

District 9830 Rotary Club Survey
findings and recommendations for the
“Engaging our School Communities” Taskforce
Commissioned by Rotarian David Bartlett [Minister for Education]

Attention:

- **Education Department School Principals.**
- **Rotary Club Presidents, Secretaries, New Generations Directors and Rotary District Officials.**

As part of Rotary participation in the above-mentioned Taskforce in August 2006 27 Rotary Clubs throughout Tasmania responded to a survey, in helping assess the extent of involvement by Rotary District 9830 Clubs throughout Tasmania supporting youth activities in **both Government and private schools**. The survey probed all levels of support commencing from **infant grades through to year 12 students**. The Survey Period included all activities undertaken in 2005/2006, plus current and proposed activities for 2006/2007.

The survey firstly addresses current Rotary structured “New Generations” programs, followed by other Club initiatives in support of localized youth activities. Clubs were asked to comment on the involvement by the school staff and parents and who initiated the activity.

Minister for Education David Bartlett has endorsed Recommendation 9 of the Taskforce Report which states:

“That the initiatives identified by Rotary District 9830 throughout Tasmania in developing stronger links between Rotary and Schools be endorsed by the Minister.”

The summary pre-amble inclusion with Recommendation 9 in the Taskforce Report is as follows:

“Rotary International is the largest international service organization with 1.2 million members in 160 countries. Spread throughout Rotary District 9830 in Tasmania are some 1500 Rotarians in 49 Clubs, all of which have a strong focus on youth development. A survey was undertaken within Rotary District 9830, to evaluate the extent and effectiveness of both Club and District support offered to

Tasmanian schools. The survey found that there are opportunities to improve communication between Rotary officials and schools, particularly around Rotary's Structures Youth Development Programs. Support to younger students, although having common characteristics, is appropriately designed at a local level.

It is apparent that Rotary Clubs with strong membership of school staff are those where relationships are strongest. Introductory meetings between school principals and senior staff and their local Rotary Club would be of great value. Further sharing of contact details would also be beneficial.

An example of such a partnership with Rotary is the "Youth Driver Awareness" program piloted at Symmons Plains in October 2006 with students from three local schools who found it to be overwhelmingly successful.

The Taskforce recognizes that the work that Rotary and other service clubs in Tasmania undertake in support of schools is very valuable and that schools should be encouraged to develop relationships with these organizations."

Details of the survey results, principal findings and recommendations for the benefit of both schools and Rotary Clubs are as per below. Survey / program description are in black, with findings and recommendations in red.

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Most Rotary Clubs consider they have moderate to good lines of communication with their local schools, however there is considerable scope for improvement. The annual change of office bearers within Rotary and changing senior personnel within schools compounds the problem.**
- 2. It is frequently very difficult for Rotary Chairpersons of our Structured Youth Development Programs to identify accurately the name of the school principal and heads of science departments when directing information to schools. One assumes it is equally difficult for schools to identify contact details of Club officials [particularly Club Presidents, Secretaries and New Generations Directors in their local areas and Rotary District Chairpersons responsible for the various**

coordination activities. These difficulties relate particularly to programs for years 9 to 12 students.

- 3. To a lesser extent Rotary youth support activities for years 1 to 8 students tend to be designed at a localized level between the school and the nearby Rotary Club, however there remain many common support activities such as scholarships, awards prizes and mentoring occurring throughout the Rotary District, details of which would appeal to all Primary schools.**
- 4. There is also evidence to suggest Rotarians throughout Tasmania frequently occupy Board of Management positions in private schools. There may be suitably qualified Rotarians willing to serve on local School Councils.**
- 5. The survey very clearly identified why some Clubs out-perform others in forming major relationships with their local schools. The reason being members of the school [be they principals, senior heads or administrators] were also members of their local Rotary Club. An estimated 70 Rotarians are employed in schools throughout Tasmania. The Rotary Club of Ulverstone is a shining example, whereby 10% of its membership are employed in education. Rotary believes mutual support and recognition needs to be given in encouraging school principals and senior staff in joining a local Rotary Club, thus forming a stronger bond between Clubs and schools and an opportunity for networking and fellowship with a broad range of community leaders.**
- 6. Rotary would welcome the opportunity to establish introductory briefing meetings between school principals and senior staff and their local Rotary Club, to help facilitate youth development opportunities. The dissemination of the Rotary survey results to all school principals may trigger new initiatives. Rotary Clubs will also be encouraged to invite their local school principals to be guest speakers at Club meetings, highlighting school needs and achievements.**
- 7. Rotary District 9830 believes its new youth development program called “Rotary Youth Driver Awareness” [RYDA] has the potential to impact on approximately 10,000 years 10-12 students per year. The program was piloted at Simmons Plains in early October 2006 with students from three local schools. Assessment results indicated 96% of students rated the program as good or excellent, with 98% saying they would recommend it to their friends to participate in this initiative in 2007. Details of RYDA are highlighted in the survey results.**
- 8. To facilitate ease of communication between schools and Rotary Clubs, Rotary District 9830 would be prepared to make available to the Education**

