

The Sydney 2014

CORROBOREE

INTERNATIONAL EDITION # 5



HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE
www.rotary2014.com.au



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SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK - THE PERFECT CONVENTION VENUE

More than 20,000 Rotarians, family and friends are expected to gather in Sydney Olympic Park from June 1 – 4 for the largest indoor convention ever held in New South Wales!

The purpose built Sydney Olympic Park will provide the best possible facilities for staging of such a modern Rotary International Convention.

The Park, which incorporates Sydney Showground, was meticulously planned and constructed for the memorable Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 – an event still widely acclaimed as the best Olympic Games in modern history!

Wide, open roadways, spacious parklands and building surrounds are complemented by modern buildings with easy, safe access and excellent audience and exhibition facilities. There are very few steps or impediments to wheelchair access as the Park was planned to cater for the Paralympics immediately following the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Whilst Olympic Park is 15 kms from the centre of Sydney, a free train service will deliver Convention patrons from Central Station in the Sydney CBD to Olympic Park in just 20 minutes – and utilizing brand new trains.

Up to four trains an hour – from 7 am to 10 pm – will ensure efficient, comfortable movement of the expected large crowds.



A day filled with fun and excitement as physically and intellectually challenged children enjoy the DreamCricket Festival held at Bradman Oval in Bowral hosted by the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong. Don't miss the DreamCricket demonstration at the Great Aussie Barbecue on June 1.

Continued overpage

To ensure complete transport efficiency, modern buses will provide door to door service from selected Convention Hotels some distance from rail facilities.

Excellent parking facilities at reasonable prices are also available in Olympic Park for Rotarians travelling to the Convention by car.

One of the real highlights of the 2014 Sydney Convention will be the outstanding Billabong House of Friendship, located close to the Olympic Park Railway Station and Registration Hall – and just a five minute walk to the main plenary hall, Allphones Arena ...

A real life mini zoo, 350 Rotary and commercial booths, a man made 'Billabong' water hole, world class entertainment, multiple cuisine choices, tea and coffee stations, large seating and rest areas, internet café, and even a wine and oyster bar will provide many attractions for local and international Rotarians, partners and friends.

Convention registration will take place from Thursday afternoon from 3 pm and the Billabong House of Friendship will open on Saturday, May 31, at 9:30 am.

President Ron Burton and Jetta have invited Rotarians and guests to support a special book collection for **Australian literacy programs**, as they enter the House of Friendship. Convention goers may bring a book from their home country – or purchase a book from the 'Labyrinth for Literacy' display.

A Family Fun Run/Walk around picturesque

Olympic Park will commence immediately following the opening of the House of Friendship on Saturday morning.

Late Autumn/early winter is a beautiful time in Sydney town and the Convention Host Organising Committee has created an exciting line of events and attractions for Convention week –

- A superb exhibition of **Australian Rules football** on the night of Thursday, May 29, featuring two of the best teams in the national competition – Sydney and Geelong.

- Take part in a **world record mass BridgeClimb attempt** on Friday, May 30 – and raise funds for Rotary's END POLIO NOW campaign.

- A dining treat on Saturday, May 31, when **restaurants around the city** and harbour put on special menus and treats for guests – complemented by the spectacular **VIVID light show and fireworks**.

- **The Great Aussie Barbecue** – free of charge – to be staged between the two opening plenary sessions on Sunday, June 1. Patrons will be also treated to a special exhibition of **DreamCricket** – wherein disabled children take part in cricket skills previously thought to be impossible!

- Sold out already, the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concert** in the famous **Sydney Opera House** on Monday, June 2, will provide magnificent entertainment for 2,500 patrons. However, a variety of entertainment will be available at the Opera House all week and Rotarians are urged to make private arrangements to experience this

internationally acclaimed facility.

- Heavy bookings have already been received for the **Home Hospitality Night** on Tuesday, June 3, wherein international visitors will be hosted by family groups and Rotary clubs in traditional Aussie style.

- Finally, Sydney 2014 will end with a burst of colour, music and fun immediately following the closing plenary session on the evening of Wednesday, June 4. Departing crowds will have the opportunity to take part in a genuine **Australian Bush Dance** – with real toe tapping bush music as they make their way to the Railway Station for the last time ...

In addition to all the above major attractions, Rotary clubs and organisations have organized a virtual '**smorgasbord**' of **supporting, unofficial events** – dinners, cruises and outings of various kinds. Look for the latest issue of the official Convention Newsletter, The Corroboree, for information on a wide variety of added entertainment and events.

International visitors travelling long distances will want to make the most of their visit 'Down Under' and the Host Organising Committee's pre and post tour operator, Global Connection, has many exciting offers available. Go to their web site – www.globalconnection.com.au – or email travel@rotary2014.com.au – or telephone +61 2 8314 5899 during business hours.

G'DAY FROM SYDNEY!

When you come to Sydney for the 2014 Rotary International Convention, be sure to bring along your children and grandchildren! Young people are most welcome at Convention activities. Attending a Rotary Convention can be an enlightening and exciting experience for a young person.

Perhaps the most engaging aspect of a Rotary Convention is the opportunity to meet Rotarians and family members from around the world. Currently, Rotarians are registered from 149 countries. Your child or grandchild will enjoy meeting other families from countries speaking different languages and wearing different national attire. All registrants under the age of 18 will

receive a Youth Passport during the Convention. The passport will have a section in which young people are encouraged to solicit the signatures of fellow Convention attendees from as many Rotary countries as possible.

A Rotary Convention is also a wonderful introduction to the joys of service! You will enjoy visiting the project booths in the Billabong House of Friendship with your children and grandchildren. Together you can participate in a hands-on project to stop hunger at the Service Opportunities Exhibition. Before coming to the Convention, you can jointly select one or two new children's books to donate at the Labyrinth for Literacy project. Sharing service as a family will

instill values that will last a lifetime.

You can also enjoy Rotary fellowship during the End Polio Now – Make History Today 3K Walk. Rotarians and their families will celebrate Rotary's successes on the road to the eradication of polio as they walk through the beautiful grounds of Sydney Olympic Park.

A trip to the Rotary International Convention will engage your children and grandchildren and change their lives. Join your fellow Rotarians from around the world in Sydney as we Engage Rotary, Change Lives.

- **MARK DANIEL MALONEY**
Chair, 2014 Sydney Convention Committee

LOVE EVERY SECOND OF SYDNEY IN WINTER



Sydney will once again be transformed into a dazzling canvas of lights, music and creative forums during Vivid Sydney, from 23 May to 9 June 2014.

The largest annual festival of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, Vivid lights up the city as an amazing spectacle with state-of-the-art illuminations, world-renowned performers and a venue for exchange of ideas like no other.

The beautiful backdrop to Vivid, Sydney is the perfect place to explore in the early winter weeks, with mild temperatures making way for great sightseeing, dining, shopping and uncovering short breaks nearby.

The best place to start exploring Sydney is on the Harbour, one of the city's most famous attractions. The Harbour's 240km of shoreline includes national parks, gardens and beautiful beaches while small inner-harbour islands have great cultural and historical significance. There are many ways to explore the Harbour – by ferry, yacht, cruise vessel, high-speed jet boat or even kayak.

Sydney's natural setting also provides plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors. Go for an early morning jog or easy stroll along the Bondi to Bronte coastal walk, a stunning piece of coastline near famous Bondi Beach. From the city, catch a

ferry to Sydney's other famous beach at Manly where you can go for a pretty coastal walk to Shelley Beach, or have breakfast by the beach and admire the ocean views.

If you've ever dreamed of seeing whales in the wild, make sure you join a whale-watching cruise from Circular Quay – the whale-watching season in New South Wales runs from May to November each year. For those with more time to travel further afield, don't miss whale-watching at Port Stephens, just two and a half hours' drive from Sydney. It's one of the best places in Australia to see the acrobatic displays of migrating humpback whales.

