

Strathfield Rotary Changeover Bulletin 2022-2023

Thaya Ponniah
President 2021-2022

Andrew Aravanis
President 2022-2023



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**





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Rotary Club of Strathfield

Rotary International District 9675

<p>Shekhar Mehta Rotary International President 2021-22</p> <p>Jeremy Wright District Governor 2021-22</p> <p>Thaya Ponniah Club President 2021-22</p>	<p>Jennifer E. Jones Rotary International President 2022-23</p> <p>Janice Hall District Governor 2022-23</p> <p>Andrew Aravanis Club President 2022-23</p>
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Strathfield Rotary Presidents

1971-2023

<p>Bill Boyce Peter Roach Clarrie Edwards Maurie Moroney Ron Thurgar Merv Perry Bob Taylor Peter Foss Lew Wilson Brian Hennell Gordon Gillett David Croft AM Bob Templeman Harley Tarrant Paul Lehman Terry Rohan George Hanlon</p>	<p>Kevin Lawrenson Max Douglas Brian Driver Bert Houston Doug Potter John Elvy Euan Watson Joseph Saad Peter Manenti Ian Albertson Angelo Franco Peter Kilkeary Raymond McCluskie Roger Vince Stephen Taylor Keith Stockall Keith Byrn</p>	<p>George Hallworth Rod McDougall Brian Johnson Grahame True Kevin Freund Peter Smith Trevor Duxbury Ray Wilson OAM Suzanne Freund Allan Teale Allan Petersen Stephen Taylor Rick Vosila Charles Pitt Arie Pappas Usha Garg Thaya Ponniah Andrew Aravanis</p>
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Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc
Club Chartered 14 March 1971
Club 18086

PO Box 268 Strathfield NSW 2135
www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

Board & Committee Members

Your committee 2021-22

President	Thaya Ponniah	Secretary	Nick Hamilton-Kane
President Elect	Andrew Aravanis	Sergeant	Keith Byrn
Immediate Past	Usha Garg	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Ying Ho	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Roy Ellis	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	Rod McDougall	Club Service	Arie Pappas

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	SelectPrint	Apologies	Peter van der Sleesen
Social Media	Alexey Prokopenko	Programs Chair	Gulian Vaccari

Your committee 2022-23

President	Andrew Aravanis	Secretary	Steven Argyris
President Elect	Nick Hamilton-Kane	Sergeant	Gulian Vaccari
Immediate Past President	Thaya Ponniah	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Ying Ho	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Arie Pappas	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	tba	Club Service	tba

Bulletin Editor	tba	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	SelectPrint	Apologies	tba
Social Media	tba	Programs Chair	tba



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President's Report



Thanks to all the members of the Rotary Club of Strathfield for giving me the opportunity to serve as President for the past twelve months. It has indeed been an honour and privilege. Our club is blessed to have a solid membership base, which has allowed us to achieve many things throughout the year.

It is not my intention to cover all aspects of our activities in my report, as they are covered so well in the following Avenues of Service reports. But let me name a few main points as to how we made a significant year by converting all the challenges to opportunities to serve to change lives:

- Club membership growth is an amazing 32% nett.
- New members who joined this year are 16 nett.
- The total contribution to the Rotary Foundation, including the PolioPlus Fund, is A\$56,000.
- Formed/reactivated the Rotaract Club of Strathfield
- More than 20 social service projects and more than 15 social activities despite the pandemic.
- Two global grant projects in India and Sri Lanka are addressing COVID-related health issues, with a total budget of approximately US\$150,000.
- The Rotary Charity Ball, with 320 guests, outstanding food and entertainment, raised just over \$100,000 for the Rotary Foundation and many worthy causes of our club.
- A massive social media campaign with more than four million reach for a social media campaign called "Mind Your Health" to bridge the gap between people with mental illness and the professional institutions supporting them.

- Strategic planning and strategic execution, focusing on priorities such as increasing our impact, expanding our reach, enhancing participation engagement and increasing our ability to adapt.

We appreciate all our members and the District leadership team led by our Governor, Jeremy Wright, who have encouraged and supported everything that has happened remarkably well this year, assisting us to support both local and international community service projects.

It is important that I thank our board for their support and guidance throughout this Rotary year:

- President Elect - Andrew Aravanis
- Secretary - Nick Hamilton-Kane
- Treasurer - Rod McDougall
- Director Club Service - tba
- Director Community Service - Rick Vosila
- Director Vocational Service - Alexey Prokopenko
- Director International Service - Arie Pappas
- Director Youth Service - Ying Ho

I also would like to appreciate the efforts put in by the following members on a weekly basis:

- PDG David Croft - For his Guidance and Direction
- Bradley Ayres - Weekly Bulletin Editor
- Raymond McCluckie - Webmaster
- Gulian Vaccari - Program Chair

Thaya Ponniah

- Peter van Der Sleen - Meeting Notification and Attendance Officer
- Trudy Ho and Jaya Challa - Weekly Raffles Coordinators.

We must never lose sight of the assistance our partners provide to us as members, which gives us the chance to give back to the community. We all want to say a big thank you.

I briefly mentioned our significant activities this year and those responsible for them, in addition to all our club members, our family members and the friends of Rotary. We have received many accolades, recognitions and praise-reports. Now I would like to give you all some clarity about the mindset and the ethos of the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

Success vs. Significance	
Wealth	Generosity
Achievement	Service
Status	Relationships

We never wanted to be a successful club. We never went after fund raising to accumulate wealth with a big bank balance to achieve things to impress people or be concerned about the status in our society. Instead, we went over and above to be significant and make a difference in our society and community. We wanted to be very generous with all that we had—not only with finances but also with our time, talent and touch. As a 51-year-old, mature Rotary club, we focused on service without compromising on our fellowship spirit. Although we were under lockdown for a considerable amount of time, we made every meeting purposeful and intentional. We didn't do services arbitrarily. We looked at emergency relief

projects as well as long-term programs. Our club also focused on relationships and partnerships. We also leveraged on them for the common good. Without reinventing the wheel, we built strategic synergies with other clubs, districts, countries, as well as other likeminded institutions.

"Success-motivated" organisations tend to measure their goals in terms of money, power, status, achievement and recognition. "The significant-motivated" organisations place emphasis on a more principled view of life: generosity, empowerment of others, sacrificial service, building up others and helping them develop solid relationships. If you look at them more closely, these components of significance all have something to do with generosity. Giving resources is one type of generosity; serving others is another; and cultivating meaningful relationships is a third. It all comes down to time, talent, treasure, and touch. At the Rotary Club of Strathfield, we always think with our hearts. We always believed in "heart work" more than hard work.

