



Information for New Members

What in the world does Rotary do?

We're helping to eradicate polio worldwide; we're providing disaster relief; improving literacy locally and globally; and we're doing so much more...

How?

Simply by turning conversations into actions. Once a week groups of people just like you get together and help others in the wider community.

- 🌐 It's life changing.
- 🌐 It's exciting.
- 🌐 It's knowing you are really making a difference.

And we're probably just around the corner from your place.

Rotary's commitment to ***Service Above Self*** is channelled through five ***Avenues of Service*** which form the foundation of club activity.

🌐 Community service.

🌐 Youth Service

🌐 International service.

🌐 Club service.

🌐 Vocational service.

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INTRODUCTION



Rotary International

Rotary International (RI) is a worldwide network of Rotary clubs organised into districts and zones.

It was the world's first service club and was founded in 1905 by a Chicago lawyer, **Paul Harris**. With three business colleagues they met each week in each other's offices in rotation, giving rise to the name Rotary. Although originally conceived just to promote friendship and to give business to each other, Paul Harris soon convinced his friends that worthwhile community service work was to be the way ahead. Their first project was to rally support for, and see the erection of the first public convenience in downtown Chicago.

In the ensuing years Rotary clubs were started in half a dozen cities in the USA, and in 1910 clubs were formed in Canada and soon after in Ireland and gradually all parts of Britain. Rotary was now *international*. The organisation came to Australia in 1921. Today there are 1.3 million Rotarians in nearly 35,000 clubs in 215 countries.

In Australia there are around 33,000 Rotarians in 1,140 clubs in 21 Rotary Districts. In our own **District 9685**, there are 78 clubs stretching from the Central Coast to Sydney Harbour and across the Blue Mountains.

Blackheath is one of the oldest Clubs having received its Charter in December 1943.

The organisation of Rotary is very simple...

The autonomous Clubs are guided each year by the **District Governor (DG)**, aided by Assistant Governors. They meet with the Clubs officially once a year. The DG in turn reports directly to the **Secretariat** in Evanston Illinois (a northern suburb of Chicago). The organisation is led by its **Board of Directors** who represent all regions of the world and they serve for two years. The Board is chaired by the **Rotary International President**.

The DG convenes a **District Conference** each year. The Secretariat selects a different city in the Rotary world to hold the **Rotary International Convention**. All members are urged to attend the District Conference as it presents the latest thinking of RI, the best projects of our Clubs and a unique opportunity for fellowship at a high level. There are *no* State or National Conferences in Rotary.



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:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. 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;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business community life; and
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Service above self.

The Four Way Test

More than 80 years ago, in the midst of the Great Depression, a U.S. Rotarian, Herbert J. Taylor, devised a simple, four-part ethical guideline that helped him rescue a beleaguered business. The statement and the principles it embodied also helped many others find their own ethical compass. Soon embraced and popularised by Rotary International, The Four-Way Test today stands as one of the organisation's hallmarks. It may very well be one of the most famous statements of the 20th century.

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

**Will it build GOODWILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?**

How Rotary evolves

In the formative years of Rotary, Paul Harris said, “**Rotary must be evolutionary all of the time, revolutionary some of the time**”.

In Rotary the principles remain constant. The changes are in the practical application of those principles to current conditions and requirements.

In 1987 women were admitted to Rotary. This was a giant leap forward for the effective delivery of service by Rotary Clubs.



Paul Harris

At the turn of this Century dramatic changes were instituted by RI to the format of committees and delivery of information.

Every three years representatives of every District in the World meet to serve on a **Council on Legislation** to update the Constitution and Bylaws. All Clubs are free to make representations to this Council.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION (TRF)



The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International was established in 1917 and is operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes by the Trustees of TRF. It is supported by contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision for a better world. All its expenses are borne solely by the interest earned over a three-year period. Specifically TRF is committed to:

- Making grants that fulfil humanitarian needs in all areas of the world.
- Promoting educational and cultural programs that enhance goodwill and understanding.

- Expand programs to strengthen peaceful relations among people.
- To eliminate Polio and other common diseases throughout the world. The program, Polio Plus, began in 1985 and is expected to be completed in the very near future.

