



Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



10 September 2025 | Volume 62 | ISSUE NO. 12



Founded on 6 June 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

9th Club Meeting

06

VSC Charts Bold Pathways at 3rd Meeting

9

1st Know Your Partner Club: RC Kuching Central

10

Newsletter RACSG Fellowship 2025

12

Sir Roland St.John Braddell our first President and some early comments about the founding of our Club.

10 September 2025

9TH CLUB MEETING:

10 September 2025 - President Sonali opened the Rotary Club of Singapore's 9th Club Meeting, warmly welcoming IPDG Doctor Yap Lip Kee and introducing the guests, which included visiting Rotarian Nilesh Kapse from the Rotary Club of Bangalore; Dr. Patrick Leo; Jeanette, Spouse of Rtn Xavier; Shuwen, Son of IPDG Dr Yap Lip Kee, and other distinguished attendees.



During the initial proceedings, PE Raj led a toast to Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Bangalore. Nilesh Kapse shared insights about his club, highlighting their impressive membership of nearly 350 Rotarians and their significant river rejuvenation project in India.

The meeting celebrated several milestones, including the Club Excellence Award presented to Immediate Past President Tom, recognising the club's outstanding efforts in fostering a positive member experience. Birthday wishes were extended to Rtn Jamshid, and wedding anniversaries were acknowledged for several Rotarian couples.



BUILDING A PROFESSIONAL, PROFITABLE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION: DR PATRICK LIEW, GROUP CHAIRMAN, GEX VENTURES

The highlight of the meeting was the keynote address by Dr. Patrick Liew, a celebrated entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist. Drawing from his remarkable life journey from poverty to success, Dr. Liew delivered a passionate discourse on transforming workplace culture. He challenged traditional HR approaches, advocating for a more human-centric, purpose-driven management style.

Dr. Liew's presentation emphasized treating employees as humans, not resources. He proposed radical ideas like renaming HR departments to "Happiness Managers" and creating voluntary teams focused on workplace wellness. His core message was simple yet profound: organisations should prioritize employee fulfillment, purpose, and personal growth over mere productivity.

The speaker shared practical strategies from his own company, including creating happiness teams, organising engaging team-building events, and developing career paths that focus on personal and social impact. He stressed the importance of leadership that serves, coaches, and genuinely cares about employee well-being.



Rtn Sissi delivered a vote of thanks, praising Dr. Liew's energetic and inspiring talk. He highlighted the critical importance of mental health and wellness as the foundation for a good life, echoing the speaker's key messages.

Looking ahead, the club announced the next meeting would feature Madam Halimah Yacob, the former President of Singapore, who will share her experiences and insights on doing good in society, with DG Dr Shahul facilitating the session. Members were also encouraged to participate in the Step Up Challenge to raise awareness about polio and potentially revive the Jolly Walker group.



Guest List:

1. Dr Patrick Liew (Guest Speaker)
2. Jeanette, Spouse of Rtn Xavier
3. Yap Shiwen, Son of IPDG Dr Yap Lip Kee

Visiting Rotarians:

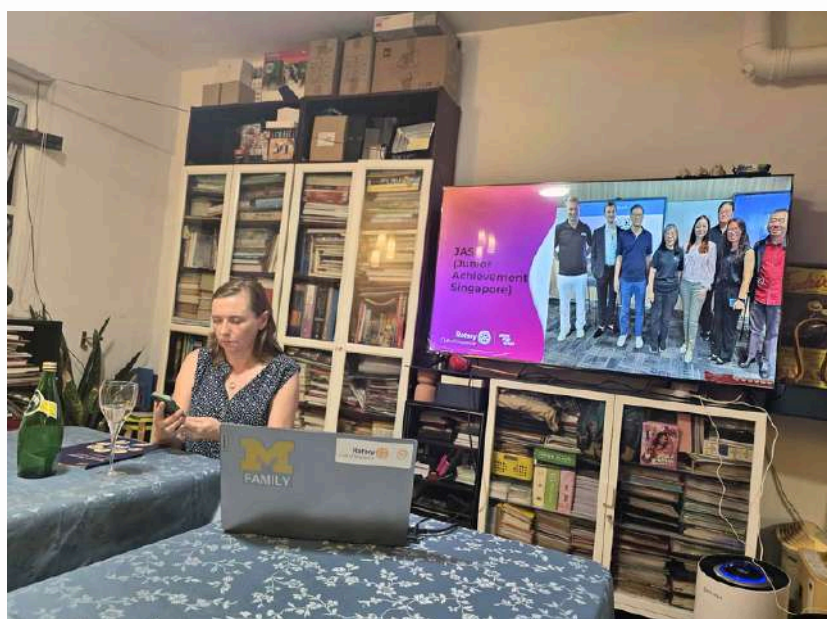
1. Nilesh Kapse (RC Bangalore)



