

18 June 2012

Waste Not Want Not Celebrates First Birthday with the Community

Waste Not Want Not — a program that provides fresh fruit and vegetables to families relying on hunger relief — celebrated its first anniversary in Hillston on Saturday. Since its first delivery to Foodbank in Sydney last year Waste Not Want Not has gone from strength to strength.

Those who were down the street on Saturday morning were treated to free coffee and cake at the footpath Cafe. As usual the slices and cakes were mouth-watering with lots of donations from different individuals and CWA members. We also attracted quite a number of “grey nomads” who were amazed at what we already know – how friendly and hospitable Hillston is.

Saturday night saw 40 people gather at the club for a celebration dinner. Guests included Gerry Andersen, CEO of Foodbank NSW, visitors from the Leeton Waste Not Want Not project, a representative from the 2% Development Fund who gave us the initial grant and Mayor Peter Laird. The aim of the evening was to celebrate the achievements of the last year. The grand total of produce delivered in 12 months is 600 tonnes, which is the equivalent of 800,000 meals -a wonderful testament to the generosity of producers in our area.

Other achievements have included semi-finalist in the “Community of the Year” awards, feature article on Australia’s foremost food blog, “Not quite Nigella”, over 90 stories in local, state and national media, mentions in both State and Federal Parliaments and a Facebook page.

So what is planned for the next 12 months? The committee is very keen to establish a community garden in Hillston that will bring together all age groups and focus on good home grown produce. Currently we are gauging interest in the project and seeking everyone’s opinion on the best site. There are also plans to start more Waste Not Want Not projects in different towns. And as if that isn’t enough, Ali Harding and IT students at the school are getting close to finishing our website and a cookbook is planned. So look out for more exciting news from this great project.