

Rotary

Club of Belvoir-Wodonga

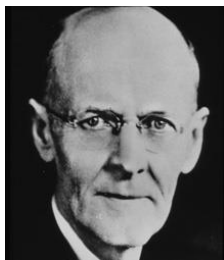


Chartered on the 4th November 1974

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

ORIGIN AND GROWTH

The first Rotary Club was organised in Chicago in 1905, by a young lawyer named Paul Harris. He sought to form a Club, which would bring together a group of representative business and professional people; a Club where members would join together in fellowship to get better acquainted. The fellowship they enjoyed soon developed into actions of service to others.



PAUL HARRIS named the new organisation "Rotary Club", because originally the members met, in rotation, at their various places of business. Membership soon became too large for such places and the Club changed to a weekly luncheon meeting. These weekly meetings, be they breakfast, luncheon, dinner or supper, are now held by Rotary Clubs all over the world.

From Chicago Rotary soon spread to other cities. The second Club was founded in San Francisco in 1908. By 1910 there were 16 Clubs, and the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed, with Paul Harris as its first President.

Rotary Clubs were soon formed outside the U.S.A and. in 1912; the name was changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs, again with Paul Harris as first President. The name was shortened in 1922 to Rotary International, normally referred to as RI.

The first Rotary Club in Australia was the Rotary Club of Sydney formed on 11th April 1922.

The twin pillars of Fellowship and Service remain the base for all Rotary Club activities.

THE MOTTO of Rotary is “**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**” and this is supported with a secondary motto of “**ONE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST**”

Today there are more than 35,000 Rotary Clubs with a membership of well over 1,200,000 in over 168 countries and geographical regions, a truly international organisation.

Rotary International is an association of Rotary Clubs throughout the world. Its' offices serve as a centre for all Rotary Clubs, aiding in the standardisation of their practices and in the translation of the "**Ideal of Service**" into business and community life. Rotary International is the link between Clubs; it promotes and administers the various international programs and generally gives oversight to the activities of Rotary worldwide. The rules, which govern the activities of Rotary International, the Board of Directors and the individual clubs, are reviewed every three years at the Council of legislation. Any club can make recommendations, and every district is entitled to a voting delegate.

Rotary International is administered by a Board of Directors, officially elected at the annual International Convention, which any Rotarian may attend. There is a President elected for one year, a President-elect, and 17 Board members each elected for two years. Board members are nominated from defined regions by a formula, which ensures that representation on the Board is shared throughout the world. The Board is assisted in the administration of Rotary by a permanent secretariat, which is located in Evanston, Illinois, USA. Branch offices of the secretariat are established in Zurich, Switzerland and Sydney, Australia.

Rotary International produces a Manual of Procedure for the guidance of clubs every three years and each new booklet incorporates the changes that result from the Council of legislation decisions.

Rotary Clubs . . .

Are grouped into Districts for administration purposes. A District Governor, who is nominated by the Clubs in the District, and officially confirmed in office at the Annual Convention of Rotary International, supervises each District. The District Governor serves for one year. In Australia there are around 1,113, Rotary clubs with a membership of more than 29,000.

The Rotary Club of Belvoir – Wodonga is in **District 9790**, which extends from Deniliquin and Holbrook in southern New South Wales and Corryong in North East Victoria, down to Melbourne in the south, there are 64 clubs and approximately 2000 members.

The District Governor (Emma Davies) conducts an annual conference of the Rotarians in the District at which matters of District concern are discussed. Resolutions may be brought forward from individual clubs; decisions being effective only at District level.

Rotary Clubs are administered by a President, President-elect, Vice President and a Board of Directors who are elected by the Club members. All officers change every year, giving responsibility and opportunity for leadership to many members of the Club. A Rotary year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

The Rotary Foundation objective is the furthering of understanding and friendly relations between peoples of different nations through the fostering of tangible and effective projects of a philanthropic, charitable or educational nature. Educational Scholarships, Vocational Training Team programs and Special Grants are sponsored from the Rotary Foundation Trust Fund, administered by its own Board of Trustees and financed by voluntary donations from Rotarians worldwide.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB

Membership is extended, by invitation only, to a person of good standing in the community, who holds a responsible position in business or the professions, and whose place of business or residence is within the territory of the Club or adjoining areas.

Membership can be one of three types. They are:

- **Active** - We currently have 41 members
- **Honorary**
 - Bryan Watson
- **Family of Rotary** - We currently have five past members who still retain an association with the club.

Membership lists are given to all members. They include the members and partner's names, private, business telephone, mobile telephone numbers and Email address. These are useful for contact between members.

Members find that Rotary does not take up a disproportionate amount of their time although for office holders there is obviously a greater time Commitment. Members are seldom asked to give up a Saturday or Sunday unless a major Club project is underway, or they are rostered on for the Rotary Market (about every ten weeks) or Meals on Wheels (approximately once every 18 months).

