**Inner North West City News October**

One of the great strengths of Rotary is the networking and connections it is able to facilitate. Through our members, clubs and activities, Rotary connects people in business, education, service and government and is able to join people from all walks of life and thus strengthen our ability to make a difference.

This was brought home to many members of Flemington Kensington Rotary at a recent meeting when we were joined by some of our Rotary alumni.
We chatted with Riley from Texas who had come to Melbourne as a 16 year old in 2014 as an exchange student and is now just starting her law career – here in Melbourne. She was a delightful young lady who spent her year staying with 4 Rotary families, attending school and exploring Victoria and Australia before heading back to the USA.

Then there was Yvonne who in 1977 left Ballina in NSW and travelled by ship to Cape Town South Africa for an unforgettable year and experience living through apartheid. What a learning journey that was and how did it impact on her life choices.

Zoe and Jules are 2 young people who participated in the Youth Leadership program and who learnt about their own leadership skills and abilities, gained resilience, made connections and grew in confidence.

There are many other youth leadership and development programs provided by Rotary clubs around the world. Our club strongly supports the National Youth Science Forum where Year 12 students have the opportunity to participate in a 12 day Science immersion program at a major university meeting and being involved in science events, lectures and visits which impact on their further studies and career options. Over the last 8 years our clubs has sponsored 11 students from locals schools who have gone on to study science in fields as diverse as genetics, aerospace, medicine, international law, nursing, zoology and environmental science.

Rotary is not just for businesspeople, adults or men. Rotary is for everyone who wants to make a difference in the world in some way and to give back. If you would like to join with us, make a call, send an email or when COVID restrictions lift, call in to our Op Shop at 444 Racecourse Road Flemington.

[www.rotaryflemington.org.au](http://www.rotaryflemington.org.au)