What a privilege it is to make this leap from the superficiality of success to significance. The danger of seeing such a chart is that one might think you have to have success before you can have significance. No, that's not at all necessary. Nelson Mandela once said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary - as we began the new year twelve months ago, as your new president, I promised you that I would work for a cause, not for applause; that I would lead our team to impact, not to impress; and that we would not strive to make our presence felt, but rather to make our absence felt. We faced numerous challenges with an unexpected



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President's Report (cont...)

and unprecedented pandemic, which created numerous opportunities. We did everything we could to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Now - with your assistance, we will maintain our momentum to "IMAGINE ROTARY."

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming President and my good friend, Andrew Aravanis and his board the very best for the upcoming Rotary Year 2022-2023. Andrew is gifted with a generous heart. His humorous spirit is infectious. I am certain Andrew and his leadership team will take our club to another whole new level.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to express my gratitude to my wife, Subo, for her support during this demanding year. I appreciate you supporting my love for people and my passion to serve them. Whatever I do, without you, it won't be complete.

Thaya Ponniah
President 2021-2022

"Imagine, a world that deserves our best where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference."

Jennifer Jones, RI President 2022-2023







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Vocational Service



It has been a challenging year with Covid restrictions, lockdowns, and the uncertainty of whether or not we could resume face-to-face events and meetings. However, one of the highlights for me has been embarking on a landmark project to help the indigenous community obtain skills in the new digital and technological world and prepare them for the workplace. The idea was something that had been on my mind for a long time. I have always been interested in how to educate indigenous people as well as people from a disadvantaged background and bring them into the workforce. I initiated the idea of a training program offering indigenous students IT and technical skills such as how to use computer apps and IT tools, how to deal with security, how to get access to mailboxes or any other general IT skills, and presentation skills. With the help of President Thaya and District Governor Jeremy Wright, we received a generous gift grant of AU\$50,000 from a private donor from the Rotary Foundation.

This will be an on-going project of which we have just established the initial stage. The scope of the project is vast with ultimate plans to structure and design a pattern program that can also be modeled for other Rotary clubs. Talks have already begun with the indigenous community, Tribal Warriors. We aim to collaborate with other educational organisations and indigenous associations.

The program objectives are to teach and deliver the three main knowledge spheres:

1. IT skills. Such skills will open the potential to understand the basic package of the program

available on the market to include skills such as structuring CV, writing a cover letter, sending an email, searching on the internet and so on.

2. Technical skills. For trade specialties, it will

open the opportunity to learn about new tools, such as digital levels, understanding electricity principles, mobile apps for construction sites, managing different types of machineries and so on.

3. Soft skills. It will link and open the basic skills of presentation, understanding people skills, understanding how to talk, how to use presentation material and present it on PowerPoint.

We have plans to run a 3-stage approach to delivering the program:

1. Facilitate the structure of online courses and in-person workshops and seminars for entry-level students.

2. Set collaboration with educational organisations such as TAFE or similar for further studies

3. Package a guide for other clubs or institutional organisations to scale up this program.

I look forward to continuing this project in years to come.

Every year the Sydney Metro Business Awards hand out awards in many different categories including those for non-profit community organisations. I nominated the Rotary Club of Strathfield. After a competitive and rigorous process our club was selected as a finalist in the category of Outstanding Community Organisation.

ANZAC Day celebration this year was held at the Carnarvon Golf Club. It was attended by 45 Rotarians, partners, and guests. Janice Barrett coordinated the event with help from Pat Giammarco. The charity that we gave funding to at this event was Wounded Heroes Australia, an

Alexey Prokopenko

organisation looking after wounded soldiers from the Australian Armed Forces. The keynote speaker was the founder of Wounded Heroes, who spoke movingly about the conditions and circumstances of those returned soldiers, the sad reality they face, and the lack of support for them. Our usual bugler, a member of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra, Liam McRae recited the Last Post and Rouse.

At the International Women's Day Celebration, we recognised a prominent local community leader, Mrs. Michelle Davies. Michelle is the principal of Chalmers Road School, a school for special needs students. She was awarded with the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship (PHF) for her contributions. The keynote speaker at the event was Victoria Weekes, a gender equity champion. She spoke passionately about the gender gap and gender biases. The celebration dinner was attended by the District Governor Jeremy Wright and the

District Governor Elect Janice Hall as well as 50 Rotarians and friends. The raffle proceeds and member donations went to the Emergency Flood Appeal.

I look forward to working with Andrew Aravanis and the new Board in 2022-2023.

Alexey Prokopenko
Director - Vocational Service





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Community Service



Well, what a year we had! This has been a very busy and active year in Community Service for our Club, largely led and inspired by our President, Thaya Ponniah. A quick summary of our main activities for the year follow.

The Parish Pantry, Burwood

As a club we worked with Father James Collins and his team at the Parish Pantry of St Paul's Anglican Church in Burwood to help feed the homeless of the area. We provided critical funding to support the purchase of a much-needed cool room to store perishable foods to feed the needy in our local areas. Following on from the success of this project, we contributed to another Cool Room Project, this time to support the homeless through the Burwood Charity Centre.

Mind Your Health

With the help of a \$10,000.00 grant from Multicultural NSW we were able to launch an innovative social media campaign – 'Mind Your Health' – to support those in need of mental health support, especially through the COVID-induced lockdown periods. We created targeted content through our club website to connect those in need of mental health support with the appropriate health services. Our reach through this campaign was in excess of 4 million people in NSW. The program was launched on 31 October 2021 at a gala event at Strathfield Golf Club. We are now in the second phase of this program, with a joint collaboration with both the Rotary Club of Granville and District 9675.

World Mental Health Day, 2021

World Mental Health Day is recognised

every year on October 10. Rotary in Australia, through Australian Rotary Health's Lift the Lid on Mental Health annual campaign, promotes awareness and raises funds to continue research into mental health. We combined our 'Mind Your Health' program launch on 31 October 2021 with our Lift the Lid on Mental Health campaign, raising funds for Australian Rotary Health on the day.

GoFundMe

During the height of the pandemic lockdown period we sought to find new ways of raising money to support our Club's causes, as our traditional (largely face-to-face) means were no longer viable. We settled on leveraging the popular online fundraising platform – GoFundMe – and were able to collect several thousand dollars to allow us to continue supporting the good works of the Club.

COVID-19 Vaccination Promotion

Once again, during the height of the pandemic, we used the power and reach of social media to encourage citizens to take up the COVID-19 vaccine when take-up was slow. We felt an obligation to support society in adopting vaccination using the trusted Rotary brand to combat vaccine hesitancy.

Aboriginal Child and Family Health Program

As a club, we have been actively supporting a project near and dear to this year's District Governor, Jeremy Wright AM –

Rick Vosila

the Aboriginal Child and Family Health Program 2021 – 2023. This program has been active in La Perouse for 11 years - as a partnership between the Aboriginal Community Centre and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. It successfully provides clinical support for improving the maternal and child health of the local families.

School Garden Projects

In an effort to promote concepts of sustainable food production and local gardening, we successfully completed School Garden Projects at two local prominent schools, Homebush Boys High School and Strathfield Girls High School.

