

# Rotary

## Rowville Lysterfield



### Thameena Zarani—'My Story'

Our vivacious and charming speaker this week was Thameena Zarani, wife of our Club member Arshad Sam-sudeen. Thameena reflected on her first experience of being in Australia when she visited Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne for a three week holiday in 1999. While she enjoyed Brisbane, with a climate not dissimilar to her home country of Sri Lanka, her experience of a Melbourne spring was quite different. She felt the coldest she had ever been and vowed to never come back to Melbourne again. Interesting how things turn out....but more of that later.

Thameena has a long-standing connection with Rotary, having joined Interact in her High School in Colombo, as did her older brother. In fact among her best memories of school is her Interact experience. There were many events to organise, such as the Interact District Assembly, which was organised by her Club in collaboration with two other Clubs. They did 'banner hunts', visiting businesses to seek sponsorship for banners, and a range of Community Service events. One that stands out is a sports day for underprivileged children with activities such as mini-golf and cricket. The Interactors organised food, transport, gifts and all the activities. It was a very rewarding experience for a fifteen

year old, particularly to realise what an impact the day had on the children who attended.

Thameena was Secretary of the Club for several years and learned to write a good letter of application for grants etc, which were always successful. She still checks in on her old Interact Club when she visits Sri Lanka.

As she progressed through school and into her O levels, Thameena entertained the idea of being a weather reporter as she loved the weather report on the BBC. Meteorology is not highly promoted in Sri Lanka so this was not to be, as was the idea of becoming a lawyer.



### Meeting Details

#### Where:

Tosaria's Café  
60 Henderson Rd  
Rowville

#### When:

Tuesday, 6.30 pm  
for 7.00 pm start

**Meetings are  
hybrid unless  
indicated other-  
wise**

**Visitors are  
warmly welcomed**

*For information  
contact:*

Kevin Harrison  
0419 919 011

**Meeting Zoom link  
[here](#)**



**Home Club of  
IPDG Dr Daryl Moran**

Thameena Zarani with Chair Carol  
Constantine

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**BEES** and other pollinators are essential to maintain production of our food crops and are responsible for one in every three mouthfuls of food that we eat. Over recent years, there has been an alarming reduction in pollinator populations worldwide. Thanks to Rotarians for Bees, an enthusiastic group of bee champions, many more Rotary Clubs and communities are actively engaged in fighting the decline of pollinator populations worldwide.

The focus of Rotarians for Bees is:

- To educate and engage people of all ages regarding the importance of bees and other pollinators in preserving our food security
- To promote establishment and maintenance of appropriate habitat
- To engage in projects aimed at sustaining and growing bee and other pollinator populations

Since its inception, Rotarians for Bees has gained enormous support and interest from Rotarians and from the ever-increasing number of people who share a passion for environmental sustainability. The network collaborates with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) and partnerships have been established with organisations such as the When Bee Foundation and bodies representing commercial and recreational beekeepers.

The Victorian chapter's current projects include sponsoring the 'best pollinator garden' in the Nursery and Garden Industry Victorian School Garden Competition; sponsoring When Bee Foundation development of pollinator planting guides; and development of music and choreography for the Waggle Dance—an activity to encourage school students learning about bees.

For more information visit [rotariansforbees.org](https://rotariansforbees.org)



Thameena and Arshad celebrate Thameena's birthday



Rotarians Against Malaria is a volunteer-run organization working to eliminate malaria. The primary focus of RAM has been the distribution of insecticide-treated nets to vulnerable populations in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and more recently, Timor Leste. RAM has raised more than \$1.6 million to eliminate malaria since 2003. RAM works in conjunction with the Ministry of Health authorities in each country and complements the work of other malaria organisations, most notably the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**We look forward to hearing more about this valuable Rotary program in the near future.**



**ROTARIANS  
AGAINST MALARIA**

### Thameena Zarani—'My Story' contd.

While working on her O levels Thameena became interested in computing and became rather an 'IT guru'. She took up a course in computers at the weekends and showed a high level of expertise, achieving good grades in all the components. This provided a further dilemma about what to do as she was interested in networking and telecommunications but was not encouraged to go down this path.

A big change came in her life when a visiting Educational Consultant from Australia suggested a course in Information Technology and Communication in Melbourne, with some credit being given for her previous study. So, despite her reservations about Melbourne's weather, she packed up, applied for a visa and arrived in Melbourne 12 years ago.

Thameena took her degree studies seriously and did well, accumulating Distinctions and High Distinctions, with a major in Business Analysis. On completion, she applied for many jobs, with no success, but gained interesting advice such as the suggestion that she change her name to Sharon.