Department for dissemination to school principals and senior teachers a data base listing Club Presidents and Club “New Generations” Directors and District chairpersons managing youth support and development programs. In return, it is hoped the Education Department would reciprocate with data on school principals and senior science teachers, for use under strict guidelines and reviewed after a 12 month period.

ROTARY CLUBS RESPONDING TO SURVEY.

Summary: 27 of the 49 Clubs throughout the State responded to the survey.

Youth Programs Rotarian contact [Name & phone number]

Latrobe:	Rick Mitchell-Collins 0402 043463
Westbury:	Ray Boyer 6393 1170
Glenorchy:	Laurie Gray
Sorell:	Bob Hardy [6265 2744]
Launceston West:	Donelle Batty [6327 4557]
Wynyard:	Chris Campbell [64424049]
Sandy Bay:	Roger Ibbott [62218316]
Hobart:	Tim Short [0408 174304]
Evandale:	Rob Greenwell [0448 348395]
Youngtown:	Greg Mitchell [0419 795968]
Tasman Peninsula:	Kelly Spaulding [0409 502354]
Claremont:	Lorraine Juvakka [62636750]
Devonport:	Rod Shackleton [64 272621]
Longford:	Greg Knight
West Tamar:	Kathryn Darlow
Deloraine:	Wayne Richards [63636119]
Ulverstone West:	Jenny Simms [0419 686647]
D’Entrecasteaux Channel:	Christine Worley [62674577]
City Central Hobart:	Paul Sayer [6233 3760]
Devonport North:	Richard Barnard [0417 155900]
Ulverstone:	Heather French [6425 3132]
Salamanca:	Tony Colman [0407 528681]
Kangaroo Bay:	Grant Herring [0408 124390]
Burnie:	Nigel Harris [0418 135439]
Moonah:	Nigel Hyland [62782394]
Salamanca:	David Vitale [0438 407945]

Names of Club members directly employed in education or education administration:

Summary: *An estimated 70 Rotarians throughout Tasmania are employed in education, ranging from principals and teachers, through to school administrators. This represents 5% of all Tasmanian Rotarians. Approximately 18 of the 49 Clubs have NO members employed directly in education or education administration.*

The Rotary Club of Ulverstone West is a shining example of high education membership [10%], coupled with high spouse levels in education and a subsequent very high level of involvement in a diverse range of youth development programs.

Latrobe: pp David Russell, Andrew Baker, PDG Geoff Haward
Westbury: Nil
Huon Valley: Grant Godfrey [School Principal], Judith Colgrave [Secondary teacher], Lil Stride [Teachers Aide]
Glenorchy: Gayle Pitchford [Child Care], Maurie Osborne [retired , Education Co-ordinator for Youth Projects]
Launceston West: Merren Dalglish, Donelle Batty
Wynyard: Peter Randel
Sandy Bay: Jane Shoobridge, Peter Pangas.
Evandale: Stephen Plowright, Arthur Talbot, Peter Klausen.
Claremont: Lorraine Quarrell [tertiary administration], Lillian Smith [Secondary], Anne Simpson [Primary Catholic schools], Lorraine Juvakka [Primary].
Deloraine: Patricia Woods, John Christie.
Ulverstone West: Bruce Mansfield, John Ewington, John Lowrie, John Deacon [retired], Terry Hunes [retired].
Spouses: Jake Jacobson, Robyn Parker, Dianne Hudson, Liz Baade, Christine Lowrie.
D'Entrecasteaux Channel: Christine Worley [teacher]
City Central Hobart: Kate Nichols [Collegiate administration]
Devonport North: Bob Farr, Frank Rice
Ulverstone: Mike Holland
Kangaroo Bay: Roger Hawkes [District Education], Anne Glass [Secondary]
Burnie: Greg O'Shea
Tamar Sunrise: Heather Foley [Principal – Mayfield Primary School]
Salamanca: Mike Woods [Principal - Lauderdale and Cluster Coordinator]
Irene Gray – Superintendent, Bowen District] 0419 341694

ROTARY YOUTH DRIVER AWARENESS. [RYDA].

