



Rotary

Club of Strathfield



STRATHFIELD ROTARY BULLETIN

DISTRICT 9675
16th March 2022

www.strathfieldrotary.org.au

info@strathfieldrotary.org.au

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

Rotary, United Nations and Australian Themes

<i>Year 2022</i>		
-	UN	International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development
-	UN	International Year of Glass
-	UN	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
<i>Month of March</i>		
-	Rotary	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
<i>Weeks of March</i>		
21st-27th Mar	Aust	Sustainable Seafood Week
<i>Days of March</i>		
20th March	UN	International Day of Happiness
20th March	UN	French Language Day
21st March	UN	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21st March	UN	World Poetry Day
21st March	UN	International Day of Nowruz
21st March	UN	World Down Syndrome Day
21st March	UN	International Day of Forests
22nd March	UN	World Water Day

President's Report



Thaya Ponniah
President

My fellow Rotarians and friends of Rotary,

Women Empowerment – Rotarian's Walk
the Talk

I strongly believe that women's empowerment is not about making women stronger. Women are already strong; it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength.

The Rotary Club of Strathfield's Women's International Day Celebration was held last Saturday at the Strathfield Golf Club. This significant event was organised and conducted by women for women, recognising eminent women in our

society. One of the highlights of this well-attended celebration of women was our guest speaker, Victoria Weeks, an accomplished corporate leader, and Gender Equality Champion. Her presentation was insightful and thought-provoking. We were all encouraged and inspired to do more to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.



The Strathfield Rotary Club is famous for its ground-breaking social services since its inception 50 years ago. This year we recognised a local community leader with a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship. The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the charitable and educational programmes. The Strathfield Rotary's first International Women's Day Paul Harris Fellow recognition was presented to Ms. Michelle Davies, Principal, Chalmers Road School for special education, by our District Governor Jeremy Wright AM. Under Ms. Davies's leadership, our local school is committed to delivering quality

education to enable students to reach their full potential. We feel that this well-deserved recognition will encourage not only Ms. Davies and her staff, parents, and students, but also all the women who work tirelessly and sacrificially to raise the standards of differently-abled kids in our society.

Rotarians are like-minded individuals who are committed to helping women lead and prosper in their careers, businesses, and personal lives. We always practise what we preach. The majority of our Rotary District leadership is made up of women. Women make up 70% of Assistant District Governors. And in our club, 20% of the women are engaged in serving 80% of the time.

I take this opportunity to thank all our members and their families and friends for their participation and contributions to a successful celebration of women. The team was led by our Youth Service Director, Ying Ho, and our Treasurer, Rod McDougall, who is always a dependable organiser.

Finally, let me leave you all with one thought. The International Women's Day Celebration is a reminder for us to celebrate women every day.

"A life not lived for others is not a life" – Mother Teresa

Rotary Service to you,

Thaya Ponniah



Speaker from last week: Victoria Weekes
International Women's Day event





Speaker for this week: Belinda Noonan

Belinda Noonan (ne Coulthard) first stepped on the ice as a two-year-old, at the Bondi Junction rink.

She was competing by the time she was seven, when the Burwood ice rink opened.

Representing Australia until she was 21, she competed in world championships and international competitions, winning one of Australia's first gold medals in Holland in 1976 and numerous other medals and awards.



After retiring from competing, Belinda immediately went into coaching where she was successful fairly quickly, and which led to having students in a number of Olympic Games up until almost 1998.

She has served as a figure skating consultant for the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia

Following her success as a coach, Belinda was offered a role in figure skating commentary with Channel 7. First commentating at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano-Japan, Belinda went on to commentate a number of world and European events and every Winter Olympic Games. More recently, Belinda

has been one of few female voices at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi-Russia, PyeongChang-South Korea in 2018 and Beijing just recently.

Belinda has actively promoted the position of woman in sport and sport commentary, which traditionally has been the domain of men.

