

The ROTARY 'HEALTH OF THE RIVER' FORUM 2019'

Dear Principal,

Rotary Clubs in South Australia, north western Victoria and south western New South Wales, (Rotary Districts 9500 & 9520) in collaboration with the Australian Lands Trust staff of Calperum Station are convening the 2019 Health of the River Forum.

The forum is a 5 day camp that is designed for students with a strong interest in science and environmental studies. Dates for the forum are **Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November** and this year's programme will be held at Calperum Station, about 15 km north of Renmark.

We ask your assistance in promoting this event at your school, which is open to Year 9 and 10 students interested in science or environmental studies, so that students and parents are aware of the forum and the nomination requirements in order to be considered for attendance.

There are limited student positions (28) available for the forum so we encourage an early response to ensure nominations are endorsed by a sponsoring Rotary club. The completed nomination forms are to be directed to any nearby Rotary clubs in your school vicinity as soon as possible. The Rotary Clubs must endorse and agree to sponsor the student(s) and send the forms to the convenor by no later than the 27th of September.

The cost of the forum, including food, accommodation, education provider fees and bus travel is \$590. In some cases, Rotary clubs will pay this full amount. If your local Rotary club is unable to offer sponsorship, please contact me as I may be able to match your student with another club.

Please find enclosed an information package including:

- Promotional booklet
- Letter to the science co-ordinators
- Letter to interested students and parents
- Student nomination and medical forms



Thank you for your assistance in promoting this event at your school. Please contact me if you would like any further information about the camp and bus travel, etc.

Bruce Cole, HOTR Convenor, 14 Glasgow Road, Hawthorndene, SA 5051 Ph: 0414825454
brucecole@gmail.com OR

Dick Cuttle, Assistant Convenor, PO Box 466, Birdwood, SA 5234 Ph: **0428106673**
dickcuttle@gmail.com

For more information about the Forum's learning programme contact Caitlin Polack, Education Ecologist, CALPERUM STATION, E: caitlinp@alt.org.au P: 08 8595 7359 or look at the website of the Rotary District 9520 and search for Health of the River within the Youth Projects information. <https://www.rotary9520.org/page/health-of-the-river-forum> Material from this site, including a promotional flyer may be used in school newsletters.



The ROTARY 'HEALTH OF THE RIVER' FORUM 2019'



Dear Science Coordinator,

Water quality across much of the River Murray system is a very high priority for business, agriculture, local communities, environmental needs and the general population of four states. This vital resource, and any work done to maintain the 'health of the river' is of great interest to many people throughout Australia, particularly at present when the system is under severe pressure.

In 2005 the Rotary Clubs of Sunraysia instigated a Health of the River programme and in 2019 the Health of the River Forum continues on with the good work of the past programmes.

In collaboration with the Australian Lands Trust staff of Calperum Station we aim to deliver a programme to students to show how water resources can be managed for sustainable agricultural and domestic purposes, and as an environmental resource.

For students, first-hand knowledge assessing water quality, interpreting water monitoring data and examining freshwater ecosystems is an invaluable lesson.



Whilst the forum is the focus for Year 9 and 10 students as they examine the importance of the river environment to our communities, it also addresses the role that young people can play in the community in educating and changing attitudes to water and its role in our communities.

Included with this letter is an invitation for interested students to nominate to participate in this 'hands-on' experience.

The forum will be held at Calperum Station, about 15 km north of Renmark. The dates are Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November. Students nominating are making a commitment that they will attend the forum and will require parental/guardian consent to take part in the programme outlined.

The 'Health of the River' programme is organised and supervised by Bruce Cole and Dick Cuttle. Both are retired teachers and both have extensive experience in both school and Rotary camps. Both have Department of Community and Social Inclusion clearances to work with school students. Other adults include other Rotarians, Calperum staff and post grad university students as mentors for the student groups. All of these people work only in group situations with the students, and have separate accommodation at Calperum.

I have enclosed nomination forms for the forum and ask that you encourage and support your students in completing those forms. Please forward medical forms with the nomination form. Students are also asked to tell us in a one page **Expression of Interest**, why they are interested in attending the forum and include any particular knowledge, skills or experience that make them suitable for consideration.

Please contact your local Rotary Club for support, and to forward the nomination(s) to the convenor. Students in Rotary Districts that include all of South Australia and parts of Victoria and New South Wales are eligible. (Districts 9500 & 9520) There are only 28 places available, and the one page statement may be used to limit the number of participants from any one school. Excess applicants will be placed on a waiting list for any last minute cancellations.