Strathfield School for Seniors

We have once again provided support and funding to continue the good work of the Strathfield School for Seniors and their computer literacy classes.

Charity Ball

This was the undoubted highlight of the year, as the club attracted in excess of 300 guests to the beautiful Le Montage Function Centre at Lilyfield for a fantastic gala charity ball. The night was punctuated with spectacular entertainment from singers and dancers, Platinum Harmony, wonderful food and service from the function venue, invigorating fellowship with Rotarians and guests, and of course topped off with a suite of fundraising to support our various causes, including: individual and company sponsorships, personal donations, a raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction. There were many generous donations of prizes and cash to make the night the huge success it was. Special thanks to President

Thaya Ponniah and President Elect Andrew Aravanis who both worked tirelessly and generously to pull off this incredibly successful evening. How successful you ask? Well, total funds raised were \$113,850.00 – a record for the club! With this we were able to make a donation to the Rotary Foundation of \$50,000.00 with the balance being distributed amongst our nominated causes.

All-in-all, and very busy year of Community Service!

Rick Vosila

Director - Community Service





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Club Initiatives



School Garden in Colombia



Parish Pantry

Out and About



Australia Day BBQ



Homebush festival



Churchill Fellow - Raymond McCluskie



Environment Day



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International Service



The International portfolio of the Rotary Club of Strathfield had a very good year in 2021-2022.

We have had considerable activities and achievements to celebrate this year. I would like to thank our President Thaya Ponniah for his leadership, inspiration and encouragement and am grateful to our board members and the members for all their contribution and encouragement.

I would like to thank our wonderful treasurer PP Rod McDougall for his assistance and friendship.

We organised AHIMSA Peace Symposium 2021, a cultural diversity initiative. Was an online conference with 80 participants and 7 guest speakers worldwide.

Australian health Humanitarian Aid contribution of AUD25,000 for Matching Grant Projects in India and Sri Lanka for Covid-19 related projects.

The Global Grant Project on Covid-19 and Maternal Health in Northern Sri Lanka to provide medical equipment worth US\$90,000 an operation theatre and a Covid-19 Treatment Centre.

A Global Grant Project on Covid-19 and Basic Health in Southern India, worth US\$46,500. Due to Covid, pregnant women cannot travel to Truvannamalai General Hospital as such, it is equipped with these remote primary health care centres to save lives. Supporting District 9685 with a collaboration for a COVID relief project in India as initiated by our Governor.

Level of giving to The Rotary Foundation – e.g., Annual Fund, PolioPlus, Centurions, EREY etc

1. This year was an extraordinary year for the Rotary Club of Strathfield despite the COVID challenges.

2. The annual fund contribution is US\$29,206 (plus a matching grant contribution of US\$7,000).

3. The Polio Plus fund contribution is US\$3,500 (10% of the District Goal).

4. Two of our members became level 2 major donors.

5. Our total contribution to the foundations is just over A\$56,000 (approximately 25% of the District Goal)

6. In addition, we also contributed US\$10,000 to another matching grant project through RAWCS

Roy Ellis

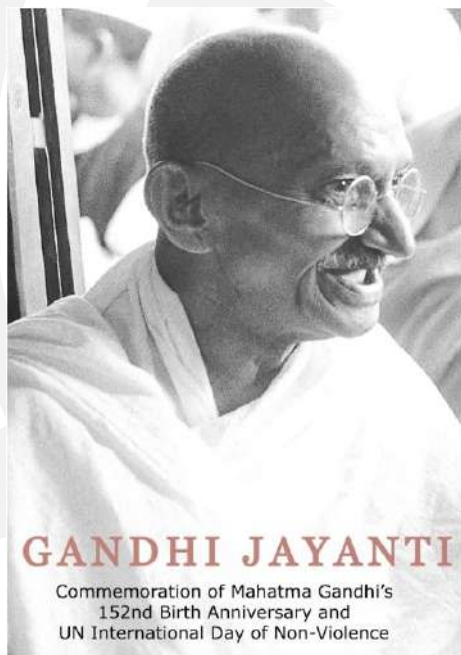
Director - International Service



Roy Ellis



Peace Symposium recognition



SARONI ROY foundation SR Creatists
Diversity. Forward. Bold. Action.

Strathfield
Rotary
Club



invite you to the inaugural
SR Creatists AHIMSA
Peace Symposium 2021

Guest Speakers and Keynote Speakers



The
Rotary
Foundation



**Centurion
Program**



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Club Service



It has been a pleasure to have served on the Board under the leadership of the hardworking, inspirational presidency of Thaya Ponniah.

The Club Service portfolio encompasses all facets involved with the internal running of our club. This ranges from running of our meetings and events, guest speakers, raffles, communications (bulletin, website, social media), through to membership, members welfare and many other areas. As the largest and most diverse portfolio it requires the contribution and support of many members within the club.

Despite the ongoing challenges that COVID-19 has posed, it was a very successful year thanks to the drive and determination of our President Thaya along with the support of our Board and members. It has been an extraordinary year with many highlights and achievements some of which include:

- We increased our net membership from 46 to 61 (32% growth) this includes the loss of three members, two due to health reasons and one retiring after many years of service. Unfortunately, this also includes the passing of Past President Peter Smith. A fireless humble servant of the community whose passing has left a huge void in our club and community.
- 11 out of 16 new members joined due to our specific engagements with the community including the Homebush Street Fair.
- 6 banners displayed in prominent local strategic locations advertising our club's 50th anniversary celebration which resulted in 3 new members.
- 20% of our members are now female
- Introduced social dinners on the last week of each month for partners and friends.

- During the COVID lockdowns, we hosted online zoom meetings, during this period we introduced a "100% Attendance Recognition Program" which included a monthly prize to encourage members to attend meetings.

- Introduced "WhatsApp" chat groups for both our members and Board. Great for instantaneous updates and online fellowship particularly during lockdown period.

- Memorable Christmas Party thanks to excellent entertainment and entertaining Santa (President Elect Andrew) lots of fellowship, dancing and laughter which was well received after lockdown.

- Regular weekly updates on social media (Facebook, Instagram and website).

- Many events which raised funds and awareness of vital programs some of which include: AHIMSA Peace Symposium 2021, "Mind Your Health" Social Media Campaign. The absolute highlight being the Strathfield Rotary Charity Ball raising \$113,000 for the Rotary Foundation and other worthy causes. There were more than 300 guests, more than 10,000 Facebook likes bringing Rotary to the attention of the local and wider community.

