

# Rotary members keep up-to-date

Speakers on local community interests and issues are a feature at the Rotary Club of Whyalla's regular meetings which enables members to keep abreast of recent community developments and initiatives as they seek out service opportunities.

Most recently their guest speaker was Regional Development Australia, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula economic development manager Alex Todd.

Alex gave members a thorough understanding of the role and activities that RDA's undertake both within Whyalla and throughout the region.

Other recent guest speakers such as Peter Peppin, (Whyalla City Council chief executive officer), Arana Pearson (mental health), Dan Tucker (Whyalla 1st), Shaun Thomas (School Engineering and Science Challenge), Daniel Wilson (Quest Apartments) and Allan Kane (Arafura) have all delivered pertinent information and added to Rotarians' knowledge of what is happening around Whyalla and how Rotary can participate.

One of the local issues that Rotary is presently investigating, following a recent visit to Whyalla by Arana Pearson of Keepwell

Australia, is how it can develop a significant mental health project for Whyalla.

Rotary is currently looking at supporting activities to create awareness and assist in breaking down the stigma associated with all forms of mental illness.

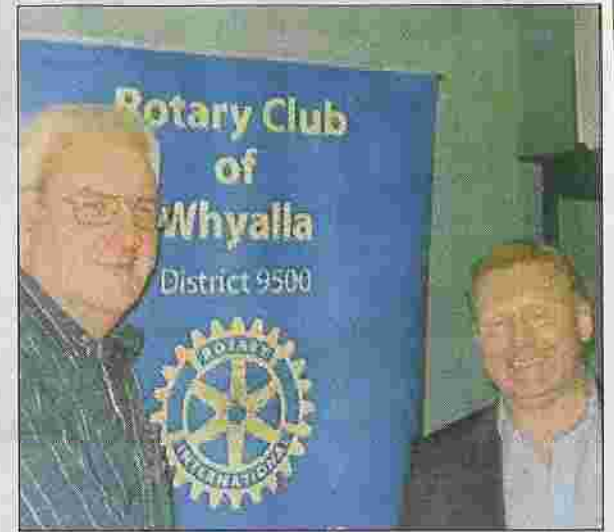
Statistics show that one in five Australians will suffer some form of mental illness such as loneliness, depression and hearing voices during their lifetime.

Mr Pearson's address to Rotary was very personal as he is a sufferer himself, however his focus was more about activities to promote well being and allow sufferers self-

help opportunities.

"Guest speakers of this calibre have a wealth of experience and their willingness to make presentations and answer questions helps to inspire Rotarians in their community activities," president Jane Owens said.

"Rotarians are often most visible when their Mobile Catering Unit is present raising funds, however Rotary often works behind the scenes and is much, much more than just hot dogs, chips and donuts," she added.



**THANK YOU:** Rotary Club of Whyalla member Paul Freiman's thanks Regional Development Australia, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula economic development manager Alex Todd for guest speaking at a recent meeting.

**GUEST:** Arana Pearson from Keepwell Australia spoke to the Rotary Club of Whyalla recently about mental health issues.