The Program targets “awareness” and “attitudinal change” and seeks to encourage young people, 16 and 17 year old students, who are on the verge of driving or at least who are actively thinking about it, to take a more responsible attitude to motoring. Comprising six sessions, it is a one-day event held at a non-school site. It coordinates the efforts of local road safety experts, driving instructors, the Police, recovering survivors of road crashes, drug and alcohol educators and financial service personnel

in such a way that students are made aware of the privilege and responsibilities of owning and driving a motor vehicle.

Summary:

The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program was piloted at Simmons Plains at the beginning of October 2006 with three local high schools. Plans are now being formulated to bring the program to both the south and northwest commencing April 2007. Assessment forms completed by both students and teachers have been very positive. Sessions were well received with 96% of the students rating the program as good or excellent and 98% stating they would recommend it to their friends. The program had been adapted from NSW to meet the Tasmanian requirements with the assistance of DIER.

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM:

An international exchange program for young people between the ages of 15 and 18 years. The exchange is for a 12 month period during which time the student is hosted by several families and attends a local school. This year there are 11 inbound and 11 outbound students. The process of contact with schools and colleges is initiated by the Outbound Chairman of the YEP Committee who is seeking students to apply for overseas exchanges, and Inbound Host Rotary Clubs seeking placements for Inbound Students. It is recommended the schools and college contacts be made with the year 10,11 or 12 students through the Principal, as well as the school Coordinator / Careers Officer or Community Liaison Officer.

There is a time line of application and interview process between February and May each year for outbound selection. Students' applications need to be endorsed by the school / college Principal [this is up to the student to negotiate].

Contact: Rotary District Chairman email: Tony
afcolman@bigpond.com

Outbound students and local school.

Summary: *Most outbound students on a 12 month exchange are selected from government schools. Participating schools are more likely to have Rotarians on staff to help promote and facilitate the exchange. Such schools are more likely to host an inbound student in a reciprocal arrangement.*

The Rotary Club of D'Entrecasteaux Channel in association with the Woodbridge District High School has developed a one month student exchange program with Rotary in Thailand.

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM. [NYSF]

Year 12 students from around Australia are selected to attend a unique 2 week experience for those who have demonstrated an outstanding interest in science and technology as a future career. The program is facilitated by the Australian National University in Canberra in January each year.

Rotary Clubs are responsible for the identification of students within their communities and the processing of applications to the District Selection Committee. A lead time of some 8 months is required for administrative purposes.

Contact: District Chairman Barry Pearn [0417 321 650], email: bgpearn@bigpond.com

Summary: *This program is highly competitive [as well as highly rewarding] and targets the best year 12 science students throughout Tasmania. A quota of 12 positions has been made available for 2007. Two outstanding Tasmanian participants from last year have been appointed to Staff positions for 2007. Colleges are formally invited to inform and identify potential students to seek nomination through their local Rotary Club.*

Best results have been obtained through Rotarian staff members in Colleges liaising directly with Science Department heads.

Four of the selected students for 2007 are from Government colleges, suggesting a greater level of promotional effort and participation is possible.

School principals, science teachers and parents are invited in joining an orientation program with the selected students. The Governor of Tasmania also hosts a reception for the students.

The participation cost is \$1725 per student, of which Clubs contribute between 50% to 100%, subject to negotiation. The Rotary District endeavors to identify Club sponsorship for all successful applicants.

INTERACT

Rotary sponsors service clubs for schools and community based 14-18 year olds to foster understanding of club procedure, community service and international good will.

Interact has grown dramatically into a Rotary-sponsored international program for service-minded young people over the age of 14 and in the final four years of their secondary schooling.

The purpose of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding.

An Interact Club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary Club and, where school based, approved and encouraged by school authorities.

There is a Standard Interact Club Constitution prescribed by Rotary International which each Club must adopt.

Clubs meet not less than twice per month. Each sponsoring Rotary Club provides an Interact chairman who liaises regularly with the club and ensures attendance by a Rotarian at every meeting.

Contact: *D i s t r i c t I n t e r n a t i o n a l C h a i r m a n I J 6 0 1 h n*
jlowrie@tasmail.com

Name of sponsored INTERACT Club:

Latrobe – Latrobe H/S, 15-17 students

Ulverstone West – Penguin H/S, Ulverstone H/S and Leighlands Christian School, 35 students.

