

45 young people between 18 and 25 yrs participated in this years Rotary Youth Leadership Awards programme, 16-21 April...

The week-long RYLA leadership camp was held at Epworth Retreat, Karapiro, run by the 2010/11 District RYLA Committee.



Above: 2011 RYLA awardees. Photo by Vicki Hill, Photographer

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Coming up in April:

- 6 May Guest Speaker:
Cresse Bucchan
Ambassadorial
Scholar to NZ
- 6 May **Sunrise @ Six**
See advert p5
- 6-8 May **District Conference**
Kingsgate Hotel
Hamilton
- 13 May Guest Speaker:
John Prendergast
Visiting Rotarian from
District 9980 – 'Rotary
Opportunities'
- 20 May Guest Speaker:
Club Assembly
- 27 May Guest Speaker:
**English Learning
Programme**
- 3 June Guest Speaker:
RYLA Awardees
- 3 June **Sunrise @ Six**

Rotary in Action ...

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Below: The 'yellow team' completes a team challenge, building a tower out of marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. Nothing like a challenge!



Above: Waikato Sunrise member, Carmen Jacobsen, facilitates a Myers Briggs Personality Profile workshop with her colleague Marie, titled understanding and Appreciating Difference.



Diary Ahead for:

- 1 July **Waikato Sunrise
Changeover**
- 3 July **District Changeover**
Mighty River Domain,
Karapiro – this will be an
official club event for all
members to attend



IYE student, Stewart Gibson, shares about life in Argentina...

3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . and BOOM, I'm fluent. I'm basing this on the fact that I can understand almost everything they talk about now and I can also say everything I want to. So now I am trying to understand the grammatical side of the language, which is extremely hard as we learn nothing of that in English so I first have to learn all the English grammatical formations before I can learn and understand the Spanish side of it!

I am not the only one getting an experience out of my year away. My host mother is learning what it's like to have a boy in the house/family. Just about every second day I have broken a button or ripped some part of my lab coat that the school calls their uniform. I am now into the rhythm of school, which is not as boring as it sounds. Some days the teachers just don't turn up and I don't believe they have heard of substitute teachers here so our class has a free period to walk around school just doing nothing or leave early if it's the last period. I am also trying to pick up French at the school so I will exit this year with 2 new languages.

Today is the three-month mark since arriving here and I am moving to my next family on Wednesday, which is the grandmother of the host family that I am in now. She has taken pity on me because her name is so hard to pronounce and has told me to just call her Granny. She doesn't have internet in her house, which will be very interesting for me as I have always had it and will make it a little difficult to keep skypeing all my friends back in New Zealand and in other parts of the world. That's all from me, for now. I'll close off by saying that my trip to the north is less than 3 weeks away and I am extremely excited. *Stewart*

Member resignations

We farewell two members who have recently resigned due to personal and/or professional circumstances:



Charles Sorrenson - joined in 2009, introduced by Libby after a referral from Roger FitzGerald.

Charles has been a dedicated Rotarian in his time with Waikato Sunrise, passionate about the Rotary cause and the values in action that Rotary promotes. Charles has served on the Innovation committee, as Chair of the committee's first year and then as a member leading up to his return to USA. A talented classical Tenor, Charles has contributed to memora-

able singing performances with Libby's daughter, Danae, at last year's Changeover and at the Paul Harris Community Awards event in March.

Charles and his family have returned to the USA after living for many years in New Zealand. They are somewhat sad to leave, and Charles is particularly saddened to be leaving Waikato Sunrise. But all is not lost. While he has resigned currently, Charles intends to find a Rotary Club to join in USA once he's settled in.

In an email to Raewyn, 29 April 2011, Charles writes: *I arrived in Denver in the midst of a small blizzard, and now that I have come here to the DC area, we have had two warnings of tornados - fortunately which did not materialise. It is now sunny and lovely, and the Iris are blooming. I have worked 6 to 10 hrs most days searching jobs; so far no luck, but I continue to try! Interesting to be here. I do miss Rotary a lot... anxious to get back in once the job thing is over. Pls offer my regards to everyone.*
Charles



Graham Baker joined in Waikato Sunrise 2001. He has served as a director for 2 terms - once for 1 year and the second term for 2yrs.

