

Rotary District 5730 Group Study Exchange 2008—Week Two!

From GSE team member Akshay Tavkar: We started the week off in Toowoomba, Queensland on Sunday, March 9th.

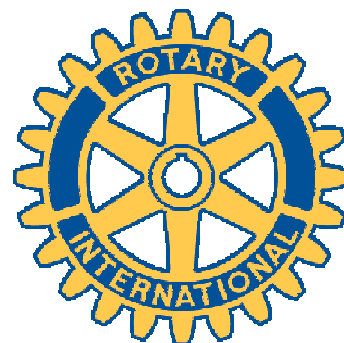
The vocational visits have gone very well for all of us. I was able to visit a couple of hospitals in Toowoomba as well as speak with some physicians one on one about healthcare in Australia. The vocational visits were carefully planned and



well executed by the Rotary members here. We have all had wonderful experiences during these visits.

Toowoomba is known as the Garden City because of dozens of parks they have in the area. The town is situated among hills and is beautiful. The highlight of the week was the district conference. There were a few hundred people at the conference this weekend. We met so many new people and learned more about Rotary, the goals, the mission and the amazing projects that are going on world wide. We also spent a significant amount of time during the week with the Australian GSE team that is visiting West Texas. They were amazing hosts and took great care of our team. We hope to return the favor when they are in our district. The Australian team is excited about their travels to our great state and we have been giving them tons of information and guidance. They have done their research on the state and district, so they are well prepared for the journey. The district conference dinner was extravagant and amazing. Good food, good entertainment and hundreds of Rotarians made for a wonderful evening. Our GSE team and the outgoing GSE gave presentations to the conference on

*Rotary District
5730 Group Study
Exchange
Bill Morris,
Chairman.*



Sunday morning. The team did a great job on a huge stage in an enormous venue with a few hundred people. We were presented with gifts by the outgoing team and the district governor.

We left Toowoomba on Sunday March 16th and we are now in the small country town of St. George, population 3000. It was a 4 hour journey from Toowoomba. We are now 6 hours away from Brisbane and the coast. It is quite different from the previous places we have stayed. The Rotarians here are wonderful and are taking good care of the team.

We are having a wonderful time together and the trip thus far has exceeded our expectations! We will update you next week after our travels through the small West Queensland towns of St. George and Roma.

Just for some clarification about the size of Australia- It is HUGE. Imagine drawing a line from Lubbock to San Antonio, then from San Antonio to Dallas, and then Dallas back to Lubbock. This is the size of the area we are traveling around. We are seeing a tiny fraction of this country that is almost the size of the United States. The state of Queensland, where we are, is 5 times bigger than Texas!