Moonah - Cosgrove H/S, 12 -15 students

Summary: *All three Rotary Clubs have formed strong links with surrounding schools. Latrobe and Ulverstone West have several Rotarian members who are also school staff members. This has facilitated student access to a broad range of Rotary youth development activities. Of particular significance by the Rotary Club of West Ulverstone is their planned meetings with principals and teachers at the commencement of each year to discuss issues such as the formation of new Interact Clubs, ongoing support and the possibility of incorporating Interact into the school curriculum. The Cosgrove and Latrobe Interact Clubs have focused on developing students who are sometimes from underprivileged families.*

An estimated 10 Rotary Clubs throughout Tasmania have considered sponsoring an Interact Club with a local High School. A high level of commitment and nurturing is required in the formation and growth of a new Interact Club.

Community projects and activities undertaken by Interact clubs:

Latrobe: Maintenance work at Bells Parade [Recreation Area], Adopt a Friend [Strathdevon Aged Care Facility], fundraising for RSPCA, Shoebox Program, fundraising for St Judes School, World Vision 40 hour Famine including sleepover at LHS with 27 students.

Ulverstone West: Each school is very supportive of the Interact Club and are very welcoming to Club members when attending Interact meetings, offering a warm room and any support they can.

Members of the Central Coast Rotaract Club and the West Ulverstone Rotary Club meet with teachers and principals early in the year to discuss issues such as the formation of the clubs, ongoing support, possibility of incorporating Interact into the curriculum and the progress of Interact Clubs.

Community projects undertaken include “Bag it” Campaign fundraiser; Stepping Stones Child Care mural painting; “Community Garden” plants; AIDS Hospice donation; books for literacy project in Fiji; Coroneagh Park raised flower beds; Leadership camp in conjunction with Rotaract.

Moonah: Moonah has had an Intract Club for some years and has been successful in encouraging students, who are sometimes from underprivileged families, to support fundraising for charities, visit the elderly to improve self image and encourage leadership qualities.

SIEMENS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

This program provides year 10 students with an opportunity to participate in “hands on” science studies and related activities at a university or TAFE college. It aims to show students that science and technology can be interesting career choices.

Some 3000 places are available throughout Australia, with successful applicants undergoing the three day seminar in late January. Application forms are sent to schools in May of each year. Student application forms [along with a letter of support from the school] are forwarded to their local Rotary Club.

This is a non-residential program but assistance can be offered in special situations of extended travel either through billeting or the utilization of university college accommodation.

Contact: Rotary District Chair Jenny Sewell [0419 303 759], email: jenny.sewell@affa.gov.au

Summary: *This year a full complement of 30 students attended the program in the UTAS northern campas and 55 in the southern campas. Program cost per student is \$95 and is generally covered by a sponsoring local Rotary Club. Most Clubs sponsor one or more students annually.*

ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAM OF ENRICHMENT. [RYPEN].

During an intensive residential weekend, young people aged approximately 15 years will develop increased motivation, improve life skills, better self image, pride in themselves and an understanding of setting and achieving goals.

Nominations are encouraged by Rotary clubs approaching local high schools. The cost of the weekend is usually carried by the sponsoring Rotary Club.

Contact: Christine Andrews [Southern host club - Rotary Club of Salamanca] 04121 161 017, email: Christine.andrews@centrelink.gov.au , Clare Klapche [Northern host club – Rotary Club of Tamar Sunrise] 63 981 722.

Summary: *For 2007, weekend camps will be held in both northern and southern Tasmania, approximately April/May. Contact the above for details.*

MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY [MUNA]

This is an annual project of the Rotary Club of Deloraine. Clubs of the District are invited to sponsor High School students, who in pairs represent a particular country in debates on world political and social concern.

The Assembly is about building bridges of goodwill and world peace and understanding through a personal involvement in the acceptance of situations that reflect the opinion of “adopted” countries. Students are challenged by the opportunities to extend research, debating and public speaking skills by addressing a wide range of contemporary, world focused issues.

Usually, the assembly is held over a weekend with delegates being billeted by the host Rotary Club. A school auditorium is used to recreate the U.N. Assembly Chamber with mane plates, flags and national costumers being encouraged. A social program is arranged for the Saturday evening.

The Assembly is chaired and judged by Rotarians with prizes being awarded for the best overall presentation, the best contribution to a world peace solution and the best national costume.

