

# rotary youth leadership awards



## Key Details

- ✓ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- ✓ Warrambui, Murrumbateman
- ✓ 18 to 28 year olds
- ✓ Applications close 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

RYLA is a 6 day intensive retreat for people aged 18 to 28 that empowers participants to reflect and gain clarity over their own leadership journeys, develop hard and soft leadership skills, build strong networks and learn from passionate presenters.



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## Participant Information Pack

### What is RYLA?

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 6 day residential retreat is an opportunity for young people (aged 18-28) to develop the tools to become effective leaders in their communities. RYLA allows participants to build networks and develop their leadership skills to create the change they wish to see in the world.

### What happens at RYLA?

RYLA offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in diverse sessions, presented by experts and mentors, that develop the necessary skills in effective leaders. These sessions take multiple forms, including outdoor recreation, team coordination and planning tasks, as well as opportunities for personal reflection. The contents of these sessions are designed to challenge and develop leaders' skills in the following areas:

- Leadership Theory
- Ethics and Responsibility
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- Facilitating Trust and Empowerment in Teams
- Organisation, Planning and Time Management
- Overcoming Adversity and Resilience

The program aims to help participants to:

- Build communication and problem-solving skills
- Discover strategies for becoming a dynamic leader
- Learn from community leaders, inspirational speakers and peer mentors
- Unlock their potential to turn motivation into action
- Have fun and form lasting friendships
- Further develop their own skills, talents and abilities, and
- Remember their responsibility to their communities and the world.

### Who hosts RYLA?

RYLA is hosted by Rotary, a reputable non-profit organisation whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary is a **non-religious, non-political** organisation and RYLA is operated by a volunteer Committee of members of Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in District 9705 and alumni of the program.

### Why choose to attend RYLA?

Here are some testimonials from RYLA participants:

*"Attending RYLA was a game-changer! It is more than just a leadership program; it's a catalyst for personal growth and lasting connections. From honing communication skills to activities of self-discovery, the workshops and activities provided a perfect blend of theory and practice to equip me with a plethora of practical leadership skills."*

*“RYLA was a transformative experience, fostering not just leadership skills but a supportive community. The mentors’ dedication and guidance were invaluable. The diverse activities and genuine connections formed made it a truly heartwarming journey.”*

“A life-changing experience I must say! I cannot recommend this program enough for young people. We only can lead and take care of people well when we are physically and mentally capable of doing that to ourselves first, and this program provided many valuable tools we needed to improve our well-being and capacity. Thank you so much for having me!”

“RYLA was a fantastic experience, I learnt so much about not just leadership but also myself. There is a magic about RYLA that words simply cannot describe. I would recommend the program not just to those looking to enter leadership positions, but to any young person with the energy, passion and drive to broaden their horizons.”

“There’s something so special about meeting strangers at the start of the week and becoming a family by the end of it. RYLA has taught me a lot of leadership and life lessons that many people don’t learn until later in life. I feel very blessed to have been a part of the 2023 cohort with such amazing and inspiring people.”

“Loved every minute of it. The atmosphere was so positive and encouraging and I felt so comfortable to come out of my shell and put in 100%. Made some meaningful and heartfelt connections with both my syndicate group and other RYLArians and would recommend it to anyone. 100/10 Experience.”

“RYLA 2023 was one of the greatest weeks of my life. It was an incredible opportunity to further develop my leadership skills, learn from exceptional mentors and reveal a greater understanding of self. Not to mention the laughs and ever-lasting friendships made along the way.”

### **Who can apply?**

Applications are open to young people aged between 18 and 28, who are located in the geographic region of Rotary District 9705. Rotary District 9705 covers large parts of NSW and the ACT including: Central West, Southern Highlands, South Coast, Canberra, Riverina, Snowy Mountains.

Participants must be endorsed by a Rotary or Rotaract Club in District 9705, however they may be sponsored in whole or part by a Rotary or Rotaract Club, their employer, or choose to pay their own way. The total cost of the program for 2026 is \$1,650 (no GST applicable) per person, which covers participants from when they arrive at the venue to when they leave.

A list of Clubs in District 9705 is available here: <https://www.rotary9705.org.au/ClubDirectory>

### **When and where is District 9705 RYLA held?**

Commencement: 12pm, Sunday 21st June 2026

Conclusion: 12:30pm, Friday 26th June 2026

Venue: Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre

322 Greenwood Road, Murrumbateman NSW 2582



## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **What will RYLA do for your employees?**

A challenging 6 day retreat, RYLA will offer your employees a unique networking opportunity to meet goal oriented and motivated individuals from different backgrounds and to access motivational speakers and experts in a variety of fields. The core curriculum utilises workshops and lectures that introduce the fundamentals of effective leadership. Your employees will have the opportunity to put their leadership skills into action in practical applications throughout the week.

### **Is the event accessible to people with a disability?**

The RYLA Committee strives to make an inclusive and accessible event for all participants. Candidates should advise their requirements when applying so that the committee has an opportunity to review these and determine what actions can be taken to ensure the candidate will have an outstanding RYLA experience. The Committee will work closely with participants and the venue in the lead up to and during the event to ensure all requirements are met.

## ***Considerations for Applicants***

- Acceptance into RYLA is based on Endorsement by a local Rotary or Rotaract Club. Final decisions are at the discretion of individual Rotary or Rotaract Clubs and the District 9705 RYLA Committee.
- As Rotary and Rotaract Clubs and businesses invest significantly in sending applicants to RYLA, **it is extremely important that you are able to attend the retreat for the entire duration.** Participants are not permitted to leave the retreat location except in exceptional circumstances. Prior to submitting your application, please ensure you are able to take leave from work and schedule the time away.
- In completing the application form, you are consenting to the information on this form being collected for the purposes of organising the District 9705 Rotary Youth Leadership Award Retreat for June 2026. This information will be shared with parties that are responsible for the organisation of this event.