

Rotary  **Friendship Exchange**



**District 9700
Newsletter**

Passing the baton

Following many years of great service to the Rotary Friendship Exchange program Lance Gillespie retired from the District 9700 Chair of the Friendship Exchange. During his time many successful exchanges occurred all around the world. Thanks to Lance and Robyn, Lance's capable commitment and organizational skills, the program has strengthened in our district. The new chair is John Willing from the Rotary Club of Orange Daybreak. John can be contacted on mobile: 0418 223 007 or john.willing@bigpond.com

What is Rotary Friendship Exchange



The Rotary Friendship Exchange program gives Rotarians and their families the opportunity to experience other cultures firsthand, by participating in reciprocal visits with Rotarians from other countries and their families. Introduced in 1984, this program aims to advance international understanding among Rotarians. It provides Rotarians with the opportunity to form personal contacts and make long-lasting friendships while exploring different areas of the world.

Practical considerations

Rotary Friendship Exchange is funded entirely by the program participants, and exchanges are carried out at no expense to Rotary International. Generally, guests are responsible for their travel expenses and personal spending (for example, souvenirs, snacks, toiletries, camera film, etc.), while hosts are expected to provide housing, meals, and sightseeing opportunities — the same courtesies that would be extended to a visiting friend.

An outbound team travels to another district paying for their own travel, often linking the visit of several weeks with their own travel. It is usual, though not mandatory, that the team attends some Rotary meetings and activities, in the host district. They are often asked to do a short presentation on the 9700 district.

The host district usually provides all transport whilst within the district ensuring that the team is transported from club to club.

The District Chair usually makes initial contact with districts and advertises upcoming programs.

Future Programs

2017

- In March 2017, an incoming team of Rotarians from District 1200 from **Somerset** in the United Kingdom will be visiting our district. An outgoing team will be visiting Somerset in June 2017. This program has proved very popular and was filled early. A waiting list exists.
- In September, a team of Rotarians from our district will visit Vancouver with a return trip to our district from Vancouver by a team in November. This team will be led by Ray Pluis from Leeton. If there are Rotarians interested in participating in this visit please contact the District Chair, John Willing.



2019



Plans are underway for an exchange to India in 2019. At this stage in April/ May 2019 an incoming team of Rotarians from District 3011 **New Delhi** will be visiting our district. An outgoing team will be visiting New Delhi in November. If there are Rotarians interested in participating in this visit please contact the District Chair, John Willing.

Several other exchanges are in the planning stages over the next few years to Nova Scotia and Wales. More on these later.

Please understand that all visits at this stage other than those in 2017 are proposals only and will be confirmed as they get closer. Vacancies on the trips fill rapidly and Rotarians are invited to forward an expression of interest as soon as they are able. Usually the team consists of 12 members.

It is necessary for those indicating an Expression of Interest to Attend an Exchange Visit to accept the need to be part of reciprocal arrangements. It is traditional that team members organize a visit including hosting, travel and exploration of their immediate town through their affiliating local clubs. This may have an impact on e-club Rotarians.

Regards

John Willing
District Chair
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