TRF Programs

- Peace Scholarships; Graduate scholarships at an overseas university for Masters Degrees.
- Vocational Training Teams.
- Group Study Exchange with other Districts overseas.

Rotarians and their relatives cannot benefit from any Rotary Foundation sponsored programs.

Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Recognition

A major funding source of TRF is through PHF recognition whereby anyone who donates \$US1,000 to the Foundation becomes a Paul Harris Fellow. It is very common for such a donation to be raised by the Club to honour a Member or a deserving local citizen. Recognition can be enhanced by subsequent donations (eg. Sapphire or Ruby).



ROTARY ACRONYMS



No different from any other organisation today, Rotary has an endless list of acronyms. Below are the most common ones encountered and not already indicated.

ARH	Australian Rotary Health
DGE	District Governor Elect
DGN	District Governor Nominee
DIK	Donations In Kind
GSE	Group Study Exchange
3H	Health Hunger and Humanity
IPAC	International Projects Advisory Committee
MOP	Manual of Procedure
MUNA	Model United Nations Assembly
PDG	Past District Governor
PETS	Presidents Elect Training Seminar
RAM	Rotary Against Malaria
RAWCS	Rotary Australia World Community Service
RDU	Rotary Down Under
ROMAC	Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children
RYLA	Rotary Youth Leadership Award
RYPEN	Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment

Other organisations sponsored by Rotary

INTERACT	A Club within schools for 14-17 year olds.
ROTARACT	A Club for young adults 18-30 years.
PROBUS	A Club for retired business or professional people

ABOUT BLACKHEATH ROTARY



Blackheath Rotary Club is one of the oldest Clubs in our District 9685, having received its Charter in December 1943 and has served the community continuously to the present day.

Our club has provided two District Governors in its history: Ed Hill in 1962-63 and Paul Klausen in 1998-99.

The following are just some of the many projects undertaken over the years.

- Blackheath Baby Health Centre, completed in 1948 by the fledgling club.
- Rhododendron planting and formation of the Rhododendron Association.
- Community Centre development with a hall added to the School of Art.
- Construction of the Paul Harris Lookout in Staveley Parade, Blackheath.
- Picnic shelter and playground equipment in Memorial Park.
- Street tree planting including Californian Redwoods as Christmas tree.
- Filtration plant for Memorial Park Swimming Pool.
- Picnic ground at Megalong Crossing.
- Coachwood Glen Nature Trail.
- Entrance gateways to Rhododendron Garden.
- Establishment of Rotary Pine Forest for sale of Christmas trees which earned tens of thousands of dollars for various projects and charities.
- Car parking area Hartley Historic Village.
- Construction of amenities for the disabled in Sutton Park.
- Various bus shelters in Blackheath.
- Blackheath Public School projects.
- Change sheds at Browntown Oval.
- Design and installation of storyboards for the “Crossings Room” at the Mount Victoria & District Historical Society Museum to mark the Bicentenary of the Crossings of the Blue Mountains 2013-15.
- Construction of a garden at Katoomba Hospital Mental Health Unit and provision of exercise equipment.
- Financial assistance with refurbishment of the Palliative Care Ward at Katoomba Hospital with the proceeds from our Inaugural Anzac Golf Day in 2014.
- Learning Centre for Youth – *Sentru Formasaun Ba Juventude*
- Return of the Blackheath Rocket Slippery Dip to Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park

OUR MEETINGS



Blackheath Rotary Club meets each Thursday at 6.30pm at Blackheath Golf Club for dinner at 7.00pm. The meeting closes around 8.30pm. Members often continue fellowship after the meeting.

Reports on current projects and future meeting arrangements are discussed and the Club usually hears from an invited guest speaker on wide-ranging subjects (except politics or religion). The accent is on fellowship. Rotary is a serious organisation but *not* a solemn one!

Members are encouraged to attend as many meetings and/or project commitments as possible and they should advise the Club Administration Director when this is not possible. Being a club for busy men and women, it is understood that perfect attendance is not always possible.

Visitors are always welcome, especially prospective members. Partners are equally welcome at any time, and encouraged particularly at **Changeover** and **Christmas nights**.

A Rotarian is always welcome at another Club's meeting, even unannounced, be it locally or anywhere in the world.

