Rotary
District 9800

2025-2026

ROTARY PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

Download from:
www.altonacityrotary.org.au

A Summary of Rotary Programs for Schools that may be offered by Local Rotary Clubs

Rotary District 9800

Rotary Programs for Schools*

Overview

Foreword by Rotary District 9800 Governors

At the heart of every thriving community is its youth – full of promise, potential, and the power to shape a better future. Through a wide range of youth programs, Rotary seeks to empower the next generation by providing opportunities for leadership, personal growth, service, and global citizenship. Aligned with this year's Rotary theme, **"Unite for Good",** these initiatives bring together students, schools, communities, and Rotary clubs to foster collaboration, compassion, and positive change.

This publication highlights the diverse programs available to school students, from local service projects and leadership camps to international exchanges and skill-building initiatives. Each program reflects Rotary's belief that when young people are supported and united in purpose, they can make a lasting impact – on themselves, their peers, and the world around them.

Rotary youth programs, and those that deliver them, inspire students to connect, grow, and **unite for good.**

Peter Shepheard
District Governor, D9800
2025-2026

The programs summarised within this publication provide a wonderful tapestry of opportunity and experience. They have been developed over time by dedicated practitioners and people willing to give whatever their capacity to enrich the lives and create opportunity for our future family and society leaders.

I thank the dedicated School Leaders, Teachers, Rotaractors and Rotarians involved in planning and delivering "Rotary Programs for Schools."

Ron Payne
District Governor, D9800
2023-24

Sources

*This document may be downloaded from:
https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/youth
*Rotary club list: (https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/ClubDirectory).

Continued on next page

Overview, Continued

Endorsements

Josephine Falzarano (Director Youth Pathways D9800, 2025-26):
Students who complete our Rotary programs often say that it was one of the best experiences of their life, they feel more confident in themselves and motivated to take more risks to achieve their goals.

One RYPEN student said "This camp wasn't like one I'd previously been on. It wasn't just a fun weekend to do a bunch of crazy and daring activities, but was a leadership, team building and problem-solving camp with interesting and interactive workshops."

Warwick Cavell (Rotary Vocational Service Chair, D9800, 2023-24):
In the past, many Rotary clubs had a fragmented approach to schools which made it difficult for schools to understand how Rotary can help them. It is anticipated that preparing this summary of Rotary Programs for Schools will make it easier for Schools to tap into Rotary, and easier for Rotary clubs to develop partnerships with their local schools.

Julie Mason AM (Rotary Learning and Development Chair & School Principal- retired):
There is no doubt that Education and Rotary share common values and the notion of humanitarian service to peers, youth, and families. It seems that, "It takes a village to raise a child", is even more relevant now and in the future. It must be understood that schools are busy environments with multiple challenges, driven by meeting targets and creating a culture of teamwork and support for students and families. Rotary can provide resources both financial and human to support the needs in a school and this opportunity can be such a life changing moment for students and offer a scaffold for disadvantaged students.

I have been so fortunate to have been involved in Education for over fifty years and of that time over thirty years in Rotary. During that time students have attended camps and excursions thanks to Rotary funds. A special literacy program was established for students and families to enable preschool children to develop a love of reading. EarlyAct and Interact student leadership development programs became a feature of the school. Students honed skills in project management, public speaking, teamwork, fundraising, writing grant applications and marketing. Families talk with pride about the impact Rotary had on the development of their children.

Rotary can support and enhance the opportunities for children to reach their full potential and see themselves as truly global citizens.

Overview, Continued

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Rotary District 9800

Programs for Schools at a Glance

Introduction The table below summarises Programs for Schools by subject.

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Ethical Principles: The Rotary 4-Way Test

Introduction

- As Society adapts to the opportunities and challenges presented by the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Rotary's long-standing 4-Way Test is likely to provide a valuable moral compass.
- Embracing the 4-Way test not only shapes our character but also sets a foundation for becoming responsible and compassionate leaders in the future.

Background

- The Rotary 4-Way Test is a simple yet profound ethical framework that can guide us in making decisions that are fair, truthful, beneficial and respectful of all concerned. It asks four questions that we should ask ourselves when faced with any situation.
- Developed in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor, the test serves as a moral code for personal and business relationships and has been translated into over 100 languages. It is a fundamental part of Rotary's commitment to high ethical standards, and is used by Rotarian's worldwide to evaluate the things they think, say or do.

