



Last week Grace and I had the privilege to entertain 16 Rotary Youth Exchange students and the District RYE Committee at our home. It was a noisy, fun-filled time mixing with enthusiastic young people who are experiencing what they all describe as, "the best year of my life". There were exchangees from 14 countries who were excited to be together in each other's company. I can't think of a better example to exemplify this month's Rotary theme –

World Understanding. And this month we also celebrate the 110th birthday of Rotary on 23 February. We belong to this amazing worldwide, internationally focused organisation that changes lives in every country. This is something to celebrate and I encourage you and your club to do so, either in a small or large way. A few weeks ago I was at a club that each week acknowledges another international Rotary Club. This is a great idea. Perhaps it is something we should all do occasionally to really acknowledge the other 32,000 clubs around the world that are all committed to the same values and ideals we hold dear.

Our District now has three Global Grants approved through the great work undertaken by Rotarians from the Nedlands, Heirsson and Freshwater Bay clubs. Global Grants are enabling projects across the six areas focus and are an excellent example of how we can work together across clubs and countries to make sustainable change happen.

The Conference at the beautiful and historic Perth Town Hall is fast approaching. The Conference opens on Friday 13th March with a Sundowner Cocktail party at the Floreat Surf Club. The theme is *Looking Forward: 2020 Vision*. Have you registered yet? Don't delay; do it now!

On Saturday there will be a packed program and a great line up of inspiring speakers with much to take away. Lunch will be provided at Stirling Gardens. And on Saturday night we move to the Hyatt Regency Hotel for the District 9455 Ball – Roaring Twenties theme of course!

Here are some of the reasons why you should attend:

- Enjoy the West Coast sunset at the beach-themed opening cocktail party
- Experience the talents of our Rotary Youth Exchange students
- Hear about Walk Free – a world without slavery
- Become immersed in the pop up Rotary displays
- March to end Polio
- Hear young adults tell us why they would join Rotary in 2020
- A powerful story from Carina Hoang and a message about refugees
- Come to the Conference lunch and be part of the Festival of Rotary day in Stirling Gardens (Rotaract style)
- Making dreams possible for people with disabilities, Daren Lomman, Dreamfit and a 2020 partnership with Rotary
- Contribute to the Seeds, Tins and Blankets project
- Hear John Hewko, General Secretary of Rotary and his 2020 vision for Rotary
- Discover Police Commissioner Carl O'Callaghan's thoughts about the community and policing into the future
- Find out what makes a successful Global Grant Project
- Learn about the journey of a Peace scholar
- Be impressed with the Jacob Baron, the Simpson Prize medal winner who will share his reflections on the meaning of ANZAC
- Celebrate Rotary and District 9455 at the District Ball – Roaring 20s style
- Because it will be fun, stimulating and you will have a good time!
- Amazing value at just \$195

Register now <http://www.rotarydistrict9455.org.au/event/8563/district-9455-conference-2015>

Aimee Lord, Rotary of Crawley Member and and coordinator of Uni Camp for Teens (now called Leading Youth Forward) would like to invite district members or their children aged 24 -40 to participate in a potentially wonderful service opportunity.

Aimee is urgently looking to recruit mentors for at-risk teens here in Perth. The commitment is around 7 days in total across the year (all on weekends) but they ask that the mentors to commit to the whole year. The experience is fantastic. Mentors are paired up with an at-risk per teen for the whole year, and spend time at Big Day Out day-trips participating in fun and developmental activities. There is also a 2-day camp coming up in March which kicks the year off.

Key Dates for 2015

If your application is successful, a compulsory training session will be held on Sunday 15th of February OR Tuesday 24th February (you must attend one) so please keep one of those dates free.

Mentors must be aged 24 - 40 (with some small exceptions made for slightly younger mentors) and LYF are really on the hunt with some urgency to locate more mentors, so please feel free to also reach out to your networks.

LYF also ask that all mentors commit to the weekend camp and at least 3 of the four full-day Big Day Outs. The key dates for 2015 are as follows:

- * Pre Camp training - Sunday 15th of Feb (afternoon) OR Tuesday 24th of Feb (evening)
- * Camp - Friday 6th of March to Sunday 8th of March

- * BDO#1 - Saturday 9th of May
- * BDO#2 - Sunday 28th of June
- * BDO#3 - Saturday 5th of September
- * BDO#4 - Saturday 31st of October

If this sounds like an interesting and simple opportunity to give back, feel free to apply by emailing a brief professional resume and the names/email addresses of two referees to admin@yvf.org.au.

Applications are closing on the 8th of February.

Bright Blue Mongolia Interplast Project

Rotary District 9455 in conjunction with Bright Blue is organising a Luncheon function with the WA Police Commissioner, Karl O'Callaghan in support of Bright Blues Mongolia Interplast Project.

Bright Blue was established in 2010 after Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan was inspired by two very brave sick kids who had neuroblastoma, an aggressive type of childhood cancer. In 2014, Bright Blue launched the Mongolia Project in collaboration with Interplast and Rotary.

Bright Blue aim is to raise funds and awareness with the aim of funding a team of medical specialists from Australia to perform life changing operations to hundreds of sick children with cleft lip and palate and burn scar contractures in Mongolia over the next two years.

When: 12.30pm, Thursday, 5 March 2015

Where: University Club of WA, Hackett Drive, Perth

Cost: \$120 single ticket, tables of 10 \$1,100

More details at [Bright Blue Lunch with the Police Commissioner- Mongolia Interplast Project](#)

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