Great dining is another essential ingredient of a Sydney holiday. Enjoy fresh local seafood at a waterfront restaurant on a sunny day in winter or chill out over casual fare at an outdoor café or a beachside pub. For a unique and very memorable Sydney dining experience, take a seaplane from Sydney Harbour to a beautiful riverside restaurant nearby such as Cottage Point Inn or Jonah's Restaurant at Whale Beach.

Holidays are the perfect time for both men and women to enjoy shopping. Top shopping neighbourhoods around Sydney include Chatswood, Mosman, Paddington, Surry Hills, Bondi Junction as well as the City Centre. Westfield

Sydney, David Jones and Myer department stores, the Strand Arcade and the Queen Victoria Building are just a few of the best city shopping spots. And, if you enjoy wandering around inner-city markets, head to Glebe Markets, Rozelle Weekend Markets and Paddington Markets where you'll find plenty of one-off designer pieces, hidden gems and gift ideas.

Make the most of your Sydney visit by heading to one of the regions close by, offering a variety of astonishing natural attractions. For instance, The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, a 90-minute drive from the city, is a pristine natural environment where you'll soon uncover wild Australia. The Hunter Valley, two hours' drive away, has 150 top-class wineries, vineyards and cellar doors and beautiful vineyard restaurants. It's the perfect place to indulge a love of good food and wine as well as golf, antiques and relaxing spa treatments. Finally, a great way to enjoy the beautiful coastal scenery south of Sydney is along the Grand Pacific Drive.

For more information on Vivid Sydney festival, visit www.vividsydney.com

For more information on attractions and experiences in Sydney and NSW, visit www.sydney.com and www.visitnsw.com



BILLABONG HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP "MEET, GREET AND EAT"

Hold onto your hats and get ready for a jam-packed space filled with all of the sights and sounds that only your imagination could deliver!

With over 350 exhibitors booths made up of Rotary projects and programs, Rotary Fellowships, Rotarian Action Groups and commercial exhibitors, Rotarians will be chasing their tails trying to explore all that the Billabong House of Friendship has to offer.

Internationally recognised companies and organisations have booked their spaces, ready to showcase the diversity of what they have on offer. Be ready to shop up a storm and expect to see iconic Australian brands such as RM Williams (country clothing and boots), UGG Australia (wool products) and Akubra (hats) - not to mention jewellery that holds precious Australian stones and gems such as Opals and Pearls.

To help manage luggage limitations, a Post Office will be on site, allowing you to ship your purchases back home and encouraging you to continue to shop until your heart's content.

Not only will the Billabong House of Friendship contain vast amounts of exhibitors and stores but will also provide daily entertainment to keep Rotarians entertained for hours. Local and international musicians and entertainers are in the line up - from the Delltones and Kamahl to The Navy Band, The Police Band and an amazing New Zealand based magician, Jonathon Usher.

If you feel like there can't be anything more to offer, imagine a mini zoo in the Billabong House of Friendship. This will give Rotarians the opportunity to see native Australian wildlife such as lizards, snakes and the loveable koala, providing you with fantastic photo opportunities!

If you're starting to get excited about all that the

Billabong House of Friendship has on offer, wait until you see the centrepiece. Imagine being transported into the bush with the smell of gum and eucalyptus trees filling your lungs and the soothing sound of trickling water. Want to visit this place yet? Well organisers have arranged for a living 'Billabong' to be created in the House of Friendship that will give Rotarians the opportunity to feel as if they are in the Blue Mountains or even the great Australian Outback whilst still remaining in Sydney Olympic Park.

So if this all sounds too good to be true? Purchase your Convention ticket so you don't miss out. Come along and experience all that is on offer in the Billabong House of Friendship. This is a truly Australian cultural experience not to be missed!

To register or purchase your Convention ticket please visit:

<http://www.riconvention.org/en/2014/Pages/ri-default.aspx>

THE BILLABONG HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

TIME	SATURDAY MAY 31	SUNDAY JUNE 1	MONDAY JUNE 2	TUESDAY JUNE 3	WEDNESDAY JUNE 4
9:00AM	Official Opening - TBC Smoking Ceremony				
10:00AM	Joe Macri Band/ Neil Hanson (MC)	Joe Macri Band/ Neil Hanson (MC)	Kayim Ba African Band	Calabashers West Indies Band (TBC)	Joe Macri Band/ Neil Hanson (MC)
11:00AM	The Deltones Iconic Australian male vocal group	NSW Police Band	Jonathon Usher Comic Magician	Jonathon Usher Comic Magician	Kamahl Australian Icon and recording artist
12.00 NOON	Kamahl - Promo (10min) Jonathon Usher - Comic Magician (30min)	Kamahl Australian Icon and recording artist	Sydney Male Voice Choir	Sydney Male Voice Choir	Maria Venuti Personality and Entertainer
1.00PM	Royal Australian Navy Band	Jonathon Usher Comic Magician	Kamahl Australian Icon and recording artist	Romeo & Julia Saleno Romanian Opera Singers	Australian Army Band WO Hemi Anning
2.00PM	Adam Secluna - Vocalist / Joe Marci Band	Romeo & Julia Saleno Romanian Opera Singers	Set up time for Cameron Oates	Barbershop Harmony Ladies Chorus	Lisa Crouch/ Joe Macri Band
3.00PM	Romeo & Julia Saleno Romanian Opera Singers	Neil Hanson/ Joe Macri band	Cameron Oates – Didgeridoo Player and vocalist	Calabashers – West Indian Band (TBC)	

Sydney Convention Commemorative Medal

LIMITED EDITION

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Actual size

ENGAGE ROTARY CHANGE LIVES GIVE A CHILD A BOOK

DONATE BOOKS TO THE LABYRINTH FOR LITERACY PROJECT

Literacy projects have long been a cornerstone of Rotary service around the world and RI President Ron Burton and Jetta have requested Convention registrants to take literacy to a new level in Australia by donation of books at a special 'Labyrinth for Literacy' inside the Billabong House of Friendship.

Sydney 2014 Host Organising Committee has joined forces with the Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LitRAG) and is organising the 'Labyrinth for Literacy', which will be located just inside the entry to the giant Dome – first hall in the giant Billabong House of Friendship complex.

Prospective book donors have two options – bring books from their home country or purchase books from the Scholastic Booth at the 'Labyrinth for Literacy' area. The Scholastic organisation is supporting the project with provision of books for sale and staff to assist with service.

A 'reminder' flyer will be presented to all Rotarians as they collect registration details in the Convention Registration area – Hall 5 in the



Scene from the literacy project conducted in conjunction with the Los Angeles Convention in 2008, featuring Past RI President Wilf Wilkinson.

Southee Complex.

To provide a little 'light relief' the books will be arranged in a labyrinth or maze in the booth area.

Rotarians from nearby Sydney clubs have volunteered to provide 'labour' to assist with the display and subsequent packing of books for despatch to various literacy programs around Australia.

There are many community literacy programs involving aboriginal children, underprivileged

schools and hospitals throughout Queensland and NSW.

The Sydney 2014 Host Organising Committee expect this project to be one of the stand out initiatives of the Convention.

'The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go' ... Dr Seuss.

NEED A VENUE IN SYDNEY IN 2014?

Business Events Sydney offers a free service for your event during the Rotary International Convention 2014 in Sydney.

Planning an event in Sydney is easy with the assistance of AccessNSW. It will identify venues and support services and will provide advice, quotes and contacts to save you time to ensure your event in Sydney, or the NSW regions, is secured during the Convention.