Dress: There are no strict dress rules for Rotary meetings. Ties are rarely worn but most members crank their standards up a notch or two for the more important occasions.

Working with Children Check: Once becoming a member, you will be required to undertake a Working with Children Check which is a simple process (and free) which can be initiated online.

YOUR CLASSIFICATION



The **classification** principle helps Rotary Clubs achieve a more diverse representation of their communities. Each active member of a Club is classified by his or her current or former business, profession, or type of community service.

It is more or less expected that you might bring anything of interest or importance in your vocation to the attention of the Club and to take Rotary's principles (as outlined on pages 7-8 in the *Object of Rotary* and in the *Four Way Test*) back to your vocation.

As a new member you will most likely be asked to give a "job talk" at a Club meeting at which you may take the opportunity to relate the story of your life and times, your education etc., and particularly of your vocation and your part in it. You will also be called on at times to stand and briefly introduce or thank a guest speaker. If not already comfortable in these speaking roles you will find them of enormous personal benefit as you acquire this skill when in sympathetic company.

The essence of Rotary membership is of course in the service work it performs. You are expected to volunteer, as much as possible, for a variety of tasks which will be requested at the meetings by the President or his/her Directors. You may be called upon for a variety of skills which you may have, but mostly for those that you never knew you possessed!

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS



The Club holds its **Annual General Meeting** on the first Thursday of December, formally considers the previous Rotary year, and then elects the office bearers for the ensuing year which runs from July to June. The principal office bearers and their roles are:

President — *Chairs each weekly meeting and is responsible for maximising the positive impact of each meeting, ensuring that they are cheerful, interesting and enjoyable. He/she will probably have influenced the Board to take on projects considered important to pursue in the Community. The Board, and indeed the members, will introduce any other ideas that could be handled by a busy Club.*

Secretary — *Collects and distributes all the Club's mail; consults with the President to set the agenda for Board and Club meetings, records and distributes minutes of the Board.*

Treasurer — *Receives and accounts for all money collected at meetings and projects of the Club, presents a monthly statement to the Board and gives ongoing advice on the budget.*

President-Elect — *is the Incoming President who may also have a director's role, usually in **Club Service**.*

Immediate Past President — *Remains on the Board for a further year.*

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Club Service Director — *has a number of Club officers under his/her guidance: **Sergeant-At-Arms; Bulletin Editor (who who may also act as **Publicity Officer**); Conference Chairman; Rotary Information; Fellowship and Social Program; Club History; Venue and liaison with the caterer.***

Membership Chairman — *who is also a member of the Board.*

Community Service Director — *who works with a **Special Projects Officer**.*

International Service Director — *who deals with overseas projects, Youth Exchange students, Shelterbox etc.*

Youth Service Director — *who deals with the many programs involving youth.*

Vocational Service Director — *promotes vocational programs and activities within the Club which include job talks and guest speakers and Pride of Workmanship Awards.*

OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES



In July each year, a Rotary club sets out its service program for the year ahead. There may be a major program chosen as the main beneficiary of our funds or labour. Other projects may also arise in the course of the year but there are core projects that the Club undertakes each year.

Youth

Scholarships and awards are given to selected school students.

- In Year 9, students who are nominated as “having potential” but need motivating, attend a weekend course called RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment).
- Post High School students with proven leadership qualities in other areas attend a week long camp of concentrated activities and lectures to hone their leadership skills – RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).
- For two weeks in January, our brightest science students are selected from around Australia to extend their knowledge with our top scientists in Canberra (Youth Science Forum).
- Once a year we arrange for two or three young people to be part of an exchange program with young people from the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga) – PACE (Pacific Australia Cultural Exchange).
- We invite our schools to nominate 16 year olds who have been outstanding achievers – ROYA (Rotary Outstanding Youth Achievement).
- Each year the Club donates money to Blackheath Primary School and Katoomba High School to put towards their student prizes.

These young people bring most interesting reports back to the Club.



The Rotary Club of Blackheath
PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

CITATION

Worthy Recipient

As my daughter, working with me in our club in Blackheath, there is a tendency for me to have higher expectations of her than of other staff.

On the couple of occasions over the years that Jamie has left the business for a period, our regular clientele have been very disappointed as she has formed, with them, a wonderful rapport and respect with her professional, wonderful sense of humour and her ability to handle difficult situations with ease.

