

Rotary Club of Mundingburra Inc



Dear Mark

The Rotary Club of Mundingburra, together with Australian Rotary Health are hosting a public forum to discuss Mental Illness and Well Being. Members of your group are invited to attend, hear interesting speakers and have the opportunity to learn more about mental illness and problems associated with mental illness. This is a vital area of health, which affects one in five Australians.

I am also seeking your support in promoting the forum to your members and to the general public and for that purpose I have attached a pdf version of the flyer and the poster that we are using to promote the forum.

Australian Rotary Health has for the past 27 years been committed to raising funds for research into a range of community health concerns. In the past they have allocated research grants for, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Environmental Health Problems of the Aged, Adolescent Health, Family Health and Ross River Fever.

Their current area of research is into mental illness. ARH has pledged \$8 million over 8 years for research and an awareness program on mental illness issues. The awareness/preventative program is being accomplished by Rotary Clubs around Australia organising community forums. The aims of the community forum project are:

- * To help de-stigmatise mental illness
- * To reduce the adverse impact of mental illness of individuals living in the community;
- * To deliver information to individuals in local communities;
- * To improve the capacity of individuals to care for themselves when they develop a mental illness;
- * To improve the capacity of individuals to support others who develop a mental illness (eg. peers at school or members of the workforce);
- * To improve the capacity of individuals to access relevant services if they develop a mental illness, and to help others to do this when they need help; and
- * To form ongoing partnerships between Rotary Clubs, mental health services, support groups, local government and the community.

The forum will be held on 27 May 2009 at Mary MacKillop Hall in the Ryan Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm and concluding at approximately 9.00 pm. Entry is free and tea and coffee will be available.

The format of the forum will be short addresses by three keynote speakers, a clinician, a consumer and a carer, followed by an open forum discussion. We are fortunate to have as our keynote speakers:

- * **Mr Noel Trevaskis**, Past-District Governor of District 9710 and current Director and Board Member of Australian Rotary Health. Noel is a noted speaker about his experiences with depression;
- * **Mr Tony Swain**, Nursing Director of Townsville Mental Health Institute; and
- * **Ms Jo Hoban**, carer for a person with schizophrenia.

During refreshments there will be opportunity to mix with host Rotarians, the presenters and representatives from local support and carer groups.

Thank you once again and you are welcome to contact John Hall from our Club on 0408 879 053 or jmiljjmc1@bigpond.com for further information including hard copy versions of the poster and flyer should you be able to use them to promote the event. We would love to see your members and their friends and associates in attendance for this information evening.

Kind regards

Brad Groves
President
Rotary Club of Mundingburra