Sydney offers a wide range of venues with large and small capacities to suit



all types of events from seminars, conferences, cocktail receptions, gala and private dinners. Venues will be in high demand during the Convention and AccessNSW is able to assist you to

identify those that are most appropriate to meet your requirements. It can also assist with other services such as audio visual, photography, tours to restaurants, team building activities and attractions.

To start planning your event with AccessNSW, complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) form at www.businesseventssydney.com.au call AccessNSW on 1300 134 920 or email accessnsw@BESydney.com.au



WELCOME TO SYDNEY

**Sydney Airport is looking forward to your arrival
for the 105th Rotary International Convention.**

Make sure you plan your visit with handy travel planning information on our website sydneyairport.com.au

You'll find pre-flight checks, arrivals procedures and plenty of tips on how to take advantage of the fabulous duty free shopping on arrival and departure.

Rotary International volunteers, as well as our very own Gold Ambassadors, will be on hand to assist you after you land and your welcome desk located at our Travel Concierge will have you on your way in no time.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sydney and wish you a safe and pleasant journey.



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TOP THINGS TO DO IN SYDNEY AND

Sydney comes alive at winter with its arts and cultural scene and events calendar as diverse as the city itself, offering a wide variety of events and experiences against some of the most inspiring backdrops in the world.

While Vivid Sydney transforms the city into a glittering wonderland of music, lights and ideas from 23 May to 9 June, take the opportunity to explore Sydney's enchanting after-dark landscape and exciting daytime activities with some of the below suggestions.

1. Bring the glam to Vivid and enjoy a cocktail, taking in the magnificent views of Vivid's harbour side spectacle from the rooftop of the classy Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney. Dramatic winter sunsets provide a natural backdrop to Vivid's manmade wonders from this great vantage point showcasing the displays on the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Indulge in the fine selection of wines, champagnes, cocktails and liquors at the New York inspired Blu Bar on Level 36, soaking up the beauty of the city. www.shangri-la.com/sydney/shangrila/dining/bars-lounges/blu-bar-on-36/

2. While in Sydney, see where the magic happens and prepare to be inspired on The Backstage Tour-Celebrating Vivid LIVE at the Sydney Opera House. Take the VIP backstage experience where you may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the working crew in action as they set up for a Vivid LIVE musical performance or artists in the middle of rehearsal. Also included in the experience is a full continental breakfast or dinner on the Broadwalk, overlooking the glistening Sydney Harbour. www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/vivid_backstage_tour_2014.aspx

3. For something a little different,

make your way to the 19th Biennale of Sydney, Australia's largest and most exciting contemporary visual arts festival taking place from 21 March – 9 June. This year's Biennale, You Imagine What You Desire, celebrates the artistic imagination as a spirited exploration of the world under the artistic direction of Juliana Engberg. In addition to the AGNSW and the MCA, venues for this year's Biennale include two-heritage listed locations, Carriageworks and Cockatoo Island. www.biennaleofsydney.com

4. Enjoy Sydney Opera House views from the north across the harbour at Aqua Dining, Milsons Point, above North Sydney Olympic Pool and right next to the Harbour Bridge. Offering a quintessential Sydney dining experience with unrivalled views, Aqua Dining is the perfect spot to wind down and watch the city buzz as you sit back and enjoy a delicious drink from the extensive wine list on offer or a beautiful meal from their inventive and contemporary menu using fresh Australian produce. www.aquadining.com.au/

5. Enjoy fresh handmade dumplings at White Rabbit Gallery's tranquil street-level Tea House and explore the gallery's tenth show presenting the biggest-ever selection from the renowned White Rabbit Collection. Showing from 6 March – 3 August, REFORMATION will showcase more than 50 stunning pieces including paintings, drawings, photographs, videos, installations and sculptures that will be making their Australian debut. The White Rabbit Gallery is a must see for any culture lover and was established in 2009 to share the White Rabbit Collection of 21st-century Chinese art with the public. www.whiterabbitcollection.org/

6. Kicking off during the last weekend of Vivid Sydney from 4 – 15 June, Sydney Film Festival will once again showcase the best in cinema across Australia and around the globe, bringing a carefully

curated selection of features, documentaries, short films, restorations, animations and more. From world premieres, free events and red carpet galas and international guests, the Festival is set to impress and will screen more than 190 films from over 50 countries across Sydney in both CBD and city-fringe locations over 12 entertaining days and nights. www.sff.org.au/

7. Be dazzled by the wonderful Fran and Scott once again and relive the passion of the much-loved film with Strictly Ballroom, The Musical officially kicking off on 12 April at the Sydney Lyric at The Star. The Musical will feature the original creative team behind the 1992 Australian film that inspired the world to dance including director and co-writer Baz Luhrmann and set and costume designer Catherine Martin. In celebration of the show, Virgin Australia Holidays are offering packages consisting of return economy airfares including baggage from a range of national airports to Sydney, two nights' accommodation and A Reserve tickets to Strictly Ballroom starting at \$545 per person. www.virginaustralia.com/strictlyballroom and www.strictlyballroomthemusical.com/

8. Get a sense of Sydney's past exploring The Rocks' cobbled laneways, cosy cafes and oldest pubs in the country. Check out the glorious Opera House and harbour vista from the big rooftop space at the revamped Glenmore Hotel in The Rocks or if it's the weekend, you can browse The Rocks Markets for jewellery, art and craft made by passionate local people. The Rocks Foodies Market is on every Friday from 9am-3pm. www.therocks.com/

9. See some of Australia's finest actors tread the boards at Sydney Theatre Company, with Artistic Directors Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton. They are committed to developing new Australian works and the professional development of playwrights



SURROUNDS DURING VIVID SYDNEY

and directors. Each year the company presents a dozen plays at The Wharf, Sydney Theatre and Sydney Opera House and tours nationally and internationally. But the inspiration is not all on the stage, the company's home base at The Wharf has, under Blanchett's and Upton's leadership, become a working example of how heritage buildings can be made more sustainable. www.sydneytheatre.com.au/

10. If you are looking for some serious height, ascend 268 metres up Sydney Tower at sunset to do the Skywalk and see the entire city bathed in golden light from the glass-floored viewing platform or take a 134 metre Twilight Bridge Climb on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and see the entire harbour framed by the iconic iron structure. www.bridgeclimb.com/

SHORT BREAKS IN REGIONAL NSW

The Blue Mountains

- A trip to New South Wales would not be complete without a visit to the Blue Mountains. Less than two hours from Sydney by road or train, the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains are one of the country's most spectacular icons.
- The picturesque towns of Blackheath, Faulconbridge, Katoomba, Leura, Megalong Valley, Mount Victoria, Springwood, Wentworth Falls, Hartley, Lithgow and Oberon afford breathtaking views, a wide variety of restaurants, accommodation and so many fun things to do. The area is steeped in Aboriginal history and, for a number of Aboriginal language groups, this is traditional country.
- A host of activities are on offer in the region - from the adventurous to the genteel. Here you can take a 45-kilometre trek from Katoomba to the Jenolan Caves; abseil the Grand Canyon Track in Blackheath or take a three-day bush walk.
- For those who enjoy more leisurely pursuits, there are historic and prize-winning gardens to be inspected, picture-postcard mountain villages to visit and antique

and book stores, galleries and boutiques, provedores and cafes to browse. Accommodation of all styles and budgets is on offer to take in the magic of the mountains.

