



RYLA D9660 APPLICATION FORM 2026

Date: Saturday 16th - Saturday 23rd May 2026

Venue: Yarra Adventure Park, 366 Grassy Head Rd, Grassy Head NSW

Overview

RYLA commenced in the formerly known District 9650 in 1970 and is conducted annually with participants sponsored through their local clubs or employers. It is a powerful, valuable program aimed at encouraging and developing leadership and social skills so participants can more effectively contribute to their communities. The program is designed to encourage leadership of youth, by youth. Typically, applicants come from groups such as sporting clubs, voluntary emergency services, scouting, guiding, church groups, youth mentoring programs or are sponsored by their employer.

Participants

Participants **must be at least 19 years and under 27 years of age** at the time of RYLA 2026. In addition, ideally, they should be currently involved, or anticipate being involved, in some form of leadership within their communities, or have shown leadership potential in the workplace. However, we are not a “fix-it” camp for young adults with complex needs. Other relevant information is included in the application forms found at the end of this document. Potential candidates will be formally interviewed by members from a participating Rotary Club as part of the selection process and must undergo a formal screening process, which will include reference checks, etc.

Cost

The cost of RYLA 2026 remains at **\$1450** and includes full board and all activities.

Program Content

The program extends over a period of seven days following Rotary International guidelines with the Rotary 4 Way Test at its core. It provides skills in many areas including understanding human behaviour, social interaction skills, committee functions, human values, leadership, presentation skills and public speaking, lifestyle challenges, communication and organisation. The daily program is carefully structured, planned and relevant. It features peer-led delivery complemented by motivational speakers and presenters who are professionals in their area of expertise. They volunteer their time to facilitate the program as they value the importance and success of the RYLA program and allows us to keep program expenses at a very low cost. Physical activities are undertaken as part of this program and are designed to provide fun whilst engendering trust and team-building.

Outcomes

The objective of RYLA is to empower each participant with leadership and management skills, which will assist them in becoming effective leaders at the youth level and beyond. Many former RYLA Awardees have benefited in ways far beyond the course objective. Past RYLarians are given the opportunity of becoming part of the Leadership team the following year and many go on to become more involved in additional community activities, and some may go on to join Rotary.

Information for Potential Participants

1. The Start

The program commences at **11.00am for 11.30am (SHARP) on Saturday 16th May 2026**. Gates open at 10.00am. Once registered at the site, no participant will be allowed to depart from the venue and there will be no unapproved visits from friends or relatives allowed. Please note that this is a residential program, therefore participants are required to always be on-site.

2. Clothing

The dress code for the program is casual. Generally, you will need casual, gym, swimming, climbing and one formal outfit for the dinner on Wednesday night. Bring some old clothes for some of the outdoor activities. Please pack sufficient clothing. There are washing machines and dryers available, but it is suggested you pack plenty of clothes because you might need a change after some activities. Make sure you pack 2 pairs of closed toe shoes, an old pair for water activities, another for sporting/ bushwalking etc.

There will be a **formal dinner on Wednesday 20th May** at which you will host members of your sponsoring Rotary Club. **This is intended to be a formal event, and your personal presentation is an important part of it.** To achieve that outcome, we emphasise a dress code of business casual to semi-formal clothing.

Eg. Suits or business pants with jacket, collared shirt and tie, dress shoes (oxfords or dressy lace-up shoes), belt, socks, etc. Or modest cocktail, midi or maxi dresses, pantsuits, heels or dressy flats.

3. What to Bring

- Your Medicare Card
- A water bottle
- A keep cup for coffee/hot drinks (optional, we will have some available for those without, we are aiming to do our part for the environment and lower disposable cup usage)
- A hat, sunscreen and insect repellent
- All toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc)
- Towel, bed linen, doona, pillow, or sleeping bag (only mattress provided)
- A watch or alarm clock, you will not have your phone
- Spending money (chocolates and drinks available for purchase at camp, and for venue drinks at the RYLA Dinner)
- Musical instruments
- Wet weather gear/rain jacket/warm clothing
- Uni work (There will be some spare time, internet access limited)
- Laundry detergent for washing machines
- Medication

4. What Not to Bring

- Illicit drugs or alcohol

5. Swimming Rules

This property is connected to an unpatrolled beach and there is a waterslide on site. There is to be no swimming after sunset and no swimming alone under any circumstances. Swimmers are to be always worn.

