

Busy month for Rotary

By Fai CHIVELL

Ask a busy group if you want something accomplished, and that is what happened in August for the Rotary Club of Whyalla.

The month began with a visit from the new district governor Alun Hughes and wife Vicky who were delighted to return to Whyalla early in August.

Alun addressed members with a rundown of the History of the International Rotary Strategic Plan and the relevance of our district within this plan, which included the continuing work of eradicating polio, literacy and education throughout the world.

The club was also pleased to welcome interesting and inspiring guest speakers who spoke about their life and work.

Guor Miabok moved to Australia from Sudan with his family after surviving a life of upheaval, war and disease.

Guor spoke of his long struggle to achieve an education and qualification as a pharmacist after surviving the Sudanese Civil War as a child, refugee camps and illness then, finally his opportunity to achieve his goals.

Middleback Theatre manager Ryan Sutherland presented the club with a glimpse of her love of the arts and theatre and spoke about the history and future of the theatre she now manages.

Westland Shopping Centre manager Clare McLaughlin also talked about the future plans for the centre and inspired numerous questions from her audience.

Rotary Club of Whyalla president

Michele Hart attended the Graeme Jose Award night to see their nomination of swimmer Lauren Mathews win the award.

"This Graeme Jose Award is very important to the community and our club continues its involvement in nominating special young people," she said.

"We are all very proud of Lauren's achievements."

Rotary member Soto Stuppos's accountancy firm Hood Sweeney nominated young cyclist Jai Sutton.

"Our firm encourages participation in the community and goal setting achievements and Jai is certainly a dedicated young achiever," Soto said.

The Whyalla Show was an incredibly busy time for all club members who manned the gates

throughout the windy Saturday and rainy Sunday then, spent hours in the catering van feeding the hungry hordes.

It was the last time this catering van will be seen at events in Whyalla as it is now undergoing a complete overhaul.

The new van will be up and running for the Easter snapper competition, providing a wide range of healthy snacks as well as old favourites, especially donuts, which will be prepared on the new automatic donut machine.

The club is covering the cost of nesting boxes being constructed at the Phoenix Society for distribution in the Victorian Bushfire areas, which will provide much needed refuge for birds and encourage their return to the devastated landscape.

Plans are being put into place for the arrival of the riders on the Rotary Health Great Australian Bike Ride - a gruelling 18,000km journey around Australia.

The riders are presently making their way to South Australia from the west across the Nullabor and will be arriving in Whyalla on Saturday, September 19.

A reception for riders will take place in the city and later riders will take a much needed rest at the club's pavillion in Jubilee Park.

A few fit members of the Rotary Club of Whyalla along with riders from the Whyalla community will be joining stage eight of the ride.

Further updates on the bike ride will be published in *Whyalla News* mid-September.



Jack Odgers thanked guest speaker Guor Miabok for his inspiring talk of his life in Sudan and his struggle to survive during the Civil War.



District Governor, Alun Hughes and wife Vicky visit the Rotary Club of Whyalla. Pictured with Rotary Club of Whyalla president Michele Hart.

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