

This information/story follows from the D9705 Newsletter article of September 2023

How long has this Exchange been going?

The project was developed in early 2018. The focus was to be to facilitate an exchange between our Wiradjuri young professionals and the First Peoples of South Dakota USA. This exchange would assist in improving their professional and interpersonal skills, and through meetings, sharing stories /ideas/ experiences etc, build international understanding, and show how other communities work and develop economic, educational and cultural opportunities for their communities.

So why South Dakota? Our Rotary District had a link with South Dakota through the Rotary Friendship Exchange Program. And one of the visitors to our area, from South Dakota, was raised on and worked with the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Reservation. This link led to the project being developed based around our respective Indigenous populations. We acknowledge the massive effort and energy committed to this project by Rtn Tom Katus and PDG Linda during the year prior to and during the exchange. As project lead, PDG Michael Milston had a self-funded trip to SD where Tom took him on the route and to the possible places to visit.

Other Rotarians who have played great roles in this project are PDG Michael and PP Helen Moore, PP Mary Brell, PP Lynette Bullen (Team leader), PDGs John McKenzie, Leo Farrelly, Geraldine Rurenga, and DG Andrea Grosvenor and DGE Rob Uhl, and their boards. The support from the Rotary Clubs of Canberra, Condobolin, Orange Daybreak and Queanbeyan has been fantastic demonstrating the reach and support of Rotarians across the board.

Getting the Project underway

The concept of the First Peoples GSE focus was discussed by the (old) D9700 board which allocated in 2016-17 \$15,000 towards the exchange (including flights to/from South Dakota USA, home hosting, observing in the delegates occupational area, presentation about the delegates' vocation, etc). This was based on 2017 prices. Of course once COVID put everything on hold (see below) the prices in 2023 had risen by over 75%. The development of the project – an exchange of First Peoples between our nations through Rotary was quite possibly the first ever. As the name implies it is an Exchange. The Australian team was to visit first, followed by the US team visiting Australia sometime later.

There was much to do on our side: work with Wiradjuri community leaders to ensure our Rotary processes were culturally appropriate, that our communications were open and that interested young professional (25-40 years of age) would be keen to apply. The team was to be led by a Wiradjuri Rotarian, and we would have Wiradjuri people involved with the selection process.

Selecting the Team

The message about the exchange was communicated within Aboriginal communities and workplaces often by elders and by social media. We received many expressions of interest, and these were culled based on whether they were Wiradjuri, if they were in our District (Central NSW), and their ages. A short list was invited to an interview, from which 5 were selected in early 2020. The selected team

included Tennille Dunn (Condobolin), Ethan Williams (Queanbeyan), Micka Newman (Orange) and Eddie Whyman (Wagga Wagga), Lucy (also from Wagga Wagga). The team then undertook group and team training in code of conduct, presentation, problem solving, and group decision-making. All skills they use in their work and community activities.

Ready, Steady, Stop

The delegates, having been chosen, spent the couple of months preparing their information, deciding on a 'uniform', getting badges made, seeking support from the local Rotary Club towards the trip and to learn more about Rotary, etc, etc. The airline tickets and flight arrangements were finalised, with payment to be made prior to the local Rotary Conference in Temora. The team was in Young one weekend training for presentation at the upcoming conference WHEN word was received that the conference had to be cancelled as the nation was locked down due to COVID-19.

No air tickets were purchased and we put the project on hold – these were uncertain times in deed.

Covid Communications

As we all know the biggest thing with the lockdowns was the use of video conferencing. So the Rotarians behind the project commenced regular (but increasingly less frequent) interaction between our countries.

Travel overseas Back

With the opening up of countries for travel, we agreed to re-activate the Exchange. Firstly we had to check if the selected team was still interested, available (as family and work could easily have interfered with their timetable). Our initial Wiradjuri Rotarian Leader was now unavailable as was Lucy. PP Lynette Bullen, a Wiradjuri woman, had been helping with the project development, and her circumstances had changed over the 2 years and she was able to lead the delegates.

Secondly, we had to check on the affordability of flights (pre COVID you will remember flights were very cheap); well they weren't cheap any more. We decided that we would not replace Lucy and seek additional funding from clubs and other Rotary sources. In this respect funding support for the project came from the Rotary Clubs of Canberra, Condobolin, Orange Daybreak, Queanbeyan and the District Grants program.

