

Rotary D9790 Vocational Service Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter to advance club vocational service within Rotary District 9790.

The goal of D9790 vocational service

Our goal is to assist clubs to promote opportunities to combine skills development with vocational entry in order to encourage occupational success.

What's on the Rotary vocational service calendar?

- **March, 2012** is literacy month – highlighting the challenges of poor adult literacy and addressing the needs of those who are outside vocational education and training systems.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

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D9790 Vocational Service



Our service lines:

- Computers-4-Kids – computer skills enhance work and lifetime productivity
- L2P learner-driver mentor program - driver's licence as a workforce entry passport
- Literacy – a prerequisite to vocational advancement
- Pride of workmanship & mentoring – recognising outstanding vocational development
- Men's sheds – community support for disadvantaged groups
- Refugees – accelerated skills development to assist refugee settlement

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FEATURE ARTICLE: Northeast Publishing in Kinglake – vocational training in printing services for youth and the disadvantaged

Brad Quilliam, charter president of the **Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges** writes about Northeast Publishing an outstanding vocational training joint venture established in Kinglake.

Overview

NORTHEAST PUBLISHING (NEP) is a not-for-profit printing business operating in the greater Kinglake area.

NEP offers employment and training opportunities for local youth and disadvantaged job seekers.

NEP's main focus is on the production of books, advertising and marketing materials to local businesses and community newspapers such as the Mountain Monthly.

Objectives

NEP's objectives are to:

- create full-time employment opportunities;
- encourage work experience positions; and
- provide training for trainees/apprentices and disadvantaged people

Employment and community benefits

Trainees, pre-apprenticeship participants, VCAL participants and apprentices participate in structured training delivered in partnership with RMIT.

Training is provided across the full spectrum of enterprise operations from administration, pre-press, design, printing and sales and marketing thereby offering an introduction to a range of attainable career paths.



For work experience and long term unemployed pathway program participants the enterprise offers a learning and work readiness experience leading to enhanced opportunity to access longer term employment.

By developing skills, offering employment opportunities and developing a local enterprise that has potential to be a field leader NEP makes a substantive contribution toward community capacity.

By starting a new enterprise during the difficult process of bushfire recovery a powerful 'open for business' message has been sent out. This has led to increased community and investor confidence in the region.

As an industry demonstration site for equipment and environmentally sustainable consumables (such as vegetable inks) the project delivers outcomes which will benefit the printing industry nationally as well as the Australian economy.

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The Rotary Club of Wodonga in conjunction with the North Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network supports the SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

The Solar Car Challenge is an exciting program designed to provide

opportunities for students, teachers and local industry to work together to design, construct and race a remote controlled solar powered car. Participating schools and industries come from both sides of the border.

The program began in 2003 by concerned local industry leaders in Victoria's north-east seeking to raise awareness of and link students into the manufacturing industry. It has continued to grow in strength each year since that first race.

The goals of the project are to:

- Build strong and ongoing relationships between industry and schools
- Promote careers in manufacturing to students and the school community as a whole
- Engage students in a way that the traditional education process may not be meeting

How does it work?

Students and a teacher are aligned with an Industry Mentor and provided with basic parts and materials to design and construct a solar powered car. The project culminates at a gala race day where all teams compete for one hour, with the winner deemed as the team whose car has completed the most laps of the purpose-built track.



Each school and/or industry mentor has the opportunity to build other activities into the program, including: industry tours; career education and media/promotion.

This year Corowa High School managed to run down Billabong High School on the last lap of the race with Wodonga Middle Years College coming in a distant third.

Belvoir Special School posted a credible school record lap of 23.8 seconds but suffered badly with stripped gears.

Fastest lap of the day was recorded by Wodonga Middle years at 18.4 seconds (195 laps if they could keep it up!)

Rotary is one of many sponsors of the event in 2011. Further information can be obtained from Marg Crisp. Marg can be contacted by calling 0409 519 316 or by emailing mcrisp@nellen.org.au

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COMPUTERS-4-KIDS – Grade 5 kids install Microsoft software

Paul Bruce District Computers-4-Kids chair from the **Rotary Club of Appin Park** writes:

We have just finished (last term) running an activity program for Grade 5 students at Yarrunga Primary School.

The program went every Wednesday afternoon for five weeks and was an option in the school's activities program.

The students were ones who did not have a computer at home so they learnt to install new Microsoft software on the computer and even validate the software using the 45 digit code they got from phoning Microsoft's number.

They also installed and used Microsoft's Technology Assist software



as well. The principal of the school Neil Pryor is a Rotarian and a member of the Rotary Club of Appin Park.

Paul can be contacted by calling 0418 338 523 or pbruce2@bigpond.com.

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Rotary Club of Preston's INDIGENOUS BUNDJI BUNDJI- WHITELION VOCATIONAL PROJECT seeks club support

Elaine Price from the Rotary Club of Preston writes:

The Rotary Club of Preston has recently been advised that the matching grant to support the Northern Bundji Bundji-Whitelion indigenous vocational project is in jeopardy because a minimum of 50% of the budget has not been contributed from overseas clubs or districts.

The Rotary Club of Preston has continued efforts to find overseas partners but to date has not been successful. In the event that a matching grant cannot proceed the Rotary Club of Preston seeks pledges from Rotary Clubs in District 9790 to consider supporting this project.

The Rotary Club of Preston has committed \$3,000 to the project. The total project budget is \$15,100; the balance of funding required is \$12,100. Presently the Rotary Club of Srpathum in Thailand has contributed U\$500. However, we are a long way short of the total project budget.

What is the Bundji Bundji project all about?