VSC CHARTS BOLD PATHWAYS AT 3RD MEETING

By VSC Director Grace Roache

11 September 2025 – The Vocational Service Committee (VSC) experienced warm hospitality at the home of PP Agnes for the third meeting of the Rotary Year on 11 September. The evening began with fellowship over dinner (co-hosted with Rtn. Chee Pin), before Chair Rtn. Grace Roache called the meeting to order. The agenda reflected the committee's diverse scope of service – spanning employment support, women's empowerment, youth engagement, and signature awards.



The session opened with a presentation by representatives from SPD's Employment Support Services, who outlined their work in vocational training, job placement, sheltered workshops, and social enterprises such as artisan crafts and outsourced contact centre services.

Members engaged in a meaningful discussion on how Rotary could support employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, including potential collaborations in hamper-making and gift-wrapping, echoing traditions of past club initiatives.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of MADCash, a proposed joint project with the Community Service Committee. The programme offers training and pay-it-forward financing for female entrepreneurs running small businesses.



With support from partner organisations and Rotary, beneficiaries receive two months of training followed by ten months of guided repayment. Members welcomed the initiative as aligned with VSC's mission of vocational empowerment, while agreeing to review its funding commitments alongside other projects such as the upcoming Art:Dis exhibition.

The committee also reviewed progress across ongoing initiatives. Junior Achievement Singapore (JAS) successfully held a career sharing seminar on “Careers in Software Engineering & IT,” with Rotarians serving as panellists and mentors. Plans are underway for a future session on healthcare careers.

VSC also continues to strengthen partnerships: preparations are in motion for an Art:Dis exhibition in April 2026, linked to the Artisan of the Year Award; work has advanced on the Empowering Women through Digital Skills programme with Gladiolus Place; and discussions with Halogen Foundation are opening new avenues for vocational talks.

Looking ahead, anticipation builds for the Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA) Gala on 10 November at the Ritz-Carlton, where Rotarians will join Singapore’s business leaders to celebrate enterprise and innovation.

Members also look forward to upcoming external visits, including a learning tour of the Brass Lion Distillery in October and a planned CPR/AED training session with the Singapore Heart Foundation later this year.

With strong fellowship, clear priorities, and bold new initiatives, the VSC continues to embody Rotary’s mission of empowering communities through vocational excellence and service.



1ST KNOW YOUR PARTNER CLUB: RC KUCHING CENTRAL

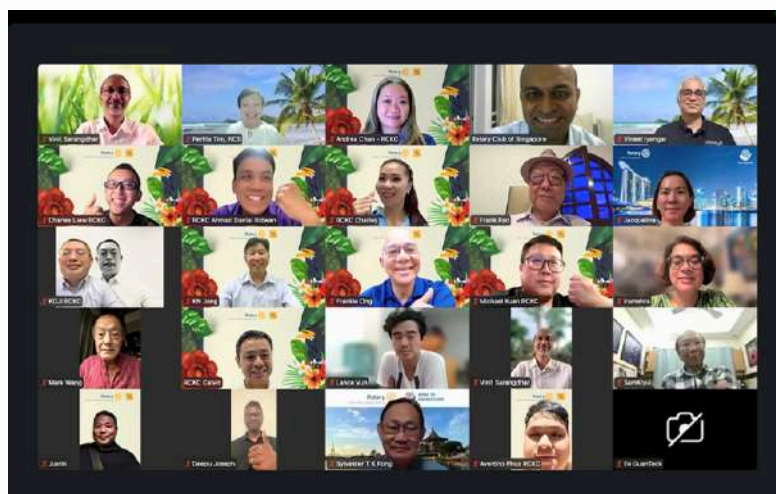
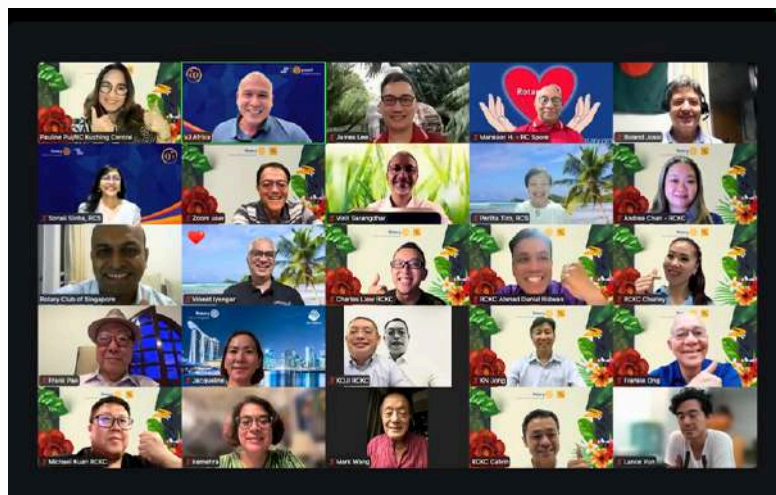
By ISC Director Navaneeth Rajkumar

