



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



Namaste

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
21st October 2020

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

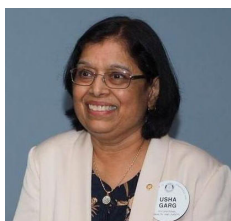
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<https://www.facebook.com/strathfieldrotary>

Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<i>Month of October</i>		
-	Rotary	Economic and Community Development Month
<i>Weeks of October</i>		
19th - 25th Oct	Aust	National water week
19th - 25th Oct	Aust	Aussie Backyard Bird Count
24th - 30th Oct	UN	Disarmament Week
<i>Days of October</i>		
21st October	Aust	National Ride2Work Day
24th October	Rotary	World Polio Day
24th October	UN	United Nations Day
24th October	UN	World Development Information Day
27th October	UN	World Day for Audio-visual Heritage

President's Report



Usha Garg
President

"Have I gone mad? I'm afraid so. You're entirely BONKERS. But I'll tell you a secret. ALL THE BEST PEOPLE ARE" said the Mad Hatter.

Well, how often we have felt the same, when we think outside the box.

Many thanks for your enthusiastic participation in our Partners Night last week to make a great Hat Day. It was a pleasure to welcome eight partners – all of them sharing in the spirit of the evening.

The icing on the cake was the presentation by Ross Mitchell the owner of Forte Catering and Events, who look after us so well. Armed with data and facts, his eloquent description of the devastation heaped on the hospitality industry by the spread of Covid19 infections, had us all profoundly

emotional and contemplative. His personal experiences and great insight of the impact on the industry showed us a grim picture of the rapid disappearance of celebrations, huge loss of employment, accompanied by the folding of multiple companies. More about this further down the bulletin.

Many thanks to all for donning their choice of designer hats, and whole heartedly joining this event to create awareness and raise some funds for Australian Rotary Health (ARH). We had owl hats, dog hats, beanies, feather hats, pink hats, purple hats, black hats, straw hats, panamas, tarbushes, bucket hats, trilbys, fedoras, Akubras and the mad hatter's hat. And I may still have missed some here.

ARH has been around for nearly 40 years now, financing research in all health areas, but more towards mental health. ARH is well known to provide finance for research where no one else will tread and also support students who have not been able to find funding elsewhere. Under the umbrella banner of "lift the lid on mental illness", multiple events can be held and we chose to have a hat day to raise awareness of mental health issues. Talking of umbrella's, Nick Hamilton-Kane and Jan Barrett were the popular choice winners of the umbrella prizes for the of best man's and woman's hat. But who won the wooden spoon? Ahaa! here is a clue... the dog hat went missing! Tune in next week for a solution to this riddle. Winners were popular choices and not judged by panels or drawn out of a hat.

We have many events coming up this week. There is a polio train ride rendezvous with the district polio team at Strathfield Station on the afternoon of Friday the 23rd of October. On the following day, 24th October, many

members of the club will meet at the Strathfield Town Hall to participate in the recording of a video as part of the celebrations of Christmas Carols with Strathfield Council.

Latest correspondence from RI informs us that in these difficult times, people are yearning to connect with others and find ways to give back to their communities. They see how Rotary clubs around the world are actively working to take care of each other, their neighbours, and those in need during the pandemic. Almost 19,000 visitors to Rotary.org have expressed interest in joining a Rotary club since July 2016. In this connection RI is holding a webinar "connecting with prospective members in your community". Details on how to join the webinar are provided later in the bulletin.

Some of our members have been spending time at Concord Hospital in the past weeks but we have good news from them. PP Peter Smith is home after a lengthy sojourn at the ICU at Concord Hospital. Luckily he believes being home is definitely better. Good news from Bradley as well, he is well on the mend. Roy's visit was a little shorter, following a minor incident at the Bunnings barbecue. We wish them a speedy return to normal health.

This week we move to a different topic and get an NBN update from the Community Ambassador for NBN Co, Geeth Geeganage. Geeth speaks to organisations across NSW about the rollout and scams awareness. We look forward to hearing from him and also discussing some of our queries regarding NBN.