While the cost for each student is \$590, which includes food, accommodation, education provider fees and transport to and from the forum, this **cost is often borne by the sponsoring Rotary club**. If your local Rotary club is unable to help, please contact me as there may be some external sponsorship available.

WE ASK THAT NOMINATIONS ARE PASSED TO THE SPONSORING ROTARY CLUB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIAL CLOSING DATE for nominations is September the 27th.

As nominations are received students and clubs will be notified of their acceptance. With this will be details of the bus pickups from Adelaide or Mildura.

For more information please contact me or visit the Rotary District 9520 website <https://www.rotary9520.org/page/health-of-the-river-forum> for digital copies of this information. You may use this for school newsletters if you wish.

For more information about the specifics of the programme at the campsite, please contact Bruce Cole (see below) or Caitlin Polack, Education Ecologist, CALPERUM STATION, caitlinp@alt.org.au P: 08 8595 7359

In the past it has been possible for a limited number of teaching staff to attend the forum. This may be possible again. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as you can.

Thank you for your help.

Bruce Cole
HOTR Convenor
14 Glasgow Road,
Hawthorndene, SA 5051
Ph: 0414825454
brucegcole@gmail.com

OR

Assistant Convenor
Dick Cuttle
PO Box 466
Birdwood
SA 5234
Ph: 0428106673
dickcuttle@gmail.com



The ROTARY 'HEALTH OF THE RIVER' FORUM 2019'



Dear Parent,

The Rotary Clubs of Districts 9520 and 9500, (Which cover most of SA and parts of Victoria and NSW) in partnership with Calperum Station staff are convening the Health of the River Forum on **Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November** at Calperum Station, near Renmark in South Australia.



The Forum focuses on issues related to the River Murray and its environment, as set out in the brochure attached. Students take part in 'hands on' activities focussed on maintaining river health.

Calperum Station has an established camp site with dormitory accommodation in 10 rooms of 3 or 4 students. All students will be supervised at all times. The forum is supervised and coordinated by Bruce Cole and Dick Cuttle, who are both retired teachers, and have a long experience in both school and Rotary youth camps. Both have Department of Community and Social Inclusion clearances to work with school students. All other participating adults are subject to Rotary International's Youth Protection policy and any adults working directly with students also have DCSI clearances.

Students will need to bring clothing, bedding and personal requirements only. All food, accommodation, educational provider fees and bus travel is covered by a \$590 per student cost **which is often fully funded by a sponsoring Rotary Club in your vicinity.** (Yes, this opportunity may be free of charges to you!)

A bus will run from each of Mildura and Adelaide. Pickup points will be notified when we know the spread of students.

There are limited student positions available (28) and we encourage an early response to ensure nominations are endorsed by a sponsoring Rotary club. The completed nomination and medical forms are to be directed to the sponsoring Rotary clubs as soon as possible. The Rotary Clubs must endorse and sponsor the nominations and send the forms to the convenor. If your local Rotary club is unable to provide sponsorship, please contact me as I may be able to arrange sponsorship through another club.

We thank you for allowing your son or daughter to attend. Feedback from past forums has been very positive, and I am sure that the 2019 students will both enjoy the forum, and also learn about Australia's most important water resource.

For more information please contact me or visit the Rotary District 9520 website <https://www.rotary9520.org/page/health-of-the-river-forum> for digital copies of this information.

Bruce Cole, Convenor, 14 Glasgow Road, Hawthorndene, SA 5051. Ph: - 0414845454 or brucegcole@gmail.com



The ROTARY 'HEALTH OF THE RIVER' FORUM 2019



Student Nomination Form

Student's Name	
Contact email	
Student Address	
Year Level & Gender	Yr.9 / Yr.10 (Circle one) Male / Female (Circle one)
Date of Birth	
Contact Parent's name	
Contact phone	
Contact Parent's email	
Student's School Name	
School Contact's Name and phone number	
School Contact's email	

Please forward this nomination form to the sponsoring Rotary Club as soon as possible.
The closing date is the 27th September 2019.

Please also email a copy to the HOTR Convener (as below) with name & contact details to enable us to track your nomination.

NAME OF SPONSORING ROTARY CLUB:	NAME OF ROTARIAN CONTACT:
ROTARIAN PHONE CONTACT:	ROTARIAN E-MAIL CONTACT:

Sponsoring Rotary clubs must return this form, the medical consent form and the one page "Expression of Interest" statement to the convenor by September 27th. An invoice for \$590 per student will be issued to the sponsoring club after nominations are received and confirmed.

PARENT, ROTARY AND SCHOOL CONTACTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT IS BY E-MAIL.

