



# Strathfield Rotary Club



## **Strathfield Rotary Bulletin 23 August, 2023**

### **District 9675**

#### President's Message

Dear Rotarians,

Hasn't it been a fantastic few weeks for women's sport, and soccer in particular! The whole country has got behind the Matildas, enthusiasm rising to fever pitch with the team's success and continuing even as their amazing journey at the World Cup has come to an emotional conclusion. Such has been the news coverage that the Matildas are now individual household names with even their private lives now a matter of public interest, for better or worse. Even our Club recognised the spirit of the occasion last week, cancelling our meeting in the realisation that the programme clash would only leave one winner. The Women's Soccer World Cup has also generated similar levels of enthusiasm in other countries certainly including England and, one imagines, Spain. What this goes to show is that women's sport has come a long way in a short time – the action has been of the highest quality and, most importantly, has shown itself as entertaining as the men's game. Hopefully, this momentum will be maintained.

Last Friday I was treated to a different but no less impressive display of empowerment of young women. I represented the Club as a guest of Strathfield Girls High School at their Multicultural Day event. Bearing in mind that the School boasts girls from no less than 57 different cultural groupings - including the Indian, Chinese, Korean, Lebanese, Turkish, Nepalese, Italian and Greek communities to mention just a few, you can imagine how colourful was the variety of national dress and how spectacular and moving were the musical and dance performances shared by its talented young women. This reflects the diversity which we are privileged to have in our local area.

Staying with young people, last week I also joined Rod McDougall at a meeting of the Homebush Boys High School Interact Club at which Dimitry Chugg-Palmer shared his guidance for young people who will shortly be facing the challenges of the early stage of their careers. Dimitry is always impressive – his interesting background and constant encouragement to get involved, get connected and get experience never fails to inspire young people. His example, and the interest his

story generates, raises the question as to whether there is more members of the Club can do, with their experience in different careers and with their diverse backgrounds, to play a role in mentoring, encouraging and guiding young people. I would like to give this more thought.

All these events have reinforced my views that this year we need to take the opportunity to reach out to the local community, including the local schools, to see how Rotary can get involved and generally to raise our profile. When you look at the success stories of Homebush Boys and Meriden Interact Clubs, the RYPEN and RYLA programmes, Youth Awards and NYSF sponsorship, as well as the other opportunities that are accessible through Rotary you can get an appreciation of what practically we might be able to contribute.

With that in mind, this week Ying Ho and I will be meeting with Mechel Pikoulas, the Principal of Strathfield Girls, and Nella Hall and I will be sitting down with Karen Pensabene, Mayor of Strathfield, to explain more about Rotary and see how we might develop our relationship, and work more closely, with the School and Council respectively. From discussions I have had with Mechel and Karen, I believe we have an opportunity for greater involvement. We will keep you informed.

This Wednesday evening, we will be having a social evening at Quatre Café, Cave Road, Strathfield. Quatre Café is owned by a local family and has already established a name for itself as great place to meet for coffee and lunch. It is opening in the evening especially for us and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Best wishes,  
Nicholas Hamilton-Kane  
President

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>Wed 30 August</i>	<i>Karen Pensabene – Mayor of Strathfield</i>
<i>Wed 6 Sept.</i>	<i>Tonia Barnes – Rotary District Governor</i>
<i>Wed 13 Sept.</i>	<i>Ying Ho – Rotarian "Job Talk"</i>
<i>Wed 20 Sept.</i>	<i>Stuart Blundell and Allison Yee-Brogan Inner West Neighbour Aid</i>
<i>Wed 27 Sept.</i>	<i>Martin Thomas Nuclear Power – is it the answer to climate change?</i>

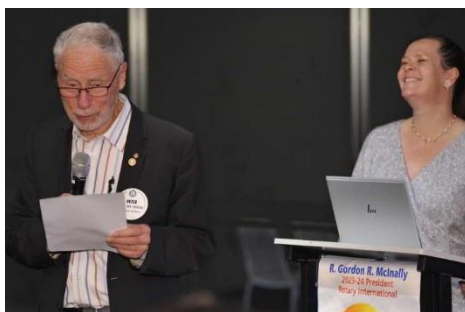
Gulian Vaccari's guest speaker write-up from the meeting held on Wed. 9 August



At last week's meeting we heard from **Rowann O'Mullane, the CEO of Strathfield Private Hospital.** Rowann explained to us that Strathfield Private Hospital is a Ramsay Health Care Hospital and that Ramsay operates many hospitals around Australia and the world, including in France. St George Private and North Shore Private hospitals are also Ramsay Health Care Hospitals.

At 84 beds, Strathfield Private Hospital is one of Ramsay's smaller hospitals but still makes a major contribution to the health and wellbeing of the community it serves. It operates across multiple specialties including breast, cardiac, orthopaedic and gastrointestinal surgery, just to name a few.

Rowann's own journey has seen her working through various nursing specialties and currently it's not unusual for her to be seen working in the recovery ward at times. She sees this as a strength of her leadership style at Strathfield Private - the ability to work at multiple levels across her organisation so as to better understand the operational side and through that drive continuous improvement, something Rowann sees as essential in the health care field. Rowann explained to the gathered members and guests that in her mind no one person, regardless of their position, carries all the knowledge within an organisation, and hence surrounding herself with good people is critical to her role.



Rowann spoke at length about the linkup between Strathfield Private Hospital and CAFAT, a medical evacuation organisation operating in New Caledonia. Often patients will arrive in very poor health, providing multiple challenges to consultants and staff at the hospital.

Judging by the number of questions asked by members and guests at the end of the presentation, Rowann's visit was a very well received. Thank you Rowann.





*From whisperings, to concentration, to little asides, to happy Rotarians*