6. Car Keys & Mobile Phones

Upon arrival your car keys are to be handed in for safe keeping during the week. If you need to leave the premises during the week, you will be required to seek permission from the RYLA Management Team. Mobile phones will also need to be handed in for safe keeping upon arrival. Access will be allowed at certain times each day. This is necessary to ensure complete focus on the program and encourages communication between participants.

7. Grievance Process

RYLA should be a positive experience for all participants, including the RYLA Leaders. However, if any issues arise during the RYLA week that you are uncomfortable about, whether it is related to your interaction with other RYLarians, or you feel you are being unfairly treated in some way, then the following process has been put in place to assist you in working through the issue:

- a) Approach your group RYLA Leader about the issue that is concerning you. Upon gaining an understanding of the problem, the RYLA Leader will take this issue to the senior RYLA Leadership team that will be on site for the entire RYLA week. The Leadership team will more than likely want to discuss the issue with you face-to-face. A plan of action to address the problem will be discussed and implemented.
- b) If you feel uncomfortable approaching your group RYLA Leader about any issue, then you must inform the senior RYLA Leadership team of the problem as soon as you are able. As above, the Leadership team will want to discuss the issue with you face-to-face in order to develop a plan of action to address the problem.
- c) If you feel that the RYLA Leaders or the senior RYLA Leadership team have not adequately addressed your concerns, then you are free to contact RYLA D9660 Chair, Louise Matthews, to discuss the issue in detail.

8. The End

RYLA will finish after morning tea on **Saturday 23rd May 2026**.

9. COVID-19

RYLA will be fully compliant with all Federal, State and Local Government regulations and orders in relation to COVID-19 during RYLA 2026.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 16th April 2026

*Please note 100% cancellation fees apply from
16th April 2026 for non-attendance.*



Date: Saturday 16th – Saturday 23rd May 2026
Venue: Yarra Adventure Park, 366 Grassy Head Rd; Grassy Head NSW

Personal Details

First name:

Last name:

Preferred name:

Sponsoring Rotary Club:

Date of birth:

Age:

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Transgender ☐ Non-Binary ☐ Non-specified ☐ Other: _____

Pronouns (optional): _____

Mobile:

Email:

Most communication will be via email. Please provide legible and accurate email address.

Do you identify with any cultural background of which you would like the RYLA Management Committee to be aware of?

Emergency Contact

Must provide two contacts

Primary contact name:

Relationship:

Mobile:

Work/home number:

Secondary contact name:

Relationship:

Mobile:

Work/home number:

Please attach a copy of your resume and photo on this application (passport size)

Are you currently employed or studying? If so, please give details.

What leadership roles do you currently hold or have held in the past?

What are your interests? Eg. Sport, charity work, Rotaract

Do you play a musical instrument? Yes/No If yes, what is it?

We encourage all participants to bring their musical instruments to RYLA if practical.

What do you expect to achieve from attending RYLA 2026?

Medical Conditions, Allergies & Dietary Requirements

Please indicate the seriousness of any allergies or medical conditions, i.e. is it life threatening, likely to cause illness or is it a lifestyle preference? If this is a life-threatening issue successful applicants will be contacted directly by Yarra Adventure Park staff. Please note that if the RYLA 2026 organising committee or the Yarra Adventure Park staff are not advised of any known allergies or medical condition, then no responsibility will attach to RYLA 2026 organising committee, RYLA 2026 staff, any participating Rotary Clubs, Rotary International or the Yarra Adventure Park or its staff.

Do you have any pre-existing medical conditions that may prevent you from taking part in activities during the RYLA week? **Yes / No**

If yes, please give details: e.g., Asthma, epilepsy, anxiety, etc.

Do you have any allergies? Eg. Bee stings, nuts, etc. **Yes / No**

If yes, please give details:

Do you have any special dietary requirements? Eg. Vegetarian, coeliac, diabetic, etc. **Yes / No**

If yes, please give details:

Are you currently taking any medications? **Yes / No**

If yes, please give details:

Do you have a current First Aid Certificate? Yes / No

Do you have current Ambulance Cover? Yes / No*

*If no, it is strongly recommended you take out Ambulance Cover due to our location. NSW Ambulance charges December 2025 - \$464 flag fall + \$4.64/km. We are 25klms from the nearest hospital and we have a duty of care.