Thirdly, we needed to check in with our friends in South Dakota and they were also eager to proceed. So it seemed we could recommence planning.

The Itinerary

There was much email exchange and a number of video calls to confirm the itinerary for the team. The dates which worked well for the Americans was Sept-Oct, which is their autumn, so 'perfect' weather for the visit. We finalised the exchange (South Dakota leg) for 9 Sept to 1 October 2023.

The next 10 days the team splits up and goes to the workplace that aligns with their vocational interests, where they will be immersed in the function, activity, target population and industry of that working environment. **See the Itinerary below.**

The visit ends with the delegates presenting at the Rotary District Conference in Yankton (on the South-east border (to Nebraska) before flying home, arriving in Sydney on 2 October 2023.

What next

Once the delegates get back on country and have a chance to settle back in, we will have to start plotting the course for the Exchange team from South Dakota. If you or your Club would like to be involved please contact Michael Milston on 0419 414 959

***Attachment - Wiradjuri-Ocefi Sakowin; Australia- USA Group Study Exchange Itinerary
First 13 days
on next pages...***

Wiradjuri-Oceti Sakowin; Australia- USA Group Study Exchange Itinerary First 13 days

Day # 1 Saturday, September 9

Arrive 8:45 pm	MDT American Airlines Rapid City, SD Regional Airport. Met by Sandra White Shield, Chair, Omniciye Committee, Rushmore Rotary Club & members Linda Peterson PDG, Tom Katus, Scot Van Dam. PP, Marcia Whiting and Shawn Walters, Shuttled to Rodeway Inn for lodging (605) 348-3313
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Day #2 Sunday, September 10,

Time	Activity
8:00	Continental breakfast & check out
9:00 am	Wiradjuri Mob depart Rodeway Inn for:
9:45 am	Arrive Mount Rushmore National Monument , Keystone, SD
11:00 am	Depart
11:30 am	Arrive Crazy Horse Memorial, orientation film, museum tour and wrap-up working lunch with Whitney Rencountre II, CEO & staff
1:30pm	Depart
2:00 pm	Arrive Journey Museum, Tammy Misselt(605) 394-6923, Orientation film and tour.
3:00 pm	Depart with home hosts for dinner
6:30 PM	arrival Oglala Lakota College He Sapa College Center Rotarians from seven previously identified clubs, and Native Americans from Rapid City and surrounding reservations who are hosting our Wiradjuri guests will participate. Tour of OLC, greenhouse and garden site.(30 total guests projected. We will provide much firmer figures one week out). Weather permitting, traditional Lakota Hors D'Oeuvres served in the pavilion outside the west side of OLC between it and the greenhouse. Inclement weather moves to the Conference Room, adjoining rear entrance.
7:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming and briefing forum in classroom with screen and zoom option for all Native American and Rotary hosts throughout District 5610. • Welcoming remarks, Jackie Alcantar, Director, OLC He Sapa Center and any other OLC leaders she deems appropriate. • Welcome on behalf of Rotary District 5610 – Rich Burns, Governor, in person/zoom • Brief 3 minute history of American Indian Higher Education Consortium and American Indian College Fund, and how they relate to OLC's historic leadership, Tom Katus, former senior program officer, Phelps Stokes Fund • Introduction of Wiradjuri guests and slide presentation of Australian aboriginal-settler history and contemporary status - Lynette Bullen, Wiradjuri delegation coordinator Rotarian, and four additional Wiradjuri delegates • Mirror response of Oceti Sakowin, history and contemporary status. Slide/lecture presentation, – Dr. Craig Howe, President and Founder of Center for American Indian Research, and

Time	Activity
	<p>Native Studies (CAIRNS), formerly Instructor graduate school, OLC He Sapa Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Study Exchange briefing 3-minute overview with map of route projected on screen, Sandra White Shield, Chair Omnicitye committee, Rushmore Rotary club, Tom Katus, Linda Peterson, Rushmore Rotary club and Ina Winter, Hot Springs Rotary club, past Governors, Rotary District 5610
	Questions from any Wiradjuri, Rotarians, Native American and Rotary audience guests.
9:00 pm	Depart with home hosts for overnight lodging