Accommodation

- Stay at Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa to experience absolute luxury in spectacular Australian bushlands. Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa has a private conservation and wildlife reserve over 4,000. In this natural sanctuary, guests can experience wilderness in luxurious comfort and in nature-based activities such as heritage tours and horse riding. The lavish suites have their own swimming pool, the homestead offers distinctive dining and there's an outstanding spa. www.wolganvalley.com
- Only a 90-minute drive from Sydney, Lillianfels Blue Mountains is regarded as an unforgettable experience and has quickly established a reputation as Australia's finest boutique 'getaway'. Lillianfels sits adjacent to the Three Sisters in the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park. The Three Sisters symbolise the stature and pride of the Blue Mountains - towering escarpments, wide, deep blue-hazed valleys, incomparable views and impenetrable depths - they are awe-inspiring. Set in two acres of English-style gardens, the 85-room country house, opened in 1992, has been designed in line with the architecture of the heritage home, offering all the facilities and comforts of a world-class retreat. www.lillianfels.com.au

The Hunter Valley

- Come along and discover just why the Hunter Valley region has been recognised as Australasia's Number One Wine Region (TripAdvisor 2012 Travellers' Choice Awards). The vineyards, wineries, cellar doors, restaurants, attractions and accommodation were determined to be the best based on millions of travellers' reviews and opinions worldwide.
- Recognised particularly for its quality Shiraz and Semillon wines, the Hunter Valley has been a wine-

growing region since 1828. Just a two-hour drive north of Sydney, the Hunter is home to some premier cellar door establishments such as Tyrrell's, McWilliam's Mount Pleasant, Brokenwood, Tulloch, McGuigan and Drayton's. And along with fine wine, there are dozens of artisan gourmet food producers and provedores, specialising in cheeses, olives, handmade chocolates, preserves and more.

- Hunter Valley Gardens at Pokolbin features 60 acres of superb gardens, surrounded by vineyards. There are 10 different themed gardens along with a boutique shopping village and an Irish pub.

Accommodation

- Australia's finest golf and spa resort, Château Élan at the Vintage is located in the heart of the Hunter Valley. The new Spa at Château Élan has 18 treatment rooms while The Vintage golf course is the only Greg Norman-designed course open to the public in NSW. The Vintage offers bar, conference and full dining and catering facilities; the Clubhouse is home to the renowned Legends Grill restaurant. www.chateauelan.com.au/
- Enjoy a romantic break at Casa La Vina, a Santa Fe inspired retreat for couples only. Three private villas feature beautiful US South Western décor with log timber ceilings, cozy gas fireplace, plush king beds and a private courtyard. www.casalavina.com.au/
- The gracious Peppers Convent, Tower Estate, Tonic Hotel and Sebel Kirkton Park all have classy boutique accommodation, while the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley and The Vintage by Grand Mercure cater for groups and conventions.

For more information go to sydney.com or visitnsw.com

For images go to

<http://images.destinationnsw.com.au/>

Or contact the Sydney Host Organising Committee Official Travel Partner Global Connection www.globalconnection.com.au



BUSH DANCE FINALE

If you thought all of the festivities would come to an end after the Convention closing ceremony you have been mistaken! At this year's Convention organisers have assembled a Farewell Bush Dance that will keep you celebrating all night long.

Rotarians will have the pleasure of listening to, and dancing along with, The Reel Matilda Australian country music band.

The Reel Matilda have been performing since 1985, and were the first resident band at Sydney's famous Vinegar Woolshed - playing to a packed house up to five nights a week for almost four years!

Since then their profile has continued to grow performing for the "Tall Ships" welcome into Darling Harbour during the 1988 Bicentennial year, as well as representing Australia in a world-wide satellite event for corporate giant Coca-Cola.

The Reel Matilda have also supported other famous and iconic Australian musicians and entertainers such as Redgum and John Williamson. Over the period of their success they have managed to clock up some three hundred "gigs" as well as release their first recording.



Members of the Reel Matilda Band pictured above, holding a collection of some of the unique and interesting instruments they use in their performances.

As well as traditional bush band instruments that Rotarians will expect to see such as the violin, banjo, mandolin, penny whistle, flute, lagerphone, bush bass and wobble board, The Reel Matilda also employ the use of more contemporary instruments such as the drums, electric bass, saxophone and keyboard, to create an interesting and varied sound palette.

With this impressive history and inclusion of

iconic Australian instruments in their performance, The Reel Matilda will deliver a show not to be forgotten or missed!

Rotarians and their partners attending the "Down Under" Breakfast at the Sydney Showground on Sunday June 1 will have the opportunity of a preview of Reel Matilda talent as the band will be providing entertainment for that special event.

BRIDGECLIMB FOR POLIO

In collaboration with Rotary International we are inviting Rotarians to Climb for a Cause - End Polio Now in 2014.

Come together to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and be part of something big during the Rotary International Convention. We will attempt

to set a new world record for the most number of people on the Bridge at once. This was originally set by Oprah Winfrey and 316 of her viewers back in 2008.

We also aim to set the record for having the most number of flags on the Bridge. This will involve

Rotarians waving flags from one of the 208 countries and territories represented at the Convention.

Tickets to this event range from \$248 for adults to \$168 for children over 10. However, who can put a price on such an incredible experience that you will be able to participate in.

And that's not all! For every Rotarian who books a climb as part of the Climb For a Cause - End Polio Now, BridgeClimb will donate 50% of sales back to End Polio Now.

If you're not already jumping at the chance to be a part of this amazing opportunity to make history then you should know that as spaces are limited, Rotarians are encouraged to book early to avoid missing out on this incredible world-record breaking event!

For more information or to book your record-breaking ticket visit:

www.bridgeclimb.com/rotary



GREAT KIWI BREAKFAST

- JUNE 3, 2014

DG Willard Martin of Rotary District 9920 has co-ordinated an event at the RI Sydney Convention known as the Great Kiwi Breakfast. This breakfast is a never to be repeated event and is an opportunity for all Rotarians to experience Kiwi Hospitality. The venue is Level 7, Aerial UTS Function Centre, 253 Jones Street Ultimo, Sydney, (5-10 minutes walk from Central Station).

A fantastic guest speaker in Chris Russell will be a highlight.

Chris is in much demand as a Public Speaker and Facilitator particularly in the area of Innovation and Embracing Change and is a skilled science communicator.

His involvement in a number of local community



and school organisations saw him receive the 2004 Australia Day Individual Community Service Award from Kuring-gai Council.

Chris Russell appears by agreement with Claxtons Speakers International www.claxtonsspeakers.com.au

For further information please email kiwibreakfast2014@gmail.com

TALI GALLERY A HIGHLIGHT AT THE CONVENTION



These are some of the many beautiful Indigenous products and artworks that will be on display and curated by the Tali Gallery during the Convention.

One of the highlights at the Rotary International Convention within the Billabong House of Friendship will be a diverse display of Australian Aboriginal Art and Culture curated by Tali Gallery.

This display is a project of the Rotary Club of Strathfield and will feature art by iconic Aboriginal elder artists from remote communities around Australia as well as contemporary paintings by modern urban artists with traditional themes.

There also will be a wide range of watercolours, textiles, screen-prints, etchings and linocuts, together with artefacts and handcrafted carvings, bark paintings, clapsticks, woven fibre work, baskets and fish traps created from natural local materials.

Those attending the convention will be able to see

Aboriginal artists at work with their paintings for sale.

A wide range of Australian didgeridoos will be available and their craftsmen will teach you how to play this iconic Australian instrument.

Tali Gallery will also offer a hand-selected range of beautiful gifts and tasteful souvenirs, which return royalties to Aboriginal Communities and Artists.

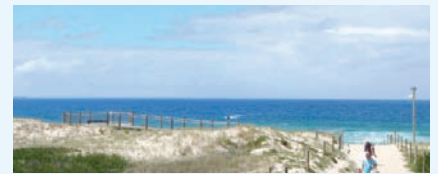
These can be pre-ordered from their website: www.talionline.com.au ready for collection or posting on your behalf from the convention.

You can also peruse a small selection of their diverse range of offerings by exploring their art website on: www.taligallery.com.au and clicking on 'Artworks' on the top menu.

This display is a must for all Convention attendees.

ROTARACT UPDATE:

The Rotaract Host Committee are proud to announce the following events for the Rotaract PreConvention 2014.