Graham was on the team, which established the inaugural "Fast track your Career", the workshops and seminars that our club used to facilitate with Melville High students.

Graham also led the team, which scoped out the Malakula Trust water reticulation and storage project in Vanuatu. Unfortunately, the project was not adopted by the Club.

Last year, Graham led the initiative to increase club membership and to establish a membership management policy as chairperson of the membership committee.

Thank you Charles and Graham for your contributions to Waikato Sunrise and the Rotary cause. Best wishes to you both.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) – a huge success

The RYLA programme is carefully developed to explore many aspects of leadership using a mixture of interactive training workshops and physical activities. The programme is endorsed by the University of Waikato, which enhances its credibility for sponsors, employers and participants alike.

For this year's programme, training workshops included:

Self-Leadership – a Myers Briggs personality assessment and workshop titled 'Understanding and Appreciating Difference' facilitated by Carmen Jacobsen and Marie Richards-Hodge, exploring **Public speaking (beginners)** - identifying the barriers to public speaking, and offering participants the opportunity to participate in impromptu speaking, facilitated by Tim Anderson.

Public speaking (advanced) – identifying skills and techniques that enhance public speaking, facilitated by Libby Gairdner. As part of this workshop, the advanced class participated in a Speech Competition, the finals for which were held during the celebration dinner.

Relationships and Communication - exploring challenges faced by awardees when communicating with others. This workshop provided valuable techniques to enhance communication, particularly how to give feedback, how to deal with difficult people, and living and acting with accountability, facilitated by Libby.

Defining Leadership – exploring team building through various discussions and interactive activities, facilitated by Jan Martin.

Business Meetings - providing tips for effective meetings, facilitated by Bill Robinson.



Above: An interactive communication exercise, experiencing first hand the barriers to effective communication, created by assumptions and putting people in to boxes.



Above: Visiting guest speaker Jenny Magee explores Cultural Diversity in Leadership.



Above and below: Awardees became increasingly comfortable with opportunities for public speaking.



Follow Timon's daily blog:

timonkrause@waarbenjij.nu

RYLA awardees also participated in physical activities including:

Karapiro High Ropes – involving collection of 'ingredients' for a team **Master Chef competition.**

Rock n Roll Dancing – taking awardees outside their comfort zone on the first night!

Project Waitomo – a day long team challenge on a private farm at Waitomo, including abseiling and caving.

Serving on the 2010/11 District RYLA committee:

Jan Martin, Co-Chair (Waikato Sunrise)

Bill Robinson, Co-Chair (Cambridge Rotary)

Libby Gairdner (Programme),

Richard Francis (outgoing Treasurer) and Mel Hopkins (incoming Treasurer) from Waikato Sunrise

Bruce Dewhurst (Head Chef),

John de Haas (kitchen help), and

Carole de Haas (Administrator) from Morrinsville Rotary

Martin Nielsen (Te Aroha).

RYLA continued next page



Above: 'The Helicopter' bravely attempted during Rock n Roll night.

Above: High ropes challenge. **Below and right:** Master chef competition, judged by Libby and DGE Raewyn.



Below: Abseiling at Project Waitomo.

Below: An innovative wake up call by the kitchen team on the last morning!



Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars attend RYLA

This year we were privileged to have Ambassadorial Scholars Caresse Buchan (studying at Waikato University) and Erinn King (studying at Victoria University in Wellington) attend RYLA to assist with the week's programme. Read what Caresse has to say about the RYLA experience:

<http://caressebuchan.tumblr.com>



Chris says her involvement has been limited by a change in work circumstances shortly after joining, but she is a stalwart at the rugby games and V8's, she's helped at the District Project days and Circus Quirkus, and she's the current club representative for the J. R. McKenzie Trust.

Chris attended District seminar last year in Rotorua re public image and membership and participated in the club leadership planning evening.

As a result of a request to Rotary for governance assistance, she was elected a board member of the Midland Stroke Foundation whose main responsibility is a staff of Field Officers for the midland region assisting people after a stroke. The Stroke Foundation and Rotary will be working together for a blood pressure campaign to happen in May.

Chris has enjoyed her time so far with Waikato Sunrise, being with people outside of her work circle, and being inspired by speakers. When time permits, one of her Rotary goals is to work on a project overseas.

