



Rotary
District 9705



**rotary youth
leadership
awards**



RYLA CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR CLUB AND COMMUNITY

For many Rotary and Rotaract clubs, RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) is an annual commitment to the future leadership of their community and a potential pathway to new young members for their club.

WHAT IS RYLA?

It is a 6 day residential leadership retreat that offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in diverse sessions, presented by experts and mentors.

Sessions are designed to challenge and develop leadership skills in areas including:

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

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Applications are open to young people aged between 18-28, across our Rotary District.

WHERE AND WHEN IS IT HELD?

Sunday 21 June to Friday 26 June 2026 at the Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre in Murrumbateman, NSW.

WHAT IF MY CLUB CAN'T AFFORD TO SEND SOMEONE?

The cost is kept as low as possible, however we understand it is still a significant cost to sponsor someone to attend. Your club does not have to solely fund any RYLA applicants that you put forward. You can seek a contribution from the candidate themselves and split this cost, you can also consider sponsorship from local businesses, especially employers of young people. Businesses will often have a budget for professional development for their staff and this could be used to sponsor attendance at RYLA. The cost for RYLA 2026 is \$1,650 (no GST).

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- This program is one way that Rotary can influence the next generation of leaders and empower them to step up in their communities.
- Many participants who attend RYLA then decide that they would like to join their local Rotary or Rotaract club or continue to be connected to Rotary, helping at activities or attending events. Others demonstrate a newfound appreciation for Rotary and its initiatives that they then share with others.
- Clubs are encouraged to stay connected with RYLA graduates, one example of how to do this is to offer a Blue and Gold membership for them to join the club for 12 months. This initiative is being trialled across the district as a way to promote more flexible involvement in Rotary before becoming a member.
- Importantly, RYLA provides an opportunity for young people to get involved in Rotary/Rotaract or other volunteer organisations that create a lasting benefit for your local community.
- Even if participation in RYLA does not directly result in membership, the awareness gained by RYLArians sharing their experiences provides ongoing value to Rotary.

IS IT HARD TO FIND YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTEND RYLA?

NO – there will certainly be opportunities in your local communities to find someone that would benefit from attending RYLA:

- Current Rotaract Club members
- Previous participants in Rotary Youth Programs like Youth Exchange, RYPEN, public speaking, NYSF, MUNA)
- TAFE/Educational facilities
- Community organisations
- Various workplaces
- Sporting clubs, musical clubs, hobby groups
- Community leaders
- Organisations your club has supported
- Young Ambulance, Fire Fighting and Police officers or volunteers at local stations.
- Councils

Don't just consider those that might already be identified as leaders in your community, consider those you might have casual interactions with. For example, your local waiter or barista, or council reception staff, or supermarket attendant. Everyone has the potential to be a leader and RYLA will meet them where they are in their leadership journey and help them make the next step.

MORE INFORMATION

Applications strictly close 22nd May 2026. For more detailed information about RYLA and the application process, please visit <https://rotary9705.org.au/page/ryla>