Day # 3 Monday, September 11

8:30	Care Center , 321 Kansas City St. Barry Tice, Director; Deana Nolan (ext: 4226) 5min. overview of Care Center Meet Miss South Dakota, whose father's family are Oglala Sioux Tribal Members to greet and review her efforts at children's literacy and Little Free Children's Library placed at Care Center by Omnicitye Rotary Satellite Club.
8:50-10:45am	Lynette Bullen, briefing and refinement of shadow week September 21-27
9:00 am	Wiradjuri Mob, Briefing at Great Plains Tribal Health Board, 2611 Elderberry Blvd (605) 721-1922. Established in 1986, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB) is an organization representing the 18 tribal communities in the four-state region of South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.
10:30 – 11:45 am	Remember the Children briefing at Oyate Health Center, 3200 Canyon Lake Drive. Kibbe Brown, Founder and Past President, Omnicitye Rotary Satellite Club; Amy Sazue. This program commemorates over 50 children who died at the Rapid City Indian Boarding School (1898-1933) sponsored by the US Federal Government. In 2016, Ken Engsmyr, Secretary, Parkes, Australia Rotary Club visited the site of the proposed Remembrance with Kibbe Brown and Tom Katus. He felt it could be an excellent affiliate of the worldwide Peace Communities launched by Australian Rotary Clubs.
12:00 noon-1:30 pm	Oaye Luta Okolakiciye (Moving Forward in a Sacred Way). Gene Tyon, CEO , Mob will participate in a traditional Lakota Talking Circle, followed by Lakota lunch. You will be joined by Valeriah Big Eagle, Ed.D., Chair, OLO, and Executive Director, Friends of the Children, former Chair, Omnicitye Committee, Rushmore Rotary Club
2:00- 3:15 pm	First Peoples Fund 706 West Blvd, Rapid City, Lori Pourier, Founder & CEO: Sheila Whitehorse, Executive Administrator (605) 348-0324, (www.firstpeoplesfund.org) National Native artist/entrepreneurs promotion NGO, which has recognized 350 Native Artist Fellows, conducted 250 artists' workshops and awarded \$3.5 million for Native artists in the past 21 years.
3:30- 4:30 pm	NDN Collective , Nick Tilsen, Founding President & CEO; Cole Hunter, Executive Administrator, 408 Knollwood Drive (605) 791-

	3999. NDN is the largest indigenous led activist and advocacy organization in RC.
4:45 pm	Met by home hosts; shuttled to homes for dinner/lodging

Day #4 - Tuesday, September 12

7:00 am	guest speakers at Rushmore Rotary club, followed by breakfast at Howard Johnson Hotel
8:30 am	Depart for Oglala Sioux Tribe Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
9:45-10:45 am	Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation – Tatewin Mfans, CEO (605) 455-2700 (www.ThunderValley.org) Green Village constructed by 60 + member Lakota Youth group. President Obama called it as the best Native American Youth project in the US.
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	First Peoples Fund's ArtSpace and Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce
12:15 – 1:15pm	Tour of Oglala Lakota College Museum and meet Dr, Dawn Frank, President and Marilyn Pourier, Director of Development (605 455-6045) OLC is the 2 nd largest Tribal College in the U.S and the largest in the NorthernPlains with approximately 1,400 students. It has a dispersed system with OLC centers in each of the Tribes 9 Districts, as well as an urban campus in Rapid City and the Cheyenne Reservation.
1:15 – 1:45pm	Drive enroute to KILI . Lunch in the van
1:45- 2pm	interview with Tom Casey (605 685-5533) on KILI radio, the Voice of the Oglala Lakota broadcasts to the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations and Rapid City. KILI has been supported by a Rotary club from Brattleboro, Vermont.
2:15 – 2:45pm	visit Wounded Knee Cemetery
3:15 – 4:00 pm	REQUESTED Frank Star Comes Out, President. Oglala Sioux Tribe
4:15 – 5:00pm	4 MDT White Clay Arts Maker Space ; Holly Albers, Manger (605 407-8127), together with Lisa J.E, DeLeon, BBA, Director Community Health Resources, OST (605) 454-4488, will describe wheelchair distribution program of Hope Haven International
8:00 pm CDT	Dinner & Overnight Game Lodge, sponsored by Winner Rotary Club, Winner, SD

