

Chapter 9

Youth Service

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Rotary International Youth Art Exchange (RIYAE)

In 1983, the father of our Japanese Exchange Student, Manami Kondo visited his daughter and brought with him paintings from students in his school. This was the embryo of the Youth Art Exchange program that Roger Wiggill so effectively established. Paintings were taken to Boroondara Primary School in 1983 and to North Balwyn State School and MLC in 1984 with their paintings going to Japan. By 1986-87, nine local schools were involved. With our assistance paintings were sent on a class by class, or school by school basis to schools in Japan, Italy, Finland and South Africa.

By using contacts established through the Youth Exchange program relationships were further enhanced and gradually more D980 and overseas clubs became involved. With Roger Wiggill as District Chairman, the project gained District and RI recognition, and other Clubs, particularly Footscray, gradually took a leadership role. Invitations to participate were sent to selected local and NSW schools. The Governors of ten overseas districts and a further eight overseas clubs were invited to select schools in their districts to participate in the scheme.

The objective of the program was to utilise the concept of painting exchanges between children of different nations as a means of building bridges and creating greater understanding between those children. Schools were encouraged to include the work involved as an integral part of their art curriculum focusing on topics such as "My Family", "My Home", "My School", etc.



*1986 Finnish Exchange Student,
Matti Paljakka, displays art
from his home town.*

It was fascinating to see how different cultural attitudes and mores were reflected in the art of the children. As Rotarians, it was inspiring to see the delight on the faces of the children as they received another batch of paintings from overseas, or as they prepared their paintings for dispatch.

In 1986, UNICEF promoted International Student Art Exhibitions and as a club we played a major role when three exhibitions were held between July and October 1986. We assisted in providing support, publicity and logistic help. Over 100 paintings were displayed in a variety of venues in Melbourne and down to Frankston.

Youth Debate

In seeking to provide greater opportunities for the schools in our area, a Youth Debating Program was organised in 1984-85. On 20 Sept 1984 a Family Youth Night was held with representatives from five schools, namely Camberwell Grammar, Greythorn HS, Marcellin College, Methodist Ladies College and Trinity College, present. There were also 19 children of members present as well as our three Youth Exchange students and an Ambassadorial Scholar.

The main part of the evening program was a debate between Marcellin and MLC on the topic "The Concept of Equal Opportunity will be the Downfall of Australian Society". On this occasion Geoff Shaw, English Master from Camberwell Grammar, awarded the debate to Marcellin who took the negative. This debate was the forerunner of a program that we ran over several years until the schools decided to expand their own inter-school debating programs.



*David Goldsmith (Chairman) and Geoff Shaw (Adjudicator)
with teams from Marcellin College and MLC at
our first Youth Debate Final 1984*

In 1985, the program was expanded to include preliminary rounds between four schools with the final between Carey Grammar and Marcellin being held at a special night at the Club on 19 September. With an attendance of 116, of whom 35 were from the various schools, the topic debated was "That Single Sex Schools should be abolished".

In good debating style the single sex school Marcellin took the affirmative but in the end Adjudicator, Geoff Shaw, awarded the win to Carey by a very narrow margin.

The final of the Youth Debate in 1986 was held on 18 September at Argenti's and we again had a large audience which included 41 visitors. The topic "That the Younger Generation Knows Best" was debated again between Carey and Marcellin with Carey taking the negative and they were again awarded a win.

Because of the study commitments of senior students, it was decided to organise the Youth Debates in 1987-88 to involve Year 10 students. Carey, Greythorn, Marcellin and MLC took part during May 1988 with the final being postponed until September. The final for this year was between Marcellin and MLC and was held at Marwal Avenue before an audience of 90 members, wives and visitors. The topic "That Australia Still Rides on the Sheep's Back" brought some lively comment and fun and some very helpful hints from Adjudicator, Eric Irving, who awarded the win to MLC.

This win by MLC heralded the end of our direct involvement in Inter-School Debating. The schools now found that they had a sufficient commitment to their own regional inter-school and internal competitions. Once again, the efforts of our Club had provided the impetus for a worthwhile activity for a section of the community and we can be proud of the success that our efforts generated.

A Special Memory from Roger Wiggill

Just a small incident, but it typifies Rotary's role in spreading international goodwill. A couple of years after exchange student, Koichi Hara, had returned to Japan, I was there on business and, accompanied by two Japanese Executives, I was changing trains at the Ueno station in central Tokyo, in rush-hour, amongst tens of thousands of Tokyo commuters. As I made my way between platforms I heard cries of "Mr Wiggill, Mr Wiggill." I stopped in amazement wondering who in Tokyo knew me and would address me in English. I then spied Koichi, pushing his way through the crowd towards me. We were of course overjoyed to see each other and caught up on news there and then before I had to continue to a meeting and he had to race off to a lecture at University. But what a chance encounter! What an example of Rotary internationalism!

Support for Youth in Need

Kidcare

In 1990 the six Rotary Clubs in the City of Camberwell (Ashburton, Balwyn, Camberwell, Camberwell North, Canterbury, and North Balwyn) agreed to the concept of Kidcare. The program was initiated by Rotary with the idea of community ownership and funding, but with the six clubs acting as guarantors on a per capita basis for the first year's funding – if necessary.

The Kidcare project aimed at over-coming family breakdown by focussing on the stress affecting all parties and the achievement of the communication and behavioural skills and support mechanisms to re-establish inclusion of disenfranchised children in caring and supportive families.

To achieve this aim, the focus was to bring together professionals and those in need, through the establishment and support of a PLACE for this to happen.

Our Club was represented initially by Murray Carr, who took a leading role in the project. The project was later supported administratively by Ron Phillips and in fund raising by John Moyle.

Over the next 18 months a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from each of the clubs prepared the frame-work for the Kidcare program.

A Trust Deed was prepared with Trustees drawn from 3 current and 3 Immediate Past Presidents of the six clubs. The document was signed on July 1992. At the same time Kidcare Pty. Ltd. was formed with 2 subscribers – Murray Carr (North Balwyn) and Michael Taylor (Camberwell).

