

Rotary lifting local profile

The Rotary Club of Whyalla has been extremely active over the past month and members worked diligently on the catering van over the Easter weekend.

"We had a great time at the Snapper Competition," said president Jari Peltonen.

"And the community really turned out to spend time at the Marina in the wonderful Whyalla autumn weather.

"It was a busy time for our club and we are extremely grateful to our members, their families and the Friends of Rotary who were rostered on the van.

"The Friends of Rotary are fabulous people who are not members of the club, but volunteer their time at our events to support us as much as they can.

"We really couldn't do as much as we do within the community without them."

A DVD on the history of the clubs' activities and projects that have been undertaken over its 50-year history was played on a TV to entertain the crowd who waited for their chips, hot dogs,



Rotary members working on the food van at the recent Snapper Competition.

drinks and 'the best donuts in town'.

A DVD on the life-saving ShelterBox was also shown and many people expressed interest in this humanitarian Rotary project.

ShelterBoxes have been distributed to thousands of disaster victims around the world but in February it was our own people who need them.

Victims of the recent Victorian Bushfires were in dire need of shelter after Black Saturday.

The demand for shelter and assistance is still increasing, especially with winter coming upon us.

The Rotary Club of Whyalla along with thousands of Rotary clubs, both in Australia and overseas, have donated funds for ShelterBoxes, which has been gratefully appreciated by those who have received them.

The Whyalla club has obtained a ShelterBox and it will be on display at the Whyalla Show so that our

community can see, first-hand, just how important this project is to those who have lost their homes in disastrous circumstances.

Another important activity the club has agreed to assist with is in building nesting boxes for the ROBIN project.

ROBIN was formed in the late 90s to replace nesting hollows taken away by land development.

Among the many achievements the ROBIN project has been involved with is the

part it played in saving the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black Cockatoo from extinction.

With 3000 boxes presently in use, the demand for more is now necessary.

ROBIN has undertaken to donate 1000 nest boxes to the area and has commenced discussions with the Victorian National Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the project, which will cost \$10,000 for materials so that more clubs can participate in building the boxes.

The Rotary Club of Whyalla, along with the Phoenix Society, has joined the effort to help fill this need.

The Great Australian Bike Ride

The great Australian Bike Ride is a seven month, nine stage bike ride around Australia raising funds and awareness for mental illness.

Organised by the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, it began in Canberra from the steps of Parliament House on March 21.

The ride will travel anticlockwise through all the States, will last 204 days and cover 17,813 kilometres.

Riders will reach Whyalla on September 19.

The Rotary Club of Whyalla is hoping to sponsor a rider on a stage of the ride as it nears our city.