26 August 2025 – The first ever “Know your Partner Club” activity took place last 25 August. It was no surprise that we invited RC Kuching Central in this inaugural informative virtual fellowship.

The spirit of the activity was for RC Singapore to know more about our Sister & Partner Clubs, the history of the club, the relationship, and of course, potential future projects together.

We’ve always viewed RC KC as more than a Partner Club. The bond between our clubs runs deep as we have jointly supported each others projects and endeavours.

PP James and President Pauline tag teamed in the hosting, and it was a truly warm and engaging virtual get-together between two clubs who truly treat each other as family.



NEWSLETTER

RACSG FELLOWSHIP

2025

By Grace Tang

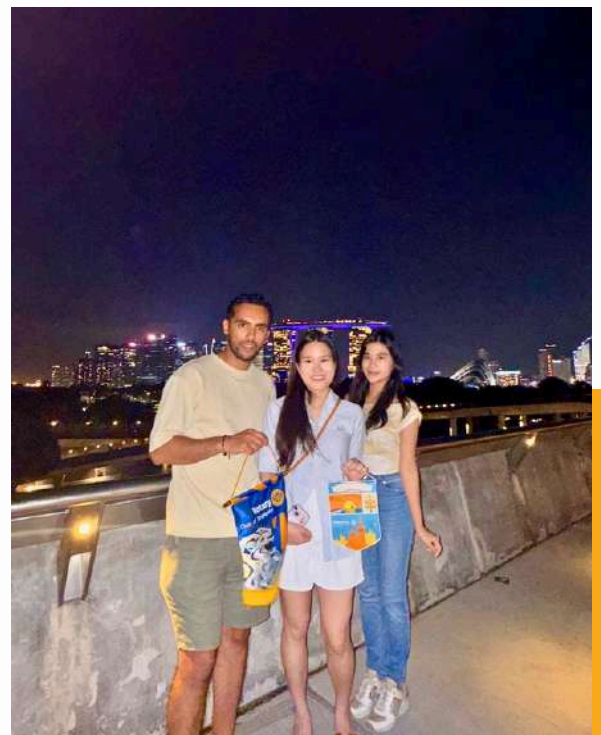
President | Rotaract Club of Singapore, Rotaract Year 2025/2026

The Rotaract Club of Singapore recently had the incredible opportunity to host fellow Rotaractors from around the globe. These meetings were a valuable chance for us to connect, share our experiences, and learn from one another.

We explored the unique cultures and activities of each club, which helped us gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in other countries. This fellowship has inspired us to consider new professional development, fundraising and community service projects that could help bridge some of those gaps.

We hope their ideas will inspire you as much as they've inspired us.

Here is a summary of the activities from the various Rotaract clubs:



Rotaract Club Mainz - 12 July 2025

Founded in 1973, is a long-standing German club with around 20 members. It's part of the global Rotaract network for young adults aged 18-30. The club's activities are centered on three core pillars:

- **Learn:** Members share skills and expertise through workshops and talks on topics like CPR and financial literacy.
- **Help:** They conduct a range of community service projects, including blood drives, charity food collections, and reading to children.
- **Celebrate:** The club focuses on fellowship through social events like Christmas parties, wine tastings, and preparing to host a national Rotaract conference, Deuko 2027.

Rotaract Club Winterthur - 23 August 2025

The club's main project is a fundraising campaign to support schools in Toubakouta, Senegal. With a budget of 35,000 Swiss Francs, they aim to provide the schools with essential resources such as electricity, water, printers, and secure fencing. They are raising funds through a charity golf tournament and donation boxes.

