

INTRODUCTION TO WERRIBEE ROTARY

a reference
guide for
new
members



As at 01.07.2026



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WHAT'S ROTARY?

Rotary is an international membership organization made up of people who share a passion for and commitment to enhancing communities and improving lives across the world. Rotary clubs exist in almost every country.

Our members change lives locally and connect with other clubs to work on international projects that address today's most pressing challenges. Being a member is an opportunity to take action and make a difference, and it brings personal rewards and lifelong friendships in the process.

HOW IS ROTARY STRUCTURED?

ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS

There are more than 1.3 million Rotary club members, or Rotarians, around the world. You will have the privilege of collaborating with other professionals and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others by bringing together your expertise, skills, and resources.

ROTARY CLUBS

The club is the most vital component of Rotary's organizational structure. There are over 40,000 Rotary clubs in more than 220 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs are autonomous, so the member experience varies from club to club. However, they all operate somewhat similarly. For example, all clubs have presidents,

secretaries, and treasurers and committees that help them run smoothly. Each Rotary club is a member of Rotary International.

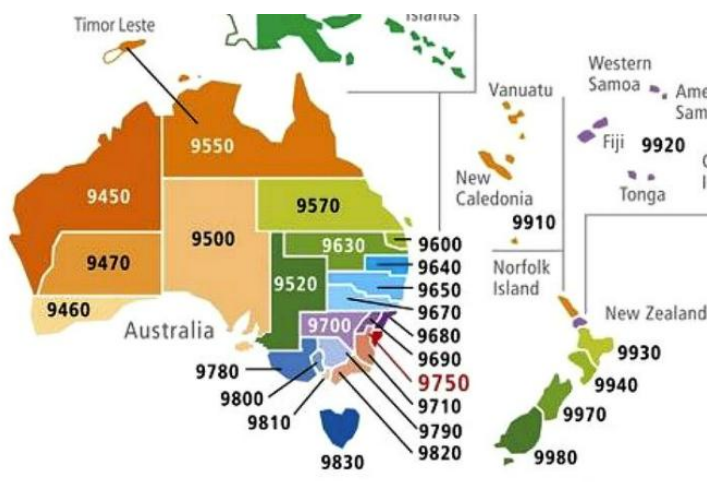
CLUB MEETINGS

Rotary clubs hold regular meetings where their members gather to socialize and to discuss their current projects, other Rotary matters, and professional topics. While most clubs meet in person, some clubs meet primarily online or have a combination of in-person and online meetings. Rotary is both apolitical and nonreligious, and Rotary clubs are encouraged to create an inclusive environment for all club members at their meetings.

Meetings can be formal or informal and can include food and drinks, speakers, an open forum for discussion, or group activities. The more you participate in your club's meetings and activities, the better overall experience you will have as a member.

DISTRICTS AND ZONES

Rotary clubs around the world are grouped into districts, which provide administration & support to the clubs. Districts are led by a District governor who serves a one-year term, leading a team of assistant governors and district committees to support and strengthen clubs and motivate them to carry out service projects.



Governors visit each club in the district during the year, oversee the development of new clubs, and plan the district conference and other unique events.

SENIOR LEADERS

The Rotary International president is elected to a one-year term, during which she or he presides over the Board of Directors. The RI Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees govern our organization and its Foundation.

The Board sets policies that aim to help clubs thrive. Clubs elect members of the Board, or directors, every year at the Rotary International Convention. Each director serves for two years and represents one of the Rotary zones. The Board of Trustees manages the business of The Rotary Foundation. The Rotary International president-elect appoints Trustees to four-year terms.



The 2026/27 Rotary International President is Olayinka Hakeem Babolola from Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria. (pictured left)

The President Elect for year 2027/28 is Larry A Lunsford from Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA. (pictured right)



WHAT WE VALUE

Rotary was founded on principles that remain at the heart of the organization today. These principles reflect our core values — integrity, diversity, service, leadership, and fellowship, or friendship. Our core values emerge as themes in our guiding principles.