The 4-Way Test

1. **Is it the TRUTH?**
2. **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

Example

Refer to the posters on pages 10 and 29 which show two practical applications to Mock Job Interviews and a Rotary Poster Design Competition for Year 10 – 12 Students with a Theme "Creating a Better Future."

Core Rotary District 9800 Programs for Schools

Overview

Introduction	These Core Programs are typically run by “District Committees” and often involve multiple Rotary Clubs.

Rotary District 9800

EarlyAct (Leadership Development- Primary)

Description	EarlyAct is a service Club for primary school students and is sponsored by a local Rotary Club. Its mission and operation are closely linked to the ideals of Rotary. EarlyAct Clubs strive to promote goodwill, understanding and peace through the active participation of their student members, so that with committed citizenship and effective leadership they may improve the quality of life of their school, local and global communities. Involvement in an EarlyAct Club teaches values such as caring, respect, responsibility, tolerance, compassion, friendship and leadership.
Years	Year 5 & 6. Generally meet monthly during school hours.
Examples	Altona City Rotary Club (Anne Morton) at Altona P-12 College.
Costs	Supported by a local Rotary Club.
Benefits	Involvement in the EarlyAct Student Leadership Program provides the following benefits for students: • Learning the value of teamwork both as leaders and members of a team. • Developing skills and confidence in public speaking. • Use knowledge in technology to enhance and demonstrate marketing skills. • Develop and refine skills in project management, including publishing goals and strategies, prioritising actions, setting, and adhering to deadlines and agreeing on role expectations. • Experiencing satisfaction upon success and dealing with challenges. • Teachers and parents do notice a higher level in engagement in the power of persuasion through writing and seeking support for projects. Rotary mentors often help create opportunities at local and international level that support student ideas for projects.
Contact	PDG Julie Mason (Rotary Wyndham) E: julie.mason@wyndhamrotary.org

Rotary District 9800

Interact (Leadership Development- Senior)

Description	Interact is Rotary International's service Club for secondary students. Interact Clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary Clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 20,372 Clubs in 139 countries and geographical areas, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. Club membership is non gender specific and can draw from a single school or from two or more schools in the same community. Each year, Interact Clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas Clubs and learn the importance of: • Developing leadership skills and personal integrity. • Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others. • Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work. • Experience of participating in committees of management. • Advancing international understanding and goodwill.
Ages	12 to 18 (Years 7-12). Generally meet monthly during school hours.
Dates	Ongoing.
Cost	Supported by a local Rotary Club.
Contact	**Interact Chair:** Des O'Shanassy (Rotary Hoppers Crossing) **Email:** desoshanassy@hotmail.com **Interact Deputy Chair:** Jane Watters (Rotary Woodend) **Email:** brenjanewatters@gmail.com
QR Code	

Mock Job Interviews

Introduction

Mock Job Interviews for high school students are a common Vocational Service project to assist students prepare for the real thing. They are generally organized by Careers Staff at each school.

Rotary Hawthorn

The annual mock job interview program, conducted with Auburn High School Year 9 students, includes the following steps:

- In the school's "Education for Life" program, students prepare a written application for a position selected from one of 15 job advertisements. Students receive a booklet to guide them through the application and interview process.
- These documents are forwarded to the two Rotary interviewers scheduled to interview that applicant.
- Interviews are conducted for 10 minutes, followed by discussion of feedback on what the student did well, and where they can improve.
- The Rotarians and Partners who participate feel the experience enhances students' confidence, job readiness, and career planning.

Rotary Brighton

- At Brighton Secondary College, mock job interview volunteers come from Rotary and other organisations like Lions.
- Students are scheduled for 15 min. mock interviews. The volunteer then has 5 minutes for writing feedback.

Rotary Richmond (20+ years experience with Mock Job Interviews)

- A D9800 student booklet is available covering how to prepare resumes and cover letters for a wide selection of simulated Job Advertisements, and how to prepare for an interview.
- Interview packs are sent to the interviewers 1 week before interviews.
- Paired interviewers interview students in the school library commencing at 30 min. intervals. Where practical, interviewers are paired according to profession. E.g., Medical professionals would interview students interested in nursing.
- An important part of the process is giving students feedback on both their applications and interview.
- Students also complete a feedback sheet, provided later to interviewers.

