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Rotary art exhibition - speech

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Rotary Art Exhibition -- Speech

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● Mr. Chapman, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you very much for asking me to open your exhibition.

I've always had a great respect for the enthusiasm and hard work that Rotarians put into their activities... it's now grown into something like awe.

● I find on looking at my diary that this is the third time I've spoken at a Rotary occasion in a month.

That says much for the energetic way in which Rotarians go about their community service work; it's some reflection of my own high regard for the organisation and it's a tribute to the refusal of men like John Chapman to even consider 'no' for an answer when looking for a speaker.

This latest Rotary project is typical of so many in that it's imaginative, meticulously organised and will at the same time give pleasure to many and bring help to the needy.

In organising a display of the work of prestigious South Australian artists around the PATA conference, the club is ensuring that something of our achievement in the visual arts gets, literally, international attention.

It also shows the PATA delegates how enthusiastic South Australians are generally about developing tourism and how willing they are to work for its success.

I have just been speaking to the conference on this very theme and naturally I'm delighted that they'll find my

argument so quickly reinforced.

I was also very pleased to learn from Mr. Chapman that you plan to make this an annual event and for it to co-incide with the Festival of Arts on alternate years.

The success of any Festival really depends not so much on particular star attractions - important as they are - but on the impressions gained from the whole, from being able to see and take part in a range of activities involving as many people as possible.

That's what really gives a Festival it's special feeling and gets people talking about it, excited about it and looking forward to the next one.

Obviously an exhibition such as this will make a distinctive contribution to the Festival and I'm sure the organisers will have welcomed news of your intentions.

Finally, of course, in keeping with the spirit of your organisation the exhibition and auction ~~is~~ going to help South Australian charities, particularly the S.P.E.L.D. group of North Adelaide.

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For all these reasons I was pleased
indeed to receive your invitation and to
have this opportunity formally to declare
your exhibition open.

Thank you.