

6th May 2014

THE GEN



ROTARY
CLUB OF
GLEN EIRA



Our Youth Exchange student Myles enjoying life in Japan!

CHANGING YOUNG LIVES WITH JAPAN

With local student Myles Ammett 5 months into his year of Youth Exchange in Japan, we reflect on the first ever Japanese student.

In 1962, Australia was a country grappling with change. Many older Australians were still emotionally rebuilding after World War II.

When Yoko Sekimoto arrived in Melbourne that year as Japan's first Rotary Youth Exchange student, she didn't realise that many people were wary of her visit. 52 years later, she continues to marvel at the graciousness of her hosts. "Everyone treated me like a daughter or sister. It was only 17 years after the war, but I felt a warm welcome and great hospitality," says Sekimoto.

Japan's Youth Exchange program began with help from an Australian Rotarian. Don Farquhar addressed the 1961 RI Convention in Tokyo about the need to build friendships and cultural understanding throughout the world – particularly with Japan. He considered student exchange to be the best way to do that.

Letter from our Exchange Student Myles Ammett in Japan

I have had a great month this month, really getting into basketball with my friends. I am understanding a bit more said during classes, however as I would be in year 10 this year but am in year 11 in Japan, so classes are more difficult. I am looking forward to meeting all of the exchange students next month on the 24th -25th in Fukushima. It would be great to see all the different type of people drawn to Japan. Tomorrow I am going to my clubs basketball game and am quite excited as I am certain that our team will come out as victors. I hope you've had a great month!

"Don was a person of both immense courage and foresight," says Stuart McDonald, program development officer for Youth Exchange in Australia. "In 1942, during World War II, Don was blinded in action against the Japanese. However, he maintained a desire and a mission in life to promote peace and goodwill."

After Farquhar delivered his speech, he was approached by a Japanese district governor, who asked him to help arrange the first Youth Exchange involving a student from Japan. The Rotary clubs of Rosebud and Kurume coordinated Sekimoto's year abroad. Her visit to Australia, along with the beginning of Youth Exchange in Japan, was considered so historically significant that photographs from her exchange are now housed in the National Archives of Australia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY IS AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH MONTH

- Tuesday 6th May**
Guest speaker Suzi Bamford
- Tuesday 13th May**
Guest speaker Tom Hartley
Mercy Ships - the Surgery Ship
- Sunday 18th May**
District 9800 Assembly
- Tuesday 20th May**
Guest speaker Agata Kmiecik
Board Meeting
- Tuesday 27th May**
Guest speaker Jason Henderson
Lost Melbourne

JUNE IS FELLOWSHIP MONTH

- Sunday 1st - Wednesday 4th June**
Rotary International Convention in Sydney
- Tuesday 3rd June**
Guest speaker Honorary Consul
General of Denmark Jan Revnholt
- Tuesday 10th June**
Guest speaker Michael Rothschild
- Saturday 14th June**
Blazing A New Trail
(Documentary Film)
- Tuesday 17th June**
Club Rollover Night!

ENGAGE ROTARY CHANGE LIVES



DATE	GUEST SPEAKER	CASHIER	TOAST TO AUSTRALIA	TOAST TO OUR CLUB	CHAIRMAN
6th May	Speaker Suzi Bamford "Fundraising Skills"	John Leske	Sam Binstock	Mark Preston	Adrian Nelson
13th May	Speaker Tom Hartley "Mercy Ships - the Hospital Ship"	Joan Luscak	Garry Fabian	Max Sherlock	John Strong
20th May	Speaker Agata Kmiecik "My Year Down Under"	Adrian Nelson	Keith Faiman	John Strong	Geoff Asher

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND OUR CLUB?

MAY IS AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH MONTH



Japanese Documentary

Yoshiko Stynes is inviting everyone to attend a moving documentary **Blazing a New Trail** about colleagues at a special Japanese school. On Saturday 14th June at Glen Eira Town Hall. See our website for details to book.

Don't miss District Assembly

The 2014 District Training Assembly - Rotary Illuminated is being held at Melton's Tabcorp Park on 18th May. All Rotarians are invited to attend, and in particular club office bearers and new members. Registrations via President Alan or Secretary Jan.

Rotary International Convention this month!

- ★ Registrations as at 28th April: 17,105 from 150 countries and geographic regions.
- ★ 84% are first timers, 7% have attended 1 - 2 conventions, 4% have attended 3 - 5 and 2% more than 5
- ★ Some of the speakers are: Brett Lee (cricketer), PM Tony Abbot, new Premier of NSW
- ★ Human Nature will perform at opening plenary, as well as the Flag ceremony
- ★ Marina Prior and The Ten Tenors are performing at closing plenary.
- ★ There is a mobile app available to see all that is happening and to find your way around.
- ★ There will be 92 breakout sessions to choose from.
- ★ WiFi will be available at all venues at Homebush

rotarygleneira.org.au

ROTARY PROJECT OF THE WEEK

Mall of America



At the Mall of America last weekend, Rotarians from across District 5950 in Minnesota USA invited the public to help pack hundreds of bags of food for local kids (and their families) who run short of meal options once school lets out for the summer.

The Mall of America in the suburbs of Minneapolis-St Paul is the most visited shopping centre in the world, with over 40 million visitors annually. This Rotary project was a visible way to show the general public what Rotary is made of.

Imagine packing Christmas hampers or the Impact for Women mother's day boxes in the middle of Chadstone and how many people would see us!

Apology

Last week in an article about Geoff Asher's annual fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital (by staying off the grog for a month), we referred to a "questionable cross-dressing incident in Sydney" last year. Geoff took offence to this. The Editor and production team of the GEN fully apologise, as in no way was the incident questionable.



Club Mobile App
Scan the QR code to go straight to our website on your mobile device.

