

Taste of this and that has pulled crowds for 17 years

The Devonport Food and Wine Festival, conducted by the Rotary Club of Devonport, N.Z., now has been successful for 17 years.

The latest festival, in February this year, attracted more than 10,000 people over two days.

The 14 food stallholders offered fare from many nations and New Zealand wild foods. Eighteen wineries had stalls. The festival raised more than \$NZ110,000, a significant achievement by the club and the community.

Primary beneficiaries in 2006 were the Michael King Writers' Centre in Devonport and The First Tee, a golfing charity set up to instil and promote the attributes that golf as a sport imparts on the players. Other organisations are invited to apply for funding.

The Rotary Club of Devonport this year had to find a new event manager and new sponsor. The 2006 principal sponsor was Columbarium inner city accommodation.

It has 18 levels of modern, furnished sleeping studios that are available from one week to many months.

President Gavin Busch said: "The new manager, Empire Public Relations and Events, did a fantastic job.

"Some fresh ideas were introduced and the festival and Rotary were promoted in the media on more than 15 occasions.

"This is even more impressive considering Empire only picked up the management in September, 2005."

President Gavin said the support and participation of Rotarians and their families was important to the success.

The festival, introduced in 1990, has enabled the club to provide more than \$1.6 million in grants.

Having the Michael King Writers' Centre involved added an attraction to the festival. Poems, short stories and extracts by some of New Zealand's most respected authors, poets and celebrity speakers were read at the Rotunda

Stage near a Moreton Bay Fig tree.

Executive Director Pip King of The First Tee, said: "We are overjoyed that Devonport Rotary supported us. This will be a huge boost to our fund raising efforts."

The Michael King Writers' Centre bears the name of acclaimed author and historian Michael King, who died in 2004.

Centre Trust member Christine Cole Catley: "Michael King did so much to help writers. He would be so touched by what is being done in his name."



The Devonport Food and Wine Festival, conducted by the Rotary Club of Devonport, N.Z., has been successful for 17 years, enabling the club to provide more than \$NZ1.6 million in grants.

POSH INDOOR PLANT HIRE



Indoor garden supplies
and lease to all suburban
areas of Sydney

- our quality is excellent
- our service is efficient
- our prices are competitive

WEDDING SPECIALIST

Proudly
servicing
RDU
HOUSE

ENHANCE
YOUR
ENVIRONMENT
WITH US
NATURALLY!

SYDNEY CITY
(02) 9231 3349

PARRAMATTA
(02) 9687 2177

PERMANENT and CASUAL
RATES