Day # 5 - Wednesday, September 13

<p>Sinte Gleska University, Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Reservation. SGU is the most advanced of the 37 Tribal Colleges & Universities in the US and Canada. It was first to receive Bachelors and later Graduate Accreditation by the US Agency accrediting all U.S. universities.</p>
<p>SGU joined with Māori colleges in New Zealand to form the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) of 60 indigenous higher education universities and colleges worldwide. WINEC's tri-annual global conference was held in conjunction with the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Adelaide, Australia Nov2-6, 2020.</p>

Schedule from Phil Baird:	
8:30 am	Team Arrival & Continental Breakfast
9:00 am	1. Opening/Welcome Remarks – Ted Hamilton, Acting SGU President & Executive Vice President 2. Invocation (Richard Moves Camp?) 3. Lakota Song - Justin Baker & Wopila Bad Hand
10:00 am	Purpose of Wiradjuri GSE Team Visit (w/ video presentation?)
10:30 am	Short Break
10:45 am	Brief Overview of Sicangu Lakota Tribal History, Victor Douville?
11:15 am	Brief Overview of Sicangu Oyate Land Base & Management – Cleve Her Many Horses, Executive Director, RST Tribal Land Enterprise (TLE)?
12:00 pm	Lunch w/ Traditional Foods (Benge Student Union? REDCO-catering?)
1:00pm	Team Topics of Interest - Presentations (30 minutes each):
1:00 pm	Spiritual Practices and Traditional Healing – Richard Moves Camp?
1:30 pm	Cultural Preservation & Repatriation – Russell Eagle Bear, RST Tribal Historic Preservation Program?
2:00 pm	Boarding Schools and the Indian Child Welfare Act – Dwayne Sandstrom, Sr
2:30 pm	Women's Traditional Roles & Cultural Practices – Krista White.
3:00 pm	Mental Health Therapy – Marlies White Hat
3:30 pm	Academic Programs & Accreditation – Cheryl Medearis
4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks – Ted Hamilton, Tom Katus, Lynette Bullen • Closing Prayer – Richard Moves Camp? • Honor Song – Justin Baker/Wopila Bad Hand
4:30 pm	Team Departure
5:30 pm	Arrive Game Lodge for whatever program Winner Rotary plans

Day # 6 – Thursday, September 14:

8-9:30 AM	whatever the Winner Rotary club proposes for possible farewell breakfast
9:30 am	depart
11:00 am	Arrive Wagner, greeted by Wagner Rotarians and YST Leaders
12:00 noon	potential welcoming lunch by Wagner Rotarian & YST
1:30 - 4:30 PM	Whatever Wagner Rotarians and YST leaders organize, potential visits to Wagner public school system multicultural curriculum. YST headquarters and school at Marty? Visit IHS clinic in in Wagner with potential focus on shadow placement for Micka Newman, week of September, 2,1–27.
4:30 PM	dispersed to home hosts
6:30-8:00 PM	potential welcoming dinner organized by Wagner Rotarians and YST leaders
8:00 pm	home hosts for overnight lodging

Day 7 Friday, September 15

8:00am	breakfast with home hosts
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9:00am	any programming prepared by Wagner Rotarians, and or YST leaders
11:00 AM	depart for Yankton
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Yankton, SD potential lunch with Rich Burns Rotary District 5610 Governor, potentially at South Dakota Magazine historic building, with founding publisher, Bernie Hunhoff, who will be a keynote speaker at the Rotary District conference
1:30 PM	Depart.
2:00- 6:30 pm	Program, and potential reception, arranged by Vermillion Rotarians at the University of South Dakota. Potential guests from Sioux City, John Schneider, PDG, and Patricia Trudel Gordon, Founding Director, Indian Youth of America and Santee Sioux Tribal member
8:00 pm	Arrive Sioux Falls - meet at Krav'nrestaurant for late dinner and picked up by hosts

Day # 8 Saturday, September 16

10:30	tour of Hope Haven International, Stacey Kutil, SD Director of Development (605) 332-8300, 521 Kiwanis Ave. international headquarters and major distribution Center, HHI affiliates with the SD State penitentiary where 60 inmates manufacture chairs. HHI has distributed nearly 140,000 wheelchairs to 109 countries over the past 20 years. It distributed 75 wheelchairs to Pine Ridge in November, 2022. Rotary Clubs and Districts from throughout the world have provided Rotarian volunteers and funds to many HHI distribution teams.
Lunch	TBD (probably Crooked Pint)
2:00 pm	Augustana University is South Dakota's premiere private university. Founded in 1860, it is the oldest university in South Dakota, with 2,100 undergraduate and graduate students. 37 States and 49 foreign countries
3:30	tour Sioux Falls with host families
6:00 pm	Dinner at Minervas with a presentation by Dawn Marie Johnson school board member, who is a Tribal member

