

Local Rotarian brings Nobel Peace Prize winner to Adelaide

MATTEO GAGLIARDI

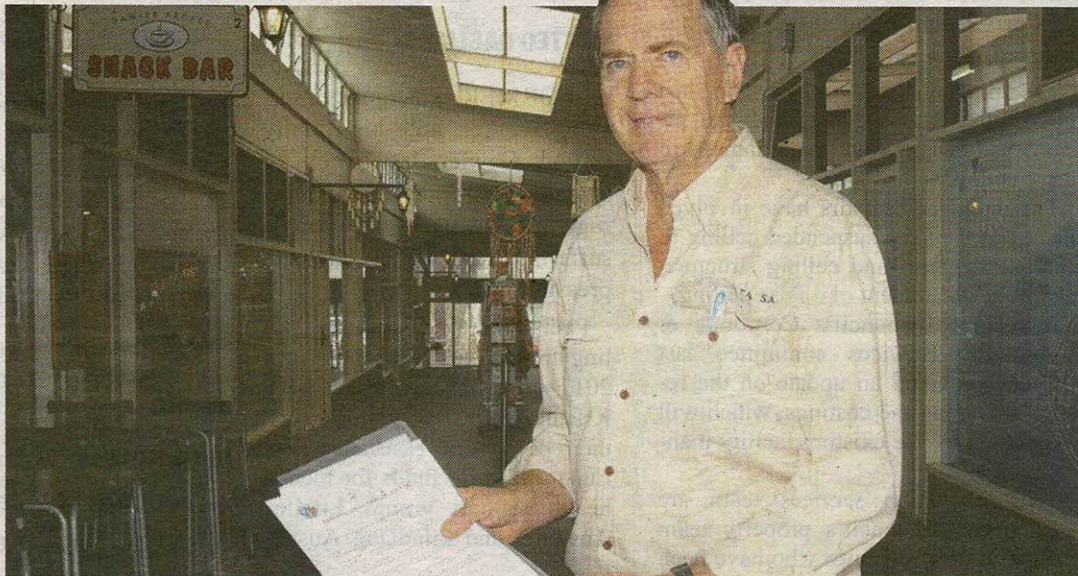
THE Rotary Club of Gawler Light is co-hosting a free educational summit that features a Nobel Prize-winning economist and social entrepreneur in Adelaide on Friday, which will focus on solutions to global poverty.

Professor Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microfinance aimed at addressing global poverty, will be the guest speaker at the 'Student Invention Summit' in the city.

The summit, which will discuss social development solutions such as microfinance, is being co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Gawler Light and Grameen Australia.

The Rotary Club of Gawler Light became involved in the summit thanks to member Ian Curtis, who previously spent 15 years with Grameen Australia, helping to start up social businesses in the Pacific.

Mr Curtis said Friday's summit, which people can register to attend for free, would be a chance for local business



Rotary Club of Gawler Light member Ian Curtis has helped bring Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus to Adelaide for the Student Invention Summit, on Friday. PHOTO: Matteo Gagliardi

people, teachers, students and community service members to learn about cutting-edge theories in poverty alleviation.

"Professor Yunus' theory and his ethos, what he focuses on, is helping people, which is what community services are all about," he said.

"Gawler, being a very community services centre, would get a lot of information from what's happening around the rest of the world."

Mr Curtis explained that mi-

crofinance, or microcredit, involves the extension of small loans to impoverished borrowers – often ones who own, or are looking to start up, their own small business – to build up their financial capacity from the bottom up.

He said Professor Yunus would be discussing his vision of achieving "three zeros": zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero carbon emissions.

"(Microfinance) is becoming more and more in vogue with

corporates to give their triple bottom lines to microfinance businesses, so that they can make profits to put back into the business again," Mr Curtis said.

"(It aligns with) some of the ideals of Rotary, which are to support people who are in need, and give them support through lots of areas that Rotary works in, which is donations in kind."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Student Invention Summit, or RSVPing, is encouraged to visit sis2018.com