



## Rotary Clubs fostering Youth Driver Awareness

# Newsletter

page 1

SPRING "BUMPER" EDITION 2008



Rotary in NSW, QLD, SA & TAS  
Approved project of Districts  
9680, 9690, 9700, 9830  
Participating Districts  
9750, 9630, 9710, 9650, 9500,  
9520, 9570, 9470 in WA



### Message from the Chair

(Terry Birss)

#### **BOC Increase their Support of RYDA**

A four yearly review of the sponsorship agreement with BOC has seen our Founding Sponsor further strengthen its support for RYDA. Under the agreement BOC will increase their ongoing cash and in-kind support which helps facilitate the professionalism and quality underpinning the RYDA Program.

Not only is BOC providing us with a significant investment in cash but under the enhanced arrangements our National Office will continue to be located at BOC South Pacific Headquarters in North Ryde.

Since RYDA began in 2000 more than 75,000 students have completed our popular and ground-breaking Program and this financial year we will be celebrating the participation of our 100,000th student!

Prior to BOC's sponsorship, RYDA only existed in NSW. Commencing in 2005 their sponsorship has allowed us to expand our Program into Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and by the end of 2008 RYDA will roll-out in West Australia.

As a leading industrial & medical gas supplier BOC, is committed to safety. In fact their internal catch cry is '100% Safety, 100% of the time'.

This sponsorship reflects BOC's commitment to safety and the strength of our ongoing partnership between our two organisations. As RYDA continues to educate youth to develop safer driving habits so too BOC regularly educates their staff in safe driving skills.

On behalf of us all at RYDA I extend to Colin Isaac, MD and his team at BOC our sincere thanks for their continuing support in the development of a premier road safety education organisation, all in the interests of helping keep our youth safe.

### RYDA - What's Happened

~July-September 2008~

Traditionally quieter months for the RYDA Program, July - September proved to be a busy time for our two Queensland venues and two of our three major Sydney metropolitan venues.

In Queensland, Mackay ran their second annual Program, involving over 200 students, under the guidance of Don Graham and Syd Cowan.



L-R Greg Rappo (RYDA), Chris Read (BOC), Chris Wright (District 9630 DG), Nick Curry (District 9630 DGE) attend the Mt Cotton Launch in Queensland.

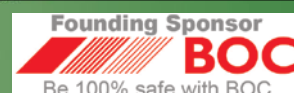
After a successful pilot at the Mt Cotton Driver Training Centre in February, the Redlands RYDA team kicked off their Program with an official launch. Invited guests included members of local Government, business and Rotary. Also in attendance was Founding Sponsor, BOC's General Manager - Queensland,

Chris Read who supported BOC's belief that 'safety on the roads is a responsibility we all share'.

Rod Style of Western Australia ran his second RYDA pilot day in September. Rod has big plans for RYDA in Perth in 2009 and is off to a great start.

Finally, two of Sydney's large metropolitan venues, Homebush and Penrith continued their busy year, accommodating over 2,300 students from 25 high schools between them. District Chair, Len Winter has kept very active, dividing his time between the two venues.

Congratulations and thank you to all involved.



## Director of Operations

**Greg Cantwell**



Today, as I write this article, it is the last day of year 12 for 2008.

The day is filled with great excitement and anticipation for the future, some trepidation about the up and coming exams and a growing sense of new beginnings.

Tragically, figures released by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (August 2008) tell us that in 2007, 389 young people (aged 17-25) were killed on Australian Roads. Mercifully the trend shows that these figures are dropping slightly but we must remain vigilant if we are going to keep our young people safe and provide them with the opportunity to reach their potential. This is why the RYDA Program must run year in year out and to get more and more schools involved. Ultimately we are working towards building a road safe conscious community; especially for our most vulnerable members – our new drivers.

To help achieve this goal, RYDA has been busy promoting the RYDA Program to High School Principals. RYDA had an information stand at the recent Australian Secondary Principals Association annual conference held in Perth. This exposed the RYDA Program to over 300 high school principals from across Australia. Their interest in the program was genuine and many committed their schools to getting involved.



In addition, a poster has been developed (see picture) to help promote the Program in Schools and can be used for local promotions as well. This was developed as part of the annual Rotary Districts of Australia Committee (RDAC) meeting reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

RYDA is gearing up for another extremely busy time and the

National Office team is looking forward to working with all the RYDA venues in the next few months to help build road safe conscious communities across Australia.