Usha Garg

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## *Speaker previous week: Ross Mitchell*

Last Wednesday at our in-person meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from Ross Mitchell, Managing Director of Forte Catering and Events as our guest speaker. As caterer of the Strathfield Events Centre, Ross topic was "COVID-19 Impact on the Hospitality Industry".



Ross commenced his career as a kitchen hand at Pancakes at the Rocks at age 14y 10m. Ross' career quickly progressed whereby at 21 years of age he was joint General Manager of the Pancakes on the Rocks group, managing twenty one restaurants. He developed a close working relationship with his Co-General Manager Mark Tallon, to the extent that they left to form their own business and to this day remain business partners in their two very successful businesses Forte Catering and Nosh Hospitality (one of Sydney's premier corporate hospitality and event staffing agency).

Ross provided us with a first-hand insightful look at the devastating impact of COVID-19. He provided us many examples such as the International Convention Centre which previously catered for up to 10,000 patrons now

reduced to a capacity of 350 patrons. Ross also discussed the many large scale events which contribute significantly to our economy which have been cancelled such as F1, City to Surf where Forte managed all the hospitality etc.

We also heard about the real numbers, the breakdown of costs and how government stimuli has helped many businesses survive. Ross showed us how Forte have had to reinvent themselves given the new restraints to endure the current market conditions.

This talk was not only insightful, it provided many of our members an opportunity to get to know Ross a little better. Ross is a significant partner of our club, as Forte host our weekly meetings\meals and our main events including our recent Celebration Dinner and numerous awards events.

Finally, it was a great opportunity for our members to thank Ross and his team, particularly Amanda for looking after us. It was a splendid informative and interesting talk enjoyed by all.

Many thanks again to Ross and his team.

PS: Did you know that Ross' dad was a Rotarian? I think he will make a great Rotarian one day!



*Writeup by  
Arie Pappas*

## *Speaker for this week: Geeth Geeganage*

Geeth Geeganage is a Community Ambassador for the NBN Co and lives in Blacktown! He speaks to organisations across NSW about the rollout, scams

awareness and is happy to answer questions during or at the end of the presentation.

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## *Reports from Directors*



**Dimitry Palmer**  
*Secretary*

There is a new member in the Palmer Family!!

Dimitry would like to introduce his new puppy; Winston.

Winston is a Cavoodle (King Charles Cavalier - Poodle cross), and is now 9



weeks old. His instagram page is @winnie.thecavoodle



**Peter Smith**  
Youth Service Director

Many thanks for your kind and good wishes – I certainly appreciated the “personal” messages on the BIG card. A great morale boost at just the right time. I came out of hospital last night – it wasn’t an eight day holiday but the staff and doctors were wonderful. Hope to be back at Rotary ASAP. Fondest Regards.

I am pleased to advise that Ishu Rawat, who is a long-time member of Homebush Boys Interact Club has been appointed/elected as School Captain for 2021. Ishu attended RYPEN in April 2019 and is a regular volunteer at all Interact fundraising functions – including being a regular at the Concord Markets. Ishu has also volunteered with the Red Shield Appeal for at least the last 2 years (except 2020!).

## *District News*

Dear Rotarian

Please be advised that the D9675 AGM scheduled to be held at Strathfield Golf Club on November 6th, is to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, and COVID difficulties with the auditors.

The Financial Reports were to be distributed with 21 days notice and this can now not occur.

The date of the AGM will (pending availability) be at the scheduled venue, but be postponed to a date to be

determined. You will be notified as soon as possible of the new date.

These are unusual times so please keep well and stay safe.