Contact: Annette Viney [Rotary Club of Deloraine] 6362 3463, email: tasmuna@austarnet.com.au

Summary: *For 2007, the Rotary Club of Deloraine will host approximately 70 students from 20 participating schools. Rotary Clubs throughout Tasmania have traditionally sought team representation from local schools, have covered full registration costs and assisted with transport. Be sure to approach your local Rotary Club.*

OTHER CLUB YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

There are a vast range of youth support activities Clubs have recently initiated in their local communities. This survey is intended to demonstrate the extent and diversity of direct and indirect assistance Rotary contributes to youth education in Tasmania. Projects include youth leadership and youth support for infant to year 12 students. Survey summary is as follows:

Summary: *In addition to the above mentioned structured programs for senior students, there are no barriers in developing other youth support initiatives between individual Rotary Clubs and schools for any age groups, as you will gather from the following survey results. Clubs and schools are invited to examine these, with further details available through the contact Rotarians of the relevant Club.*

Westbury: Supply book prizes to 4 Primary Schools, conduct annual community fun run.

Huon Valley: We were involved in the New Zealand Exchange but experienced problems because of the age of students [too young]. Citizenship Awards sponsored in every Huon school each year [Nine schools], Apple / Salmon Race shelters throughout Huon using Year 9/10 students, Drop-in Centre for kids in Huonville sponsored by Rotary Club [power charges, cooking appliances].

Sorell: Recently provided five local schools with grants for their literacy programs. Schools will let Club know what they purchase. Club is providing labour for the construction of playground equipment at Dodges Ferry Primary School.

Launceston West: Rotary Shoe Boxes [Riverside H/S 2005/06], Fiji trip for Riverside H/S student to deliver Shoe Boxes in 2006, Graeme McPhail Rotary Scholarship 2006, developing links with West Launceston Primary School – currently under negotiation.

Wynyard: Mock interviews with senior school leavers at Yolla H/S. Prize given to 4 Primary schools at end year breakup. Donation to High and Primary Schools in Wynyard for the *Children Without Breakfast* program. Scholarship awards given to Yolla and Wynyard H/Ss for future education. RYPEN is also covered by New Generations, with 6 – 8 students from Wynyard H/S attending – cost and transport fully covered by Club.

Sandy Bay:

MENTORING IN SCHOOLS (MIS)

A PROJECT INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SANDY BAY

PURPOSE

To partner Education Department and other voluntary organizations in providing a resource of MENTORS and REFERRAL SPECIALISTS to:

- Assist State Education authorities implement a Pathways Planning Programme for Year 8 to 10 Students as part of “Guaranteeing Futures”

- Capitalized on Rotary's vast vocational resource in business, trade and educational fields to assist the "NEW GENERATIONS" of Tasmanian employees
- Participate in a community based project at a local level for the benefit of our young people.

IMPLEMENTATION.

1. Rotary Club of Sandy Bay is providing mentor and referral generation assistance to Taroona High School Year 9 students.
2. Education Dept (Patrick Mansbridge – Southern District Pathways Planning Co Coordinator) is facilitating:
 - Presentation to Sandy Bay Rotary Club on "Guaranteeing Futures" programme.
 - Establishment of Data Base of mentors and referral Specialists from Rotary Club(s)
 - Administering the registration of volunteers, communication with school pathways planning staff and specific and/or general vocational and project needs where volunteers can be utilized
3. Rotary Club of Sandy Bay will facilitate
 - Expressions of Interest from Rotarians and friends/business associates who can participate as mentors/coaches and/or referral specialists in a particular vocation/activity
 - Promotion of the concept to Group one Clubs through ADG Mike Whitehouse at a Group One meeting in September to be hosted by Sandy bay Rotary Club (to be confirmed)
 - Create awareness to District Governor Lou Johnson of the programme prior to a potential State-wide rollout of MIS at DG's Club Visit on 24/7/06

REQUIREMENT / FUNCTION OF ROTARY.

1. Recruitment of Mentor Coaches to individually assist a student in vocational or project guidance
2. Recruitment of Referral Specialists to be available when convenient to assist in individual, group or project specific application
3. Encourage Club and District support by providing support to State Education Dept Project planning staff in contact with Clubs and district personnel

Malcolm Portwin
Director, Special Projects, Rotary Club of Sandy Bay.

Hobart:

1. This club has sponsored young at risk people (who might be suitable for the Young Endeavor and the Windward Bound sail training ships. These voyages have been of immense value to the young people and helped them with development in areas such as:
 - Working in a team
 - Personal confidence
 - Life direction
 - Relating to others

These young people have been contacted through the Hobart City Council's Youth ARC program where they are often studying years 11 and 12 in an environment where they are better accommodated.