## Rotary District of Australia Committee (RDAC)

RDAC is the forum for all RYDA District Chairs to come together to meet, plan, discuss, problem solve and have input into the RYDA Program. District Chairs are appointed by their Rotary District Governors. This year representatives from all states were invited to attend this event which was held at BOC's South Pacific Headquarters in North Ryde:

Rod Style (D9470) Perth Programs;  
Andrew Gauci (D9570) Mackay Programs;  
Marie Grant (D9630) Brisbane Programs (Mt. Cotton);  
Ken Patterson (D9650) Mackville, Taree and Narrabri Programs;  
Barry Philips (D9680) St. Ives and Central Coast Programs;  
Len Winter (D9690) Penrith and Homebush Programs;  
Peter Chivers (D9700) Bathurst, Cowra, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Young, Leeton Programs;  
Christine Andrews (D9830) representing Kevin Preece and the Tasmanian Programs (Hobart, Launceston and Devonport).  
Craig Rogasch (D9500) Barossa Valley and Adelaide Programs (unavailable)



RDAC extended into two days to cover the large amount of information. Chaired by Paul Pixton, Director and Secretary of the RYDA Australia Board, the meeting focussed on district reports, the new RYDA website, finances, sponsorship and promotion and program prolongation.

The days' busy agenda concluded with the inaugural RYDA Dinner, bringing together the current RYDA District Chairs, the RYDA Board and Staff and long time supporters and friends of the RYDA Program.

The following day was workshop-based and explored ways of running the program efficiently and effectively as well as presentations by the Brain Injury Association of New South Wales and Youthsafe.

Sincere thanks to the many Rotarians who gave their time so generously to the RDAC meeting so that we create a better RYDA Program.

## Awards and Recognition

Members of The Rotary Club of Bega have received well-earned recognition for their efforts with the RYDA Program. The Club was presented with the District 9710 Youth Award for 2007/08 for their RYDA Program which also involved members of Clubs from Eden to Batemans Bay and inland to Bombala. Eric Johnston, who led the Bega team was recognised with a Paul Harris Fellow.



We have also learned of another Paul Harris Fellow honouree. Ken Patterson, of Taree was presented with the medal for his work with RYDA. Ken has been hosting the Program in Taree since 2005 and has been busy spreading the word and setting up venues across his district. Narrabri, Nambucca Heads and now Kempsey have all been established with Ken's support.

Finally, congratulations to former RYDA Board Member, Bruce Allen, who was presented with three Paul Harris sapphires in recognition of his work with the Rotary Foundation.

Congratulations to all of these hard working and generous Rotarians.

## Spotlight on...

### ~Rotary Club of Silverwater-Homebush Bay~



When Rotarians in Sydney decided to establish a venue to cater for students from Sydney's Inner West, Eastern Suburbs and South Regions, they knew that it would

take quite a commitment to get it up and running.

The first Club to take up the charge was the small but committed Rotary Club of Silverwater-Homebush Bay. At the time, the Club was in the process of closing, with most members moving on to the Rotary Club of Concord. With funds still in the kitty, the Rotary Club of Silverwater-Homebush Bay decided to provide financial assistance to the RYDA Homebush venue by purchasing necessary equipment to run the Program. As well as the financial commitment, Rotarians Barry Rodway, David Brown and Ron Mewburn took their enthusiasm for the Program to their new club and recruited a fabulous team of volunteers who have attended every day, ensuring a smooth start to the ambitious Program.

Members from the Rotary Clubs of Breakfast Point, Padstow and Parramatta have also played critical roles in establishing the Program at Homebush.

## Spotlight on...

### ~Norm Miller~



Norm is a business consultant who operates a family business in Sydney suburb of Ramsgate. Norm moved to the Illawarra 10 years ago and joined Rotary 8 years ago. He is a past President and finished his third term as Assistant Governor for the Illawarra in June 2008.

As well as Chairing RYDA, Norm is actively involved in District 9750 and is the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Annual Giving committee, Chairman of the District Insurance committee and the District Governor special representative in the Illawarra for setting up new clubs. He has also been on the board of RAWCS "Village Aide Program" for almost 8 years.

As a 17 year old, Norm was a passenger in a vehicle that rolled and hit a telegraph pole and he suffered a seriously spinal injury so has a personal experience of how a motor vehicle accident can effect a young life.

When a youth driver program was suggested for the Illawarra, he was one of the first to volunteer to assist. The whole region is behind the Program, with representatives from all 12 Clubs attending Committee meetings. Norm has led the Committee as Chairman for four years. Norm says, "The Illawarra committee chose to take up the RYDA Program, because we saw an opportunity for this program to be established as a national Rotary program which could get support from organisations which individual districts and programs could not".

Norm is committed to this Program and states "If we can change the attitude of just one young person and save a life, then our efforts have been worthwhile".



