



**DISTRICT D9700
ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE
NEWSLETTER
September 2013
DG – Geoff Tancred**



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What is Rotary Friendship Exchange? *The Friendship Exchange Program is an International exchange program for Rotarians and Rotary couples that provide participants with the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians, visiting their clubs and participating in the lifestyle/activities of their communities. The goals of the exchange are to advance international understanding and peace through visits across borders, as well as promote interclub relationships, fellowships and service projects. The Rotarians participating gain the opportunity to make long lasting friendships while exploring different areas of the world.*

What is happening in District 9700? *Over the last few years successful exchanges have been undertaken with Districts in the USA, UK and India. Exchanges are currently taking place with District 6200 in Louisiana and District 7120 New York State. Further exchanges are planned and if you are at all interested you need to be in touch very soon as these exchanges are filling fast.*

District 6200 - Louisiana	Outbound – April 2013	Inbound – October 2013	
District 7200 – New York state	Outbound – September 2013	Inbound – May 2015	Pre Rotary Convention
District 5360 – Canada	Outbound – August 2015	Inbound – June 2015	Post Rotary Convention
District 2380 - Sweden	Outbound – August 2014	Inbound – April 2015	

Rotary Friendship Exchange Louisiana Apr/May/2013 – Team Members Greg & Beth McVicker Narrandera, Cliff & Sonia Workman Boorowa, John & Lois Willing, John & Ann Fraser – Orange, David & Jenny Williams - Forbes



What an amazing experience and a wonderful place! Our host Rotarians excelled themselves in 'Service above Self.' The hospitality that we enjoyed was something to cherish forever.

Right from the first day with an extensive tour throughout New Orleans by our host, we checked out the old French Quarter with all the houses painted in every believable pastel colour in every street, Bourbon Street with all the hustle, bustle, colour and jazz playing and at night the experience of Cajun food with more jazz. To Houma and beyond, Lake Charles, Opelousas and Baton Rouge, as the delta of the Mississippi River is subject to flooding all the highways are raised concrete pavements to enable timely intercity transport.

Visits to three restored Plantation

homes, slave villages, museums, Botanical Gardens and buildings reminded us of their history and heritage. Boat trips through the Bayous to view alligators other water inhabitants was enjoyed by our group.

Our Friendship Exchange, being hosted by Rotarians, enduring friendships have been formed, not only with our host, but also with our team who travelled together.

We are eagerly looking forward to be able to reciprocate in like manner this coming October and introduce the RFE team from Louisiana to District 9700 and our club members. Team Leader – Greg McVicker

