Aug	UN	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
23rd Aug	UN	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

### *President's Report*



**Thaya Ponniah**  
*President*

Strong membership enables our club to do good in our local community and around the world. A strong membership also raises the public's awareness of Rotary and increases support for The Rotary Foundation and its programs. Building membership is a top priority throughout Rotary, from the RI Board and Rotary coordinators to district leaders.

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

If we want to reverse the decline in membership that many clubs have been experiencing in the last 10 years, we need to have a cause that engages our members and communities. With this in mind, our Rotary club created a Membership Development Committee and Special Projects Committee to focus on quality members who would make a real difference in our community. After careful consideration, and in line with our strategic plan, we decided to adopt a few new projects to address some pressing issues in the community.

Our communities were brought to a standstill by the COVID-19 pandemic. But now that the vaccine is becoming available in the NSW, we will be soon regaining our strength, confidence and mobility to carry on our daily tasks.

We, the Strathfield Rotarians, have embarked on a few worthwhile projects despite the lockdown and the prevailing unprecedented pandemic crisis. The following projects are progressing well:

- Preparing indigenous communities for the workforce - Technical and life-skills Training Program
- Youth empowerment initiatives with youth awards and scholarships amongst the local communities
- Global Matching Grant Projects related to two Rotary focus areas: Disease prevention & treatment and Maternal & child health, including Covid-19 in rural India and Sri Lanka.

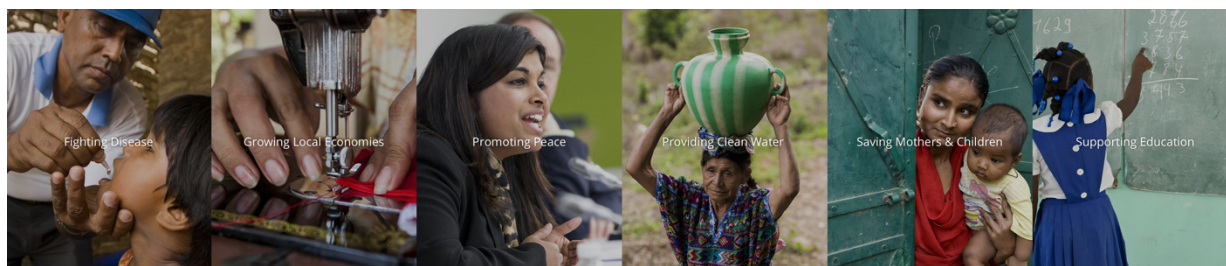
- Assisting “Parish Pantry” of St Paul’s Church Burwood with their Food Bank program to meet the increasing demand of the homeless people in the Inner-West area.
- A social media campaign supporting vaccination in line with the stand taken by Rotary International.
- As part of our Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Club, Strathfield Council is going to display a plaque this week in the council chambers. It is another publicity initiative of our club.

Our club members have causes that have merit, validity, purpose and relevance in today’s context. Currently, our International Director Roy Ellis and I are exploring the possibilities of assisting Afghanistan with the evolving humanitarian crisis right now. Rotary Clubs all around the world can unite together. We cannot do everything, but everyone can do something. Remembering the essence of our organization...