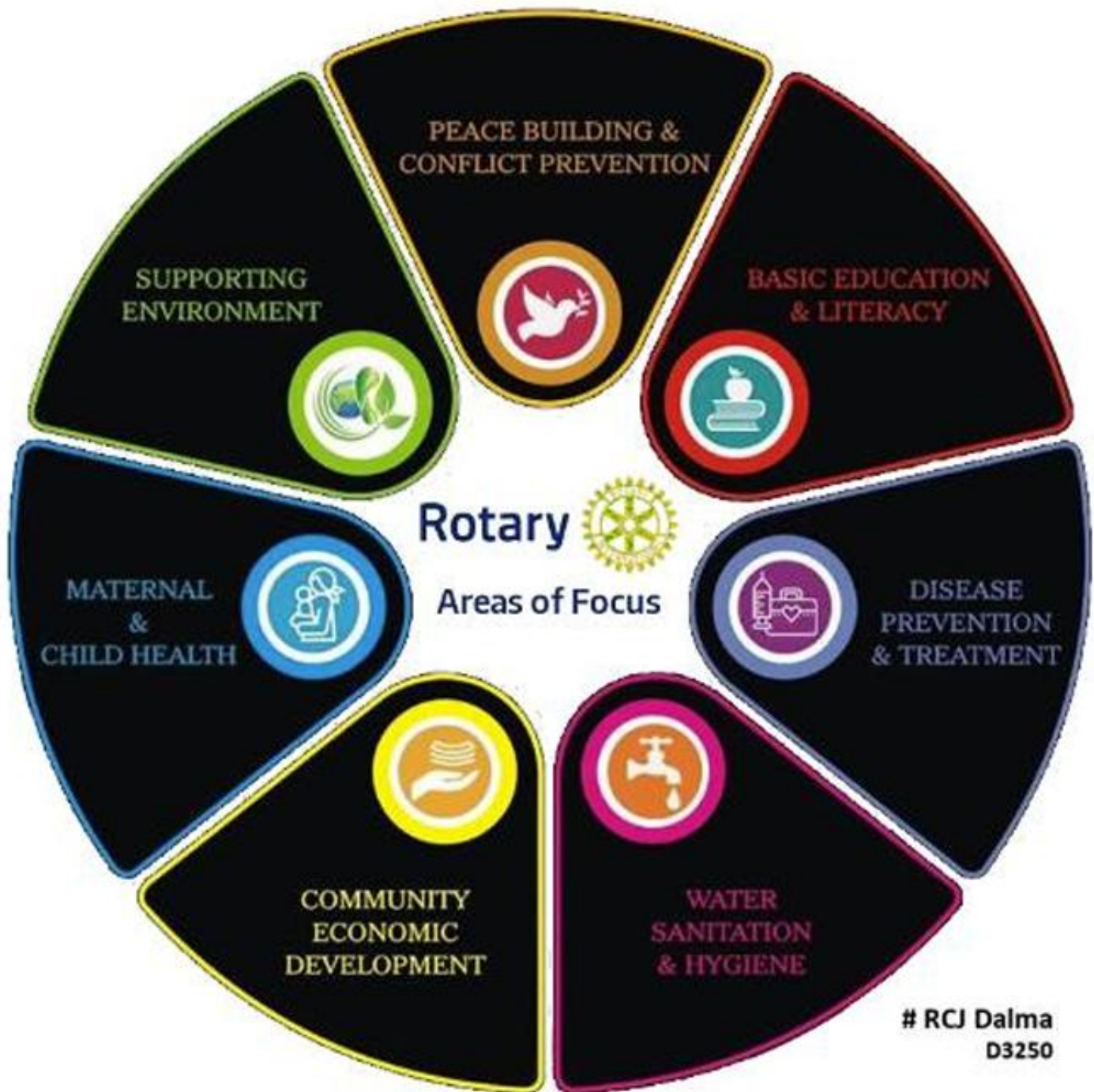
AVENUES OF SERVICE

We channel our commitment to service through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

- Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- Vocational Service calls on all Rotarians to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.
- Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life of people in their communities and to serve the public interest.
- International Service exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, using local member expertise to build long-term partnerships for sustainable projects, and seeking service partners.
- Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange, and more.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The causes we target to maximize our impact are called our areas of focus. Our most successful and sustainable projects and activities fall within these areas. Through global grants and other resources, we help clubs focus their service efforts in the following areas:



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



In 1917, Rotary President Arch Klumph announced his idea for an endowment fund dedicated to “doing good in the world.” Today, The Rotary Foundation helps clubs and districts work together to provide meaningful, sustainable service. Our top-rated, award-winning Foundation has spent more than US\$3.7 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects that help people in need around the world get clean water, medical care, literacy classes, and other essentials.

Our members’ and others’ contributions to the Foundation allow us to bring sustainable change to communities in need. Ask your club’s Rotary Foundation committee chair or visit rotary.org/donate to learn how you can support our Foundation. To learn more, download The Rotary Foundation Reference Guide or take the Rotary Foundation Basics course in Rotary’s Learning Center.

ERADICATING POLIO WORLDWIDE



Since 1985, Rotarians have served as community-based mobilizers for polio eradication, motivating international groups, governments, private organizations, communities, and individuals to join the global effort to rid the world of polio. Rotary works with partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), including the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United Nations Children’s Fund

(UNICEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the governments of the world to achieve this historic public health goal. As part of the effort, Rotarians contribute their time and money to the cause, raising funds, advocating for government support, serving as volunteers to help immunize children, and raising awareness in their communities. Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort now exceed \$1.6 billion, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers have supported National Immunization Days. Since 1988, more than 2 billion children have received oral polio vaccine, and we have achieved a 99.9 percent reduction in polio cases. It may be considered the greatest humanitarian service the world has ever seen, and every Rotarian can take pride in the achievement. To learn how you can support Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio, visit endpolio.org.

WERRIBEE ROTARY

Werribee Rotary commenced on 16th August 1968 and has operated continually for 58 years.

They meet in the function room at the Bridge Hotel, Watton Street, Werribee each Tuesday at 6.45pm. We don't meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Werribee is one of 63 clubs, with 2,000 members, which are part of Rotary District 9800. District 9800 covers an area from Echuca in the north, Daylesford in the west, Balwyn in the east, and Brighton in the South.

2026/27 Office Bearers



- President Luke Bowden (pictured)
 - Vice President James Randall
 - Secretary Ross Smith
 - Treasurer Kim Deneys
 - President-elect TBA
 - Past President Lyn Fava
 - Director Ravi Chaudhary
 - Director Ian Hovey
- District Governor Graham Hope - RC of Camberwell

Benefits of Rotary Membership

- Effecting change within the community
- Developing leadership skills
- Gaining an understanding and having an impact on international humanitarian issues.
- Developing relationships with community & business leaders.

Resources for members

The Club Secretary will be able to assist you with any information you require, about the activities of Rotary International, District 9800, or the Werribee Rotary Club.

On becoming a member, you will be provided with access to the protected member section of the RI website (www.rotary.org), the protected member section of the District 9800 website (www.rotarydistrict9800.org), and the protected area of the club website (www.werribeerotary.org.au)

Becoming a Rotarian

Prospective members are expected to:

- Be able to participate & contribute to Rotary meetings & activities.
- Have a true interest in helping others with a group of like-minded people.
- Have a capacity to attend regular club meetings and community projects.

Rotarians are required to pay an Annual Fee levied by the club, currently \$75.00 per year. This yearly fee includes:

- Fee levied by Rotary International
- Fee levied by District 9800
- Insurance while involved on any Rotary meeting or project.
- A monthly copy of the Rotary Down Under magazine.
- Club administration fees.

