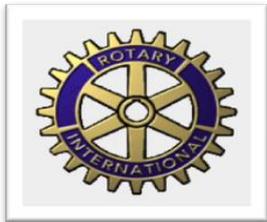




**DISTRICT D9700
ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE
NEWSLETTER
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What is Rotary Friendship Exchange? *The Friendship Exchange Program is an International exchange program for Rotarians and Rotary couples that provide participants with the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians, visiting their clubs and participating in the lifestyle/activities of their communities.*

What is happening in District 9700? *It was disappointing after a great exchange to Louisiana; they could not source a team for the return exchange. However after a very successful exchange by a team from District 9700 to District 7120 in New York State USA we look forward to welcoming a 20 strong team here in May 2014 prior to the Rotary convention. Plans are currently underway to host this team. A further team from District 5360 in Canada will be here in our District after the convention in June. Nominations for the outbound trips in 2015 are being taken. Enquiries are also being taken from individuals wanting to travel here pre or post the convention. If you are interested in hosting visiting Rotarians please be in touch.*

District 7120 NY State USA	May 15th – May 29th	Host clubs – Wagga, Leeton, Narrandera, Forbes	
District 5360 Canada	June 5th – June 19th	Host Clubs – Bathurst, Orange, Young	Outbound June 21st – July 4th 2015
Outbound to District 2380 Sweden	August 8th – 22nd	Team members from Narrandera, Leeton, Orange, Bathurst	Inbound April 2015

ROTARY DISTRICT 9700 – Outbound Exchange to District 7200 New York State, USA, September, 2013.

Team Members: Greg & Beth McVicker & Robert & Joy Norrie of Narrandera; Ray & Dianne Pluis, Leeton; Val Samuelson & Laurine Linsell, Graham & Betty Hornibrook, & Hendrik Jan van Ieperen of Wagga.



Two weeks pass very quickly when you are having a good time! Our host Rotarians looked after us all extremely well – their hospitality and friendliness was, I’m sure, “above and beyond their duty”.

We were all hosted in different towns, so we were able to experience different sites and meet different Rotary Clubs in the district of 7200. On five occasions we were able to get together as one group and travel to points of interest such as Susan B Anthony Museum, in Canandaigua & the Women’s Rights National Historical Park at Waterloo and then the National Women’s Hall of Fame at Seneca Falls; the Corning Ware Factory, Corning; Palmyra historical buildings & Lock 29; Niagara Falls & the beautiful town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. During these visits we were able to gain information on the history of the area – all of it extremely interesting - especially what we learned of the Slave Trail in the 1800’s. Our

combined day trip to Niagara Falls was really great and we all found that the view from the US side was exciting, as you are so very close to the water’s edge and the fall itself. Most of us travelled separately with our hosts to the beautiful Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua and the Glenn Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport. Both of these places were wonderful, and we could have spent many more hours walking through them. Our two meeting places for exchange of hosts were Stony Brook National Park, where we enjoyed a wonderful BBQ, and the Windmill Markets at Pen Yan – a large area with every conceivable stall you could think of, and most of it undercover in 5 buildings. The city of Rochester has a population of 210,000 people and we had the chance to be together for a wonderful tour of the George Eastman House (the maker of Kodak film) and a great lunch at Genesee Brewery.

Rotary District 7200 seems to have very close relationships between their clubs and it was interesting for us to meet and make friends with Rotarians from so many different clubs. Their Exchange Organiser, Carl Grovanz and wife Linda opened their home for drinks one afternoon – and for us to see their home only 30m from the huge Lake Ontario was a site to behold.

We are all looking forward to District 7200’s reciprocal visit to our District 9700 in May of 2014 and renewing our friendships made during our visit in September 2013. Ray & Dianne Pluis