

Tell Us . . .

Liverpool Leader: Wednesday 21 July 2010

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Forged through the Fun & Fellowship of the
Liverpool West Rotary Club

Charles Hili, 51, has been a dedicated Rotarian for five years. The co-owner of Gato's Pastizzi in Carramar talks to **Bianca Lipari** about "being of service to others".

How did you become involved with Rotary?

I became involved with Liverpool West Rotary Club through a friend in The Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce who invited me to one of their dinner meetings. He thought I had something to offer. I was initially apprehensive due to Rotary having a stigma of being an old man's club. However I changed my mind when I saw the great work these guys did in the community and the many and varied projects, both locally and internationally, they were involved in.

What do Rotary clubs do?

Rotary is the largest service organisation in the world. Our highlights of the last 12 months include the staging of a circus extravaganza in the grounds of Liverpool Catholic Club, entertaining 13,000 children, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, handing over a cheque to Drug Arm for \$65,000, holding a corporate golf day which raised \$15,000 for a young dad recovering from a serious car accident, and helping a young cricketer with airfares so he could captain his team at a Darwin tournament.



Charles Hili likes to lend a helping hand.

Picture: NICK ANDREAN -PF309405

What has been the highlight in your time as a Rotarian?

I served as president for 2009/10. This was the most rewarding thing I have done in Rotary and I absolutely loved the job. I have developed lifetime friendships due to Rotary. I had the pleasure of going to Vietnam and Cambodia with The Vietnam Vision Project twice in the year I

was president. Our club has been associated with this Cabramatta organisation for years, both in terms of financial and logistical support. Vietnam Vision visits Vietnam and Cambodia every year and provides free cataract removal surgery to those who could never afford it.

Tell us about the trip

We saw places a lot of tourists

never get to see. We boarded an aircraft six times, and endured numerous long bus trips in oppressive heat during our two-week stay. We visited various orphanages and even a leper colony handing out food, money, conducting free eye checks and spreading the goodwill every Australian has in them.