

Rotaract District 9680

Change yourself. Change the world.

SEPTEMBER 2008 - WWW.ROTARACT9680.ORG



Chatswood Rotaract info night a huge success

With standing room only and a long queue out the door, Chatswood Rotaract burst onto the North Shore scene last week with its official launch held at the stylish Monkey Bar. Young people flocked from across the lower north shore eager to answer the call to hear how they could make a difference in the world while expanding their own horizons.

The evening consisted of an introduction from Executive Director, Jeremy Charles, an outline of the club's big plans by Club President, Jason Rushton, as well as other testimonies from Wendy Zreika, Jason Sapier, Gordon Lau and Krissie Bredin. But perhaps

even more inspiring than the presentations given were the bonds made in the room by the amazing young people who attended.

With backgrounds as diverse as foreign aid work and permaculture, investment banking and photography, fascinating conversations ensued all over the room. "I wasn't just inspired by the quantity of people," said club President, Jason Rushton, "I was so impressed with their quality. I felt humbled to meet them."

The night came after not only a month of PR work, but three months of dreaming, planning, and organising by Chatswood's core team --



Steph, Wendy, Jason S., Mic, and Jason R. And as for the new members plans, the sky's the limit. In the words of Executive Director Jeremy Charles: "I really look forward to seeing the next page in the story of Chatswood Rotaract!"

- Jason Rushton

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Rotaract MQ raises \$2,700 at inaugural trivia night



On Saturday, 16th August, Rotaract MQ held its first major fundraising event, a trivia night. Friends, family, Rotaractors and Rotarians packed Eastwood Public's school hall and dug deep in support of the new club.

The competition was close, but the scores were separated by a tough

geography section which left many people scratching their heads. Raising sing-star Matty Patterson provided entertainment on the night and also emceed for the event.

Nearly \$2,700 was raised on the night, with the money benefitting club projects to address youth issues and reduce child mortality.

Thank you to Eastwood Rotary for providing a BBQ for the event and donating several prizes.

- Dani Fogarty

NetWorks works to fight malaria

Each year one million people die from malaria, a preventable disease that is transmitted through mosquito bites.

Rotaract District 9680 has joined the fight against malaria by initiating NetWorks, a project to provide insecticide treated bednets to protect villages in Papua New Guinea.

NetWorks is contributing to the 6th UN Millenium Development goal which is to "Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, incidence of



malaria and other diseases". It is also in line with Rotary International theme of "Make Dreams Real", a global push to combat preventable diseases in the world's vulnerable

children.

Clubs have already begun to organise their support of NetWorks including Macquarie University and Chatswood which has already started seeking corporate support.

The district project aims to supply one thousand bednets to villages in the region which will provide malaria protection for up to two and a half thousand people.

- Jeremy Charles

Making dreams real with the Frank Team

Jessica Kiely, founder of the Frank Team, will be presenting a workshop on "Turning Ideas into Reality" beginning at 7:30pm on 16 October at the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood.

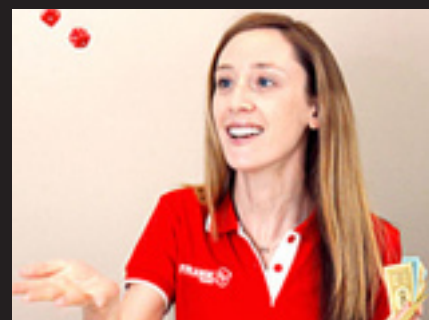
An entrepreneur from an early age, Jessica was featured in BRW as a Female Entrepreneur as well as being named as a finalist for the NSW Telstra Young Business Woman of the Year in 2005.

"I love to combine my endless enthusiasm and teaching ability to

encourage and empower all people I come in contact with to help them take their ideas and make them a reality," says Jessica.

Her key passions and goals of the Frank Team involve helping young people to build their careers through dynamic and interactive workshops in universities, schools, youth organisations, and corporate environments.

This workshop marks the first in a regular series of seminars presented by Rotaract District 9680.



Attendance is free for Rotaract members and \$30 for non-members. Limited guest passes are available. For more information on the Frank Team visit their website at www.frankteam.com.au.