Rotaract Club of Romacassia - 23 August 2025

This club has planned two upcoming public interest projects:

- **October:** An event focused on fertility and medically assisted procreation.
- **November:** An interactive webinar on financial education for women, planned to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. They are inviting other Rotaract clubs to make it a global discussion

Rotaract Club of Munich - 6 September 2025

This club emphasizes community service, professional development, and fellowship. Their social projects include:

- **"Buy-one-more":** A supermarket food collection drive for local food banks and animal shelters.
- **"Charity Speed Dating":** An event that raises funds for a housing facility for people with mental disabilities.
- **Mentoract:** A tutoring program for young refugees to help with their schooling and apprenticeships.
- **Professional Development & Fellowship:** Like the Mainz club, they also follow the "Learn, Help, and Celebrate" pillars, hosting guest speakers and social events like the "Charity Classic Rallye."

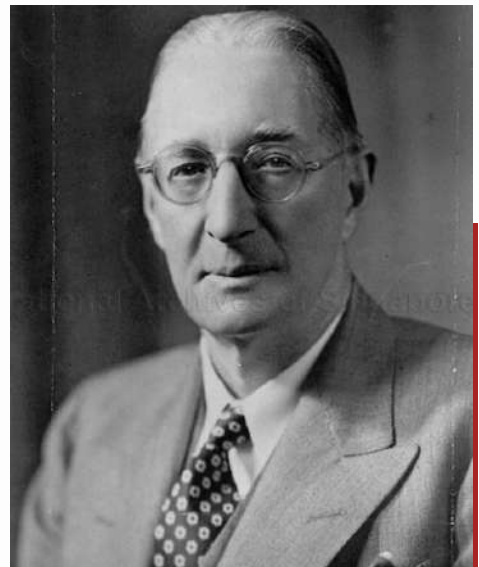



SIR ROLAND BRADDELL, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT, AND SOME EARLY COMMENTS ABOUT THE FOUNDING OF OUR CLUB

By Honorary Member Rtn Uttam Kripalani

When I first came across the name Sir Roland St. John Braddell, who was our club's first President, my immediate reaction was that Braddell Street and Braddell MRT station must have been named after him. Searches in the records revealed that our first President came from a very distinguished legal family. His father and Grandfather both held the office of Attorney General of the Straits Settlement. The street and MRT were named after Thomas Braddell [1823-1891] who was the first Attorney General of the Straits Settlement, appointed in 1867. Thomas was Rtn Roland's grandfather.

Our first President had a very notable law practice in Singapore and Malaya after being called to the Bar in 1905. He was a distinguished legal scholar, historian, civic leader and educator, who played a significant role in Singapore and Malay's development in the early-to-mid 20th century.





Rtn Roland, a prominent historian and author, co-edited “One Hundred Years of Singapore” [1921] and wrote “Lights of Singapore” [1934] amongst other works about this area. He also held many civic roles; Municipal Commissioner, President of the Royal Asiatic Society, President of the Singapore Art Society and of course the President of the Rotary Club of Singapore.

The Rotary Club of Singapore was launched on 6 June 1930 with around 75 charter members from 29 different nationalities at the Raffles Hotel, under the leadership of Sir Roland.

Among the prominent figures credited with “fanning the flames” were James W Davidson (American Rotary extensionist), Lim Bock Kee (a prominent lawyer), Rajabali Jumabhoy, (Indian business leader and founder of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce,, whom I had the pleasure of knowing and spoke to him a few days before he passed away at the age of 100+) and Shaikha Yahya bin Ahmed Afifi a prominent Arab community leader.

To Sir Roland and the charter members we owe our grateful thanks for establishing the Rotary Club of Singapore we are all so proud to be members.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

THE GUIDE TO DAILY LIVING

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26



Sonali Sinha
President



Tom Wolf
Immediate Past
President



Rajkumar PS
President Elect



Vineet Iyengar
Vice President &
Major Project Chair



Suzanne Ng
Vice President & Speaker
Programme Chair



Ong Ting Yong
Hon. Secretary



Pia Bruce
Hon. Treasurer



Jeyanthi RK
Membership
Director



VJ Africa
Public Image & PR
Director



Yogesh Dodani
TRF Director



Varun Gulati
CSC Director



Grace Roache
VSC Director



Navaneeth Rajkumar
ISC Director



Mukund AP
YSC Director



Ng Jun Dong
Sergeant-at-arms



Hitansh Vij
Sergeant-at-arms