The above-mentioned achievements would not be possible without the effort and sacrifice of most if not all our members. I thank those members for their efforts and contribution, I would like to highlight the following people who put in many hours every week for the running of our club:

Bulletin: Bradley Ayres

Programs Chair - guest speakers: Gulian Vaccari

Arie Pappas

Club Raffles: Trudy Ho and Jaya Challa

Club fellowship/visitor welcome: PP
Grahame True

Catering Officer: PP Rod McDougall,
Mathew Elias

Photography: Steven Argyris, Bradley Ayres

Meeting Notification: Peter van der Sleen

Presentation Setup: Alexey Prokopenko

Annual Report\Changeover Bulletin:
Bradley Ayres and PP Rod McDougall

Social Media: Alexey Prokopenko, PP
Raymond McCluskie

Website Administration: PP Raymond
McCluskie

Event Entertainment: Ying Ho & PP Rick
Vosila (MC Extraordinaire)

Special thanks to President Thaya for his support and drive along with PP Rod McDougall our club backbone and to all my fellow Board members it has been an honour and pleasure to work alongside each and every one of you.

A club is only as strong as its member base and member engagement, in that regard I'm happy to report that our club is in a great position going forward.

Arie Pappas
Club Service Director



Guest Speakers



Out and About





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Youth Service



What a remarkable year we've had at Strathfield Rotary! When I first took on the role of Youth Service Director, I knew I had big shoes to fill. Peter Smith was a veteran and exemplary Rotarian. The body of work he had done, and the relationships he had forged with local schools and the youth amongst our community are incomparable. It was only fitting that one of the first initiatives I took on as the new Youth Service Director was to establish the inaugural Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship for Youth Empowerment. A matching District Grant was applied for and granted. This allowed us to award three deserving students from three different local public schools, Homebush Boys High School, Strathfield Girls High School and Chalmers Road School, scholarships for their contribution to the community. Homebush Boys High, in particular, was a school close to Peter's heart and one that he formed a very close association with.

One of my first projects was the formation of the Rotaract Club of Strathfield. It was previously initiated by Peter but had fallen by the wayside and become dormant in recent years due to Peter's illness. My task was to re-activate the club and re-invigorate it with new membership. We held a Zoom information night that was attended by over 20 prospective members of which 10 joined as a result. We now have a new energetic president and lots of plans ahead for the upcoming Rotary year. Due to our District's shift towards a regionalisation model, the Strathfield Rotaract Club will merge with the Burwood Rotaract Club to become the Inner West Rotaract Club.

PP Rod McDougall took on the unenviable task from Peter Smith of being the Interact Club coordinator for Homebush Boys High School, while PP Roger Vince remained at Meriden School. We are also in the process of inaugurating two other Interact Clubs at Strathfield Girls High School and St Patrick's

College. We have already had several rounds of discussions with these schools.

Every year we provide support to students for Rotary sponsored youth programs. This year, we endorsed four students for the annual National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), and nominated five students for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - the nominations were collated by our esteemed PP David Croft. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, RYLA could not take place and NYSF moved to an online model. PP Rod McDougall took three students from Homebush Boys High to attend the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN).

The Citizenship Awards took place towards the end of 2021. A total of sixteen schools received these awards in the form of certificates and book vouchers. Rotarian Bradley Ayres coordinated the awards. The Rotary Club presented the Citizenship Awards at five local schools as part of their Speech Day Prize Giving.

Our club represents the P & F of the Chalmers Road School, a special-needs school in our community. It caters for over 500 children with special needs. We recognised the principal, Michell Davies, when she was named a Paul Harris Fellow at the International Women's Day Ceremony in March.

The Rotary year culminated in the Youth Achievement Awards at the Strathfield Town Hall on the 9th of June. The ceremony was attended by over 100 people including the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, councillors and the new State Member for Strathfield. Awards were presented in the categories of Environment Service, Community Service, Arts and Culture, Science and Technology, and Sports. These awards not only celebrate

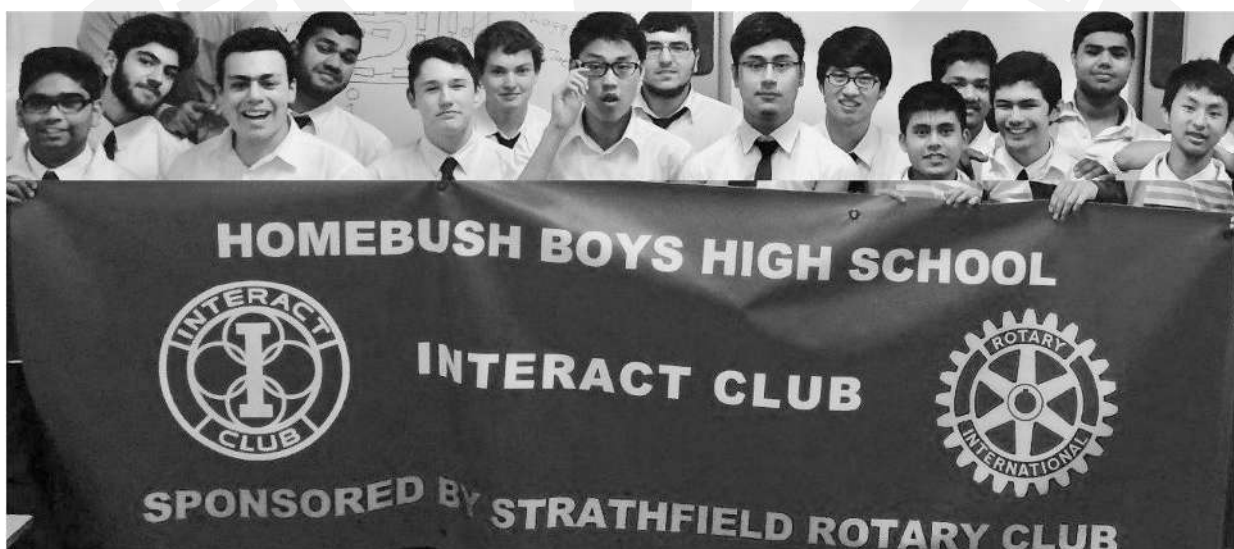
Ying Ho

individual achievements and excellence, but also promote contributions to the community. We engaged with local schools and students by recognising young people at a community level. Schools that received awards include Meriden School, St Patrick's College, Homebush Boys High School, Strathfield Girls High School and Chalmers Road School. I want to thank the Youth Awards organising committee for their tireless efforts in putting this event together. The committee was chaired by Ed Dunlop and included Bradley Ayres, Arie Pappas, Rod McDougall and Thaya Ponniah.

Finally I want to thank President Thaya for all his involvement in Youth Service, his endless support, guidance, efforts, and for giving me the opportunity to be of service to young people within our community. It has been a most rewarding experience.



