

SUPPORT OUR RATBAGS

Ravenshoe Ratbags are full steam ahead with their fundraising for the 2010 Relay for Life, fundraising for the Cancer Council. The Ratbags, who were the second highest fundraisers for the Tablelands in 2009, are eager to work on their momentum from last year and strive to do well again this year. "Relay for Life is such a special event to be involved with, this will be the Bakers 6th relay and is definitely something that should be on everyone's bucket list", said Nicola Baker, Ratbags team captain. The money raised goes to support, research and

education, and the Relay allows the community to get together, in a fun and exciting way, to celebrate, remember and fight back against Cancer.

The Ratbags have borrowed the Minute to Win It concept and have planned a night of fun, frivolity and games. The Minute to Win It will be held at the Hotel Tully Falls on Saturday 30 October commencing at 6.00pm. There will be raffles, games, DJ, and heaps for fun on the night. If you would like to donate to the Ravenshoe Ratbags team, you can call Nicola on 0417 929 382.

ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S WELL

By Sam Richards

The motto of MongoliAid International is 'making the world a better place, one Mongolia at a time'. For the Stark family (from the Atherton Tablelands) Batsummer is just one district in Mongolia to start from.

One of the problems facing Mongolia today is water and sanitation. The water on the surface freezes up during winter, so underground water resources are required. In Batsummer alone there are no paved streets, no sewer system and 6,000 people.

UNCANNY FOOD SWAP

By Deanna Maich

Anyone who saw the film 'Food Inc' at the Majestic Theatre last Sunday will be keen to jump on the fruit and veg bandwagon that LETS member, Sharyn Jones is suggesting. It's simple and about sharing our excess, backyard produce.

Ms Jones, of LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) says "I am passionate about this, with so many people in the world in drought and famine, we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful and fruitful area, it is upsetting to see fruit falling on the ground and being wasted"

Rather than reinvent the wheel, Sharyn says LETS already has the infrastructure to enable Tablelanders and beyond to share backyard goodies. "I have been inspired by an article I came across on the Gardening Australia website and thought that would definitely fit into our model. Anyone who has excess fruit, vegies or herbs they'd like to share but can't or don't have the time, could contact us and we can try to get someone else, who perhaps needs or wants produce, to trade to go around and pick it for them"

Ms Jones has been investigating the Urban Orchard/ Community Harvest type model. Ceres, the Melbourne community garden and non-profit organisation has also inspired her. "I went on their website and the whole idea fits in with the Permaculture concept as well, which encourages everyone to produce what they can in their own backyards and then it takes it a step further to share any surplus which helps to expand their harvest by swapping with the others in the community"

This green thumb community member has a trade meeting at her place once a month where people have the chance to share a meal and trade, "Everybody brings a plate. It's very informal and very social.", says Ms Jones.

Other trade meetings are held in Tarzali Ravenshoe, Malanda and Yungaburra after the markets.

"People can bring anything they want to dispose of, that still has some life in it and swap it for something else" adds the share-harvest advocate.

To clean up that carpet of grapefruit laying below your oh-so-giving tree, and get involved in reducing your carbon footprint, ring Sharyn Jones 07 4091 7242/0407 776 147.

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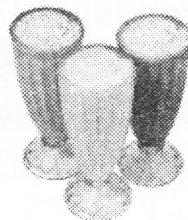
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