

# ENGAGE

# ROTARY

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

# Sydney

Australia 1-4 June 2014

5 REASONS

# YOU'LL LOVE SYDNEY

- 1 See a show at the world-famous Sydney Opera House
- 2 Surf on Bondi Beach or take a cruise to Manly Beach
- 3 Climb the Harbour Bridge
- 4 Meet koalas, kookaburras, and kangaroos at the Taronga Zoo
- 5 Connect with leaders on projects, get leadership training, and enjoy the unrivaled spirit of Aussie fellowship

Exchange ideas: [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org)

# JOIN US!



Dear friends:

G'day from Sydney! Jetta and I want to see you in Sydney, Australia, 1-4 June 2014, for the 105th Rotary International Convention. Sydney is the perfect venue for our convention as we celebrate and share the many ways each of us has found to *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*.

Sydney is a vibrant international hub as well as a gateway between East and West. From the iconic Sydney Opera House to the Harbour Bridge, from the legendary beaches to the majestic Blue Mountains, from Kiama Beach to the Hunter Valley, Sydney has it all. You can visit virtually every one of these sites using free public transportation provided by the New South Wales government for up to three days before and one day after the convention. And, since you will already be in Australia, you might want to make plans to visit other great places, such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Ocean Road, Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Adelaide, and Perth. These are just a few of the many options available to you.

So join us and enjoy Rotary down under, where we promise great fun, even greater fellowship, an educational and inspirational program, exciting entertainment, wonderful Aussie cuisine, and incredible, unmatched scenery in one of the most beautiful cities and most exciting countries in the entire world. Don't miss this opportunity to personally *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron D. Burton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ron D. Burton  
RI President, 2013-14

# BONDI TO...



Casual yet cosmopolitan, Sydney has a natural beauty that draws visitors to explore the outdoors. The city's main attraction is its frequently photographed harbor — with the iconic silhouettes of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge rising above 150 miles of shoreline. As Australia's largest city, Sydney is home to a variety of ethnic enclaves, cultural gems, and golden beaches. Rotarians will find this sunny city to be an experienced host — gracious and friendly, with an extra helping of beauty.



## WHAT TO SEE

### Central Sydney

The central business district is the place to see quintessential Sydney. It's home to two of the city's top attractions: the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the opera house hosts 40 shows per week, ranging from opera and dance performances to rock concerts and kids' shows. Visitors can also take a peek "behind the sails" on one of the venue's daily tours. [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com)

Another design marvel, Sydney's Harbour Bridge, fondly known as "the Coat Hanger," was described as "the epitome of modern bridge design and engineering ingenuity" when it opened in 1932. Today, hardy souls can take a three-hour guided climb to its summit, while others simply enjoy its 3,772-foot (1,149-meter) silhouette from the ground. Nearby, Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens perfume the air, while the Museum of Contemporary Art adds a modern flair to

The Rocks, Sydney's oldest preserved district, rich in sandstone and tales of how the city was built. [www.sydneyharbourbridge.info](http://www.sydneyharbourbridge.info)

### Beaches and beyond

With 70 beaches nearby, Sydneysiders are no strangers to the sun and surf. World-famous Bondi Beach, the city's best-known stretch of sand, is just 20 minutes from the city center. Surfing, swimming, and sunbathing top the agenda on nearly all Sydney beaches. A scenic cliff-top walking path connects Bondi with Bronte Beach, about a mile and a half south, and with Coogee Beach farther south.

### For the family

With its underwater walkways and giant exhibit on the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney's SeaLife Aquarium consistently ranks as one of the world's best aquariums. It's also conveniently located in family-friendly Darling Harbour, home to an IMAX movie theater, shops, restaurants, and the largest Chinese garden

outside Asia. If the kids still have energy, visit the kangaroos, dingoes, wombats, and many other animal attractions at the Taronga Zoo. And don't miss the family activities like splash parks, playgrounds, and kid-friendly shows right in Sydney Olympic Park, the convention venue. [www.sydney.com/things-to-do/family-holidays/top-attractions-for-kids](http://www.sydney.com/things-to-do/family-holidays/top-attractions-for-kids)

## WHAT TO EAT & DRINK

### A fusion of flavors

Many of Australia's traditional dishes migrated down under with the British. Meat pies and fish and chips are two of the most treasured dishes, while barbecuing is nearly a national pastime. Yet tastes from all corners of the world can be found in Sydney. Over the past several decades, Asian flavors like ginger and lemongrass have infused Australian cuisine. Australians also enjoy a wide variety of fresh seafood, including lobster, tuna, and Sydney's famous rock oysters. But in a large, diverse metropolis like Sydney, it's



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Tourism Australia; Adam Bruzzone



