
ROTARY CLUB NEWS

NO. 3



STRATHFIELDROTARY.ORG.AU



SEPTEMBER 2025

BOOM BOOM BOOM: FRESH UPDATES INSIDE!

WHY LOCAL LEADERS CHOOSE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

At Strathfield Rotary, we see why community influencers gravitate toward volunteer organizations - it's where individual passion meets collective power. Local leaders thrive here because volunteer groups offer what solo efforts can't: a network of like-minded people ready to turn ideas into reality. When one member shares a solution, suddenly there's a team to execute it. Volunteer organizations create a multiplier effect where your expertise inspires others to contribute their skills, creating ripple effects far beyond individual achievement. This is where community influencers discover their greatest impact: surrounded by people who amplify their efforts into meaningful, sustained change.





10 September 2025 We were honoured to welcome **Dianne North OAM PDG**, who shared the inspiring work of **Interplast**, an organisation providing life-changing surgical care and medical training across the Pacific and Asia. Dianne spoke about how Interplast restores dignity and opportunity to patients while empowering local medical teams with vital skills. Her presentation highlighted the ripple effect of this work, how one surgery can change a life and uplift a community. To support Interplast's mission to help communities thrive, visit interplast.org.au



ROTARY WITH HEART: WHERE PURPOSE MEETS PEOPLE

It's easy to believe that Rotary is simply about BBQs and social gatherings, but the truth runs far deeper. Behind every apron and sizzling grill lies a group of people united by purpose, service, and compassion. The Rotary Club of Strathfield is a place where ideas grow into impact, where professionals, students, and community members of all ages come together to make a real difference. Our projects extend far beyond the park or the marquee from organising community events and health initiatives to mentoring young leaders and supporting global causes. Every meeting, every handshake, and every shared laugh builds something larger than ourselves: a network of kindness and action that turns goodwill into tangible change. Rotary is where friendship meets service, where purpose meets joy, and where every person has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully.

And while our club proudly honours experience, we are not defined by age, we are defined by energy, creativity, and heart. The Rotary Club of Strathfield welcomes all who are curious, compassionate, and ready to learn. It is a place where shared purpose turns into meaningful action. Whether you join to help or to connect, Rotary offers a place to belong.

SEPTEMBER IN ACTION & FELLOWSHIP

✱ 3 SEPTEMBER 2025 (TING LEE AND JENNIFER PHILPS)

Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) is an independent organisation with over 200 scientists dedicated to finding treatments and cures for serious conditions affecting children. Our aim is to make the incurable curable. Learn more at www.cmrijeansforgenes.org.au

✱ 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 (DIANNE NORTH OAM PDG - INTERPLAST)

Interplast provides life-changing surgery to patients and delivers training to local medical staff across the Pacific and Asia. Change a life through surgery today, and help communities thrive for years to come. interplast.org.au

✱ 17 SEPTEMBER 2025 (TREVOR WEEDING)

Thinking locally and making a difference in the community through our groundbreaking employee hosting solution. Trypod trypod.com.au, Trevor Weeding, 0404 231 631

✱ 24 SEPTEMBER 2025 (JULIANNE CHONG)

Anticoagulation Stewardship: What is it? Why do we need it? And how it took me around the world. Julianne Chong - Churchill Fellow 2023, PhD Candidate University of Sydney

✱ 27 SEPTEMBER 2025 (BUNNINGS BBQ)

Our Rotary Club was proud to run the Greenacre Bunnings BBQ last month!







PRESIDENT YING HO'S ADDRESS

What a remarkable month September has been for the Rotary Club of Strathfield! Every meeting sparkled with energy, meaningful connections, and the infectious enthusiasm that makes our fellowship so extraordinary. We were truly blessed to welcome incredible guest speakers who opened our hearts and minds to transformative possibilities. We began with Ting Lee and Jennifer Philps from the Children's Medical Research Institute, who beautifully illustrated how science and compassion unite to transform young lives. It was a delightful surprise to learn that Jennifer first spoke at our club about the work of CMRI some 20 years ago! It is always wonderful to continue long-standing partnerships with certain charities and organisations that we care deeply about. Another old friend of the club is PDG Dianne North OAM from Interplast. She visited us the following week and painted vivid pictures of hope through her powerful stories of life-changing surgical care across the Asia-Pacific region. Trevor Weeding's thoughtful reflections on thinking locally resonated deeply. Churchill Fellow Julianne Chong concluded our speaker series with fascinating insights on Anticoagulation Stewardship and the vital importance of collaboration in advancing global healthcare initiatives.

