



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



Namaste

STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675

23rd September 2020

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

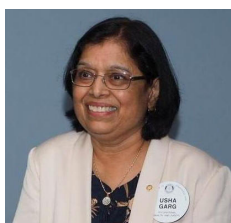
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Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<i>Month of September</i>		
-	Rotary	Basic Education and Literacy Month
-	Aust	Biodiversity Month (1- 30 September)
<i>Weeks of September</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Days of September</i>		
23rd September	UN	International Day of Sign Languages
24th September	UN	World Maritime Day
26th September	UN	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
27th September	UN	World Tourism Day
28th September	UN	International Day for Universal Access to Information
28th September	UN	World Rabies Day
29th September	UN	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste
30th September	UN	International Translation Day

President's Report



Usha Garg
President

Last week we had a very pleasant, relaxed and informative official visit from our new DG, Warwick Richardson. Just to bring home the time and effort put in by

our district leadership team, this was his fifth virtual visit and talk to a club for that day. Bravo! Seeing and hearing from him, made us aware that 202-21 year was well and truly here and moving forward fast.

Our meeting schedule of alternating between virtual and face to face meeting has worked great for most of our members. However it creates challenges to manage the speakers, who often have a

specific preference appropriate to their topic of presentation. We now have set days for meetings at the SEC and virtual meetings and arrangements have been agreed with the SEC. We are thankful to Rtn Janelle Watson for managing these requirements well.

Yesterday during a casual conversation with a colleague, the question came up, what next? This immediately reminded me of the Irish proverb 'when fishermen cannot go to sea, they mend their nets'. There are times in our lives where we may not be able to do things we have always done, in the way we have always done them. I am finding that mending the net time is great to reinvigorate ourselves by one to one discussions with each other in the club.

In this vein, last week Rtn. Jan Barrett and myself found an opportunity to spend some time together planning for our

School Community Gardens project. Besides planning, in the coming days, we would like to see many events take shape; perhaps, a membership night, youth awards, pride of workmanship awards, or some surprise event? Ideas are welcome. In the meantime we have some excellent speakers booked up.

This week we hear from an amazing young man, who came to Australia for higher studies from Mongolia and is now returning back on completion of studies. He will share his experiences here while showing us not just glimpses but a good view of life in Mongolia. Sounds magnificent - sitting in the comfort of our own home, this show comes to us.

Look forward to seeing you all

Usha Garg

Member Announcements



Arie Pappas
Past president

Many thanks to all who contributed to and attended the Celebration Dinner on Saturday 12 September 2020 at Strathfield Event Centre. This event took place in lieu of the Changeover Dinner which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The theme of this event was a "Celebration" of our members and their achievements. As is well documented, many people did not attend the dinner due to fear of the pandemic, despite this

the event was a sell-out with over eighty people in attendance including numerous dignitaries from all levels of government and notable Rotary District representatives as follow:

- Dr Fiona Martin Federal Member for Reid
- Ms Jodi McKay Member State Member for Strathfield & Leader of the Opposition and Hon. Member Strathfield Rotary Club
- Cr Karen Pensabene Deputy Mayor Strathfield Council
- Cr Maryanne Duggan Strathfield Council
- Cr Gulian Vaccari and Strathfield Rotarian
- Mr Henry Wong General Manager Strathfield Council

- Mr Warwick Richardson District Governor
- Ms Dianne North OAM Immediate Past District Governor
- Mr David Croft AM Past District Governor and Strathfield Rotarian

In addition, there were numerous special guests representing various community groups including Fr. James Collins from St Paul's Parish, Rosemary King from St Paul's Parish Pantry and Rev. Sarah Lee from Foodbank.

It was an unforgettable event which will remain forever in our memories with many individual's receiving very prestigious awards and our club receiving the top award in the District as follows:

Individual Awards:

- Centurion Awards to PP Rod McDougall and Paolo Giammarco (did not attend)
- Rotary International "Major Donor Award" to PP Roy Ellis and named "Paul Harris Fellow"
- Gulian Vaccari and Andrew Aravanis named "Paul Harris Fellows"
- Presentation of "Roy Ellis Shield" to PP Roy Ellis
- Rotary International "Avenues of Service Award" to PP Thaya Ponniah
- Club Awards:
- Rotary Citation to Homebush Boys High School Interact Club presented to PP Peter Smith & Georgia Anton (HBHS Interact Co-Ordinator)
- Rotary International "Significant Service Award" to Strathfield Rotary Club for COVID-19 Project
- Rotary Citation to Strathfield Rotary Club with Presidential Distinction – Platinum (highest category)

- District 9675 "Rotary Club of the Year" to Strathfield Rotary Club

Congratulations to all those named above and indeed ALL members for their tremendous efforts in ensuring we were named Rotary Club of the Year for District 9675, which represents a total of 58 clubs. This is a monumental achievement which certainly holds our club in good stead for the future both in terms of growth and also leverage for the projects we undertake and the partners we work with. Special thanks to PP Thaya "The Little Engine That Could" Ponniah on an outstanding year. In addition thank you to PP Rod McDougall "the backbone of our club".

