



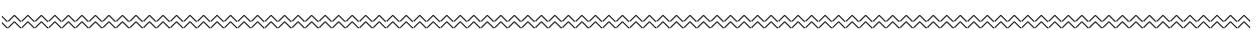
# STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675  
25th August 2021

[www.strathfieldrotary.org.au](http://www.strathfieldrotary.org.au)    [info@strathfieldrotary.org.au](mailto: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 August</i>		
-	Rotary	<b>Membership and New Club Development Month</b>
<i>Weeks of August</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of August</i>		
25th Aug	Aust	Australian South Sea Islanders National Recognition Day
29th Aug	UN	International Day against Nuclear Tests
30th Aug	UN	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
31st Aug	UN	International Day for People of African Descent
1st Sept	Aust	National Wattle Day



## *President's Report*



**Thaya Ponniah**  
*President*

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

Let me start my write-up with this narrative:

*The child - "How old are you, Grandpa?"*

*Grandpa - "I'm 81, dear."*

*The child - "So does that mean you were alive during the Coronavirus?"*

*Grandpa - "Yes, I was."*

*Child - "Wow. That must have been horrible, Grandpa. We were learning about that at school this week.*

*They told us about how all the schools had closed. And mums and dads couldn't go to work so didn't have as much money to do nice things.*

*They said that you weren't allowed to go and visit your friends and family and couldn't go out anywhere.*

*They told us that the shops ran out of lots of things, so you didn't have much bread, and flour, and toilet rolls.*

*They said that the Easter holidays were cancelled. And they told us about all those thousands of people that got very sick and who died.*

*They explained how hard all the doctors and nurses and all essential workers worked, and that lots of them died, too.*

*That must have been so horrible, grandpa!"*

*Grandpa - "Yes, that is all correct, but I was just a kid back then. But to tell you the truth, I remember it differently..."*

*I remember playing in the garden for hours with mum and dad and having picnics outside and lots of BBQs.*

*I remember making things with my Dad and baking with my Mum.*

*I remember learning how to do handstands and backflips. I remember having quality time with my family, even when they were my teachers.*

*I remember Mum's favourite words becoming 'Hey, I've got an idea...'*

*Instead of 'Maybe later or tomorrow I'm a bit busy'.*

*I remember making our own bread and pastry, growing our own vegetables and having fresh eggs from our new chooks. I remember having a movie night three or four times a week instead of just one.*

*I remember we got to put our Christmas lights up in the middle of the year, just because we wanted to.*

*It was a horrible time for lots of people, you are right.*

*But I remember it differently."*

Remember how our children will remember these times. Be in control of the memories they are creating right now so that despite all the awful headlines and emotional stories they will come to read in their future years, they can only actually remember the happy times.

At this time of need, we Rotarians have a great responsibility towards our family,

our community, our country and, obviously, our world. Every Rotarian must have the right PERSPECTIVE, with an incredibly POSITIVE attitude and become much more PURPOSEFUL to take our responsibility seriously and make our lives more meaningful.

The world is clearly facing multifaceted crises: a health crisis, an economic crisis, a societal crisis, a racial crisis, an environmental crisis, and rising geopolitical tensions. All these are an opportunity for Rotary to serve to change lives; an opportunity for Rotary to be the catalyst between the haves and the have nots; a challenge for Rotarians to uphold our motto "Service above self".

August is Membership Month, which means it's time to celebrate our Rotary club, our members, and the good we do in our community and around the world. We have all been chosen at one time or the other for membership of this very fine institution, The Rotary Club of STRATHFIELD because of our introducers – like my good friend, Past President Arie Pappas, who introduced me to this club – believed in us to manifest those qualities of head and heart that fit us to interpret and impart the message of Rotary. They relied upon us to carry the principles and ideals of service that they inspired to those who shared our professional activity.

*"Rotary takes ordinary men and women and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible."* Sir Clem Renouf, Past President of Rotary International.

