

# Bulletin

2025-2026

**Ying  
Ho**

President 2025-2026

**Thomas D'Souza**

President 2026-2027

Strathfield  
**Rotary**  
Club



1 JULY 2026

CHANGEOVER





**Francesco Arezzo**

Rotary International President 2025-2026

**Renga Rajan Chidambaranathan**

District Governor 2025-2026

**Ying Ho**

Club President 2025-2026

**Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**

Rotary International President 2026-2027

**Shane Burette**

District Governor 2026-2027

**Thomas D'Souza**

Club President 2026-2027

**STRATHFIELD ROTARY PRESIDENTS**  
1971-2027

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

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

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

Nicholas Hamilton-Kane

Alexey Prokopenko

Ying Ho

Thomas D'Souza

**Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc**  
**Club Chartered 14 March 1971**  
**Club 18086**

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PRESIDENT

**YING HO**

PRESIDENT-ELECT

**THOMAS D'SOUZA**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT /  
CLUB SERVICE /  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**ALEXEY PROKOPENKO**

SECRETARY

**STEVEN ARGYRIS /  
NICK HAMILTON-KANE**

TREASURER

**PP CHARLES PITT**

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

**BRADLEY AYRES**

VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR

**ANJALI JAIN**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

**ARUNA CHANDRALA**

YOUTH DIRECTOR

**YVETTE FACCHINI /  
TRISHA KYI**

PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS

**STEVEN ARGYRIS /  
BRADLEY AYRES**



CONTRIBUTING WRITER SYSTEMS

**CHATGPT 40  
CLAUDE AI**



## **From President Ying**

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the 55th President of the Rotary Club of Strathfield. I am deeply grateful to our club for entrusting me with this opportunity.

The presidency has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Rotary journey, but it has also reminded me that leadership is rarely without its challenges. There have been moments that tested my resilience and resolve, yet it is often through these challenges that we grow the most. I leave this role with a deeper understanding of myself, of the people around me, of our organisation, and of what leadership truly entails.

As I mentioned in my opening address, I am especially honoured to have been only the third female President in our club's 55-year history. While this is a milestone worth recognising, it also serves as a reminder that the glass ceiling has not yet been fully broken. There is still important work to be done to encourage and support women in leadership roles, not only within Rotary, but across our communities. Greater diversity in leadership strengthens organisations, broadens perspectives and creates a more inclusive future for those who follow.

To every member who offered encouragement, advice, friendship and support throughout the year, thank you. Your kindness and commitment made this journey possible. Along the way, I have formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime, and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you for the opportunity to be your president. It has been one of the greatest honours of my Rotary life.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ying'.

President of  
Rotary Club of Strathfield

# Strathfield Event Centre 1 July 2026

## **PRE-DINNER DRINKS**

Pre-dinner drinks  
Call to Order

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Acknowledgement of Country  
Toast to Rotary International  
Response to Toast  
Raffle Announcement

## **MAIN BREAK**

Music  
Dinner  
Fellowship

## **OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITIONS**

The Maurie Awards  
Presentation of Awards  
Outgoing President's Address

## **INTERMEDIATE BREAK**

Fellowship

## **CHANGEOVER CEREMONY**

Presentation of Collar of Office and Pin to Incoming President  
Presentation of Past President Pin to Outgoing President  
Incoming President's Address  
Introduction of 2026-27 Board and Club Officers

## **CLOSING PART**

Raffle Draw  
Closing Remarks  
Music  
Fellowship







# MEETINGS, FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING

SPEAKERS, SOCIAL NIGHTS







# Guest Speakers: A Year of Remarkable Insight & Inspiration

This year, we were fortunate enough to hear some remarkable talks by presenters whose expertise, achievements and generosity of spirit greatly enriched our meetings and our minds. The calibre of speakers was exceptionally high covering an incredible breadth of topics.

A major highlight was the visit of Professor Elizabeth Thurbon, Deputy Dean, Director of Research, and Professor of International Political Economy in the School of Social Sciences at UNSW. She is currently serving an invited two-year term on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council (Equitable Transition). Professor Thurbon's presentation, "How Green Energy Can Boost National Security and What Australia Can Learn from China's Ambitious Green Energy Transition," was both timely and thought-provoking.



She challenged us to consider energy policy not simply as an environmental issue, but as a matter of national security, economic resilience and long-term strategic planning. Her depth of knowledge and ability to explain complex global issues in an accessible and engaging way made her talk one of the standout presentations of the year.

We were also privileged to hear from Professor Jamie Vandenberg, Deputy Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Professor Vandenberg completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge, and undertook further research at the University of Oxford before establishing himself as a leading figure in cardiac electrophysiology. His presentation gave members a fascinating insight into the world of medical research and the extraordinary work being undertaken to better understand, diagnose and prevent life-threatening heart conditions. It was a privilege to hear from someone working at the forefront of cardiac research.

