



STOKED: Eat Up founder Lyndon Galea and Colac Rotaract secretary Jen Chiu are excited that the groups' partnership will continue for the next 12 months, after Rotaract received an \$1800 South West Community Foundation grant. Rotaract has been providing lunches for disadvantaged children.

Activist applauds sandwich project

BY RUBY MANSON

Eat Up charity founder Lyndon Galea says Colac Rotaract's sandwich-making project is making a massive difference to the lives of Colac and district school-children.

Lyndon's organisation Eat Up has partnered with Colac's Rotaract group to provide school lunches to Colac district students who might otherwise go without.

He visited Colac on Tuesday to join members of the Rotaract team on their delivery runs around the town, and to attend the South West Community Foundation awards night where Rotaract received \$1800 to sustain the program for the next 12 months.

"I wanted to come up and be a part of that grant and see the team, and to go out on a delivery run with Jen and see the schools and meet the teachers," Lyndon said.

"For locals to be able to donate the time to make the sandwiches and do the drop-offs, and that's what the Rotaract group have been able to do in terms

move, because without that it doesn't happen, so they're definitely the stars of the model.

"The funding is a great acknowledgement for their hard work and their effort and the success they've had thus far, and a huge boost of encouragement in terms of being able to support their efforts for the 12 months ahead and give them momentum for further beyond."

Rotaract secretary Jen Chiu said the South West Community Foundation grant would allow the group to sustain its service to five Colac district schools for the next year, having already made 1400 school lunches for students.

"The grant will help us run the program basically for the next year, so we'll be using it to purchase things like bread, cheese, vegemite, butter or margarine, and anything else we're running low on," she said.

"Eat Up Australia the charity have been really good at giving us these supplies so far or reimbursing us for things from their funds, so now that we've got this grant it enables us to know that we're not taking money from

just run a sustainable operation here in Colac."

Jen said she had received positive feedback from schools involved in the program and the funding would allow Rotaract to improve the logistics of its project.

"The feedback that I'm getting from the schools is generally that kids that are accessing the program generally need it and they're not getting that many people just taking advantage, which is really great to hear," she said.

"For the next year with that money we should be able to make somewhere between 2000 and 2500 sandwiches.

"With the money we'll be able to switch from using single-use plastic bags as our delivery method to buying some cooler bags, which will be great in summer because the sandwiches will last a bit longer and it will be more sustainable," Jen said.

"We actually found out that there was twice as many applications as there were grants given out, so the fact that we were chosen, we feel really