



FUNDRAISING

NOT JUST CHILD'S PLAY

Over 2000 enthusiasts joined in the fun at the Rotary Club of Queenscliffe's annual LEGO® exhibition this year.

QUEENSLIFFE Bricks attracts national interest from LEGO® fans. It includes exhibits from over 50 exhibitors, building masterclasses and a play zone, where kids and adults alike can let their imaginations run wild. Prizes and free giveaways are also on offer.

The Rotarians receive welcome assistance from the Melbourne Lego User Group in organising the event. The group is a thriving community of over 2000 Victorian members, who meet monthly to discuss, play and learn about all things LEGO®.

Each year, they fill the Point Lonsdale Primary School, Vic, with new true-to-life models of trains, planes and automobiles, fantastical scenes of pirates and princesses, and everything in between.

LEGO® guru Travis Matheson worked his LEGO® magic in the masterclasses and revealed the secrets of "brickbending" – the art of making straight bricks into curved shapes.

"In 20 minutes, the young LEGO® initiates managed to build a huge circle out of LEGO® that fit 40 adults and children inside," club event organiser Karen Pecar said.

"You never outgrow playing," said president of the Geelong Lego User Group Veronica Young, who is in her element at the event. "You get to chat with a lot of people and look at other people's builds, and they'll tell you how they did it."

Veronica aims to delight the young and old with her exhibits, which have included a fantasy fish tank mixing LEGO® and DUPLO® (the larger format LEGO® bricks designed for younger children).

"When they walk in the door and their jaws drop, it's such an awesome feeling," she said.

There are also exhibits with a local flavour, such as the model of the Geelong CFA and ambulance stations crafted by 22-year-old Point Lonsdale nursing student Huw Joyce. Informed

by his background as an Army cadet, and in the medical field, Huw is an expert in the recreation of military and emergency services buildings and vehicles. He makes his models in intricate detail; a process that necessitates hours of studying his subjects in real life, then settling down for a lengthy period of construction.

"You lose track of time when you're building. You look at the clock, and all of a sudden it's midnight. It's a good escape from everyday life," he said.

Huw likes that his work makes people stop and appreciate emergency services in greater depth.

"There are more than 12 different types of ambulances. I try to make my models as detailed as possible. People go, 'Is this the Geelong ambulance station?' – completely shocked. They're just amazed."

Residents of Geelong and the Bellarine were also delighted by a model of local historic property "Lathamstowe". However, the carnivorous "man-eating" plant installed in the garden was an unexpected surprise this year for many guests.

The People's Choice Award went to exhibitor Kale Frost, who built a huge multi-dimensional mosaic, which appears as Superman from one angle and Batman from another.

It wasn't just all for fun, however – the event raised over \$12,000 for local, national and international Rotary projects.

Queenscliffe Bricks is supported by event partner and major sponsor Dizzy Toys, which provides the play area and competitions, Point Lonsdale Primary School and sponsors Searoad Ferries, Campbell Potts Real Estate and Lighthouse Olive Oil. More than 30 volunteers from Rotary and the local community also provided assistance.

Next year's Queenscliffe Bricks will be held on June 8 and 9, in Point Lonsdale, Vic. For more information, visit www.queensclifferotary.org.au. •