A fund raising sub-committee of the Trustees was formed under the chairmanship of Peter Bolton (Canterbury), again with representation of each club. Fund raising commenced with a theatre night and a sale of paper clips. With evolving community involvement and the active participation of the Mayor and his wife, a Kidcare Ball was held early in 1993 when some \$21,000 was raised.

It became obvious that funds generated from the public would be insufficient to finance even one year's operations, so early in 1993 a call was made on Clubs. This was accepted and ratified by the outgoing and incoming Presidents at a joint meeting on 19 April 1993. Most of the clubs contributed and a total of approx. \$60,000 was raised, North Balwyn contributed \$13,000. Government and philanthropic trust donations would not be available until the organisation itself was in operation.

Camberwell City Council indicated that a property in Fairholm Grove could be made available for Kidcare at a peppercorn rental and that Council would spend up to \$70,000 on renovations. The Committee of Management set about seeking expressions of interest to renovate the property.

The original concept for Kidcare was that it should be a stand-alone project. It became clear by July 1993 that the program would not eventuate unless it was placed under the auspices of a parent welfare organisation which could manage staff appointments and carry administrative overheads and responsibilities associated with employment.

The Committee of Management had determined that an individual was required to run the project. However, on 11 August 1993 the Trustees recommended that the appointment of a Director be deferred and that no further action be taken on the building until funding and an administrative body was established.

Subsequently, Camcare was granted the right to oversee administrative control and they did this in an enthusiastic and thoroughly professional manner. They appointed a highly qualified Director, Constance Jenkin, together with a well-qualified peer support group, and with the help of the former City of Camberwell, provided accommodation at 370 Camberwell Road.

Kidcare was up and running with the public launch taking place on 30 June 1994.

Another Rotary achievement in which we took a major role and which brought the added strength of action by a group of dedicated local Clubs.

International Student Exchange

Our Club has been actively involved in the Rotary International Student Exchange program in almost every year. Normally, the “Exchange” is just that – one student, nominated by our club, travels overseas whilst another student, nominated by the overseas country, arrives here to spend one year hosted by our members.

The selection process adopted by the Club has ensured that we were always able to identify excellent out-going students and in some years we were placed in the embarrassing position of having to pass the names of worthy students on to District or to other clubs to sponsor.

The selection process for both incoming and outgoing students is normally very rigorous, to ensure that the student is able to cope with the many strains that leaving home, getting to know their host families, usually dealing with a new language and attending a new school, will naturally generate.

The success of most exchanges has been enhanced by the support they received from their Counsellors while they are on exchange.

It is not possible to detail the excellent achievements of all of these fine young people but only record a few details and highlights here.

“In-coming” Student Exchange

Virtually from its inception our Club has been actively involved in the student exchange program. We have expected all in-coming students to attend club meetings and participate in our fellowship. Most have done this outstandingly and members can easily observe the improvement in students’ English as they give their weekly reports to the club on their activities.

In our early years we had no shortage of host parents (with the “ageing” of many of our club members, this has not always been the case in latter years) and the Youth Director would call prospective host parents together for a meeting well before the student’s arrival.

At such meetings, topics such as “house rules” would be discussed. The input and understanding from host parents and counsellors has been quite outstanding. Without exception, students have found the friendly atmosphere of the Club quite different from their home clubs and very acceptable.

NBTT

Diego (Brazilian Exchange Student – “out of the mouths of babes!”):
“On Wednesday, Geoff Perdriau took me to the Shock Exchange”

Our “In-Coming” Students

Year	Student	Comment
1982 -83	Manami Kondo (Japan) Trinity Grammar	Our first student who was very shy to start with; she had already finished her schooling in Japan and found it difficult to get back into school life, but had a good year. Her father visited and with us started the first International Youth Art Exchange program.
1983 -84	Koichi Hara (Japan) Trinity Grammar	An outstanding student who made a marked impact on our Club and on his school. Koichi's outstanding success was recognised by our Club naming him a Paul Harris Fellow. He has visited again several times.
1984 -85	Denise Maksail (USA) Methodist LC	Because Denise was already 18 she focussed less on contributing and participating as a student. Never-the-less she had a successful exchange.
1986 -87	Matti Paljakka (Finland) Balwyn HS	An excellent Trumpet player who was great success academically and musically. Matti has maintained contact and later made a return visit to our club. Club members have visited his family in Finland where they have been warmly received. Matti claims that there would be no club in Finland as active as North Balwyn!
1986	Vanessa Lowe (South Africa) Carey Grammar	Vanessa came to our Club when the country NSW area for which she was accepted declined to have her, as a protest against apartheid. Vanessa, Gerry Spencer's niece, was outstanding. She attended Carey and assisted with the Physical Education program. Vanessa graduated from university and has visited us.
1987 -88	Charles Swanson (USA) Trinity Grammar	A likeable young man whose brother and sister had previously been on Exchange in Australia. Charles, who played viola, was very shy to start with but gained in confidence as the year went on and had a remarkable fund of stories.

1989	Adriana Zaniol (Brazil) Ruyton Girls' School	Adri had a most successful time in Melbourne. She endeared herself to her host families and participated well in all Club activities. Her counselor was Paul Fitz.
1990 -91	Tiina Huoviala (Finland) Ruyton Girls' School	Tiina enjoyed her time here in stable family environments and contributed well. She has since become a Doctor and travelled extensively. Including a return trip to Melbourne
1991 -92	Olivier Dautel (Belgium) Xavier College	Olivier had several tennis racquets, lots of T-shirts, and a continuous string of admirers! He thoroughly enjoyed his sport and social life and did do some school work!
1993	Neil Cable (South Africa) Carey Grammar	A keen cyclist, so keen that one of the South African Rotarians attending the Melbourne International Conference brought Neil's specially built bicycle with him. A very successful student who subsequently graduated in medicine.
1994 -95	Mika Makita (Japan) Ruyton Girls' School	Much more out-going than most Japanese students. Her farewell address to the club was most perceptive in comparing lifestyles. Mika is studying medicine and has had a return visit.
1995 -96	Camilla Hansen (Denmark) Ruyton Girls' School	A very lively girl who above all else enjoyed her time with us. Camilla studied at the Danish Pharmaceutical College in Copenhagen.
1996 -97	Tharparkorn Padoongmatvora gool (Pon) (Thailand) Kingswood College	Pon spoke "English" which was not always easy for us to understand. He had grown up with servants in the home and first host mothers found this a different experience to wean him out of!