Yours in Rotary,

*Thaya Ponnia*

## *Speaker from last week: Bill Crews*



Wow - last week I experienced one of most moving and enthralling presentations I have ever heard in many years of Rotary. Even though our meeting was via Zoom, it was very clear that we were all affected by the presence and the passion of this amazing man.

The Rev. Bill Crews AM is a much-loved Australian who has helped some of the most rejected and neglected people in the world and taught thousands of underprivileged kids to read. He is on the National Trust's list of 100 "National Living Treasures".

Bill Crews was born in England in 1944 and migrated to Australia in his early years. He studied electrical engineering at the University of New South Wales under a scholarship provided by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia). He worked with AWA in microelectronic research studying the properties of silicon until 1971, including building the first machine in Australia to grow ultra pure single crystal silicon.

He first visited the Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross in late 1969 and ultimately became involved in voluntary programs, visiting the elderly, sick and shut-ins of the Woolloomooloo/Kings Cross area.

By 1971, he had decided to quit engineering and work full-time at the Wayside Chapel. He was a member of the

team that created the first 24-hour crisis centre in Australia.

Bill spoke of the "failed adopted and orphaned kids - children society did not want to know". He spoke emotionally of the 16 year old teenager who was typical of those who were rejected by their parents and by society and forced to give up their babies for adoption.

By 1972 he was director of the crisis centre and directed all the social work programs of the Wayside Chapel until 1983. During that time he established the first program in Australia to reunite adoptees and birth parents (Reunion Register), and the first program to assist parents who were at risk of abusing their children (Child Abuse Prevention Service). He also established the first modern youth refuge in Australia.

In 1973 he was made a member of the New South Wales Drug and Alcohol Authority and was intimately involved in establishing drug rehabilitation, education and prevention programs throughout New South Wales. Together with Ted Noffs, in 1978 they created the first Life Education Centre, that have since spread all over Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Thailand, England and America, promoting drug avoidance and harm minimisation strategies.

Bill spoke emotionally of the time when he had a day to spare whilst in London working with the the Nightingale Hospital. He travelled across to Calais in France where he took a taxi to a refugee camp containing about 1,500 refugees living in squalor on an old flood plain which was formally an asbestos dump. The taxi driver would only take him halfway to "The Jungle", however, he agreed he would return later to collect Bill.

While there at “The Jungle”, Bill attended an NA Meeting (Narcotics Anonymous) with about 15 muslims, “of many colours and from many countries” (Bill is not a member of NA). Each told their personal story in their own language and when it came Bill’s turn, he emotionally poured out his own personal story which he said became a turning point in his own life.

Bill Crews is the founder and chairman of the Exodus Foundation, a charity that since 1989 has provided a place where homeless and abandoned youth seek assistance and refuge.



Bill subsequently established “The Rev Bill Crews Foundation” which incorporates

- The Exodus Foundation
- The Bill Crews Charitable Trust, &
- The Parish of Ashfield (covering overseas activities)

The Exodus Foundation's activities include a free kitchen in Ashfield (the famous Loaves & Fishes restaurant run by a former head chef of Etihad Airlines) which feeds about 400 people each day.

The Loaves & Fishes Restaurant and food vans have served over 3 million meals to the hungry. The vans provide meals at Liverpool, Lakemba, Punchbowl & Redfern and there is a night food van providing meals to the homeless at Woolloomooloo.

The Foundation also provides both dental and medical health and welfare services for the homeless and needy, and an outreach program for homeless youth.

Bill said that the role of the Foundation was to “Look for trouble or the honey pots and to sort out the issues”.

“People with the least are often the ones who give you the most.”

“There is no class discrimination - at the bottom we are all at the same level - all equal”

Foundation activities include assisting with COVID vaccination & testing around Liverpool where the poor and needy are often overlooked and developing literacy programs in local schools and in the Northern Territory.

“We are all linked through COVID - we made a commitment we would never close. We have found safe ways to continue to operate our services.”

