



## Speakers

**May 23, 2023**

Interact Club SJCDs &  
Athletes of the Spring

**May 30, 2023**

Clay County Teacher of the  
Year



## Birthdays

Farris Robinson

May 5th

Selena Barbieri

May 17th

Cindy Grassi

May 27th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Josh & Shelley Farmer

May 4th

Brett & Diane Hutchings

May 9th

Bob & Teresa Harrington

May 16th

Lou & Cindy Grassi

May 23rd

Scott & Gi Teevan

May 26th

David & Susan Broskie

May 31st

## The COG

2022-23 #47

## Club Program - May 2, 2023

Athletes of the Spring & Interact Club of St Johns Country Day Update



*McKenna Bejarano, Orange Park High School*



**Celebrating in May!**

- Jim Kaelin  
34 Years
- Curtis McClees  
23 Years
- Shelley Farmer  
3 Years



*Taliah Scott, St Johns Country Day School*

**Congratulations Ladies!!!**

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**Interact Club of St Johns Country Day Update**



*Rise Against Hunger meal packing event this past March*

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**Rotary News**



## From Australia to the Netherlands, Rotary Youth Programs Have Shaped Me

by Taylor Randall



My journey with Rotary actually began before I was born.

I'm the fourth generation of my family to be connected with the Rotary Club of Nerang, Queensland, Australia. My great-grandfather was charter president, my grandfather was a charter member and past president, and my mum – the first woman invited to join the club in 2000 – became the club's first female president in 2007.

Then there's me. When I was one year old, I made a splash in the World Swim for Malaria community swim. I've been a proud participant in [Interact](#), Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotex (Rotary Youth Exchange alumni) and the [National Youth Science Forum](#), of which Rotary is a founding partner. Ultimately, Rotary youth programs have had a significant role in shaping who I am today.

My school-based Interact club held *Paint Your Pinky Purple* activities to raise awareness of [Rotary's work to eradicate polio](#). Barbecues and raffles were a common occurrence. But I wanted to leave a bigger mark on the world; I wanted to further my international understanding.

### Do It In A Dress

After talking to friends here in Australia and across the globe, I learned how the access to and quality of education varies greatly around the world. As a young female in Australia, I was lucky to attend school. I wanted to make sure my peers knew how lucky they were, too. My Interact club started the program "Do It In A Dress" to support [One Girl](#), an international charity raising funds for and promoting awareness of equality in female education.

In under a week, our club raised more than 2,000 Australian dollars (US\$1,330) by encouraging students to do physical activities like arm wrestling, basketball, wet sponge throwing (corn hole), and sumo wrestling – all while wearing dresses or tutus. To celebrate reaching our goal, we held a



fashion parade where our teachers modeled their most fashionable gowns. Even our male school principal got involved – dress, wig, make-up and all! It was a sight to see!

Having this under my belt inspired me to see where else Rotary could take me. A year later, I found myself in Groesbeek, a small village in the Netherlands, on a [Rotary Youth Exchange](#). This experience produced the most impactful and life-changing moments in my life. I had already had the privilege of meeting Rotarians from all around the world at the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney, and again in Toronto in 2018. I had collected pins and stickers from people in the House of Friendship as well as Rotarians I met on buses, trains, and trams. Gaining the courage to talk to strangers built my confidence and encouraged me to push the boundaries of my comfort zone.

I left Australia for my exchange year in January 2020. After two exhilarating months of living my best exchange life, challenging my comfort zone, discovering a new culture, and learning a new language, the Netherlands went into lockdown from COVID-19. School, Rotary, Church, Scouts, and everything else was online... and in Dutch!

### **Rotary Youth Network**

To keep meeting new people with a love of serving others, I joined Rotary Interactive Quarantine (now known as [Rotary Youth Network](#)). I met with 800 Interactors, Rotary Youth Exchange students, and RYLA attendees from approximately 30 different countries. I didn't just get to know Dutch culture, I got to know cultures from around the world – all from my bedroom.

Due to the pandemic, I returned to Australia only five months into my exchange year. But I was grateful that I got to experience a smidgen of the Rotary Youth Exchange life in person.

Since returning from exchange, I've wanted to give back to Rotary for everything it's given me. I'm a charter member and current president of the Southern Star Rotex Club in District 9640 and a member of that district's Rotary Youth Exchange committee. I also have the honor of serving on the inaugural Rotary International Youth Advisory Council representing all Rotary Youth Program participants and alumni around the world. I support youth voices in all aspects of what I do and encourage other alumni to reconnect with the Rotary world.

I'm here today because of the Rotarians who believed in me and the power of Rotary youth programs. To them I say: *Thank You!*

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## **Club Happenings**

### **CLUB MEETINGS**

May 23rd & 30th

### **CLUB SOCIAL**

~ Friday, June 2nd Casino Night

See *Nicole Hepler to sign-up*

### **UPCOMING SERVICE PROJECTS**

~ OPJH Interact Project - Birthday Cake Boxes for Clay County Food Pantry  
*Donations being accepted to purchase kits*

~ PET Project at Penney Farms



Mobility  
Worldwide®

*We continue to collect shoe boxes used for delivery of PET parts around the globe.*

### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Courses available 24/7 - [Rotary Learning Center](#)

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## **2022-23 Club Leadership**



**Bo Norton**  
*President*



**Gi Teevan**  
*President-Elect*



**Jack Scorby**  
*Secretary*



**Michele Riley**  
*Treasurer*



**Curtis McClees**  
*iPast President*



**Shelley Farmer**  
*Sergeant-at-Arms*



**Dan Powers**  
*Administration  
Club Chair*



**Jake Young**  
*Foundations  
Club Chair*



**Teresa Harrington**  
*Membership  
Club Chair*



**David Tarkington**  
*Public Image  
Club Chair*



**Mary Virginia Fisher**  
*Service Projects  
Club Chair*



**Nicole Hepler**  
*Social Events  
Club Chair*

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