



Youth Exchange Program District 9630 Rotary International Australia



Students – Parents – Rotarians

Enclosed is your copy of 'The Boomer', the Outbound YEP student magazine compiled from the reports sent by the current students. As you read this, the second Boomer for 2011, the reports are being received in readiness for the third and final magazine this year. Before we know it, our class of 2011 will be back on Australian shores!

Unlike in previous years, there has been no chairman's message as an introduction to the 2011 Boomers. With the many changes to the YEP Committee, time has become our enemy, so we apologise and hope that this 'farewell' letter will suffice as the Chairman's message – or more correctly, ex-Chairman – but more on that shortly.

As is obvious from the reports, the young men and women who boarded the planes in January – no doubt, some with nerves and trepidation – are on a journey of discovery and self awareness. The comments and insights reflected in the Boomer reports are proof that they are an extraordinary group of exchange students who have taken every opportunity, who have listened and learnt at the training seminars and were well selected by their sponsor clubs. Well done students, Rotary Clubs of District 9630, our out-going committee and primarily, the parents who can be extremely proud of the way they raised their children who will become our future leaders – Rotarians in the making, we hope? The world of Rotary gives so much, in so many ways, and these young adults are well aware of, and grateful to, this organisation that has opened doors for them that would otherwise not have been possible.

So back to the Chairman's message and the changes in 2011 to the Committee . . .

Your new Chairman, Geoff, and his partner, Rosemary, have a proven track record in looking after our youth. As past RYEP committee members and past Chairman of Interact, along with their other Rotary commitments (the contribution to The Variety Bash is just another level to their community service!), their dedication precedes them. We leave this program in capable hands. However, the handover to Geoff and Rosemary has made us realise how much is stored in the head and heart. Not everything can be committed to the written word; rules and protocols are vital but instincts, compassion and understanding are equally important when dealing with our youth. Again, we say with confidence, that RYEP in D9630 is heading in the right direction with Geoff, Rosemary and their committee.

Not only is the success of the program dependent upon the Chairman, but also a committed and passionate committee is necessary. To compound the time restraints and learning curve for Geoff and Rosemary, they have lost six such members from their committee: Country Co-ordinators, Ralph and Karen Praeger, Treasurer and former Treasurer, Rob and Michelle McDowall, Secretary and Website Manager, Geoff St Clair and Souvenirs Co-ordinator, Lorelle St Clair. Their assistance to us has been invaluable and they will be greatly missed.

PP Joe Beath District Chairman D9630 YEP 2008 – 2011

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However, the glass is half full, not half empty, with John and Kerry Parkinson, Craig and Helen Benham and Craig and Debbie Clarke all remaining on the committee to support Geoff and Rosemary with their passion, dedication and experience. All of these wonderful Rotarians and partners, along with past committee members, have made our time in the chair easier and extremely enjoyable.

As we leave the YEP committee, there are many other people who have helped us and given us their support – in particular, past YEP Chair, John and Sue Mulraney, PDG's Chris Wright, Nick Curry and Anne Brand, DG Debbie James, DGE Annette Richards and past Youth Protection Chairman, Chris Hopkins. Thanks! These are just a few of the great Rotarians with whom, through YEP, we have been fortunate enough to be associated. There are many more throughout the district, the state, the country and around the world.

YEP has also enabled us to make many friends, the parents of students, both here and overseas. But best of all that the program has given us? Almost 400 'sons' and 'daughters', whose lives have been changed by the opportunity they have been given. Besides us, these young men and women have had a positive effect on many others. So to reiterate the words we have heard many times over from students, "Thanks, Rotary Youth Exchange".

We look forward to receiving the final Boomer reports from our very last, hence very special, group of outbound 'sons' and 'daughters', the classes of 2011 and, of course, we will be there to greet them at the airport and proudly witness their graduation in 2012, closing a very important chapter in their, and our, lives.

The enclosed Boomer will soon (or by the time you read this may already) be available to read / download from our website - www.yep.rotary9630.org .

The site also enables you to access further information, contacts and forms relating to RYEP in our District.

Please continue to support this program in whatever capacity you can or take the opportunity to start supporting it – you'll be helping to bring the world closer together and to make a lasting impression on so many young lives.

Farewell, thanks and enjoy the read!

Yours in Rotary Service

Joe and Dee Beath



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