

ROTARY CLUB OF MANSFIELD

A MONTH IN MANSFIELD

SEPTEMBER 2008

[FROM THE PAGES OF THE LOCAL MEDIA]



**Mt Buller covered in the
best snow for 10 years!**

PRESIDENT

Graham Irvin

5775 1257 (home)

5775 1288 (work)

0438 751 288 (mobile)

SECRETARY

Wendy Hunt

5775 3298

ATTENDANCE

Maurie Walsh

Apologies by 6.00pm Mondays

5775 2919(home)

5775 2337(work)

ROTARY NEWS - 5 September

Our Rotarians will do just about anything in the form of community service. So it should be no surprise that two of our members, Geoff Williams and Peter Hunt, spent last Wednesday morning out at Delatite Station shovelling sheep poo! The call had gone out from Elaine Irwin [wife of our Treasurer Mike - just where was he?] in her role as Pastoral Care Coordinator, that some of the residents of Bindaree needed fertiliser to get their gardens ready for spring. So with shovels in hand and a small contingent of residents in a bus for an outing, the intrepid Rotarians headed to the old shearing sheds to labour on a beautiful spring day. If you have any similar community service needs contact a Rotarian and we will see what we can do.

At last weeks meeting the club was able to acknowledge the members of the community who helped us during Bowelscan Month. Plaques were presented to our local chemists John Eisner and Cathy Henry, and our local media the High Country Times and the Mansfield Courier.

On Sunday, 14 September, the next Rotary Trash and Treasure Market will be held at the Recreation Oval from 9am till 1pm. If you want a stall space to sell 2nd hand goods, craft or produce please call Wendy on 0414 955 993. If you just want to pick up a bargain, then come and join us and sample some good Rotary cooking.

The Rotary Club of Mansfield is still seeking members of the community who would like to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference. This year's conference will take place from 7th to 13th December 2008 and nominations close on 21st November. If you are interested then call Rolf Attley 0427 077 984.

Till next week continue to enjoy life.

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ROTARY NEWS - 19 September

Something different at last weeks meeting, as the club conducted a vocational visit to a local business - Crawfords Catering.

With over 20 years catering experience, Crawfords certainly knows how to cater any style of food and anywhere from a paddock to a boardroom. Their latest catering extravaganza was a 7500 km round trip to feed the participants of the Australian

Safari - from Kalgoorlie, north to Sandstone, across to Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, to Geraldton and then to Perth. Setting up the kitchen and marquee 5 times over 7 days and preparing over 4000 meals - hot breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Rotarians were treated to a tour by Andrew Crawford and even more amazing was the other side of the business - the mobile kitchen. Constructed within a shipping container, kitchens can be built to serve from 50 to 1500 meals per day and can take as little as a few hours from arrival on site to food ready.

I always attempt to spread the word about the work of Rotary in these columns, and this week I want to give some insight into the work of Interplast. Interplast, formed in 1983, sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons to developing countries of the Asia Pacific region to provide free medical treatment and training.

The Interplast volunteers treat people living with a disability from a congenital condition such as cleft lip and acquired conditions such as burn scars. Treatment is targeted to the indigenous population who would otherwise not be able to afford such health services. In the past 25 years, over 600 volunteers have treated over 17,000 disadvantaged people, mainly children.

When you support our raffles, BBQ's and markets you are helping the Rotary Club of Mansfield assist not only our local needs and groups, but also programs such as Interplast as part of our International work.

Till next week continue to enjoy life.

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ROTARY NEWS - 26 September

Rotary is not only a service organisation but it is also an incorporated body under the Association Incorporation Act. As such, certain legal niceties need to be met, one of which is the club AGM which was held this week. The club's Annual Report and Directors' Reports were adopted by the members and new directors were confirmed. This allows our Public Officer to forward an Annual Return to ASIC.

One announcement made at the AGM was the inauguration of a new award focusing on community service. The Doug Gray Community Service Award will be for annual

recognition of those members who have contributed the most in the area of service to the Mansfield community. The award is named after our late Past President Doug Gray whose community service with a variety of Mansfield service organisations was legendary!

After giving a rundown on Interplast last week, this week I would like to give you some information on another area of Rotary service, RAM - Rotarians Against Malaria. Malaria is, without doubt, one of the greatest scourges affecting our world. Today, it is estimated that one third of the world's population, or 2.3 billion, are exposed to the risk of malaria, with 300 million becoming infected with the parasite and 2.5 million dying every year - seventy percent of them being children under the age of five years.

Rotary wants to save lives and help control one of the world's most serious diseases as it has done with Polio Plus in the past. Recently in the Solomon Islands an incidence of 30-40% infection per annum was reduced to below 3% per annum using the RAM system. This very cost affective program enables a club to sponsor a whole village of about 300 people for as little as \$1000. Once again, this is an indication of your donations in operation.

To finish this weeks report, mention should must be made of a salutary lesson learnt by a nameless Rotary member. Whilst using his whipper snipper, he managed to smash not one, not two, but three plate glass windows. The salutary lesson learnt is always let your wife do the whispering as it saves YOU the embarrassment of having to explain to the insurance company why you didn't learn from your mistakes!

Till next week continue to enjoy life.

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