The Project: Beach Regeneration

Thursday May 29 @ 10am

On one of Sydney's most beautiful beaches we will be planting trees to preserve the landscape from erosion. Don't miss this opportunity for an autumn visit to beautiful Wanda Beach just south of the city.



The Welcome: Star Bar

Thursday May 29 @ 6pm

What better way to meet and greet new and old friends than a casual night at Sydney's famous Star Bar, where you can kick back, relax and catch up.



The Cruise: Sydney Harbour

Friday May 30 @ 7:45pm

See the sexy sights of Sydney on the harbour with The Cruise - a stylish night out complete with finger food and drinks.



The After Party: Secret Location

Saturday May 31 @ 9pm

Dance the night away at our secret location after party. More details to be released soon.

Registration for these events are now open through www.rotaractprecon2014.com

For all PreConvention social enquiries please contact the Rotaract Host Committee at info@rotaractprecon2014.com or Facebook: [RotaractPreCon2014](https://www.facebook.com/RotaractPreCon2014)

See you in Sydney!



TIME TO BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS FOR DOWN UNDER

With thousands of Rotarians heading to Sydney for the 2014 Rotary International Convention, demand for tours is going to be very high. To avoid disappointment we highly recommend you visit our brand new website to browse the variety of tours and activities available so that you can reserve your seats before it's too late.

Sydney and the surrounding regions have so much to share with you. From the spectacular Sydney Harbour to the scenic Blue Mountains and beyond you'll be amazed no matter which direction you decide to head in. So what are you waiting for? Come join us!

For more details visit:

www.globalconnection.com.au



GLOBAL
CONNECTION

About Global Connection

Global Connection has been appointed by the Sydney Host Organising Committee as the Official Travel Partner for the 2014 Rotary International Convention Sydney. As a proudly Australian Owned Company we look forward to sharing our country with Rotarians from all corners of the world. We have been working with feverish excitement to prepare a range of exclusive tours and experiences that will provide Rotarians with a unique and enriching perspective of Australia and its neighbours – New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. We look forward to helping Rotary make the 2014 Convention the best yet!



Climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge

The ultimate experience of Sydney, with guided climbs to the top of the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, 134 metres above Sydney Harbour. Climbers can choose from two amazing Climb adventures – The Bridge Climb or The Express Climb. Climbs are available at Dawn, Day, Twilight and at Night and you will be rewarded with spectacular 360 degree views of Sydney.

Tours depart frequently throughout the day.

Between 26 May and 8 June, BridgeClimb will be donating a portion of all sales from Rotarian climbers to End Polio Now.



Cruise on Sydney Harbour

There is no better way to see Sydney Harbour. Choose from the popular Coffee Cruise which covers the Main Harbour attractions, beaches, cliffs and magnificent waterfront homes and parklands. The Lunch Cruise features a buffet of succulent seafood, a full range of non-seafood and vegetarian dishes, or take the Captains Club Dinner Cruise.

Several Tours departing daily from Circular Quay



Bondi Beach and Sydney Sights

The afternoon half day Downtown Sydney, Bondi and Kings Cross Tour is perfect for those who have a tight schedule or don't wish to be on tour for a full day. Visit the historic Rocks area and take in views of the Opera House, Hyde Park, St Mary's Cathedral, Parliament House and the Art Gallery.

Stop at Mrs Macquarie's Chair for magnificent views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Visit The Gap and enjoy stunning views. Stop at the world-famous Bondi Beach and enjoy the scenery. Join the coach for your return to Sydney, travelling through Paddington and the exclusive Eastern suburbs.

Tour departs daily 2pm, returns 5:45pm



Blue Mountains & Aussie Wildlife Tour

Explore World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park. See the famous Three Sisters rock formation and visit the Waradah Aboriginal Centre and learn about ancient Aboriginal legends. Arrive at Scenic World and join the optional Blue Mountain rides – Scenic Railway, Cableway or Skyway (own expense). Discover Leura village with free time to wander the streets. Enjoy an afternoon encounter at Featherdale Park, have your photo taken with a cuddly koala, see kangaroos, wombats, dingoes and more.

Tour departs daily at 8am and returns at 5:45pm



Sydney Opera House Tour

The only official guided tour of Sydney Opera House. Discover the stories, magic and history under the sails of the World Heritage masterpiece. Explore inside the venues that bring to life over 1,800 performances each year brought to you by Sydney Opera House Presents and the Sydney Opera House resident companies, these include opera, ballet, symphony and contemporary performances. Discover insider secrets and learn how Danish architect Jørn Utzon's vision came into existence against impossible odds.

1 hour tour departs numerous times each day between 9am and 5pm



Hunter Valley Harvest Wine Experience

Explore the fertile Hunter Valley and taste award-winning regional foods and wines. Enjoy private vineyard inspections and learn of the winemaking process. Enjoy a delicious luncheon accompanied by wine tastings – your two-course lunch will be complimentary with specially chosen wines. Visit some of the Hunter Valleys renowned wineries and Blue Tongue Brewery, before arriving at the Hunter Valley Gardens, a quaint little township within the Hunter Valley. Have free time to explore the many hidden delights in the garden village before returning to Sydney.

Tour departs daily at 8am and returns at 6:15pm

ROTARY E-CLUB ONE - ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Rotarians and their guests from all around the world are invited to attend the Annual Gala Dinner of the Rotary E-Club One. This fun filled evening will be held at the Menzies Hotel Sydney, on Monday June 2nd from 7.30pm - 10.30pm.

This event, held annually at the Rotary International Convention will be one not to be missed, offering guests a fine evening of good food, wine, fellowship, entertainment and laughter.

The main highlight of the night will be performances from three of Sydney's finest musicians. With their performances being described as "amazing, gorgeous and sensational"

the Tatum Co Trio will provide entertainment for the night that will keep the fun rolling on for hours.

This international gala event is a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians and their guests to come together to meet like-minded people from all around the world.

Tickets to this function cost A\$101.44 inclusive of booking fee, dinner and wines.

Dress is cocktail wear for ladies, jacket and tie for gentlemen.

If you would like more information or to book your ticket to attend this Annual Gala Dinner visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rotary-e-club-one-gala-annual-dinner-tickets-10181997629>

GET READY FOR THE 3KM FUN RUN!

The Making History Today 3km Fun Run/Walk is a great event for Rotarians and the general public to get involved and raise money for End Polio Now.

This Fun Run will be held at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday 31st May and will go from 10am - 12 noon. In order to participate Rotarians and their guests will have to register beforehand either online or onsite.

Both runners and walkers will receive t-shirts, water and sunscreen to help them get through the day.

Finer details of the event are still being ironed out. But watch this space for more information about registration URL's, entry fees and the route that you will be participating on.

DREAM CRICKET - AN INSPIRATION!



Giving physically and intellectually challenged children the chance to play and enjoy cricket.

For four years the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong has staged an annual DreamCricket festival in Bowral, NSW, home of Australia's most famous sportsman, Sir Donald Bradman.

The festival is comprised of a series of cricket-related activities for Intellectually and Physically challenged children, involving hundreds of children with special needs as well as Rotarians and

community volunteers.

From humble beginnings, the idea has spread to clubs and Districts all over Australia, many of which have since staged their own DreamCricket festivals, and even to India and Sri Lanka, where Festivals were staged in 2012 and 2013.

The Patron of the Rotary Club of Bowral Mittagong project is the former Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, and the event recently featured once more in the pages of Rotary Down Under magazine as well local press and radio.

The Rotary Club of Concord will help stage a DreamCricket exhibition on Cathy Freeman Park on Sunday, June 1 between 11am and 2pm. The park is between "The Billabong" and the main Rotary International Convention plenary session venue at Olympic Park.