Being a highly principled person himself, and having viewed the foundation principles of Rotary, Mitch knew he wanted to be a part of the Rotary cause. A few visitor meetings later he joined in November 2010.

Mitch has been an active participant at the Rugby and V8's and now has his Bar Managers license. He really enjoys the rugby events, as he doesn't actually miss supporting the local 'losers' as he calls them (being a Cantabrian and all!)

Mitch has also been part of the Innovation Committee this past year. The highlight has been the partnership developed with Zeal and he trusts Waikato Sunrise will continue to support Zeal in their vision for Hamilton.

Some other highlights since becoming a member has been Guess Who's Coming to Dinner last year, finally making the sports team (thanks John, and he's sorry for kicking your butt around the pool table), and of course a significant highlight is the wonderful people... us!

Mitch looks forward to the continued journey ahead, the friendship of us all, the development of himself and others that he can assist through Rotary service.

Service Above Self

Each week, we 'take note' of our members, individually, for their service to Rotary. This month, we've acknowledged the following members:



Chris Marra
Nurse Educator
Older Persons and
Rehabilitation Services,
Waikato DHB

Chris became a member of Waikato Sunrise mid 2009, as a result of having dinner with Lindsay and Harvey Duncan. On reflection, it was a quite natural thing to do as one of her daughters had been a Rotary exchange student and her sister was President for the Thames club in the same year Harvey was President of ours.



Mitchell Smith
Business Development Manager
BNZ Bank

Mitch joined Rotary after meeting Libby and Tim in the capacity of his job at the time, lender extraordinaire for BNZ. The last business meeting they had together at their home was in October 2009. Business concluded, and wine in hand, it was time to have a social chat.

During the conversation Libby took the opportunity to passionately talk about Rotary, and introduced Mitch to what Rotary does and stands for and he liked what he heard!

Continued over page

"Sunrise @ Six"

is our social pub night, on the first Friday of every month at a venue selected by our social committee.

Six O'clock kick off or earlier if you feel so inclined. Feel free to bring partners and we extend an invite to members of other local Rotary Clubs.

Next gathering:
Friday 6 May
6pm at The Bank
See you there!

Service Above Self continued



Carmen Jacobsen
Organisational Development Advisor
Livestock Improvement

Carmen became a member of Waikato Sunrise in April 2009 after being nominated by Libby to apply for the GSE trip to Turkey. After getting through to the second interviews, Carmen was not selected to be on the GSE team however she enjoyed learning about Rotary and decided to find out more about Waikato Sunrise. A few months later she became a member.

Since joining Waikato Sunrise, Carmen has served on various committees including the speaker committee, membership committee, and the organising committees for the Paul Harris community awards and Raewyn's District Changeover. She has helped as often as she is able with the rugby, and also has served this year on the board.

But wait, there's more! Next year, she will serve on the District Membership committee.

Carmen enjoys the fellowship and camaraderie that Waikato Sunrise offers, and loves getting up before the crack of dawn on a Friday to attend meetings! She extends thanks to Libby for introducing her to Rotary, and to all club members for welcoming her – for a while there, as the baby of the group! 😊 She is proud that Waikato Sunrise is seen to be leading the way in District 9930!



Sharyn Bell
Accountant
Staples Rodway

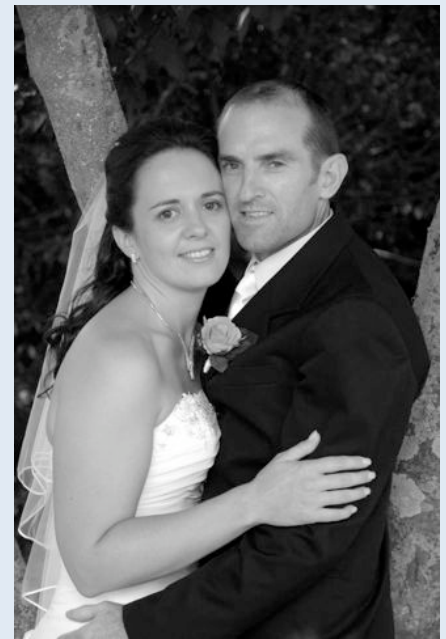
Sharyn joined: May 2008 Introduced by past member Jenny Wilson. She has held the role of Club treasurer since 1 July that year, and has therefore also served on the Board of Directors over the past 3 years.

