**Education Grants for needy school students in District 9790**

At this time of the year as families and schools plan for the next school year, the District Foundation Committee has decided to again offer funding to Clubs to assist students of low income families whose children’s school attendance and progress is likely to be inhibited due to a lack of resources.

For the 2016 school year, $5000 will be made available from District Grant funds.

District will match club contributions dollar-for-dollar. This means that grants totalling $10,000 can be provided.

 Education Grants should be made available to those needy students most able to benefit, as determined by each Club in consultation with individual schools.

While organisations such as Victorian State Schools Relief (VSSR) provide assistance for shoes and school clothing to more than 10,750 children each year, many of those children are unable to participate in swimming lessons, excursions, tours, camps and other curriculum related activities. Indeed, at the secondary level, some children may cease schooling due to the impact of subject material and equipment costs.

Clubs should seek the assistance of schools in their area to identify children who may benefit from additional funding assistance, especially if this means a student will continue her/his schooling. Even with the support some children receive from VSSR and other such sources, the resultant cost gap may still be very challenging for some families.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications for District Rotary Education Grants should be submitted using the District Grant Education Application Form (available on the district website) and should be submitted by 4 December 2015 to take effect in the 2016 school year.

As indicated above, it is envisaged that, in at least some cases, Education Grants will enable a secondary school student to remain in school rather than leave and face the uncertainties of the job market.

It is suggested that it would be prudent for Clubs to fund 90% of the scholarship allowing 10% to be paid by the student’s family where this is deemed advisable and/or feasible. Clubs will be asked to pay the total Education Grant to the student’s family and will be reimbursed 50% of the amount paid by the Club once the District Grant Final Report form has been submitted. (Available on the district website)

Applications should be forwarded to the District Scholarships Coordinator, Robert Iles, 42 Palomino Drive, Sunbury, 3429 or email robert.iles@outlook.com.au rather than directly to the District Grants Committee.