



# Strathfield Rotary Club



## Strathfield Rotary Bulletin 30 August, 2023 District 9675



### President's Message

Dear Rotarians,

Thank you to all Rotarians, partners and guests who attended the social restaurant night at Quatre Café last Wednesday. I hope you all had a good evening and enjoyed your fellowship over the excellent meal put on by the chef, Michael. Thank you to the owners, Bridget, Craig and Michael who opened their café in the evening especially for our Club. Craig gave us the background to the café : I would recommend all our members to visit the website of the Heartfelt Community, established by the family in memory and honour of their daughter Veronica and her cousins, tragically killed by a speeding driver under the influence of drugs and alcohol, which provides grief support to those suffering similar loss. The site can be found at: <https://heartfelt.community/>



At risk of being thought too pushy, I would like to strongly encourage you all to put the meetings for the next two weeks in your diaries and to make a point of registering for them at the earliest opportunity. These next two meetings are important for the Club, will be interesting to members and we really need a good attendance. On Wednesday 30 August the speakers will be the **Mayor of Strathfield, Councillor Karen Pensabene**, and **Strathfield Council General Manager, Michael Mamo**. As you will know from my previous communications, this year I am placing a special emphasis on community engagement. This inevitably involves ensuring we have excellent relations with the Council and requires a good understanding of the Council's own priorities so that the Club can identify how best to complement local initiatives. To this end, I am separately arranging to meet shortly with Karen and Michael together with Community Service Director Nella and Past President Thaya. As a prelude to this meeting, I would very much like to ensure the Club creates a good impression by giving a strong welcome to Karen and Michael.

The following week, on Wednesday 6 September our special visitor will be our **District Governor Tonia Barnes**. A DG's visit is always an important event in the Club's calendar : it gives the DG an opportunity to meet our members and to get feedback as to how they feel about the Club and Rotary generally. On the other hand, it gives us a chance to demonstrate that the Club is active, vibrant and special. I would very much urge you to come along and give Tonia a warm welcome to our Club.

I cannot pass by the opportunity to mention that this Monday 28 August is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's monumental "I have a dream" speech. Whilst spoken in a different time and in a different country, Dr King's inspirational words of hope still resonate today and are as relevant in Australia, a land where although many diverse cultures rub along largely peaceably there are still fractures to be mended, as in other parts of the world where the wounds are deeper and less easy to heal. Amidst the breathtaking oratory of the speech, a couple of lines always stand out:

*"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."*

Let's make sure we continue to do our bit as Rotarians to keep that dream alive.  
Best wishes,  
Nicholas Hamilton-Kane

### **Vale Laurel O'Toole**

*Alderman/Councillor (1991-2000) and Mayor (1999-2000) and a Strathfield Rotarian in the Nineties*

*Laurel O'Toole grew up in Auburn and Homebush and completed her schooling at Strathfield Girls High. She trained as a nurse at Auburn hospital and later Midwifery at Crown Street Hospital. After marriage, she and her husband returned to Strathfield to live.*

*Laurel was first elected to Strathfield Council as an Alderman in the 1991 Council election and was re-elected at the 1995 election, thereby serving two consecutive terms until 2000. She was elected Mayor in 1999 and 2000 and served as Deputy Mayor in 1998. She recorded a oral history interview in 2003, which is held at Strathfield Library. This interview includes information on Laurel's service on many committees with development of bid for Sydney Olympics and importance of community involvement in local government. Laurel O'Toole had also been a past member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield.*

*A celebration of her life will be held in the Magnolia Chapel, Macquarie Park Crematorium, 1 Plassey Road, Macquarie Park on Wednesday 30 August at 1:00pm*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>Wed 30 Aug.</b>	<b>Karen Pensabene – Mayor of Strathfield</b>
<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>



Penny True, Paula Nicolas



Jan Barrett and Roy Ellis.





L. David Croft. R. Alexey Prokopenko and Ying Ho.



Above  
Sue and Keith Byrn



Left  
Thaya Ponniah and  
Alexey Prokopenko

Dear President and Secretary,

I would like to personally invite you and your Club members to join us to celebrate women in NSW and their achievements in serving our community. at the Rotary Inspirational Women's Award lunch.

The celebration is to be held on 10 September 2023 at Rydges World Square – it promises to be a great day and I look forward to seeing you there. Booking details may be found below.

Regards Rae-Anne Medforth Chair - Rotary Inspirational Women's Awards

Rotary  
District 9675

INSPIRATIONAL  
WOMEN'S AWARDS

Please join us to celebrate women in NSW and  
their achievements in serving our community

**FOR** ✨ **2023 ROTARY  
INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN'S  
AWARDS LUNCH**

12.10PM 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Rydges World Square Hotel, ✨  
389 Pitt Street,  
Sydney NSW, 2000

To book or

Rotary District 9675

CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

[Webpage](#)

[email contact](#)

[Facebook](#)