**“Rotary is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities.”**

Yours in Rotary,

*Thaya Ponnia*

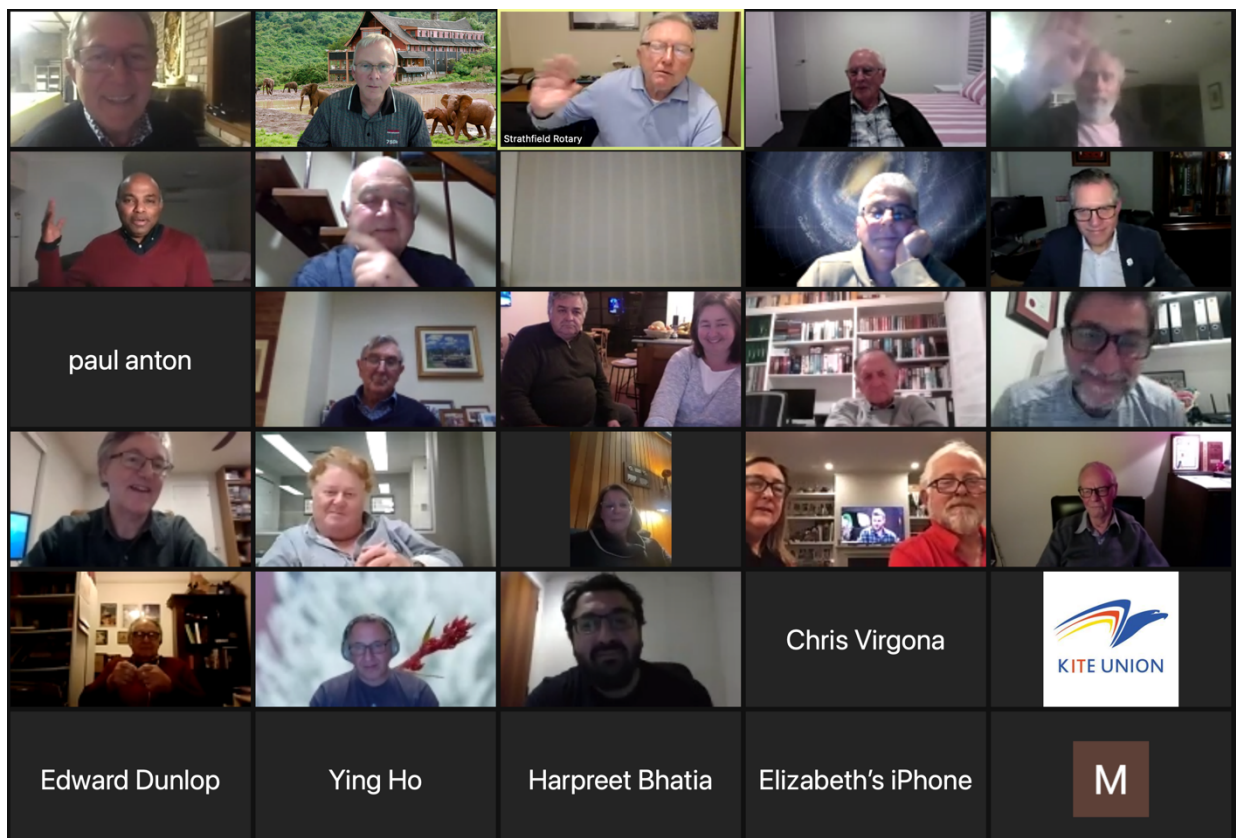


## *Speaker from last week: John Treloar*

On 11 August John Treloar was our weekly speaker. John gave a talk about the Australian Tandem bicycle racers Russell Mockridge and Lionel Cox who in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics rode a borrowed tandem bicycle to a gold medal. This was a great story from the time that the Olympics were still strictly amateur (apart from the military teams from various countries!) and being amateurs there was that wonderful spirit of make do, from the community helping out with the amateur bond to the British team lending their Australian rivals a tandem bike (with which we beat them). It is true to say these were singular times with a certain romance about them.

John has a personal connection to the 1952 olympics, his father was a sprinter at the games and its clear john has a real passion about the olympic games in general and the 1952 games in particular, the fact that so many rotarians asked questions and with such enthusiasm is a testament to John passion, knowledge and skills as a story teller. John is writing a book and it is almost finished and will be called the Kapylia Club: Australia at the 1952 Olympics if the tail of the tandem bike competitors is anything to go by it will be a cracking good yarn.

*Writeup by Bill Carney*



Yet another great Zoom rollup



## *Speaker for this week: Bill Crews*

Rev. Bill Crews AM is a much-loved Australian. He is a radio broadcaster and founder The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation which gives 200,000 meals to the poor and homeless every year. The Foundation also teaches poverty-stricken kids to read.

Reverend Crews has been honoured by Rotary, he's been named Humanitarian of the Year and awarded an Order of Australia

for his services to the disadvantaged and homeless youth.

Reverend Crews has also been included in the National Trust's list of 100 "National Living Treasures".

In addition, he's been awarded the "Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award and named as one of Australia's 100 most influential people.

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## *COVID Capers*

Thaya and Bradley are still looking for members to contribute COVID-related material for the bulletin. This week's contribution is from Rod McDougall:

### PANDEMIC LIFE

Sometimes the call is from somebody I know well and with whom I am in regular contact ... but not always!!

The pandemic seems to have resulted in a surprising number of calls which start with "Just called to see how you and Maree are going" or something similar.