Hamilton Lund; DNSW

# BUSHWALKING

possible to find nearly any type of cuisine, plus restaurants offering “mod oz,” or modern takes on old favorites. [www.yourrestaurants.com.au](http://www.yourrestaurants.com.au)

## WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

### Nightlife

There’s no shortage of things to do after dark in Sydney. Bars and clubs across the city cater to nearly any taste. Darling Harbour is known for its upscale lounges, while pub culture is the norm in The Rocks. Live music can be found in the Newtown and Annandale areas. Convention goers can fulfill a “must-do” by taking in a performance at the iconic opera house. Theater buffs can enjoy a production at the Sydney Theatre Company, where actress Cate Blanchett served until recently as co-artistic director. [www.sydneytheatre.com.au](http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au)

### Shopping

Sydney’s style varies by neighborhood. Pitt Street Mall, with more than 600 specialty stores, Myer, and David Jones,

and located downtown between Market Street and King Street, is one of Australia’s busiest and most cosmopolitan shopping precincts. In the city center, take a peek inside the historic Queen Victoria Building. Its architecture and stained-glass windows make it one of the most beautiful shopping experiences in the city. To avoid the chain retailers, head to Surry Hills, a former garment district that’s now a lively, artsy enclave. On Saturdays, bargain hunt in Paddington Market, where 250 stalls showcase Sydney’s talented new designers and artists. [www.pittstreetmall.com.au](http://www.pittstreetmall.com.au)

### Greater Sydney

Stepping out from Sydney, visitors can enjoy Australia’s waterfalls, wine, and waves.

#### Blue Mountains

Sydney’s most popular getaway is just a two-hour drive west. An oasis of hiking — or “bushwalking” as Australians call it — the Blue Mountains are home to majestic waterfalls, stunning

views, subterranean caverns, and remarkable sandstone formations. The mountains get their name from the mist that often shrouds them, which looks blue because of light refracting in the evaporating oil from area eucalyptus trees.

#### Hunter Valley vineyards

Tour the vineyards that help make Australia the fourth-largest wine exporter in the world. Two hours north of Sydney, the Hunter Valley’s 120 vineyards welcome visitors to taste some of the country’s notable wines, including Semillon and Shiraz, along with Rieslings in the upper valley.

#### Manly Beach

Just a 40-minute ferry ride north of Sydney, Manly Beach is recognized as the birthplace of Australian surfing. Take a surfing lesson, browse the shops along the beach, or hike the scenic pathways of Sydney Harbour National Park.

# REGISTER NOW

Register by 15 December to take advantage of early registration pricing.



1

## REGISTER

Register for the convention at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).

### Decide whether to register as a group or as an individual.

Rotarians can register themselves and up to six guests online. To register more than six guests, download a registration form at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org). If you have a group of 25 or more, contact RI Registration Services ([ri.registration@rotary.org](mailto:ri.registration@rotary.org)) for additional information.

### Choose your travel dates.

Check the preliminary schedule at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org) and select the activities you wish to attend before, during, and after the convention.

It's best to determine your travel dates before you start the registration process.

2

## PURCHASE

To attend RI-ticketed events, go to [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).

### Purchase tickets for host events.

Local Rotarians on the Host Organization Committee have arranged several excursions and hospitality events to help visiting Rotarians enjoy their stay in Sydney. For details and to purchase host-ticketed events and tours, go to the HOC website at [www.rotary2014.com.au](http://www.rotary2014.com.au).

### Purchase transportation.

Discounts are available on select airlines for Rotarians traveling to Sydney for the convention. Find information and discount codes at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).

3

## RESERVE

To take advantage of reduced rates, reserve your hotel room through Experient. Go to <http://registration.experientevent.com/showrot141/Default.aspx> for hotel descriptions and to select your room. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis, so book early to secure your first choice. Booking for housing begins on 22 June.

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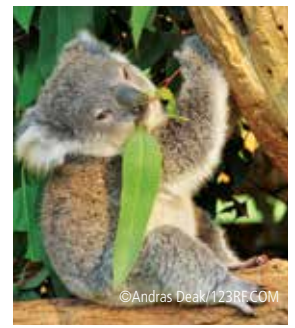
## Why register online?

So you can make changes and get immediate results!

- Edit your own records
- Add luncheon tickets
- Cancel, or add a guest

## PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Rotary Australia World Community Service is the umbrella organization that coordinates the activities of several international service groups: Project Volunteers, Safe Water Saves Lives, an antimalaria group organized by Rotarians, Donations In Kind, and Project Funding. Project leaders estimate funding of AU\$30 million in the 2011-12 Rotary year.



