



Conference Report

Adelaide, Australia
4-11 October 2008







The International Farm Youth Exchange Program (IFYE) program is the international youth exchange program of 4-H, Young Farmers and Rural Youth around the world. Commencing in 1948 in the US and in Australia in 1952, the program gives young people the opportunity to experience life in another country or region, developing better understanding of other cultures. IFYE has truly served its goal of participants reaching “*a better world understanding*” and is still very active in many countries today.



Acknowledgements

The Committee acknowledges the support of the Adelaide Convention and Tourism Authority, in particular the General Manager – Mary White.

We also wish to thank the Hon Rory McEwen, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for his support.

Hon David Ridgway MLC (and former IFYE to the UK 1983)

Winemakers' Federation of Australia

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Mrs Marjorie Clarke



Welcome from the Conference Chair



On behalf of the Australian Rural Exchangees Association, the South Australian Ambassadors Association and the Committee of the 9th World International Farm Youth Exchange Conference, welcome to South Australia!

After many years of planning and anticipation, we are delighted to welcome friends from all over the world. We think you will really enjoy the diverse, interesting and fun program we have planned for you.

Our conference theme is "*Many cultures, one country, one world*" which refers to the broad multicultural diversity in Australia. It reflects the many cultures of our world and the need for continuing growth of peace and understanding for one united, world community. We have also focused on the need to take care of the earth, in particular through the activities of Australia's Landcare organisation.

It is our hope that your experiences here will help you to increase your personal knowledge and understanding of these important themes. We also hope that you enjoy all components of the conference, as well as renewing old friendships and creating new ones.

Please enjoy your time here in the spirit of friendship and understanding, and may you take home many wonderful and happy memories.

Deb Clarke

President, Australian Rural Exchangees Association
Chair, 9th World IFYE Conference



Greetings from the World Board



Greetings to all Exchangees from IFYE, P&O, and Rural Youth, Host Families, and Friends from across the nation and around the globe! It is exciting to see you all again at this 9th World Conference and Reunion.

When we last gathered in Sweden, one of the big topics was the future of IFYE and its related programmes. Whilst it is comforting to know that these exchanges carry on under several different guises, it is also a sad and sobering thought that little by little, the programmes are withering away. Many countries no longer have a national coordinator. This not only makes it challenging to arrange an exchange, it means that national records are not being kept up to date, thus making it difficult for conference organisers to make all the right contacts.

You will remember the learning and all the fun of being on exchange. If you want these opportunities to continue, you must play a significant role in the continuance. Participate in a fund-raiser. Volunteer to coordinate activities. Become a host family. Volunteer to keep your area's records up to date. Stand up and speak up for the difference that being an exchangee made in your life.

Meanwhile, here we are in Australia! And what a week is planned! Deb Clarke and the conference organisers have done a fantastic job to make sure that your experience of the 'land down under' is absolutely the best. There will be something for everyone and I hope you take full advantage of the opportunities.

So, spread the word when you get back home and all best wishes for an eventful and fun-filled week here in Adelaide.

Dr Barbara Maidment
World IFYE President



SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

Arrivals and welcome event



The day started very early for the organising committee and volunteers! Final touches to the planning as well as the registration desks, welcome packs and participant services areas. Shuttle buses driven by our fantastic volunteers and an airport welcome desk ensured IFYEs flying in a friendly face to greet them. Offering short 'orientation to the city' tours for small groups proved to be very popular, giving everyone the chance to work out a little bit of their surroundings and some of the venues we would be going to during the week. As the day wore on, there were many joyful greetings and reunions between friends old and new.

In addition to the World Board meeting, a special reunion lunch was held for Australian P&O Exchangees, who had travelled to the UK by ship for their exchange program between 1952 and 1963.

In the evening, a formal welcome from the State Government was given during our welcome reception, held in the Grosvenor Hotel ballroom. Brief welcomes were offered by Barbara Maidment, World Board Chair, and Deb Clarke, Conference Chair, with an overview of logistics from the ubiquitous Marc Warren!

Greetings and reunions continued well into the night.





SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

Let the Conference begin



An early start for many after their late night, the group was shepherded across the road to Festival Centre amphitheatre for a whole of conference photograph. It was a beautiful, sunny morning and the sight of more than 400 people from 22 countries, flags fluttering in the sunshine, was a sight to behold.

