

Rotary Student Exchange is Alive and Well in District 9500.

Things are continuing to 'bubble' along within the Rotary Youth Exchange Committee as this current Rotary year progresses.

At this present time our district is hosting 7 students from overseas- Juliane Bietler (Germany) at the Port Lincoln Club, Sigrun Brugv (Denmark) at Port Pirie Club, Louis Cools (Belgium) at Salisbury Club, Jeanne Lave (France) at Clare, Lisa Rasmussin (Denmark) at Quorn through the E-Club of Greater SA, Julie Wallin (Finland) at the Gawler Light Club and Maurus Wirth (Switzerland) at Port Augusta Club. Most are currently with their second host families and are settling into our school and cultural routines fairly well. They are all available as potential speakers at your club. Check with the individual hosting clubs for their availability.

Currently we have had 7 students from our district in placements overseas. They are being sponsored by the Gawler Light Club, Port Lincoln, Roxby Downs, Whyalla (joint club sponsorship), Port Augusta (2 students) and Golden Grove Rotary Clubs and are due back home in January 2017.

While these students are involved heavily in their exchanges we have a further 6 being prepared for their exchanges to occur next year. They will be departing from our shores mid January, and are currently undergoing the normal preparations including language lessons, Visa and passports, insurance paperwork and of course, travel plans. Clubs who are supporting these students are- Northern Yorke Peninsula, Port Lincoln (2), Port Pirie (2), Whyalla/Whyalla Norrie (jointly),

All of these students are also available to clubs as speakers following their return back to Australia. Please contact the Clubs concerned if you would like to include them in your meeting programs.

The District Committee is actively promoting the Exchange Program to all clubs in 9500 and are happy to speak of their work as well at club level. They are also happy to receive any queries about hosting a student from overseas in your club's area. Host families do not have to be Rotarians and the committee is finding an increasing number of local schools are helping to find such families, although the host Rotary Club does need to have an interested person to act as their Counsellor.

If you have any questions about the Rotary Exchange Program, or would like to find out more about what we do, and even volunteer to join this group, please feel free to contact me.

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