



Central Highlands Digital Enterprise

Business and Community Supported by Partnership with Rotary.

Rotary Club of Wendouree is working to raise dollars for Rotary initiatives whilst building capacity in a local community organisation, and in Rotarian owned businesses. Working with the Australian government funded DigiBiz project managed by University of Ballarat, the Wendouree club spoke to 90 Rotarians at the project launch function on Monday, 14 October. Club President Rae McLeod urged district Rotarians to book training sessions to improve online skills and generate a payment to Rotary.

Training in computer skills, mobile devices and smartphones is being provided by the crew at Flash DriveFlash Drive Beyond the Classroom Inc. Trainers Faye and Dianne, experts in making technology easy, are looking forward to the partnership.

According to DigiBiz Project Manager Gerrie Carr-MacFie the learning model has prospects for higher social benefit.

"This win/win partnership will generate learning outcomes, contribute to operational efficiencies in business, and provide a return to Flash DriveFlash Drive and to Rotary projects."

Flash Drive based in Wendouree West is a community based independent not-for-profit enterprise. It is 'struggle street' at the Hazel Rd premises. Operational and financial viability is difficult but the Board, volunteers and ICT trained staff make a significant contribution to individual and community.

Flash DriveFlash Drive recycle and resell computers ensuring low cost entry into computing for those who find cost a barrier. They also provide practical based training 'beyond the classroom'. And the approach is working. Each week hundreds of pieces of computer

componentry are recycled, and hands-on training is provided across the community including programs for seniors, youth at risk and disability clients.

Through the DigiBiz project, Flash DriveFlash Drive will offer Rotarians individualised training in computing and applications, including mentoring in smartphone and mobile use. Flash DriveFlash Drive will have young mentors available to assist the learning. From understanding basic email to getting more from excel spreadsheets and business applications, Flash DriveFlash Drive will increase the uptake of broadband technology in business. Thanks to the Australian government funding provided to DigiBiz, the relationship with Rotary Club of Wendouree will extend the reach of Flash DriveFlash Drive beyond the classroom into the business community.

Payment back to Rotary will also be generated from eligible ¹ attendees at the **Rotary Goes Social** workshop Wednesday 6th November 5:30pm at Ballarat Golf Club and at workshops on other selected topics.

"I urge all district Rotarians, not just our Club members, to get behind this exciting partnership."
President Rae Rotary Club of Wendouree

Businesses and community groups can register to attend the free training activities www.digibiz.net.au
END of ALERT

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YES



¹ Central Highlands located businesses and clubs under 200 employees are eligible for one group workshop and individual mentoring, up to four hours per business or club.