Then the group walked to our bus departure spot outside the Convention Centre – a location we would all become very familiar with as the week progressed!

We arrived at the Kent Town Uniting Church for a multi-faith service, beautifully prepared and given by the Reverend Chris Harkness and our Committee Member Jan Tregove. Our group filled the beautiful church and the service Jan and Chris had prepared for us honoured and respected the many cultures, faiths and beliefs represented by the IFYEs. The flags of all the countries represented were carried in by country delegates, led in by the IFYE flag, and provided a reminder the broad reach of IFYE. A stirring presentation by the Mandarin Choir and readings from many IFYEs added to the warmth and inclusiveness of the lovely service.

Following the service, we walked a short way to Prince Alfred College, where we had a beautiful lunch in the sunshine and were entertained by the *Mt Barker City Band*. The official opening was made by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Michael Harbison.

World Board Chair Barbara Maidment set the scene for a week of learning, culture and inclusion with her speech. During lunch, country photos were taken in the beautiful surroundings of the college.

Several hours of free time were easily filled, before we boarded our charter train to the National Rail Museum for a half hour journey from the city. There we shared a multicultural feast amid the many carriages, platforms and exhibits in the museum, while keeping everyone entertained there was a wine tasting from Kirrihill Wines, with the bright and breezy sounds of the Festival City Jazz band.



Opening Ceremony –

WORLD PRESIDENT'S WELCOME SPEECH

Welcome friends! Greetings one and all to the 9th World Conference of the International Farm Youth Exchange. A special greeting also to host families, Australian interstate exchangees, exchangees from the Australian P & O Shipping sponsored program, Department of Agriculture and Rural Youth Staff from around the world, and friends of IFYE...it is wonderful to see you all here.

It seems only yesterday we were all in Sigtuna, Sweden for the 8th World Conference and my goodness hasn't the world become a different place in the last five years! Terrorism, war, hunger, poor health, and now financial collapse plague the world's great economies and those striving to take their rightful place in the world. Modern issues such as climate change, dwindling oil reserves, cyber-crime, the growth of China as the manufacturing powerhouse as well as India as the emerging technology giant both challenge and provide opportunities for us all.

The IFYE motto of "Peace through Understanding" seemed a very appropriate slogan on which to build a new program for youth following the devastation of World War II. But I ask you; do we understand our neighbours any better now than we did 60 years ago in 1948?

In modern times, improvement in the scope and quality of international exchange programmes relies on several key issues:

- **Democracy** – providing for free choice and voluntary work to maintain and develop democracy
- **Knowledge** – formulation of a broader and deeper knowledge of our multicultural global society
- **Learning** – instilling in our youth and practicing ourselves the love of learning all throughout life
- **Rural development** – holding a reverence and international solidarity for the productive rural components of our various countries and acknowledging the role of the rural sector in creating wealth and stabilising the economy

- Environmental stewardship – building in sustainability in the use of our natural resources
- Gender equality – recognising that women as well as men as well as youth play significant roles in the development of democracy and world understanding

Overall, attention paid to these key issues will assist in capacity building, planning and the implementation of international activities.

Five years ago, when we discussed IFYE as an agent for better world understanding, it was recommended that each of us, in whatever capacity, work personally for improving the quality and scope of the IFYE programme. We stressed the need for global capacity building with particular attention to the developing nations of the world. And we agreed to continue the dialogue on how IFYE can make an impact.

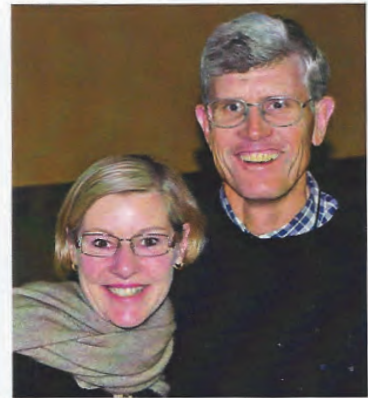
So, here we are in Australia, ready to launch into a week full of activity and meeting up with old friends. Deb Clarke and her organising committee have put together a splendid programme during which your knowledge and understanding of the land down under will be greatly increased and will hopefully leave a legacy in your mind of the people and places that Aussies call 'home'. I would like to particularly thank Deb for her foresight and courage in standing up to say 'we can do this' back in 2002 when the Rural Youth Exchangees Association had their national meeting.

