

Wednesday 17 February 2010

## BREAKFAST WITH WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Meet and hear local women who are making a difference to the world we live in at this year's International Women's Day Breakfast.

A limited number of tickets are now available for this free event to be held at Brush Farm House on Monday 8 March.

Guest Speaker, Sarah White, will share her experiences in setting up *Lent Event*, a social justice organisation that has raised \$1.3 million since 2004 and helped thousands of Australians to grow in their awareness of world poverty and the part we all must play in seeking to respond to the global tragedies of our time.

City of Ryde Group Manager Community Life, Simone Schwarz, said: "2010 is the Year of Women in Local Government, and this breakfast is the first of a series of events planned to celebrate the achievement of women in all spheres of life."

The breakfast also provides the ideal platform to officially launch the City of Ryde's Status of Women Advisory Committee.

The recently formed committee is chaired by women's advocate, City of Ryde Councillor Nicole Campbell. Its main purpose is to provide a forum for women to voice their opinions and concerns, to discuss local issues and to encourage a 'sense of place' for women in the Ryde local area.

The City of Ryde International Women's Day Breakfast:

- Monday 8 March at Brush Farm House (in the Hall).
- 7.15am for a 7.30am start. Ends 8.30am.
- Tickets are free. Limit of 2 per person. Bookings essential on 9952 8222.
- Highlights: Guest Speaker, Sarah White, founder of Lent Event. Launch of the Status of Women Advisory Committee.

**International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 across the world. IWD celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.**

## **Biography**

Sarah White, Founder and Program Director, Lent Event

[www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com)

Sarah founded Lent Event, a program of the Uniting Church in Australia, in 2004 when she felt called to respond to the extreme hardship faced by families in the impoverished third world.

With no background in international aid and development, Sarah is proof that ordinary people can make a difference. In just five years Lent Event has raised \$1 300000 and helped thousands of Australians to grow in their awareness of world poverty and the part we all must play in seeking to respond to the global tragedy of our times.

As a mother of two young boys, Sarah is deeply concerned by the inequities that pervade our world and works tirelessly to enrol others in the vision of a world where sharing by all means scarcity for none.

Sarah works as Lent Event Program Director and is involved in writing the acclaimed Lent Event children's program, used by Sunday schools across Australia, drawing on her background in school teaching and visual art.

In 2009, Lent Event started programs to help needy people in:

- Papua New Guinea (clean drinking water)
- Timor Leste (East Timor) (health and agricultural development)
- South India (preschools in the Nilgiri Hills region)
- Sudan (water and education for the Nachipo villages)
- Solomon Islands (health care, staff training and health centres)
- Zambia (drop-in centre for orphans - Mwandji area).

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Attachment: Sarah White photo. To arrange an interview with Sarah White, please contact: Lee Kirkland, City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083