Sharyn's also served on the Membership Committee during this current Rotary year and her other involvements have been as a willing helper at the rugby, V8's and other such events, Project days and social functions.

Sharyn is passing on the treasurer's role at the end of this Rotary year and looks forward to being able to be involved in other areas of Rotary.

She says the most enjoyable aspects of belonging to Rotary are the people and being part of a vibrant forward-thinking club.

Chris, Mitch, Carmen and Sharyn, you are valued members of Waikato Sunrise, and we thank you for your contribution to the Rotary cause.



Congratulations to Waikato Sunrise member Mel Tipler who married Bryan Hopkins on Saturday 2 April 2011.

Mel is now Mrs Hopkins.

Check it out in April's Rotary DownUnder ...

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A new avenue in New Generations

P16-17

Thirteen into three does go! – a report on the recent Multi-District Presidents Elect Training (PETS)

P24

Timor Leste youth stage RYLA at last

P32

Haiti: one year on

Members – please note following dates for volunteering:

Wed 8 June Circus Quirkus – shows 12.30pm and 5.30/6pm. Ushers required - please contact Bryce.

Rugby dates:

Friday 10 June 7:35pm kick-off,

Saturday 18 June 5:30pm Kick-off

Friday 16th September kick-off 8:00pm report time 4:15pm

Sunday 18th September Kick-off 3:30pm report time 11:45am

News from Tel Aviv



District 9930's Ambassadorial Scholar, **Robbie Frances** writes:

These last 2 months have been an emotional roller coaster. My experiences over the last few months in Israel have been surreal. I remember waking up on the 23rd of March, not long after Gaza began blanket-firing missiles into Southern Israel. My flatmates and I had been preparing ourselves emergency kits in the circumstance that we would have to spend the night in our buildings bomb shelter. I was reading the news online when breaking news reported a bomb attack in Jerusalem. I was shocked to think of such a thing. 40 wounded and one woman, a British national, dead.

Upon further reading I discovered that it was the exact bus stop I catch weekly (sometimes bi-weekly) for my extra curricular class in Jerusalem. Over the next few weeks hundreds and hundreds of missiles were fired into Israel, some landing only 25km from where I live. For the first time in my life I began to relate to the reality of war, the reality of living in fear, and how conflict in a place like this becomes the norm.

We had a really interesting class recently, taken by an organization that works with the family of those who have died in the conflict from both the Palestinian and Israeli narratives. One man spoke of his mother who was killed in a suicide bombing of a bus on the next road over from mine, another woman told how her husband was murdered last June in Jerusalem simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time and for being Palestinian.

To all my lovely friends and family... I am writing to you on the evening of ANZAC. I just had a meal with close friends - I cooked a traditional kiwi mince pie with veges and salad - it went down a treat. It is hard to gather my thoughts when writing about conflict, war and death. Living in a country bordering on war, discussing war every day in class, on the bus, in the home, writing essays on conflict...I am struck by how blessed we are to be kiwis.

I think of all these events of the last few months and then about ANZAC, the 25th of April and the respect that today we give our fallen soldiers. I am saddened by the fact that there are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters around the world who even today are losing their loved ones daily to this cause we call war. And I wonder if it will ever end and who will remember them?

I have just come to the end of my 2-week break for Pesach (passover). My holiday began with a traditional passover meal with my Israeli university buddy Sagi. His family kindly invited Demalie and I into their home and we participated in the seder- a ritual meal to remember the time when Moses delivered the Hebrew people from Pharaoh's slavery in Egypt. It really was an amazing evening. Then this weekend my friends and I went to Jerusalem to stay with my classmate Michael whose family have lived in the Armenian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem for...well...forever. We had the opportunity to visit many Holy sites such as the Armenian Convent of the Patriarch, Zion gate, Zion Hill, the room of the Last Supper etc. Then on Saturday we had the once-in-a-life-time opportunity to witness the Holy Fire ceremony in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Jesus' tomb). This is not a tourist event, but exclusively for Orthodox Christian families.

