



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
22nd June 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 June</i>		
-	Rotary	Rotary Fellowships Month
<i>Weeks of June</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of June</i>		
22nd June	UN	United Nations Public Service Day
23rd June	UN	International Widows' Day
25th June	UN	Day of the Seafarer
26th June	UN	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
26th June	UN	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
27th June	UN	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

THE GREATEST GAP IN LIFE IS THE ONE
BETWEEN KNOWING AND DOING!

As I am typing my last President's
message for our Rotary Club's weekly

bulletin, I want to express my heartfelt
thanks to each and every Rotarian in our
club for carrying out the critical tasks
needed by our communities in these
challenging times. Each of you is an
extraordinary example of commitment,
professionalism, and teamwork.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically
altered many facets of life. The masks, the
disrupted and re-arranged working
environments and the ongoing collective
need to monitor and safeguard against
virus transmission, all testify to this. But

there's one very important thing that the virus hasn't, and dare I say, can't, touch: Rotarians' willingness to pull together and do what is best and right to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We can all be proud of our ability to adapt and unite and continue to live our motto each day: **Service Above Self**. We have continued to deliver support to the most vulnerable in our communities, as well as address the many additional needs that have surfaced due to the pandemic.

We also excelled in membership development and engagement with our local community. What a wonderful Rotary meeting we had last week. Four new members were inducted, and each new member brought new energy, joy, and belongingness to our Rotary Club. It was great to have two of our sitting members of parliament, Sally Sitou, Federal Member of Reid, and Jason Li, the state Members of parliament for Strathfield. Both their acknowledgement speeches were great testaments to how Rotary has become an integral part of local leaders and community champions.

Last week, we also welcomed a young lawyer, Chandi Gnanaratnam and a social media expert, Ranjan Ratnam. I am sure all these four new members will be a great asset to the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

It is also pertinent to note that more than half of our 16 new members who joined this year are females. Strathfield Rotary is moving in the right direction when it comes to gender equality, inclusiveness and diversity.

This is the second time that I have gotten the opportunity to serve as a Rotary Club president since I joined Rotary 25 years ago. Our incoming Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones, once said, "When you think of what Rotary gives us,

it is that opportunity for leadership, growth, and development."

It is relevant for me to share with you all what I learnt as the club president during the last twelve months. I always ask myself this question, what sets significant Rotary leaders apart? Finding answers to my own questions, I would like to demonstrate four specific traits that prove critical for a Rotary leader to excel.

1. Deciding with speed and conviction.

We stand out for being more decisive. We make decisions earlier, faster and with greater conviction. We do so consistently—even amid ambiguity, with incomplete information and in unfamiliar domains. Good leaders also realise that a wrong decision may be better than no decision at all.

2. Engaging for impact.

Once leaders set a clear course for the club, they must get buy-in among their members and other relevant district officials community leaders and partners. I find strong leaders balance keen insight into their community's priorities with an unrelenting focus on delivering remedies and solutions; we also align them around the goal of value creation. One of the four priorities of Rotary International is increasing the impact. **THE GREATEST GAP IN LIFE IS THE ONE BETWEEN KNOWING AND DOING!**

3. Adapting proactively.

For evidence of how important it is for Rotary clubs and leaders to adjust to a rapidly changing environment, I firmly believe that it's dealing with situations that are not in the playbook. As a CEO and a Rotary leader, I am constantly faced with situations where a playbook simply cannot exist. Adaptable leaders also recognise that setbacks are an integral part of changing course and treat their mistakes as opportunities to learn and

grow. As we got into the 51st year at the Rotary Club of Strathfield, our club leaders became change-makers to prepare our club for the next 50 years. Henry Ford once said, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

4. Delivering reliably.

Mundane as it may sound, the ability to reliably produce results was possibly the most powerful of the four essential Rotary Leader traits. Leaders ignore the importance of reliability at their peril. A key practice here is setting realistic expectations up front. They set a high bar and focus on performance relevant to the role rather than personal comfort and personal recognition - two criteria that often lead to bad calls. "Service above Self" is our Rotary motto.

Before concluding my message for this week, I would like to thank our bulletin editor, Bradley Ayres, for delivering our weekly editions for the last twelve months. We really appreciate his professional approach, attention to detail

and patience till we submitted our messages in the eleventh hour.

I also would like to thank our web master for putting together all the online publications, including my President's Message online. Everyone loves Raymond for his can-do attitude and hours of work, which makes our club look good in the virtual world.

Finally, PDG David Croft, I sincerely appreciate all your encouraging words and guidance. As you and your lovely wife, Margret wait for my column to be published every week, I also eagerly wait for your feedback every week. Thank you.

"Leadership is not something you do TO people. It's something you do WITH people." – Ken Blanchard (Leadership and The One Minute Manager)

Rotary Service to you,

Thaya Ponniah

Speaker for this week: Paula Nicolas

One of our new members will speak to us about the St Merkorious Charity.

Paula founded St Merkorious Charity in 2013. She has a Bachelor of Commerce with a double major in Marketing and Finance.

She worked in the corporate world for many years until she decided to dedicate her life to assist the disadvantaged.

St. Merkorious Charity runs a food program to help individuals and families

who are isolated or experiencing poverty. The service aims to provide direct assistance to those who are struggling to put food on the table, affording them the dignity and security of nutrition and sustenance.

The program started in a home kitchen but has grown rapidly, with the acquisition of a commercial kitchen and refrigerated van expanding capacity and reach.

The nature of the service, which provides food deliveries to individual houses as

well as community halls, allows the volunteers to build genuine relationships with the people that they serve. Meal packages are individually tailored

depending on family or individual needs. The service does far more than provide sustenance – it restores hope and builds community

Speaker from last week: Jeremy Wright



Member News

Huge congratulations to Keith and Sue Byrn, who on Friday 17-June, became first time **Great-Grandparents!**

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 22nd Jun	Rtn Paula Nicolas St Merkorious Charity	tba	tba	Strathfield Golf Club
Wed 29th Jun	Changeover dinner	-	-	Strathfield Golf Club

<i>Birthdays</i>	
22nd June	Bill Carney
24th June	Alexey Prokopenko
26th June	Raymond McCluskie
29th June	Roy Ellis
29th June	Harpreet Bhatia

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
22nd June	Janice Barrett (Rotary)
24th June	Raymond McCluskie (Rotary)



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (15-06-22) – in person	19
Club membership	60
Partners	0
Guests	4

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$205.00
Sergeant's session	Not held

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 Sleen
Social Media	Alexey Prokopenko	Programs Chair	Gulian Vaccari



Editor's note

After six years of being the bulletin editor for this great club, my time as editor has come to an end.

Over these years, I hope I have done justice to documenting many of our great moments. Thank you to all that contributed material for publication.

Bradley Ayres





Celebrating Rotary

Strathfield Rotary Club Changeover Dinner



WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022 | 6:30PM FOR 7:00PM
STRATHFIELD GOLF CLUB EVENT CENTRE
PARTNERS NIGHT | GUESTS WELCOME
\$50 PER PERSON | CASH BAR
FORMAL DRESS CODE

Buy tickets:
<https://events.humanitix.com/rcs-changeover>



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