

“Rotary’s freshly cut Christmas Trees”

Article and photos by the editor Issa Shalhoub

Once again the **Rotary Club of Milton-Ulladulla, D9710**, has been cutting and selling real Christmas Trees at a very reasonable price, grown locally at Englemere Farm in Milton, on the South Coast of NSW. The trees, Radiata Pine NZ Christmas Tree selection, have been planted and looked after by PP 1997-98 Tim Gregory and his family on their farm, and the profit raised from the sales is distributed to local community’s organisations such as schools, charities, Cancer House, Davenport and Mullala.

Tim and his family members, wife Genelle, daughter Mary-Anne and son in law Tony Ryan have been planting yearly four to five hundred, six inches tall seedlings, which take two and half years to mature, six to nine feet tall, for cutting. Tim’s initiative, of helping our Club raise money, started in 2005 and has been going ever since. Tim and his family purchase the seedlings, plant them, prune, fertilise, mow around the trees and after deducting the expenses incurred they donate the profit to Rotary, which runs into thousands of dollars annually.



From left; Mary-Anne Ryan, PP Phil Brown, PP Tim Gregory, Tony Ryan, Genelle Gregory, P Michael Mastronardi at the farm.



Kaylah and Amber Toogood wrote a letter, helped by dad, and deposited it in the Santa Letterbox when they purchased a tree.

Yearly around three hundred trees are sold, with the help of volunteers Rotarians and kindly at the **Gardenhaven Nursery**, located on the Princes Highway in Milton NSW, thanks to Kerry and John McKillop, nursery proprietors, who have been selling the trees on behalf of the Rotary Club of Milton-Ulladulla.

The trees are available for sale at the farm, in Milton, usually two to three weeks before Christmas, Monday to Friday in the afternoon and also on Saturday and Sunday between 10.00 am and 4.00pm. The members of the Rotary Club of Milton-Ulladulla assist Tim and his family with cutting, trimming and delivering the trees on a roster basis. Purchasers can visit the farm, choose their tree and cut it if they wish, delivery can be arranged for a small charge. Christmas Eve is the last day to purchase a tree.

This last Christmas the Gregory family had a special Santa letterbox where kids can post a letter to Santa.

The project is publicised as a community article and paid advertisement yearly in the local newspaper and this year it has been on the Club’s **Facebook** page (www.facebook.com/rotarymiltonulladulla) where it received lots of positive comments and followers.

Share your Club or District Service Project

We would like to hear from Districts or Clubs telling us what they have done. Please include a summary, contact details, and a couple of photos, and forward to this Newsletter’s editor (Issa Shalhoub) at shalhoubissa@shoal.net.au.