Could be that during the lockdown, when many people have time on their hands, they just wish to have a bit of a yarn - and that is a good way of opening the conversation. Or maybe they are

genuinely concerned and just want to offer any needed encouragement to get vaccinated or to be sure that we have enough face masks!

Whatever, the "welfare call" rate is definitely on the up. Maree is also receiving them ... although I suspect that they are from old boyfriends.

Fortunately no-one has yet called to say that I owe them money!

Seriously, it is a definite bright side to the pandemic and I have started to make calls myself.

Rod McDougall

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## *District News*

Here is the 3rd Bulletin for the year from the District Governor, Jeremy Wright. It's a short but important message with a number of important dates for you and your Clubs,

<https://youtu.be/L7QCavc9oHM>

Further details can be found on the District Website.

Don't forget to subscribe and ring the bell!

Presidents and Secretaries - would you confirm that all your members are receiving

the DG's message and let me know if there are any issues. Thank you in advance.

Rae-Anne Medforth  
DISTRICT SECRETARY 2021/22  
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*Rotary International News: Benefits of Membership*  
*K.R. Ravindran, RI Past-President (2015-16)*

Some pertinent words from PP Rotary International, K. R. Ravindran:

My dear friends!

Let me add my own words of welcome to you, the members of our 2016-17 leadership team.

On 1 July, the baton will be passed, in every Rotary district, from my class of district governors to yours. And I in turn will also pass the baton of leadership — the one that has been handed down from Paul Harris, through the generations, to me — on to President-Elect John Germ.

I will happily tell all of you that our president-elect is not only one of the nicest people you will ever meet, but certainly smarter than I am.

John is an Air Force navigator, a civil engineer, and such an expert on polio that when you go with him to these big meetings, at the World Health Organization and so on, you find that as soon as he starts talking, people start addressing him as “Doctor.”

So it is with absolute confidence in his abilities, and in yours, that I look forward with you to Rotary's future: a future in which you will build on nearly 111 years of Rotary service, to meet the growing and changing challenges of a growing and changing world. A world in which Rotary's greatness will be measured not only by its

muscle, but also by its might; not simply by its size, but also by its strength; not merely by the numbers of its members, but by the ability and the willingness of those members to do what needs to be done — and do it well.

Rotary is growing. We have 1.23 million members, in more clubs than ever before. New members continue to join, and choose to stay; our numbers have grown by over 8,500 new members just since July first.

We are in a position of tremendous strength in Rotary: in our achievements, in our Foundation, and in the respect that our organization has earned.

But we know that in order to move forward, we have to be doing more to build Rotary's greatest asset of all: our membership. By building clubs that are not only large, but diverse; not only skilled, but motivated; with not only the drive but the ability to succeed.

At Rotary headquarters, we are working hard to find new and innovative ways to add more value to Rotary membership, such as our Rotary Global Rewards. In just over half a year, we've had over 44,000 visits to the site, from well over 12,000 users: more than half of them have redeemed one of the over 700 offers that are now available, saving money and strengthening the Rotary network. It's still largely U.S.-centric but expanding and growing each day to other parts of the world.

We've become more flexible than ever in our clubs, finding new ways to make Rotary membership a practical and appealing option to people at all stages of their lives, families, and careers.

And we've made it a priority to support the development of clubs that are better able, in every way, to serve their communities with the work that only Rotarians can do.

I have seen so much of that work in this year. In India, Rotary is equipping 40,000 schools with toilet blocks — each with two toilets for boys and two for girls.

In South America, Rotary is building schools and bringing literacy to youth.

Here in the U.S., I have seen Rotary present a helicopter to a children's hospital, enabling rapid responses to critical emergencies.

And I have seen the most beautiful park specially tailored to suit children with disabilities, built by Rotary. A park with specially designed swings, and merry-go-rounds even for wheelchairs, and other such amenities.

In Italy, Rotarians are working with the Vatican on mobile medical units and telemedicine for Cambodia. And such is the respect that the Vatican now has for Rotary that His Holiness Pope Francis has announced that on 30 April 2016 he will give Mass to Rotarians at St. Peter's Square. This is an unprecedented event and a tremendous honor that will raise Rotary's status across so much of the world. We have 8,000 seats reserved, and I hope I will see many of you there.

When you hear these stories of Rotary, when your hearts are filled with wonder at the work that Rotary is doing, and with awe at the thought of what we could be doing, I ask you to remember that it does not begin with you or with me. It begins with our members,

working in their communities, meeting in their clubs, enjoying their service, coming together through Rotary, because they know that Rotary is their best path to a life well lived.

