



The "The Age" editorial 20th June 2023. The crisis around homelessness was the discussion.

The track pants so familiar....

Those tracksuit pants are hard to miss. We donated loads over them over several months to both The Alfred and Boxhill Hospitals. 60% now of folk entering public hospital Mental health unit (MHU)'s are homeless. Their length of stay is on average 2-3 weeks. Allied Health Professionals constantly reiterate that without our care, their inpatient clients would be in backless white gowns or hospital pj's. Your Club, as part of this project, is providing tracksuit tops and bottoms, T shirts, undies, bras, socks and care bags....a care bags for every person entering the MHU. The hospitals we service are The Alfred, Boxhill, Forensicare, and this has extended to Maroondah and Mercy Werribee via other Rotary Clubs of Lilydale and Wyndham Harbour, with our support.

It isn't a loud and clamorous project. We go about it quietly. News of the last few months though is something to share with members with great celebration. This report is newsworthy for your Club Bulletins and we would be most willing to come as guest speakers to explain further.

- Bonds donations of 50 pallets of beautiful basic trackies via GIVIT are now homed at DIK. DIK are provisioning the project with a bay of racking for the project which is amazingly spectacular.
- Pam (RC Port Phillip) has agreed to be part of a volunteering tripod with Vicki (RC Albert Park) and me (RC Brighton North) in deliveries to The Alfred each fortnight.
- Katrina and Sue (RC Hawthorn) deliver to Boxhill Hospital MHU wards monthly.
- Rotary Malvern, Rotary Hawthorn and Rotary Brighton North are regularly providing working bees to construct care bags at Barry's business (B&H Australia) and arrange clothing at DIK. A huge thank-you to Barry for storage in your warehouse.
- 16 boxes of T shirts via GOOD 360 will be arriving at DIK in the next week in a Charity partnership of the project.
- The Rotary Foundation has provided a District Grant for clothing. We are ordering some undies and mens tops from Ali Babi wholesale outlet.
- RC Wyndham Harbour and RC Lilydale are providing Mercy Werribee and Maroondah Hospital MHU's with care bags and clothing. We are seeding and supporting their endeavours with our learnings and donations.

This project is something that your Club is contributing to in a very meaningful way. Thank you so very much. If you would like more information please be in touch.

Warm regards

Bronwyn Stephens & Katrina Flinn