*The RYDA Program provides a great opportunity for Rotarians to interact with students from their local high schools*





## RYDA - Coming to a Venue Near You!

It is certainly an exciting time to be involved with the RYDA Program – as more Rotary clubs around the country become aware of the program we have been receiving many requests for information on RYDA and how clubs can establish the program in their area. We have a comprehensive package of information that is available to help guide organisers through the process to plan and implement the program – please give the National Office a call on 1300 127 642 or email [info@ryda.org.au](mailto:info@ryda.org.au) if you would like a copy of the information package.



RYDA Australia can also arrange for a “Guest Speaker” to visit Rotary clubs to give members an introduction to RYDA and to answer questions on establishing RYDA in their local community – please just give us a call at the National Office.

Gaining the support of Rotary District Governors is also an important aspect of developing the RYDA Program across Australia. I recently had the opportunity to present the RYDA Program to all 23 Australian District Governors Elect who were attending a Rotary Down Under briefing weekend. It was a great opportunity to inform and encourage our 2009-10 governors to include RYDA as a key project for their year as leader of their respective districts. Our future DG’s were very impressed by the value of the program for young people in our community plus the outstanding opportunity that RYDA provides to generate very positive PR and media attention for Rotary.

The continued success of RYDA is very much based on strong partnerships - especially between local Rotary Clubs and their nearby schools. The established relationship that many Rotary clubs have with their local high schools is a critical factor in gaining student participation in RYDA - Rotarians are often in a unique position to inform schools about the RYDA Program and to coordinate attendance of the school’s students at RYDA. We thank the many Rotary clubs across Australia and the volunteer Rotarians for the vital role they all play in making the RYDA road safety program available to young people in the community and for helping to make our roads a safer place.

**Greg Rappo - Director of Program Development**

**For information about the RYDA program, please see [www.ryda.org.au](http://www.ryda.org.au) or contact 1300 127 642 or [info@ryda.org.au](mailto:info@ryda.org.au).**

RYDA Calendar  
~October-December 2008~

### October

NSW: Homebush, Illawarra, Moruya, Narrabri, Orange, Penrith, Taree, Wagga Wagga, West Wyalong  
QLD: Mt Cotton  
TAS: Launceston

### November

NSW: Bathurst, Illawarra, Kempsey, Leeton, Nambucca Heads, Penrith, St Ives, Young  
TAS: Launceston

### December

NSW: Penrith  
SA: Adelaide

## RYDA - What’s Happening

~October-December 2008~

Spring is a busy time for RYDA across Australia. Current estimates indicate that approximately 15,000 students will attend the Program in October and November. Many established venues will return to run their annual Programs and several new venues will be launching during this time.

In New South Wales, representatives from all 12 Rotary Clubs in the **Illawarra** have put in a fantastic effort and almost doubled the number of students they will host during their three week Program. Elsewhere Rotarians in **Narrabri, Orange, Taree, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Nambucca Heads** and **Young** are busy planning their annual Programs. In Metropolitan Sydney, all three major venues will be operating.

Launching new venues, clubs from **Leeton**, Griffith and Hay have joined forces to invite over 600 students from the Riverina to their Program. Clubs from **Moruya** and **Kempsey** will also kick off their inaugural Programs with approximately 200 students each. Another exciting venture sees Peter Chivers take RYDA to the small country town of West Wyalong.

In Queensland, the Rotary Club of Balmoral will complete their 2008 Program at **Mt Cotton** and in Tasmania, the **Launceston** venue Committee will be kept very busy with a two week Program.

Finally, students from Trinity College in **Adelaide** will take part in the last RYDA Program of the year over two days in December.

## RYDA Shines in Queensland



The beginning of September saw the RYDA program officially launched in south east Queensland. District 9630 Governor Chris Wright, BOC Queensland General Manager Chris Read and local parliamentarians helped to launch the RYDA program on the south side of Brisbane in the first week of September. Four hundred and thirty students from seven Brisbane bay side schools participated over three days with two schools booking in their year 11 students for 2009 before they hopped back on the bus at the end of the day. The organising committee formed by four Redlands Bay Rotary Club were the first south east QLD Clubs to take up the program and are already planning for more than 1000 students to attend RYDA from their area in 2009.

Schools involved included the Cleveland, Capalaba, Wellington Point and Victoria Point state high schools, Faith Lutheran and Redland Bay colleges. Alexandra Hills State High School is so impressed with the program that RYDA is now part of its school curriculum.



From the students' view, their comments were impressive. A Faith Lutheran student said RYDA was excellent. "We did brainstorming about what to do if your ride doesn't turn up and a friend that has been drinking offers you a ride. We came up with ways not to get in the car. That could save my life," he said. Another student said: "Thank you to Rotary. The day was exciting and I learnt a lot that is going to keep me safe. They didn't cover up the tragedy; they showed us facts and real life."

