

YOUTH SERVICE - REPORT 2001-2002

Ken Alderton

The Rotary Club of Parkwood has traditionally had an active and balanced Youth Service program and the plan for this year envisaged that this pattern of involvement would continue. It was however recognised that availability of funds might be a factor that limited the extent of our program. Thankfully this was not the case.

Rebecca Collins was our nominee for the first student camp, the Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS) a program for Year 12 students designed to impart the essentials and knowledge of the life skills necessary to make the transition from secondary school to later life. For RYLA, the 7 day Rotary Youth Leadership Award program for the development of leadership talents for both community benefit and personal development we had two candidates, Adam Zaniewski, our 2000 outbound YEP student and Tim Crowden an apprentice sponsored by his employer RIMCO. The enthusiasm generated by RYLA was evident in the joint presentation that Adam and Tim made to the Club. A team of students from Helensvale High School was nominated for the Model United Nations Assembly but unfortunately the team's preparation was severely hampered by events at the school and they withdrew at the last minute.

Support was given to a number of community based programs and individuals that impact on youth in our community. We continued the financial support that helps to maintain a School Chaplain, David Forbes, at Musgrave Primary School helping children cope with difficult situations. We also helped a local wheelchair athlete Daniel Henshaw purchase a new racing chair and conducted a fundraising night to assist him with his future career and contributed to the fundraising program of Rebecca Hobbs a student attendee at the National Science Forum who was invited to attend an international science forum in Canada

In addition to these direct community programs there were a number of activities that span Youth and Community Service that involved interaction between the Club and young people in our area. In the Clean Up Australia, Rotarians from Parkwood were joined by students from Griffith University and Scouts and parents from Labrador Scouts in cleaning up the margin of wetlands at Parkwood. President Elect Margaret Grummitt organised a group of students from The Southport School to continue the cleanup of the same area and a number of our members provided the essential supervision necessary for this activity. The connection with the Labrador Scout group continued when a number of our members erected a pergola for the group at their new Scout Hut.

A number of members have commented to the Youth Director that they particularly enjoyed these latter activities since they were 'hands on' and it was a pleasure to interact with young people who demonstrated such community spirit. Similar programs commended to the incoming Youth Director.