Thank you to the organizing committee PP Rod McDougall, PP Raymond McCluskie, PP Roy Ellis, PP Thaya Ponniah and Trudy Ho for an outstanding job in putting the event together. Many thanks to Strathfield Event Centre for their professional service and delicious meals, to PP Thaya for organising The NSW Police Band featuring saxophone soloist Dr Henshaw as our splendid entertainment. Thanks to all those that contributed, and/or presented at the event including PDG David Croft AM, PP Keith Byrn, Pres. Usha Garg and as always well done to our charismatic MC PP Rick Vosila for keeping us all entertained. Thank you also to our raffles team of Trudy Ho & PP Roy who organised the raffle and raised \$2080 on the night, with all proceeds going to Concord Hospital.

[Apologies to all concerned, as this report should have appeared in last week's bulletin – Ed]

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## *Speaker previous week: DG Warwick Richardson*

Following a introduction from our own AG Rick Vosila, DG Warwick jumped in at the deep end describing how in the last few months with the rapid onset of the COVID Lockdowns, the district leadership team got together to develop the web based training, education, information systems and conference platforms. Some examples of these included, pre-recorded discussions, role play acting videos, interactive web based learning providing instant feedback to users. I must say that putting all this information together was no mean feat. I have been a privileged user of these information systems The three learning platforms, My District, My Rotary and My Learning, with which we are all now a little familiar and are there for us to make use of to keep up to date with the latest ideas from District and Rotary.

He discussed his experiences of virtual and face to face meetings and believed the future would see more and more hybrid meetings. Virtual meetings had attracted and helped recruit more younger members as they allowed flexibility and saved time from travelling. A food for thought, worth considering for the new normal in the post COVID times!

We heard about the many District initiatives and events in the coming year and were encouraged to contribute and participate as much as we can. Some of these initiatives are listed below:

- Rotary in Australia is reaching the 100th year milestone and the district leadership team will focus on the Centenary of Rotary in Australia and will roll out many centenary projects to celebrate the occasion. There will be a commemorative stamp and coin released to mark the occasion.
- The district conference has been launched and will take place in

March next year as a face to face meeting subject to prevailing conditions. Titled "Opening Opportunities Through Rotary", the conference will be a gathering of high-class international speakers.

- Early this year, Rotary International announced the addition of a new area of service - Environment and Sustainability. Expected to be a big draw card for Rotoractors, the district acted fast and with foresight and established an Environment and Sustainability committee in June this year. Clubs are encouraged to participate in this new area of service by creating their own projects or combine with other clubs and district to address issues.
- Jennifer Jones, the first woman to be RI president in 2022-23 is expected to visit Australia sometime in the year. There will many events and opportunities to meet her and members should keep themselves informed and avail of these opportunities.
- We heard the great news about the African Region of Nigeria certified as wild poliovirus free. As Rotarians, we should all feel proud of helping to achieve this amazing milestone and continue our contributions towards the foundation. World Polio Day falls on 24th October and we should respond by making our contribution toward polio elimination. A new initiative of our district for Polio fund raising was a partnership with Darrell Lea chocolates.
- International Peace Day falls on 21st September and is celebrated as a day to as collaborate and bring about global harmony. Members

are expected to work towards this goal and observe a minute silence for the peace day. Schools can consider installing peace poles.

On behalf of our club, I assured DG Warwick that our club is part of the district Rotary family and members of our club would no doubt participate in as many district endeavours as we can and work as a team.

A vigorous Q & A session ensued following the talk. There were questions

galore on various subjects not excluding non-Rotary matters such as cars. DG Warwick was put through a gruelling test from many car enthusiasts in our club and luckily his knowledge in this field was not found wanting. It was a very enjoyable and relaxed meeting with lots of questions, discussions, fun and fellowship. We look forward to meeting him again.

*Writeup by Usha Garg*

*Speaker for this week: Munkh-Erdene Bayartai*

*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 23rd Sept        | <b>Munkh-Erdene Bayartai</b><br>Mongolia: A traveller's guide                       | Charmaine Langley   | Peter van der Sleesen              | Zoom                      |
| Wed 30th Sept        | <b>Ying Ho</b><br>The power of Music and Music Education                            | Janelle Watson      | Alexey Prokopenko                  | Strathfield Events Centre |
| Wed 7th Oct          | <b>Danjela Prahovic</b><br>Improving the life skills of young people via technology | Trudy Ho            | Dimitry Palmer                     | Zoom                      |

| <i>Birthdays</i> |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 23rd September   | Domenico Alvaro |
| 23rd September   | Georgia Anton   |
| 24th September   | Keith Byrn      |
| 28th September   | Joe Saad        |

| <i>Anniversaries</i> |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 30th September       | Gulian and Simone Vaccari (wedding) |



## *The Rotary Statistics*

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance last meeting (16-09-20) – Zoom | 20        |
| Club membership                           | <b>45</b> |
| Partners                                  | 0         |
| Guests                                    | 2         |

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

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## *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 |            |                   |

# 3 Abstract Painters

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Julienne Harris  
Doug Purnell  
Jeannette Siebols



Jeannette Siebols, *Slender Threads*, 2020, oil on canvas

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## Opening at the McGlade Gallery

Australian Catholic University, Strathfield  
Saturday afternoon, 12th September 2-4pm  
Continuing until Saturday 24th October

There will be a Covid-safe opening.  
Please RSVP to [Diane.Merrilees@acu.edu.au](mailto:Diane.Merrilees@acu.edu.au)  
9701 4140 if you wish to attend.  
Please observe social distancing and hand hygiene.  
We recommend that you wear a face mask.

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McGlade Gallery  
Australian Catholic University, Strathfield  
Gate 3,  
25A Barker Road,  
Strathfield N.S.W.

Gallery hours:  
11am to 4pm Monday to Saturday

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