



At RYTS you will come to understand that you have an important role in the world, that among the world's millions YOU are unique, you ARE important in the WHOLE scheme of things. You will come to realise that we all, yes you too, have a 'wart' or two and you will accept that you are what you are, warts included.

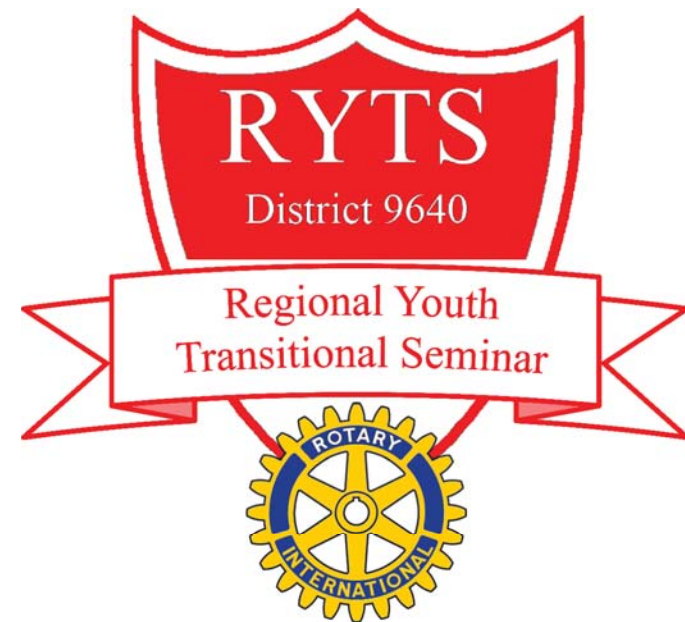
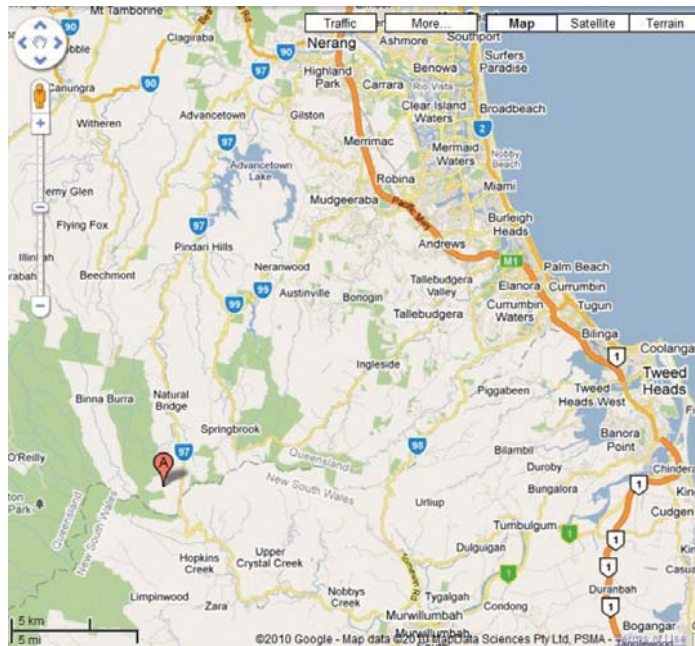
You will learn that, in life, what you prove to be is more important than what you appear to be.

RYTS will give you a reason to believe in yourself and your importance to family, community, the nation and the world. You will know that the world is a better place for your presence.

We all have a contribution to make.

RYTS

Is an annual camp held at Camp Bornhoffen PCYC in the first full week of December. It runs from Saturday till Friday. The campsite is located on the Nerang - Murwillumbah Road, a few kilometres past Natural Bridge in QLD, it's on the right, just before you get to the NSW Border. Just look for the Red-Shirts.



RYTS is about you as you approach a time in your life which comes with major changes in lifestyle, new freedoms, hopes, aspirations and opportunities, to put into affect long held ambitions, and acceptance of more serious responsibilities.

YOU CAN BE WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN BE.



WHAT is RYTS?

RYTS was started in 1984 by a group of Rotoractors (young adults sharing Rotary ideals) who felt that young people about to leave school could benefit from additional life skills. RYTS is not a solid seven days of high school lectures, but a week of interaction with highly qualified people who give their time freely for you.

RYTS is also about raucous laughter and sensitive sentimental moments, loud music and some quiet effective times with your fellow attendees many of whom will become lifelong friends. You may even shed a tear or two when you leave. The RYTS team consists of young adults, a little older than you, who have seen the advantages of RYTS and return annually to conduct this camp for you.

RYTS is Not a camp for Religious, Political or Cultural Education. It is not a camp for moralising or insensitive self assessment, (but you may reflect on some aspects of where life is taking you, where you're going, how you will get there and what you'll do when you arrive), and you may have cause to revise some of your opinions and attitudes.

I believe in me.

I am unique.

I am important to the world;

I can be what I wish to be.

I can achieve what I wish to achieve.



Harriet's Story!

For me, this camp was a journey of self-discovery. Between exercise, laughter, loud music, amazing fun, and serious contemplation I've learnt who I am, and what I need to do to avoid those pitfalls that await me, and I transit into a new, daunting phase of life. I will be making the transition from my managed and protected home and school environment, to University and beyond, experiencing major changes in lifestyle, freedom, hopes, aspirations and opportunities. The skills I have learnt will remain with me for life, as will the beautiful friends I have made. Although, as generation Y, we often seem concerned only with our mobile phones and often have a tainted sense of perspective, programs like this, enlighten us to the true meaning of life, and the our roles in humanity. By gaining a true understanding of who we are, and where we belong, we are able to extend ourselves to new heights.

RYTS is built on the belief that young people, about to leave school would benefit from additional life skills, and benefit we did. During 7 days of laughter, tears, love, friendship and self-discovery, I underwent a transformation; I'm still unable to articulate. Never in my life, had I cried nor laughed so much. I was particularly emotional at this camp, and another camper said to me, "gee Harriet, how many trees have you killed today" referring to the hundreds of tissues I soaked daily.

Furthermore, I've gained a sense of perspective about life. If you're automatically sure that you know what reality is, and you know who is really important, then the boundless opportunities and duties will be overlooked and not considered, but if we modify our perspectives of the world, other options will arise. Having a positive mind-set will empower you to achieve your dreams and goals. I saw RYTS as a test, to discover whether your mission in life is finished; and I assure you, if you're alive, your mission is only beginning.

We, from birth, are hardwired to believe that we are the absolute centre of the universe; the most vivid and important being in existence. This 'self-centeredness' is often masked, as it's seen as so socially repulsive. There is not an experience that you were not the absolute centre of, think about it! At RYTS, I heard other people's experiences. I saw other centres. I faced other perspectives and opinions. I know I'm not the centre of things. We can adjust ourselves off this 'default-setting' by practicing how, and what to think. We are creating our own realities, and we construct meaning from experience, so we have the abilities to share compassion, love and empathy with others, that will create happiness in ourselves.

RYTS has taught me this.