

“Days for Girls” ...

Days for Girls is a **feminine hygiene program** providing quality, sustainable solutions to girls and women in need all over the world. Without access to hygiene products in many countries in the developing world, girls can miss up to 8 months of schools every 3 years and are much more likely to drop out altogether.

Days for Girls help address this issue in 3 ways:

- Firstly, **local grassroots teams** and chapters sew washable sanitary kits designed to last upwards of 3 years.
- Secondly, they distribute kits directly into communities in need either themselves or more often through partner organisations. An essential part of the distribution is the **provision of reproductive health education**.
- Finally, they support and train overseas communities to start their own self-sustaining **micro enterprise supplying their local community** with Days for Girls kits.

Our Club’s involvement with the program began following a guest speaker presentation by Michelle Gates who started the Ferntree Gully Chapter of Days for Girls (some members /partners were already individually involved in the program).



This led to us supporting the program, initially through the donation of funds and materials, and more recently through support in the refurbishing a new permanent workshop space.



Kit sewing days were originally held in Michelle’s home, before moving to Glengollan Retirement Village and then the Ferntree Gully Guide Hall as the number of people supporting the program grew. In January 2018, a permanent workshop space became available in Erica Avenue, Boronia; however, it was in desperate need of refurbishment. With Michelle’s drive and enthusiasm and the help of family, friends, Days for Girls volunteers and members of our Club, the premises have been transformed into a pleasant bright and productive work area.