Ying Ho
Director - Youth Service



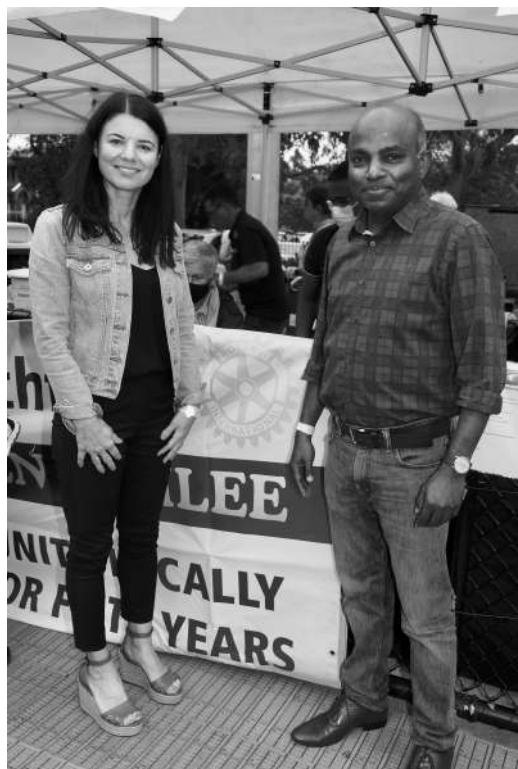


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Youth Service - Out & About



Thanks President Thaya





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Treasurer's Report



Another challenging yet rewarding year, heavily influenced by the pandemic. The club owes a significant debt of gratitude to President Thaya, being the second president in succession to "keep the club going" during difficult times. Thanks to the "The Little Engine That Could!" (as we named him earlier) for his creativity, drive, leadership and outstanding support for the principles of Rotary.

A full, audited report of the club's financial accounts will be presented at our AGM.

Our focus this year was on membership, fund-raising and international causes. The results were impressive on all fronts.

The club's major fundraiser was our Rotary Charity Ball held in May 2022. This very successful event, inspired by President Thaya and organised at short notice, was well supported by members, guests and sponsors. Overall, the holding of the event resulted in over \$100,000 being raised!

A major achievement was the securing of a contribution of \$25,000 from Australian Health Humanitarian Aid for COVID-19 related RI matching grant projects in India and Sri Lanka.

Beneficiaries of our service work are shown in the accompanying table. Once again we were able to support a wide range of causes. Total club donations were over \$60,000.

This included strong support for our charity, The Rotary Foundation, with club contributions totalling over \$15,000. Our members also made significant individual contributions, with two obtaining "major donor" Foundation status.

Consistent with the club's strategic plan, formulated in 2020-21, a number of projects requiring funding will be undertaken next year (or even later) and funds totalling

approximately \$55,000 will be carried forward from this year. This is a new approach for the club which has traditionally largely expended funds during the Rotary year in which they were raised.

Financial support for the club by members has again been very gratifying this year - much resulting from the fact that the club was meeting via Zoom during the period of the pandemic. The lack of in-person raffle and sergeant's sessions saw a high proportion of members choosing to make electronic donations - in lieu of attendance!

Special mention must be made of those members who made significant financial contributions to our fundraising projects. These include the following:

Domenico Alvaro
Andrew Aravanis
Thomas D'Souza
Mathew Elias
Roy Ellis
Paolo Giammarco
Peter Manenti
Charles Pitt
Thaya Ponniah
Peter van der Sleesen
Chris Virgona.

Without the generosity of these members many of our events would not have been viable.

External support for the charity ball was exceptional and our thanks go to the many sponsors and partners involved. They are

Rod McDougall

listed elsewhere in this document. Please see page 35.

I would like to express thanks to:

Lesley Smallwood, Selectprint proprietor, who has continued to provide the great bulk of our printing needs at no cost (the remainder at minimal cost) often in very short timeframes.

James Heesh, Partner, Hales and Reddon Chartered Accountants, who, over many years, has conducted, pro bono, a professional audit of our accounts, giving members confidence in our results.

Secretary Nick Hamilton-Kane whose professionalism and dedication to good Rotary governance have been greatly appreciated – and made your treasurer's life easier!

My wife Maree, for her unstinting, almost daily, assistance - and common-sense approach.

Rod McDougall
Treasurer

2021-22 Beneficiaries

Chalmers Road School
God's Love Care Feed
Homebush Boys High School
Indian COVID-19 Global Grant
Inner West Rotaract Club
Leukemia Foundation
Rotary Club of Fusagasuga
The Salvation Army
Sri Lankan COVID-19 Global Grant
Strathfield Girls High School
Strathfield School for Seniors
The Rotary Foundation - Annual Fund
The Rotary Foundation - Polio Fund
Wounded Heroes Association





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Secretary's Report



I have been wondering what to write in the yearly Secretary's Report.

Unlike the President, the Secretary cannot highlight the success of the Club's strategic achievements for the year. Unlike the Club Service Director, he cannot write about the social events, the speakers and the new membership. And unlike the Community Service, Youth Service and International Service Directors, the Secretary cannot boast of any practical activities to help local people doing it tough, any programme to inspire young peoples' ambitions or any humanitarian enterprise to provide relief to those blighted by natural disaster or other misfortune. In summary, the Secretary has no claim to any grands projects to make the world a better place. No, the Secretary does the stuff nobody else cares about – writes the minutes (mainly unread), trawls through the correspondence (mainly unreadable) and tries to come up with something to put in the end of year Secretary's Report (probably both unread and unreadable).

This year, at the risk of embarrassing my fellow Board members, I thought I would use the opportunity to give the Club my perspective, as a first time Secretary, on the life of the Board over the last twelve months. This is what I found.

Club Board Meetings were long. Averaging out at over two hours, the hot air produced at some of these meetings would have been equivalent to the carbon footprint of two coal-fired power stations. Astoundingly, these gatherings seem to have got even more drawn out as the year went on. The last meeting, rounding out at close to three hours, went on so interminably that we were eventually forcibly removed from the golf club and had to receive the Treasurer's Report in the carpark.

But not boring. As I suspect is inevitable with such an enthusiastic President, Board

meetings were at times, let's say, rather exciting. They were certainly eventful and might even be described at times as intense, impassioned and hot-blooded (if that doesn't make it sound too much like a Mills & Boon romance). To put it in diplomatic terms, the discussions were often remarkably "full and frank" and occasionally, in less diplomatic terms, "handbags at dawn". And all in the admirable cause of close fellowship and betterment of humanity. As the ever-wise Roy Ellis pointed out, very perceptively at the end of a particularly animated meeting: "You do all argue about a load of rubbish".

And the Board kept coming back for more. Such was our collective enthusiasm that we were never tempted to skimp on the number of Board meetings. We successfully navigated eleven riveting talkfests and therefore got to better understand each other's innermost thoughts, souls and drinking habits.

The Board agendas were full. Like well-wrapped presents, nestling amongst the cheap packaging, there was some productive discussion of the really important items of business: the Club's successful projects, events and activities....and truly essential item of whether the Club's PO Box should be moved to Homebush (viz Roy's comment above).

Each member of the Board has actively participated. Every President likes to crow that their Board was the best ever. Not being the President, I am not in a position to make such a claim this year; that is Thaya's prerogative and one that I am not sure he will exercise. But as an (almost) disinterested observer, I would like to report that the Board members have all made their contributions in their own distinct way.