Belinda says that while highly experienced and skilled journalists like Tracy Grimshaw and Liz Hayes continue to report “irrespective of their age”, sport media is lagging behind in gender and age diversity. In a 2010 report, the Australian Human Rights Commission found that “a number of people noted that [television’s] ageist culture appears to be invisible, accepted, and largely unacknowledged”. Belinda says she has witnessed this first-hand, but says the existence of older men within sports media means there is definitely a place for older women. There’ll be sporting hosts, men, that have been there for a long time and are still there, and they are very good at what they do,” she says. “So media needs to step up for women in that category.”

During all these events she still found time to be editor of two community newspapers, the Strathfield Scene and later the Burwood Scene, and was named Burwood's Citizen of the Year in January 2016.

Photo and Ref: Hera Magazine - Woman and Sport

<https://heramagazine.wordpress.com/2015/05/25/who-are-the-voices-behind-the-olympics-and-how-did-they-get-there/>

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 16th Mar	Belinda Noonan Should children be at the Olympics	David Croft	tba	Golf Club
Fri 18th – Sun 20th Mar	District Conference	-	-	Warwick Farm
Wed 23rd Mar	Terry Chapman and Matthew Webb Westconnex	tba	tba	Golf Club
Wed 30th Mar	Social event	tba	tba	tba

<i>Birthdays</i>	
19th March	Rod Omes
21st March	A Bala
22nd March	Maree McDougall

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
23rd March	Joe and Sharon Saad (wedding)



The Rotary Statistics

Attendance last meeting (12-03-22) – in person ¹	15
Club membership	48
Partners	5
Guests	26

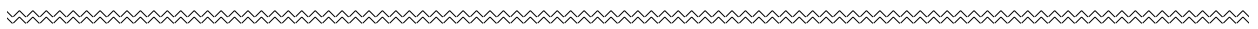
<i>Funds raised</i>	
Raffle	\$1,000.00
Sergeant's session	Not held

¹ IWD event

Your committee 2021-22

President	Thaya Ponniah	Secretary	Nick Hamilton-Kane
President Elect	Andrew Aravanis	Sergeant	Keith Byrn
Immediate Past President	Usha Garg	Treasurer	Rod McDougall
Youth	Ying Ho	Community	Rick Vosila
International	Roy Ellis	Vocational	Alexey Prokopenko
Public Officer	Rod McDougall	Club Service	Arie Pappas

Bulletin Editor	Bradley Ayres	Web master	Raymond McCluskie
Bulletin Printer	SelectPrint	Apologies	Peter van der Sleen
Social Media	Alexey Prokopenko	Programs Chair	Gulian Vaccari



District News

This is an appeal for you to consider attending the District Conference coming up on the 18th-20th March, at Warwick Farm in Sydney.

For Inspiration, Fellowship and knowing more about Rotary – it is unmatched. And we will have a range of Covid-safety measures in place.

And the speakers this year (listed in the attachment) are top class:

- Norman Swan – top Health Journalist talking about the 'Ageing Myth' & what next for Covid!
- Karem Webb APM – our new Police Commissioner, talking about her amazing journey in the NSW Police Force
- Peter Johnstone AO – our NSW Chief Magistrate who revolutionised our Children's Court
- Nyadol Nyuon – a Sudanese Lawyer from Melbourne who is changing the face of refugee support
- Simon Griffiths – famous for his organisation 'Who Gives a Crap' building toilets for needy communities worldwide
- Jessie Harman – Our 1st Australian female Rotary International Director talking about worldwide changes in Rotary
- Craig Reucassel – top 'War on Waste' ABC journalist and professional media stirrer
- David Pointon – Founder of the 'Men's Table', mental health support group, and
- Rob Edwards – our own (Rotarian) Well-being advocate and Environmental campaigner

There are more speakers, less well-known but with inspirational stories that will be so relevant to our Rotary journeys.

Especially if you are relatively new to Rotary – this will be an eye-opener for you – to also experience the Showcase of Rotary projects and people from around the District.

And for all Rotarians, a golden opportunity to introduce non-Rotarians to the peak Rotary experience of the year – and there's a big discount if you can bring a friend.

Registration Options are via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=808939>

This is a great opportunity and I look forward to welcoming you to this terrific event,

My Regards
Jeremy

Jeremy Wright AM
District Governor, Sydney to the Illawarra, D9675

~~~~~

Bulletin kindly printed by