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Continued on next page

Ethical Use of AI This poster is designed for students preparing for Mock Job Interviews.

ETHICAL USE of AI for MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS

Rotary District 9800

Rotary's 4-WayTest

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

DO's	DON'Ts
Be honest– only use real skills and experiences	Don't make up jobs, skills or awards
Use AI as a helper, not a shortcut	Don't copy-paste AI Text
Get layout & formatting tips	Don't hide your own voice
Ask for interview practice questions	Don't submit AI's work as yours
Build skills that will help in real life	Don't let AI do all the work

TIP

Think of AI as a coach on the sidelines, not the player on the field.

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

Description

This international youth program simulates the workings of the United Nations Assembly by having two senior students from a number of schools represent a particular UN country.
The assembly aims to build goodwill, world peace and understanding through the experience of tackling issues from the viewpoint of the team's "adopted" country, even where this may be contrary to their own views.
The students debate on matters of world political and social concern.
Students use research, debating and public speaking skills to address a wide range of contemporary and world-focussed issues.
The program extends over a weekend and it is chaired and judged by Rotarians. MUNA is held in May each year.

Ages

Student in years 10, 11 and 12.

Dates

Usually in May.

Costs

The sponsoring Rotary Club pays the full cost (Estimate $400 - $500 per team of 2).

Contact

MUNA Co-chair: Adriaan Adolph (Woodend)
Email: rotarymuna9800@gmail.com

MUNA Co-Chair: Sally Armstrong (Keilor West)
Email: rotarymuna9800@gmail.com

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Rotary
District 9800

Youth Public Speaking Competitions

Introduction

- WYNSPEAK, and the AINGER PECK AWARD are both longstanding successful D9800 Rotary Youth Speaking Competitions that involve 70 secondary schools annually. BAYSPEAK commenced in 2021 for Secondary students around the Bayside region of Victoria.
- Meets the second aspect of Vocational Service: "Empowering others through training and skill development."
- Costs: Free entry- no fees.

Objectives

- To provide a vehicle for young people to grow their self-confidence, build their creativity, critical thinking, and leadership skills via Public Speaking opportunities, as well as improve poise and professionalism.
- Assist students to develop and grow both personally and professionally by developing traits which are invaluable in everyday life.

Competition Options

Junior (years 7-9) & Senior (years 10-12).

Speeches

- **Main Speech:** typically 4-min speech on stage in front of an audience on a topic of their choice (excluding controversial topics).
- **Short Notice Speech:** impromptu 2-min speech. Topic selected from choice of 3 given to students.
- **Adjudication:** by experienced adjudicators, using defined criteria.

Resources

- Flyer and Template: refer D9800 Website, Vocational menu.
- WYNSPEAK: Des O'Shanassy, M: 0401 287 050. www.wynspeak.org
- AINGER PECK AWARD: Ben Hosking, E: bhosking@bigpond.net.au
- BAYSPEAK: Arthur Hubbard. https://bayspeak.com.au
- Balwyn Four Way Test Competition: https://balwynrotary.org.au

QR Code for Wynspeak

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)

Description	**The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)** is a weekend camp for young people where participants develop their potential through a mixture of lecture-style sessions and adventure-based learning. **RYPEN** is designed for those students who are seen as upcoming leaders in your school and who just need a bit of a push and a confidence boost to start achieving their full potential. During the weekend students are encouraged to learn to understand themselves and others and manage their relationships, lives, work, and learning more effectively. **RYPEN** provides an experience of ideas, problems, and social experiences which will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards and allow them to broaden their horizons culturally, socially and academically. Challenge by choice is an important aspect of the program experience.
Student Testimonial	"This camp wasn't like one I'd previously been on. It wasn't just a fun weekend to do a bunch of crazy and daring activities, but was a leadership, team building and problem-solving camp with interesting and interactive workshops."
Ages	15 to 17 years, Years 9, 10, 11.
Dates	April and October
Cost	Paid by sponsoring Rotary Club. (approximately $300 pp).
Contact	**RYPEN** Chair: Suzanne Zammit (Altona) **Email:** suz.zammit@gmail.com
QR Code	

Rotary Youth Exchange

Description

A reciprocal 12-month secondary exchange between students sponsored by Rotary Clubs in District 9800 and Rotary Clubs in other Districts overseas.
Through Rotary youth exchange you will spend a year studying abroad living with Rotary volunteer host families who will introduce you to a new culture, language and lifestyle in one of the countries we exchange with.