All replies should be directed to: brucecole@gmail.com OR by post to Bruce Cole, HOTR Convenor, 14 Glasgow Road, Hawthorndene, SA 5051 (Ph: 0414825454)

ROTARY **HEALTH OF THE RIVER FORUM 2019**

MEDICAL FORM AUTHORITY & CONSENT STATEMENTS

STUDENT'S NAME	
ADDRESS	
PARENT'S /GUARDIAN'S NAME	
RELATIONSHIP	
PHONE CONTACT	
ALTERNATE PHONE CONTACT	

MEDICAL STATEMENT

Please tick the boxes beside the appropriate paragraph(s) below.

☐ I certify that my child does not, to the best of my knowledge, suffer from any medical condition, illness or disabilities, which might predispose my child to a potential risk leading to a medical emergency. **OR**

☐ I give notice that my child may require medical attention or medication for the following reasons (as described below) but he/she is currently of stable health.

AND

☐ I give permission for an ambulance to be called in case of a medical emergency affecting my child and agree to pay all costs incurred, if required.

PRESCRIBED & NON PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION:	
DOSAGE:	
DIETARY CONCERNS: Provide details of any requirements.	
TREATMENT: Describe any actions required if allergic reactions occur.	

Please note that any participant found with illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco products on camp or behaving inappropriately will be immediately removed from camp and parents will be contacted to collect their child from the camp site.

I, as legal guardian of the named child declare that I have read the letter of invitation and give my consent to my child's participation in all activities and travel related to the Rotary Health of the River Forum organised by Rotary Districts' 9520/9500 Calperum and the Environment Committee.	PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE DATE:
I give permission for photographs to be taken at the Forum, and then used, without identification, on the forum's website, Facebook page or on other promotional material prepared by Rotary or the ALT Calperum Station website.	PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE DATE:

Please forward this form, with the Nomination Form to your local Rotary club. All forms, along with a one page "Expression of Interest" statement by the student, must be sent to your sponsoring Rotary Club and after club endorsement, copies are to be sent to the Convenor, Bruce Cole via email to brucecole@gmail.com

‘HEALTH OF THE RIVER 2019’ - ROTARY YOUTH FORUM

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November




CALPERUM CONNECT
ecology . education . engagement

CALPERUM STATION
Renmark, South Australia

***WHERE SCIENCE, THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY
COMBINE***



Rotary Youth Forum - Health of the River

The 2019 Health of the River Forum will be held at Calperum Station, Renmark from **Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November**. The forum is for Yr. 9 & 10 students interested in science, protecting the environment & natural resource management. It provides hands on learning and mentoring from specialist ecologists on a working conservation and research property. Supported by Rotary Clubs, the program provides transport, accommodation, meals, a wonderful learning experience and lifelong memories.

Calperum Station

Calperum Station covers approximately 240,000 hectares and extends from Mallee country to the banks of the Murray River. An internationally significant wetland system, Calperum is home to several rare and threatened species and makes up approximately one third of the Riverland Ramsar site. Managed by a team of ecologists and Aboriginal rangers, Calperum hosts several significant scientific studies and environmental projects, and is regularly visited by universities, schools and international students.



Rotary Youth Forum - Health of the River Field Study Program

Students will rotate through diverse and interesting activities during the program. They will work alongside Calperum Ecologists and Rangers learning about and participating in environmental research and management projects. These may include:

- Black box tree health surveys
- Small mammal and reptile trapping
- Wetland degradation restoration
- Cultural and environmental walks
 - Regional Tour of water management facilities

Skills and Knowledge

Throughout the programme participants will be exposed to challenges and scenarios which help develop a range of skills essential for not only science work, but also everyday life. These include:

- Team work
- Analytical thinking
- Scientific research methodology
- Data collection

Programme Inclusions

Whilst at the Forum, students will be surrounded by nature, and all they need to do is make the most of the opportunity to become involved in protecting our magnificent river environment.

We cover the rest, including:

- Transport to and from Calperum station
- Comfortable dormitory style accommodation
- All meals, beverages and snacks provided





For more information contact:

Caitlin Polack

Education Ecologist

CALPERUM STATION

E: caitlinp@alt.org.au

P: 08 8595 7359

Or - Bruce Cole

Rotary Convenor

E: brucegcole@gmail.com

P: 0414825454

'Health of the River' Forum - A JOINT DISTRICT 9520 & 9500 Programme



To be part of the *Health of the River Forum in 2019* go to the Rotary District 9520 website for application forms and contact your nearest Rotary Club for funding support.

<https://www.rotary9520.org/page/health-of-the-river-forum>

At a cost of \$590 all-inclusive for this five day experience you will experience a special programme that will engage you in sound activities and extend your knowledge and skills in environment and water quality management.