

2025



RYLA IMPACT REPORT

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

What is RYLA?

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organised by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

What are the benefits?

Connect with leaders in your community and around the world to:

- Build communication and problem-solving skills
- Discover strategies for becoming a dynamic leader in your school or community
- Learn from community leaders, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors
- Unlock your potential to turn motivation into action
- Have fun and form lasting friendships

What is involved?

RYLA events are organised locally by Rotary clubs and districts for participants ages 18-30. RYLA goes for 6 days and includes presentations, activities, and workshops covering a variety of topics.



Our Program

Keynote Speakers



Throughout the week, we invite numerous guest speakers to deliver workshops on a range of specialised topics. From Entrepreneurship to Imposter Syndrome, these speakers share their experience and knowledge on their passions. Many of these guest speakers have graduated from our RYLA Program. Some highlight speakers include:

- Cr Andrew Rowse, City of Melbourne
- Johanna Parker, Life + Confidence Coach at Heartsparks
- Dr Simona Carbone, Monash University

Leadership Workshops



On top of our Keynote Speakers, our RYLA leadership team deliver a range of topics throughout the week. Including topics such as Identifying Leadership Traits, Crafting Personal Brand and Developing Growth Mindset, our participants have the opportunity engage with these workshops and build practical leadership knowledge and skills to implement in their day-to-day life.

Team Based Activities



Participants are broken into small learning groups at the start of the week called toolbox groups. Within the toolbox groups, participants engage with a range of team-based activities designed to challenge and push the team, encouraging them to learn more about their personal leadership style, and how to work adaptively and dynamically in a team.

Continuous Development



All RYLA leaders are returning participants from previous cohorts, giving them an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. In 2025, we have a mix of leaders who graduated from RYLA in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Our RYLA leaders committed 70+ in person training hours, learning how to facilitate, lead a team and equip them with the skills needed to deliver RYLA. All leaders were provided the opportunity to deliver a presentation or workshop on a leadership topic that they are passionate about.

Our impact in numbers!

Our RYLA participants are **92%** likely to recommend RYLA to someone they know

40 out of **41** participants have learnt skills that they will take into their daily lives

97% of participants learnt something new about themselves throughout the week

This year, we had **41** participants, **14** leaders and **44** sponsoring Rotary Clubs

Quotes from our participants

What were
your highlights
of the week?

“RYLA was a supportive and communicative environment”

“The ability to share vulnerability and growth together. As a family.”

“Meeting new people and finding a great community with people”

“Opening up to others and my friends and experiencing the power of a positive environment and the wonders it can do”

“The people. I've not been around such a genuinely supportive lot in such a long time, and it truly squashed every ounce of anxiety I had going into this experience.”

“It is such an amazing program. I do not know if I can actually pick a favourite thing. The people, the workshops, the leaders. Just everything.”

“Perfect balance of practical and emotional activities. Such a beautiful supportive environment to allow people to safely push themselves.”

What did you learn about yourself throughout the week?

“Made me critically think about leadership qualities”

“Helped me understand different types of leadership”

“Lots of good things. I learnt a lot about the different types and styles of leadership.”

“Eye opening in terms of how much goes into being a good leader, and helped me to consider different perspectives”

“I learnt why I didn’t get along as well with some leaders due to my trait preferences. But this works for others.”

“It was intriguing learning about the different styles and what appealed most to me. It also pushed me a little out of my comfort zone”

“That we shouldn’t try to be who we aren’t”

“Understanding how we are perfect but in our own ways (skills) and also creating the table with the negatives, opposite and how the negatives become a positive”

“Understanding of values and what is within us”

“Learning/identifying my core values”

What were your highlights of the week?

“Huge thank you to everyone who had any input into creating such an incredible program, it’s a beautiful experience”

“RYLA is a way for people to demonstrate their confidence, and challenge by choice”

“Loved the entire experience, wish I could do it again but I hope to come back and get involved in future. Thank you for the opportunity!”

“Genuinely thank you guys for creating the safest, most supportive environment anyone could ask for to grow as a person. One of the best experiences I’ve had in my life! Thank you for always checking in on me!”



Cassie Leong & Keishan Hunkar
RYLA Conference Leaders 2025

“RYLA is an environment of comfort and courage that empowers participants to challenge themselves and their comfort zones, within the safety net of friendship”

How to support RYLA?

Rotary clubs can support RYLA in a number of meaningful ways:

- Nominate and sponsor a participant to attend RYLA 2026
- Sponsor a leader to deliver RYLA 2026
- Promote RYLA in the community including universities, youth organisations, sporting clubs, businesses
- Connect with the RYLA team about a project stall at RYLA’s annual Rotary Expo for participants
- Donate or fundraise for RYLA item/equipment and resources, such as items for participant welcome and farewell packs

Reach out

If you want to learn more about RYLA, interested in recommending, or interested in sponsoring a participant, please reach out to the RYLA team.

Email: ryla@rotary9815.org.au

Web: <https://linktr.ee/ryla9815>