Conditions of Acceptance and Participation

I, _____ hereby apply to be considered to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2026 program and have read and agree to the following Conditions of Acceptance and Participation:

- I will be at least 19 years of age and under 27 years of age at the time of RYLA between 16th and 23rd May 2026.
- I will be available to attend the full week program on the nominated dates.
- I acknowledge that this is a residential course and no “leave passes” will be issued without the express permission of the RYLA Management Team.
- I understand that mobile phones will be held by the RYLA Management Team and use is restricted, unless in an emergency-situation.
- I understand that as a condition of Rotary’s hire of the Yarra Adventure Park and the law, that illicit drugs, illegal substances and alcohol are not permitted on site. I understand that use or consumption will result in expulsion from the course without refund of fees.
- Should there be a need for me to take any scheduled medication, properly prescribed by a medical practitioner, and not otherwise previously declared in this application, then I will inform the RYLA Management Team of this requirement upon arrival.
- I understand that transportation to and from the venue will be my responsibility, however upon arrival, car keys will be handed in for safe keeping for the week.
- I understand that the program may include but is not restricted to such activities as swimming, bush walking, boating, physical team building activities and other forms of sporting events.
- I have the right to decline to participate in any programmed activity, but in the event of my participation, I acknowledge that whilst every care will be taken by the activity leaders, including those employees, agents and servants of the Yarra Adventure Park and any other person nominated who may organise, arrange and conduct those activities, I expressly agree to hold harmless and do indemnify Rotary District 9660, the RYLA Management Team, the organising Rotary Clubs, their officers, members, servants, employees and agents from any and all actions, suits, damages, claims and demands arising out of accident or injury or illness which may befall me or occur as a result of my participation in, or result from any activity or function undertaken by me in connection with the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program, or when traveling to or from such activity or function including transportation to and from the site.
- I further authorise any officer, member, servant or agent of the Rotary District or Rotary Clubs and those employees, agents or servants of the Yarra Adventure Park, in the event of any injury, accident or illness arising from any cause whatsoever to obtain such medical assistance or treatment that is deemed appropriate, and to engage any doctor, nurse or an appropriate member of an emergency service and arrange any hospital accommodation as is deemed appropriate.
- I agree to reimburse the said Rotary District, Rotary Club/s, employees, agents and servants of the Yarra Adventure Park on demand, all such expenses associated with the treatment of any accident, injury or illness, including but not restricted to doctors, nurses, hospital fees and transportation.

- I agree to follow any reasonable direction given me by the said Rotary District, Rotary Club/s, the RYLA Management Team, their agents or servants, including those employees, agents or servants of the Yarra Adventure Park, in the event of any safety procedures being implemented to protect and safeguard my well-being.
- I agree that any photographs or images taken during the week may be used in promotional material for RYLA.
- I acknowledge the information I have provided with respect to my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and authorise the release of information to the appropriate authority in the event it becomes necessary to do so.
- **I understand 100% cancellation fees apply from 16th April 2026 for non-attendance.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Full Name: _____

Queries to be directed to:

Louise Matthews
D9660 RYLA Chair
 RC Tamworth First Light
 16 Mullumbimby Close
 Tamworth NSW 2340
Lmjew@bigpond.com
 0420 743 083

Please email completed applications to:

ryla9660@gmail.com

By post: Attention Louise Matthews as above.

Payment:

Sponsoring Rotary Club/Employer will be invoiced by D9660 Treasurer.
(Direct Deposit Details will be advised in your invoice)

To be completed by the Nominating Rotary Club

Rotary Club of:	
Club Postal Address:	
Club Contact Person:	
Phone number/s:	
Email:	

Conditions of Acceptance

1. If the applicant does not attend RYLA or is unduly late and less than 30 days' notice of cancellation is received, there will be no refund due. In a situation in which a replacement candidate is secured, a full or partial refund may be possible.
2. Your club's payment for \$1450 will be invoiced to enable a direct deposit. The RYLA Committee is not obliged to consider any application without full payment of invoice prior to commencement of RYLA 2026. The Nominating Club will forward payment for participation on receipt of invoice from D9660 Treasurer.

Important Check List	Y/N
Has the applicant read, signed, completed and agreed with the information contained in the application form?	
Have you emphasised to the candidate that 100% cancellation fees apply from 16 th April for non-attendance?	
Is a passport (or other) size photo attached?	
Has your Club interviewed, or will it arrange to meet the applicant before RYLA to make the Award to the applicant?	
Will your Club invite the applicant back after the RYLA Program to complete the Award process?	
Will your Club have someone attend the official RYLA Dinner at Macksville Ex-Services Club on Wednesday 20 th May 2026 as guests of the D9660 RYLarians and the Rotary Club of Nambucca Valley?	

The Rotary Club of _____ agrees to the above

Conditions of Acceptance and the Checklist has been completed.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Full Name: _____