Throughout the year, we also enjoyed presentations from a diverse range of other impressive speakers. To name a few, Karl McCunnie spoke on nuclear medicine for curing prostate cancer and non-melanoma skin cancers; architect Sachin Wakhare described the influence and inspiration of nature in his work; we heard from local legend Dr Grahame Dunn from Strathfield Private Hospital, and the work of the Children's Medical Research Institute; Neuro-Linguistic Specialist Sonya Furlong gave fascinating insights into communication; and Dr Mohit Tolani, dentist and Shell Harbour Citizen of the Year, inspired us with his professional and community contributions. We also welcomed Dr Jessica Teoh, NSW Young Woman of the Year 2025 and Churchill Fellow.

From green energy to cardiac research, nuclear medicine, architecture, dentistry, communication, our speaker program this year reflected the richness and diversity of knowledge within and beyond our community. Each speaker brought something unique and educational. In the words of one Rotarian, "you came away from each meeting and each speaker with little gems of thoughts..."

We thank all our guest speakers for so generously sharing their time, expertise and stories with us.





# Community Service

WE CONTINUED OUR COMMUNITY BBQS WITH FUNDRAISING AT THE NATIONAL TREE DAY, BUNNINGS BBQ IN GREENACRE, AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE PARK. WE ALSO PUT UP A STALL DURING THE MOON FESTIVAL IN HOMEBUSH WEST



## Social Events

This year, we continued our Past Members' Reunion Night, providing an opportunity to reconnect with former members whose contributions have helped shape the rich history of our club. It was wonderful to welcome familiar faces back, share memories, and strengthen the enduring friendships.

We also continued the initiative introduced by Past President Andrew Aravanis of holding the last Wednesday of each month as a Restaurant and Partners' Night. These evenings provided a relaxed and informal setting for members, partners and guests to socialise, enjoy good food, and get to know one another.

Throughout the year we tried a variety of venues across our local community, including the Ambassador's Training Restaurant operated by TAFE, Biryani Corner, The Concord Community Club (formerly the Croatian Club), the Crossways Hotel, and the Wentworth Hotel. Each venue offered a different experience and gave members the opportunity to discover local hospitality while enjoying each other's company.







# International Service

Rotary's strength lies not only in serving our local communities, but also in making a positive impact across the world. This year, Strathfield Rotary was proud to strengthen our international connections while supporting meaningful projects that improve lives beyond our shores.

We signed a Sister Club Agreement between the Wonju Sarang Rotary Club of Korea and the Rotary Club of Strathfield. In July last year, we welcomed a delegation from Wonju Sarang Rotary Club to Sydney, where members of both clubs came together to celebrate the beginning of what we hope will be a long and rewarding friendship. This partnership will provide opportunities for cultural exchange, collaboration on international service projects, and the strengthening of Rotary's global network of goodwill and understanding.



Our commitment to international service also extended to supporting projects that create lasting social impact.

We continued our partnership with the Rotary Club of Fusagasugá, Colombia and sponsored the Youth Batucada Project, funding the purchase of musical instruments. More than simply providing instruments, the project uses music as a powerful tool for social impact, cultural strengthening and youth development. By giving young people the opportunity to learn and perform together, the project strengthens community connections, nurtures creativity, and provides positive pathways for the future. Our club also supported the Animals Vanuatu Association, contributing to its important work in improving animal welfare throughout Vanuatu.



# Vocational Awards

We were proud to once again celebrate the remarkable individuals whose dedication, professionalism and service make our community a better place through our annual Vocational Excellence Awards. The lady who started the Vocational Excellence Awards at the Rotary Club of Parramatta, Paula Jesse, joined us as a guest of honour.

One of the most memorable moments of this year's ceremony marked a first in the history of the Awards. For the first time, the Ray Sherry Shield was jointly awarded to Sachin Wakhare and Dr Grahame Dunn. Both recipients demonstrated professional excellence and a deep commitment to serving others, making the judges' decision an exceptionally difficult one. In addition to the Ray Sherry Shield recipients, we warmly congratulate the ten other plaque winners, each recognised for their contributions within their respective professions and to the wider community.

This year's nominees were represented in the categories of Education; Professional, Essential Services and Volunteers; Medical and Human Services; Construction, Engineering and Trades; Business, Financial and IT Services; Hospitality and Entertainment; Retail Services; and Personal, Sport, Recreation and Animal Services.

The evening also provided an opportunity to support another worthy cause. Thanks to the generosity of those attending, proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Children's Medical Research Institute, helping to support vital research into childhood diseases and giving hope to children and families across Australia.