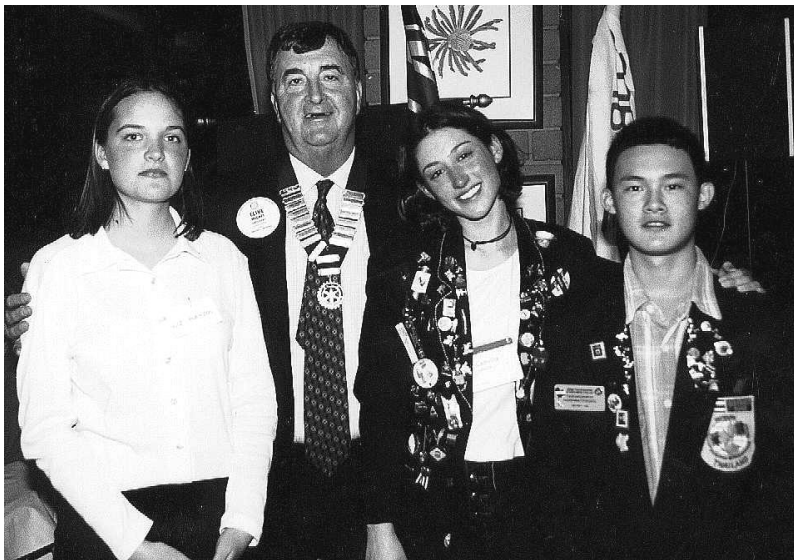
Vanessa Lowe (South Africa) greets Matti Paljakka (Finland) while David Goldsmith, Max Hunter, Carmel Hughes and Sue Fitz look on.



Jenny Hunter (1984), Liz Roy (1982) and Denise Maksail (USA 1984-85) pose with paintings that are part of the Youth Art Exchange

1997 -98	Elsa Schulz- Gambard (Germany) Camberwell Girls Grammar	A bright attractive girl who clearly had some personal home problems. As the year went on she developed anorexia and in spite of extensive support here, returned home early, very sick and very thin.
1998 -99	Hanna Hovi (Finland) Balwyn HS	Hanna always liked to give the impression of being very mature. This caused some concerns for host parents at times but she was generally positive and enjoyed her year.
1999 -00	Nils Andriessen (Germany) Balwyn HS	Nils managed to eat his way through the year as do so many students. He found that adapting to the expectations of different host families was quite a challenge but he met it successfully.
2001	Diogo Moraes (Joe) (Brazil) Balwyn HS	Diogo, or "Joe" as he became affectionately known, made himself well liked by all in the club. He was keen to try anything new, and was very supportive of club activities. He participated in a fund raising group which cycled from Melbourne to Sydney to attend the District Conference.
2002	Eduardo Paiotti (Brazil) Koonung Secondary College	Eduardo was a very friendly, social lad who made many friends, especially amongst the other Exchange students. When Brazil won the soccer World Cup, he celebrated for several days. At the end of his year with us, he made an emotional speech to the Rotary club, thanking each of his host parents, individually, for their kindness and generosity. Peter Elliott was his Counselor.

2005 -06	Livia Popp (Switzerland) Genazzano FCJ College	Livia quickly endeared herself to us all, with her positive, warm and enthusiastic approach. Her entertaining weekly reports to the club included her “word of the week”, always an Aussie expression which she had found puzzling. While on the Safari, Livia climbed Uluru on her 17th birthday. She was an excellent ambassador and an asset to our club. Her counselor was Sue McDonald.
2007 -08	Line Madsen (Denmark) Koonung Secondary College	At just over 6 feet tall, fifteen year old Line was our “little” Danish girl. With a keen sense of humour, and an excellent command of English, Line was a confident young lady. She was fiercely proud of her native Denmark and many of us learnt as much about her country as she did about ours. Not only was George Swanson her Counsellor but also her host father for 7 months of her very successful year with us.
2008 -09	Paulina Gorka (Poland) Genazzano FCJ College	Paulina was a delightful, intelligent young lady with a winning smile. Although very quiet and, initially, with almost no English, Paulina made the most of all her opportunities. Her exceptional talent as a pianist was showcased at the District Conference in Launceston, where she entertained a very appreciative audience of more than 700. A devout Catholic, Paulina also played the church organ beautifully. Her Counsellor was Bronwen Dimond.
2010	Cesy Perez dos Nesimento (Brazil)	Cesy is due to arrive in January, and the club is looking forward to her stay. She is the youngest of five children. Her Counsellor was Maria Moffat.



Pres Clive Hughes farewells Camilla Hansen with Pon from Thailand and Elinor Maguire, off to Germany, also present to share the occasion.



John and Anthea Mollison share a quiet moment with Brazilian student Adriana (Adri) Zaniol



Departing Exchange Student, Camilla Hansen from Denmark, (sitting fourth from left) farewelled at Tullamarine by her extended family of Host families, Counsellor and Club members.



Paulina Gorka (2008-2009) with host families Ala Taylor, Michael Barden, Don Taylor Rosemary Kelly, Ann Kerr, Paulina, Bronwen Dimond, Erin Courtney, Graeme Bird, and Peter Courtney.

“Outgoing” Student Exchange

Each year, young people aged 15 – 17 years of age take advantage of this wonderful program, which promotes good will and understanding amongst nations. Rotary Clubs select students whom they consider would benefit from an international, one-year exchange and recommend them to District where final selections are made. Because the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is now a two-year course, it has become far more difficult to source candidates who are able to take part in a student exchange. As a result, most Outbound Students are now just 15 years old, creating difficulties which resulted in our inability to support the program in 2005-2008.

