

What is RYLA?

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 7 day residential retreat is an opportunity for young people (aged 18-28) to develop the tools to become effective leaders in their communities. RYLA allows participants to build networks and develop their leadership skills to create the change they wish to see in the world.

This is how past participants described their experiences at RYLA:

"Attending RYLA was a game-changer! It is more than just a leadership program; it's a catalyst for personal growth and lasting connections. From honing communication skills to activities of self-discovery, the workshops and activities provided a perfect blend of theory and practice to equip me with a plethora of practical leadership skills."

"RYLA was a transformative experience, fostering not just leadership skills but a supportive community. The mentors' dedication and guidance were invaluable. The diverse activities and genuine connections formed made it a truly heartwarming journey."

Where and when is it held?

Sunday 21 June to Friday 26 June 2026 at the Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre in Murrumbateman NSW.

What happens at RYLA?

RYLA offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in diverse sessions, presented by experts and mentors, that develop the necessary skills in effective leaders. These sessions take multiple forms, including outdoor recreation, team coordination and planning tasks, as well as opportunities for personal reflection. The contents of these sessions are designed to challenge and develop leaders' skills in the following areas:

- Leadership Theory
- Ethics and Responsibility
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- Facilitating Trust and Empowerment in Teams
- Organisation, Planning and Time Management
- Overcoming Adversity

How can I get involved?

Applications are open to young people aged between 18-28, who are located in the geographic region of Rotary District 9705.

Participants must be endorsed by a Rotary or Rotaract Club in District 9705, however they may be sponsored in whole or part by a Rotary or Rotaract Club, their employer, or choose to pay their own way. The total cost of the program for 2026 is \$TBC (no GST applicable) per person, which covers participants from when they arrive at the venue to when they leave.

A list of Clubs in District 9705 is available here: [Club Directory](#)

Please reach out to a Rotary or Rotaract Club, they would love to hear from you!

You'll also need to fill out an online application form ([available here](#)) and have a Rotary/Rotaract Club Endorsement Form signed by your Sponsoring Club.

Applications strictly close 22nd May 2026.

What happens next?

If your application is approved, you will receive information packs containing packing lists, expectations of participants and the scope of the program. The Chairperson will also contact you directly to guide you through next steps.

Where to get in touch with questions?

Contact the Chairperson, Andrew Giumelli, at ryla9705@gmail.com.