

## **Director - Giuseppe (Joe) Inserra**

Giuseppe (Joe) Inserra is an Italian born migrant who has lived in Laverton for over 40 years. He has given of himself over and over for his community. His tireless community work spans many groups, ages and issues. Joe is an active member of numerous community groups. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Laverton (22 years), Laverton Retail Traders Association, Old Laverton School, Laverton Community Centre, Italian Social Club, political and religious groups.

The opening of the Laverton/Altona Meadows Community bank, where Joe is one of the board of directors, is just one of his passions and commitments toward improving his community. He has been instrumental in many local success stories. Without the motivation and effort of people like Joe we would never have been able to rally the financial support by local residents and businesses that made the bank possible.

Joe is a whiz at raising money for community groups and projects.

The respiratory machine he donated to the community about fifteen years ago and at present located in the Laverton Fire Brigade I Railway Avenue has saved at least 6 lives.

The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, when Joe was one of the two District Chairmen with the help of the 350 collectors they organised, was able to collect \$38,000 towards the appeal.

A dinner was organised by traders for the appeal to raise money for building of The Werribee Mercy Hospital. The dinner was about to be called off because of lack of numbers. With Joe's effort tables were filled and they were able to raise more than they aimed to help the appeal.

Joe's untiring service to the community did not pass unrecognized and he has been awarded the following:

- Citizen of the Year 1996 – awarded by Laverton Rotary Club
- Citizen of the Year 2001 – awarded by the City of Hobsons Bay
- Paul Harris Fellow 1996 – awarded by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world.
- 2000 Commonwealth Recognition Award for Senior Australian- awarded by Prime Minister John Howard through Governor General of Australia.
- May 2003 Centenary Medal recipient – given by Prime Minister John Howard through MP Julia Gillard