Countries

We have MOUs to exchange with Brazil, Denmark, Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Italy, France and Germany.

Ages

You must be under 17 yrs and 6 months on the 1st January.

Dates

- Outbound: Depart January and return January following year.
- Inbound: Arrive in July and depart in July following year.

Costs

- The full cost is payable by the parents of the outgoing student.
- Approximately $8000 plus the cost of the Eurotour or equivalent.

Contact

Chair: Graeme Bird
Email: graeb7@icloud.com

Deputy Chair: Garry Gunnell
Email: gunnell1@bigpond.com

QR Code

Science Programs

Introduction

The Rotary District 9800 Youth Committee promotes the selection and/or sponsorship of students by Rotary Clubs for two programs:

- National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), and
- Science Experience.

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

National Youth Science Forum

- A program for students commencing Year 12 considering a science, engineering or technology-based career.
- Arrangements in 2024 progressing for residential sessions, two in Canberra and one in Brisbane each run over 12 days in January as well as state hubs in April.
- This program spans two Rotary years which includes further short programs during year 12.
- The cost of the residential program is $2850 which does not include travel to the venue.
- NYSF also advised that D9800 will be allocated 36 places with applications to close at end of July and no extensions available.
- D9800 arranging for interviews for the last weekend of August.
- Further information about the program is available: www.nysf.edu.au

NYSF Co-Chair: Chris Richardson (Rotary Essendon North)
Email: d9800nysf@gmail.com

NYSF Co-Chair: Bronwyn Fanning (Rotary Altona City)
Email: d9800nysf@gmail.com

Science Experience

- Several programs of 1-4 days are offered for years 9 and 10 students to have a fun experience with science. Average cost around $200 pp.
- For more information: www.scienceexperience.com.au
- **Co-Chairs:** Chris Richardson (Rotary Essendon North) and Bronwyn Fanning (Rotary Altona City):

Email: d9800nysf@gmail.com

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Rotary District 9800

Year 11-12 Scholarship Guidelines for 2026-2027

Purpose	To encourage talented and motivated young people, currently in Year 10 and facing financial barriers to success, to complete Year 11 and 12.
Candidates	The scholarship is to be awarded to a student (or two students) who, in the assessment of the school, is talented and motivated, but is hampered by financial disadvantage.
Applications	Schools may apply through their local Rotary Club. Numbers of scholarships available are limited.
Disclosure	Whilst welcomed by Rotary, disclosure of the recipient's name is not reqd.
Scholarship Expenditure	• The scholarship will be paid directly to the school to hold on behalf of the scholarship recipient. The school is to provide a receipt to the sponsor Rotary club for the scholarship funds received. • Scholarship funds are not to be paid to the beneficiary or to the family of the beneficiary. All expenditure is to be managed by the school on behalf of the beneficiary. Where the scholarship recipient makes expenditure directly, it is to be reimbursed by the school on presentation of receipts.
Coverage	Textbooks and stationery, uniforms, camps, excursions, computers, Myki tickets, musical instruments, tuition costs and other course related costs.
Payment timing to school	• Instalment one: $1000 in support of Year 11: prior to 2026 school year. • Instalment two: $1000 in support of Year 12: prior to 2027 school year.
Scholarship Acquittal	• School to provide an interim report on a form provided by Rotary at the end of the school year 2026. • If the student(s) continues to Year 12 studies, your school is required to provide a second and final report to the Rotary club at the end of 2025. • The reports must provide a full account of how the scholarship funds were spent. • Schools are strongly encouraged to fully spend the scholarship funds. Underspent funds are to be returned to the sponsoring Rotary club. • Refer to the report forms to be provided by the sponsor Rotary club.

Pilot Projects

Overview

Introduction

- Many of the established programs in this publication started out as pilot projects. E.g., the Wynspeak Youth Public Speaking Competition started as a Pilot Program in 2003 with 12 students from two schools. It has since grown to involve over 140 students from 46 secondary schools in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne in 2025.
- Rotary is open to exploring potential new projects, expanding current programs, and welcomes recommendations and feedback.
- Innovating through Pilot Projects provides an important opportunity to trial and develop new programs and improve existing ones.
- A Rotary Poster Design Competition (next page) is currently in a Pilot Phase, with an competitions being held in 2024 and 2025.

