



## Rotary Clubs fostering Youth Driver Awareness

# Newsletter

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AUTUMN EDITION, April 2009



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)

This month, as in the past, our Newsletter exposes the great contributions being made by Rotarians across many Districts. Our hats go off to them.

I have highlighted previously the hallmarks of a respected and credible national road safety program and the work that goes on behind the scenes to achieve that continuing outcome - addressing as it must, the legal and practical challenges in each of the State jurisdictions.

The work of our team at the RYDA National Office (and the board) often goes unheralded. It should not. Without the professionalism of this Office (and the facilitating support of BOC) the RYDA Program promoted through Rotary would not command the respect that it does.

There is much on our plate: We are working to define the role that RYDA will be able to play in implementing certain recommendations from the NSW Parliamentary StaySafe Committee to which we made written and oral submissions. 'Extended learning' strategies are on the agenda so too, parental involvement. We will also be extending our youth Program participation strategy - more about that later.

The call for interagency coordination is strong and welcomed by RYDA: not only between Government departments and road safety agencies but also state by state and nationally as well. Governments prefer a standardised and consistent adherence to their approved road safety messages.

This is what RYDA seeks to deliver. Your team at RYDA is focused on pursuing this goal all in the interests of helping our youth stay safe.

### RYDA - What's Happened

~January-March 2009~

Rotartians in New South Wales enjoyed a busy start to the year, hosting programs in metropolitan, regional and rural areas of the State. In the West, Perth Rotarians rallied for their first 2009 program, welcoming students from Thornleigh High School to RYDA at the Perth Football Club.

In NSW, RYDA's longest running venue at St Ives started in February and will host students every school week until May 2009. A huge undertaking, this program continues to enjoy strong support from Rotary Clubs in District 9680 Sydney.

Elsewhere in District 9680, Clubs on the Central Coast of NSW joined forces to provide the program to local students for the seventh year running. Congratulations to David Robins, Margaret Berger and the Central Coast team for another successful program - over 1400 students in two weeks!

Rotarians from Districts 9690 and 9750 made sure the Homebush venue got off to a great start with a short run in March, ahead of a busy schedule planned for August - October.

In Borambola, NSW, District 9700's 'Little Blue Trailer' with help from Rotarians in Wagga Wagga and District Chair, Peter Chivers rolled into town. The team gave students attending a school camp the opportunity to take part in the RYDA Program. Nearby, in Leeton, Rotarians had just wrapped up another very successful program at the Yanco Agricultural College where they hosted over 300 students across three days. Also in District 9700, the Rotary Clubs of Cowra and Young held programs in their respective towns reaching another 300 students between them.

Finally, the Dubbo Showgrounds again played host to over 400 students from Dubbo and surrounding towns. The team at Dubbo have helped deliver RYDA's messages to almost 2,000 young people since their program began in 2004.

## A New Addition to the RYDA Team

We welcome Ms. Liane Leslie as the new part time bookings co-ordinator at St. Ives. Liane brings a wealth of experience to the position and has made a significant contribution to the St. Ives Venue in such a short time. Liane replaces Cathy Sherwood who resigned from RYDA Australia in February. Cathy and her family have played a long and important role with the RYDA Program in District 9680. We wish her all the very best with her career change.



## RYDA Hosts International Visitors

Recently, members of Rotary's first ever wheelchair Group Study Exchange (GSE) team dropped into RYDA at St Ives to witness, in person, the Rotary project they'd been hearing so much about.

Both Rotarians were visiting from Arizona, USA. Darol Kubacz, GSE Team Leader obtained a spinal injury 14 years ago during his military service and now spends time mentoring other individuals with spinal cord injury for health and fitness. Robb Martin has over 14 years experience in law enforcement. His injury in an off road vehicle crash 2005 left him paralyzed from the chest down.

Both visitors had a great day and shared their inspirational stories with Students and Rotarians. Policeman Robb said: "I am really impressed by the RYDA Program – it delivers a very valuable road safety message to the young people. It was good to see the high level of interest and interaction from the students. Sadly we do not have any program like RYDA back home in Arizona".



**RYDA is a Winner!**  
The RYDA program was presented with the District Youth Service Award at the recent District 9700 annual Conference. Congratulations to Rotarians from Bathurst, Cowra, Leeton, Orange, Wagga Wagga and Young, NSW on this well-deserved achievement.

## Coming to a School Near You...



I have had the opportunity to speak at many Rotary Clubs around Australia in recent months to inform Rotarians about the RYDA Program – at conclusion of my presentation I am often asked "How can I become involved and help support RYDA in my area". Of course the RYDA Program is presented by road safety experts however it relies on Rotarian volunteers to plan the event and facilitate activities on the day – in particular, Rotarians play a vital role to establish contact with their local school.

School principals and other senior teachers receive many requests for participation in a wide range of projects. Over the years Rotary has established an outstanding reputation for offering many valuable programs to schools such as RYPEN, NYSF, MUNA, Youth Exchange and Interact plus various recognition awards for students. Many schools greatly value their relationship with Rotary so a local Rotarian is often in a unique position to make contact with key staff at the school to inform them about RYDA and to encourage the attendance of students at a RYDA program.

School information packs are available from our office if required - together we can help to give all young people the opportunity to experience RYDA.

**Greg Rappo - Director of Program Development**



Tim Fenton (Rotary Club of Beecroft) and John Tainsh (Rotary Club of St Ives) with GSE members Robb Martin and Darol Kubacz.



