

# A Positive Partnership between Rotary Club of Richmond and Melbourne Girls' College

By Annie Wysham, Rotary Club of Richmond Marketing Chair

The Rotary Club of Richmond's (RCR) President, Sue Bolton, felt a sense of déjà vu when she proudly inducted new member Christine Eckley, a Maths teacher at Melbourne Girls' College, (MGC) in February of this year.

Christine represents the continuation of a valued partnership that has flourished since 1993 between Richmond Rotary and Melbourne Girls' College.

Now retired, President Sue was a teacher at the school and the first MGC staff member to join the Richmond Rotary Club in 1994, becoming Club President in 2002-2003 and 2012-13.

Another former MGC staff member and Richmond Rotarian, Nia Holdenson, was inducted in 2001. Nia has long held the position of the Rotary Club of Richmond's New Generations Chair and works diligently to keep the communication channels open between the two organizations, to the benefit of the students in particular.

Richmond Rotary Club supports students from Melbourne Girls' College in attending RYPEN, RYLA, MUNA, National Youth Science Forum, Science Experience, Public Speaking and Literary Awards, as well as assisting with the school's annual Mock Job Interview Program.

In March this year the Mock Job Interviews were held at Melbourne Girls' College and 24 adult volunteers made up of Rotarians, Friends of Rotary and volunteer professionals, interviewed 84 Year 9 students. The aim was to make this an effective learning experience that will help the young people when their real job applications and interviews are experienced. The school thanked the Rotary Club of Richmond for their ongoing commitment to helping the students experience an interview more akin to the 'real world' than any interviews they may have experienced before.

In turn the Melbourne Girls' College's Environment Green Team students and 2 staff members have volunteered at Richmond Rotary Clean Up Australia Day sites over successive years.



Induction of Christine Eckley February 2013  
L to R - Jenny List, Nia Holdenson, Christine Eckley and President Sue Bolton



Melbourne Girls' College Environment Team students presenting at a Rotary Club of Richmond meeting.

Each year the Club presents the Rotary Club of Richmond Community Services Awards to MGC students who have been active in community service and worthwhile endeavours. Students are often invited to present at Club meetings and report back on their many RCR supported programs and activities.

The Rotary Club of Richmond has recently hosted (separately) 2 young Brazilians as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Both girls attended MGC and spoke fondly of their year at the school.

President Sue Bolton, Nia Holdenson and Christine Eckley are all committed to this positive partnership, with the ongoing support of their fellow Richmond Rotarians and Melbourne Girls' College Principal, Judy Crowe. A powerful and positive partnership that connects with the local community.

[www.mgc.vic.edu.au](http://www.mgc.vic.edu.au)

[www.rotaryrichmond.org.au](http://www.rotaryrichmond.org.au)