

AN EXTRAORDINARY
EXPERIENCE



[www: rotarydistrict9999.org](http://www.rotarydistrict9999.org)

Rotary
District 9999



South Island
New Zealand

Rotary Youth Exchange

*Introduction to 2027 -2028
RYE programme*



INTRODUCTION

A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR A YOUNG PERSON

- One of Rotary's oldest youth programmes informally starting in 1927 and formally a Rotary International programme in 1959
- Over 9,000 young people exchange each year with 80 countries
- Purpose to build international goodwill and understanding



SOME FAMOUS ALUMNI

- Matthew McConaughey credits his Rotary Youth Exchange year as igniting a love of travel and different cultures (USA to Australia)
- Rebel Wilson loved her time in South Africa although she did contract Malaria. (Australia to South Africa)
- Matty McLean quotes that he was so lucky to spend a year living in Austria. Matty's siblings all completed a RYE. (NZ to Austria)

FAMOUS FACES
Matthew McConaughey: Just another Youth Exchange student

Before he became a Hollywood movie star, Matthew McConaughey was just another student in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Except for one thing. "The girls were always chasing him, even when he was with us," says Rotarian Ray Crocker, McConaughey's former host father in Warnervale, Australia.

But McConaughey didn't have time for the girls, and the Youth Exchange program doesn't allow students to date. So, he kept busy attending classes at Gorokan High School and helping out on the Crocker's farm, where the family raises horses and chickens.

The actor did keep one Australian girl close to his heart, though: his host mom, Eileen Crocker.

While promoting the movie *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* on an Australian talk show in 2003, McConaughey talked about Mrs. Crocker, who was in the hospital, and wished her well. She died later that year.

"It gave her a big lift in her dying days for him to mention her by name," says Ray Crocker, a member of the Rotary Club of Toukley. "All the nurses there gave her very special attention after that." In addition

to carrying out individual acts of kindness, McConaughey is a regular on the celebrity fundraiser circuit. In July, he auctioned off his 1971 Corvette Stingray convertible for US\$61,600 to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims through Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network.

McConaughey also volunteered with the Angel Network, touring areas affected by Katrina, keeping an online journal, and appearing on Winfrey's show in September to talk about his experience.

That giving spirit doesn't surprise Crocker at all. "I know from his family upbringing, that would have just been part of his ethos growing up," Crocker says. "Coming up in that sort of environment, [the charity work] would have just been a



McConaughey with the Crockers (right) and at the premiere of the romantic comedy *Failure to Launch*



INBOUND AND OUTBOUND

- *Two parts to the exchange*
- *Inbound students who usually arrive in July for 1 year and are hosted by local Rotary Clubs and families*
- *Outbound students, Kiwi students who head overseas for 1 year from January each year. Sponsored by local Rotary Clubs*



COUNTRIES WE EXCHANGE WITH

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Austria
- France
- Germany
- Sweden
- Switzerland



We also are considering other Countries in the future.

YOUTH PROTECTION AT THE HEART

- Youth Protection is at the heart of our programme
- All host families are Police Vetted
- Each student is appointed a Sponsor and Host Counsellor
- All Club Presidents who host a student are Police Vetted and must undergo Youth protection Course online
- For the safety of our students and volunteers!



WHY GET INVOLVED?

- Rotary Youth Exchange is one of Rotary's most prestigious programmes
- Builds international goodwill and understanding
- Offers service opportunities
- Clubs that host a student have added vibrancy and love showing off NZ
- Opportunity to support a local Kiwi student
- Recruit new Rotarians through students or their parents!



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- *Sponsor an Outbound Student*
- *Host an Inbound Student*



SPONSORING AN OUTBOUND

- *Local Kiwi student who goes overseas for a year*
- *Promote the programme to local schools*
- *Become an Ambassador for NZ and local club*
- *Cost to clubs approx \$100USD per month*



HOSTING AN INBOUND

- Overseas student who lives in your community
- Connection with your club
- Hosted by Rotarians and local families
- Opportunity to be involved in Club activities
- Cost to clubs approx \$1,200NZD



GET INVOLVED

- Applications are now open until 20 May 2026.
- Looking for young people who are:
 - Aged 15 - 17 1/2 as at January 2027
 - Keen to be ambassadors for NZ
 - High achievers and community minded
 - Can ideally host an inbound student for a period of 12 months. (e.g: Host families for 3-4 months and may not be Rotarians).



Want to spend a year living overseas?

Apply to be a Rotary Youth Exchange student now!

Where can you go?

- Sweden
- Germany
- France
- Austria
- Switzerland
- Chile
- Argentina
- Brazil

Apply now!

We're looking for you!

Are you keen to learn to speak a new language, be immersed in a new culture, make new friends and travel?

We're looking for students who are keen to be ambassadors and live overseas!

For more information: dave.rotary9999@gmail.com <https://rotarydistrict9999.org/page/rotary-youth-exchange>

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