



Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge



Newsletter – Spring 2023

Chairman's Message



The result of events associated with the 2023 World Rotary Convention in Melbourne has seen a huge leap forward in The Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge Program.

The Convention program involved the two longest and most expensive Rotary Youth Challenge Sails we have conducted. The **'One & All'** travelled from Adelaide to Melbourne and returned. Rotary Clubs in South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales sponsored the 48 students. However invaluable assistance was also provided by our growing list of commercial sponsors, which has just been joined by the Baxter & Grim Shaw Foundation as a major supporter.

The students came from diverse backgrounds across the three States. They ranged from several newly arrived Afghan refugees; some students lacking self-confidence and a small number of self-funded young people from private schools.

This student diversity has always being a key to the program's success. All the students are treated equally, they face the challenges encountered in their watch groups together, helping each other overcome them. These shared experiences are strongly character building and create many new friendships.

Organising these Challenges was quite complex; dealing with students and Rotary Clubs from three States; arranging flight bookings and arranging billeting. However all the problems were eventually overcome and the very positive feedback received at the end of the Challenges made all the effort worthwhile. A great number said they felt their lives would be forever enhanced as the result of this unique experience and expressed overwhelming gratitude for the opportunity they had been given.

The total money raised to cover the cost of the two voyages was approaching \$100,000, several times more than ever previously raised for a Rotary Youth Challenge Sail.

Besides running the two Rotary Youth Challenges, the committee also organised a series of lunch and dinner cruises down the Yarra River for visiting Convention delegates. The RYSC committee ran these extremely popular events, utilising the **'One & All,'** with some assistance from Victoria's Tall Ship **'Enterprise'**,

Chairman's Message



During the cruises, on board commentaries were organised on both ships, outlining points of interest and some of the historical sites the vessels were passing.

The commentary also explained to the many interstate and overseas Rotarians on board the value of the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge program and how it could be set up in any city in the world with a tall ship (many have them). We already are in discussion about the program with New Zealand and a Rotarian from California.



The 'Enterprise' is an exact replica of the ship that bought the first European settlers to Victoria. Their campsite, on the banks of the Yarra River, eventually became the present city of Melbourne. The newly formed Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge Committee, chaired by Footscray Rotarian Suzanne Zammit, will use the 'Enterprise'. This Committee will run Challenge Sails for young Victorian and NSW students in the Rotary 2023/24 year September and April school holidays.



During the Convention, our committee had the use of a very attractive and prominently located booth in the House of Friendship. The booth was used to sell Cruise tickets and to publicise the Rotary Youth Sailing program.

I would like to express my gratitude to the many SA and Victorian Rotarians and their partners who volunteered to assist at the booth, spread the word and sell tickets. Not only did we get our message across about the program to Rotarians from around the globe, we sold some \$76,000 worth of cruise tickets, giving many hundreds of visitors a Tall Ship Experience they will fondly remember.



This whole highly successful exercise did not happen without a lot of work. I would like to express my gratitude to the whole of our committee and all those that assisted in some way. I would like to particularly single out my deputy, Don Will, for the enormous amount of work he put in. Without Don's tremendous effort the Tall Ship Experience cruises could not have happened.

**David Binks,
Chair, District 9510 RYSC Committee**

Some Very Positive Experiences



Many of the young people who take part in a sailing Challenge find it a very positive and fulfilling event. Here is an example:

“One of my best experiences was climbing the rigging up the mast to view the ship and ocean in a way I didn’t expect. I had felt I would be scared beyond belief to look down, but it was an amazing view.

I enjoyed meeting everyone else on board, learning about the others’ backgrounds was surprising and really interested me. Along the way I made many friends and have appreciated free time chatting, playing card games and being involved in teamwork building activities.



Setting sails, coiling ropes and helping the ship gave me a unique satisfaction. Seeing green land from a different angle was interesting. There are many things I’ve enjoyed and not mentioned. I will not forget this voyage for a long time.

This voyage has taught me that I can always push myself further than I think, through things like low sleep, sea sickness and un hospitable weather conditions. In spite of these challenges I still really enjoyed my stay on the ship. I’ve also somehow found peace within the pitching and rolling of the ship and came to enjoy smashing through waves whilst on watch; this is something that will be with me for the rest of my life. I have a new found respect for boats and the ocean, along with the conquering of rough seas and tough conditions.

Jack Wilson



Benefits of the RYSC Program

The program produces young people with:

- Increased confidence
- Increased self-esteem
- Increased ability to think and work as a team member
- Increased mental well-being



Upcoming Youth Sailing Challenges

Following on the success of previous voyages and the rapid and enthusiastic take-up of the program, a minimum of five voyages are planned for the 2023 – 2024 Rotary year. These voyages will usually be held in the spring and autumn School holidays.

These sailing events are designed for young people aged from 15-18 years

The “One & All” – sailing from Port Adelaide South Australia – 5 day voyages on:

- Sunday, October 1st to Thursday, October 5th 2023
- Sunday, April 21st to Thursday, April 25th 2024

The “Enterprize” – sailing from Victoria Harbour Victoria – 4 day voyages on:

- Saturday, September 23rd to Tuesday, September 26th 2023
- Saturday, January 20th to Tuesday, January 23rd 2024
- Saturday, April 6th to Tuesday, April 9th 2024

For further information and application details – click on <https://youthsailing.com.au>

STUDENTS

If you are thinking you might like to go on one of these voyages, please read the information provided specifically for you on the website.

It is preferable for you to contact your local Rotary Club to sponsor you.

Failing that, please fill in the Student Application Form, and if you are considered suitable, the RYSC Committee will endeavour to find a sponsor Club for you.

Please see the Club Timeline and ‘online applications’ with further instructions and more details.

ROTARY CLUBS

Some Clubs have indicated that they will sponsor a student on both voyages. Others will have a choice of sponsoring on either voyage.

For Clubs unable to cover the cost of fully sponsoring a student, there is the opportunity to share sponsorship costs with a Club in a similar position.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Watch the RYSC video by clicking on:

<https://vimeo.com/828257288>