



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



Strathfield Rotary Bulletin 8 March, 2023 District 9675

Report from the meeting held Wednesday 1 March, 2023

The **District 9675 Presidents' meeting** was held Thursday 23 February.

Club President Andrew Aravanis, Past President (PP) and Assistant Governor (AG) Sydney North West, Usha Garg, President Elect (PE) Nick Hamilton-Kane, Secretary Steven Argyris and Immediate Past President (IPP) Thaya Ponniah attended the meeting.

Main discussion points -

1. **Zone 8 Regionalization Project.** Rotary Clubs and Districts in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific form Zone 8. We are one of two zones involved in the trial regionalization project – the other being the United Kingdom and Ireland.
2. The same issues have been identified across all clubs in the District - those being **membership, branding, profile, retention and publicity**. Each club undertakes similar tasks each year working toward synergies with various organizations verses the possibility of being in partnership with large organizations working at a District level.

The **Club Board meeting** was held Monday 27 February.

There was discussion on **membership and in particular new members**. The Board resolved that with the introduction of potential new members there needs to be a minimum level of contact made before becoming a member of the club. The person needs to attend three meetings, then have a "fireside chat" with the Club President. The person needs to have a full understanding of their responsibilities in becoming a Rotarian; be aware of attendance requirements and be prepared to be engaged with the club, with fellow Rotarians and be willing to be involved with club projects and activities before being invited to join Rotary.

Treasurer Rod McDougall advised that the **club is very solvent with \$50,000** in term deposits. There have been some substantial donations. Thanks must go to IPP Thaya Ponniah for his fundraising success during last year, in particular the Gala Ball. This led to a discussion as to worthy causes for those funds. More of that later in the Club Assembly.

PE Nick Hamilton-Kane thanked members who took the time to complete the **"Club Health Check"**. Survey results will be of use to Nick in planning for his presidential year. Nick also attended the recent training program for incoming Club Presidents'.

Bradley Ayres attended the **Meriden Interact** meeting on Wednesday 22 February. Their organization for the Interact Dance is well underway and Rotarians will be needed to assist at the dance on Friday 5 May. Bradley will attend the Meriden School assembly on Monday 13 March for the presentation of badges for the Interact Executive.

An invitation has been extended to **Interact Club** Executive and members at **Homebush Boys High School** and **Meriden Girls High School** to attend the Strathfield Rotary Club meeting on 29 March. The Principal and Vice Principal of **Strathfield Girls High School** have also been invited.

The **raffle and the fine session** raised \$290. Thanks to both Paulo Giammarco and PP Keith Byrn.

Dates for your Diary

8 March - **Partners'/Friends Night**

\$20 per head or \$30 if you bring another person with you.

15 March - President Andrew Aravanis

"In conversation with" PDG David Croft"

22 March - TBA

28 March - **Padstow Rotary Service Officer of the Year Awards (SOOTY)**

Contact Paulo Giammarco pgiammar@optusnet.com.au

29 March - **Interact Clubs**

Meriden Girls School and Homebush Boys High School

Club Assembly Part 2 held Wednesday 1 March.

Following on from Part 1 of the Club Assembly held 1 February. As a refresher, the five key areas in the Club Strategic Plan 2021-2024 are listed below –

Membership – growth and diversity

Impactful service – capacity to implement impactful service projects

Image – public recognition and image in the community

Fellowship – member satisfaction, enjoyment and fellowship

Tradition – transitioning from old style to modern club yet maintain traditions.

President Andrew asked Thomas D'Souza his reason for joining the Club and for comments/feedback. Thomas has been an active Rotarian since joining a couple of years ago. Thomas said he joined Rotary as he wanted to give something back to the community.

Thomas **recommended that new Rotarians become involved with a project** to give them that sense of responsibility and self-satisfaction. This year, Thomas is involved with catering for members each week. Previously, Thomas was an integral part of a Mental Health Project undertaken by the club during the last year. More of that later in the Bulletin.

President Andrew Aravanis asks the Rotarians present -

What is the **next project** we should be involved with? Will it be a club project in the local community that we want to support or possibly a joint venture which has involvement of say the District or another group?

Questions were asked about **previous projects** – where are they at now? Were the project objectives met? Were the outcomes successful/positive for the recipient?

Previous projects mentioned included the local School Garden Project, the hospital Emergency Ward in Sri Lanka, the Mind Your Health Project, the school childrens' education project in Colombia, the water sanitation, hygiene, education and literacy project for a high school in Khatawali in India. Some of these were joint projects with Rotary Global Grants.

However it was agreed that it would be very helpful to know, for example, what was purchased for the hospital ward. There is concern about the lack of reporting back to club members on projects and activities, particularly for newer members to gain an understanding of the scope of Rotarys' work worldwide as well as in the local community.

It was agreed that Directors' responsible for projects keep the club informed and provide updates and photos as well as the outcomes. Was the project successful? Did it meet the objectives? Remembering too that this is a PR opportunity for our club to promote our activities to the community.

It is good to have new projects, though all the **current projects and events** run by the club for the community, that Rotary is known for, will still be retained - Paul Harris Fellowship Awards, Pride of Workmanship (9 May), Police Officer of the Year, Youth Awards and Youth Programs.

Update on some of the club activities/projects.

School Garden Project involved three local schools, Homebush Boys High School, South Strathfield High School and Chalmers Road Special School. \$1,000 was donated by Strathfield Rotary to each school. Funding was also provided by Strathfield Council. The objective was to promote sustainable food production and to help students develop an interest and appreciation of gardening.

Mind Your Health This was a program using social media. Rotarian Thomas D'Souza developed a video on mental health and created ads on-line. This program was very successful and reached over one million viewers. Mental Health NSW donated \$10,000 towards the project. The campaign has now ended. Suggestion that perhaps another project similar to this could be undertaken.

"Go Fund Me" donate today listed on the club website.

"Help Strathfield Rotary help those in real need."

Donations thus far total \$2,270. The Board decided to retain this feature on the website. Now we need to identify a specific project for these funds.

Preparing Indigenous Communities for the Workforce Program. A brief summary of the project objectives was included in the Bulletin dated 8 February, 2023. An update was included in the Bulletin 22 February, 2023.

The **club trailer and ute** are still owned by the club however the trailer is currently unregistered. Thanks to PP Keith Byrn for his ongoing maintenance of club vehicles over many years.

Club branding - Benefactors and sponsors need to be identified on the Strathfield Rotary website so these businesses can also use the Rotary logo on their website. President Andrew to contact the club webmaster PP Raymond McCluskie to add logos to the club website to acknowledge that these businesses are proud supporters of the club.

ANZAC Day 2023 A committee has been formed to organize the function which will be held on Wednesday 26 April, 2023.



The BBQ Diva
with her hardworking pal.