Visual Communications (Poster Design Competition)

Background

This competition was inaugurated with support from Swinburne University of Technology and was showcased in RDU August 2024 ed.

Rotary
Altona City

2026 ROTARY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

An Introduction for Art & Design Teachers

POSTER THEME:

SHAPING CHANGE: OUR FUTURE, MY VOICE

EXPLORE THE THEME

Examples include:

- Climate change
- Mental health
- Peace building
- STEM education
- Environment protection
- Recognition of First Nations peoples

PRIZES

- 1st: $250 Officeworks voucher
- 2nd: $150 Officeworks voucher
- Winning School: receives a $250 Officeworks voucher
- Certificate for participating students

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Creativity: Is the design imaginative and innovative?
- Clear, accurate and informative content.
- Effective communication: Does the poster attract attention and engage viewers?
- Is there a strong "Call To Action"?
- Description of poster goals
- Ethical use of AI?

BRIEF FOR SCHOOLS

Contact:
info@altonacityrotary.org.au
Visit or Scan the QR Code:
www.altonacityrotary.org.au

TESTIMONIAL:

" It was refreshing to see the students engaging with issues they face with such energy. It was also pleasing to see the diversity of approaches, from the colourful to the mysterious, with effective messaging".

Dr Andrew Haig
Department Chair, Communication Design
Swinburne University's School of Design and Architecture

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

Visual Communications (Poster Design Competition), Continued

Ethical Use of AI This poster is designed for students entering the Poster Competition.

ETHICAL USE of AI for POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Rotary District 9800

"SHAPING CHANGE: OUR FUTURE, YOUR VOICE"

Rotary's 4-Way Test

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

DO's	DON'Ts
Be creative– your ideas are the star!	Letting AI make the whole poster for you
Use AI to help brainstorm ideas	Using others' images without permission
Edit AI-generated images.	Using copyrighted Mat'ls w/o permission
Show your own skills. Be inspiring!	Using people's faces without permission
Describe your poster goals and use of AI	Making misleading or harmful content

TIPs

- The best posters will combine your ideas, your skills, and smart, ethical use of tools.
- Think of AI as a coach on the sidelines, not the player on the field.

Club-Specific Programs for Schools

Overview

Introduction

These programs have proven to be successful by one or more Rotary Clubs, and may be run by one or more Clubs.

Early Years Literacy Development

Introduction

- Baden Powell College (BPC) (City of Wyndham) has students from Prep to Year 9 from over 60 different language groups from 40 different countries.
- Significant levels of poverty prevent many families from providing reading material at home.
- Many parents have English as their second language and are not confident or literate in the English language.

Background

- When BPC tried to purchase reading material in dual languages, it found such material difficult to source.
- It had also been difficult to engage parents, especially women from refugee backgrounds, in activities held at school.

General Approach

- Wyndham Rotarians worked with BPC teachers, senior students, and parents from refugee backgrounds to purchase, translate and prepare picture storybooks in languages that support Early Years Literacy Development in students.
- Picture storybooks were translated into Dinka (a Nilotic dialect cluster spoken by the Dinka people, the major ethnic group of South Sudan).
- Rotary Wyndham also obtained a District Grant to replicate this project and translate picture storybooks into the other five major languages that prevail across the College.

Outcomes

- The project has seen parents engage positively with a school activity, building trust with teachers.
- A bond has also been formed across the various cultures, and now a Library of Languages is available for parents to borrow books so that they can read short stories to pre-school children at home, as well as support their children already attending school.
- Parents have connected to Rotary and are able to see how best Rotary can support marginalised families in our community.
- Supporting early literacy development in young children in local communities could be a wonderful opportunity for Rotary and beneficial for other schools.

Contacts

- PDG Julie Mason:
- E: julie.mason@wyndhamrotary.org

Rotary District 9800

Brighton Primary Reading Volunteers Program

Introduction

- Rotary Brighton North commenced the Reading Coaches program in 2012 and maintains a team of reading coaches.
- The program targets students identified by the school literacy coordinator as needing extra help with reading, particularly reading aloud.
- The program may include students who are dyslexic, suffer from ADHD or those with English as a second language.
- A recent addition to the program is the sponsorship of a story dog who also listens to the students read. Many students open up to these canine companions and look forward to pats and cuddles as part of their session.
- It is a simple project, requires no budget, just volunteer time and a willingness to help young people with reading skills.

