

Rotary D9790 Vocational Service Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter to advance club vocational service within Rotary District 9790.

The goal of D9790 vocational service

Our goal is to assist clubs to promote opportunities to combine skills development with vocational entry in order to encourage occupational success.

What's on the Rotary calendar?

- **October, 2011** is vocational service month – this year highlighting efforts to meet the challenges of Australia's skill shortage. Rotary is working in conjunction with Skills Australia to showcase skills and trades and dispel the myth that a university education is the only pathway to success.
- **March, 2012** is literacy month – highlighting the challenges of poor adult literacy and addressing the needs of those who are outside vocational education and training systems.

D9790 vocational service contact:

District chair: Colin Hay
0439 826 252 or
colinhay@hotmail.com

District website:

www.rotary9790.org.au/4a/comm/vocational.asp

District email:

vocational@rotary9790.org.au



Our service lines:

- Computers-4-Kids – computer skills enhance work and lifetime productivity
- L2P learner-driver mentor program - driver's licence as a workforce entry passport
- Literacy – a prerequisite to vocational advancement
- Pride of workmanship & mentoring – recognising outstanding vocational development
- Men's sheds – community support for disadvantaged groups
- Refugees – accelerated skills development to assist refugee settlement

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Rotary Down Under collaborates with Skills Australia to promote vocational service

Rotary and National Skills Week 1-8 October 2010

Rotarian Bob Aitken, Executive Director of Rotary Down Under (publisher of RDU magazine) writes that vocational service will achieve real media awareness and 'clout' in October 2011.

Media and public attention on vocational service will be promoted through RDU's collaboration with the federal government's promotion of National Skills Week.



Rotary is a major partner in National Skills Week

National Skills Week will receive significant media coverage through the official media partner News Limited plus coverage on the week will appear on Foxtel, Austar, Sky, free-to-air networks and radio.

Rotary in Australia is a major partner in promoting National Skills Week. The other partners are: SkillsOne, worldskillsAustralia and News Limited.

The National Skills Week contact is Rachel Small who can be emailed at rachel.small@skillsone.com.au or by calling (02) 8080 0111.

Visit www.nationalskillsweek.com.au for more information.



National Skills Week

Hands and Minds - The DNA of skills and trades
October 1-8, 2011

How can Rotary clubs celebrate National Skills Week?

National Skills Week provides many ways and opportunities in which our district clubs can get involved and hopefully encourage others to get involved as well.

Whether clubs want to organise a small community based event to something much larger in scale is each club's choice.

Celebratory breakfast, lunch or dinner events combined with club meetings are a great way to draw people together and highlight the skills and achievements of those within the community. It is also a great way to attract attention to Rotary while highlighting the key positive messages of National Skills Week.

Another avenue for promoting National Skills Week is to stage an event with a speaker drawn from

SkillsOne's list of skill champions and ambassadors. More information is available at: www.skillsone.com.au.

These ambassadors can be drawn from a pool of:

- successful TAFE students who have forged domestic and international careers;
- winners of National Training Awards; or
- past WorldSkills medallists.

These ambassadors may team up with local Rotary Clubs to hold events and will be available as guest speakers during National Skills Week.

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Pride of Workmanship and Mentoring

District Pride of Workmanship and Mentoring chair, Marg Crisp, from the **Rotary Club of Wodonga** explains the role of her committee:

"As part of the campaign to encourage the Pride of Workmanship theme, Rotary would like, through employers, to give recognition to employees where it is considered due.

"This is the purpose of the award scheme, and with the help of businesses the Pride of Workmanship theme can be spread amongst their employees and further."

The intention is to give businesses and employers the opportunity to nominate one of their employees who, in their opinion, is displaying qualities worthy of such an award. Successful nominees will receive their awards at a gala dinner function.

"Pride of Workmanship Awards Nights are very special occasions in the Rotary year especially when there is a top-line keynote speaker and presenter for the night."

Marg can be contacted by calling 0409 519 316 or mcrisp@nellen.org.au

Literacy

Mary Greenshields District Literacy chair from the **Rotary Club of Seymour** writes:

"As literacy chair, it is my aim to encourage clubs to participate both locally and internationally in improving literacy. This aim should attack both ends of the literacy scale ... the under-achievers and the gifted."

