



**ROTARY DISTRICT 9810
MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY
(MUNA)**



**SATURDAY 5 May
and SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018**

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

The Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) is part of Rotary District 9810's commitment to Youth Development. We will be continuing with this exceptionally successful program by conducting our eighteenth MUNA on the weekend of Saturday 5 May and Sunday 6 May 2018 at Parliament House, Melbourne.

What is MUNA?

MUNA simulates the workings of the United Nations (UN) by having teams of two Year 11 students represent UN member countries and engage in debate on matters of world political and social concern.

MUNA provides students with the opportunity to develop their public speaking and debating skills through informed and researched discussion on international issues. It assists students to develop an awareness of the UN and its workings as well as assisting them to see matters from another country's perspective. It helps to foster friendship with students from other schools within the region. It is astonishing how quickly friendships are made.

The MUNA experience encourages young people to learn respect and tolerance for people of all races, religions and nationalities.

MUNA builds goodwill for world peace and understanding in the minds and hearts of our young people. The concept came from the desire of young people to be able to express their views on issues being debated in the United Nations Assembly. The first MUNA was held in Winnipeg, Canada in 1957 and was introduced to Australia in 1980. It has been a feature of our District's youth programme since 1999.

The UN recognises and supports this very worthwhile Youth Project that is now an integral part of the World Youth Activity Programme for Rotary International.

This is a unique experience enabling students to debate for two days in the magnificent surroundings of the State of Victoria Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Teams are sponsored by a Rotary Club and all costs are borne by the club. The sponsorship enables MUNA to be held at Victoria's Parliament House and allows the winning team to have a subsidised trip to Canberra to attend the National MUNA in the Old Parliament House, normally held over a weekend in August.

Student teams

These are teams of two (2) students from Year 11. If this is not possible, exceptionally mature Year 10 students with very strong debating skills may also benefit from this experience, however in past years such students have been at a disadvantage due to the difference in maturity levels. Students who have already participated in MUNA are not accepted for a second opportunity.

The students should have an interest in debating, be articulate and have the confidence to express points of view in front of a peer group of 70 to 80 students, MUNA officials and a gallery of 30 to 40 people.

Each team will represent a member nation of the UN. They will debate resolutions similar to those put forward at the UN and be expected to represent their designated country's attitudes to those resolutions.

The resolution topics and the allocated country will be given to the students as soon as possible after they have registered. Resolutions cover issues such as education, environment, health, human rights, nuclear proliferation, poverty, terrorism and world peace. The student delegates must express the views of the country they are representing - not their own nor Australia's.

The students will need to familiarise themselves with the country they represent by studying its history, population, culture and international alignments and its view on current world issues.

National dress

Students are expected to dress in the national costume of the country they represent, or a costume that depicts that country. This adds colour to the weekend's activities. It also helps the students feel part of that nation and to assume the personality of that country's general population. The sponsoring Rotary Club may be able reimburse cost of hire or materials up to a maximum of \$60 per student.

Prizes – there will be awards of book vouchers for the teams who are judged to be:

- Best Debating Teams (top two teams),
- Best Costume,
- Most Popular Team (awarded by student vote), and
- District Governor's Award

The team judged the best at debating is invited to go to Canberra to debate against teams from around Australia. This is normally in August and again is sponsored by Rotary Clubs.

Parents, teachers and friends have the opportunity to view the MUNA proceedings in the Victorian Parliament House and meet the students at morning or afternoon tea. We welcome visitors.

Early registration enables early allocation of countries. This gives teams time to research the resolutions and research the country they are representing so they can make a more meaningful contribution to the debates.

Closing date for registrations is Friday 9 March 2018

For registrations to be complete, the registrations forms for the two student members of the team need to be completed and signed by the parents. Each student will also need to have their parent consent form completed and signed. The completed forms need to be with the Chair of MUNA Committee by the closing date.

When completing forms please ensure the writing is clearly legible, the student's email address and phone contact details are provided. These are used in correspondence with the students regarding country allocations, resolutions to be debated, and other similar matters.