

CLUB PROJECTS

Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Book Fair

How do we do it?

- We have drop off points around town but also collect.
- We also have a storage room at CSU Sth Campus, & have regular sessions (about once/month) when club members/helpers sort the books into categories (Non-Fiction eg Art, Animals... through to Sport, Travel, Texts plus Fiction eg general, thriller, romance plus Children's categories).
- The material we get is variable – we are forced to cull unsuitable stuff in poor condition.

Our club for past 13 years has run a Book Fair

- The first such fair in town was run by Crisis Line. When the local Lifeline Committee disbanded a member suggested it to our Rotary club as a project
- We have done it since 2003, growing in revenue from around \$3000 in our first year, to near \$50,000 last year.



So what's involved?

- We source books from the community via community notices and flyers.
- We then sell the books in a big annual event - providing book lovers with good reads at affordable cost & raising funds which we then return to the community - over \$300,000 since inception.
- Along the way we recycle a huge amount of material and hopefully encourage reading and literacy.

How do we do it?

- We then box the good books ready for display. We have learned what not to keep – encyclopedias, condensed books, magazines and tapes.
- Expenses are limited to hall hire and donations to the other voluntary organisations that help us out with the moving of the books from the store to the hall
- We have been fortunate to get **outside help** –Apex, Students from CSU, and local businesses for transport and for fork lift, Bee Dee Bags, and local media for publicity.



The Fair Itself.

- In recent years we have been easily filling Kyeamba Smith Hall at the showground with material – 40,000 books, sheet music, DVDs and CDs.
- This involves 1100 boxes stacked on pallets. This makes it a major job to move and set up.
- We occasionally get books that are **collectible** and run a special table of the more interesting and sell some in the market.





The Fair Itself continued

- There are also 'Fill a Bag for \$50' deals which are popular. Towards the end we have half price on Sunday afternoon. **Best sellers** are fiction but always good crowd around the non-fiction – Biographies, Military and Hobbies.
- Community Radio AAA FM does a live broadcast
- Sales ratio is about 60% Fiction/40% non-fiction. We also have a big children's section.
- After the fair is over we take anything left over back to the storage/sorting room for next year.

The Fair Itself continued

- We also run a BBQ and a coffee shop.
- We keep a few hundred boxes as **seed stock** for the next year. Around 2000 people come through – some more than once.
- Generally there is a crowd lined up waiting to rush in on Saturday morning. Some are commercial book shop people. Pricing is up to \$7 depending on condition.





What do we do with the money?

- Through the year the club gets approaches from local organisations – some we have supported over the years include **Northcott Disability Service/ Kurrajong Special School/Riding for the Disabled**.
- Apart from our **“Darkness to Light”** program we also run some vision related programs locally.
- We nominate youth for programs of various types **RYLA, RYPEN, RYDA, Shine Awards**, recent kidney transplant project etc etc.
- **People tell us books are on the way out** – but we haven’t noticed any significant change – we’ll keep it going while we can.