Objectives

The program assists students to: read aloud, have conversations about the deeper meaning behind stories and see reading as a lifelong joy.

General Approach

- Rotary administers the program, selects & trains coaches.
- Schools nominate a contact person, select and liaise with students, choose books for coaching sessions.
- Coaching sessions: generally, 1 hour per week/fortnight/Rotarian, held in a public area. Rotarians may share coaching time with the students over alternate weeks- if agreed with the school.
- Rotary nominated coaches must comply with Rotary Policies for working with children including WWCC and Rotary Youth Volunteer Declaration.

Key Success Factors

- Commitment of School Principals and nominated school contacts.
- Open communication between Rotary and participating school.
- Respecting confidentiality.
- Promotion of Reading Coaches program in relevant school media.
- Observing improved reading level of participating students.
- Positive feedback from students and parents.

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Primary School Peace Writing Competition

Introduction

- This project was initiated in 2020 and was inspired by a United Nations Theme "Shaping Peace Together."
- The project also draws on a quote attributed to Lao Tzu:
  - ***"If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours. If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home. If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart."***

Aims & Objectives

- To inspire primary school children to think about peace, by looking within themselves, their surroundings, home, school and community to find and develop peace concepts that could be extended outwards.
- The competition theme is varied for each year.

General Approach

- Years 5 and 6 primary school students.
- Essay length: 500 words maximum.
- No entry fee.
- Theme: varied for each year.
- Dates: an ongoing, annual competition.
- Student Prizes: ~$500 total for 1st, 2nd, 3rd with personalized certificates for prize winners and highly commended entries.
- Teacher recognition awards included.
- Judging: by a panel of Rotarians, Rotary Peace Fellows, and selected citizens.
- Competition Terms and Conditions: available to other Rotary Clubs on request.
- Interstate entries welcomed.

Awards

- Usually in early December.
- May be conducted on ZOOM if there are interstate entries.

Contact

- Peace Projects Coordinator, Swati Baindur, Rotary Wyndham Harbour.
- Email: sbainhud@yahoo.com

Rotary District 9800

Primary School General Writing Competitions

Introduction

This program was initiated by Rotary North Balwyn during 2020 with 60 students and five schools participating in the first year. The schools unanimously supported continuing in the following year.

Objectives

To encourage imaginative thinking and help to improve writing skills for year 6 students.

General Approach

Rotary:
- Invites schools to participate, runs the competition and essay judging.
- Recommended judging panel is 3 people with appropriate skills.
- May select age-appropriate topics in consultation with School contact.

School:
- Nominates a school contact person.
- Contact person advertises the program, liaises with students, provides the essays to Rotary for judging.

Prizes:
- Determined by individual Rotary Clubs.
- Rotary North Balwyn 2020 prizes were:
  - Eight awards in total (1st, 2nd, 3rd plus 5 encouragement awards).
  - Prizes were Officeworks vouchers plus framed certificates.
  - First prize was a $500 voucher each to winning student and school.

Awarding of Prizes:
- Typically, at either a Rotary meeting or a School Event organized by the School.

Key Success Factors

- Commitment of School Principal, Contact person and Year 6 teachers.
- Relevant prizes to encourage student participation.
- Open communication between Rotary and Schools at all times.
- Confidentiality of sensitive information.
- Appropriately skilled judging panel.

References

- Refer Template available on District 9800 website: https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/vocational
- The template includes examples of "Competition Overview, Timing & Judging, Prizes," an Invitation Letter, and an Essay.

Rotary District 9800

Rotary Awards for Schools

Introduction	Rotary Clubs offer a variety of Student awards to Schools. Common elements typically include: • Rotary Club offers an award to a school. • Award criteria agreed between School and Rotary. • Award typically includes a certificate and a voucher. • School selects awardee. • School or Rotary arranges Award presentation at a Rotary meeting or a School Event. E.g., Annual School Presentation Ceremony. • Invitation for student to visit and speak at a Rotary club meeting.
Citizenship Award	• Name: "Rotary Altona City Citizenship Award" • Criteria and Student Selection: by School • Value: $500.00. • Presentation by Rotary President/delegate at a School Event.
Community Service Award	• Initiated by Rotary Melbourne (2007) then transferred to Rotary Richmond. • 2 Awards (senior and middle school). • Certificates and cheque prizes. • Service examples: hospital visiting, volunteering, fund raising, unpaid assistance to members of the wider community.
STEM Award	• Rotary Richmond. • For innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths. • For a year 10, 11, or 12 student.