The next experience that opened up was as a tutor at University. She was pleased when she found that students were engaged and listened well and she really enjoyed the role, even the task of marking exams. However, she realised that she needed practical experience, so eventually gained a job at one of the big banks, steering through the adoption of digital banking. Since then she has continued to work in banking and has continued to enjoy her job a great deal.

**Contd page 4.**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### Rotary theme for each month

**July**— New leadership

**August**— Membership and New Club Development

**September**— Basic Education and Literacy

**October**— Economic and Community Development

**November**— Rotary Foundation

**December**— Disease Prevention and treatment

**January**— Vocational Services

**February**— Peace building and Conflict resolution

**March**— Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**April**— Maternal & Child Health

**May**— Youth Service

**June**— Rotary Fellowships



- Imagine Melbourne, in late May, when tens of thousands of Rotarians from all around the world arrive here for RICON 23.
- Imagine the buzz of different languages and different cultures, all with the common interest in Rotary.
- Imagine falling into conversation with strangers, knowing that you share a desire to help those in need.

The opportunity is there for all of us to share in the excitement of RICON 23, even if it is not possible to attend the Convention itself. Volunteers are needed for a vast array of jobs and this opportunity is open to Rotarians, friends and family. If the task is inside a Convention venue, volunteers will need to be registered for the Convention, but there are many other roles that will be required for jobs outside the venues.



Rotarians from Africa at the Hamburg Convention in 2019

A special opportunity exists for our Club to volunteer on Saturday May 27th for the signature event at the Melbourne Museum. Organisation of the volunteers for this event is being co-ordinated by our Club member PDG Daryl Moran. This is a great chance for many members of our Club to work together and be part of this exciting evening, so please give it serious thought. The Host Organizing Committee is hopeful for great support from our Club.

For more details about volunteering and to register to volunteer, click [here](#).

## **Thameena Zarani—'My Story' contd**

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Thameena has a great interest in oil painting and has had her own exhibition in Sri Lanka, where she sold many paintings. She still continues to paint, although not the same amount, and is considering running art classes.

In 2016 Thameena's parents suggested they knew a young man who was wanting to come to Australia and who might make a good match for her. After a very awkward Skype conversation, with Arshad making conversation with his whole family, plus her family, in the room, they were able to speak frequently and realised they had a lot in common. So, they have now been married for six years.

Thameena reflected that from never wanting to live in Melbourne, here she is with a career, husband and full life. Her summation was that everything happens for a reason and it is up to the individual how they respond to the opportunities that arise.

*Out warm thanks to Thameena for her engaging and interesting account of 'My Story'. We hope to see her again at Rotary.*

### BUNNINGS BBQs

Next BBQ Dates

**Friday February 17th**

**Saturday March 25th**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE—MUFFINS

Thursday Feb 9th	Marg, Heather, Corinne, Anita & Rajeev
Thursday Feb 23rd	Kaye, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny
Thursday March 9th	Marg, Heather, Corinne, Anita and Rajeev
Thursday March 23rd	Kaye, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny

### Upcoming speaker—invite your friends

A wonderful opportunity to hear an outstanding speaker, plus a night when our Club will be joined by the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills, the Club of DGN Colin Byron. Pre-booking is essential on this date, so look out for an email with a trybooking link, coming soon.

# FRIDA UMUHOZA


A survivor of the Rwandan genocide, Frida  
shares her story of resilience and  
forgiveness

**28th  
FEBRUARY**


\$26 per head

Tosaria's Restaurant  
60 Henderson Road,  
Rowville

**Rotary**  
Rowville Lysterfield



6.30 pm for  
7.00 pm start



Last Friday a good contingent of Club members visited Peppertree Hill Retirement Village at the invitation of the Village Patchwork group. One purpose of the visit was to receive a large bag containing 34 stunning quilts; a donation that will go to Backpacks 4 VIC Kids. The photos below show a few examples of the quilts, but do not really show the intricate work that is involved to complete each quilt. There is no doubt they will not just be appreciated by the children who receive them, but will become a source of comfort and a symbol of love as they move through the pathway of out-of-home care.



A further aspect of the visit to Peppertree was the chance for Marg and Jenny to outline to the assembled Peppertree residents the work of Backpacks 4 VIC Kids.

The staggering figure of 45,000 children across Australia currently in out-of-home care was an eye-opener for many of those present. Realising that these children often arrive at a foster home with only the clothes they are dressed in highlights the importance of the backpacks. To be provided with toiletries, pyjamas, clothing, a book, toy and torch, plus a wonderful quilt or blanket means a huge amount to these young ones.

The My Essentials (ME) backpacks are designed to be gender and age appropriate, so there are 36 different types of backpacks available, to cover children from age 0 to 18. B4VK also provides school essential backpacks, Santa sacks and Rough Sleeper packs. In times of emergency they have also made flood and fire relief packs. A truly amazing organisation!