Asia-Pacific Rotaract Conference - Bali, 19-23 Nov



Inna Grand Bali Beach Hotel, Resort & Spa, Sanur-Bali

www.aprrc2008.org

A “Dark Knight” for Chatswood Rotaract

“The real batman doesn’t wear hockey pants!”

“I’m like a dog chasing trucks!”

“Why. So. Serious!”

And so the quotes echoed through the stairs of the IMAX exit, as 30 of the most avid supporters of the provisional Chatswood Rotaract club left on an adrenaline rush from the clubs first ever fundraiser – a sold-out screening of “The Dark Knight.”



Three weeks before its official launch, the core-team of the club organized the fundraiser to finance the clubs very successful recruitment drive and upcoming activities.

30-odd supports of the club attended the event, including future club members, other Rotaractors, friends, family and even one Rotarian who was a particularly keen Batman enthusiast.

In the words of another attendee, Jeremy Lardner: “Seeing it at IMAX was 10 times better than at the normal cinema. Keep me posted about your next one.”

We will Jeremy, we certainly will.

- Jason Rushton

Project Vanuatu: From Sydney to Vanua Lava



bers from Macquarie Uni and Crosslands, Jeremy spent 10 days doing construction work on the Torba region’s first hospital and refurbishing the local high school on the island of Vanua Lava.

The group made significant contributions to both sites while also getting to know many of the Ni-Vanuatu people on a personal level not often reached on a typical tourist holiday.

While Vanuatu sounds like paradise, isolation, lack of infrastructure and poor access to health facilities lead to poor health outcomes for the Ni-Vanuatu people.

“Previously if you had a major injury, you’d most likely need to take a boat and then two planes to get the closest hospital. Many locals couldn’t afford the flight” says Jeremy Charles, Executive Director for Rotaract District 9680. “With the new hospital in Torba, patients are far closer to medical care.”

Rotaract offers many opportunities for young people to make a tangible difference in the world while developing their professional and leadership skills. “I learnt a lot about Project Management and cross-cultural communication” says team leader Jeremy Charles, a 2nd Year Civil Engineering Student, “I’m very lucky to have experiences like these before I’ve even started my career”.

- Krissie Bredin

Along with 8 other Rotaract mem-

Life begins at 40

Rotaract celebrated its 40th birthday in March this year. In honour of this momentous occasion a group of Rotaractors both past and current got together and organised a reunion. With a database of over 1,100 names the committee of Bernadette Horrell, Warren Soos, Stewart Townend, Vicki Lee & Leisl Gauci were able to make contact with over 300 people.

On Saturday 26th July a formal dinner was held at the beautiful Miramare Gardens. Past District Rotaract Representatives John Dodd, Warren Soos & Leisl Gauci gave short speeches about what Rotaract was like during their time in Rotaract. Memorabilia from the past 40 years was on show as well as a slide presentation of photos. The girls from Castle Hill Rotaract led some people in the Nutbush and stayed on the floor all night.



On Sunday 27th July a family BBQ was attended by over 70 adults and children. Members of Crosslands Rotaract ran games for the children and Waitara Rotarians ran a brilliant BBQ.

Plans are to have a get together every year though not on such a grand scale as the formal dinner held this year. If you want to be kept up to date about future get togethers please email: rotaract.reunion.2008@gmail.com.

- Leisl Gauci

Ordinary people, extraordinary encounters



John Mayer wrote a song about our generation “waiting on the world to change”, but on Wednesday night the members of Chatswood Rotaract met a remarkable woman who isn’t prepared to wait. After our first group sessions we were all bristling with ideas and enthusiasm. But how were we going to achieve these goals? Where should we start? Can we really make a difference? Any shreds of doubt creeping into our minds were blown away when we heard an inspirational story.

Jennifer Purcell is clearly not afraid to roll up her sleeves and get involved. A 3 month trip to India, where she worked as a teachers aid in the slums of Jaipur was the catalyst that led the 21 year old to start up her own NGO, tara.Ed. The main goals of the organ-

isation are to “create star teachers through hands-on training program for Indian and Australian teachers through a teacher skills exchange, the provision of resources for rural schools and the creation of cross cultural links between Australian and Indian schools.”

All eyes and ears were trained on Jennifer as she described her journey, from frustration at a system that was failing those who needed it most to her determination to take it upon herself to try and find a solution.