# ROTARY IN AUSTRALIA

## SMALL & BIG

A comparatively small Rotary country, with 34,000 Rotarians in 1,164 clubs and 22 districts, Australia was nevertheless the eighth-largest contributor to The Rotary Foundation in 2011-12, giving US\$6,021,725. However, The Rotary Foundation is just one of numerous major programs that Rotarians in Australia support through service and funding.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### HEALTH & RESEARCH

With almost AU\$30 million raised for medical research in Australia, by Australians, for Australians, Australian Rotary Health Research Fund is another jewel in the crown of Rotary service down under. Recognized as a champion of mental health research, this group provides more than AU\$2 million annually in a variety of vital medical fields. Significant areas of research supported by scholarships in recent years have included rural health and indigenous health.

### MEDICINE & MORE

When you add to the mix projects such as Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) and Interplast Australia and New Zealand; aid programs like ShelterBox Australia, Disaster Aid Australia, and Aquabox Australia; an acclaimed road safety initiative that promotes awareness among young drivers; and a host of traditional vocational, community, and youth programs, one can really see that Rotarians in Australia are making a difference.



# EXCHANGE ENGAGE ENCOUNTER



Sydney Olympic Park Authority

## ATTEND THE 2014 RI CONVENTION

**Networking:** Looking for an international partner for your service project? The RI Convention offers an ideal opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the world who share your goals and interests. It's a great opportunity to exchange banners and business cards and come home with a slew of new contacts.

**Fellowship:** Browse the booths hosted by Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups and connect with others who share your recreational, professional, or humanitarian interests.

**Publicity:** Showcase your service project in the Billabong House of Friendship. For information, contact [exhibitor@rotary.org](mailto:exhibitor@rotary.org).

**Volunteer:** Rotarians who serve as sergeants-at-arms get to help fellow attendees and learn what goes on behind the scenes. Sign up when you register.

## CONVENTION VENUE

All 2014 convention activities will take place at **Sydney Olympic Park**, located 10 miles (16 km) west of downtown Sydney. Plenary sessions will be held in the park's **Allphones Arena**.

Sydney Olympic Park is a large multi-use complex that was developed for the 2000 Olympic Games and now hosts about 5,000 sporting, cultural, and business events each year. It consists of 10 venues that are linked by the park's own transportation system. From its high-tech facilities to its green spaces, Sydney Olympic Park is ready to accommodate anything and everyone. To find out about guided tours and other activities, consult the map at [www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au](http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au).

### Getting there

Sydney Olympic Park is easy to reach on public transportation. The Sydney Olympic Park rail station is about 30

minutes from the city's Central Station. Many buses also go to Sydney Olympic Park, and you can even take the Sydney Ferry from Circular Quay along the Parramatta River and then get to the park by bus from there.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Plenary sessions

During the plenary sessions, you'll hear inspiring stories from the RI president and renowned guest speakers, highlighting the ways that Rotarians live up to the standard of Service Above Self. Rotary Foundation leaders will present the latest news about the campaign to eradicate polio, and guest speakers and lively entertainment will round out the sessions. Simultaneous interpretation will be offered in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish. See the latest program developments at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).



## Be the first to know

Stay up-to-date on convention news with the free *RI Convention Update* e-newsletter. Sign up at [www.rotary.org/newsletters](http://www.rotary.org/newsletters).



Sydney Olympic Park Authority

## Is this your first convention?

Sydney is a great place to attend your first RI Convention. Make sure you make the most of your visit by completing our first-timer checklist:

- Attend the orientation for first-time attendees the Saturday before the convention opens.
- Pick up ribbons, language stickers, and attendance stickers at the ribbon booth for club officers, to advertise your language abilities, and to let everyone know that this is your first convention.
- Enjoy food, Aussie culture, music, and Wi-Fi at the Billabong House of Friendship — and be sure to visit the exhibits of club and district projects to share ideas with other Rotarians who are serving their communities.
- Update your Facebook status to let everyone know how much fun you're having. Take pictures at the convention and use #ricon14 to tweet them to friends back home.

### Breakout sessions

Breakout sessions offer an excellent chance for Rotarians to share best practices and innovative ideas. Incoming club presidents and other RI officers will find breakout sessions designed especially for their needs and interests.

### Billabong House of Friendship

*Billabong* is an Aboriginal word that means “meeting place.” That’s just what the House of Friendship is — a place to mingle with fellow Rotarians while sampling local food and learning about Australian culture. You can visit booths showcasing Rotary service projects, Rotary Fellowships, and Rotarian Action Groups. And you can check out the latest Rotary publications and videos, as well as register for the 2015 convention. Interested in exhibiting in the Billabong House of Friendship? Download an application at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org).

### Preconvention events

New Generations events will be held before the convention, allowing everyone

in the family of Rotary to connect, exchange ideas, network, and discuss programs including Rotaract and Youth Exchange.