Beyond our exceptional speakers, the warmth of our fellowship truly made September magical. Our meetings buzzed with genuine laughter during Sergeant Sessions, friendly competition at the raffle table, and heartfelt moments of connection that remind us why we cherish being Rotarians. Here I want to thank and acknowledge our Sergeant Steven Argyris for his superb contributions. Every week, we are treated to highly entertaining and informative Sergeant Sessions! September also saw the first of our Greenacre Bunnings BBQs. Aruna and her barbecue team were able to rake in some \$1200 with all proceeds going towards our club. I'm deeply grateful to our members, service directors and their continued passion and teamwork. As we step into October, excitement builds for our Vocational Excellence Awards on 15 October, a wonderful celebration of professional excellence and community achievements that truly embody Rotary's core values. Together, we've demonstrated how consistent effort, genuine fellowship, and acts of kindness transform plans into meaningful impact. September continues to showcase our commitment to service, our unity as friends, and our shared belief that through Rotary, we create lasting positive change in our communities and beyond.

PICTURE-PERFECT MOMENTS



HONOURING 2024 EXCELLENCE & LASTING IMPACT

The Vocational Excellence Awards 2024 was a memorable celebration for the Rotary Club of Strathfield, bringing together community leaders and professionals to honour service, dedication, and integrity. Guided by Master of Ceremonies Gulian Vaccari and enriched by music from Velvet Dreams, the evening reflected Rotary's fellowship and commitment to excellence. With inspiring addresses from PDG David Croft, Sally Sitou MP, and Rory Nosworthy, the event highlighted how professional service can create lasting impact. The presentation of the prestigious Ray Sherry Shield by PP Peter Manenti and Mrs Nancy Sherry added a heartfelt touch, recognising individuals who go above and beyond in their professions. A year on, the influence of the awards continues to shine. Many recipients have advanced in their fields and strengthened their community contributions. Dr. Mohit Tolani, winner of the Ray Sherry Award, has seen remarkable growth, with his recognition helping to expand his dental practice and earning him further distinction. The awards have also fostered stronger connections among local professionals, encouraging collaboration and mentorship across sectors. The Vocational Excellence Awards remain a proud Rotary tradition, one that not only celebrates achievement but also inspires leadership, compassion, and lasting service within our community.



2024 Vocational Excellence Awardees

Alex Choe, Ann Sahajdak, Anna Ruth, Azalia Ahmat, Bud Verheijen, Camelia Vasile, Caroline Went, Cheng Yan, Chloe Minehan, Danielle Trevena, David Lai, Elena Zapevalova, Elizabeth Wang, Gaye Billingsley, Heidi Manson, Hui-Ching Baruah, Joanne Baldwin, Johanna Cooper, Julie Mannah, Kain De-Lisser Horwath, Kathryn Lewis, Melissa Nasko, Menno Tabernal, Dr. Mohit Tolani, Mohiz Hussein, Nidhi Sharma, Nishikant Grover, Pablo Salas Robles, Robert Poynting, Rosa Fonseca, Sandra Friskovec, Sadaharu Muramatsu, Sheriff Selim, Shirley Jacob, Sony Sodhi, Thomas Andrew Fry.



MANY CULTURES, ONE COMMUNITY

When we look at Strathfield, we see a mosaic of cultures, traditions, and experiences. Chinese, Russian, Indian, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Lebanese, and other communities contribute their unique stories to the life of our suburb. Religious groups, cultural associations, and political networks all play a role in shaping an environment where difference is not a barrier, but a bridge. When these communities collaborate, something remarkable happens: bonds grow stronger, stereotypes fade, and shared goals take centre stage. Studies show that diverse communities working together enjoy greater resilience, more innovation, and stronger collective wellbeing.