Membership ceases when a member moves to another locality, however, Rotarians often find they can gain admittance to another Club if they wish to continue as a Rotarian, although there is no automatic inter-Club transfer a letter of introduction can be sent from your club to the new club indicating the financial status of the member and any pertinent information about the member as a Rotarian.

Being a Rotarian there is a requirement for all members to have a current “Working With Children’s Check” (WWCC) card. This is due to the youth programs that clubs participate in. Members can register by searching WWCC Victoria and once at that website follow the links to register. This takes little time to do so and you should indicate you are a volunteer and that “The Rotary Club of Belvoir-Wodonga is the organization, address is PO Box 252, Wodonga, Victoria 3689. Once completed, print the form and take it to the Post Office, they will take a photo and complete the process for you. **There is no cost for this.**

The Club Meeting....

The Rotary club of Belvoir-Wodonga normally meets at “La Maison Restaurant, Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga, 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start, every Wednesday night unless changed to accommodate a Vocational Visit or Fellowship event.

At a weekly Club meeting, members are free soon after 8:15pm. Monthly committee meetings are held at a mutually convenient time and members are expected to support their committee by attending.

There is an opportunity for partners and children to participate in Rotary events both on social occasions and with project activities.

Classification of Members....

A Rotary club ideally should have in its membership a representative of every recognised business, profession or institutional activity in the community. Certain terms chosen for their brevity and descriptiveness are used in Rotary to designate these activities and are called "classifications".

Members are classified in accordance with their business or profession. Classifications are determined either by the principal activity or service of the business in which the member is engaged or by the actual position held in the business. In other words, if a member is the accountant of a Printing company, the classification can be either "printing" or "accounting".

Badges with the full name, the person's commonly called name and the classification, are worn by members at their meetings, this assists new members, visiting Rotarians and guests to familiarise themselves with other members of the club.

Attendance....

Regular attendance at a Rotary Club meeting is very important. It gives you the opportunity to share fellowship with other Rotarians. Rotarians should attend at least 50% of the meetings held every six months.

Members unable to attend their own Club meeting may "make up", i.e. attend another Rotary Club's meeting. Members should notify their Club's attendance officer of such attendance by handing in the visitor's card from the other Club. A "make-up" is possible at any Club in the world and gives those travelling a great opportunity of meeting other people and extending acquaintance. Make-up are also achieved by being involved with Rotary activities within the club or with other clubs.

Attendance means being present at a meeting for at least 60% of that meeting.

The importance of regular attendance cannot be over-stressed. Members have a dual responsibility... to get to know other Rotarians, and, to give other Rotarians an opportunity to know them. It is a two-way process. This can be achieved only by regular attendance at Club and committee meetings and by active participation at every opportunity.

If you are not able to attend a Club meeting, **an apology must be made** by sending an Email to bobgen_matejcic1@outlook.com **Prior to 12 noon on Tuesday**. The email should be headed 'Rotary Apology and Guests'. Late apologies ring Bob Matejcic on 0409 714 914.

Absence without apology is termed "silent" and is considered a discourtesy to the President and Club members, although it is appreciated that occasionally circumstances can make it impossible to record an apology beforehand, although every endeavor should be made to record one, even if right on the meeting time.

NOTE: **Non-Attendance** - If you are going to be absent for four or more consecutive meetings a letter requesting a Leave of Absence is to be sent to the Club Secretary for presentation for Board approval.

Club Officers....

The Rotary Club of Belvoir - Wodonga is administered by a Board of Directors comprising the President, President-elect, Immediate Past President, Five Directors, Secretary and Treasurer. Board meetings are held each month to conduct the business of the Club.

Committees are chaired by a director and each committee concentrates on its area of service. Support and attendance at committee meetings are essential for the success of the Club.

The object of Rotary finds expression in the six Avenues of Rotary service, through the committee work of the Club.

All members serve on a committee. It is usual for most members to change committees on an annual basis, giving a wide experience of Rotary activity over a period of years.

The main committees in our Club are:

- **Club Development Group** (Director is President - elect)
 - Public Relations
 - Fellowship
 - Membership
- **Vocational Service** (Director)
 - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
 - Vocational Visits
 - John Hamilton-Smith Scholarship
- **Community Service** (Director)
 - Movie Trailer
 - Donations to Community Organisations
 - Community Projects (Wodonga Hospital)
 - BBQs for Community Events
- **International Service** (Director)
 - Shelter Box
 - Disaster Aid Australia
 - RAWCS (Includes Jack Stow Award)
- **Youth Service** (Director)
 - Youth Exchange
 - National Youth Science Forum
 - Murray Darling Freshwater Research
- **The Rotary Foundation** (Immediate Past President)
 - PHF Nominations
 - Club Annual Giving
 - Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)
 - Polio Plus
- **Market Committee** (Joint Market Committee Member)
 - To discuss matters concerning the market.