The **Rotary Club of Benalla** is preparing for another trip to Vanuatu working with children at the Port Vila Central School and surrounding area. After their first trip, the club has collected books to be added to the school's library.

The **Rotary Club of Preston** has been active both locally and internationally. The club has awarded four scholarships to students in East Timor and another four to students attending local schools.

Preston Rotarians have also organized a matching grant to support an



indigenous program - the White Lions' Group - to help young aboriginal men between the ages of 12-21. The aim is to re-establish them either at school or in the workforce which at the same time covers the aims of literacy.

The **Rotary Club of Albury-Hume** is continuing its highly successful River of Stories Essay Competition in northeastern Victoria.

The **Rotary Club of Seymour** has agreed to sponsor the competition within the Shire of Mitchell. This competition encourages those at the upper end of the literacy scale and it is hoped that it will become a district competition.

Mary can be contacted by calling 0408 566 740 or marygshields01@bigpond.com

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Computers-4-Kids

Paul Bruce District Computers-4-Kids chair from the **Rotary Club of Appin Park** writes:

"The Computers-4-Kids project refurbishes ex-government and corporate PCs for distribution to disadvantaged students, and others, including bushfire victims.

"The Computers-4-Kids project is a Microsoft Approved Refurbisher. Microsoft has upgraded its software refurbishment offer and now permits the installation of Windows 7 and Office 2007 on donated computers.

"The **Rotary Club of Kyabram** has refurbished its first 20 computers in co-operation with the Shire Council of Kyabram.

"The **Rotary Club of Appin Park** is restoring an abandoned scout hut to create a venue for refurbishing computers. Presently the club is awaiting power to be connected to the hut.

"I have been invited to speak to the **Rotary Club of Yarrawonga - Mulwala** with a view to helping the club to set up a program to refurbish locally donated computers."

Paul can be contacted by calling 0418 338 523 or pbruce2@bigpond.com.

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L2P: Learner-to-Probationary driver mentor program

David Redfearn District L2P chair from the **Rotary Club of Moreland** writes:

"The VicRoads L2P - learner driver mentor program assists learners under 21 years of age, who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle, to gain the driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

"Young people are matched with fully licensed volunteer mentors, and use a sponsored vehicle to gain supervised driving experience. L2P is free for eligible young people and is funded by the TAC.

"The program does not substitute for professional driving lessons, and L2P does not pay for the probationary driving test itself."

To join an L2P program, young people need to be between 16 and 20 years of age, hold a current learner's permit, not have access to a vehicle, a supervising driver, or both.

There are 53 L2P programs across Victoria and there is a wonderful opportunity for Rotarians to help out here either by volunteering or sponsorship. Volunteers need to be over 21 years of age, hold a current full Victorian driver's licence and meet requirements of their local L2P program.

If your club is interested in helping young people and would like to know more, please contact David Redfearn on 0448 852 747 or dredfearn@vtown.com.au.

David is happy to visit your club to talk to you about L2P or help you find your local L2P program. If there is no program in your area, David may be able to advise on how to go about setting one up.

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Skillex: exhibition showcasing skills training 25-27 August 2011

The three-day exhibition at the Melbourne Showgrounds is a free event providing the information and resources required to enable job seekers to train, upskill to a better job, reskill to a new job or gain required training or qualifications to secure a future within an industry.

RI President Kalyan Banerjee's Changemaker Award 2011-12

Vocational service can be a significant contributor to club recognition

How many will your club complete by 1st March 2012?

- More than 50 per cent of club members are active in vocational service projects and activities.
- All club members display the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions at their workplaces.
- Conduct a career counselling or vocational training program in the community.
- Conduct a program to recognize high ethical standards and public values in the community.
- Promote The Four-Way Test to New Generations programs in at least three educational institutions.
- Organise at least one professional networking event in which club members can meet other local professionals and introduce them to Rotary.
- Sponsor a career day in which club members bring young people to their places of business to inform them about career opportunities.