

Michele Rocheta has been selected by this club to receive the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award tonight. Hence, it gives me great pleasure to read this citation.

Many of you will already know a lot about Michele as she spoke to the club only a month ago.

Michele is founder of Goods Rescued and Rehomed and lives a very busy life at Arcadia. In between rescuing items from landfill she is also a member of the Arcadia RFS and when time permits a landscape gardener.

This Pride of Workmanship Award is for her efforts over the past 25 years networking with charities and organisations to get equipment, resources, supplies and clothes to them to assist their recipients. Much, of what she collects goes off-shore. Some club members have helped sort clothes to go to Lebanon and last weekend two beds and a table/chairs donated by the club were sent to a container being packed for Zambia.

She thinks this desire to help out in this area stems from her dislike of waste, from her commitment to the sustaining and protecting the environment, and also harks back to her dad as a role model, who as a dry cleaner would give away unclaimed clothing to the homeless and the poor to help them out, rather than seeing it go to waste.

I am always surprised at what Michele obtains to re-home. Not long ago a hotel refurbishing gave her around 500 quilts and

pillows. The State Emergency Services gave her a large number of unused camp beds that were surplus from the bush fires a couple of years ago. She also has a great collection of handy items and some of the structure supporting the Club sign that will be erected at the Rotary garden at the Cherrybrook Fire Station came from Michele.

Michele is a valuable asset to the club as one of our community service projects it help elderly people move into care and families dispose of deceased estates. Local residents also regularly contact us as many know that our Club is always looking for items to sell. We find it particularly difficult to sell some items especially furniture. However, a photograph sent to Michele soon finds a home for it.

Michele spent an afternoon helping our club cook sausage rolls at the Pennant Hills High School Fair a couple of Saturday's ago. Michele is an exceptional and inspirational woman.

With that the club recognises Michele as a worthy recipient of our Pride of Workmanship award and I will ask Rotarian David Firth to present the award.