

Scandia Race Week

The Skandia Geelong Week Rotary Youth Programme was the brainchild of John Bertrand AM, back in 2001.

John's idea was to invite six selected students from rural Victoria, to be guests of The Australia Day Committee, at their official luncheon, and the following day, take part in Skandia Geelong Week passage race, from Williamstown to Geelong.

The race itself is one of the biggest yacht races of its kind in the world.....some 450 odd boats compete.

Our D9800 was invited to select six very lucky students from our country Clubs to participate in this wonderful programme.

They are selected from Skandia's core values; contribution, commitment, creativity, courage and passion. Eligible students are boys and girls between the age of 15 – 18 yrs.

This year there were seven students nominated to be part of the programme:

Cameron Fulton	16yrs.	R/C Bendigo
Damien Downes	17yrs	R/C Bendigo South
Kate Reade	18yrs	R/C Bendigo Strathdale
Sarah Toohey	15yrs	R/C Bendigo Sandhurst
Ben Oman	16yrs.	R/C Echuca/Moama
Sam McCloud.	16yrs	R/C Eaglehawk
Paul Culvenor	15yrs.	R/C Castlemaine

Each of the students is assigned to a "Sydney 38" as they are called, and act as a guest crew member, in this most prestigious race on Australia's yachting calendar.

A big part of the programme requires fellowship, home hosting [overnight accommodation], and transport to yacht clubs, for a 9.30am start from Williamstown, the following morning.

This year, and previous years, the host club was R/C of Essendon North, and members did a wonderful job as always.

This D9800 Skandia Rotary Youth Programme just gets better and better each year, and I thank all concerned in making this event, "The Chance of a Lifetime" for seven very lucky students.