Rotary
District 9800

Rotary Excellence in Education Awards

Introduction

Early Career Stage Awardees with 2 School Principals (retired)

- Rotary Teacher Awards were proposed by PDG Julie Mason, a Victorian Principal, and initiated by Rotary Altona City in 2018.
- A Rotary Teacher Awards Program meets the 3rd aspect of Vocational Service: "Inspire Others to act with integrity by following Rotary's guiding principles."

Objectives

- Recognise and honour outstanding performance in local schools.
- Encourage early career stage teachers, experienced teachers, and outstanding teamwork in schools.
- Open opportunities for increased collaboration between Rotary and Schools, increase Rotary visibility, attract new members.

Award Categories

- Encouragement Awards: for early career stage teachers.
- Achievement Awards: for more experienced teachers.
- Team Awards: where a group of teachers or support staff have collaborated effectively to address an important challenge or new development for a school.

General Approach

- Invite local schools to submit nominations, which include citations and for Team Awards, may include a 1-3 min video showcasing the Team's achievements.
- Rotary Vocational Service Award Certificates to be presented to successful nominees at an Event organized and hosted by Rotary.
- Event to be promoted to local Media, Club Newsletters & website.

QR Code

Rotary Peace Poles

Introduction

- Peace Poles are planted bearing the Universal Peace Message "***May Peace Prevail on Earth.***"
- The pole and the message symbolize our common wish for a world at peace. The peace message is written in four languages, one panel on each side of the 4-sided Peace Pole.

General Approach

- Each school is invited to participate by their local Rotary Club with each school selecting which four languages should be featured on their Peace Pole, based on the language usage in each school.
- Each school determines the location where the Peace Poles should be planted within school grounds.
- Once the Peace Pole is installed, the school is invited to participate in the United Nations World Peace Day Ceremony on the third Tuesday in September each year.
- Schools are invited to contact their local Rotary Club to discuss further.

Photo

The photo below shows a 4-sided Peace Pole with the Peace Message.

QR Code

Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge

Introduction Contact: Suzanne Zammit (Rotary Altona) **Email:** suz.zammit@gmail.com

QR Code

Science and Engineering Challenge

Background

- The Science and Engineering Challenge is a nationwide STEM program founded by the University of Newcastle and run in partnership with Rotary Clubs and Deakin University where teams of year 9 & 10 students compete in activities involving the principles of science, engineering and technology (STEM).
- Up to eight schools can compete on a challenge day, each school submitting a team of between 16 and 32 students. Qualifying schools may go on to compete at a state final, and eight winning schools from around Australia are invited to compete at a 1-day national final each year.
- Participating in the Science and Engineering Challenge ignites students' passion for a career in STEM and encourages them to select STEM subjects in their VCE years.

2025 Program

- **Dates:** In June 2025.
- **Locations:** Geelong Waurn Campus and Melbourne Burwood Campus.
- **Explanatory Videos:** Check out two video links via QR Codes below.
- **Examples of hands-on activities:**
  - Designing an earthquake-proof tower.
  - Building a bridge.
  - Providing electricity to a city.
  - Mastering the art of indigenous fish traps.

2026 Program

- **Program details:** Not available yet- under development.
- **Rotary Coordinator:** Jo Kwok OAM (Rotary Brighton)
  - Email: jo.kwok@brightonrotary.com.au

QR Codes for short videos about the Science and Eng. Challenge

Post-Secondary Rotary Programs for Youth

Overview

Introduction	These programs typically involve students who have turned 18 or who have completed Year 12.

Rotaract

Description

Rotaract District 9800

Rotaract is a Rotary sponsored service Club for young men and women aged 18 and over which makes them true 'partners in service' and key members of the Family of Rotary.

There are more than 8,400 Rotaract Clubs in about 170 countries and geographical areas.

All Rotaract efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with members addressing their communities' physical and social needs while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service.