The success of the Vocational Excellence Awards was made possible through the dedication of the organising committee of Alexey Prokopenko, Ying Ho and Anjali Jain.

The Vocational Excellence Awards continue to be one of Strathfield Rotary's flagship events, recognising individuals who not only excel in their chosen professions but who also enrich our community through their commitment to serving others. Congratulations to all this year's recipients.





# Ray Sherry Shield

2025 JOINT WINNERS: SACHIN WAKHARE  
AND DR GRAHAME DUNN



This year we continued our support of important youth initiatives such as RYLA, sponsoring three candidates for the leadership program, RYPEN, MUNA, the Citizenship Awards, and Homebush Boys' Greatest Shave. It was also wonderful to hear presentations from the executive teams of the Interact Clubs of Homebush Boys and Meriden Girls at one of our Wednesday night club meetings.



## Youth Achievement Awards 2025/2026

On 27 May, nearly 200 people filled Strathfield Town Hall for the Youth Achievement Awards 2025/2026. This year, the Awards received a record number of nominations, with 48 nominees and 67 entries across various categories from 10 different local schools and youth organisations. The event was attended by the Mayor of Strathfield, Benjamin Cai, Deputy Mayor Sandy Reddy, Councillor John-Paul Baladi, Councillor Karen Pensabene, Councillor Esther Kim, Strathfield Girls High School Principal Mechel Pikoulas, Homebush Boys High School Principal Kevin Elgood, and senior staff from various local schools.

This year's event was a true collaboration between the Rotary Club of Strathfield and Strathfield Council. We are extremely grateful for Strathfield Council's generous support, including the signing of an MOU through which Council has loaned Strathfield Town Hall free of charge for the Youth Awards for the next five years. Jack Britton and his team from Strathfield Council were instrumental in the planning from the very beginning and every step of the way.

The evening also marked a year of many firsts. For the first time in the history of the Awards, we had two student MCs: Karambir Singh from Homebush Boys High School and Giorgia Mandelli from Strathfield Girls High School. We had musical performances by a string quartet from Symphonia Jubilate, Sachin Garg on piano, and Cynthia Bui on piano, one of this year's plaque winners. We had a brand new website dedicated to the awards created by past president Alexey Prokopenko, sponsored by Kite Union (<https://www.kiteunion.com.au>). Our keynote speaker Dr Anita Vandyke, a rocket-scientist and best-selling author of "A Zero Waste Life" delivered an awe-inspiring speech that left a lasting impression on everyone present.

I want to thank everyone who contributed significantly behind the scenes, Bradley Ayres, Usha Garg, Rod McDougall, Anjali Jain, Ed Dunlop (chair of adjudication panel), Alexey Prokopenko, and Jack Britton from Strathfield Council. Also a big thank you to everyone who was involved on the night. It was a special evening celebrating the excellence, achievements and commitment of youth in our community. The Youth Achievement Awards continue to be one of Strathfield Rotary's most meaningful community initiatives. This year's celebration showed not only the remarkable talent and dedication of our young people, but also the power of collaboration between Rotary, Council, schools, families and the wider community.

# NEW MEMBER

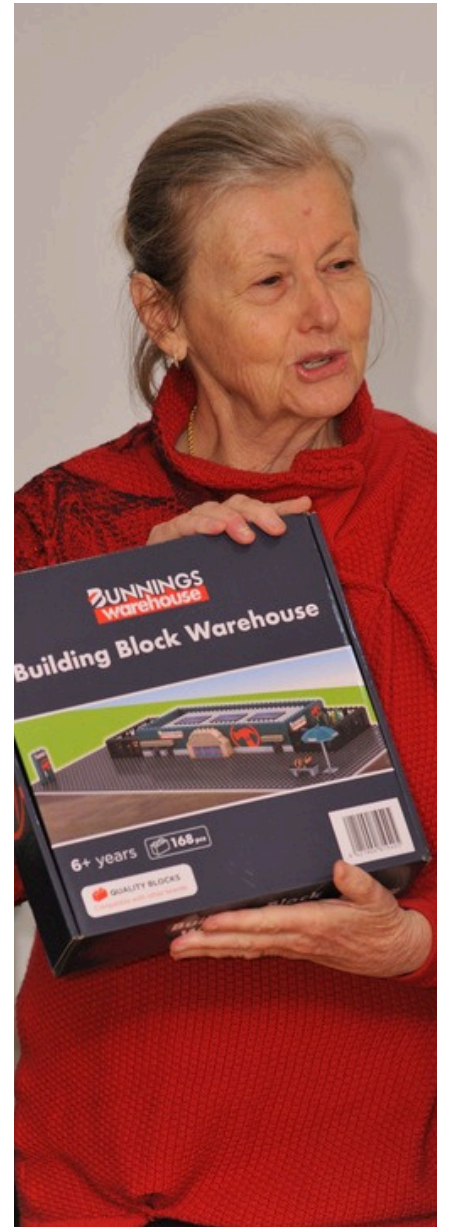
WE WERE PROUD TO INDUCT NEW MEMBER YVETTE FACCHINI. A TRUE STRATHFIELD LOCAL, YVETTE IS THE FOUNDER OF CLEENA BINS. SHE BECAME VERY ACTIVE IN THE CLUB, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY STEPPING INTO THE ACTING YOUTH SERVICE DIRECTOR AND ORGANISING THE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS AS WELL AS ASSISTING AND SPONSORING THE CAROLS IN THE PARK BBQ.

