

ROTARY SERVICE IN THE APY LANDS



THE Rotary Club of Onkaparinga, SA, has supported many projects improving developing regions overseas, however, realised they had never assisted Australia's own Indigenous communities. Under the leadership of president David Harris, the club found a project in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, an Indigenous reserve of around 100,000 square kilometres located in far northwest SA.

A trade training centre at Umuwa required help completing paving for a new outdoor eating and entertainment area. The centre offers courses in hospitality, construction, horticulture and motor vehicle maintenance, among others. In addition to its education function, the venue plays host to many local functions, including parliamentary events.

After their applications for entry into the APY Lands were accepted, a group of 10 Rotarians and a few extra volunteers left their base in the Adelaide Hills to travel the 1200 kilometres to the centre, of which



The Umuwa Trade Training Centre offers courses in hospitality, construction, horticulture, motor vehicle maintenance and more.

a good portion was on dirt roads of varying quality.

Upon arrival, the temperature had reached 39 degrees. Work began by levelling the base of what was to be the paved outdoor area – no easy task, as the concrete paths around the centre were somewhat uneven and wound around water pumps and tanks. Over three days, the team laid 165m² of paving, beginning work in the cool at 6.30am each day – hard, hot work.

The locals were exceptionally

grateful, with staff catering all the team's meals.

"Feedback from those taking part was very positive, not just for the work, but also for the opportunity to enter the APY Lands and visit some of the towns we hear or read about, but rarely get to see," club member Dick Cuttle said. "We are hopeful we receive an invitation to return next year in the cooler weather to complete the job, and to continue serving the people living in one of the most remote areas of our country."



Members of the Rotary Club of Onkaparinga paving the new outdoor eating and entertainment area at the Umuwa Trade Training Centre.