



RYDA Australia



Participating
Rotary Clubs in
NSW, QLD, SA,
TAS & WA

Bulletin

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NSW Premier congratulates Rotary on the RYDA Program

The NSW Premier Nathan Rees visited the RYDA venue at Penrith in Western Sydney on July 24 to support the program with ongoing state government funding and to meet the 100,000th student who has now attended the RYDA Program in NSW.

Presenting a grant of \$20,000 to help more Western Sydney students benefit from the program, Premier Nathan Rees said that “Training like this is important because it prepares young people before they can apply for their driving licences ...I congratulate Rotary for their RYDA Program and their obvious commitment to saving the lives of young people on our roads.”

Premier Nathan Rees added that “NSW figures clearly demonstrate the need to educate young drivers as almost one quarter of road deaths are 16-25 year olds. This program has been helping teenagers since 2001 and trains young people on passenger safety in cars and safe driving.”



The Premier takes a moment to thank the hardworking team from Penrith (L-R Alex Donaldson, Tony LeBreton, Judy Kell and Len Winter)

The Premier said that “Today’s \$20,000 contribution will help families who are doing it tough during these difficult times and will help schools provide transport to training locations. Western Sydney will benefit directly in recognition of its growing population and for having some of the largest numbers of young people in Sydney.”

District 9690 Governor, Paul Reid (left) and RYDA Chairman, Terry Birss (right) accept a donation from NSW Premier, Nathan Rees



Terry Birss, RYDA Australia Chairman said “We welcome the Government’s continuing role in assisting student’s access to valuable road safety messages through the RYDA Program. This is developing the opportunity to those students who otherwise couldn’t attend the RYDA Program. We educate students to help them make safer choices as either a driver or a passenger ...our education is about promoting the Government’s road safety messages.”



Blue Mountains Grammar Students James, Erin and Michaela talk to the Premier about their experience with the RYDA program.

Blue Mountains Grammar School student and P-plater James Williams said the course helped him become more cautious. “Some (young people) can get over-confident - they get their licence and they want to test things out,” James said. “The course helped me assess situations better because I know accidents can happen.”

The visit of NSW Premier Nathan Rees to our western Sydney venue resulted in some very good media coverage that highlighted the RYDA Program and the good work of Rotary Clubs involved in facilitating this unique national road safety program for young people. The event also gave RYDA Chairman Terry Birss the opportunity to speak on air with the top rating Sydney radio broadcaster Ray Hadley about the RYDA Program and the life saving message that has now been presented to over 100,000 students across Australia.

For further information about RYDA, please see www.ryda.org.au or contact 1300 127 642.