The project is to support indigenous boys and young men to overcome their troubles following incarceration in the Youth Justice System or if they are at risk of engagement in criminal activity.

The matching grant is to support adding a vocational dimension to the Bundji Bundji/Whitelion program.

The grant will help 25 young men over a 12-month period to map out their career aspirations through introductions to indigenous male role-models who have been successful in the workforce.

As well, they will gain exposure to work places/career options to enable them to understand what different jobs entail and to be inspired to enter the appropriate training and employment pathways.



Successful role-models combat intergenerational unemployment

Young people growing up in nonworking households do not have workplace contacts to give them their first break into the workforce. They do not have role-models from whom to learn the basics such as, reliability, punctuality, presentation etc.

The expected outcome will improve self-worth and a sense of achievement that comes with having a job.

Where can I find out more?

More information about the Bundji Bundji mission and partnership can be found at: www.whitelion.asn.au

Should further information be required please contact Elaine Price by telephoning 03 9830 0092 or by emailing: eprice1@bigpond.com



LITERACY MONTH - MARCH 2012

The Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2008 found that 7 million Australians aged between 15 and 74 struggle to understand job applications, maps and payroll forms.

In a world of product disclosure statements (especially in the superannuation arena) what will these 7 million people, and especially the younger cohorts, know about their own super as they progress through their lifelong careers.

That's assuming that armed with such a poor level of literacy that they can obtain and hold jobs in the face of the technological and service transformations that our economy is undertaking.

Jan Macdonald and Andrew Treadwell from the Rotary Club of Bundoora commented on the poor literacy of many adult Australians as revealed in the ABS survey:

"The figure regarding adult literacy is alarming and the situation we feel is not helped by poor and often ambiguous wording of the many forms people have to fill in."

March 2012 is Literacy Month in the Rotary calendar. Clubs are invited to write about their literacy activity and to post comments on Facebook.

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VOCATIONAL SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD – nominations invited closing 30 Dec 2011

Rotary International has invited District Governor David Anderson to nominate a District Rotarian who has made a significant impact in advancing vocational service.

Nominations are sought by the Vocational Service Committee. Candidates must have exhibited significant support of vocational service by fulfilling the criteria of:

1. Exemplifying integrity and high ethical standards in their vocation and in Rotary;
2. Using their vocational talents to serve the community;
3. Personally undertaking at least one of the following activities:
 - mentoring a young person;
 - organising a vocational service workshop;
 - teaching club members about their vocation;
 - participating in a business networking event targeting non-Rotarians;
 - implementing an activity to celebrate Vocational Service Month in October; or
 - participating in another vocational project that meets local needs.

More information can be found on the RI website. Download a nomination form at: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/awards_vsla_en.pdf and submit to D9790 Vocational Service Committee no later than 30 December 2011.

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MAKING VOCATIONAL SERVICE HAPPEN - what D9790 clubs did during vocational service month

D9790 clubs were very active during vocational service month.

Below are reports submitted to vocational service committee members about club activities during October 2011.

The co-operation of club vocational service directors is very much appreciated.

Rotary Club of Belvoir-Wodonga

- Scholarship named after one of its former members to support disadvantaged young people to undertake tertiary study
- Pride of Workmanship Awards night that recognises people from all sectors of employment
- Club apprenticeship award

Rotary Club of Diamond Creek

- Pride of Workmanship Award and dinner

Rotary Club of Ivanhoe

- Vocational activity – how did they get to where they are now?

Rotary Club of Moreland

- Moreland participated in the Real Industry Job Interview program in Coburg on 20 October.
- The Real Industry Job Interview is a mock job interview program for year 10 students in the City of Moreland run by Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network.
- It gives young people experience in practicing their

job interviewing skills with a person not known to them before they face real job interviews.

Rotary Club of Myrtleford

- L2P Driver Mentor Program

Rotary Club of Seymour

- Seymour presented a Pride of Workmanship award to Seymour Passenger our local bus company. The club has enjoyed a long partnership with the bus company in the running of its pokie trips. Seymour Passenger has also supported the club and the community at large in any way that they can while providing brilliant service to the people of Seymour and surrounds. The club presented the company with a plaque for their office and several certificates to exhibit inside the buses themselves.
- The club invited Bill Winters to come and present the L2P program. Hopefully, several members will help with that program in the coming months which will get the club back involved in mentoring.
- The club undertook a vocation visit to G.A.T.E. Enterprises which is a business that supports people with disabilities in our community and provides jobs for them whilst actually running as a self-sustaining enterprise.
- It was amazing to see what G.A.T.E. does and the support that they offer to their clients-workers. They make tent pegs in fact somewhere in the region of 1.1 million a year. They also make garden stakes, wooden boxes for asparagus farmers as well as re-labelling wine and boxing it for many



local wineries. As I said amazing.

- Seymour club also has one interested person wanting to nominate for the Shine-On awards who actually works at G.A.T.E. and there might also be another person after speaking with the manager of G.A.T.E. who he would like to nominate.

Rotary Club of Wodonga West

- Club Apprenticeship Award

Club vocational service directors are invited to send in regular club updates by email or post them on our Facebook page *D9790 Vocational Service*

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VOCATIONAL SERVICE EMBRACES SOCIAL MEDIA by introducing Facebook

The Facebook page - *D9790 Vocational Service* - has been introduced to help club directors strengthen their knowledge about vocational service as well as their awareness of club and district activities.

There are five key benefits. Facebook helps club directors when:

- making club connections
- sharing vocational service information
- building a visual picture of Rotary by uploading event photos
- seeking views and comments
- creating a living record of what we do over the Rotary vocational service year.



Engage with our Facebook page at:
D9790 Vocational Service