And your job is not to do that service, but to support it. To end your year with a district that is better than it was when your year began, with Rotarians who have the same sense of purpose, of dedication, and of ambition as all of us have here tonight.

But there is one thing that we have in this room tonight that we do not have in most of our Rotary clubs. That we have never had. And that we must work to achieve, throughout our entire organization. That is women and men in equal numbers.

In 1995, only five of every 100 Rotarians were women. Today, that number has risen to 20. It is progress, but it is not enough.

Because in order to fully represent our communities, we must truly reflect our communities. And it is just common sense to say that if we want all of our communities to reach their full potential, economically, socially, and educationally, we can't exclude half of the world's population from being fully represented in Rotary. We have had women in Rotary for only the last quarter of our history, and it is no coincidence that those years have been by far our most productive.

Rotary's policy on gender equality is absolutely clear. Yet nearly one-fifth of our clubs today continue to exclude women, usually by claiming that they simply cannot find women who are qualified for membership.

I would say that any Rotarian who makes this argument, or believes it, lacks the two most basic qualifications for Rotary membership: honesty and good sense. Let me tell those, who choose to live in a Jurassic Park era, that they should take a

moment to remember what happened to the dinosaurs. They became extinct!

Equality for women is not just a nice extra. It is absolutely essential to our service, to our future. If we don't put it front and center, we are dead in the water before we even begin.

A club that shuts out women shuts out much more than half the talent, half the ability, and half the connections it should have. It closes out the perspectives that are essential to serving families and communities effectively. It damages not only its own service, but our entire organization, by reinforcing the stereotypes that limit us the most. It makes our partners take us less seriously. And it makes all of Rotary less attractive to potential members, especially the younger people who are so crucial to our future.

To tolerate discrimination against women is to doom our entire organization to irrelevance.

We cannot pretend that we still live in Paul Harris' time, nor would he ever want us to. For, as he said, "The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

In the new Rotary year that lies before you — you are the ones who will write that story. And it is an awesome responsibility you carry — one on which lives, and livelihoods, very literally depend.

In the year to come, you will find yourselves stretched, pushed, tested, perhaps more than you ever have been before. You will be challenged, again and again — but I know you will rise magnificently to those challenges. For you will find that it is often the weight of responsibility that unleashes the abilities within us.

So I want to finish tonight by reminding you of the lessons of the Greek mathematician Archimedes.

In his own time, he was famous for his work in physics and geometry. He calculated the area of a circle and the volume of a sphere. He was already an old man when the Romans came to attack his island home of Syracuse. And it was Archimedes who rose to the hour, who drew upon his abilities in entirely new ways, designing and devising new means of defense with the simplest of tools: a stick and a sandbox.

He had the defenders of the island array polished mirrors on the coast, so that the reflected rays of the sun converged on approaching ships. Hundreds of years later, the Greeks spoke in awe of the rays of Archimedes, which caused the Roman ships to burst into flames. Today, Archimedes is remembered by the Greeks not only as a mathematician, but as a hero.

Little is known today about the life of Archimedes. Few of his writings survive. But tradition has it that when he demonstrated the use of the lever, he said, "Give me a lever that is long enough, and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I can move the world."

My friends, we have the fulcrum. The fulcrum is Rotary. And Rotarians are the lever.

Together, we can move the world. And we will.

Thank you.

K.R. Ravindran  
RI Past-President  
2015-16



## 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 18th Aug	<b>Bill Crews</b> The Work of the Exodus Foundation	Gulian Vaccari	David Croft	Zoom
Wed 25th Aug	<b>Joanne Giannoto</b> State Emergency Service	Paolo Giammarco	Trudy Ho	Zoom
Wed 1st Sept	<b>Jane Rushton</b> Fundraising Operations Manager Children's Medical Research Institute- Challenges Posed by the Pandemic	TBA	TBA	Zoom
Wed 8th Sept	<b>Fiona Martin</b> Federal Electorate of Reid	TBA	TBA	Zoom

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

<i>Birthdays</i>	
22nd August	Praveen Challa
22nd August	Ann McCluskie

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
-	-



## *The Rotary Statistics*

Attendance last meeting (11-08-21) – Zoom	24
Club membership	46
Partners	0
Guests	7

<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 <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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