



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# Rotary Club of Strathfield



## STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

13th June-2018

[www.strathfieldrotary.org.au](http://www.strathfieldrotary.org.au)

[info@strathfieldrotary.org.au](mailto:info@strathfieldrotary.org.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/strathfieldrotary>

### *Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes*

<i>Year of 2018</i>	-	International Year of the Reef (IYOR)
<i>Month of June</i>	Rotary	Rotary Fellowship Month
	Australia	Bowel Cancer Awareness Month
<i>Weeks of June</i>		
18th-24th June	International	World Continence Week
<i>Days of June</i>		
13th June	United Nations	International Albinism Awareness Day
14th June	United Nations	World Blood Donor Day
15th June	United Nations	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15th June	International	Global Wind Day
16th June	United Nations	International Day of Family Remittances
17th June	United Nations	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
18th June	United Nations	Sustainable Gastronomy Day
19th June	United Nations	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20th June	Australia	Red Apple Day (Bowel Cancer Australia)
20th June	United Nations	World Refugee Day

### *President's Report*

#### **Last couple of weeks**

Two weeks ago we experienced a very heartfelt presentation from DGN Di North about the important work of Interplast, and her own personal experiences with this wonderful organisation. Interplast sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals to provide life-changing surgery and medical training in 17 countries across the

Asia Pacific region. Some of the stories (and photos) that Di showed us on the night serve as a reminder of 1) Just how lucky we all are to be in a country with Australia's health system, and 2) Yet again what wonderful work Rotary does in communities where this type of surgery could never happen. Many thanks to Di for sharing her story with us.

As we were learning about how to properly address MPs, archbishops, mayors and the like on the night (in a light-hearted segment), we also learned about the 'DG Train', and its members. So, our current DG is Stephen Britten (we all know that). DGE is Sue Hayward (she starts on July 1). DGN is Di North. And, the term I didn't know was how to refer to Warwick Richardson, the guy who will succeed Di North as DG. Well, he's known as DGEN (District Governor Elect Nominee). Now we know!

And finally, last week it was great just to have a casual dinner and chat at the golf club, in a purely social gathering, ahead of State of Origin 1 played that evening. We had a good number of members come along; thanks to all who joined us.

#### **Our latest new member - Thaya Ponniah**

It was my great pleasure to induct our latest new member last week – Thaya Ponniah. Thaya, although new as a member to our club, is no stranger to Rotary. He had a long and distinguished career in his club in Sri Lanka, The Rotary Club of Colombo South, in District 3220. There he served as a Past President, Conference Chairman, was district official, is a major donor and also a PHF recipient. We are indeed fortunate to have someone of the pedigree and calibre of Thaya joining our club. Please continue to make him feel very welcome in all our club activities.

#### **More new member inductions to come!**

Wait! There are more new members to induct this week and next. Tonight

we will welcome to our ranks, Jaya Challa. Again, please make Jaya feel very welcome as we formally induct her to our club tonight. I'm hoping to induct two more new members next week. Please do come along to these evenings; they are special for our new members.

#### **Changeover – book it now!**

We're planning a truly gala affair with our Changeover this year. Invitations are out – thanks to Secretary Rod for once again making all this happen! We are using Humanitix as the booking system, as described last week; please book online as soon as you're able so we can make all necessary logistics planning for the night. This will be a great showcase of the work of Rotary and of our club, so it will be a good opportunity to invite some friends and family along too.

#### **This week**

This week we will be hearing from Peter Kerr on the topic of autism, possibly one of the most misunderstood of the developmental disorders by the general public. I'm sure we will all once again learn a lot tonight.

#### **Next couple of weeks**

Next week sees our last 'regular' club meeting here in the golf club for this Rotary year. The week after that we're at Old Government House in Parramatta for the Ghost Tour, and then we transfer to the Changeover the week after that. Let's all see if we can make it along to these last few meetings to see out the year, thanks.

