

Rotarians support the Granite Belt Water Relief - Stanthorpe
SATURDAY 11.01.2020

Archerfield Rotary Club - Water Relief



Jitendra Prasad the Past District Governor District 9630 greets President George Deen from the Rotary Club of Archerfield as he delivers another 24,000lt of potable water to the Granite Belt water relief.





Granite Belt Water Relief

Based at the old Landmark building at Applethorpe and open on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning the Granite Belt Water Relief is the group who distribute bulk water for stock, some domestic drinking water (20 X 1 L packs and 10 L bottles), dogfood, and some groceries for those most needy. Their operation is well organized and there are some great people involved. It was an eye opener seeing some of the folk who are obviously struggling. Some are not struggling financially but just need stock water. Water is pumped into 1,000 litres pods on the back of utes and trucks, or on trailers. They filled 110 on Saturday and 70 on Wednesday. Most people also took 20 litres of drinking water. Over 200,000 litres in a week!

At 10.00am George Deen the President of the Rotary Club of Archerfield arrived with another semitrailer tanker containing 24,000lt of potable water and was welcomed by Fran Hodgson the President of Stanthorpe Rotary and Past District Governor Jitendra Prasad. PDG Jitendra had arrived early in the morning with Rotarians from the Brisbane International Rotary Club, an energetic team who cooked and provided in excess of 350 meal of delicious butter chicken – that was distributed to the recipients as they collected their allocation of water for the day. Brisbane International Rotary also delivered two truck loads of bottled drinking water containing in excess of 900 packs.



Rotarian PDG Jitendra Prasad and his team from Brisbane International Rotary distributing delicious butter chicken were assisted by President Elect Mary-Ellen Nielsen and Jan from the Rotary Club of Brisbane Taylor Bridge

The empathetic team of ladies in the office who did the paperwork (it was very well organized), counselled when needed to, and distributed some laundry vouchers on Rotary's behalf (14 in total). The ladies are good at recognizing who is in need and provided quiet and dignified charity. They have a room set up as a pantry and I noticed how they quietly ushered a few ladies into it, gave them some shopping bags and closed the door. I saw several ladies leave in tears of gratitude.



Rotary President Archerfield George Deen, President Fran Hodgson Stanthorpe, and President Elect Mary-Ellen Nielsen Brisbane Taylor Bridge

Rotary Stanthorpe - Sausage Sizzle cooked a BBQ Saturday morning. Granite Belt Water Relief provided the BBQ, tent, tools, all the meat+salad+bread. Rotarians cooked a swag of sausages and steaks and served probably 150 people from 8 am to 11.30 am. Rotarians had to say to nearly every person “Would you like a free breakfast?” or “why don’t you let me cook you a free burger while your pod is filling?” or “hello, how are you, don’t leave without getting a free sausage on bread”. Rotarians were walking down the queue of utees and talk to them and their family thru the car window to coax them out. Charity makes many people shy but a kind word from a Rotarian, an un-judgmental smile and kind word helps. A free feed and treating someone with helpful dignity allows them to leave with a bit more than just some water and dogfood. Some families had a car full of children who were only too glad to get a free sausage on bread!



This was an excellent opportunity for the Rotarians from Stanthorpe, Brisbane International, Brisbane Taylor Bridge and Archerfield to work together providing community service, to prove that indeed ‘Rotary Connects the World’.



Foot note:

Storm King Dam – Stanthorpe



Before returning to Brisbane I took time out to inspect the primary source of water for the township of Stanthorpe. Even when at capacity Storm King dam is not all that large. Currently you can see how low it is – and that is only because the State Government has a fleet of tankers transporting 1.5 megalitres of water trucked in each day from Connelly Dam in Warwick, “equivalent to one and a half Olympic swimming pools”, four of these tankers were unloading while I was there.

Lester Drew
Secretary
Rotary Archerfield.

Rotary 
Club of Archerfield