We also have Ad Hoc Committees:

- Joint Market Committee with The Rotary Club of Albury North
- PHF Nomination Committee
- Club Nominating Committee for the selection of Board positions for the next Rotary year.

The cost....

The cost of attending a normal weekly meeting is \$27.00 and if you are not having a meal the cost is \$5.00. At special meetings such as social functions, an extra charge is made.

Subscriptions are payable to the Club. Our subscription rate at present is \$270.00 per annum and is payable six monthly (\$135.00). Subscription includes payment for Rotary International fees, District levy and the Rotary magazine "Rotary Down Under. The value of these Dues is to be adjusted to reflect the rise in subscriptions that the club needs to pay on the behalf of club members

Expenditure, annually, on Rotary meeting nights for meal charges and subscriptions will cost around \$1300 and extra events such as family nights, "Changeover" (end of June) and the Christmas function will entail expense over and above the weekly meal cost. From time to time there are District functions that are enjoyable occasions worth the effort and cost, the Annual Conference is one such event that is actively promoted.

Club Projects....

The Rotary Community Market is the major fundraiser for our club and is conducted in partnership with The Rotary Club of Albury North and is operated by each club on alternate weekends. We have a team that comprises of:

- Captain (6:30am start)
- Site Coordinator (6:15am start)
- Six team members (one member 6:30am start and five 7:30am start)

Meals on Wheels is an ongoing community commitment by the club and is conducted on the first Sunday of the month. We roster two members of the club who are required to be at the Wodonga Hospital Kitchen by 11:15am to pick up the meals (**we are always Car 4**) and then deliver them, returning to the hospital on completion.

Bandits Basketball Home Games – We have been fortunate to have the opportunity to look after the entry for home games of the Bandits Basketball teams. The fee charged for this assist with the reduction of costs to members with subs.

Assisting The Rotary Club of Wodonga West - Rotary year 2023 – 2024 saw the club assisting The Rotary Club of Wodonga West with the catering at Home Game match days. We have also agreed to assist with the Dragonboat race days when they compete in Wodonga and the manning if the gates for the finals of the Local AFL finals. These projects will bring in much needed funds into our Membership and Fellowship accounts to help reduce costs to members in the way of subsidies.

Youth Exchange is one of the areas within the Youth portfolio that the club has supported from the beginning. The club sponsors both outbound and inbound students to and from many overseas countries. The students are hosted by both Rotarian and Non-Rotarian families from three to four months depending

on Host family availability. The students have both Inbound and Outbound Councilors within the club.

We currently host:

- **Inbound**
 - Pil Gudiksen from Denmark and she is here from July 2025 to July 2026.
- **Outbound**
 - Austin Clear whose exchange is Japan, January 2025 to August 2025
- **Outbound in waiting**
 - Jacinta Fisher whose exchange is France, January 2026 to January 2027

Past Club Projects

Alternate Schoolies Project – Since the Rotary year 2013/2014 the club has had a project where Year 12 students have gone to Cambodia for a two-week period for community activity and some tourist activity rather than participating in one of the many activities around Australia where they socialize to excess. Students pay their own way and contribute \$300.00 each towards the community service element of the project. Three adults comprising of Rotarians and Non-Rotarians, supervise this activity. The club ensures that one of the supervisors is a female.

Movie Trailer – The Movie trailer is a project of the club that was started in The Rotary year 2007/2008. The purpose of the trailer is to go to farming communities that are suffering from the drought at the time. The trailer goes to communities and set up a BBQ and plays movies for the families. A councilor was present to talk about depression and the downside of the drought that all were suffering. This was started with a partnership with the Nab Agribusiness and was the Idea of The Community Service Director (Barry Membrey). The trailer was also used during the 2009 Bushfires at the staging area in Yea to play movies for those families affected by the fires. The trailer has spent time with The Rotary club of Longreach for intended use as was in our area.

BBQ – The club has supported community service groups around Wodonga by providing cooking in the form of a BBQ at events as requested. Community service providers that we support are:

- **CFA** – We cook for the CFA during their training days when the Brigade get together.
- **Belvoir Special School** - We cooked for the school at their fete and during their Car Boot Sale.

The club is registered with Street Trader for Food Handling and there are members of the club that have done the Online Food Handling Course.

Club Sponsorship....

The club has two programs that are in recognition of two deceased Charter Members of the club, these being Jack Stow and John Hamilton-Smith. The programs are:

- **Jack Stow Award** – This is presented to a second- or third-year Building Trades Apprentice and comprises of all costs incurred in support of attendance as a team member to a Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) project that the club is conducting. Over the years we have sent teams to New Guinea, Tonga, The Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu and Africa to name a few. The team conducts community work and, on most occasions, involves building construction.

