



Rotary Club of Whyalla president Jari Peltonen, president elect Michele Hart and 9500 District Governor elect Alun Hughes.

Rotarians inspired

By Fai CHIVELL

Rotarians from Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Roxby District and Whyalla gathered on the weekend to prepare for the upcoming Rotary year.

Presidents, president-elects, committee directors and club members attended the President Elect Training District Assembly at Buff Hall in Whyalla on Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, which provided information on the responsibilities of all Rotarians as well as important aspects of leadership.

District Governor-elect, Alun Hughes, past District Governors Katina Jones and John Rowe along with Assistant Governor Eric Russell of District 9500 presented the attendees with leadership training and presentations from Rotary International's District Governors International Assembly held in San Diego, USA.

Rotary International's president for the 2009/2010 year, John Kenny, announced his theme for the coming year 'The Future of Rotary is in your Hands' and emphasised the need for all Rotarians to become involved both locally and abroad in the need for projects that supply clean water (including sanitation), health and hunger and literacy.

Water is the first necessity because it affects every human and every other living creature on the planet.

Health and hunger must be addressed from the grass roots to the highest levels of government as it has, at its core, the greater goal to peace.

Literacy is vital as no country can succeed if its leaders are not educated and the leaders of tomorrow must be given the opportunity to understand the world at large.

Mr Kenny spoke eloquently about diversity being strength, integrity in attaining the highest goals of dignity and honesty in business and everyday dealings; an area that needs to be embraced following the results of the recent monetary dealings that have spiralled into a world financial crisis.

On leadership he quoted Sir Winston Churchill's statement, "the price of greatness is responsibility", and added that these qualities are in the hands of all Rotarians.

"The work undertaken by Rotarians worldwide is making a difference to hundreds of thousands of lives," he said.

"It is a known fact that Rotarians do not stand idly by, they act where the need is most necessary."

These inspirational words affected every Rotarian who attended and were the basis of the training weekend.

"Being a Rotarian and taking a role in attaining these goals makes you a better person," DGE Mr Hughes said.

"It helps shape your character and build your network, but most of all it instils a sense of responsibility, credibility and accountability in everything you do," he said.

After seeing the work undertaken by Rotarians worldwide it is apparent that Rotary is not a relic of days gone by, but is a positive way to achieve a better future.