



ROTARY DISTRICT 9820 MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY



18th, 19th and 20th April 2008

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS AND CLUB BULLETINS

What is MUNA?

It stands for **Model United Nations Assembly**.

Rotary's relationship with the United Nations is as old as the UN itself. At the Charter UN Conference in 1945, there were 49 Rotarians in 29 of the different country delegations. One of the objectives of Rotary International is to encourage international understanding, goodwill and peace and this parallels the role of the UN.

MUNA simulates the workings of the UN Assembly. Teams of two students from Year 11 (preferably) represent a nominated UN Country. Topics debated involve matters of world political, environmental and social concern. To provide sufficient time for all participants to actively participate in debates **MUNA** is held over a week-end. MUNA seeks to increase the knowledge and awareness of students about the UN and about the opinions and perspectives of other countries to the issues and situations that are discussed.

Students are given topics well in advance. Resolutions cover issues such as Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights, Nuclear Proliferation, Poverty, Terrorism and World Peace.

Delegates must research the topics and be able to express the views of the countries they are representing and not their own and not Australia's. www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun - is a useful website for starting research. They are encouraged to wear an appropriate costume and have fun doing it. The objective is to encourage young people to learn respect and tolerance for people of all races, religions and nationalities.

MUNA 2008 will be conducted at the Phillip Island Adventure Centre over the weekend of 18th to the 20th April. Whilst it is not a competition there are awards given for best overall performance, best costume, best researched and prepared, etc. We have arranged for our best performed team to be able to participate in the District 9810 MUNA conducted in the Legislative Assembly chamber at Parliament House, Spring Street Melbourne on the 3rd and 4th May, 2008. The teams that have participated in the last two years have been most impressed by the experience.

There is also a National **MUNA** held at the Old Parliament House in Canberra. The Governor General and Ambassadors and Consuls from many countries are usually present at an afternoon tea hosted by the Governor General for all **MUNA** attendees at his residence. We are considering booking a regular place for one of our delegations to attend however costs are prohibitive until we achieve a larger attendance at our own **District MUNA**. In the interim period sponsoring Clubs might consider sending their delegation to this event.

Rotary Clubs are urged to make this really worthwhile and educational forum our best yet by sponsoring a team of two students from a local school. A Club is welcome to sponsor more than one team. Sponsorship by a Club covers the expenses of conducting **MUNA** and of sending our best performed team to the **MUNA** conducted by District 9810. The students do not pay anything, but of course put in the time and effort.

Team Nomination closing date for this year is **10th April, 2008**.