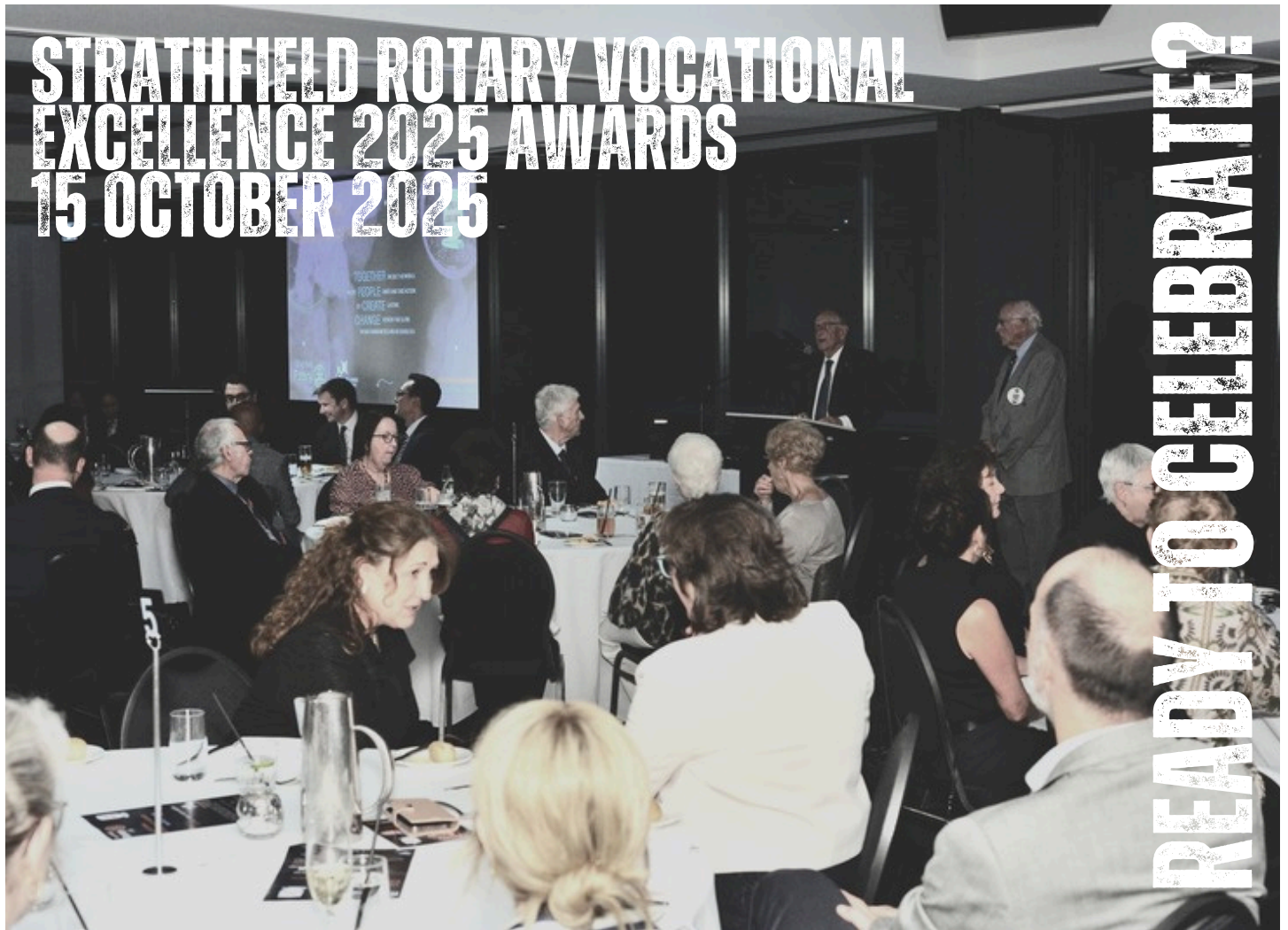
At the Rotary Club of Strathfield, every initiative becomes more meaningful when carried out with diversity in mind. By working with community leaders, cultural groups, and faith organisations, we create spaces for dialogue, partnership, and respect. Whether it's celebrating Lunar New Year with Chinese neighbours, engaging with the Indian community during Diwali, or supporting initiatives in business and culture, each connection deepens the fabric of fellowship. It is more than an event, it is a path toward a society where unity is achieved through diversity.

When people of different backgrounds gather to act together, the atmosphere transforms. Music, food, laughter, and traditions weave into one, creating experiences that uplift all involved.

Conversations become richer, perspectives grow broader, and challenges become easier to overcome when voices are heard. These shared moments are not fleeting; they become memories that travel across generations. Stories of cooperation, whether in charity drives, cultural festivals, or youth programs, remind us that what unites us will always be stronger than what divides us.

More importantly, shared experiences create ripples across the community. For young people, they build pride in heritage while opening doors to friendships and mentors. For families, they strengthen bonds through traditions, celebrations, and opportunities to give back. For elders, they bring recognition, belonging, and the chance to pass wisdom to future generations. And for civic and business leaders, they provide the foundation for collaboration, trust, and progress. Rotary offers the common ground where threads are woven together, creating a stronger, more vibrant Strathfield thriving on participation and respect.