Nick Hamilton-Kane

President Thaya, of course, has been the pilot in the plane, chauffeur of the limousine, the captain of the ship.....the driver of the bulldozer. President Elect Andrew was frequently the voice of reason, and the utterer of numerous amusing and flippant comments – a sign maybe of things to come. Treasurer Rod kept counting the beans, and there were a lot of beans to count this year. Arie brought enthusiasm, pragmatism and an uncanny ability to continually expand his contacts list. Alexey contributed his expert technical skills and Ying her unbeatable rapport with young people, appropriately while together entertaining, feeding and changing a small child. Rick added professionalism and wit (at least until he left to spread his professionalism and wit to other ventures in country NSW). Meanwhile Usha, with the heft of Assistant District Governorship, added her calm experience to the often febrile proceedings. Roy, of course, delivered his accustomed wisdom, generosity and unrivalled dance skills. Me? I was just boring and argumentative, the grumpy pedant, writing up the minutes and generally being annoying.

90% of correspondence coming into the Club's email is rubbish. One of the Secretary's jobs is to review the Club email box. Most of the email is junk. The vast majority of emails are promotions from IT consultants offering to improve the Club's website (the cheek of it), adverts for dating websites and suspicious emails in German and Russian which will no doubt make the system explode if opened. That's not counting innumerable messages from Burwood Council offering yoga classes, women and girls' self defence and after school football activities – handy but not entirely relevant for our Club. Occasionally, we receive, buried in the detritus, a communication which is actually important, like a personal invitation from the District Governor to the President to attend an important meeting...and which I invariably miss.

There is a surprising amount of paperwork involved in admitting new members. This year we have had the pleasure of onboarding (pardon the ghastly modern corporate parlance) a world record 16 new members (hooray!). Each has needed to be proposed to, and approved by, the Board and then presented for non-objection to members. Each elected member needs to be welcomed individually and a final notification circulated to the membership. All need to be added to the mailing list. At some point in the process there will inevitably be a mistake in the new member's name, never a good look, or in their email address, meaning they will never receive details of Club events and will sink without trace.

The handover to a new Secretary of the Club's email system is a disaster waiting to happen. When I took over as Secretary I was given access to the Club's email box through an unfamiliar and somewhat quirky application which gave me some difficulty in forwarding emails (you know, all those ones from Burwood Council offering yoga classes) to Board members. Maybe, I naively suggested, I could access the mailbox through my own email system. Yes but, I was warned, only download the emails received after the start of the Rotary year – there's a button for it, that one. Yes, there was a button for it. Yes, that one. No, it didn't stop the thousands of Rotary emails from time immemorial from instantly downloading onto my system, a shock from which my limited storage capacity has never recovered. Message to next year's Secretary – don't make the same mistake.

It helps to be efficient. My predecessor, the ever efficient millennial Dimitry, bequeathed me a Google drive with a pristine set of documents and a set of instructions on what to do as Club Secretary. By repute he also turned out immaculate minutes within seconds of the end of the Board meetings. Despite my determination to keep things in



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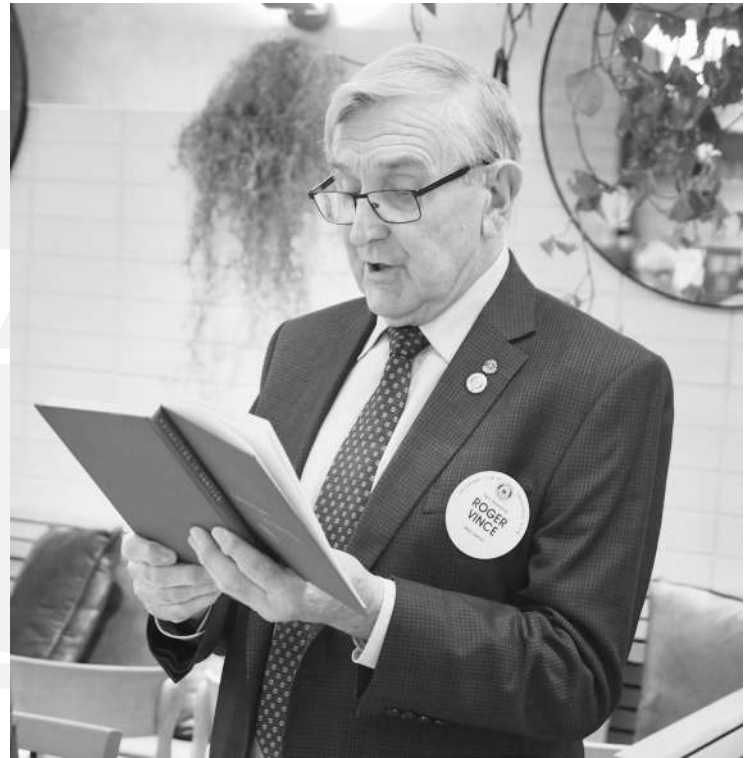
Secretary's Report (cont...)

order, my dramas with the email system and more ponderous efforts at producing board minutes (an exercise which was sometimes like pinning jelly to the wall) quickly led to the creation of chaos out of order. It's been a full time job to put the toothpaste back in the tube.

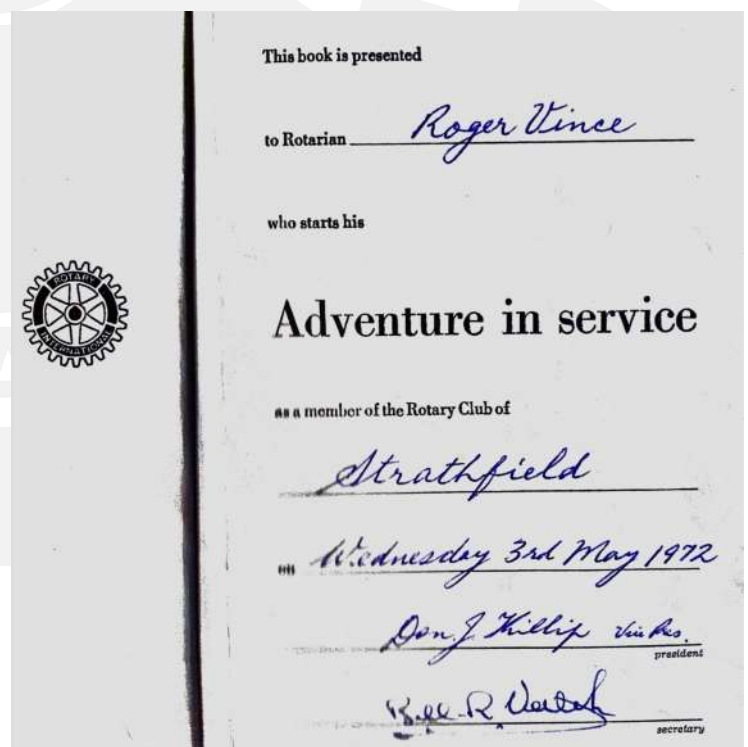
You only get the hang of the job after at least a year. Enough said. Over to you Secretary-elect Steven.