With her return last year, Jamie once again took on many aspects of the business, creating an environment for locals and visitors to be welcomed and treated with respect.

Jamie displays wonderful personal skills with the disabled that are very much a part of Blackheath, making them feel very much at home and always willing to help them if needed.

Her organisational skills, came to the fore during last year's bush fires, managing to rally her friends, making sandwiches and organising donations for the fire brigades.

Jamie is definitely an asset to the business and has the respect of her fellow staff and our customers.

Pride of Workmanship Awards

The Club makes several of these awards each year to business people and/or their employees, nominated by Club members who consider them to have “gone the extra mile” in their business or professions.

Several Clubs join with us each year for this event. **A night not to be missed!**

The “Bun Wagon”

A familiar sight at most outdoor events is **Blackheath Rotary’s custom built catering Bun Wagon**. Apart from drinks and the sought after menu of hot food, the wagon provides a great service to our community organisations as well as adding to our project funds. Sometimes we simply donate our profit to the organisation of the day. Up to eight times a year all possible hands are required to man the wagon in shifts.

Serving some happy customers on the Bun Wagon.



The Rotary Club of Blackheath
in conjunction with Blackheath Golf Club

★ **ANZAC** ★
GOLF CLASSIC



The Anzac Golf Day

On or around **Anzac Day** each year, Blackheath Golf Club assists us in staging this very popular Golf Day. It involves lining up sponsors for each hole and donations of prizes and goods for auction at the end of the event. The day involves all members and is the major fundraiser for the year.

Social activities

The Committee organises social events each year apart from major functions of the Club. They may consist of a car trial, a day at the races, a visit to a winery or other places of interest. We often join other Rotary Clubs in the upper Blue Mountains for similar outings.

A principal aim of Rotary membership is to foster close friendships in order to better serve the community so participation in these areas is an important aspect of Rotary life.

Ongoing involvement

YOUTH EXCHANGE – When enough host families are available the Club may host a student from somewhere in the world and send a local student to another country. The participants are around 17 years of age and may be children of Rotarians. They normally stay with each host family for three months during their year away.

ROTARY YOUTH DRIVER AWARENESS (RYDA) – A concentrated road safety program in which the Club sponsors participants from year 11 in one High school.

SHELTERBOX – This very popular project is becoming an ongoing focus for fundraising in the Club. A Shelterbox comprises a large box with a tent and sleeping bags, cooking equipment, tools etc., enough to provide shelter for 10 people and is dispatched to disaster areas on a needs basis.



Responding to emergencies

Our Club also responds to local and international emergencies when appropriate. For example, we have provided much needed financial assistance to the residents of Mt Victoria who lost their homes in the 2013 bushfires.

And in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in 2015 we quickly funded the provision of four Shelterboxes.

HOW MUCH WILL MEMBERSHIP COST?



Fees are referred to as **Annual Dues** and are shared between Rotary International and our District (District 9685). These cover: District dues (Conference, Assembly, Insurance); Rotary International Dues; *Rotary Down Under* (Monthly Magazine). Dues are payable annually in July.

They are set at \$270 per year but can be paid in two 6-monthly payments of \$140.

Our members are also encouraged to participate in *Rotary's Centurion Program*. This is a very easy way of getting into the habit of making a personal contribution to The Rotary Foundation. The commitment you are asked to make is simply contribute \$100 per year, which amounts to a couple of dollars per week, as long as you are able to. In this case, the money is paid into The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust making your contribution tax deductible.

Here are your dinner options...

- At each meeting you may choose at your own cost to purchase your dinner from the Golf Club bistro. A \$5 fee is requested to be paid to our Club to help with expenses. Drinks are available from the bar at your own cost.
- You can choose to not eat at all. The choice is entirely yours. However, if you choose not to have a meal you are still asked to contribute \$5.
- We also have a “fines” session, known as the Sergeant’s Session, which may cost a few extra dollars but it’s a lot of fun.

My notes...





The Rotary Club of Blackheath
meets at 6.30 pm

Thursdays at Blackheath Golf Club
Brightlands Ave Blackheath

Email: info@RotaryClubofBlackheath.com.au

www.RotaryClubofBlackheath.com.au