### Host events

Australian Rotarians will warmly welcome visitors, greeting you on arrival and offering a series of events planned by the Host Organization Committee. You’ll find these host events a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, networking, and fun.

### Unofficial affiliate events

Spend time with your district governor class before the convention or attend an informational summit hosted by a Rotarian Action Group. Unofficial affiliate events present opportunities to meet with fellow Rotarians you don’t see often but with whom you share a bond. Your district or region might sponsor its own meeting, breakfast, or luncheon. Download the Unofficial Affiliate Events form at [www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org) or request one from [uae@rotary.org](mailto:uae@rotary.org).

# EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA



Tourism Australia; Richard Powers

Sydney is Australia's dynamic gateway to a vast landscape the size of the continental United States. Two must-sees outside the nation's largest city are the Great Barrier Reef to the north, where you can enjoy snorkeling or scuba diving among its marine wonders, and Australia's Red Centre, a rocky region of the outback that is sacred to the indigenous Aboriginal people.

## The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the world's largest living organism. Located off the northeast coast of Australia, it's the most extensive coral reef system anywhere, and its biodiversity makes it a rich area for scientific research. Take a guided tour and swim, snorkel, or scuba dive among more than 1,500 species of fish and 400 types of coral.

[www.greatbarrierreef.org](http://www.greatbarrierreef.org)

## Uluru and the Red Centre

Australia's Red Centre is an area of natural wonder and of sites sacred to the indigenous Anangu people. Start with Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock, a giant red rock formation that is one of the world's largest monoliths, and Kata Tjuta, rock domes that formed 500 million years ago. Ancient Aboriginal art is still visible here. Round out the experience at Kings Canyon, a giant chasm in Watarrka National Park. Guided tours of the area by motorcycle, helicopter, and even camel are available. [www.uluru-australia.com](http://www.uluru-australia.com)

## Great Ocean Road

Take in Australia's southern coast on this stunning stretch of highway. Pullover-worthy sights include the 12 Apostles rock formation, volcanic craters, waterfalls, and the occasional quaint coastal town.

[www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au](http://www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au)



The Great Barrier Reef — Cairns



Tourism Australia; Hamilton Lund

## The Barossa Valley

The world-famous Barossa is just an hour's drive northeast of the Adelaide airport. Famous for its ripe Shiraz, the Barossa is also known for its other heritage varieties, such as Grenache, Mataro, Riesling, and Semillon.

[www.barossa.com](http://www.barossa.com)

## More cities, more to discover

It would take many weeks to explore all of Australia's vast landscape, not to mention its other major cities. If you are interested in another urban perspective, Melbourne, Australia's cultural capital, is a good choice. And Adelaide is home to a lively arts scene and many festivals. Sydney Airport offers connections to all Australian states and territories as well as many major cities in the South Pacific and Asia.



Tourism Australia; James Fisher

# PLAN EARLY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get the most out of your RI Convention experience.



## Register early

Take advantage of special preconvention pricing, but don't delay: The early registration deadline is 15 December 2013 for the lowest rates. Check out our new online registration experience and receive your confirmation materials immediately!



## Apply for a visa

All visitors need a visa to enter Australia, but many can apply electronically and be accepted without a letter of invitation. Check what's required at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au). RI will provide a letter of invitation to convention registrants who will need one. Register online for the fastest way to receive a confirmation and letter of invitation, if needed. RI processes forms on a first-come, first-served basis, so register and apply for your visa early to allow adequate processing time.



## Attend orientation

RI has organized two orientation sessions on Saturday, 31 May, especially for first-time convention attendees. Hosted by the International Fellowship of Rotarian Convention Goers, the session will help you get the most out of your convention experience.

**Online registration will remain open until 3 June 2014. The cancellation deadline is 30 April 2014.**

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

15 December 2013 – Early registration deadline

31 March 2014 – Preregistration deadline

30 April 2014 – Registration/ticket cancellation deadline

2 May 2014 – Official housing deadline

3 June 2014 – Online registration closes

# G'DAY FROM SYDNEY

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA • 1-4 JUNE 2014



### Rotary International

[www.riconvention.org](http://www.riconvention.org)

+1-847-866-3495

[ri.registration@rotary.org](mailto:ri.registration@rotary.org)

### Sydney Host Organization Committee

[www.rotary2014.com.au](http://www.rotary2014.com.au)

[hocevents@rotary2014.com.au](mailto:hocevents@rotary2014.com.au)

[travel@rotary2014.com.au](mailto:travel@rotary2014.com.au)

### Experient

<http://registration.experient-inc.com/showrot141/default.aspx>

1-800-650-6913 (toll-free in North America)

+1-847-996-5885

[rotary@experient-inc.com](mailto:rotary@experient-inc.com)

### Tourism

Tourism Australia [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

Destination New South Wales [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com)

Sydney [www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com)