- **John Hamilton-Smith Award** – This award has been presented to a second year Environmental Studies Under-Graduate at LaTrobe University (Wodonga Campus). The award has now been transferred to Charles Sturt University as La Trobe University no longer conducts Environmental studies in Wodonga. The award is a \$5000.00 Cheque to assist them in the costs incurred with their further studies.
- **Bryan Watson Award** – In May 2019 in conjunction with The Wodonga City Council they have a Volunteer of the Year Award which is presented at the Volunteer Day in May each year, our club donates \$1,000.00 to the charity they work for or if a conflict occurs then the Board will select a worthy charity.

Club Awards....

The club has recognised people who are either Rotarians within the club or non – Rotarians for their efforts in support of Rotary and the Community. The way the club have recognized these efforts are:

- **Paul Harris Fellows (PHF)** – This award is presented to Rotarians or Non–Rotarians in recognition of their ongoing efforts. This recognition consists of a donation to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) in the members’ name and they are presented with a certificate and Lapel Pin. If a member has been further awarded a PHF this is known as Multiple Paul Harris Fellow (MPHF) and they are presented with other Lapel Pins that have mounted Sapphires or Rubies to denote the number of awards.
- **Royce Abbey Award** – This award was initiated by The Rotary Club of Essendon in support of one of their members (Royce Abbey) who was also the World President for Rotary International in 1988 – 1989. The basis of the award is that the recipient shows a genuine enthusiasm and commitment to the Ideals of Rotary and that \$1000 be donated to The Rotary Foundation in the name of “The Royce and Jean Abbey Endowment Fund”. The Club currently has recognised five members with this award.
- **Richards / Coyle Award** - In 2004 as part of our club’s 30th Birthday celebrations, the then President, Len Dawber, instituted an award that recognised the membership of two long standing Charter Members of our Club. He named the award in their honour. This award to be known as The Richards / Coyle Service Award. Along with a certificate there is also a pledge by the club to donate a sum of \$1,000.00 to a program of The Rotary Foundation in the awardees name and their choosing. With 30 years’ service to Rotary and the community, Ian Richards and Colin Coyle were the first recipients of this award and there have been many more members of our club that are proud recipients of this award.

THINK ROTARY

- Rotary cannot be absorbed in a day... nor is it possible to cover every Rotary aspect in this brochure... it must be taken in gradually and assimilated.
- New member information sessions can provide an opportunity to get better acquainted with Rotary. There is a considerable amount one can learn, for example, what is "Rotary Foundation" all about? What is a "Paul Harris Fellow"?
- Rotary in no way interferes with members' religious, political or other beliefs or individual and personal interests.
- Rotary welcomes visitors: it is not a secret society. Many enjoy immensely what it offers in fellowship and service - often getting far more out of it than they put into it.
- Rotary offers plenty of individual scope for member's initiative and for the promotion of their concerns for the community at large.
- Your Sponsor has a special responsibility, but you can also look to our Club Membership Development chairman, or to any member of the Club to help you.

The 4 – Way Test...

Members of Rotary are asked to apply "The Four-Way Test" of things we think, say or do.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

The Object of Rotary....

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First. . . The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second. . . High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third. . . The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

Fourth. . . The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Common Rotary Acronyms....

AG	Assistant Governor
ARH	Australian Rotary Health
COL	Council on Legislation
DDF	District Designated Fund
DG	District Governor
DGE	District Governor Elect
DGN	District Governor Nominee
DGND	District Governor Nominee Designate
DIK	Donations-in-Kind
DSG	District Simplified Grant (of the Rotary Foundation)
Interplast	Remedial Surgery & Training
MOP	Manual of Procedure
MPHF	Multiple Paul Harris Fellow
MUNA	Model United Nations Assembly
NYSF	National Youth Science Forum
PDG	Past District Governor
PE	President Elect
PETS	President's Elect Training Seminar
PHF	Paul Harris Fellow
POLIOPLUS	Program of Rotary to Eradicate Polio
PP	Past President
PRID	Past Rotary International Director
PRIP	Past Rotary International President
PROBUS	Professional and Business Club (Retired)
RAM	Rotarians Against Malaria
RAWCS	Rotary Australia World Community Service
RCC	Rotary Community Corps
RDU	Rotary Down Under
RI	Rotary International
RIBI	Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland
ROMAC	Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children
ROTEX	Organisation of Ex-Rotary Exchange Students
RV	Rotary Volunteer
RYLA	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
RYPEN	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
TRF	The Rotary Foundation
VTT	Vocational Training Team (Previously GSE – Group Study Exchange)
WCS	World Community Service
YE	Youth Exchange