

Rotary Meeting 3 June 2019

Speaker : PDG Julie Mason

Topic: "The Power of Youth

Julie is the Principal of Baden Powell College, Wyndham, which has about 1800 students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Julie has been involved in education and working with youth for over 60 years as a student and teacher. She grew up on a dairy farm in rural Victoria, and has lived in the Wyndham area for 32 years and is a Carlton supporter. She has been a member of Wyndham Rotary for the past 20 years and was President in 2000/2001.

Wyndham Rotary works with students from Baden Powell College, providing weekend camps for young people and is involved with youth programs including Earlyact for primary children and Interact for 12-18 year olds. Those involved in these programs meet fortnightly and take part in community and international projects to improve the community and learn the value of volunteering. Programs include making an anti-bullying DVD for schools and visiting a local pre-school and reading books to the children. Another project involved translating children's books into a variety of languages spoken by student's families to assist parents. Students have fund raised for a new school in Cambodia to provide uniforms, book and other resources.

In summary, Julie said the benefits of students participating in shared projects brought together diverse groups, encouraged fellowship and provided opportunities for leadership, this has given young people an edge when applying for jobs and helped assimilate difficult students.