Michael, however, was able to get us passes. We began bright and early at the Armenian convent then processed down King David street to the church of the Holy Sepulcher. It was bordering on stampede. There is

so much demand to see this event that they close the gates of the Old City and do not allow anyone in for a 12-hour period. Eventually we arrived at the church and after much yelling, pushing and arguing (the Priests did not allow us in because we were not Armenian) Michael and his father managed to get us inside. We waited for 4 hours for the event to start- no room to sit! I was absolutely blown away at the behavior of the Holy men. The church is divided into sections for the Armenians, Greek Orthodox, Coptic, Assyrian church etc because there is a huge power conflict over who has dominion in the church of Jesus tomb. There are ladders in the church, which had remained there for hundreds of years because the different denominations who look after the church cannot agree who should take it down- because whoever does, has more power than the next. Childish really. Jesus would be ashamed. They push each other, yell, complain... it really was a zoo! The ceremony began at 2pm when the lights in the church went out. As tradition tells, God miraculously light a fire in the tomb to remind his

News from Tel Aviv continued

people that Jesus is the light of the world and that he is always with us. Two priests (Armenian and Greek) enter the tomb, retrieve the Holy Fire and then pass it out through two windows. My friend Michael and his father are the first people to receive the Holy fire and they then pass it on to the rest of the church. There was much yelling, dancing rejoicing at the sight of the fire and within 2 minutes the entire church was alight (no fire exits because the Priests couldn't decide who controlled them). It was a little scary to be honest, and terribly dangerous. There was nothing somber about the event and there was no control or discipline. It was utter madness. I was lucky to come out with my hair un-singed. And just like that it was over. The fire got sent to Athens, the Vatican and other Holy Places. Michael found us and we made our way home with all the other thousand pushing, tired people.

We did the same thing all over again in the evening, except the second time was with the African church.

Sunday we walked up Temple Mount. This is the mountain where Jews believe that the ruins of David's city lie beneath and for the Muslims, it is the site of the third holiest mosque in Islam. We had a lovely time walking around the golden dome (although we were not allowed in).

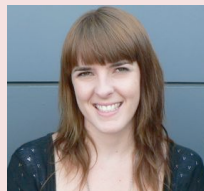
Exhausted, we made our way back to Tel Aviv. Back to reality and back to assignments. It would be nice to be on holiday forever. But I have a degree to complete:)

Weather is heating up here. Had a few 36 degree days and it's only spring! What will summer be like!?!?

By the way, the conflict has been quiet these last few weeks and I am safe. I have an emergency plan and am prepared for the unexpected. The next challenge will be the 15th of May, which is the proposed date of the third intifada, and September when the international community will begin to recognize Palestine as an official state. Interesting times ahead. Keep this crazy country in your prayers and thoughts.

Photos of everything I just told you about can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/fbx/?set=a.10150234517690579.361023.645130578&l=a3e60d1f9c>



**In another email, 20 April 2011,
Robbie sent further news:**

I am just sending out a quick message to let you know that I have been given a job Neuilly Sur-Seine, Paris after I have completed my year in Israel.

I will work 25 hours per week helping two children with their English after school - reading with them, supervising etc. Although it is not a job in my field of study, I have realised over the last year that it is near impossible to work on international peace initiatives when you are monolingual. The European Union, United Nations, International Red Cross etc all require you to speak two world languages before they will accept your application.

Working in Paris will give me the opportunity to immerse myself in the French language and attend French classes. From here I will be perfectly situated to apply for international peace work in Paris, Brussels, Strasbourg and Geneva, which is the ultimate goal. My intention is to get my foot in the door of an organization which has the authority and push to support me in my bid to develop the academic field of negotiation between parties who are religiously affiliated and/or have conflicting scared values- it is a reasonably untouched field as you can probably imagine, and will be a huge challenge.

I start work on 1st of September in Neuilly sur seine, the wealthiest suburb of Paris, within walking distance from Champs-Elysees. The family will provide me with a private apartment down the road from the family home, all expenses paid. Because the work hours are not long, in my spare time I will be taking French lessons, job searching and developing research and thesis ideas/proposals.

My employer has allowed me time off to return to New Zealand sometime between September and early 2012 to complete my Rotary requirements and to see family and friends which I look forward to :)

Robbie

Robbie