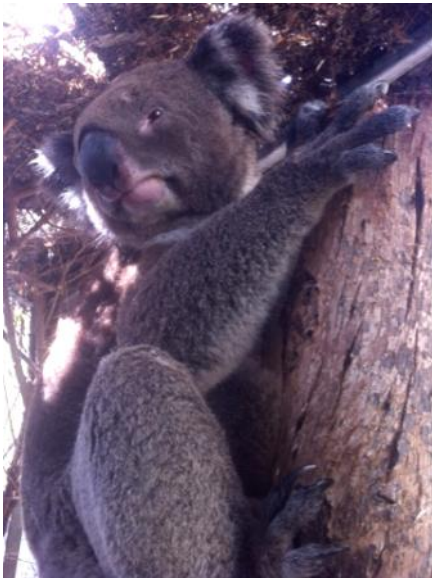


Group Study Exchange Team's Blog Highlights Exciting Trip

District 7610 team's travels in Australia are a cross-section of cultural and vocational opportunities.

You can keep up with the excitement that our Group Study Exchange Team from District 7610 is experiencing in Western Australia by visiting their blog at <http://gseau2013.blogspot.com/>. Here are some of the early highlights of the team members' travels:

March 4:



[Best A\\$5 Ever Spent](#)

We visited the Peel Zoo in Pinjarra this afternoon. For A\$5 we hung out with a koala named Rusty. He is a full-sized adult who sleeps 20 hours and eats eucalyptus leaves the remaining 4 hours when he isn't mugging for the cameras.



[We Hung Out with Flipper!](#)

When we were staying in Pinjarra, we went boating on the beautiful Peel Inlet. As we were headed back to Mandurah for a barbecue, we spotted a dolphin family of three. We followed them for a bit on a Zodiac. At one point the dolphins swam under us! It was beyond cool. The dolphins were graceful and majestic. Seeing the dolphins in the wild made everyone's day.



[Why WA is Awesome, Reason #3](#)

We went to Lake Clifton yesterday to see thrombolites, which are a rare and primitive life form. The rock-like structures may be the earliest form of life on earth, dating back 3500 million years! Single-celled bacteria deposit silt and calcium layers that slowly take the shape of rounded rocks. The thrombolites are in the beautiful Yalgorup National Park.

March 6: [Meeting MP Barry House](#)

We had an excellent meeting with Barry House, a Member of the Parliament of Western Australian, who previously participated in a Rotary Group Study Exchange to Japan. "A great feature of my GSE was sleeping in Japanese homes," he said, noting his Rotarian host families were very hospitable. He took his wife and two children to Japan two years after the vocational and cultural exchange, and stayed with one of his GSE host families.

House credited the GSE experience with motivating him to enter public life. He said it gave him the confidence to enter the political arena three years later. The international exchange prepared him for his current role, which involves hosting delegations, ambassadors, etc. House led a parliamentary delegation to India and China. House has been in Parliament for some 20 years. His capstone achievements, he said, include his involvement in law & order legislation that gives more protection and recognition to crime victims. House gave us pins of Australia that highlight WA. Wearing the pins makes us honorary Western Australians, he said. Cheers to that!