Our “Out-Going” Students

Year	Student / Destination	Year	Student / Destination
1982	Elizabeth Roy (Japan)	1992	Anna Shelley (Germany)
1983	Janice Alexander (Japan)	1993	Ben McIlwain (Belgium)
1984	Jenny Hunter (Japan)	1994	Georgina Smith (Brazil)
1986	Martin McInerney (Brazil)	1995	Amanda Glynn (Germany)
1987	Caroline Green (Canada)	1996	Elinor Maguire (Germany)
1988	Shelley Wright (Canada)	1997	Elizabeth Robinson (Canada)
1988	Jacyl Shaw (Finland)	1998	Anna Stewart (Germany)
1989	Carina Wilkes (Norway)	1999	Rogan O'Shannesy (Germany)
1990	Christopher Rush (Belgium)	2000	Lyndall Hopkins (Norway)
1991	Jeremy Smith (Belgium)	2004	Nick Reynolds (Germany)
		2009	Olivia Bassani (Brazil)

Elizabeth Roy

Our first student was an outstanding success. On return, Liz became very involved at both club and District level and was named a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of her service. It was through her selection that we were able to attract her father Ron to become a member of the Club.

Janice Alexander

A very good linguist, Janice also gained a scholarship to Germany. She pursued studies in both Japanese and German to a post-graduate level.

Jenny Hunter

An excellent exchange; Jenny subsequently made a major contribution as a leader in our Rotaract Club.

Martin McInerney

Martin was an outstanding example of someone who went away as a youngster and returned as a confident young man. Some years ago he was reported to be teaching English in Spain.

Jacyl Shaw

On her return she achieved a good law degree and is practising as a solicitor. Jaycl and Jeremy Smith (1991) work for the same law firm.

Ben McIlwain

Like many exchange students Ben found it difficult to settle to his intended studies and spent a couple of years working before returning to Swinburne. He is also Chief Instructor at his church Boys' club.

Amanda Glynn

Also took time out from studies and was teaching at a school for street kids in Zambia. Is aiming at completing a degree in Social Work and returning to Zambia, then India.

Elinor Maguire

After an excellent year away Elinor is completing her studies in German and Commerce at Melbourne University.

Anna Stewart

After an unsatisfactory Host Club start to her exchange everything came right for Anna who completed an excellent exchange year.

Nick Reynolds

Nick had a very interesting year in Germany. In a skiing accident, he broke his knee and had to be transported to hospital by helicopter. After a period of convalescence, Nick made a good recovery, enjoyed several trips, became fluent in German and enjoyed the hospitality of his host families. Nick's counsellor was Peter Cleary.

Olivia Bassani

Olivia was just 15 years old when she left for Brazil. She had originally wanted to go to France but, after the District orientation weekend, she decided that Brazil might be both interesting and challenging. She thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed lifestyle and had a wonderful social life on the island paradise of Florianopolis. Olivia's Counsellor was Mary George.

FINLANDIA – an Exchange Student's Tone Poem

On August 8 at Tullamarine we welcomed our new Finn,
Our blond-haired Matti, tall and straight just then was slightly thin.
The Lucas family soon took hold with lots of Aussie food
And took him north to Lightning Ridge,
To Brisbane, Sydney and a family fridge.
He learnt a lot in those few weeks, and found Aussie food "quite good".

Each week on Thursday nights our Matti showed his special skill
Reports produced with journalistic licence gave Rotarians their fill
At Balwyn School he settled well with A's for most results;
His trumpet was his passport there
As much as musical sounds could bear
He filled the air with tones sublime, confounding most adults.

The Cleary's were his second hosts and took him to the sea.
He swam and sun-baked happily in water quite ice free.
Again his trumpet gained a place with Santa's dulcet tones,
He learnt to be a beach-bum Aussie,
With fishing and often repelling the mossies,
He also cooked for all the folks, and gobbled ice-cream cones.

January saw him off to Sydney for the Pan Pacific camp,
A musical experience which Rotary helped to vamp.
Those days with PRIME on Sydney's shores with music students galore.
A time to learn to perform with nowse
At Sydney's magnificent Opera House,
St. Ives Club hosting to ensure that life was never a bore.

Back to Melbourne and on to Muntwylers' to experience things Swiss
Return to school and work some more on Maths & Music & Fish.
This time aquaria with John Thwaites created great attention,
And visits to our Concert Hall
Where Matti had a musical ball,
While Ann & Marcel enjoyed the time of their new son's food dimensions.

A time with Hunters interspersed with Rotary Conference & trips
Was not without some special experiences of sailing in small ships.
On one such journey our sailor Matti got wet outside and in
A new experience, not just a hunch,
Too cold and wet to eat his lunch.
A bitter disappointment too, a withdrawal caused chagrin.

Few Finnish folks have travelled far in Fiat veteran cars,
But with our John dear Matti went to see Victoria afar.
Now PP John had failed to tell of carburettor doubts
And Matti learned to travel steadily,
Prepared of course to change cars frequently,
No matter what the owner did to push the car about.

With Carmel and Clive our Matti has spent a brief but happy time
Because the opportunity came to visit Central's clime.
Safaris trip with other folks from 981 and 2
Gave Matti a time to travel by bus
And gain the feel for Red Centre dust
But not alas to enjoy the taste of traditional Witchetty stew.

And so the time has come to say farewell to Matti the Finn,
To wish him well and send him home somewhat less than thin.
We've enjoyed his stay and his special way of giving weekly reports
We know that his talents will take him far
His trumpet and schooling are well up to par
He has given us much as we say "au revoir"
So North Balwyn Rotary says good-bye, you will always be in our thoughts.

David Goldsmith - Matti's Counsellor

Rotary Club of Boroondara

In July 2001 the New Generations Committee under Bradley Mills, met and planned the formation of a new club. The members then visited a number of Rotary clubs that had formed new Clubs specifically aimed at younger members and obtained much valuable guidance.

The target membership was planned to be aged between 30 – 45 and preferably to meet in a trendy venue at a meeting time of 8 – 9 pm followed by supper, all at a reasonable cost.

The first interest meeting was held on 23rd April 2001 at the Geebung Polo Club and, following subsequent meetings, a Charter President – Adam Skerritt and a core of Office Bearers were elected.

Charter night for the Rotary Club of Boroondara was held on Friday 28th June 2002 at the *Boulevard*, Studley Park Road Kew.

Science Summer Schools

As part of the Club's Youth and Vocational programs we have been strong supporters of the Science Summer Schools programs.

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a two week program held at the Australian National University in Canberra and has been sponsored by a number of major companies notably CRA and Rio Tinto. Top Year 12 students, interested in Science, are selected and nominated by Rotary Clubs throughout Australia, competition for places is keen and positions are eagerly sought.

