

## Community and Environment 2022-2023

The Community and Environment group is naturally a very active and involved group. We have become rather small in number and therefore will need to call upon other members to help with our many planned and envisaged activities this coming year. We are very open to and would really welcome suggestions and ideas for activities which will support our community, especially those in the most need.

We shall choose to continue certain project and activities within the Community during the forthcoming Rotary year.

We will provide afternoon tea to the Re-Engage group, which comprises elderly people who are isolated and who enjoy the opportunity to meet with friends and acquaintances in a convivial environment.

Our plan is to develop this service, providing teas on a regular basis to the Evergreen club, which provides elderly people the opportunity for social interaction, chat and cake!

Volunteering for the local food bank, Storehouse, and Covid vaccinations will continue as required. These activities bring us into contact with a wide swathe of our community. There are plans to develop a Community Pantry to aid the ever increasing number of families in serious food poverty; we hope to be able to provide regular Rotary involvement in this support service.

Our version of KidsOut involves our working with local schools to meet their identified needs, providing educational experiences for the most disadvantaged children in the town and neighbouring area.

Several members volunteer to work with Heartwise, delivering CPR training to schools, youth and community groups and to other Rotary clubs. We are hoping that this invaluable initiative will be extended, with more of us trained and more community groups reached.

We will continue to support both the planning and execution of community initiatives and projects that are led by the 4 Rotary in Melton (RiM) groups.

It is to be hoped that the Duck Race, which requires the involvement of the local community, will continue to be held on a yearly basis. This is now an RiM event that we are very involved with and supportive of.

Planting crocuses and raising Purple for Polio funds is another joint activity done with the other RiM groups. We anticipate that this practice will continue, although the site may change.

There have been some Litter Picking events which have been supported by various members who helped to clean up several areas in and around the town. Two members joined with other Melton Rotarians and the Wombles to litter pick and we plan to develop this connection and work.

It has been difficult to attend Environment Leads' meeting this year but these are accessible on-line. It is hoped that we will be better informed and more actively involved this year, helping to influence practice and raise awareness of Climate Change and our responsibilities to nature.

We will also, whenever possible, be actively involved in a variety of community events and projects within the town and borough.

Quizzes that are open to the local community as well as other Rotarians not only raise invaluable funds but also the profile of our organisation.

Our work with the Youth of our town and borough continues and we plan to develop this further.

We have a very good relationship with the schools and we will continue to offer competitions and activities that the schools wish to be involved with. We plan to discuss with schools the introduction of other projects which would engage and excite the children, providing them with a range of learning activities. This will be done in conjunction with other RiM clubs.

The Interact group continues to be active but our direct involvement has been limited because of Covid restrictions. It is hoped that this will change this coming academic year and Rotary can be increasingly and actively involved.