Jennifer described how being a member of Rotaract had helped her establish her foundation by providing the support and guidance she needed to achieve her goals. Her successes have energized and encouraged all of the members at Chatswood, and we thank her for sharing her truly inspirational story with us.

- Elyse Zaccai

Feeding the masses at WYD

As part of this year’s World Youth Day activities, Rotary was charged with the responsibility of feeding the masses on the day of Catechesis. Anna, Viruben and Gordon from Crosslands joined Waitara Rotary Club at Our Lady of the Rosary in Waitara, to feed a few thousand pilgrims.

We had all up 21 volunteers to feed 600 pilgrims, cook 1300 sausages, dispense 1200 biscuits and cake, 1200 sausages, 1200 slices of bread, 600 napkins, 600 serves of onion, and 600 bottles of water – all in less than an hour!

Rotarian Arthur Godfrey thanked the Rotaractors for their assistance and



noted that they provided a wonderful connection to all the young pilgrims.

- Krissie Bredin

Macquarie Uni Sustainability Fair

Rotaract Clubs provide young adults with a unique opportunity to conduct community building projects in both their local communities and internationally, as well as developing their professional skills. In recognition for the work Rotaract clubs do, Rotaract MQ was invited to participate in Macquarie University’s Sustainability Fair.



To showcase the many ways Rotaract contributes to social sustainability, Rotaract MQ also asked Crosslands Rotaract to also participate and highlight their projects.

While Rotaract MQ provided information to Macquarie students on the new club, Crosslands Rotaract sold handicrafts made by women in East Timor, as part of their project, Tais for Timor.

Over the three days there was a lot of interest and the unique nature of Rotaract enticed students to join. To purchase some of the handicrafts, including postcards, bookmarks, bags, journals, picture frames etc, to benefit the women of East Timor, please contact Viruben at viruben@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

13 Sept - Macquarie Open Day

19 Sept - Macquarie Uni Conception Day

20-21 Sept - Relay for Life

21 Sept - Memory Walk

24 Sept - Business networking

26 Sept - Laser tag

4 Oct - Taldumande Youth Services BBQ

16 Oct - Professional development seminar: Frank Team

17 Oct - Cancer Council Girl's Night In

18 Oct - Oktoberfest at the Lowenbrau

25 Oct - Comedy Night

28 Oct - Business networking

31 Oct - Halloween party

8 Nov - RotarACTIVE Bush Dance & Ceroc Night

19 Dec - Christmas Party

31 Jan - PRLS: Potential Rotaract Leaders Seminar

12-15 March - Road trip to Rotary District conference

4-5 April - PETS

Benefit Burma Dinner

In May of this year, Burma was devastated by Cyclone Nargis and the aftermath it left behind. The lack of even basic necessities like water, food, and shelter left the people of Burma in a humanitarian crisis situation.

On Saturday 9 August, Crossslands Rotaract hosted a fundraising dinner at Bagan Restaurant, Sydney's only Burmese restaurant. With 16 people in attendance from five Sydney-area Rotaract clubs, the night was a great mix of international cuisine, great company, and good conversation.

The money raised on the night was donated to Medicines Sans



Frontieres, also known as Doctors Without Borders. MSF teams were some of the first on the ground in Burma who began assessing and responding to the needs of the population, providing food, basic relief items, medical care, and improved access to clean water.

- Krissie Bredin

Out & About

Rotaractors from Crossslands, Chatswood, and Macquarie Uni came together on 10 August to hand out drinks to 60,000 runners in City2Surf.

More than 30 people, including several new members, enjoyed a great night of Putt Putt at the district social in August.

Castle Hill Rotaract raised \$500 at their BBQ at Dural Bunnings. Funds raised to go to One80TC, an organization that benefits at-risk young men with addiction problems.

St Ives Rotaract assisted with transporting thousands of books to the location of the Lifeline Book Fair in Pymble in July.

Got a story?

Email articles to newsletter@rotaract9680.org

Get Involved!

join@rotaract9680.org

What is Rotaract?

Rotaract is a global organisation that empowers students and young professionals to create positive change in their local communities and around the world. Rotaract provides unique opportunities that assist its members in becoming the business and professional leaders of tomorrow.



Rotary International is a worldwide network of business and professional leaders committed to international understanding and peace. Rotary membership spans 200+ countries, and encompasses all types of businesses and professions (including yours!).