Day # 9, Sunday, September, 17

8:00 am	tour Center for Western Studies
10:30 am	Tour Good Earth State Park
11:00 am	Depart for Brookings
12:00 noon	South Dakota SD State University (approximately 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the largest university in South Dakota) at Brookings. Participate in program being developed by Michael Gonda, President, Brookings Rotary Club, and JR LaPlante, Associate Vice President, SDSU, and former Secretary, South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations.
Noon to 1:30 PM	Meet with SDSU Indigenous Studies faculty and staff @ American Indian Studies Center
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM	Visit SD Art Museum: Oscar Howe Exhibit, featuring world famous Yanktoni Dakota artist (1915-1983): <i>One of the 20th Century's Most Innovative Native American Painters, Howe Challenged Stereotypes and Created Pathways for Native Painters</i>

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Visit McCrory Gardens (admission fee but may call and try to get waived) <i>In case of bad weather, we'll switch out McCrory with the Agricultural Heritage Museum.</i>
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Rest at host homes - Home hosted overnight by Brookings Rotarians
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Dinner and reception (location TBD)

Day # 10 Monday, September 18

8:00-9:00 am	breakfast with home hosts. Depart 9 AM
9:30 -11:30 am	Flandreau Sioux Tribe headquarters in Flandreau, South Dakota, program being arranged by Lynne Hart, FST member and former famous National Rodeo Association rodeo clown, and political activist, whose speech to the South Dakota legislature led to their approval of Martin Luther King's national holiday end, creating the first State holiday, recognizing Native American day, formally Columbus Day throughout the US on October 12 annually.
1:00 pm	Arrive Mitchell South Dakota to participate in program being developed by Mitchell Rotary club members, potential hosted lunch with Rotarians, tour of prehistoric Indian village, and possible reception at the McGovern library at Dakota Wesleyan University, home, hosting

Day # 11, Tuesday, September 19

8:00-9:00 am	breakfast with host families
10:00 am arrive	Dignity statue at Chamberlain, South Dakota. Designed by Dale Lamphere and erected in September 2016, the 50-foot stainless steel Dignity statue depicts a Native American woman in Plains-style clothing holding a star quilt behind along her back. The statue looks over the Missouri River in Chamberlain, South Dakota, and represents the courage and wisdom of the Lakota and Dakota people who hail from the area.
Depart 10:30 am	
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, tribe of Fort Thompson, South Dakota. Meet Tribal leaders
1:30-3:30 pm	meet with leaders of lower Brule, Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule
5:00 pm	arrive Pierre, South Dakota, and home, hosted by Pierre area Rotarians
6:30-8:30 PM	reception and program at historic Saint Charles Hotel, honoring the Wiradjuri delegation, as well as a Rotary delegation from Denmark
9:00 PM	Home Hosted by Pierre/Fort Pierre Rotarians

Day # 12 Tuesday, September 20

8:00-9:00 am	breakfast with home hosts
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9:00 am	David Flute, Secretary, South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations, 711 E. Wells St. (605) 773-3415 (Dawn, Executive Assistant) Mission is to: Recognize the nine sovereign tribes who share our geographical borders as distinct political entities. Support their self-governance efforts. Work with their chosen leaders in a cooperative government to government relationship in order to improve the quality of life for all South Dakota citizens. Identify, develop and/or coordinate federal state and local resources to increase partnerships between state and tribal agencies. Introduce and/or support any legislation that would improve the quality of life for the Native American population in the state.
10:15- 10:30	REQUESTED photo opportunity with Governor Kristi, Noem, SD, capital, together with Danish Rotary and delegation. Depart 10:30.
11:30am - 1:30 pm	hosted and briefed by Julie Garreau founding CEO, Jerrica Willow, Program Director and staff of Cheyenne River Youth Project. Eddie Wyman is scheduled to stay with CRYP for his shadowing. Remaining Mob Depart 1:30
4:00 pm	arrive Rapid, City for home hosting

Day # 13, Thursday, September 21

9:30 AM	depart for shadow placements
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