A long daycare centre at Summer Hill works with troubled and trauma kids, and hopefully will soon extend to Liverpool and possibly overseas to Thailand.

Bill’s international activities include “The Hub” in Bangkok which opened in 2011 and provides much needed support to children and teenagers particularly near the railway station in the Pomprab district where most homeless children gravitate when first arriving in Bangkok, often travelling there under train carriages. Bill spoke emotionally about the death of young “Beer” who “did not lie, cheat or steal” but suffered with HIV.

When asked of his greatest challenge, Bill paused and thoughtfully replied “being understood.”

Bill also hosts the radio program Sunday Night with Bill Crews on Sydney radio station 2GB. Guests have included Clive James, Helen Reddy, Bob Hawke and Kerry O'Brien.

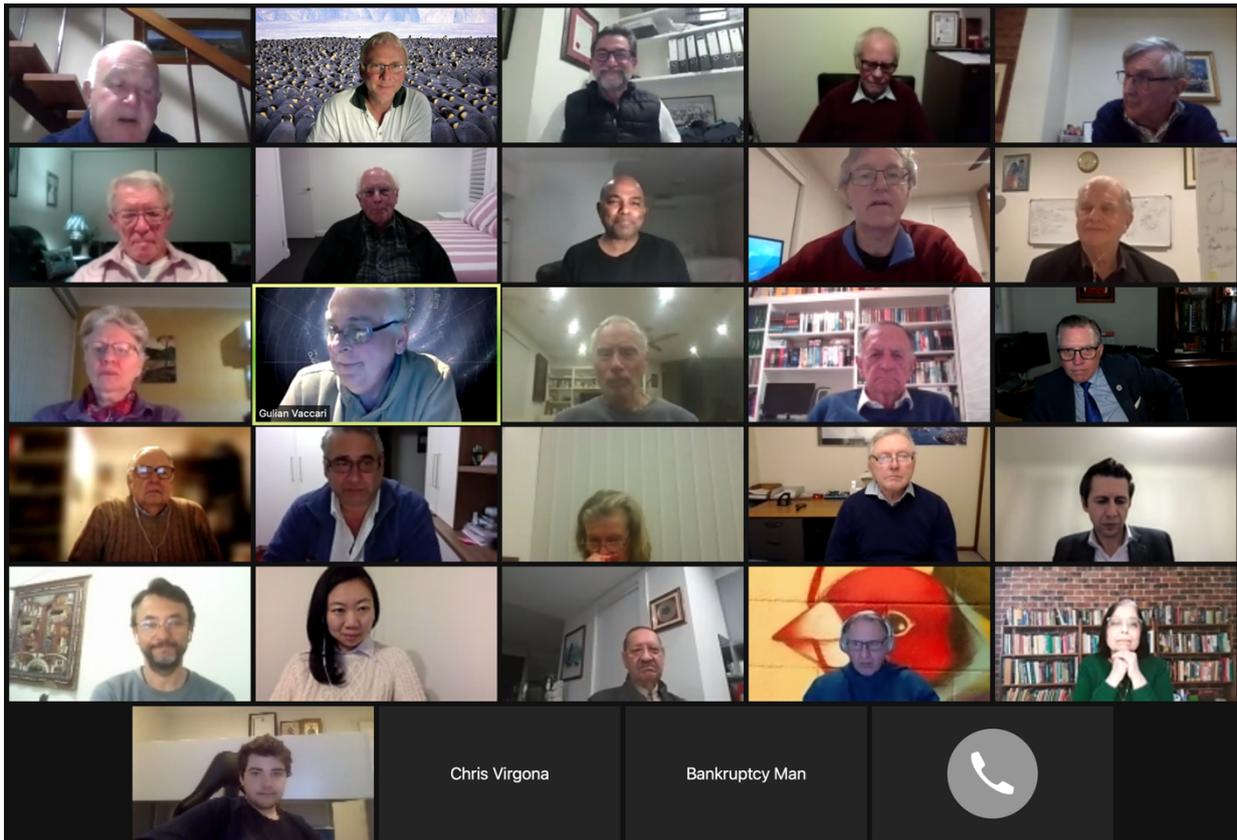
Bill has recently published a book titled “Twelve Rules to Living a Better Life” - a must read.