The Concord Club will arrange the children and the high school students required to conduct the demonstration while DreamCricket International volunteers will be on hand at the information booth in the Billabong and at the exhibition to provide information for spectators.

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Through an offer from the New South Wales Government, Convention goers will receive free transit passes for travel on ferries, buses and trains in the greater Sydney metropolitan area from Thursday 29 May through Thursday 5 June.

You can get to Sydney Olympic Park, about 10 miles (16 kilometres) west of the City Centre, using the pass. Tickets include entry and travel to and from the event on the rail network bounded by Bomaderry, Goulburn, Bathurst, and Dungong stations, all Sydney metropolitan and outer

metropolitan regular route bus services, Sydney Ferries, and Light Rail.

For more information and to plan your trip, including bus and train timetables, go to Transportnsw.info or call 131 500. For live traffic information, go to www.livetraffic.com or call 132 701.

TRAINS

The Sydney Trains network that serves the greater Sydney area operates most routes from 4 am to midnight. NSW TrainLink operates rail service to cities in New South Wales and just beyond. Airport

Link trains run from all City Circle stations to the domestic and international terminals at Sydney Airport about every 10 minutes.

BUSES AND FERRIES

Sydney Buses travel throughout the city and beyond. A free Sydney shuttle bus (Route 555) operates every 10 minutes on a circuit from Central Station to Circular Quay, along George and Elizabeth streets.

Ferry services across Sydney's world-renowned Harbour operate from Circular Quay to an array of destinations.

EXCLUSIVE TRAIN SERVICE

As part of this provision a special rail service between the Sydney CBD and Sydney Olympic Park will be provided for the **exclusive** use of delegates from Friday 30 May 2014 to Wednesday 4 June 2014.

This special rail service will operate directly between Central Station in the Sydney CBD and Olympic Park Station, which is only a short walking distance to all the key convention venues at Sydney Olympic Park. The service will be in operation from approximately 7:00am – 10:00pm. With a travel time of approximately 20 minutes, it will be significantly faster than the equivalent journey time by shuttle bus or motor vehicle.

The rail service will typically operate with a high frequency of four trains an hour in each direction, ensuring minimal wait times for delegates accessing or leaving the Convention. It is noted however that the rail service operating on Friday 30 May 2014 will be a limited service with frequencies in the order of two trains an hour in each direction.

Although host cities have provided free public transit passes to delegates in the past, the provision of a dedicated rail service at no cost to delegates is unprecedented in the history of Rotary Conventions.

Platforms at Central Station and Olympic Park Station will be dedicated for the exclusive use of the rail service. Central Station is the largest railway station in Australia and is a key interchange point between buses, coaches, light rail and taxis. Additionally, as it is serviced by almost all of the lines



on the Sydney Trains network, it can be readily accessed from most areas of Greater Sydney and many areas of regional New South Wales.

All the carriages provided for the special rail service will be of the modern state-of-the-art "Waratah" class. These air-conditioned carriages will provide a comfortable, clean and spacious environment for passengers. Additionally, the carriages have been designed to accommodate the mobility impaired, with fold-up seating for wheelchair users and colour-coded "priority" seating for less mobile passengers who don't require a wheelchair.

Sydney Trains staff and HOC volunteers will be on hand at key railway stations to guide delegates to

the dedicated platforms and provide information about the operation of the special rail service. In addition Rotary-branded directional signage will be located at key railway stations to assist delegates in finding the key facilities provided for their exclusive use.

More information about the operation of the special rail service will be provided soon in the 2014 Official Transport Guide, but with only a few months until the start of the Convention, we look forward to seeing you on the train soon.

* The service excludes Domestic and International Airport Stations, private ferries and tourist buses.



COCKTAILS WITH KOALAS

Do you want to take part in a unique and interesting experience that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime?

The Rotary Club of Darling Harbour invites you to experience Australia in the special surroundings of the WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo.

Socialise amongst the company of new and old friends alike with Australian wines, beers and cocktail food served in this unique location of Darling Harbour, not to mention that it is one of Sydney's major tourist destinations.

The evening will consist of an Aboriginal welcome to country followed by indigenous music featuring the didgeridoo. Special talks and presentations will be conducted by the staff of the WILD LIFE Zoo about special types of animals native to and featured in Australia. Rotarians will be given the opportunity to view iconic Australian animals such as kangaroos, koalas, possums, wombats and many of the other unique species of animals that are only found in Australia. You will experience a true outback adventure whilst being in the heart of the city.

This special night will be held on Tuesday, June 3, from 7pm to 9.30pm. Tickets cost \$95 per head and Rotarians can purchase them using their Mastercard, Visa or Amex or through Paypal.

For more information or to book and not miss out on this exciting experience please visit:

<http://www.rotarydarlingharbour.org.au/products/cocktails-koalas>

AN INVITATION AND RARE OPPORTUNITY

The Rotary Club of Sydney CBD together with the New South Wales State Parliament will be presenting one of the major events of the Rotary International Convention week in Sydney.

On Wednesday June 4 NSW Parliament House will throw open its doors and welcome Rotarians in for a rare opportunity to take part in a tour, and dine within this historic treasure.

The highlight of the night will be an indigenous music performance, followed by an aboriginal story from the dreamtime, and some wonderful Australian traditional songs that will give you a "taste of Australiana".

Rotarians will be given an exclusive short guided walking tour with one of the Parliamentary Officials at 6.30pm that will take them through the historic Parliamentary chambers, which are the oldest in Australia.

Pre-dinner drinks will then be served at 7.30pm in the Parliamentary Lounge for registered dinner

guests, who will be piped into dinner with our celebrated didgeridoo.

Following drinks and fellowship, Parliament House will serve a delicious three-course dinner featuring fine Australian food, wine, beers and non-alcoholic beverages.

The dress is cocktail attire for ladies and jacket and tie for gentlemen.

This exclusive event will run from 7.30pm until 10.30pm. The tour is at 6.30pm and is for registered dinner guests only – it is not available for those not attending the dinner.

The cost per person is AU\$110 plus a small ticket booking fee. This ticket will include dinner, wines, beers, non-alcoholic beverages, entertainment and a small gift for all attendees.

Tickets are selling fast! For more information or to book this rare opportunity visit <http://www.rotarysydneycbd.org/events/rotary-australiana-banquet-at-parliament-house>.

GREAT AUSSIE BARBEQUE - WITH TRANSLATION!

Things are hotting up for the Sydney Convention, and none hotter than the Great Aussie BBQ. The onions will be smoking in Cathy Freeman Park right next to the Olympic Cauldron that Australia's favourite athlete, Cathy Freeman, lit up in 2000. With most dietary requirements covered, you are sure to enjoy a traditional snag sanger (sausage in a bun). Cover it with dead horse (tomato sauce or ketchup) or a dollop (portion) of mustard and your barbie tucker (barbecue food) will be complete.

Please remember to book a ticket - it is free but we need to know how big the mob (crowd) will be. Your ticket will also get you a free soda or water to



wash down the food. We look forward to a bonzer arvo (good afternoon) with youse (you all). And yes, we do tend to talk in Strine (Aussie slang) but not this bad!!

DINNER HOSTS NEEDED

There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from our Rotarians all around the world who are eager to spend a night here in Sydney with local Rotarians.

Host Committee Organisers need the help of our host Rotarians to make this night a success! Why not

host a night during the Convention filled with laughter, endless banter and showing these visitors how we do things here in Australia. The Host Hospitality Night is being held on Tuesday 3 June at various Rotary Hosts' homes, clubs or restaurants across Sydney. This would be a great way to experience and learn about new cultures, make new friends and demonstrate what life is like here in Sydney.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, to share your experiences with like-minded people, then why not host a dinner.