The Club sponsorship cost of this program is usually about \$2,200.

2. The club has also sponsored Edmund Rice Camps on two occasions (\$10,000 each year) to work with up to 20 young people in year 11 and 12 in southern

schools – it is a mentoring program to assist them in making decisions to continue on with further education, training or work, rather than just “dropping or opting” out of the system. The targeted students have been identified as being at risk of dropping out.

Evandale:

1. Fund raising support for Evandale Primary School Twilight Fair towards redoing the school courts, student exchange program between Campbell Town District High and No Dole Program, Campbell Town District High School conducting mock Interviews for grade 10's.
2. Hawthorne Secondary College Melbourne - Students are sponsored by the Hawthorne and Evandale clubs and covers accommodation, transfers and a week of activities. Grade 9 students have to apply and are interviewed to select 4 students from each school to experience life in an alternative environment.
3. Book prizes at Evandale Primary School and Campbell Town District High.
4. Hawthorne Secondary College Melbourne, Students are sponsored by the Hawthorne and Evandale clubs and covers accommodation, transfers and a week of activities. Grade 9 students have to apply and are interviewed to select 4 students from each school to experience life in an alternative environment.

Youngtown:

Support for local Primary and H/S, with funding for end of year awards to students in the names of past Rotarians [eg. Peter Swift Award].
Club will be involved with the RYDA Program this year and into the future.
Assisting with local Primary School working bee to relocate playground equipment.
Club conducts a Christmas Carol evening with the P&F of Youngtown School.
St Patricks College supports our Club by taking incoming Exchange Students each year at no cost.

Tasman Peninsula.

Club has a very good relationship with the local school and are regularly supporting students with financial assistance for various activities. The Club often has parents coming to Rotary meetings with their child to either present a case or to give a presentation and thank Club for assisting.
Club also provides annual scholarships to the Tasman School which are worth several thousand dollars annually. These scholarships are financed by the District from funds that became available to the Club after the 1996 massacre.

Claremont:

RYPEN – 4 students [\$240], Claremont College for Humanities [\$300],
Adventure in Citizenship [Claremont College \$800], Australian Business Week [\$400], school breakfast program for Fairview Primary and St Pauls Bridgewater

Longford:

Year 11 and 12 bersaries for Cressy District H/S, Penmans trip awards and prizes for year 6 at Longford, Perth and Cressy Primary Schools.

West Tamar:

Mock interviews twice a year at Exeter H/S [Rotarians and partners take part in mock interviews for grade 10 students]

Deloraine:

- 2005 / 06: Learn to Swim for all school age children, 101 participants at a sponsorship cost of \$4000.
Donations to all 6 schools in the Meander Valley region toward end of year prizes. [Schools normally approach the Club, however the Club will continue this support].
\$50 donation toward the Deloraine Primary School Fair.
- 2006 / 07: Supply reflective vests for Meander Primary School children [\$360]. 2005 / 07 Junior Basketball trophy @ \$25, presented by Club member.

Ulverstone West:

- Mentoring Training (6 weeks program) at Penguin High School – 1 member as a Facilitator (John Lowrie) and 2 Members (Ray Eustace and Jenny Simms) successfully completing the Nationally recognised course. Ongoing mentoring in the schools and community by these members.
- Mentoring Program – Central Coast Council (Steve Mansfield facilitator) – early stages of program but members involved – Julie Jacobson, Jenny Simms, John Lowrie, Trevor Brougham, Bruce Mansfield.
- Infant Literacy Program – Books for Babies – organized by the partners.
- Let's Read 0 – 4 Reading Program – Penguin Primary School 2006 – 2007.
- End of Year School Awards – Club sponsors School Awards totaling \$900 at 8 Schools along the NW Coast. A member of the Club attends each of the award ceremonies and presents the awards to the students.
- West Ulverstone Primary School Chess Team – Contribute to the cost of their trip to National Championships in Melbourne each year.
- Annual Art Show – Student Exhibition
- Chartered Central Coast Rotaract Club and many Club members regularly attend fortnightly meetings. Club members are very proud, committed and supportive of the Rotaract Club.
- 2005 – 2006, Chartered 3 Interact Clubs and regularly involve the students in Club functions and attend meetings.
- Joint Stakeholder in a Community Mentoring Program for disengaged youth.
- Relay for Life – Club members enjoy participating in this worthwhile event – a chance to get together with the Rotaract and Interact Clubs to help raise awareness about cancer and raise some money for a very worthy cause.
- Judo Club – very supportive.
- The Club purchased a life jacket for a local school.

