

## Country Press tells the Boroondara Cares Story

The recent highly successful Boroondara Cares seminar at Nagambie, "Drought—Who Cares?" was attended by forty people. Representatives were drawn from the thirteen member Rotary Clubs, two Rotary Districts, two municipalities and one newspaper—the Cobram Courier which circulates throughout Moira Shire and beyond. Here is the result, from the Cobram Courier of September 9th.

# Drought unites clubs

By Geoff Adams

The hand of friendship from city to country has been extended to drought-affected farmers by Rotary clubs in eastern-suburbs Melbourne.

A meeting of clubs from the City of Boroondara and Moira Shire has agreed to continue an ongoing program of support.

Set up two years ago, it grew out of a desire from some Melbourne community leaders to demonstrate that city people cared about what was happening in the country and they wanted to help.

A Nagambie workshop attended by representatives of Balwyn, North Balwyn, Camberwell, Glenferrie, Hawthorn, Kew and Canterbury clubs met members of Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah clubs.

The Nagambie workshop heard four Moira Shire people — former councillor Kevin Bourke, orchardist James Cornish, former dairy farmer Frank Malcolm and former Murray Goulburn director Trevor Ennals — outline the continuing impact of the drought.

The Boroondara Cares committee originally planned to run for two years, "or until it rained".

Mr Bourke frankly told the Nagambie meeting, "I hoped not to be here this year", but he said the crisis was not yet over.

He described the program as one of friendship, support and understanding.

The network of Rotary clubs has been so informal that the program has no paid staff, no constitution, no funds of its own and very few overhead costs.

Once a project is accepted, clubs volunteer to lead and organise the activity.

At the Nagambie workshop the clubs agreed to continue in this co-operative style.

Moira Shire community development officer Sally Rice said the program had a significant impact on people in Moira.

"I've got pages of events that have been delivered over the two years, with all levels of support," Ms Rice said.

"(They range from) donat-



**Country to city . . .** Glenferrie Rotary Club vice-president Rob Hogan (right) meets Nathalia Rotary Club treasurer Ian Bell at the Nagambie workshop.



**Update . . .** Representatives from Moira Shire — Kevin Bourke, James Cornish, Frank Malcolm and Trevor Ennals — presented a drought update report to Rotary Clubs.

ing raffle prizes, to giving 88 children trips to the Portsea Camp.

"We had 15 young students take up work experience with a range of professions in Melbourne."

Ms Rice said Boroondara was now organising a weekend adventure camp for

fathers and their children next year.

"We've got room for about 100, and we're up to about 40 already booked in."

She said the events offered were evaluated and found to be very supportive. "It's been very highly valued."

Among the projects discussed, the meeting decided to run a sponsored Cobram harness night, a youth concert, a Katunga entertainment night, a men's health night, scholarship assistance, and to sponsor more children for the Portsea camp.

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