



To the Stallholders at the Cotters and Strand Night Markets

Greetings from Rotary.

We are very excited at being chosen as the Council's partner in delivering the Cotters Markets and Strand Night Markets.

We are also delighted with the opportunity to work with you to build on the existing success of the two markets.

Over the next six weeks we hope to get to know you better. Please fill out the attached survey to help us with our review.

This newsletter is just a short one to introduce ourselves and to answer some questions you may have.

What is Rotary?

Rotary Clubs are service clubs. Rotary clubs members want to give something back to their community through voluntary service.

There are twelve Rotary Clubs in our local area, comprising about 360 members.

You will recognise the Rotarians at the Markets by their yellow shirts.

What does Rotary know about Markets?

Rotary has been operating the Willows Rotary Markets for over ten years. This market operates every Sunday and is one of the largest and most successful markets in the region.

Will there be any changes to how the Markets are run?

To start with, there is unlikely to be much change, until we can work out what's what.

Over time, change is inevitable- but hopefully for the better.



Shorty at the Willows Rotary Markets

Rotary will start by reviewing the Markets operations, and see if anything can be improved. The attached survey is the start of that review. We would appreciate your ideas on how to improve the markets.

When will this happen?

Over September and October, Council will be phasing out and Rotary will be phasing in.

By the end of October, Rotary will be running the Markets in total.

Will regular stallholders be able to keep their current sites?

Yes.

Over time we may have to change this, particularly to fit in with the construction programme that is expected to start soon to renovate the mall.

We will need to number the sites, to fit in with our booking system.

How will this affect my stall?

We will do all we can to ensure that market stall holders feel minimal affects of the change in management models.

The objectives of the Council are to:

- Showcase local produce, arts, crafts, entertainment and products.
- Provide valuable exposure for local artists.
- Contribute to a dynamic events program for the city, and
- Build a sense of identity and place for residents and visitors.

The objectives of Rotary are to:

- Provide outstanding community events
- Raise funds for community projects
- Provide economic development opportunities for micro-businesses
- Promote the Rotary movement

What is the future of Cotters Market?

Cotters Market will stay in Flinders Street and will remain open throughout the period of construction as part of the redevelopment of the precinct. The construction is planned to commence in early 2010.

Will the market stall prices go up?

Early on, we will perform a review on the prices of stalls.

This will take into account what other markets are charging, and how long it has been since the last price rise.

A key thing to consider is that all the revenue from the markets goes back to community projects.

How will I book a stall?

For now, no change. However, once Rotary have taken over the management of the Markets you will be able to use the Rotary Call Centre number.

We also take bookings over the internet, by email, or in person at the markets.

How will Rotary spend the funds raised?

Rotary spends the funds it raises on a variety of community projects.

Examples of previous Rotary projects include the Playground in Riverway, support for the new Coastguard boat, support for the Palliative Care unit at the hospital, equipment for the Women's Centre, support for Abused Child Trust, etc.

What will happen to the Willows Rotary Markets?

The Willows Rotary Markets will continue to operate into the foreseeable future. Rotary has the resources and systems to run all three markets to a very high quality.

Can a stallholder put an advertisement on the Rotary Markets Web site?

Rotary has a Markets Web Site- have a look at WillowsRotaryMarkets.com.au. We are in the process of modifying this site to be TownsvilleRotaryMarkets.com.au, incorporating the Cotters and Strand Night Markets.

Regular stallholders at any of the three markets will be entitled to a free advertisement.

How can I find out more?

Don't let rumours distress you – pick up the phone and let us know of your concerns and feedback. Rotary's number to call is 0417 721 822 from 9am to 3 pm Monday to Friday. We will also distribute information about the process as it becomes available.

You can also talk to the Council staff member Tom Aubrey on 47279588

August 2009

Happy Trading!



