

Rotarians shine

By Jade WALKER

Whyalla Rotarians are recognised for their ongoing effort to create good will and promote a positive community.

Currently, Whyalla has two clubs; Whyalla Rotary and Whyalla Norrie Rotary.

Rotary clubs are not only familiar in Australia's hometowns but are a worldwide organisation of more than 1.2 billion leaders within 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

These professional members promote community spirit and service in their local areas by providing humanitarian services and encouraging high ethical standards in all work places.

"It's a way of the individual being a part of a large organisation to contribute to their community," Whyalla Rotary public relations officer Fai Chivell said.

"Because one person alone can do so much, but a group of people can do so much more," she said.

Clubs base their enduring and timeless effort in four main areas including club, vocational, community and international service.

These four service areas are the cores to strengthening fellowship, serving others and facilitating improvement to not just their own community but all around the globe enriching world understanding.

In the past couple of years Whyalla's clubs have provided these services in many projects.

Some of the main projects in the past have been donating money to services such as Amaroo Lodge and the road safety centre and donating their time for Meals on Wheels.

Rotary Whyalla are also a sponsor of the Whyalla writers group and the short story and poetry competition.

Internationally the club donated money to the Bali literacy program, which helps educate less fortunate students.

Most of the money is raised through the rotary catering van, which is all non profit.

Rotary clubs provide an atmosphere open to all opinions and invite all races and cultures.

Living up to the motto 'Service Above Self,' all clubs are non-political and non-religious.

Members voluntarily thrive to provide service in the community and the workplace to achieve positive outcomes and a sense of reward.

In the past Rotary have been renowned for lending their time to world crisis' such as poverty, disease and creating world peace.

A major project of Rotary International has been 'End Polio Now,' which members of Whyalla have been involved in.

Members pay for all their flights and accommodation to go deliver Polio vaccines over seas.

Clubs have also earned a reputation for being youth orientated by creating exciting programs in many areas.

Young people have been able to earn

scholarships, travel on Rotary Youth Exchanges or help their community through a service project.

These programs have been built to strengthen youths capability to become future community leaders.

Fai said a Rotary Youth Exchange is on the cards in the near future for Whyalla, hoping to bring students here for 12 months and send Whyalla students over seas.

Club members attend weekly meetings, where they discuss future ideas and also meet other business leaders in their community.

Members can also choose and are encouraged to attend other Rotary Clubs around the world.

By doing this clubs are able to expand their knowledge and ideas in order to serve their community the best they can.

In the last few years the numbers of volunteers have declined significantly in Whyalla and not only in Rotary Clubs, but in many voluntary fields.

"It's a lot of fun being part of Rotary and it's really important to emphasise that," Fai said.

In order to keep the clubs rolling, Rotarians are welcome to bring guests and encourage new members on board.

And guests are also welcome to participate in service projects.

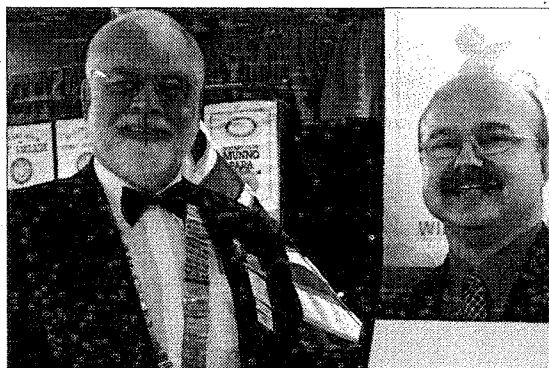
The president of the Whyalla Club is Jari Pelponen and the Whyalla Norrie president is Dalton Hosking.



Community spirit: The motto 'Service Above Self' relates to volunteering and humanitarian works in many forms for Rotarians: (from left), Tim Clements (obscured), Alistair Stevens, Rob Walton and Peter Nichols volunteering their time.



Change over: President of the Whyalla Norrie Rotary Club Dalton Hosking (left) was introduced to club members by outgoing president Shirley Gabb earlier this year.



Dedication: Rotarian Perry Eden was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for ongoing dedication and commitment to Rotary, presented by Tim Clements at the Whyalla Rotary changeover dinner earlier this year.

communitydiary

DANCE & SOCIAL

WHAT: RSL Club Dance and Social evening
WHEN: Saturday, January 10
WHERE: RSL Club
MORE INFORMATION: Call David: 0438 062 117

MEDITATION

WHAT: Gentle stretching and meditation to help relieve stress.
WHEN: Every Tuesday from 7.30pm until 8.30pm.
WHERE: 78 Wileman Street.
MORE INFORMATION: Call 0417 454 620 or 8645 4620.

JUDO

WHAT: Would you like to learn self defence have some fun and sports and learn social judo?
WHEN: Every Tuesday and Thursday, Juniors classes 6.30pm to 7.30pm, Seniors classes 7.30pm until 9 pm.
WHERE: Whyalla Judo Club.
MORE INFORMATION: Kieran86492815 or Mark 86440431.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

WHAT: Meditation for people from all denominations.
WHEN: Every Monday 11am to mid-day.
WHERE: Hospital Chapel.
MORE INFORMATION: Maria Clouten 86459315.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

WHAT: Whyalla Day Weight Watchers meeting.
WHEN: Every Tuesday 12.30pm.
WHERE: Netball Courts Ryan Avenue, Whyalla Norrie.
MORE INFORMATION: Julie Gray on 86494174.

WHAT: Whyalla Mid-Morning Weight Watchers meeting.
WHEN: Every Tuesday, weigh-in 8.30-9.30am with meeting to follow.
WHERE: Roopeena Football Club.
MORE INFORMATION: Joan 8645 0026.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

WHAT: Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.
WHEN: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8pm.
WHERE: Monday and Friday at 7 Head Street, Wednesday at Bunyara, 157 Nicolson Avenue.
MORE INFORMATION: 0410 532 975

G.R.O.W MEETING

WHAT: G.R.O.W is a World Community Mental Health Movement which meets weekly in Whyalla.
WHEN: Every Wednesday at 12.30pm and at 7pm on Thursdays.
WHERE: Joan Gibbons House on Head Street.
MORE INFORMATION: 1800 558 268.

communitydiary

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