So why join us? Because Rotary in Strathfield is about connection, diversity, and joy. It brings together people of every background, faith, and story, showing that collaboration builds resilience and enriches us all. When you attend a meeting or multicultural event, you discover the spirit of fellowship: it lifts the mind, nourishes the heart, and reminds us that in unity, we find strength. Come, be part of something greater.



Come and celebrate local excellence in Strathfield while showing your support for those who serve our community!

Join us for the **Vocational Excellence Awards**, proudly presented by the Rotary Club of Strathfield. This special evening recognises individuals and businesses making a real difference in Strathfield and nearby suburbs. From outstanding staff members to community-minded organisations, every nominee represents the spirit of dedication and service that strengthens our local area.

Award Ceremony: **15 October 2025**

Secure your place at this celebration night by:

vocationalexcellence.com.au

By **attending**, you're not only enjoying an evening of fellowship, entertainment, and recognition you're also shining a spotlight on people who go above and beyond. Every ticket purchased supports nominees and ensures their contributions are celebrated. We also welcome **sponsors** eager to showcase their brand locally. Sponsorship is a powerful way to connect with the community, gain visibility, and join an event that honours excellence. Contact us to explore packages and get involved.

Let's come together to celebrate people who inspire us. Buy your tickets, support the nominees, and be part of a night that uplifts, unites, and honours Strathfield.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ROTARY CLUB

Smart businesses recognize that community investment drives long-term success. The Rotary Club of Strathfield offers strategic sponsorship partnerships connecting you with engaged local leaders and professionals who value community-focused businesses. Through our events and initiatives, you'll build authentic relationships while gaining targeted exposure through our promotional channels.

Your sponsorship strengthens Strathfield's social and economic fabric. From Vocational Excellence Awards celebrating local talent to multicultural celebrations uniting our community, your support builds the thriving environment where your business operates. Your partnership positions you as a forward-thinking organization understanding the connection between community strength and business success. Contact Immediate Past President **Alexey Prokopenko** at alexey@kiteunion.com.au or 0432 833 024



UPCOMING EVENTS

Strathfield Rotary Club

STRATHFIELD ROTARY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AT

Rotary Meeting

YVETTE FACCHINI
DISCUSSION ON VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Cleena Bins

UNITE FOR GOOD

1 October 2025

Strathfield Rotary Club

STRATHFIELD ROTARY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AT

Rotary Meeting

MICHAEL NEWMAN
DISCUSSION ON VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Tele-Sense

UNITE FOR GOOD

8 October 2025

STRATHFIELD ROTARY CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR AWARDS CELEBRATION NIGHT

VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE 2025 AWARDS

PARTNERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

Strathfield Rotary Club

UNITE FOR GOOD

15 October 2025

Strathfield Rotary Club

STRATHFIELD ROTARY INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AT

Rotary Meeting

ANDREW RUST
DISCUSSION ON VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

INHOUSE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

UNITE FOR GOOD

22 October 2025

MEMBER'S NEWS



The Rotary Club of Strathfield is pleased to share that preparations are underway for our participation in the Strathfield Moon Festival on Saturday, 4 October 2025, from 1pm to 6pm at Homebush. Thanks to our member Aruna Chandrala's excellent coordination with Strathfield Council, our club has secured a complimentary stall to sell baked goods, soft drinks, and water, and to promote Rotary's service. This initiative reflects our commitment to being active and engaged in cultural celebrations.

Aruna, together with Charles, Rod, and Anjali, is organising logistics, payments, and supplies for the day. This event will be a great opportunity to engage with the community, showcase Rotary's work, and enjoy a day of celebration.



We are delighted to share that two members of the Rotary Club of Strathfield have been featured in Strathfield Council's post for the Community and Business Awards 2025. This exciting new initiative celebrates individuals and organisations making an outstanding impact across our local area. Our members' inclusion reflects their dedication to service, leadership, and the spirit of community that defines Rotary. Through their ongoing commitment to volunteerism, mentorship, and professional excellence, they continue to embody the values of connection and contribution that make Strathfield a vibrant and caring place. We congratulate our featured members for this recognition and encourage everyone in our community to get involved and submit nominations before 12 October 2025, helping us celebrate the people who make Strathfield shine.



YOUR ACTION. OUR CHANGE. LET'S DO THIS!

**YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE AN IMPACT: START YOUR
JOURNEY, BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER**

Strathfield Rotary Club was chartered on 14 March 1971

The Club meets on Wednesday, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

Meetings are held at the Event Centre Strathfield Golf Club

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Contact Secretary Nick Hamilton-Kane

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