[HTTPS://CLEENABINS.COM.AU/](https://cleenabins.com.au/)

Cleena Bins













# In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of our member and dear friend Dr Prabhat Raj Sinha.

A doctor for more than fifty years, Dr Sinha served the community in many roles, including as Past President of Sri Mandir Temple and Past President of the United Indian Association. He was a devoted husband and father whose warmth, wisdom and ever-smiling presence left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Dr Sinha joined the Rotary Club of Strathfield in March 2016, during the presidency of Alan Petersen, having been proposed by then member Anuradha Kamkokar. During his time with the club he was an active and valued Rotarian, contributing generously through service and financial support. Together with Neena, he sponsored a number of club events and their generosity was recognised by the club. He served as International Service Director during Past President Rick Vosila's year and delivered several engaging vocational talks. One of his most memorable contributions was organising the Indian Cultural Night in 2018, which attracted more than 200 attendees and raised \$10,000 for Australian Rotary Health and \$2,000 for the Sri Om Care Foundation. Although his involvement decreased after moving away from Strathfield, he remained in contact with many friends in the club.

Prabhat is remembered as a refined, cultured, soft-spoken, humble and compassionate gentleman whose kindness and generosity touched many lives. He passed away in his beloved homeland of India, and his ashes were immersed in the Holy Ganges. Past President Usha Garg attended the Celebration of Life held by the family on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Dr Prabhat Sinha will be deeply missed by family, friends, fellow Rotarians and the wider community.



# Recognising Dedication

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS AND MEMBER LIST



## PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

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



## MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

Alvaro, Domenico	Building Construction	Li, Jason Yat-sen	Company Director
Anton, Paul	Property Management	Manenti, Peter	Hospitality Business Broker
Aravanis, Andrew	Insolvency Services	McCluskie, Raymond	Vocational Education
Argyris, Steven	Sales Engineer	McDougall, Rod	Information Technology
Ayres, Bradley	Electronic Manufacturing	Nair, Anoop	IT Professional
Bala OAM, A.	Medicine, Physician	Nicolas, Paula	Charity Organiser
Baladi, John-Paul	International Relations	Pappas, Arie	Real Estate Investor
Barrett, Janice	Special Education	Pitt, Charles	Accounting Services
Byrn, Keith	Motor Vehicle Repair	Ponniah, Thaya	Information Technology
Carney, William	Barrister	Prokopenko, Alexey	Information Technology
Challa, Jaya	Business Administration	Ratnam, Ranjan	Social Media Specialist
Chandrala, Aruna	Social Activist	Saad, Joe	Commercial Law
Chugg-Palmer, Dimitry	Government	Teale, Allan	Tertiary Education
Croft AM, David	Power Engineering	True, Grahame	Electrical Contracting
D'Souza, Thomas	Digital Marketing	Vaccari, Gulian	Pharmacy
Dunlop, Ed	NFP Management	van der Sleen, Peter	Electronic Engineering
Elias, Mathew	Dentist	Virgona, Chris	Real Estate Management
Ellis, Roy	Plastic Injection Moulding	Vosila, Rick	Information Technology
Garg, Usha	Safety Management	Watson, Janelle	Library Administratio
Giammarco, Paolo	Development & Construction	HONORARY MEMBERS:	
Giri, Kundan	Doctor	Freund, Suzanne	
Hamilton-Kane, Nick	Financial Law	Galletta, Connie	
Haseldine, Christopher	Solicitor	King OAM, Niall	
Helou, George	Food Wholesale Distribution	Leftwich, John	
Ho, Ying	Musician	Vince, Roger	
Jain, Anjali	Dermatologist	Wilson OAM, Ray	

**Rotary Club of Strathfield Inc**  
**Club Chartered 14 March 1971**  
**Club 18086**

PO Box 268 Strathfield NSW 2135

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Strathfield  
**Rotary**  
Club



With thanks to our great sponsor of this year's club changeover



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