

To Gold Coast Rotary Club Presidents - 2005/06.

Greetings,

As many of you would be aware, District 9640 has been involved with the establishment of a sensory garden in the new Gold Coast Council Botanical gardens at Rosser Park, Ashmore. This project was adopted by the District as a centenary project and, on the 23rd February 2005, a tree planting ceremony was held on site when the then DG Margaret Hayes and Mayor Ron Clarke turned the first sod and planted a tree that had been struck from a seedling of one planted by Rotary's founder Paul Harris in Sydney many years ago.

The purpose of this letter is threefold. Firstly, I would like to provide an update on progress with this project. Secondly, I would like to seek advice from some Clubs, who adopted this project as their centenary project, in relation to whether we might expect financial support from them. Thirdly, quite a number of Clubs indicated that they would like to provide volunteer support when this was required, and I would like to indicate when this would be required.

Construction on the site has commenced and it is expected that the major portion of this will be completed by Christmas. This will include 6 basic garden sites, an entry shed which will include a Board acknowledging major donors (including Rotary Clubs), and also an automated audio system which has been funded by the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. At this point of time, approaches are being made to

potential corporate sponsors, in particular to support funding for some bronze sculptures of our native fauna. This added feature of the garden was recommended by the Royal Blind Foundation, who pointed out that there are many visually impaired children who have no idea what a kangaroo or koala look like. These sculptures will provide, through the sense of touch, them with a better appreciation of our native animals.

On the first weekend in February, we are planning a planting day. The plants for the garden have been ordered and, with the help of the Friends of the Gold Coast Gardens Committee, it is estimated that we will need approximately 80 volunteers each day. The "Friends" will provide coordinators and it is planned to hold the planting from 8am to 11am each day. A special team will be there earlier to make sure everything is in place.

With approximately 20 Clubs on the Coast, we are hopeful of having an average of eight volunteers from each Club. I would welcome your advice as to whether your Club is prepared to be involved in this activity and if it is, I would welcome the name of the member who you have appointed as your contact person.

Gloves, trowels etc will be provided, but volunteers should wear lace up shoes and, of course, a hat. Your early advice as to this contact point would be deeply appreciated. One of my committee will follow up with this person sometime in January.

AB Patterson College are providing between 30 and 40 students who will be able to assist in the early set out and will be happy to act as "gophers" during the planting. Because of the possibility

of rain in February, we have the following weekend available for this work if the 4/5 February weekend is a washout.

Finally, It is planned to have the official handover on 23rd February 2006, twelve months to the day after the official launch. All Gold Coast Presidents will receive an invitation to the 23rd February function.

This project will certainly provide a wonderful facility for handicapped people in our communities and will be a fitting project to recognition Rotary's centenary. I thank you for your support.

Brian Knowles,
Chairman,
Sensory Garden Committee.

~~Important Reminder to Members~~
~~It would be MOST appreciated if there are any people who have not yet returned their completed demographic survey and questionnaire to either Neil or Denise please DO SO by this week~~

~~“Diary Dates”~~

~~Broadbeach Marketing celebrates~~

~~“A Gospel Christmas”~~

~~Saturday 17th December~~

~~6.30 – 9.30pm~~

~~in Kurrawa Park~~

~~Featuring the sassy, soulful sounds of the Queensland Youth Choir and Australia's own Queen of Gospel, Venetta Fields. Be captivated as a host of amazing entertainers join together in celebration of gospel music with their selection of vibrant, uplifting and inspiring songs. Don't miss an unforgettable evening of hand clapping, toe tapping Christmas music magic for the whole family.~~

~~For further information, call Broadbeach Marketing on 5539 8416~~

~~Ashmore Member volunteers required for Sausage Sizzle Duty for this evening. Please Contact Ted Anderson.~~