



# Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge



## Newsletter – December 2022

### Chairman's Message



I never cease to be amazed at the benefits the participants gain facing the personal challenges they encounter as part of a team. For a great number it completely changes the course of their lives for the better

Rotary Clubs, who sponsor the young people's voyages, are extremely impressed when the students return from a voyage and talk to the Club about their experience.

**The result is this youth program has become the fastest growing Rotary Youth Program in Australia. It has expanded to two voyages a year in SA sending almost 50 students away each year at an annual cost of over \$50,000.**

The voyage in SA in October this year was particularly successful. There were a somewhat larger number of disadvantaged young people on-board, some of whom were in state care. All disembarked at voyage end with a more positive attitude towards life.

The key to the success of the program is having a wide diversity of students, which can include young people in state care, as well as students attending private schools.

At the start of the Challenge, the students are divided into 3 watches. Each watch contains a mixture of young people. They do not know each other's background, nor do the Crew. All are treated the same way and, as a result, all treat each other the same. There are no signs of class distinctions.

Early in the voyage, once the students have got to know each other, they elect a watch leader amongst themselves - a person to whom they all look up. On this year's April voyage, not knowing each other's background, the Port Watch elected a young person in state care to be their leader.

This is an example of the great lesson the young people learn (particularly those from more affluent families). **"Money and education are no guide to a person's worth; leaders may come from any background."**

I find these stories very rewarding, repaying many times over the effort that goes into organising this program.

**David Binks**

## Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge

### What is it?



The Youth Sailing Challenge is a Rotary sponsored activity for young people, sailing a tall ship the 'One & All.' During the Challenge great life lessons are learnt and wonderful friendships formed. The program involves suitable young participants learning the complexities of sailing, working as part of a team, while living without electronic communications in a maritime environment.

### How can Rotary Clubs become involved?

- Identify and sponsor a suitable 15-18 year old student
- Voyages are in the April and September school holidays



### For more information:

- See our website at [www.youthsailing.com.au](http://www.youthsailing.com.au) or
- Contact David Binks (0438 221 937) or Don Will (0414 654 402).

## A Positive Story!!



The Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge has many positive outcomes. A good example is the particularly moving story of 16-year old Jasmine Kay. Jasmine who comes from South Australia now lives with her mother, Narelle, and her younger brother in the ACT.

Two years ago, Jasmine connected with a bad group and became involved with alcohol and drugs, skipped most of her school classes and became isolated, uncommunicative with her family and wanting to leave home.

Narelle became extremely worried and took her to see a number of specialists in Canberra and tried to get her involved with sporting and other groups - all to no avail. She said her son urged her to let Jasmine leave saying she was making their lives miserable.

Narelle as a teenager had been on a trip on the 'One & All' and felt this might help her daughter. With the help of relatives, particularly Jasmine's SA grandparents whom Jasmine respects, Jasmine was reluctantly convinced to apply to go on the October voyage.

We were able to persuade a nearby Rotary Club the Club of Ginninderra to look after her and provide a mentor to encourage and help her.

Two days before she was due to travel to SA to depart she got frightened and refused to go. A great effort by relatives and friends persuaded her to change her mind and she finally boarded the ship.

The ship's crew, who are highly skilled in handling young people, said she was very difficult for the first two days, but then her attitude changed. She realised her fellow students and the crew genuinely wanted to help her. She became cooperative, worked hard and did a great job, enthusiastically tackling all the challenges presented.

Her mother in a phone conversation 6 weeks after the voyage became quite emotional and couldn't thank us all enough. She said "***I have got the daughter back that I lost two years ago. She is pleasant and helpful around the house. My son is enjoying having a sister and her school says she is working hard and attending classes***"

## Two Special 7-Day Challenge Sails



The 'One & All' tall ship will be in Melbourne in May/June 2023 as part of the International Convention's activities. She will be taking Conference delegates on short lunch and dinner cruises on the Yarra River from Docklands.

Her presence in Melbourne provides the opportunity for approx. 40 students, aged 16-18 to help crew one of two special 7-day Challenge voyages from Adelaide to Melbourne and return. A representation of both South Australian and Victorian students will take part in each voyage.