**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

- Adrian was pleased to be able to spend his birthday at home with Patty and a great number of his children and grandchildren. His visit to rehab has been extended and he is learning new ways to manage, with a focus on improving his balance to avoid further falls. We wish him well in this process.
- Jenny and Daryl are away for two weeks in their caravan, visiting Apollo Bay and hoping for some sunny weather.
- Happy birthday for February 6th to Thameena, our Guest Speaker this week. Hope you had a special day.
- Great to see former member Millie back at the Club and to know that she is contemplating rejoining our ranks. Welcome Millie!
- Our good wishes go to Neil and Michelle who have sold their home in Pinewood and are soon to move much closer into the city. Packing up and moving is a very challenging time and we wish them well.

## **RICON 23**

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**Information regarding breakout sessions for the Convention is becoming available and will provide much inspiration and motivation for those who attend.**

You can choose from more than 80 breakout sessions that will inspire you, improve your skills, or help you Imagine What's Next for projects, fundraising, inclusivity, and more. Some of the topics being discussed Monday through Wednesday, 29-31 May, include:

- **Strengthening your club.** Learn strategies to keep your members engaged, encourage greater diversity in your membership, and inspire people to get involved with Rotary.
- **Connecting and taking action.** Meet members who are making a difference on the world's biggest challenges and find out how you can help.
- **Using Rotary's Action Plan.** Join the conversation about Rotary's future and discover how your club can make Rotary's strategic plan a reality.

There is still time to register to be part of this amazing Convention, so check out the website

[www.Rotarymelbourne2023/org](http://www.Rotarymelbourne2023/org)



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**Kevin Harrison**  
M:0419 91 90 11  
E:kevin@smf.com.au  
FB:seemeforeverything  
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Melbourne Victoria

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Date	Registration	Chair	Setup and production	Program
<b>February—Peace Building and Conflict Resolution</b>				
<b>14</b>			NA	<b>Social night in Tosaria's Restaurant</b>
<b>21</b>	Rajeev	Heather	John Daryl Alan	<b>Heidi Victoria</b> 'My Journey into Photography'
<b>28</b>	Jenny	Marg	Alan Carol Ian	<b>Frida Umuhoza</b> See details on page 5
<b>March—Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>				



## ANZAC Day adventure at Mansfield

It is proposed to mark ANZAC day in 2023 by having a Club trip to Mansfield. This could involve attending the 6.00 am Dawn Service and the 10am service. The ANZAC march for this service is very different, as it is led by mounted soldiers.

Possible lunch venues include wineries in the area.

Accommodation is available at various places close to the Vesey house including an air b'n' b in the same street. Bookings would need to be made soon to be sure of getting accommodation.

**More details to come soon—watch for an email from Marg**

Website: [www.rowvillerotary.com.au](http://www.rowvillerotary.com.au)

District 9810

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Rowville-Lysterfield-171446576246728/?ref=bookmarks>

Website: <http://www.9810rotary.org.au>

## 2022-23 BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	Kevin Harrison
<b>Vice-President</b>	Marg Vesey
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Morris
<b>Treasurer</b>	Neil White
<b>President Elect</b>	Carol Constantine
<b>President Nominee</b>	Jenny Moran
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Murray Wilson
<b>Director</b>	Steve Macdonald

## 2022-23 COMMITTEES

<b>Community</b>	Marg Vesey (mentor) Kate Kidd Pete Batterham
<b>Youth Service</b>	Max Williams Jeff Somers (mentor)
<b>Environment</b>	Gary Forrest Ayanthi Gunatilake
<b>Foundation</b>	Neil White (mentor) Adrian Klep
<b>International</b>	Alan Lunghusen (mentor) Arshad Samsudeen
<b>Vocational</b>	John Williams Neil Marshall
<b>Membership</b>	Ayanthi Gunatilake Gary Forrest

## OTHER ROLES

<b>Rowville Secondary College Council Rep</b>	Rajeev Wadhwa
<b>Newsletter</b>	Jenny Moran Heather Morris
<b>Facebook Website</b>	Kevin Harrison Alan Lunghusen Stephen Palamara
<b>Club Protection Officer</b>	Adrian Klep
<b>Program Committee</b>	Marg Vesey Jenny Moran Kaye Sharman
<b>On-to-Conference Art Show Committee</b>	Heather Morris Rajeev Wadhwa James Wilson
<b>Rowville Lysterfield Community News Correspondent</b>	Jenny Moran
<b>Fundraising Committee</b>	Carol Constantine Adrian Klep Bob Morris Stephen Palamara Arshad Samsudeen Kaye Sharman