



# Rotary

## Club of Strathfield



**Strathfield Rotary Bulletin 23 November 2022 District 9675**

**Club meeting held 16 November, 2022**



The guest speaker was author and journalist **Sue Williams** who has an amazing story to tell of her adventures both in Australia and travelling the world.

She was both informative and very entertaining. For a full list of her book titles in various genre visit her website at <https://suewilliams.com.au>

### Upcoming events

23 November	In conversation with Rotarian Bill Carney
30 November	Teresa Russell and the Mason Park Wetlands
3 December	Christmas Carols in Strathfield Park
7 December	Club Annual General Meeting
14 December	Christmas Party

**Christmas Carols in the Park – Saturday 3 December.** Community Services Director, **Rick Vosila** advised there will be two shifts **4pm-7pm & 7pm-10pm**. A commitment sheet is being circulated for volunteers.

The **51<sup>st</sup> AGM** of this club will be held *Wednesday 7 December 2022*. Nominations for board positions close 6 December 2022.

## Club news

### President Andrew's Announcements

Welcome to Partners and friends of Rotarians this evening to meet with and listen to the guest speaker Sue Williams.

**President Andrew** and **Danielle Aravanis** and **Bradley** and **Cheryl Ayres** attended the "*Venetian Masquerade Carnival Ball*" on Saturday 12 November 2022 at the Concord Golf Club hosted by the Rotary Club of Concord. Proceeds from the Ball will go to the [Concord Hospital Cancer Survivorship Programs](#). The late **Peter Smith**, a Past President of this club, worked tirelessly to raise funds for the cancer unit, working with both the Strathfield and Concord Rotary Clubs.

Other members of the club, including **Jan Barrett** & **Peter van der Sleesen**, **Grahame** & **Penny True** and **Rod & Maree McDougall** attended the *Fundraising Trivia Evening* at the Strathfield Town Hall for the [Chalmers Road Special School](#). Treasurer and PP **Rod McDougall** commented that the event raised over \$13,000. Rod also wanted to recognize Jan Barrett for her skills in selling tickets last week at the Rotary meeting where \$700 was raised as this club's donation for the Chalmers Road School.



Community Services Director **Rick Vosila** announced that the 4-5 March next year will be a weekend away in Orange for Rotarians and partners. Rick will be running in a marathon with the aim to raise \$10,000 to be donated to Chalmers Road School. Note that this is a follow on from the successful marathon run Rick undertook in 2018. Rick raised \$10,000 and the money was used to help the Chalmers Road School buy a wheelchair-accessible bus. So we give all encouragement to Rick for his training and the run in March 2023.

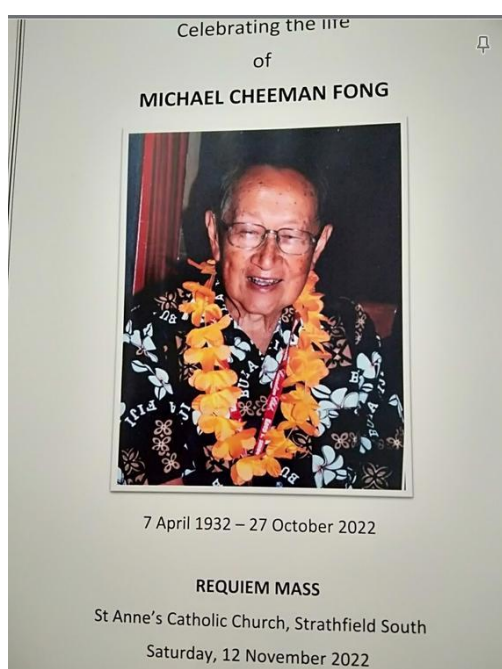
Youth Services Director **Ying Ho** informed members that the Strathfield Council Awards Ceremony has been held along with the establishment of the ***Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship*** valued at \$1,000. Director Ying also wanted to thank Rotarian **Bradley Ayres** for organising the citizenship awards. Bradley noted that more Rotarians have volunteered to attend the various school citizenship awards.

PDG **David Croft** advised that applications for RYLA need to be submitted by next week. The Board approved 4 applicants, though only two applications have been received thus far.

## Vale to Michael Fong

Michael was born in Fiji and studied in New Zealand. He was the eldest of a huge family. Michael represented Fiji at a conference with the United Nations. He was the President of a Rotary Club in Fiji and was a member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield. Michael Fong was inducted into this Rotary Club in October 1983 and left during the 1997/1998 Rotary year.

Michael and his wife Therese ran a bakery business in Burwood Plaza. The bakery was called Chrissie's after his wife Therese Chrissie. The bakery was a source of bread rolls for the many barbecues the Club held over the 15 years of his membership. The bakery business closed in 1996, which was when he retired.



Michael's classification for Rotary was Bread Manufacturing. The Fong family lived in Palmer Avenue, Strathfield within walking distance of South Strathfield Bowling Club - a place fondly remembered by all who attended our weekly meetings there.

PP Roger Vince remembers Michael as a very friendly fellow who was a regular at weekly meetings and very well thought of by all the members. Patricia Giammarco said that the church was full and that it was a beautiful service to celebrate the life of Michael Fong.

Thanks to Patricia Giammarco, PP Roger Vince, PP Raymond McCluskie and PP Rod McDougall for the above information and memories of a past member of this club.

-----  
**Gulian Vaccari's** Sergeant's session raised \$255 this evening. Entertaining as usual.

**Alexey Prokopenko**, Director Vocational Service, advised that the **Vocational Awards** will be held 17 May 2023.

The **Rotary International Convention** will be held in *Melbourne* 27 – 31 May 2023.

**Commitment sheets** are circulating this evening for the *Carols in the Park* event and for the *Club Christmas Party*.

## Raffle

This week-a Christmas theme. Funds raised from the raffle will go to flood relief for the central west of NSW. Weekly raffles organizer **Jan Barrett** and one of the prize winners, President **Andrew Aravanis**.



Photos taken by Club Secretary **Steven Argyris**.