The Siemens Science School was a one-week program for students in Years 10 and 11 and these programs are held around various campuses in Victoria where leading scientists provide leadership for the students in lectures and activities to encourage them to pursue studies in the sciences. As an example of our support for this program, in 1998 we sponsored 13 students and paid the fees for 3 of these.

Similarly, in our involvement in NYSF, in 1996-97 we nominated two students, Jo-Anne McBride from Genazzano College and Paul Bernath from Wesley College. Both candidates presented with strong academic records and excellent references. They both impressed with their enthusiastic response to the program, which they found exciting, inspirational and educational. In expressing their gratitude to the Club they urged us to continue sponsoring students to the program.



Bruce McIver making a presentation to outstanding Science Summer School participant, Carolyn Saunders

However it was in 1995-96 when we sponsored Carolyn Saunders from Wesley College that history was created. In that year from 1800 nominations 274 were selected. Carolyn was a Year 11 (International Baccalaureate) student who was quite outstanding academically and in sport and cultural activities. She performed so well at the Forum that she was both invited back and trained as a leader for the following year and was one of six students selected to participate in the Canada-wide Science Fair in Toronto in May 1996. The cost of this opportunity was \$6,000 and when it became clear that Wesley College and her parents would each contribute \$2,000, our Board decided to match that sum so that she would be able to participate in the Canadian experience.

Carolyn presented a report of her experiences in Canada to the Club as guest speaker on 9th September and DG John Reddish also invited her to be a guest speaker at our District Conference in Melbourne early in 1997.

In her reports to the Club, Carolyn spoke enthusiastically and gratefully of her two weeks in Canberra and the opportunities it presented to meet people and evaluate possible directions. She confirmed just how stimulating the experience was of not only participating in presentations by leading scientists and visiting various institutions, but of the immense benefit of learning the opinions of her peers. She commented on the diverse background of the participants and how much she had learnt from them.

The Canadian experience was rather a Science Fair at which students displayed their own projects. Among the projects exhibited were a robotic arm, ideas for lowering pollution, and even a machine for reading the magnetic strips on credit card. Again, it was the opportunity to meet people and share their views that enhanced personal and international understanding.

These programs are part of what the Club sees as its major commitment to youth and to the future. Many of our members have given excellent service at District level in their involvement and leadership in Youth programs. Our members have been District Chairpersons for Youth Exchange, Rotaract, RYLA, RYPEN, and MUNA and in the area of Science Summer Schools P.P. Bruce McIver, who has been so active within the Club in this field, was District Chairperson in 2000-2001.

Since 2003, the Science Experience, as it became known, was transferred to the Youth (New Generations) portfolio. Throughout the Club's history, we have supported the program and nominated at least 2 students to the University summer school each year. From all reports, it is an excellent program which exposes students to a wide range of scientific endeavours, broadening their experience and providing the opportunity to explore new areas of interest in an environment not normally accessible to 15 year olds.

The club continued to support the program by nominating students each year up to 2008 but with limited success. A continuing contribution was maintained by the club in funding students successful in the selection process but nominated by other clubs.

In 2004, all three of our candidates were selected by District for participation in NYSF. Daniel Thomas was sponsored by our Club. The Rotary Club of Camberwell took on the sponsorship of Penny Brussens and Ross Bicknell, from Trinity Grammar School, was offered a scholarship to Germany and opted to take this up, instead of his NYSF place.

In 2005, Joshua Rosen from Balwyn High School was sponsored by our Club to attend NYSF.

In 2006, Neelprada Previn was unsuccessful at District level, despite being a very capable, competent and appealing applicant. At District's request, we agreed to sponsor Belinda Nicholson from Camberwell Girls' Grammar School. Belinda's report to the Club assured us that she had been a very worthy candidate for the program.

In 2007, Sophie Westerman was sponsored, again at the request of District which had several selected students without funding.

In 2008. both Stephanie McMahon and Trent Van Zanten were unsuccessful at District selection. Both students were outstanding in the field of science with Stephanie, in particular, having a brilliant resume.

In 2008 the New Generations Committee decided to review the program in the context of its benefit to the club and to the young science students resident in North Balwyn, Balwyn, Camberwell and Kew.

As the club was looking to build its profile in the local area, it was decided to shift the Club's support by establishing a new program in 2009 that would continue to support local science students and enhance the profile of the club.

The "Exemplary Science Scholar Support Program" (ES3P) offering financial support for students to attend extension science learning programs was devised and introduced.

Students at upper secondary and tertiary institutions are nominated by teachers or faculty members to specific reputable programs that withstand the probity checks of the club.

The first recipient of funding under this program was Fiona Kan from North Balwyn who was studying engineering at Monash University. Fiona was supported by our Club in her attendance at the International Scholar Laureate Program in China. Fiona's report, at a dinner meeting, left no doubt that she had been an excellent choice of candidate, for our new program.

In this way our club continues to maintain its support for the promotion of Science, raise the profile of the club and provide support for students resident in our locality.

Storm the Stage

In 2007, in response to a challenge by President John Magor to add a new program to each committee's responsibilities, New Generations' Chairman, Bronwen Dimond, decided to take on "Storm the Stage". Rob Head worked extremely hard to ensure our Club's participation in this exciting new project which aimed to showcase the musical and dramatic talent of 16-19 year olds. Our candidate, Konstantina Samartzis, from Camberwell Girls' Grammar School, competed in the state Finals in Echuca. She performed a dramatic role, which she later used in her VCE Drama unit. Konstantina reported that she thoroughly enjoyed her participation and appreciated this opportunity to further develop her talents in the performing arts. Unfortunately, subsequent attempts to source other candidates failed and our Club has not participated in this program again.

District 9800 Youth Programs

In addition to the International Youth Exchange Program and Rotaract, we have taken a very active role in three other D9800 programs. In each of these we have not only nominated participants in almost every year but our members and our Rotaractors have taken leadership roles for the District.

These three programs are:

RYLA	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
RYPEN	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
MUNA	Model United Nations Assembly

Members have served on the District Committees, have been District Chairperson and we have hosted each of these programs on behalf of the District, receiving great satisfaction from the experience.