Darol and Robb chat with Honda Australia Driving Instructors

## NEWS

*If you have a RYDA story you would like to share with our Newsletter readers please email: [brooke@ryda.org.au](mailto:brooke@ryda.org.au)*

## Rotary District Conferences

District Conferences are a great opportunity to showcase the RYDA Program to the broader Rotary community. This year, RYDA has been fortunate to have a presence at 12 District Conferences, often in the Houses of Friendship.

It was pleasing that so many Rotarians took the opportunity to learn more about the RYDA Program and understand how they could get their schools involved. Especially for the occasion, RYDA produced a number of District Conference specific resources such as a new promotional DVD to enthuse Rotary Clubs to get in and support their local RYDA Program.



Above: Michael Cullen, State Manager, Qld makes a presentation about RYDA at the District 9630 Conference in Mudjimba, Qld. Far Left: RI Representative PDG Ian Yarker (District 9640), President Judy Kell (Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains), RYDA Board Member PDG Jennifer Scott (District 9690) and PDG Heather Yarker (District 9640) talk RYDA at the House of Friendship (HoF), 9690 District Conference



Left: Michael Cullen at the 9630 HoF Below: Peter Chivers moves the 'Friendship' outside, displaying his 'Little Blue Trailer' at the District 9700 conference

## RYDA's new interactive website - giving students access to road safety information 24/7



## My Life : My Choices

No doubt many of you would have seen the new RYDA website ([www.ryda.org.au](http://www.ryda.org.au)) and would agree that it is a dynamic and funky new look. The website forms the basis of our new communication strategy with students who attend RYDA – a format they are very comfortable with. Students are encouraged to go to the website for further information. To help get them there, RYDA is holding a “win an iPod competition” and any student who has been to a RYDA day is eligible to enter.

Students also receive a coloured silicon wristband with the phrase “My Life My Choices” embossed on the outside and the RYDA website address on the inside when they attend a RYDA Day. The wristbands serve several purposes. One is to separate students into their different groups, but more importantly the wristbands provide ongoing exposure about the Program as many students will continue to wear them long after program day. The wristbands are a big hit with the students.

## Competition Winner

RYDA's first competition winner was announced recently. Students around the country were asked to send in the message they took home from the RYDA program. Rachel from Green Point Christian College on NSW's Central Coast bagged herself a brand new iPod with her entry: 'My decisions about driving have a huge affect on my life and the lives of others around me - that's something I'm never going to forget.'



## Spotlight on...

~ Marcia Hampton-Taylor, PHF ~

### District 9690 (NSW) Homebush Committee

Marcia, currently a member of the Rotary Club of Breakfast Point, has spent most of her time in Rotary focussing on youth projects.



Marcia enjoyed a long career in nursing, capped off with 25 years in charge of the Blacktown Public Hospital neo natal special care unit. While nursing paid the bills, Marcia made time for her many other talents, honing her language skills working in Japan for a year, winning a multitude of fashion and design awards and volunteering for the Red Cross, Blind Society and the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics to name a few.

With a special interest in youth, Marcia was attracted to the RYDA program, recognising a need to get behind a program attempting to influence the behaviour of young people on the roads. Starting off as a member of the Penrith RYDA team, Marcia has since moved her efforts a little closer to home and is now a vital member of the Homebush Committee. In addition to the satisfaction of introducing students to crucial road safety messages, Marcia enjoys the fellowship of other Rotarians over a nice lunch in the lovely environments of the Sydney Tennis Centre and the International Regatta Centre.



### Rotarians Bowl Road Safety

Rotarians in the Eurobodalla region of NSW (District 9710) came up with a unique and fun way to raise funds for their upcoming RYDA Program - they decided to hit the bowling green. Roger Pearson from the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay invited members of the community to join in the fun and raise money by taking part in an Hawaiian themed lawn bowls tournament. In all, 110 locals (including Police, teachers, students and local businesses) took part in the evening which included a sausage sizzle, a raffle and prizes for best dressed and highest and lowest scoring teams. Not only did they raise nearly \$1400, they also raised awareness of this important program in their town. Congratulations to Roger and the Rotarians from the Eurobodalla.

## RYDA Calendar

### April

NSW: Eurobodalla, Penrith, St Ives  
QLD: Mt Cotton, Airlie Beach  
TAS: Hobart

### May

NSW: Bega, Nelson Bay, Penrith,  
St Ives, Taree  
QLD: Hervey Bay, Mt Cotton  
SA: Clare

### June

NSW: Penrith  
QLD: Brisbane, Mt Cotton  
TAS: Devonport

## RYDA - What's Happening

~April-June 2009~

A busy couple of months ahead sees three new venues in Queensland and one new venue in South Australia up and running. Pilot programs will be conducted in Airlie Beach, Brisbane Entertainment Centre and Hervey Bay (Qld) and Clare (SA).

The volunteers at St Ives will finish their program just as the team from Penrith begin theirs, ensuring that there is always a program available for Sydney metropolitan schools.

On the South Coast of NSW, Roger Pearson will run the Eurobodalla's second program, whilst Eric Johnston will lead the Bega team for the third year. Meanwhile, on the Mid North Coast, Ken Patterson leads the charge in Taree and Murray Nicol heads up a team of volunteers conducting the program at Nelson Bay.

In addition to the new programs in Qld, the team from Mt Cotton will be back in May and June for a further eight program days.

Finally, Tasmanian Rotarians will be working hard conducting programs in Hobart and Devonport - each planned to run for almost two weeks. It is anticipated that over 2,000 students will attend RYDA in Tasmania over this period.

We send everyone involved in these programs our very best wishes.

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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