



Rotary District 9350



2nd EarlyAct newsletter: 25 May 2010

EarlyAct goes from strength to strength!

The second EarlyAct Quarterly Workshop was held at Chez Gourmet on Saturday 1 May, and followed a similar format to the first one.

This time though, we had representatives from more schools and clubs! See the network list attached. There was a real buzz, and not just from Jenny's concussion - 2 more clubs had chartered since the last meeting, and with 3 more schools raring to go to date, we are steaming ahead. We had wonderful reports from Olwyn Woodman of Wynberg Boys' Junior, Brett Pearce of Reddam Constantia, Emmi Fick from Beaumont, Sue Kieswetter from Bishops Prep and Christine Calothi, Rotary liaison for Grove. It is just amazing how many community projects these schools are supporting whilst stimulating leadership, altruism and social awareness in our EarlyActors. It is wonderful to see how quickly the EarlyAct synergy of learners, teachers, schools and Rotary is making a real difference to so many people. NG Director Geraldine Nicol said it was the most inspiring workshop she'd been to in years.

No less than 7 projects were showcased, and met with enthusiasm by the teachers present. Dave Moss from RC Paarl showed us a presentation on Shelterbox, a Rotary worldwide fast response to disasters, which can be sponsored and tracked by EarlyActors on the internet. The CD is available for schools to show learners, staff and parents.

Kelee Arrowsmith from Advanced Conflict Training has ideas for safety and security of our youngsters in roleplay format and Gilly Southwood reminded us how powerful story telling is, and what a rich heritage we have of oral tradition which we should be using more. Lisa Cohen from Grow a Tale is also available as a resource. Jo Maxwell demonstrated how to make the sleeping bags for the homeless that we mentioned in the 1st workshop, and gave us more ideas on how they actually get used eg as wall insulation. She is available to go to schools and has the resources needed to complete the project. Christine Calothi showed us how an earthworm farm works, and what the benefits can be. She also handed out directions and a letter about the Rotary Books for the World Project in Pinelands, which is a free books source for schools. We ran out of proper time for Liz Rose's chess exchange programme, and we have invited her back to the next workshop to tell us more.

May also sees the annual Rotary District Conference, which was held this year in Somerset West. Rotary International has for the last century and more been focused on 4 avenues of service, where Youth was lumped together with Vocational and International . Our workshop scooped Conference! Geraldine announced that Youth has become the 5th Avenue of Service in its own right, and that EarlyAct is now an official Rotary programme in all Districts around the world. This is huge in the Rotary world.

For the first time, EarlyAct opened the New Generations presentation on Day 2: we were introduced by Glynis Menne on behalf of Jenny Howard (thanks Glynis for being there when I couldn't be), then Bernadette White-Phillips and her team of Grove EarlyActors simply stole the show. District Governor Mike Saxby said in closing Conference the following day that the EarlyAct presentation had been the highlight for him. We have had incredible feedback and support from so many attendees – it will take weeks to respond to each one! Thank you so much to all of you who made it happen, and well done! Next year, we will have representation in a bigger and more inclusive way for as many of our clubs as can make it to Hermanus. We wanted to share this good news with you all, hence the delay in sending out this newsletter.



EarlyAct at the Rotary District Conference

Next Workshop

Our 3rd workshop is on **24 July**, the second Saturday of term, and will take place at **Wynberg Boys' Junior School** as we are outgrowing Chez Gourmet! Please diarise the date before term ends, and extend the invitation to attend to any other schools or teachers you think would enjoy coming along. We look forward to having Bishops Prep, Chester House and Oakhurst as chartered clubs next term. The details are:

09h00 -11h30 24 July 2010
Wynberg Boys' Junior
Oxford Street, Wynberg

Signs at the entrance will point you to the venue itself.

EarlyAct in Action

Here are some photos of the 5000+ Easter egg drop undertaken by the Grove EarlyAct team. They were really excited!

