



International Service Committee Annual Report 2008-09



I am pleased to present the annual report 2008-09 for the International Service Committee of the Rotary Club of Moe. As Chair, I have greatly appreciated the support of all members of the Committee who have all brought with them skills and enthusiasm which has helped to make this year a great success.

Youth Exchange

We have been delighted with our inbound student Florian Sutterluty, who is an excellent ambassador for Austria. He has involved himself in Rotary activities with enthusiasm and has entertained us all during his talks to the Club. I am very pleased to be able to include Florian's own reflections in this report.

Australia 2008/09 - Being an exchange student:

When my dad asked me whether I want to study in a different country for some time, I refused immediately and after he was trying to convince me a couple of times, he eventually gave it up. At some stage I just got the feeling, that I have to do something new and extraordinary. So I went to my dad on this beautiful January Sunday morning and told him my plans to travel to Australia for the upcoming year. He definitely was surprised and didn't believe me at first, but I was keen and ready to go?!

Everything went very quickly from that time on! Now my Rotary-Exchange year is nearly over here in Down Under and I just had the most amazing time in my life! As a Rotary Exchange Student in a different country you experience so many wonderful things you could never have imagined back home. First of all you live with three host families throughout the year. In my case it felt like home, even though they live very differently as you are used to back in your own country (Austria). As a Rotary Exchange Student you are very busy at all times, not in the meaning of school or studying, it's more the stuff you are doing on weekends; special trips like the Rock to Reef and Bikeride to Conference with all the other Exchange Students from the same District; Rotary Youth Exchange Camps; school for sure and heaps of other exciting things.

In the time I have been here I have learned to live in a new culture, been apart from my family for 10 months, caught up with heaps of lovely Rotary Exchange Students from all over the world, seen so many remarkable places in Australia, and just had a great time.

All of these things wouldn't have happened without a great and supportive Host Rotary Club in the background. The Host Rotary Club plays a significant role of the exchange year. They provide you with a host family, give you a monthly allowance and just help you where they can. It's also great as an Exchange Student to catch up with so many interesting people once a week.

Thank you especially to my lovely host families and Rotary Club of Moe!

Florian

In February 2009, the Rotary Club of Moe celebrated 50 Years of Youth Exchange with a special Club presentation which provided an update from many of our past Youth Exchange participants - both inbound and outbound. Although few in number, we were especially pleased to be able to be joined by a couple of former participants and also several former host parents, who spoke about the value of Youth Exchange and their enjoyment in being involved in the program.

Forward planning for both inbound and outbound students over the next twelve months is progressing well.

Gippsland Rotary Golf Classic 2009

Each year for the past few years, the International Service Committee - primarily through the organisation of John and Norma Hutchinson - has been instrumental in conducting a golf day to raise much needed funds for local organisations and programs of the Club.

The following is a report on the 2009 Gippsland Rotary Golf Classic -

The ninth annual Gippsland Rotary Golf Classic organised by the Rotary Club of Moe was a great success this year. The Yallourn Golf Club was our venue on the 30th March 2009 and was in top condition for our 95 players. The weather was great and our BBQ under the Hart's tent kick started the day perfectly.

Outstanding support from organisations and individuals from Moe and District (and beyond) enabled the Club to announce another huge result which exceeded \$12,000.00. The Rotary Club of Moe thanks all sponsors for their generous support for our community.

Many excellent scores were recorded and the major winners were:-

The 3 person Best Ambrose Team was won by our last entry, Matt's Mates team (friends of Diane's son) who were competing for their first time. The team consisting of Matthew O'Neill, Vince Hiriaki & Bob McQuillan had a great score of 56 5/6 nett.

First Runners up were the team from regular sponsors, Loy Yang Power, consisting of Reuben Kincaid, Merv Beebe and Doug Anderson with 57 1/3 nett.

Second Runners up were new generous sponsor MJS led by our Bruce Paull, ably assisted by Michael Burton and Murray Reid having a 58 1/3 nett.

Third Runners up were the team from George's Mowers consisting of George Petkovic, Graham Geisler and Michael Lewis with 59 2/3 nett.

The best Rotary team for the Claude Staff Memorial Trophy was first time winners from Traralgon, Norm Butler, Leighton Gibson and Ron Elliott with 60 2/3 nett.

Novelty events were shared widely across the field. One special event was the Rotary Centenary House trophy for nearest the pin on the 8th hole and this was won with a great shot by Mark Smith playing for Latrobe Regional Hospital, who was delighted with the basket of wine prize donated by Tony Radford.

Our major raffle – the sought after Dunlop DDH Golf Clubs, Bag and Buggy donated by Dunlop Sports and Paull's Carpet Choice was won by Darrell Benjamin who sells more Raffle Tickets for the Children's Hospital each year than anyone in Gippsland.

David Wilkinson and Brett Farmer assisted by Florian made great use of the Tow Easy ute and kept all players on the course fully hydrated. Wendy, Bryon and Diane charmed all who passed by the tent with their goodies. President Neil lived up to his claim for being a great raffle ticket seller by ensuring no-one passed him by without contributing to our major raffle.

Many thanks to the Inner Wheel ladies supported by our Rotarians, especially David Prust for serving the lovely roast dinner supplied by Michael's Golden Hen plus fruit salad and icecream and for thoroughly cleaning up afterwards. Mass raffle tickets were bought enthusiastically across the Yallourn Golf Club function room and lots of fun was had as the prizes were drawn and distributed by Wendy, Diane, David and Rotarians as required. The Silent Auction also improved this year.

Rob Sim, assisted by Wendy, Kishor and Norma did a great job in finding buyers for the major auction items. All who stayed until the finish went home with something to remember the day.

We thanked the Yallourn Golf Club for the use of their course and function room, Manager Jason Johnson and staff Kim and Jacob gave us top

support. Members Ann, Robert, Joan, Reuben and Gary were thanked for ensuring that the golfing side went well.

This was an enjoyable and successful project for the Rotary Club of Moe.

John Hutchinson

I would like to add my own thanks to all members of the International Service Committee, our partners who were recruited to help out in many ways, to all the Rotarians who contacted and signed up Sponsors, to Florian and to everyone who helped on the day. Special thanks to Norma Hutchinson for her tremendous effort in helping to pull the day together.

As another Rotary year draws to a close, I am pleased to be handing over the Chairmanship of the International Service Committee to Michael Koch, as I know that Michael will continue to progress a number of plans and ideas that were discussed this year, including a potential project in Bali. A great platform upon which to build International and Foundation activities for the coming year.

Diane Wilkinson
Chairman