- Festival in the Park – IDOL competition – Club organizes this annual event focusing on the fabulous talent of our youth along the NW Coast.
- Youth Drop in Centre – Ulverstone. Club and Rotaract members have financially supported the centre, with some members regularly attending and interacting with the youth, cooking meals and generally offering support.
- Interact Leadership Camp – Rotaract organized weekend camp at Camp Clayton for 30 year 9 and 10 students along the Coast, well supported and attended by Club members.

D’Entrecasteaux: Channel: Supports the Woodbridge School at its annual prize giving by donating the prize for the Dux of the school. The Club also conducts a mock interview program with the school.

City Central Hobart:

Storm the Stage – drama and musical theatre competition for 16 to 19 year olds (open to grades 10, 11 and 12 and university students, as well as non-students). Opportunity for talented young Tasmanians to perform on a National stage.

This is the first year of the program in Tasmania. The Club has conducted 2 mailouts to all schools promoting the program. We are now developing relationships with performing arts teachers who have students entered in the competition. Additionally, Launceston College and Rosny College have provided facilities for heats and semi-finals.

Performances are 3-5 minutes and solo, in one of 2 categories, drama or musical theatre. Judges are drawn from the theatre and entertainment professions.

The State winners will be flown to Perth, WA for the national final and the chance to win \$5000 and auditions with All Saints and Home and Away.

STS is also a fundraiser, this year for Lifeline.

Literacy Awards – the Club Business Plan includes a Primary School Literacy Award project, likely to be run with Campbell St Primary School. We aim to run this program in the first term of 2007, and then make it an annual event.

Devonport North: Club has an excellent relationship with St Brendan Shaw College [local Catholic Secondary College] and draws most applicants for youth programs from this school. The Club supports most of the New Generations programs and has an excellent participation rate. Our incoming Youth Exchange students are placed at this school for their exchange period.

Kangaroo Bay:

Mental Health Forum for 500 students [in conjunction with **City Central Hobart.**]. Students from most southern colleges.

Vocational support and “Employment Pathways” program [local] for Rosny College students in partnership with the Salvation Army Employment Plus program.

\$200 donation for Warrane Primary School [celebration of 50th anniversary] for student recognition.

VET Award at Rosny College.
Achievement Awards [X2] Rose Bay H/S and McKillop College.

Burnie: Evaluating a Youth Speaking Competition.

Moonah: Club has close links with 4 nearby community schools including Bowen Road, Springfield Gardens, Moonah Primary, Goodwood Primary and Timsbury Road and a long time supporters of Cosgrove H/S, with Art Show prize awards and certificates. The Club instituted a Junior Neighborhood Watch program in consultation with the Glenorchy City Council, designed to encourage children to be aware of any undesirable behavior in their neighborhood or around their school and report to a responsible adult. In particular, Goodwood Primary reported an improvement in vandalism after the program begun. Club currently investigating needs with Bowen Road Primary School. Club has supported needy children with uniforms and has initiated a breakfast program with the Springfield Gardens Primary School.

Salamanca: \$100 scholarships in areas of community service and literacy to Hobart College, Elizabeth College and Gilford Young.

COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOLS:

Does your Club have good lines of communication with your local school ?

Summary: *Most Rotary Clubs consider they do have moderate to good lines of communication with their local schools, however there is considerable scope for improvement. The annual changing of office bearers within Rotary and changing senior personnel within schools compounds the problem.*

It is frequently very difficult for Rotary Chairpersons of our structured youth support programs to identify accurately the name of the school principal and heads of science departments when directing information to schools. One assumes it is equally difficult for schools to identify contact details of Club officials [particularly Club Presidents, Secretaries and New Generations Directors in their local areas and Rotary District Chairpersons responsible for the various structured youth programs]. These difficulties relate particularly to programs for years 9 to 12 students.

To a lesser extent Rotary youth support activities for years 1 to 8 students tend to be designed at a localized level between the school and the nearby Rotary Club, however there remain many common support activities such as scholarships, awards prizes and mentoring

occurring throughout the Rotary District which would appeal to all Primary schools.

A Memorandum of Understanding on the exchange of relevant data bases between Rotary and The Department of Education would help facilitate engaging schools and Rotary more efficiently.