For more information or if you would like to host a dinner please visit:

<http://rotary2014.com.au/the-convention/host-a-dinner/> or contact PDG Dick White at hosthospitality@rotary2014.com.au

RIDE TO THE OTHER SIDE



Deciding to ride 15,000 kilometres around Australia on a ride on mower was a big idea with big challenges and even bigger rewards.

When Assistant Governor Craig Alford, of the Rotary Club of Armadale WA, set off from Armadale to Kalgoorlie on the first leg of the journey in 2012, the most common reaction was "What the?"

After the huge success of the first leg it was time to set off in February 2013 on stage two of the ride from Kalgoorlie to cross the Nullabor in the hottest part of the year. The goal is to raise awareness and funds for mental health research through Australian Rotary Health and prostate cancer research with the EJ Whitten Foundation.

"When we say we're riding to get to the other side, we're not just talking about geography, we're riding this lawn mower to make a difference and help people get to where the grass is greener" Craig said. This time they had temperatures as high as 49.5C and covered more than 300km in one day.

The Hustler Super Z had a top speed of 36.3km/h and averaged about 25km/h for the 2190km trip and again raised approximately \$65,000.

From the two legs, with almost 3000km



"Assistant Governor Craig Alford on the road, edging ever so closer to accomplishing his goal of riding 15,000 kilometres around Australia to raise awareness and funds for mental health through Australian Rotary Health and The Rotary Foundation's End Polio Now program.

covered so far, Craig and his team have raised about \$130,000 and the mower has not missed a beat. Apart from regular servicing they haven't put a spanner to it.

Stage three of Ride to the Other Side in May this year will see some very different weather conditions as the ride heads off from Adelaide en route to the Rotary International Convention in Sydney through Melbourne, Hobart and Canberra – some 2800km.

This could be the most outrageous way of

getting to a Rotary Convention in history! The third leg will again be in support of mental health research through Australian Rotary Health and Foundation and the *End Polio Now!* program.

To follow or support the Ride to the Other Side team visit:

www.ridetothetheotherside.org.au

Sourced from the Rotary Down Under Magazine, Issue 557 –

Dec-Jan, 2013-2014

STRICTLY BALLROOM

ORIGINAL CAST/BOOKED BY ROTARIANS
STRICTLY Ballroom
MUSICAL
DIRECTED BY BAZ LURHMANN

Special Offer!

Rotarians and their partners are invited to take advantage of this special offer to the stage production **Strictly Ballroom The Musical** directed by Baz Luhrmann.

Strictly Ballroom The Musical is the inspiring story of a championship ballroom dancer who defies all to follow his heart.

The brand new theatrical production of this classic, will feature break-into-song numbers created from the original classics from the film such as Love is in the Air, Perhaps, Perhaps,

Perhaps and Time After Time as well as newly composed songs.

Rotarians can book an Adult A-Reserve ticket for selected performances during their stay in Sydney for the Rotary International Convention and save!

For Tuesday – Thursday evening performances, pay the special price of \$100 - a saving of up to \$20!. Or book to attend a Friday evening or Sunday show and pay the special price of only \$120 - a saving of up to \$10.

When purchasing their tickets, Rotarians should enter the special offer code of ROTARY2014 to receive the discount. Please note that this is an internet-only special offer that is available from now until 7pm on Friday June 13 2014 and is subject to availability.

Be a part of history and experience the drama, humour, romance and sequined spectacular that inspired the world to dance.

For more information or to book visit:

<http://www.ticketmaster.com.au/promo/44kxcx>

SYDNEY COAST WALKS



To celebrate the International Rotary Convention in Sydney, Sydney Coast Walks is offering Rotarians the opportunity to enjoy the best natural beauty only accessible on foot, by joining them for a half or full day guided walking tour at a saving of up to 10%.

There are a range of different tour options available giving Rotarians the opportunity to explore sites such as North and South Head which deliver stunning 360° views of the surrounding bushland, harbour and city.

Enter the discount code ROTARY14 to save 10%

on new, online bookings.

Sydney Coast Walks recognises that Rotarians would love to explore and discover Sydney before and after the Convention, so this discount is valid from now for tour departures up to 30 June 2014. When booking please enter your Rotary Club in the "Special Conditions" field so that Sydney Coast Walks recognises that you are a Rotarian.

For more information or to book visit:

<http://www.sydneycoastwalks.com.au/2014/02/rotary-convention-2014/>



RESTAURANT NIGHT

Join fellow Rotarians from all around the world for an evening of fine food, camaraderie and friendship. The Restaurant Night, to be held on Saturday May 31, will see you dining at some of Sydney's most popular restaurants around Darling Harbour and The Rocks.

The night coincides with Vivid Sydney (www.vividsydney.com), Sydney's superb and now world famous light show that sees the Opera House and iconic buildings throughout the CBD and harbourside splashed with a feast of colour and art. You will dine in close proximity to Vivid Sydney's exciting visual displays and soak up the magic that is Sydney Harbour. Bookings for the Restaurant Night are now open.

<http://rotary2014.com.au/event/rotary-restaurant-night/>

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

If Rotarians have a free morning during the Convention, they are invited to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute's Annual Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday June 4 from 7am until 9am.

This breakfast will take place in the beautiful Grand Ballroom located in the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney. For a cost of \$32 (US) guests will enjoy a full buffet

breakfast as well as hear from Past R.I. President Richard D. King, who will be the principal speaker. So why not join the Rotary Leadership Institute and help them honour their 22nd year of practice.

Tickets can be obtained from the RLI Booth in the Billabong House of Friendship or at the door of the event.

For more information or to book visit:

<http://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org/>

The **DOWN UNDER BREAKFAST**

will feature one of Sydney's Bush Band 'legends'

THE REEL MATILDA



The Reel Matilda came into existence sometime in 1985 mainly as a result of the inspiration and guidance of Australian Country Music legend Lester Coombs. The Reel Matilda was the first resident band at Sydney's famous Vinegar Woolshed playing to packed houses up to five nights a week for almost four years. It was here that the band developed their high energy, knees up, power of fun performing style.

During 1988, the Bicentennial year, The Reel Matilda had many high profile engagements including the huge welcome to the "Tall Ships" at Darling Harbour. The band also represented Australia in a World wide satellite event for the corporate giant Coca Cola. It was during this year that The Reel Matilda managed to clock up some three hundred or so "gigs" as well as releasing their first recording.

RI Director John Boag and Dianna will be pleased to welcome "Down Under" Convention patrons and their international guests.

WHEN: Sunday, June 1 – 6.30 for 7am.

WHERE: Brand new Hall 6, Southee Complex, Sydney Showground.

COST: Just \$40 per head for a traditional Aussie farm breakfast and top class entertainment!

BOOK NOW: As always, seating will be limited so don't delay.
Go to – www.rotarydownunder.org and click on 'Upcoming events'

SYDNEY VISA INFORMATION



This information is intended to provide travelers outside Australia with information regarding the Australian visa process to enable you and members of your district to effectively plan travel to Australia to attend the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

WHO REQUIRES A VISA?

For information about the Australian visa process, please visit

<http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/>. All visitors to Australia (except for New Zealand citizens) who will be attending the convention must apply for a business visitor visa. To find out how and where to apply, please visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/visawizard/>

VISA OPTIONS

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection recommends that 2014 Rotary Convention delegates should apply for one of the following three visas. The passport you hold determines whether you can apply online, or if you will need to lodge a paper-based application.

eVisitor (Subclass 651)

European Union (EU) passport holders, and some other European passport holders, are eligible to apply online for an eVisitor (Business Stream) visa to travel to and enter Australia. Applications for eVisitor visas are free. To find out how to apply for an eVisitor visit: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/651/>

Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (Subclass 601)

Passport holders of a number of countries are eligible to apply for an ETA. There is no visa application charge for an ETA application, however an online service fee of \$AUD20 is charged for use of the ETA website. To check if you are eligible for an ETA visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/601/>

Visitor (Business Stream) (Subclass 600) visa

Passport holders not eligible for an eVisitor or ETA can apply for a Visitor (Business Stream) (Subclass 600) visa. Passport holders from certain countries can apply for this visa online by visiting: http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/600.htm

If you are not eligible to apply online you should lodge a paper application at your nearest Australian Immigration Office. To find your nearest Immigration office, please visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/>. Australia does not have embassies in every country. If you are in a country in which Australia does not have representation, the information in this link designates an Australian consulate-general, embassy, or high commission in another country which you can contact for more information about visa applications.