Mentoring is provided by the sponsoring Club to enable vocational and professional development for individuals and assist in leadership growth. Rotaract Clubs in D9800 undertake fundraising and humanitarian projects of their own, as well as assisting with RYPEN and MUNA programs and other Rotary projects.

Ages

18 and over.

Dates

Ongoing. Meet weekly or as determined by the club bylaws.

Costs

Sponsored by a local Rotary Club.

Contact

Chair: Bronwyn Fanning (Altona City)
Email: bronwyn.fanning@gmail.com

District Rotaract Representative: TBC
Email: drr@rotaract9800.org.au

QR Code

Rotary Youth Alumni Hub

Description	Rotary District 9800 Youth Alumni Hub is being developed to maintain contact with all past participants of Rotary District Youth Programs allowing them to stay in touch with Rotary and to tap into and promote to their networks the ongoing youth programs of Rotary (such as those above). As each Rotary youth program concludes, participants are invited to join the alumni by a program leader who facilitates their membership. The Committee is also looking at new ways to engage former participants in Rotary ideals and projects. The team are always looking for new members, new ideas and opportunities to promote Rotary activities.
Ages	Past participants in any District 9800 youth program.
Dates	Ongoing.
Contact	**Chair:** Chris Richardson (Essendon North) **Email:** cdrichardson@bigpond.com **Deputy Chair:** Bronwyn Fanning (Altona City) **Email:** Bronwyn.fanning@gmail.com
QR Code	

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Description

rotary youth leadership awards

RYLA is a residential camp unlike any other. Over seven days, participants are immersed in a program centred around four key themes: Challenge by choice, diversity, community and time out.

RYLA encourages emerging and experienced leaders to reflect on their own skills and personal strengths to contribute to their communities in a practical manner.

RYLA provides opportunities to share leadership experiences within a diverse group to understand the unique qualities, abilities, and skills of others and how this diversity can empower and encourage participants to facilitate teamwork and greater understanding.

Rotary clubs are invited to nominate, sponsor or part-sponsor a young leader and provide practical support and encouragement.

During the RYLA program there is a formal dinner to which all Rotarians are invited.

Ages

18 to 25.

- Some Clubs (e.g., Rotary Richmond, E: rotaryclubrichmond@gmail.com) offer the program to eligible year 12 students at end of their school year.

Dates

Early December.

Cost

Sponsored by a local Rotary Club (Approximately $950 per participant).

Contact

RYLA Chair: Wayne Hunter (Acting)
Email: ryladistrict9800committee@gmail.com
RYLA Treasurer: Wayne Hunter (Rotary Altona).

QR Code

Building Partnerships with Schools

Overview

Introduction	This section aims to highlight some of the measures that local Rotary Clubs have adopted to help build their partnerships with local schools.

Examples and Tips from Clubs

introduction	This section aims to highlight some of the measures that local Rotary Clubs have adopted to help build their partnerships with local schools.
Examples and Tips	• Invite School Principals (or Deputy/Vice Principals) as guest speakers. • Allocate a Club member to act as the contact point for a School. • Rotary Richmond has been allocated a “Rotary Liaison” staff member from two schools, who are their contact points and aims to have some school staff members as Rotary Club members. • Offer a Rotary presentation to School Council on ”Rotary Programs for Schools.” • The Early Years Literacy Development Project (p. 16) describes an example of Rotarians, Teachers, Parents and Students working together on a joint project. • Maintain contact with a liaison person in the school and establish at the end of each year if that person is still available to work with Rotary and if not, who might be the new person in the school.

Revisions

Objectives

To revise and update this document regularly (minimum 2-yearly):
- When clubs offer new programs that have potential for scale-up.
- As contacts and linked website addresses change.
- As Rotarians or schools offer suggestions for improvement.

Mailbox

Contact:
- bgoodwin@bigpond.com Or info@altonacityrotary.com.au, Or
- Secretary, Rotary D9800 (marjorie.gerlinger@rotary9800.org)

Recent Revisions

Added Programs:
- Ethical Use of AI for Mock Job Interviews and Poster Design Competition.
- Rotary 4-Way Test.
- Rotary Peace Poles.
- Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge.
- Science and Engineering Challenge.
- Added QR Codes to replace website URLs where practical.

Programs Removed:
- Be Your Own Boss.
- Slade Literary Award.