There is also evidence to suggest Rotarians throughout Tasmania frequently occupy Board of Management positions in private schools. There may be suitably qualified Rotarians willing to serve on their local School Councils.

Are school Principals and Senior Teachers in your area knowledgeable about Rotary youth programs available through your Club ?

Summary: Club survey results suggest a wide spread of opinion, ranging from strong confirmation through to little or no knowledge. It is very evident the strongest links between Clubs and schools occur where there are multiple Rotarians occupying positions within local schools. This trend occurs more so in regional towns and cities whereby a limited number of schools are of greater significance as a community hub, in comparison with schools in large metropolitan areas. Club meeting times in regional areas are usually during evenings and are more readily accessible for teaching staff. In contrast Clubs in inner Hobart are more often breakfast or lunch time Clubs with reduced fellowship and networking opportunities during meetings and not conducive to teaching staff time tables.

Has your Club invited senior education administrators and staff from your local schools to consider joining Rotary?

Summary: On average, Clubs have exercised only moderate levels of effort in inviting local school staff to join Rotary.

OTHER INITIATIVES AND SUGGESTIONS IN FORGING STRONGER LINKS WITH SCHOOLS:

Latrobe: Major challenge is closing the gap on school, students, and community knowledge regarding curriculum delivery / understanding and personal development. Socio-economic background and single parent families unfortunately does impose many challenges on schools ability to meet education benchmarks given different individual social, ethic and moral values. Alarming that an increasing number of parents in our region don't care, respect or value a

good education outcome for their child but expect schools to assume full responsibility for their child's actions between 8 am to 4pm, Monday to Friday for 20 plus weeks a year yet do not exhibit similar responsibility when the child is at home or in the general community.

There is also potential for a child's mindset to be influenced by the amount of financial support available should they leave home as well as peer pressure to engage in inappropriate behavior, whether collectively or as an individual. It may also be attention seeking in an attempt not to be stereotyped. Teaching has become very complex as a result of other influences not directly related to the school environment.

Glenorchy: We have given awards.

Launceston West: Mentoring programs in Primary Schools. Important to ensure that each school has a Rotary Club linked to it, making the sponsoring of Rotary programs such as MUNA more co-ordinated – schools know who to contact. Suggest Clubs get students to speak to the Club about their experiences in programs such as MUNA and RYPEN.

Wynyard: Speaking directly to children and explaining the advantages of attending RYPEN and MUNA, then following up by talking to parents.

Sandy Bay: Yes – Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program [RYDA]. Club keen to pursue this with schools in their area.

Hobart: What about a District road show in each region, or the principal groups in each region! Maybe it is something that could be arranged through Assistant Governors. Club feels that this would be a better approach than going direct to students, as it is often teachers who must be engaged first.

Tasman Peninsula: Club is constantly reviewing ways to assist the school. The Club exchange student is supported well by the school, no fees are charged and the headmaster is aware that if they require anything they only have to ask.

Claremont: Proposed “ball” drop from helicopter and schools involvement.

Longford: Some Rotary members are involved with “The Tasmanian Trout Expo” at Cressy District H/S. Students participate in Fashion Show, Artwork and Displays.

Deloraine: Currently seeking a contact in the local H/S

Ulverstone West:

. A number of our members attended the “Crash Free Driving Course’ held at Penguin High School in July 2006 and felt that this is a very worthwhile and valuable program for students and adults. A proposal for the Club's continuing support of the Crash Free Driving Program is under discussion at the moment.

In most instances, we invite the school representative, the students and their families to share a meal and their experiences with us. This helps to forge strong links with the schools, allows the visitors a brief look at what Rotary is about and perhaps encourage a relationship that extends to possibly joining our Club, Rotaract or Interact. But most of

all it extends the arm of friendship and support to all concerned. The Interact Clubs are proving to be a valuable experience for the schools and students. Already the Interactors have shown strong personal development, a strong commitment to helping the Community and a general feeling of respect and goodwill with their peers and associates. All of which helps the process of continuity for the future success of Interact in schools.

D'Entrecasteaux Channel: Woodbridge is a small school and the Club is always available to help out when required at various functions.

Kangaroo Bay: Local history festivals ["Knopwood Festival"], Montagu Bay Primary School [Literacy] book offer not taken.

Ian Shuey

District Director – New Generations

District Rep. “Engaging Our School Communities” Taskforce.

3 Auvergne Ave, Mount Stuart 7000.

Telephone 62781198, Mobile 0409 979947

Email: events@balloonmagic.com.au