Many of our North Balwyn Rotaractors have attended the RYLA program as participants and as assistants to the group leaders. This has provided excellent training for these young people in the process of becoming leaders in the community.

Rotaractors have taken a leading administrative and group leader role for RYPEN and they have gained great satisfaction and enhanced leadership skills in the process. This too has carried over into MUNA.

We have all been inspired when our nominated attendees for each of these programs have “reported” to our Club on their experiences after attending the programs. It has been most gratifying to see and hear the skill with which these young people have presented their reports and it has frequently made us feel very humble. We have often been forced to ask ourselves the question “could we have done so well at their age?”

Involvement in youth activities remains a prime focus of our Club and it is gratifying to see the results of our efforts with Youth.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Our Club has been a regular supporter of the RYLA program, almost from its inception, by sponsoring at least two candidates each year. Jim Studebaker served on the District Committee for several years. Ros Horne joined the committee in 2005 and then took over as Chairman in 2006. Michael Barden followed her as District Chair in 2007 and 2008. Rob Head added his talents to the committee in 2008.

Our Club hosted the RYLA dinner in 2004. Ros Horne led the organising committee and was assisted by Michael Barden, David Cheney, Bill Oakley and George Selkrig. Each year several of our members have attended the annual dinner and been impressed by the passion and talent of the participants.

In 2005, our Club provided the funding for three young East Timorese to attend the RYLA camp. Michael Barden and Rosemary Kelly kindly assisted with billeting the visitors.

In subsequent years, several of the participants have gone on to join our Rotaract Club, continuing their association with Rotary and, in particular, our Club.

Although some clubs are finding it increasing difficult to locate suitable applicants for the program, we have consistently been able to sponsor high quality candidates. Their reports to our Club, following their week at RYLA, clearly demonstrate the value and importance of this program.

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

In October, 2002, our Club hosted the RYPEN camp. New Generations committee members, Ros Horne, George Selkrig, Gregor Matthews, John McBride and Bronwen Dimond were assisted by Nino Sofra, Jane Pennington, Marg Selkrig, Anthea Mollison, Heather Matthew and Bev Sofra. Bill Oakley provided the menu, ingredients and direction and we set about preparing nine meals for the weekend. A formal dinner on the Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend and was attended by President Peter Courtney.

Each year, we have sent several RYPEN participants to Camp Weekaway. Our Club values this program as an opportunity for young people with a wide range of skills, interests and talents. Our Rotaract Club provides the leadership for this program and contributes significantly to the success of RYPEN.

Maria Moffat had been either a committee member or Chairman of District RYPEN for most of her time in our Club. She has provided a great deal of advice and assistance to each New Generations Committee in regard to our selection of candidates for the camp. Anthony Stokes has also been a valuable member of the District committee for several years.

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

MUNA is one of our Club's favourite projects as it gives participants the opportunity to test their debating skills in a very "realistic" forum. Attired in the appropriate national dress, students debate a series of United Nations resolutions, putting forward the views of the country they represent, rather than their own opinions.

Much research is done prior to this weekend and each student must be well prepared to participate in the debates.

Our Club has sponsored a team of two for each MUNA weekend for the last nine years. In 2006, Ci Yun Ho and Anna Kapnoulas, representing Afghanistan, were placed second overall and Anna was declared to be the best individual speaker. When the girls reported to our Club at a dinner meeting, it was obvious that they were both very eloquent speakers, who considered that they had benefited greatly from their MUNA experience.

NBTT

Peter Baird (Briefing us for our visit to Swinburne, Lilydale where the hospitality students were to provide our meal): After we've eaten, it is hoped that we can provide the students with feedback.

The Rotary Extended Family



Departing Exchange Student, Camilla Hansen from Denmark, (sitting fourth from left) farewelled at Tullamarine by her extended family of Host families, Counsellor and Club members.

Climb the Mountain

Over the New Year's Eve long weekend in 2000, several members and their partners escorted fourteen young people, 14-16 years old, on a three day adventure in the wilderness at Mount Buller – signalling a new start to a new millennium. The young people were chosen in recognition of their troubled backgrounds, often manifesting itself in undisciplined and uncontrollable behaviour.

The participants experienced a real taste of the outdoors – pitching tents, lighting a camp fire, cooking in the open, plenty of exercise, games, swimming in a freezing creek, and climbing Mount Buller. Many were doing this for the first time.

Notwithstanding the problems, the project was considered worthwhile as there were glimmers of response and benefit.

Members who took part deserved great credit – Nino & Bev Sofra, Alan & Pam Fabry, Jenny Ryan, Ian Richardson, George Selkrig, Greg Matthews, Ron Liner, Bob Adams, Bernie Smith, David and Maria Moffat and John Mollison.

Youth Suicide Awareness

The problem of youth suicide is a phenomenon causing great concern in the community as a whole. David Morris has represented the Club and District in a variety of roles bringing information back to the Club and ensuring that members are informed. Members of the District Youth Suicide Awareness Committee have worked in close liaison with Melbourne University where Professor Michael Carr-Greg provides leadership.

Our Club, in association with our Rotaract Club, has responded to the work being undertaken by providing sponsorship in 1998-99 for a teacher from Camberwell Grammar School, Andrew Watson, to undertake the course at Melbourne University that leads to a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare. We have also benefited by having Andrew speak to the Club.

The Rotary / Rotaract Raft Race



Our intrepid Captain Tom Wing Young steers the “ship”

The Raft Race was originated by Rotaractors to gain the involvement of their clubs and as many Rotary Clubs as possible in a fun and picnic atmosphere. Our first involvement was before we had a Rotaract club and the annual report of 1983-84 records that we approached the activity with great enthusiasm, so much so that we were asked to organise this District event in 1984-85. Rotary crews were then required to have at least one member from Rotaract, and vice versa.

Under the direction of Ian Collins the day went without a hitch, although we did experience some interesting traffic dramas as the semi-trailer unloaded our “Ford Laser” float, mounted on pontoons. Roger Wiggill especially built the floats for the occasion at Ford Australia. Although not the fastest in the fleet the craft were certainly the most sophisticated and while Rotarian families picnicked along the river bank adjacent to the Anderson Bridge our craft were trialled and tested under Roger’s expert guidance, captained by Tom Wing Young and Ron Liner.

