

15th October 2018

## Rotary District 9670 Youth Exchange Programs

Dear Rotarians,

As Chair of Rotary District 9670 Youth Exchange it is my priority to keep each of you as individuals and collectively as clubs fully informed as to what is happening with these programs.

Presently we have some 17 inbound students each from a different country that are being hosted by our clubs and families across our District. These students arrived July/August this year and will leave us around July next year. I extend my thanks to all for this support which facilitates this educational and cultural exchange. We are developing fellowship and international understanding through this program which is integral for a world which is struggling with acceptance, tolerance and understanding towards our fellow world citizens.

As part of the reciprocal arrangement we are preparing some 15 young adults of our own, sponsored by your clubs to embark on an exchange in January 2019 concluding in January 2020. To the sponsoring clubs thank you for your support and investment in the youth of your communities who will become the future leaders of our society.

We presently have some 16 of our own students from this District on exchange in various countries across the world and they will arrive home early January. We will celebrate their achievements at our Debrief in early February 2019. Thanks to clubs for your sponsorship of these students.

Legislation in NSW changed a few years ago where students who participated in Long Term Student Exchanges were mandated to return to school upon completion of their exchange year. The success or the demise of Exchange Programs lies with us all. Individuals both Rotarians and non-Rotarians will be required to support and advocate for this program to ensure growth and development into the future.

I have attached another form seeking your support for next year's Inbound Exchange Program. I have been honest and frank in what the Committee sees as the direction which we must take to embed Youth Exchange as a core component of Rotary District 9670 Club agendas as you are the lifeline of this exchange program success. I ask that you complete the other form and return by the due date.

Fundamental Long-Term Exchange students previously completed their schooling in Australia and then participated in an exchange year where they went to school in a foreign country, returned home and progressed to employment or further education. The position is now students tend to break their study pattern whilst in the junior years of high school years 9 or 10 participate in the exchange program and return to complete schooling a year later.

**David Roach**

**Chairman**

**2017-2020**

**District 9670 YEP Committee**

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