As you move through the week of touring, discussion and host family visits, be thinking in the back of your mind...what have I done in the last 5 years to help IFYE make an impact where I live? And what are my plans for the next five years to improve my personal global understanding?

Once again, a warm welcome to the 9th World Conference – Many cultures, one country, one world...Peace through Understanding.

Thanks

Barbara





MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

Australiana Day (and night!)



For the first day of more formal proceedings and speakers, we walked to the Masonic Hall, an historic and gracious building on North Terrace. To introduce "Australiana Day", we commenced with a brilliant presentation by Tony Sharley, the Manager of Banrock Station. Banrock is part of the Hardy wine company, and produces grapes for its "good earth" Banrock Station label. As well as producing great wines, Banrock is home to a restored river wetland, a native flora and fauna habitat and funds a number of wetland rehabilitation projects around the world. Tony's entertaining and fascinating presentation was very well received, as was his sense of humour and pragmatism! From 11am, buses left the hall to take a variety of routes to Cleland Wildlife Park, where we enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine before visiting the park to see the unique Australian animals and have the chance to pat a koala and have photos taken with one. Delegates were also fascinated by the birds, wallabies, kangaroos, wombats and echidnas.

En route to the park, tours took in a range of visits, including Sinclair's Gully Organic Wines, the Mount Lofty Summit, historic Hahndorf and a Landcare project.

Returning to the hotel, there was a short break for regional meetings, before the buses collected us to go to the Adelaide Shores Function Centre for an Aussie feast and bush dancing to the *Tradewinds*. Set in a replica woolshed, the dinner and dancing was enjoyed with great gusto by all the IFYEs.





TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

Host family day



Back to the coach pickup area for shuttles to Gawler, an hour north of the city. We met our hosts for a day visit, the “distribution” of IFYEs being run with military precision by the inimitable Peter Gill. When we had filled all host family cars, we had several buses hosted by Committee members to do some farm visits and experience local hospitality. One bus, hosted by Margaret Hutchesson and Rosemary March, took IFYEs to Port Parham. The IFYEs gave a donation to the community club which was put toward new flooring, and this donation is acknowledged in the club. Another group was hosted by Deb Clarke, and visited Menglers Hill lookout in the Barossa Valley wine area, a Yalumba Wines vineyard where we were given a tour by a past Rural Youth member who is now their Viticulture Manager, and a White Suffolk sheep stud, run by the Angus family, also past Rural Youth members. Our sincere thanks go to all the families who hosted IFYEs, as well as those who hosted busloads of IFYEs!

After a great day of unique family experiences, we all met at the Gawler Recreation Centre for a shared meal with IFYEs and hosts. More than 600 people gathered together in a warm, community environment welcomed by the local Mayor and catered by local service clubs, Apex and the Country Women’s Association. This day was a fantastic example of host family hospitality and IFYE adaptability and curiosity about new environments.





WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

Workshop day

The day started with a fantastic Indigenous dance performance, complete with IFYE participation. Then we offered 10 different workshops, which were run twice – so each IFYE had the chance to experience two different workshops. The wide range of subjects and activities ensured there was plenty to interest everyone. And in the middle of all that, the local radio interviewed six IFYEs who had gone to the USA together in 1962!

The workshops were:

- 1 **Landcare** – Joe Keynes
- 2 **Australian Flora and Fauna** – Ian Roberts
- 3 **Taking religion to the Outback** – Rev John Dihm
- 4 **Women in agriculture, Partners in grain** – Judy Wilkinson
- 5 **Australian Folk Music** – Jeanette Wormald
- 6 **Wine & Food matching** – Jan Douglas
- 7 **Aussie Rules** – South Australian National Football League
- 8 **Country Women's Association (CWA) Handicrafts**
- 9 **Water trading** – Tom Rooney, Waterfind
- 10 **Royal Flying Doctor Service**

After some free time in the afternoon, we went to the beautiful Adelaide Zoo for a cocktail party, barbecue and some live entertainment. IFYEs were able to walk back to their accommodation, bus back to the Grosvenor or wander through the city to enjoy the atmosphere.





THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

Touring the regions and International night



Options for six different full-day tours were offered to delegates, and these were all very popular, with many hundreds of photographs being taken!

- 1 **Wildlife Tour** – Monarto Zoo, Murray Bridge Crocodile Park
- 2 **Murray River Cruise from Murray Bridge** – Aboriginal site, Cruise
- 3 **Barossa Valley** – Winery, Whispering Wall, Norm's Coolie dogs
- 4 **Coastal** – Granite Island, Cockle Train, McLaren Vale
- 5 **Educational** – SARDI, Waite Agricultural Research Institute
- 6 **Adelaide Plains** – Virgara Winery, Virginia Horticultural Centre

Returning "home" in time to get ready for another fantastic evening, we departed on a charter tram in front of the hotel for the function centre at Morphettville Racecourse. There we enjoyed a beautiful buffet meal and were entertained by our MC, Michael Pratt, and the country delegations who performed sometimes hilarious, sometimes educational and sometimes very unique items! One of the most memorable must be the Indian delegation demonstrating how to wrap a turban on our own Peter Gill! Michael ran the evening brilliantly, and kept us to our scheduled finishing time – not an easy task. We even had a brief appearance from Australia's own Dame Edna Everage, although keen eyes may have noticed a slight resemblance to Deb! It was fantastic to have feedback from some people the next day that it was one of the best international entertainment nights they had been to – so thank you to all those who worked so hard, both performing and organising! Our charter tram delivered us all safely home after a brilliant night out.





FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

General Assembly



Prior to the General Assembly in the Masonic Hall, we were privileged to have as guest speaker the South Australian Deputy Governor, Hieu van Le. Hieu was a refugee from Vietnam in 1975, arriving on a refugee boat into Darwin before travelling to Adelaide and beginning his career - which eventually led him to his role as Deputy Governor of his chosen home state. His is a truly moving and motivational story.

Then World Board Chair Barbara Maidment led the IFYE General Assembly, at which several IFYEs were presented with their 50 year recognition. (50 years since their program) Votes of thanks were made to the Committee from several IFYE World Board members and the General Assembly closed, having agreed to reconvene in 2013 in Thailand.

Picnic lunches were distributed and IFYEs were left a free afternoon to enjoy each

others company and beautiful Adelaide, before our closing cocktail party and dinner at the historic and picturesque Adelaide Oval, dancing the night away to the brilliant Chesterfield Brass. The Committee members were presented to the delegates one more time, before Conference Chair Deb was "inducted" to the group of Past World Conference Chairs and made a short final thank you speech to the committee and all conference delegates. The Song of Peace has never sounded better! For the "stayers", we sang a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne at the end of the dancing, before rounding up the last few reluctant stragglers for the final bus back to the hotel. And for those of us who just didn't want it to end, there seemed to be a large group gathered in the bar at the nearby Strathmore Hotel for a final farewell drink (or two!)





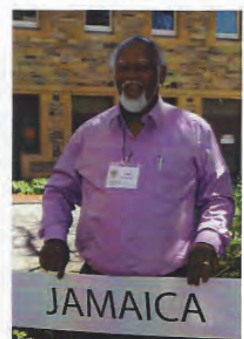
SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

Final Farewells

Today saw everyone sadly taking their leave of friends old and new, but already looking forward to the 10th World IFYE Conference in 2013 in Thailand.



Australia is delighted to have hosted the 9th World IFYE Conference – the first time ever in Australia, and the first time in the southern hemisphere since New Zealand in 1977. We were honoured to have IFYE friends from all over the world come to Adelaide to share in a wonderful week of friendship, activities, fun and laughter. We hope this report brings you back some happy memories.





We intentionally removed
conferee names and contact
information originally
included on pages 26-33.

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Contact list

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Volunteers

The Committee sincerely thanks the very many Australian IFYEs, friends and family who volunteered throughout the week in packing kits, marshalling crowds, organising buses, helping with workshops, driving and many more areas. The conference could not have run without each and every contribution. Thank you!



Our wonderful photographic team Arne, Andrew (Maso), Harlen.



This report page has been rotated to portrait view for easier online viewing. Thank you.