I would like to finish by congratulating President Thaya on a magnificent year leading the Club, presiding over the Board meetings and turning the Board's collective hair grey in the process. Thanks Thaya!

Nick Hamilton-Kane
Secretary



PP Roger Vince - 50th anniversary as a Rotarian!
Reading from book he was presented when inducted



New Members



Joanne Baldwin
Aruna Chandrala
James Cook
Thomas d'Souza
Kundan Giri
Chanderika Gnanaratnam
Jason Yat-sen Li
Anoop Nair
Paula Nicolas
Ranjan Ratnam
Devika Ravindran
Rodney Ormes
Kavitha Sankaran
Anita Sajo
Pallavi Sinha
Sally Sitou





Guest speakers & events

Date	Speaker\Event	Topic
Wednesday, 7 July 2021	Tribute to Peter Smith	
Wednesday, 14 July 2021	Saroni Roy and Harpreet Bhatia	Member Vocational/Life Story Talks
Wednesday, 21 July 2021	AG David Mutoro PHF	
Wednesday, 28 July 2021	Renga and Bharathi Rajan	Community and Membership Development Initiatives for Rotary
Wednesday, 4 August 2021	Club Assembly	
Wednesday, 11 August 2021	John Treloar	The Australian Tandem Cycling Team- 1952 Helsinki Olympics - Quite a Story.
Wednesday, 18 August 2021	Bill Crews	Rev Bill Crews- A National Living Treasure- The Work of the Exodus Foundation
Wednesday, 25 August 2021	Joanne Gianotto	State Emergency Service
Wednesday, 1 September 2021	Jane Ruston	Fundraising Operations Manager Children's Medical Research Institute - Challenges Posed by the Pandemic
Wednesday, 8 September 2021	Fiona Martin	Federal Electorate of Reid - An Update
Wednesday, 15 September 2021	DG Jeremy Wright AM	
Wednesday, 22 September 2021	Jodi McKay	State Electorate of Strathfield - An update
Wednesday, 29 September 2021	Robert Jordan	Supporting Ovarian Cancer Sufferers
Wednesday, 6 October 2021	Paul Kougias	Importance and challenges in grassroots sport.
Wednesday, 13 October 2021	Raymond McCluskie	The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
Wednesday, 20 October 2021	Hugo Robinson	Restaurant and Caterer's Association
Sunday 31st October 2021	Mind Your Health Event	Strathfield Event Centre
Wednesday, 3 November 2021	Keith Roffey	District Rotary Foundation Chair 2021 - 2024
Wednesday, 10 November 2021	Vimla Hayman	Rotary Interplast
Wednesday, 17 November 2021	Usha Garg	A night of Acknowledgements
Wednesday, 24 November 2021	Mark Anderson	Rotary Foundation Major Donor
Wednesday, 1 December 2021	AGM	Chaired by David Croft
Wednesday, 8 December 2021	Doug Abdiel, John Frearson, Arpan Singh	Purpose and Growth Initiatives
Wednesday, 15 December 2021	Xmas Function	
Wednesday, 19 January 2022	Anita Sajo	Vocational Talk
Wednesday, 2 February 2022	Clare Pearson	Little Wings Charity
Wednesday, 9 February 2022	George Ellis	Q and A with George Ellis
Wednesday, 16 February 2022	Louise Murphy	Australian First Responder Foundation
Wednesday, 23 February 2022	Social Event	
Wednesday, 2 March 2022	Thomas D'Sousa	Social Media in Today's World - Pros and Cons
Wednesday, 16 March 2022	Belind Noonan	Should Children be at the Olympics ?
Wednesday, 23 March 2022	Terry Chapman, Matthew Webb, Angela Walker	WestConnex
Wednesday, 30 March 2022	Social Event	
Wednesday, 6 April 2022	Club Assembly	
Wednesday, 13 April 2022	Anoop Nair	IT Engineer
Wednesday, 20 April 2022	Member Induction Evening	
Wednesday, 27 April 2022	Social Event	
Wednesday, 4 May 2022	Luke Borreggine	Weight Lifter
Wednesday, 11 May 2022	Chris Hazelidine	Domestic Violence Initiatives
Wednesday, 18 May 2022	Steve Goldsmith	Climate Change
Wednesday, 25 May 2022	Fellowship	
Saturday 29 May 2022	Rotary Ball	
Thursday 9th June 2022	Youth Awards	
Wednesday, 15 June 2022	DG Jeremy Wright AM	
Wednesday, 22 June 2022	Rotarian Paula Nicolas	St Merkorious Charity
Wednesday, 29 June 2022	Changeover dinner	

