



POST CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY, SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2013

By Annie Wysham – CUA Day Facilitator for the Rotary Club of Richmond

Unfortunately the originally cleanup site at the Fairfield Park Boathouse needed to be cancelled this year due to circumstances out of our control. Local resident and Yarra River devotee and canoeist, Anthony Gill, was to have been the Site Supervisor once again.

Participants who were looking forward to cleaning up the Yarra and surrounds were encouraged to go to the 'sister' site at Studley Park Boathouse, Kew, with apologies offered for any inconvenience caused. Anthony's wife Sheryl runs the Studley Park Boathouse site each year and the Rotary Club of Richmond were invited to join in.

We were also advised to register in advance on the Studley Park Boathouse, CUA Day website, as the Fairfield Park Boathouse web page had then been removed.

The changes were also posted on the RC Richmond web and Facebook page; plus a cancellation notice was created by Annie Wysham. 2 laminated copies were left by Anthony at the Fairfield Park Boathouse Café to be displayed for any volunteers who might have missed the notification of the sudden cancellation/change.

And CUA Day itself? The weather was perfect – warm and still, the setting was picturesque and the public support was marvelous!

Over 60 people all-told turned up early on the Sunday morning with gloves and enthusiasm to 'do their bit'. Included lots of keen children with their families in tow; and 10 Guides from the Hawthorn Girl Guide Troop, plus their Leader for supervision and encouragement.

Only 2 Richmond Rotarians – Chew Chan and Annie Wysham – made it. (Our Club did have the GSE visitors here from the UK and many members were involved hosting them.)

The Golden Key International Honours Society students again supported Richmond Rotary. Lead by Susanna Chan (Chew Chan) and her partner, JJ Richardson, 11 young people gave their time and energies to the clean up; many going out in the canoes kindly loaned free-of-charge by the Boathouse staff. They cleaned up amongst the reeds along the river edge, while having fun boating on the Yarra.

The good news – we felt that the whole area was quite clean considering its high use on a daily basis, and the fact that it is favoured at weekends by so many recreational users. **The predominant offending litter-bugs stood out as being the smokers, going on the amount of discarded butts left on the ground and in the garden beds surrounding the hospitality areas of the otherwise picturesque Boathouse.**

Sheryl estimated that the amount of rubbish collected overall would have made *'a large heap in the back of Parks Victoria's one tonne ute when they turned up on the Monday morning to pick it up'*, adding: *'...though I don't know what they would've done with the table and some extra wood!'*

Meanwhile, Anthony intends to run the Fairfield Park Boathouse site again next year and looks forward to the support of the Members and Friends of the Rotary Club of Richmond – and *their* family and friends - once again.

PS. If you can think of anyone who might be interested in assisting Anthony as co-site supervisor at the Fairfield Park Boathouse on CUA Day 2014, then please be in touch.



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