Best Regards,  
Warwick Richardson.  
District Governor 2020/2021  
Rotary Club of Wollondilly North Inc.  
District 9675, Australia.  
P. +61 246596064  
M. +61 418978555  
E. wardenmobile@gmail.com

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## *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> | <i>Venue</i>              |
| Wed 21st Oct         | <b>Geeth Geeganage</b><br>(Community Ambassador for NBN Co)<br>NBN update        | Gulian Vaccari      | Janelle Watson                     | Zoom                      |
| Wed 28th Oct         | <b>Dr Neil Jeyasingam</b><br>"Batman and what he teaches us about mental health" | tba                 | tba                                | Strathfield Events Centre |
| Wed 4th Nov          | <b>Shannon Chin</b><br>Cognitive health & Well-being                             | Trudy Ho            | Janelle Watson                     | Zoom                      |

### *Birthdays*

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 24th October | Marvin Manrique-Velasquez |
|--------------|---------------------------|

### *Anniversaries*

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 21st October | Rick Vosila (Rotary)           |
| 21st October | Bill and Mira Carney (wedding) |



## *The Rotary Statistics*

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance last meeting (14-10-20) – in person | 20        |
| Club membership                                | <b>44</b> |
| Partners                                       | 8         |
| Guests                                         | 4         |

| <i>Funds raised</i>         |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Raffle (pre-payment system) | -         |
| Sergeant's session          | \$199.60* |
| Heads and tails             | Not held  |

\* To be donated to Australian Rotary Health in support of Hat Day

## *Your Committee 2020-21*

|                          |               |              |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| President                | Usha Garg     | Secretary    | Dimitry Palmer     |
| President Elect          | tba           | Sergeant     | Nick Hamilton-Kane |
| Immediate Past President | Arie Pappas   | Treasurer    | Rod McDougall      |
| Youth                    | Peter Smith   | Community    | Allan Teale        |
| International            | Thaya Ponniah | Vocational   | Janice Barrett     |
| Public Officer           | Rod McDougall | Club Service | Alexey Prokopenko  |

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

## *From Rotary International*

Join us for a webinar on **Connecting with Prospective Members in your Community** on **Thursday, 22 October at 18:00** Chicago time (UTC-5). Attendees will view a demo of how to effectively use Rotary's Membership Leads platform to connect with prospective members, and participate in a Q&A with Rotary staff from the Membership Development team. During this webinar, you'll learn about:

- Navigating your club's Manage Membership Leads platform in My Rotary
- The impact that connecting with membership candidates could have on your club
- Best practices and strategies for connecting virtually with prospective members in your community

[Register now](#) to reserve your spot! After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with directions on how to join the webinar. All registrants will receive a copy of the slides and a recording of the presentation afterward.

## *Out and About: Hat Day*





Rotary 

## Join the Train Ride to End Polio!

Prior to World Polio Day, Friday 23 October 2020  
across the entire Sydney train network – 189 stations

**help raise \$1 million – sponsor a rider, run an event**

- ☐ create public awareness – polio and club
- ☐ raise funds through sponsorship & events
- ☐ engage your members in a fun activity
- ☐ Rotary Citation event
- ☐ help end polio



We will be in the fourth carriage

## ACTION PLAN

The Rotary Foundation 

- ☐ **Participate in ride**
  - o fellowship, fun & fundraising
  - o check event train schedule
  - o meet us at your station
    - o join the ride
    - o make a contribution
- ☐ **Sponsor riders**
  - o individuals \$1 per station
  - o clubs \$10 per station
  - o attract third party sponsors
- ☐ **Create an event**
  - o tin rattle at station
  - o paint pinkie purple for polio
  - o purple cupcakes for polio
  - o get creative!
- ☐ **Register participation**
  - o fundraising event
  - o as a rider
  - o your contribution
- ☐ **Public awareness**
  - o wear red EPN shirt
  - o local newspaper
  - o Facebook
  - o club newsletter
  - o friends of the club
  - o politicians
  - o local / state / federal
- ☐ **For more info:**
  - o contact your District End Polio Chair
  - o RISPPPO
    - o Mark Anderson
    - o Rob Byrne

**District End Polio Chair:**  
D9675 – PDG Sue Hayward  
D9685 – PDG Bob Aitken



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**SelectPrint**  
16 The Crescent  
Homebush NSW 2140  
T: 02 9746 6434  
E: selecthomebush@gmail.com