Major Projects of Werribee Rotary

- 1970 - Provided bus to Chislon Spastic Centre
- 1971 - Established Little Athletics in Werribee
- 1971 - Built a house in Werribee and sold it as a fundraiser
- 1974 - Commenced Manor Court Aged Care facility
- 1974 - First Werribee Trade Fair
- 1977 - Provided playground equipment at Kelly Park Werribee
- 1982 - Volunteer visit to PNG to refurbish hospital
- 1984 - Built and sold house as fundraising project
- 1986 - District Governor Ian Knight from Werribee Rotary
- 1985 - Purchased Life Education Caravan
- 1987 - Volunteer trip to Solomon Islands
- 1989 - Purchased BBQ Trailer
- 1990 - Fundraising bike ride from Perth to Melbourne
- 1992 - Purchased a bus for Manor Court age care

- 1993 – Ran Country Fair
- 1996 – Built Japanese Garden at Wyndham Council Offices
- 1997 – Ran Suicide Awareness Forum
- 2001 – Brought young girl from Vanuatu to Melbourne for facial surgery
- 2003 – Rebuilt Ison House
- 2006 – Volunteer trip to PNG to install water supply system
- 2007 – Assisted upgrade Camp Getaway
- 2009-2013 – Charity Walks for RCH
- 2010 – District Governor Colin Muir from Werribee Rotary
- 2011 – Provided fetal monitors to Mercy Hospital Philippines
- 2014 – Relay for Life
- 2015 – School Breakfast at Wyndham Park Primary 2015-2025
- 2017 – Water Bore to village in Uganda
- 2018 – Took over running Werribee Bingo
- 2019 – Assisted Tamarind working farm in Uganda
- 2021 – Provision classroom furniture at orphanage in Philippines
- 2022 – Opened Op Shop in Railway Avenue, Werribee
- 2023 – Contributed \$15,000 towards disability bus for Manor Court Aged Care.
- 2025 – Mental Health Projects





ROTARY GLOSSARY

Active member	An active member is one who has been elected to membership under a business or professional classification and enjoys all the obligations, responsibilities, and privileges of membership as provided in the RI Constitution and Bylaws.
Areas of Focus	The causes that Rotary focuses on include peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.
Club and District Support (CDS)	Rotary staff who are knowledgeable about specific regions and specialize in member support, training, and Rotary policies and procedures.
constitutional documents	The governing documents of RI are the RI Constitution, the RI Bylaws, and the Standard

Rotary Club Constitution. These documents can be amended only by the Council on Legislation.

Council on
Legislation
(COL)

A meeting where representatives from Rotary's 530 or more districts vote on policy that affect clubs worldwide. It takes place every three years.

District
conference

An annual celebration of district accomplishments and a meeting where district decisions are made. Open to all members in the district.

district
governor (DG)

An officer of RI, appointed by the clubs, who works with a district team to run and lead the district, motivating and training clubs and connecting them with resources.

District
governor elect
(DGE)

The person chosen to serve as district governor for the upcoming year.

district
training
assembly
family of
Rotary

A training event where incoming club leaders are prepared for their roles.

The family of Rotary includes all non-Rotarians who are affected by Rotary's efforts, including alumni of Rotary programs and those who benefit from Rotary projects.

general
secretary

The head of the Secretariat, the general secretary, manages staff at Rotary International World Headquarters and Rotary's international offices.

governors-
elect training
seminar (GETS)

An annual training event where incoming district governors are trained for their roles by their regional leaders.

