

What is Rotary Friendship Exchange?

The Friendship Exchange Program is an International exchange program for Rotarians and Rotary couples that provide participants with the opportunity to experience other cultures by staying in the homes of Rotarians, visiting their clubs and participating in the lifestyle/activities of their communities. The goals of the exchange are to advance international understanding and peace through visits across borders, as well as promote interclub relationships, fellowships and service projects. The Rotarians participating gain the opportunity to make long lasting friendships while exploring different areas of the world.

District 9700 have participated in exchanges other many years. Some recent exchanges are documented below.

2008 a successful exchange was held with District 5100 in Oregon USA. 10 couples from Forbes, Harden, Wagga, & Narrandera travelled to this District for 17 very entertaining days. The countryside was superb, the hospitality fantastic and many friendships were formed. In 2009 the Rotarians from Oregon decended on District 9700 and it was great to renew friendships and return the hospitality. During these visits 4 or 5 Rotarian families in both countries hosted visitors for 3 to 4 days giving time to form and cement great friendships.



Welcome sign at Seaside Oregon.



District 9700 team to Oregon at Hood River Oregon.



Rotarians from Oregon at the Galore Hill Lookout



Oregon Rotarians in Gong Gong Park

2010 saw a group of Rotarian from East Anglia District 1080 in the United Kingdom travel to our District. Once again a successful exchange and in late October 2010 14 couples journeyed to District 1080 to accept their hospitality. A great time was had on a well organized exchange with visits to the Queens Sandringham home and other stately houses as well as tours of the wonderful city of Cambridge and the sea side town of Southwold.



District 9700 at Sandringham Castle



District 9700 showing true Australian style in front of Somerleyton Hall

Investigations are underway into Exchanges for 2012 – 13 with approaches being made to USA and Canada Districts.

District 2030 from India has expressed a wish to visit us and to host a visit to their district. It is possible that this exchange could take place late this year to Australia with the reciprocal visit to India in February for their District Conference. This would be a wonderful way of experiencing Rotary in another country.

[Click here for an overview of District 2030 in India](#)

If you are interested in joining an exchange group or would like more information please contact Rotary Friendship Exchange Chairman. It is important that we have a list of possible exchange participants and hosts so that all information in regards to possible exchanges can be advertised to you promptly.

Lance Gillespie

02 69562168

0428 448508

pinehope@bigpond.com.au