Citizens of New Zealand generally do not need to apply for a visa, but should consult <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/travel-documents/new-zealand.htm> for more information.

ADVANCE TRAVEL PLANNING

Advance travel planning is critical to ensure adequate time for visa processing. Registrants need to consider the entire process that begins with registering for the convention with Rotary International through to lodging your visa application. The length of time needed for the visa application to be finalized may vary substantially depending on your circumstances. By following the steps below, you will ensure that you have allotted a sufficient amount of time for a visa application to be processed for the 2014 RI Convention.

This information is current as at 17 October 2013.

Step 1 – Register for the convention through RI Registration Services. After your registration is processed, RI Registration Services will send the main registrant an email which will include the registration confirmation and letter of invitation in PDF format. This is normally sent within 2 weeks of registration, with additional time at peak periods.

Step 2 –

Research procedures for obtaining a visa by visiting the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/visa-options.htm> or by contacting an Australian immigration office. The following site, <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/>, provides links to all Australian consulates-general, embassies, high commissions and Australian Visa Application Centres throughout the world. Australian visas may require the recipient to enter Australia within a certain time from visa issuance.

Step 3 – Apply for a visa, following the Australian immigration. You should ensure you submit a complete application form including all requested documents to avoid unnecessary delays in processing. You should include in your application your Rotary International registration confirmation.

Step 4 – In the rare event that you are asked to attend an Australian visa office for an interview you should arrive on time with all required documentation. It is the registrant's responsibility to provide the Australian embassy with any and all documentation that may facilitate the visa process, including all fees and expenses associated with obtaining a visa.

IMPORTANT! To ensure your visa application is processed in time for your travel to Australia, it is recommended that you lodge your application at least 8 weeks prior to your intended date of travel.

SYDNEY VISA INFORMATION

VISA APPLICATION TIMELINE

<p>23 June – 1 December 2013 – Register for the 2014 RI Convention with Rotary International via Member Access with credit card payment or download a form at www.riconvention.org.</p>	<p>1 January 2014 – If you registered on or before 1 December 2013, you should have received your confirmation documents before this date. Contact RI Registration Services at ri.registration@rotary.org if you have not received your confirmation documents.</p>	<p>1 February 2014 – Visit http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/</p>	<p>4 June 2014 – Deadline for RI Registration Services to receive written cancellation and refund request if the visa is denied. E-mail RI Registration Services at ri.registration@rotary.org to submit your registration cancellation.</p>
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Should you receive a visa denial, send your cancellation and refund request directly to RI Registration Services at ri.registration@rotary.org or fax: +1-847-556-2194 by the June 4 2014 deadline. Refer to the registration and event ticket order form for the complete cancellation policy.

To cancel your hotel reservations or host event tickets, follow the cancellation policies as indicated on the respective forms.

What Can Rotary International Do For Attendees That Require a Visa?

Encourage early registration!! Rotary International's involvement in the visa process is limited to providing the emailed or mailed registration confirmation materials that include the registration confirmation and letter of invitation and providing Australia with a list of convention registrants on a regular basis. The visa consular has sole discretion in reviewing and determining who receives a visa for entry into Australia.

This information is current as at 17 October 2013.

Additional Information on Australian Visa Requirements and Application

Like all countries, Australian Visa requirements will vary from person to person based on your previous history. Please see below for some additional requirements which may apply.

Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks. The department will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances. Information on which health checks may apply to you is available on the website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1163i.pdf

As part of the visa application assessment process the onus is on you to satisfy the character requirements set out in Section 501 of the Migration Act 1958. Further information on the character requirement is available on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm

If you are unsure whether you satisfy the character requirement because of prior criminal convictions you should lodge a paper-based application at the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least four months prior to travel.

Travel sanctions

For information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Nationals of these countries may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. See: www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsanctions/index.html

Biometrics Program

Biometrics will need to be collected at an Australian Visa Application Centre for visitors and business people lodging a visa application

from the countries listed at the department's website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/offshore/countries.htm>

If you lodge your application online, the Department will advise you in writing if you need to provide your biometrics.

Obligations of visa holders

On arrival at Australia's border you must identify yourself, present your travel documents, and complete an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC). The IPC requires visitors to declare their health status and any prior criminal convictions. If you do not meet immigration clearance requirements, you may be refused entry to Australia. More information on immigration clearance processes at Australia's borders is available on the website. See: www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. When you receive your Australian visa you are issued with a visa grant notice that explains the conditions of the visa including period of validity and entry requirements. You are advised to carry this visa grant notice for your own reference. If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled. If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you become an unlawful non-citizen. Unlawful non-citizens are liable to be detained and removed from Australia.

This information is current as at 17 October 2013



YOUR PERSONAL SYDNEY 2014 CONTACT LIST ...!

RI CONVENTION COMMITTEE		HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE		RI PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE	
Chairperson	Chairperson	Chairperson	Member		
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	Event Liaison				
	Jennie Churchill jenniechurchill29@gmail.com Ph: +61 419 417 856				

Important Registration Information

I've decided to attend the family-friendly convention in Sydney, Australia!

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Register online at www.riconvention.org. If you are an active user, your account will be ready for immediate use; otherwise, you'll need to create a new user account with a unique email that is not shared by another Rotarian. Visit www.rotary.org.

WHY REGISTER ONLINE?

Our new and improved online registration system is fast, easy, and secure:

- Confirmations (with letter of invitation if necessary) will be sent to you as soon as you complete your registration!
- We now accept credit card payment in several currencies online.
- If you're in a country with a Rotary International Office or Fiscal Agent, you can register online and get your confirmation right away, and then complete payment with your fees due notice through your office or agent.

AFTER I'VE REGISTERED, HOW CAN I MAKE CHANGES?

You can log into your account and update your registration:

- Edit your contact information and update your membership record.
- Add or cancel guests, RI luncheons, preconvention meetings or your registration.
- Send yourself a new copy of your confirmation (and letter of invitation) after making any edits.

NOW THAT I'M REGISTERED, WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Take a look at Host Events and tours, make your travel plans and get your visa*, book a hotel, and tell everyone you're going!

*All visitors to Australia will need a visa, but citizens of many countries can apply electronically.

RI REGISTRATION SERVICES



**DO YOU HAVE A SPARE BED
FOR CONVENTION VISITORS?**

**100 BEDS
NEEDED
URGENTLY**

R.I President Ron on our behalf has invited the world to Sydney and what better way to welcome them than to have them stay with us in our own homes.

What a fantastic opportunity for you to meet Rotarians from another country or perhaps other areas of Australia and make lifelong friends and share your Australian family experience with them.

If you have a spare room or two around the period of the Convention 1-4 June 2014 and wish to share in this great experience then this is your once in a lifetime opportunity.

You do not have to be registered for the Convention to take part in the Home Stay program, all you have to be is prepared to open your home to our visitors.

To be a Home Stay host simply go to <http://rotary2014.com.au/the-convention/homestay/> or go to www.rotary2014.com.au click on "The Convention" tab and then "Home Stay"

For further information please contact PDG Paul Reid at homestay@rotary2014.com.au or ph 0424 026 343


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