honorary member	Also referred to as honorary Rotarians, these members have the right to visit any Rotary club, but they cannot vote or serve as club officers. Clubs can elect people to honorary membership who have distinguished themselves in humanitarian efforts or have otherwise exemplified Rotary's values.
Interact	Clubs for young people aged 12-18 who want to connect with others in their community or school. Members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs are sponsored by Rotary clubs.
International Assembly	An annual international training event where incoming district governors, known as governors-elect, from all Rotary districts are trained together.
Manual of Procedure	A concise version of Rotary's policies and procedures, updated every three years after the Council on Legislation
Official Directory	A publication with information about Rotary's Board, Trustees, and committees, as well as a listing of zones, alumni associations, Rotary Fellowships, and Rotarian Action Groups. An online edition includes contact information of the more than 35,000 Rotary clubs.
Paul Harris Fellow	A person who has contributed \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or approved Foundation grants. The Foundation recognizes fellows with a Paul Harris Fellow medallion, lapel pin, and certificate. Many clubs use the PHF as a recognition award for outstanding service.

PolioPlus	The program launched by Rotary International in 1985 to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children.
presidents-elect training seminar (PETS)	A district-level seminar that trains incoming club presidents on their role and responsibilities
RI director	A Rotarian who serves on the RI Board for a two-year term. Each director is nominated by a club in his or her zone but is elected at the convention by all the clubs, meaning that each director represents all clubs in the administration of Rotary.
RI president	The member who serves as the leader of the organization for one year.
RI president-elect	The member who will serve as the leader of the organization for the upcoming year.
Rotaract	Clubs for young people aged 18-30 in universities and communities worldwide organize service activities, develop their leadership and professional skills, and have fun. Rotaract clubs are sponsored by Rotary clubs but manage and fund their clubs independently.
Rotarian	An active member of a Rotary club
Rotary Citation	An award earned by clubs that accomplish a number of goals set by the RI president.
Rotary International Convention	The annual gathering held in a different world city each year to celebrate Rotary's accomplishments, hear updates and inspiring stories, and learn more about Rotary.

Rotary Youth
Leadership
Awards (RYLA)

A leadership development program for students or young adults that is organized by a club, a district, or multiple districts.

The Rotary
Foundation
(TRF)

The charitable arm of Rotary, created for humanitarian and educational purposes, leads the charge in ending polio and promoting peace. Rotarians and friends of Rotary support the Foundation's work through voluntary contributions. The Foundation works to end polio, funds projects through grants, and takes on other global initiatives.

MEMBERS - APPLICATION FORM

I, have been made aware of the requirements for membership as outlined in the “Introduction to Werribee Rotary ” Booklet which has been provided to me.

I would like to apply for Active membership under the classification of (please insert your area of vocational experience) I am either actively engaged in that business or profession or am retired from it.

I understand that if approved for membership, and as a member of Rotary International, I am expected to abide by the By-Laws and Rules of Werribee Rotary. I agree to pay the annual fee as outlined in the information booklet.

I give my permission to the Club to publish my name and my partner’s name, my residential and/or business addresses, telephone, email details, and proposed classification to its members for information purposes, and as necessary, within Rotary. (Please refer to Privacy Statement below).

I understand that it is the expectation of the Club that I shall obtain a Working with Children card. (If already registered, please provide number (.....))

Date:...../...../..... Signature.....

PRIVACY OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Werribee Rotary is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of your personal information. Our privacy policy adheres to the National Privacy Principles as required under the Privacy Act 1988. The personal information that you submit to us is collected in order to provide information services to you which in turn, allows the co-ordination of meetings, fellowship and fundraising activities and community service and vocational programs conducted by Rotary Clubs within the District.

As such, we may:

- a) share the information with Rotary International and other Rotary Clubs and Districts in Australia and overseas.
- b) disclose the information to outside parties in the course of undertaking Rotary activities and programs; and
- c) use the information with your consent or as otherwise required by law.

We will not disclose, sell, or trade your personal information to any organisation other than as set out above. You may access your information at any time. If you do require access to your personal information or have any concerns regarding its use, please contact the Club Secretary. If any of the information we hold is incorrect, inaccurate, or out of date, please

contact us immediately and we will correct the information. You have the option of not providing information requested. Please note that this may prevent the District and Club from effectively providing information services to you and managing its various activities and programs.