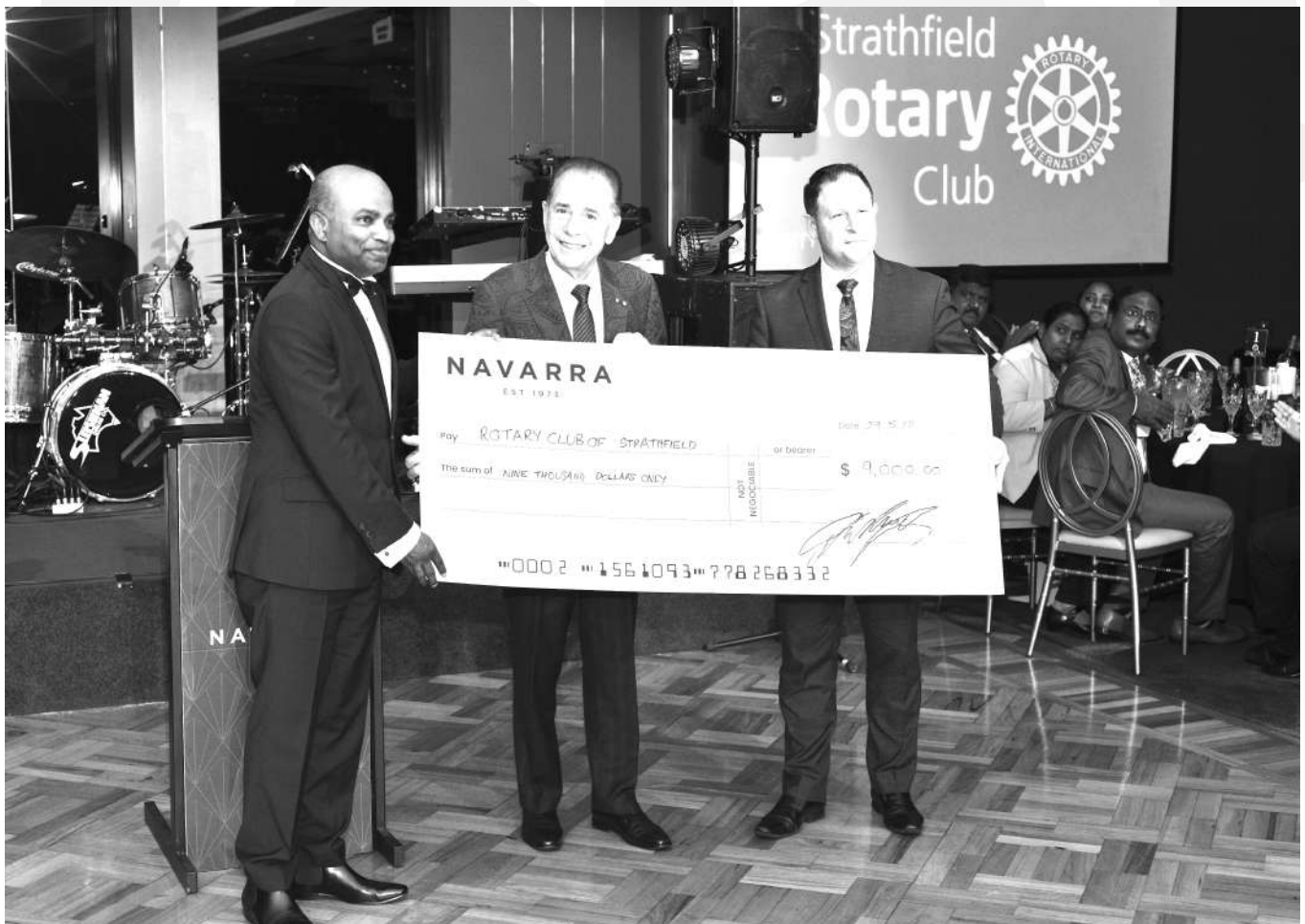
Youth Achievement Awards





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Gala Ball







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Paul Harris Fellows



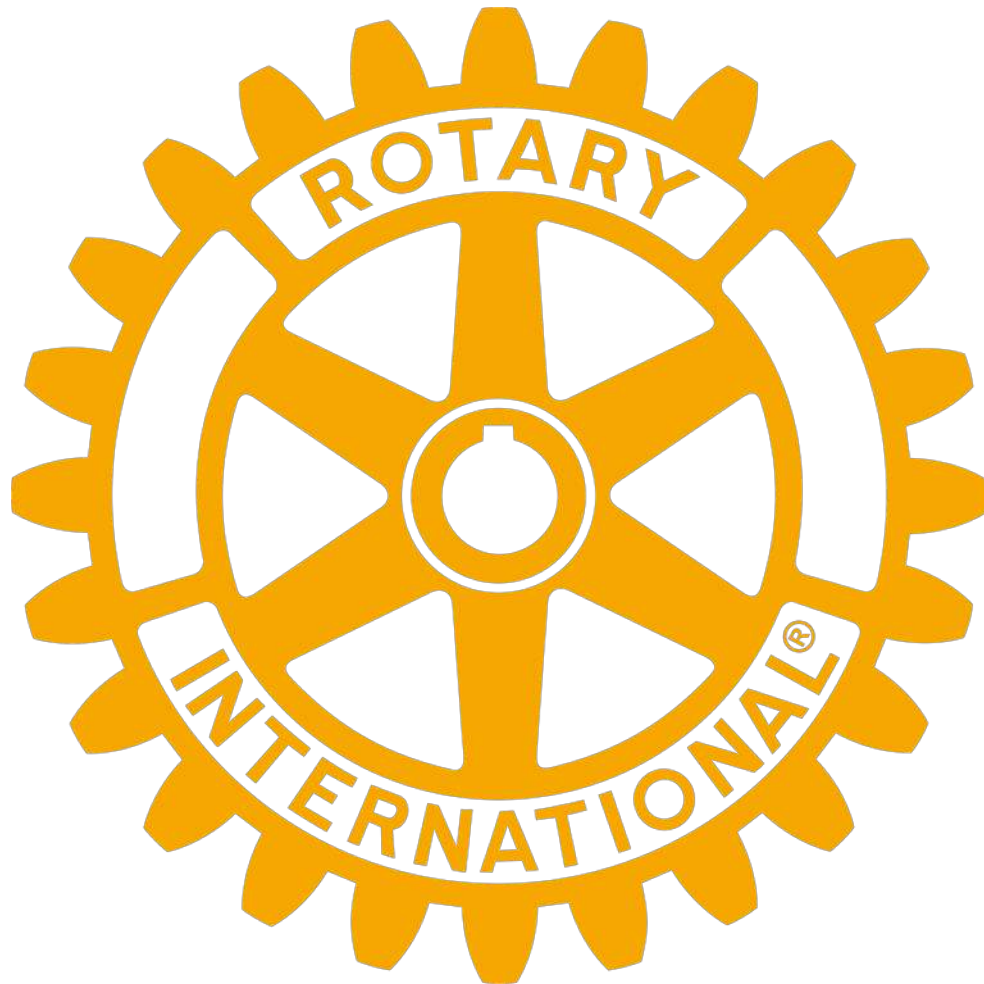
Rotary Club of Strathfield - Paul Harris Fellows

Warrent Abbott Domenico Alvaro Andrew Aravanis Bradley Ayres Janice Barrett Kevin Beltrame Bill Boyce Joan Brown Ross Brown AM Keith Byrn James Collins OAM David Croft AM Arthur Crossan Michelle Davies Shirley Del Prado Max Douglas Peter Douglas Dr Trevor Duxbury Roy Ellis Peter Foss Angelo Franco Kevin Freund Suzanne Freund Connie Galletta Dr Usha Garg Paul Giammarco Fred Haddon George Hallworth Christopher Haseldine George Helou Brian Hennell	Jennifer Hennell Rick Herro Trudy Ho Richard Horwood Bert Houston Mary Ingall Ted Ingall Brian Johnson Kamahl Umesh Kamkolkar Dr Eric Khu Niall King OAM Tony Lanzafame Kevin Lawrenson John Leftwich John Manenti Peter Manenti David Martin Raymond McCluskie Maree McDougall Rod McDougall Maurice Moroney Belinda Noonan Arie Pappas Allan Petersen Andrew Petersen Moira Pieterse Charles Pitt Thaya Ponniah Douglas Potter Terry Rohan	Joseph Saad Raymond Sherry Guru Singh Pallavi Sinha Lesley Smallwood Shane Smallwood Peter Smith Keith Stockall Harley Tarrant Megan Tarrant Alan Taylor Denise Taylor Stephen Taylor Allan Teale Bob Templeman Janel Templeman Denise Thomas Ron Thurgar Sal Tosto Grahame True Penny True Peter van der Sleen Gulian Vaccari Roger Vince Chris Virgona Rick Vosila John Watkins Euan Watson Janelle Watson Ray Wilson OAM Tim Wynn Jones
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