**Voyage 1 – Approx. 20 students will voyage around the rugged SA/Vic coastline when the 'One & All' departs from Adelaide on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 bound for Melbourne.**

**Voyage 2 – Approx. 20 students will be voyaging back to Adelaide from Melbourne, departing on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

These special voyages have already created a great amount of interest, so we urge Clubs to let us know if they have possible participants.

**The total cost of each of these Special Voyages is \$1,900pp.** This includes:

- on-board catering costs for 7 days (instead of the normal 5 days)
- additional insurance and Melbourne Harbour costs
- Interstate air fares and sundry accommodation and transport costs for interstate students joining or returning from a special Challenge sail
- Melbourne/Adelaide airfares for volunteer Crew joining or leaving the Ship in Melbourne

**If your Club wishes to be involved in the program:**

- select suitable young people (we may be able to assist)
- raise as much of the \$1,900 as possible by:
  - ❖ your Club contributing a minimum of \$1,200
  - ❖ encouraging parents and Club members to contribute part of the cost
  - ❖ sharing the cost with another Rotary Club

**We wish to encourage participation in the program. We may be able to arrange commercial sponsorship to assist placing a young person on board**

**For more information contact:**

- David Binks – 0438 221 937, [dpbinks@sanet.com.au](mailto:dpbinks@sanet.com.au)
- Don Will – 0414 654 402, [dwill@wilkingroup.com.au](mailto:dwill@wilkingroup.com.au)

## "One & All" Cruises at the Melbourne Rotary World Convention



The Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge Committee is delighted that the '*One and All*' has been selected by Rotary International as part of the official entertainment package to be offered to the 2023 Melbourne Rotary International World Convention attendees.

- The South Australian ship will sail to Melbourne arriving in Port Melbourne a couple of days before the convention opens on 27th May 2023.
- A free public bus will take local and overseas convention attendees from the convention site to the ship.
- Twice a day, commencing just before the Convention starts and during the Convention, the '*One and All*' will set sail and take passengers on 3-hour trips out into Port Phillip Bay. Beside the experience and excitement of sailing on a square-rigged ship the passengers will be plied with sumptuous morning or afternoon tea, all prepared in the ship's galley. Those of you who have been on one of our Twilight Sails in Adelaide will appreciate what a memorable experience this will be.
- For Cruise details and ticket prices, click on this link <https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/tours> then click on the Tall Ship image. **If you are going to Melbourne for the World Convention we would urge you to keep this opportunity in mind and recommend it to others.**

Revenue from these cruises will enable the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge Committee to give more young people the opportunity to experience the incredible benefits the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge provides.

## Victorian Tall Ship – ‘*Enterprize*’



Following the success of the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge in South Australia, Rotarians in other Districts have expressed interest in adopting the program in their State, particularly if they have access to a suitable vessel.

A very suitable vessel is the ‘*Enterprize*’ – a lovingly hand-built tall ship, owned by the people of Victoria. Her overall length is 89 feet.; she has a beam of 18 feet and a gross tonnage of 72 tons. Her main mast is 85 feet high and she carries 2,000 square feet of sail.

The ‘*Enterprize*’ is a faithful replica. The original ‘*Enterprize*’ was the vessel that carried the first settlers from Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) to Port Phillip Bay in 1839, sailing up the Yarra River. Finding a good anchorage, they landed and cleared the scrub to grow vegetables and construct buildings. Eventually this site became the City of Melbourne and the area near where they landed is now Docklands.

## More Good News!!

**In August this year the worldwide Rotary magazine "ROTARY," which goes to some 200 countries in which Rotary operates, published a story outlining our program and its success.**

As you would be aware, in May next year 2023 Rotary is having its first world convention outside of the USA since the Coronavirus pandemic. The organisers are expecting around 25 to 30 thousand Rotarians from around the globe to be present. The Melbourne Convention Centre and the Rod Laver Arena have been booked for the 5-day event.

As mentioned previously, we are organising number of 3-hour Tall Ship cruises during the Melbourne Convention. An informative commentary, in English, identifying points of interest and local history will be provided during these cruises. In addition, a video outlining the goals and achievements of the Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge will be screening in the Ship’s saloon. This will give us the opportunity to further expand the program not only around Australia but worldwide through, through our Convention visitors.