possible, entirely due to donations which can be made through:

<https://www.exodusfoundation.org.au/donate/>

The Foundation receives absolutely NO federal, state or local government support. The wonderful work done is

*Writeup by David Croft*



Yet another great Zoom rollup...Any guesses on the identity of “Bankruptcy Man”?

*Speaker for this week: Joanne Gianotto*

Joanne Gianotto has been a volunteer with the NSW State Emergency Service since 2006. She is the current Unit Commander of the NSW SES Strathfield Unit.

Joanne is responsible for the lead, command and manage response activities related to flood, storm and tsunami incidents; maintain and build the operational capacity and capability within the community; contribute to the

building of effective community engagement strategies; oversee a range of assets to ensure safe, efficient and effective operations; ensure the management of effective administrative and financial activities; and develop and maintain relevant internal and external key stakeholder relationships.

Joanne is a fully qualified Workplace Trainer and Assessor and is endorsed to facilitate a number of NSW SES course.

She is also responsible for overseeing the training organisation of the Strathfield unit, facilitation of training and assessment activities, volunteer management, and the increasing the awareness of the NSW SES in the community and increase the resilience of the community during storms and floods

Outside of the NSW SES, Joanne runs her family-owned business (Brand for Brands) in Branding, Design and Communications. Through leading-edge design & project management, I help clients reach & effectively engage their target market.

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## *COVID Capers*

Thaya and Bradley are still looking for members to contribute COVID-related material for the bulletin. Rod McDougall has contributed again this week, and there is also a contribution from Thaya:

And some humour from Thaya:

### **Our 50th: The Movie - Now Showing**

Anyone fortunate enough to have been there would have enjoyed our 50th anniversary dinner - a tribute to Roger Vince and his committee and a highlight of a difficult 2020-21 year.

Not everyone knows that Bradley Ayres single-handedly produced, directed, recorded (on multiple cameras) and edited a movie of the event. With some lockdown time available I have viewed it for the second time.

It was certainly a star-studded evening ... with some Oscar winning performances! And Bradley has produced a wonderful director's cut.

It is showing on a USB that can be yours for \$15 (the cost of the USB) plus postage. Simply contact Bradley to order your copy. Remember to thank him for his very creative efforts. And the great deal!!

*Rod McDougall*

LEXOPHILIA: Lexophilia is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location. This year's winning submission is posted at the very end.

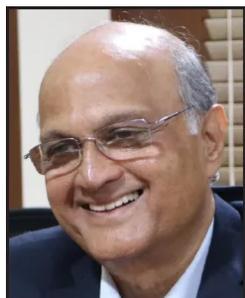
- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- The batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
- Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- And the cream of the twisted crop: Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

*Thaya Ponniah*

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*Rotary International News: Let every Rotarian contribute \$100 to TRF*



**Gulam A Vahanvaty**  
Trustee,  
The Rotary Foundation

While this article was written in July, you'll read it only in August and one month of this Rotary year would have passed. Notwithstanding, let us continue to celebrate with pride as our very own Shekhar Mehta leads Rotary. His clarion call Serve to Change Lives must act as the catalyst to multiply our commitment to the underprivileged.

The pandemic made life very difficult for the 2020–21 DGs. Yet, they and their TRF leadership teams have done us proud by going the extra mile and surpassing 2019–20's total contribution. While the final figures are being reconciled, the latest tally for all four zones is \$23.5 million, of which India's contribution is \$22.3 million. Both numbers are a new record. This is truly outstanding.

