



District 9500/9520

Hello Club Presidents and Secretaries of 9500.

As a committee members of Calperum (CATE – Calperum and the Environment), we seeking any spare funds you have to helps us get this very worth while project over the line.

As you are aware, Calperum is the largest environmental project Rotary has in Australia and it is in South Australia and the committee is represented by both 9500 & 9520.

Committee member David Gooley of Mitcham has worked hard to replace the existing worn out RTV at Calperum.

We need your help

Jeff Cluse.

From David Gooley,

Hello Presidents and Secretaries.

I am a member of the Rotary Club of Mitcham.

I am currently running a watering project at Calperum Station, the Water Bag Project. (described below)

There is also a second project, in which I am hoping to raise sufficient funds to supply a Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV) to ALT at Calperum.

The Rotary Club of Mitcham and the CATE committee are supporting this project.

This email provides information on the two projects at the Calperum Station. I am seeking your Club's support for the RTV project.

Calperum is the major Rotary Environment project in Australia. Rotary has volunteered there since the late 1990s when PDG John Jackson led his Club, Blackwood, to volunteer there and a number of Clubs from both districts have been going there since, supporting the two main projects, Education and Revegetation.

Past RI president, Ian Riseley 2017-2018 from Melbourne called for more Rotary Focus and action on the environment. This resulted in the CATE committee initiating the Riseley Forest program at Calperum. The Riseley Forest is unfinished because of the drought conditions. Following good rainfall, it will be finished.

Past RI President Barry Rassin 2018-2019, from the Bahamas, also called for more action, calling Rotarians to focus on sustaining the environment by reducing environmental degradation and pollution.

The two projects will help in reducing the environmental degradation in the Ramsar listed site of the Floodplain and the Semi Arid Woodlands of the Calperum Station. The Mallee country of Calperum Station is also degraded, due to the sheep eating the grasses down to ground level, effectively killing the grasses. Since the sheep removal the grasses are slowly growing back by natural regrowth from surviving plants and their seed being spread by the wind.

The Rotary Club of Mitcham has two projects at Calperum.

- (1) The Water Bag project, which you possibly know about. This has been running since Aug. 2018. In this project, I am watering each seedling from a 25 litre refillable vinyl bag. The water drips slowly from the bag to the seedling. The bag takes about a month to empty at the suggested drip rate. I have submitted two articles to the DG's Newsletter on the project's progress. The water is taken from the office complex to the planting site, approx 3kms away, by a Quad Bike towing a small trailer with two 200 litre drums. Originally there were 50 seedlings in the project. Currently there are 42. 27 have died or have been eaten and I have replanted 19.
- (2) The 2nd project is the basis of my email. I wish to raise funds to purchase a Kubota X900 RTV to replace the Quad Bike currently in use. I, friends and Rotarians have been using the Quad Bike to deliver water to the water bags of the above trial (project). I have never felt happy driving the Quad Bike on the dirt roads where the speed limit is 80KPH and the road is shared with the public. Not only am I concerned for my safety but also for my helpers. The water bag project has been extended by 12 months due to the dry conditions until Aug 2021.
The target is \$19,400 if we can purchase the Kubota without having to pay GST, which I understand we can, via Australian Landscape Trust (ALT). If we cannot, the target is \$21,340.

Please find attached information about the project and the Kubota X900 RTV.

Picture DSCO2422 shows PDG Dick Cuttle and Alison (Bob Arnold's daughter) filling bags in Aug 2018 at the time of the first fill of the bags. The water is carried to the site in the 2 X 200 litre drums on the little trailer. They are relatively close to the ground and hence the flow rate is initially ok but reduces as the drums empty. We can get approx 300 litres from the drums before the flow rate becomes very slow, too slow. I have considered a pump, but one has not been fitted. I have found if I can keep the flow rate up for a number of extra bags by adding water to the drums from containers I take to the site.

Picture IMG 0944 is from the supplier's website. The Kubota X900 has a rear tray capable of carrying up to 700 kgs, 700 litres of water. Fitting a tank to this tray, would enable approx 600 litres of water to be carried to the site, plus a further 400 litres?? in the trailer drums. This results in a refill of the water containers only once for the 50 bags around the plants. A significant reduction in time.

I have been volunteering at Calperum since 2009, my major focus being the revegetation of the flood plain and the Semi Arid Woodlands.

I have learnt an incredible amount from my volunteering at Calperum thanks to Dr Grant Whiteman and Dr Peter Cale.

I have been a member of the Calperum committee, now CATE committee since its inception.

I would appreciate your Club's consideration of this in the hope your Club will support with a donation to the RTV Project.

Thanks

David Gooley PP

Rotary Club of Mitcham 9520

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If you need further information, contact David Gooley.
Thank you in anticipation.

Jeff

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Member of the Rotary Club of Prospect
Rotary Club of Prospect Club Secretary 2019-20
Rotary 9500 – Group 2 Assistant Governor.
Rotary 9500 – District Team Leader for Club & District Administration.
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