Secretary Ron Carnell was much relieved when the races were over and made sure that District altered its insurances to cover the event.

The Lasers were used again in 1985-86 but again without final success. The following year one of the Lasers was used by our Rotaractors at Campaspe Downs to win the event with our Peter Cook on board!

Rotaract Club

North Balwyn Rotary Club's involvement with Rotaract started well before the chartering of our Rotaract Club on 26 November 1985.

Having participated in the Rotary-Rotaract Raft Race in 1983-84, in 1984-85 we were the host Rotary Club, with Northcote and Essendon Rotaract clubs, for the Raft Race and this took place on the Yarra, near the Anderson Street Bridge on 3 February 1985. Partly as a result of the success of our efforts there, the District Rotaractors, Mike Berry, Geoff Brookes, Diane Griffin and Sue Caldwell, in particular, challenged us to do something about sponsoring a club. President Elect Paul Fitz had this same challenge issued to him at District Assembly by incoming DG Edwin Peatt.

When Paul found himself with David Goldsmith as his Vice President he had the reaction "what on earth am I going to give David to do to try to keep him quiet?" David had already been a member of two other Rotary Clubs which had sponsored Rotaract Clubs which had since closed. In a conversation with Paul, David asked him facetiously why on earth he wanted to commit North Balwyn to on-going worries for years ahead by becoming involved with a group of young people who:

- will want to do their own thing regardless of what we say,
- will have trouble running meetings to an agenda and on time,
- will want to focus continually on social activities,
- will make a mess of trying to account for the monies raised,
- and for whom all we are doing is establishing a marriage bureau.

Well you can imagine that Paul's response was simply to tell David to get on with the job of getting a club started.

Through the excellent work of members of our organising committee, comprising Graham Foard, Kevin Maunder, Ken Proposch, Gerry Spencer, John Thwaites, Dick Wines and David as Chairman, and through the general club members and District Rotaract Representative Diane Griffin and her team, we identified over 130 possible candidates. We sent out letters, made phone calls, arranged our interest meetings run as formal meetings by the District Rotaractors, and in the end produced a healthy baby with 26 members in just four months.

DG Edwin had said that we shouldn't attempt to charter a new club in less than 6 to 9 months from first planning meetings but we told him respectfully that it wasn't going to take us that long!

The Charter night was a delightful evening held at Argenti's and everyone present, especially DG Edwin Peatt and President Paul Fitz, felt highly gratified with what had been achieved.

How good then were David's predictions?

We can only say that our Rotaract Club has been outstandingly successful on all counts. Yes, they have had some ups and downs but we have been privileged to work with, and enjoy the company of some outstanding young people. People like Andrew Barr Tess (Glennister) Brookes, Jenny Hunter, Tim Proposch, Kathryn Proposch, Michael Hudson,



Some of our Rotaractors pose on Charter Night.

Ross Grenfell, Rob Netherway, Debbie Wilshire, Graham Prowse, Tim Castine, Alex Dawson, David Archer, David McKewen, Anne-Marie Heath, Maria (Camarotti) Moffat, Chris Howell, John Anderson, Liz Hiron, Christina Heggie, Jo Bird, and the list could go on for a long time. They have given leadership and commitment to Rotaract in D9800 and David McKewen, Anne-Marie Heath and Christina Heggie have served as District Representatives.

Has it been worth it? Unquestionably, YES.

The Rotaractors involvement in our Club activities, and our involvement in their activities has been something of which we can all be proud and this has been recognised by District by the number of occasions on which we have won the District Rotaract Involvement Award or have been highly commended.



Rotaract President Chris Howell, with Rotaract Past President Maria Moffat, join Rotary Club of North Balwyn President Bernie Smith in the presentation of a computer to Mario and his mother at the 1995 Rotary Club Christmas Night.



Rotaractors playing Bingo with residents of Eva Tilley Home



Gardening working bee at the Portsea Camp

Recent Years in Rotaract

The face of the Rotaract Club of North Balwyn has changed in recent years. Going back more than five years ago, the Rotaract Club of North Balwyn used to hold meetings in local primary school staffrooms, an arrangement kindly organised by North Balwyn Rotarians. From there, the club moved to a local politician's office (without committing any votes to the particular party he represented, of course), before settling in its current location at a newly refurbished pub in Kew.

Over the past few years, the club has widened its scope for social activities from organising trips to the movies and Pot Luck Nights, to include activities that reflect the change in member interests, such as paint-balling and an annual Karaoke Night. In 2008, instead of the usual Christmas dinner, the club organised its first Christmas weekend away, to Lerderderg State Park.

Ongoing Community Involvement:-

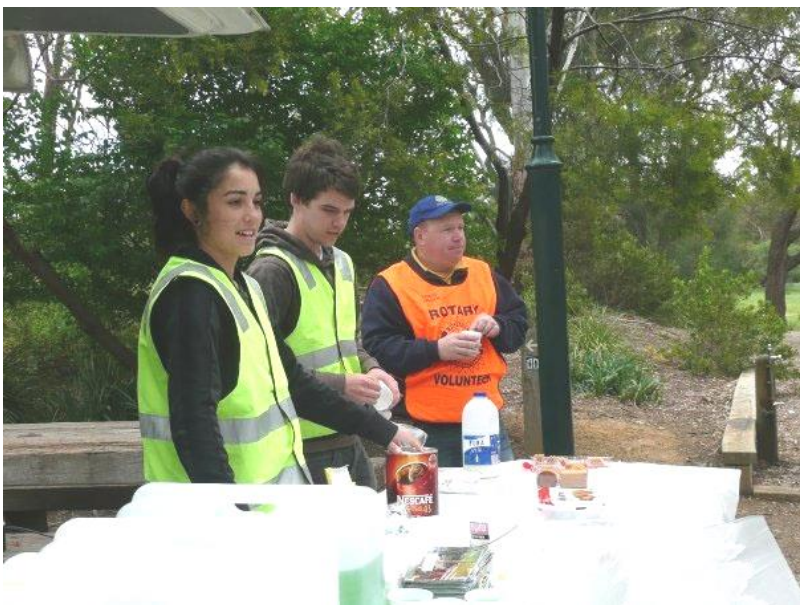
Our Rotaract Club has continued to maintain high levels of community involvement. Their various fundraising events have contributed to a plethora of local charities, as well as Rotary and international causes. Annual trivia nights and scavenger hunts have remained a prime fundraiser for the club which has allowed support of organisations such as Epidermolysis bullosa dystrophica (EB) Association, Rotaplast, PolioPlus and Camcare, among others. In 2008 the club also began running a Camberwell Market stall every few months, to increase awareness of Rotaract and to raise funds for the club. Volunteering forms a large part of member participation, leading to involvement in National Tree Planting Day, Clean Up Australia Day, the Variety Club Children's Christmas, building fences for the Bushfire Relief and blood drives for the Red Cross.