Congratulations to the Redlands RYDA Committee for establishing RYDA at this exciting new venue. Also thanks to the many supporters, including the Cleveland branch of LJ Hooker who provided generous local support.

RYDA in south east Queensland is definitely off to a good start.



### RYDA's Newest Board Member

We are pleased to introduce Jennifer Scott who joins RYDA as a member of the Board of Directors (Jennifer is pictured above with some members of the Board). Jennifer, immediate Past District Governor of Rotary District 9690, was a private practice lawyer for 25 years and is now a director of Scott ADR, providing dispute resolution services to private and government organisations and to the courts. She holds a Masters Degree in Local Government and Environment Law and a Masters Degree in Dispute Resolution. Jennifer is currently doing her doctorate in Juridical Science (Dispute Resolution).

Jennifer has been a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains since 1996 and has held a number of positions at a Club level. Jennifer has also designed a Dispute Resolution System for Rotary.

Jennifer's impressive skill set and passion for the RYDA Program are a welcomed addition to the board.

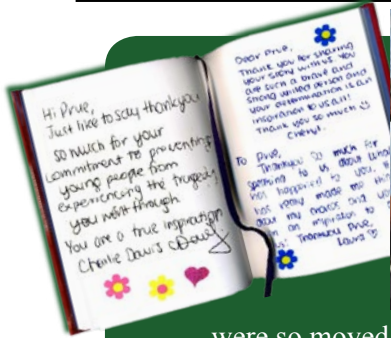
A small group of Tasmanian RYDA leaders gathered in Campbell Town Tasmania to discuss and plan for the Tasmanian RYDA Program. Chaired by District 9830 RYDA Chair, Kevin Preece, representation was from all three major program venues: Kay Kidd from Devonport, Gil Sellars and Max Watkins from Launceston and Christine Andrews from Hobart.



The day-long meeting was used to plan for future programs, develop new initiatives to expand into the smaller areas of Tasmania and to get an update from Christine about the RDAC meeting.



Rotary Clubs in  
NSW, Qld, SA,  
Tas & WA



Students from Barker College on Sydney's North Shore

were so moved by Crash Survivor, Prue Birmingham's presentation during their RYDA day, that they bound a series of letters of appreciation into a special book of thanks for Prue.

The book was compiled by Year 11 Student, Matthew Jordan-Frohlich who wrote the following:

"I would just like to express my gratitude toward you and say thank you so much for sharing your story. You have had to endure so much in your life and you are a truly inspiring woman. Your message has really got through to me and I'm sure the rest of my friends and fellow peers. When driving I will be more aware and drive as safe as I possibly can."

## You're Invited! Come and Learn More About RYDA



Rotarians and the RYDA National Office are embarking on a number of initiatives designed to introduce RYDA to more Clubs and volunteers.

In Queensland, District 9630 are holding a training day on Saturday, 4 October at the District 9630 Headquarters in Wacol. In Sydney, Districts 9680, 9690 and 9750 have been invited to attend a RYDA Open Day to be held at the Sydney Tennis Centre, Homebush on Saturday, 8 November.

The RYDA Program is a well respected Rotary community project providing vital information to the young people of our local communities. Importantly it is also a program that has demonstrated a great capacity to raise the profile of Rotary Clubs in the media and promote the best ideals of Rotary.

Each of these events will give Rotarians who are unfamiliar with RYDA an opportunity to experience parts of the Program and speak with other RYDA volunteers. To participate in these events please call the National Office on **1300 127 642**.

## Sponsor's Corner

The RYDA National Office works alongside Rotarians to find local support for individual venues so the Program can be offered to students at a minimal cost.

In the Illawarra, on the South Coast of New South Wales, the RYDA program is now receiving major support from all three Illawarra councils plus many local businesses, including BlueScope Steel.



BlueScope Steel is the leading steel company in Australia and New Zealand, supplying a large percentage of all flat steel products sold in these markets. The company's products play a big part in people's everyday lives, being vital components in suburban houses, landmark buildings and structures and popular makes of cars.

Part of BlueScope's company bond is "Our success relies on communities supporting our business and products. In turn, we care for the environment, create wealth, respect local values and encourage involvement. Our strength is in choosing to do what is right."

Thanks to the generous support of their sponsors, RYDA is offered to students in the Illawarra at a very low cost this year, making the Program even more accessible and attracting participation from an additional seven schools (21 in total).



### RYDA's New 1300 Number

Following a suggestion made by the District Chairs at RYDA's recent RDAC meeting, BOC have generously supplied RYDA with a toll-free national 1300 number. RYDA's National Office can now be contacted on:

**1300 127 642**



For information about RYDA, please see [www.ryda.org.au](http://www.ryda.org.au) or contact **1300 127 642** or [info@ryda.org.au](mailto:info@ryda.org.au).

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