*Rick*



## *Last week's speaker: Fellowship meeting*

...and state of origin night.



## *Previous week's speaker: DGN Di North*

No report received.



## *This Week's speaker: Peter Kerr*

Tonight, we welcome Peter Kerr. Peter is Head Teacher Support, at Strathfield South High School.

Having spent two of his twelve years in special education, Peter was instrumental in the establishment at the school of a specialist class for students with Autism in 2013. In 2018, the school has five Autism support classes, and is recognised as a centre of excellence in this field.

His work has helped to raise awareness and promote inclusion for an often-marginalised and widely

misunderstood group who have much to offer our society.

Peter's focus is very much in assisting his students to become effective, collaborative citizens of their community, and he provides them with skills in accessing public transport, attending to daily needs such as shopping and ordering food, and the development of pro-social interactions with strangers and in public places.



## *Next Week's event: John Paul Baladi*

John is a new member of our Club. He is currently at University, where he

studies International Relations (or Foreign Affairs).



## Dates for the Calendar



<i>Rotary Events</i>			
<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Event/speaker</i>	<i>To introduce</i>	<i>To thank + Speaker write-up</i>
Wed 13th June 2018	Autism <b>Peter Kerr</b>	Guru Singh	Chris Virgona
Wed 20th June 2018	Stepping up for the overseas poor <b>John Paul Baladi</b>	Gulian Vaccari	Janelle Watson
Wed 27th June 2018	Ghost tour old Government House	-	-
Wed 4th July 2018	Transfer to Saturday 7-7-18	-	-
Sat 7th July 2018	<b>Changeover night</b>	-	-

<i>Birthdays</i>	
7th June	Ed Dunlop
13th June	Afaf Helou
13th June	Nick Nicolaou

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
10th June	Domenico and Johanna Alvaro (wedding)

## Do You Know?

One area of special emphasis for Rotary clubs is providing “**new opportunities for the ageing.**” In 1990, the RI Board of Directors urged Rotarians to identify new projects serving the elderly that emphasise intergenerational activities and the integration of seniors into society and the workplace.

With the substantial upswing in the worldwide population of older persons, their needs for special attention have greatly multiplied. As citizens grow older, it becomes increasingly important for them to retain their personal independence and to remain in control of their own lives to the extent this is possible.

Many Rotary clubs are seeking ways to serve the older persons of their community who face problems of deteriorating health, loneliness, poor nutrition, transportation difficulties, inability to do customary chores, loss of family associations, reduced recreational opportunities, inadequate housing and limited information about available social agencies for emergency assistance.

Some clubs have initiated a valuable community service to assist older persons in retirement planning and adjustment by organising and sharing the wealth of information available within the club's membership. Other clubs have developed foster grandparent programs and other

intergenerational activities that allow seniors to use their experience and knowledge to help young people.

Rotarians often can provide services that seniors can no longer do for themselves.

The greatest need of ageing individuals is frequently a mere expression of real caring and concern by thoughtful friends. All Rotarians should seriously consider how they and their clubs might actively participate in programs for the ageing.

*David Croft*



## *The statistics*

Attendance last meeting (06-06-18)	not avail
Leave of absence	not avail
Apologies	not avail
No apology	not avail
Club membership	<b>46</b>
Partners & Guests	not avail
Members Rotary activities	Week ending 05-06-18: <b>24</b> [hours]

<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$ not avail
Sergeants session	\$ not avail



## *Your Committee 2017-2018*

President	Rick Vosila	Secretary	Rod McDougall
President Elect	Charles Pitt	Sergeant	Anuradha Kamkolkar
Immediate Past President	Stephen Taylor	Treasurer	Charles Pitt
Youth	Arie Pappas	Community	Andrew Aravanis
International	Prabhat Sinha	Vocational	Paolo Giammarco
		Club Services	Bradley Ayres

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master & Facebook	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	Selectprint	Apologies	Gulian Vaccari