For several years now, Rotaract North Balwyn has narrowed its focus to donate money to smaller, locally based not-for-profit organisations. For international projects, they made the decision to choose to work with organisations that members can become more personally involved in, rather than simply donating money from afar. In this way, the club was able to more easily form important links with the local community.

The Rotaract Club not only manages its own operations but is never too far away when the Rotary Club needs some young, sprightly helpers. Members of the Rotaract Club enjoy attending Rotary meetings throughout the year, volunteering for the Rotary Ride and working alongside Rotarians at the Grand Prix and Equestrian events. Additionally, Rotaract has keenly supported the Interact Club in its establishment and has been involved in a number of projects with them.

NBTT

Matthew Pauli's Rotary Grace: For good food, good fellowship and the opportunity to serve with a much older generation, we give thanks.



Rotaract helping out at the Rotary River Ride drink stand.



Running the Camberwell Market stall at the crack of dawn.



The Rotaract vs. Rotary vs. Interact Bowling Challenge.



Rotaractors getting stuck in to some hard work with local residents in East Kilmore, for the Bushfire Relief.



Washing cars at the Melbourne Grand Prix.

Club Strength:-

Over the years, club membership has fluctuated from four to over twenty, with a steady base of between six and twelve members in recent years. Regardless of membership numbers, our Rotaract club has never relinquished its standing as one of the most active and successful clubs in the District. The Club has regularly been represented on District Boards and Committees and has had several past DRs in its ranks. They have also been huge supporters of the RYPEN camps and have staffed and directed a number of these over the years.

Year	Liaison Member	Year	Liaison Member
1985-86	David Goldsmith	1995-96	Murray Carr
1986-87	John Reddish	1996-97	Peter Courtney
1987-88	Ron Phillips	1997-98	Bernie Smith
1988-89	Max Hunter	1998-99	Tony McLean
1989-90	Peter Courtney	1999-00	Ken Maxfield
1990-91	Terry Keyhoe	2000-01	Ken Maxfield
1991-92	Jim Studebaker	2001-02	John McBride
1992-93	John McBride	2002-03	John McBride/ Ros Horne
1993-94	John McBride	2003-04	Meg Morris/ Ken Maxfield
1994-95	John McBride / Kevin White	2004-05	Richard Dalla Riva/ Ken Maxfield
		2005-10	Matthew Pauli



National Tree Planting Day

Ten Pin Bowling Challenge

An annual event in the clubs sporting endeavours is the 10 pin bowling challenge which has traditionally been between the Rotary Club of North Balwyn and the Rotaract Club of North Balwyn.

This event has been very hotly contested over the years with a slight edge going to the Rotary Club.

With the formation of the Interact Club, the challenge became a three way event on one occasion with the youth, hand/eye co-ordination and eyesight of the Rotaractors giving them a well deserved victory.

There have been a variety of venues for this event which is believed to be a ploy on behalf of the Rotaractors to avoid any familiarity leading to a home lane advantage being gained by the Rotarians.

The thoughts are that a few younger members need to be recruited by the Rotarians to maintain their well deserved edge as the years are beginning to tell on the scores and the number of participants.

The bowling is always followed by a welcome meal at a restaurant, nominated for its participating in the Entertainment Book. A great time is had by all.



Duncan Ansell studies the pins while his team members watch on anxiously.

The Bowling Challenge

After much reflection the editorial committee decided not to detail successive holders of the Rotary – Rotaract Bowling Trophy lest it lead to suggestions of “bias” in relation both to the comments and the “run of the green”!

Interact

The Interact Club of North Balwyn was chartered in 2004 at an afternoon ceremony at Balwyn High School. Thirty-eight students were inducted into the Club. Meagan Barr was the Charter President. And our Vice President, Greg Ross, took responsibility for the establishment of the Club, assisted by Elisabeth Hall.

Senior teacher, Rob Malpelli, provided invaluable support and assistance with setting up the group and continued on as the staff liaison person.

North Balwyn Rotarian, Bronwen Dimond, was the New Generations Committee Interact representative and continued in this role for the next 5 years.

Each year, Interact membership continued to grow and “Strictly Ballwyn”, an evening of entertainment provided by students and staff from Balwyn High School, was established as a fundraiser for International Rotary projects, specifically the Tulagi Project in the Solomon Islands.



Members of the Interact Club at “Strictly Ballwyn – 2009”

Successive Presidents and Board members were particularly capable and talented students, most of whom went on to hold senior leadership positions in the school, in their final year. In the early years, Elisabeth Hall attended meetings regularly and supported all of the group’s endeavours.

In 2007, under the strong leadership of Gregory Dimopoulos, the Club introduced “It Takes Two” - a lunchtime, fundraising entertainment for the students and staff of Balwyn High School. This gave Interact enormous exposure and established it as a well-known and popular group in the school.

In 2008, Manju Mahondass, a teacher (and member of the Rotary Club of Manningham), took over as the school liaison person and gave wonderful support to the group.

Since its beginnings six years ago, Interact has raised in excess of \$20,000 for various Rotary projects and community charities. Its work continues, as each year brings a new group of enthusiastic, talented and dedicated students, all keen to contribute to the wider community.

NBTT

Pauline Gorka (Polish Exchange Student): I went to Don and Ala Taylor’s house for the Progressive Dinner, together with Mr & Mrs Phillips, Mr & Mrs Wells and Mr & Mrs Smith. I learnt a lot about all the other Rotarians.