

Whitehorse Farmers Market

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Whitehorse Farmers Market Celebrates Its Third Anniversary

In November the Whitehorse Farmers Market celebrates its third anniversary having become an accepted and anticipated part of the Whitehorse calendar. With over \$100,000 donated by the six participating Rotary Clubs in this time, the clubs who make it happen are Box Hill, Box Hill Central, Forest Hill, Mitcham, Mont Albert & Surrey Hills (MASH) and Nunawading together with the Whitehorse Rotaract. Monies have been contributed to a diverse range of local Whitehorse Community Projects.

For many residents the Second Sunday of the month is a "Must Go" to the Whitehorse Centre to visit the seventy or so fresh fruit, vegetable, meat, flowers and a wide variety of "value added" products whether they be cheeses, preserves and jams, cakes, olive oil, or other types of food stalls.

Travelling from places as far away as Mildura, Wangaratta, Sale and Great Western, the primary producers make the Whitehorse Farmers Market a must go date bringing their fresh produce from the country to the city. Arriving early to set up – often before dawn in winter, the market site to the rear of the Whitehorse Civic Centre is a hive of activity with marquees being erected and stock being displayed ready for customers to fill their bags and baskets ready for the week ahead. With a quick breakfast at the Rotary Egg and Bacon tent, the farmers and stall holders are ready for a great morning at the Market.

In 2008/09 alone, the combined clubs gave \$65,431 to benefit our community of Whitehorse. A further \$6,000 raised on 7th February was donated direct to Bushfire Relief. This was almost certainly the first fundraising for victims of the fires, before the extent of the disaster was fully appreciated. Principal beneficiaries have included Eastern Emergency Relief, Alkira, Taralye, Mitcham Community House, Redlands Park; Various Primary Schools, Box Hill Institute, Bennetswood Community House and the Whitehorse Special Olympics.

All members of the community who have received the benefit from the market say thankyou to all participants in the market – to shoppers for your gold coin entry donations, to vendors for such great quality produce, to the Whitehorse City Council for their original seed of an idea and to Rotarians who work on a voluntary basis to make the day sail along smoothly.

This is a great **win-win event** and we look forward to continue to work with the community in bringing the Country to the City each month. If you haven't been to the Market previously why not come along and experience it. With the stone fruit now coming into season – cherries, plums, apricots! There couldn't be a better time!

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WHITEHORSE FARMERS MARKET

A Community Project of

The Rotary Clubs of Box Hill, Box Hill Central, Forest Hill, Mitcham, Mont Albert & Surrey Hills and Nunawading together with The Rotaract Club of Whitehorse