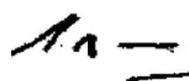
The pride of place goes to D 3141, led by DG Sunnil Mehra, as the No 1 district in the world with a total -contribution of \$3.5 million; six other Indian districts — 3131, 3232, 3190, 3201, 3060 and 3011 — are in the top 50 worldwide. I congratulate the IPDGs, their TRF teams, our generous donors and all regional coordinators —

RRFCs, EMGAs and EPNCs. Take a bow, everyone! Also, the total AF contributions have increased by almost 18 per cent over the previous year which is hugely significant.

On a personal level, 2021–22 will be special: Shekhar Mehta is RI President. And it will be my last year as TRF Trustee. May I humbly request every Rotarian to contribute at least \$100 to TRF; not per capita but individually. This will be truly record-breaking and make the 2021–22 goal of \$30 million for all four zones easier.

Our Foundation stands for hope for the downtrodden and underprivileged. My fellow Rotarians, do rise to the challenge of meeting our targets so that we continue to do good in the world. To each club president and DG, I say “this is your moment”. You are the leader “who strives valiantly, who errs, comes up short, who spends every effort in a worthy cause, who at best knows the triumph of high achievement and at the worst fails whilst daring, so that their place shall never be amongst timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” It matters not whether you scaled the peak, what matters is that you never gave up trying.

Let's do our very best as we go forth and serve to change lives.



*Gulam A Vahanvaty*

*Rotary International News: With more members and support, we'll do more good in the world*



**John F Germ**  
Foundation Trustee  
Chair

In August, we focus on membership — exploring ways we can expand Rotary’s ranks and reach. As we form new clubs and answer RI President Shekhar Mehta’s call of Each One, Bring One, let’s consider how these efforts will have a positive impact at every level of our organisation.

Rotary’s two greatest assets are its members and The Rotary Foundation, and they are linked. Our organisation is made up of more than 48,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, and without our dedicated club members, we can’t perform service. Our members also carry out the Foundation’s mission of doing good in the world, by working on grassroots projects and making contributions that support countless Foundation programmes and grants.

With more members in Rotary, the Foundation could do even more good in the world. We would have more hands to set up water, sanitation and hygiene projects, so that more people could access clean water. We would have more minds to plan global grant projects that support prenatal services, so that more babies could live. We could fund more district grants that support

literacy, so that more people could learn to read.

Today, roughly a third of our members actively support the Foundation through annual giving or other means. Imagine how we could extend Rotary’s reach if we were to increase that engagement, even by just a little. More Rotarian contributions would mean additional funding for the Rotary Peace Centers, as well as more matched contributions to help eradicate polio, thanks to our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

TRF is a powerful force that efficiently carries out impactful and sustainable projects around the world; Charity Navigator has recognised TRF with a four-star rating annually for 13 consecutive years. All Rotary members can be proud of this. And how great it would be if all Rotarians would support the Foundation in whatever way they could.

I have a simple request this month. Please take 10 minutes during your next club meeting to discuss ways to get more involved in the Foundation this year. It could be planning an online fundraiser to benefit the Foundation or partnering with other clubs for a global grant project.

Whatever you do, remember that our members — all of us — drive Rotary’s efforts and sustain our Foundation.



## 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 25th Aug	<b>Joanne Gianotto</b> State Emergency Service	Paolo Giammarco	Trudy Ho	Zoom
Wed 1st Sept	<b>Jane Ruston</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
Wed 15th Sept	<b>DG Jeremy Wright AM</b> Federal Electorate of Reid	TBA	TBA	Zoom
Wed 22nd Sept	<b>Jodi McKay</b> State Electorate of Strathfield	TBA	TBA	Zoom

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

<i>Birthdays</i>	
1st September	Saroni Roy

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
28th August	Nick Hamilton-Kane (Rotary)
1st September	A Bala (Rotary)



## *The Rotary Statistics*

Attendance last meeting (18-08-21) – Zoom	26
Club membership	<b>46</b>
Partners	0
Guests	3

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

## *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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