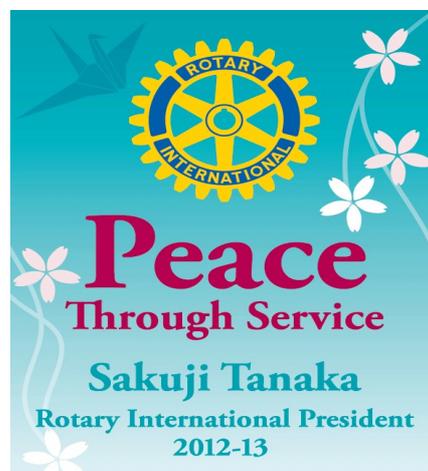


Rotary Club of Bairnsdale

Information Booklet

2012/13 Rotary Theme:



## DEFINITION OF ROTARY

Rotary is an organisation of business and professional persons united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace.

## 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.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROTARY

On the 23rd February 1905, Paul Harris (Lawyer), Gus Loehr (Mining Engineer), Hiram Shorey (Merchant Tailor), and Silvester Schiele (Coal Dealer), met at Gus Loehr's office in downtown Chicago and discussed the value of a group of businessmen getting together periodically to support one another. Paul Harris pursued the idea with great enthusiasm and has a special place in Rotary.

Informal meetings followed and these were initially aimed primarily to help businessmen overcome their isolation and loneliness.

Gradually, a few other friends and acquaintances joined the group, basic rules were adopted and the Rotary Club of Chicago came into existence. Rotary became a service club in 1906 when a public toilet was built in Chicago.

The name Rotary was adopted as meetings were held in rotation at members' places of business.

In 1910 in Chicago at a convention of the sixteen clubs then in existence, Rotary became a national organisation.

In 1911, Winnipeg, Canada was admitted to Rotary and the 1912 convention gave birth to the International Association of Rotary Clubs.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne was the first to be established in Australia in 1921.

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAIRNSDALE**

The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale was chartered in 1938 under the sponsorship of the Sale Rotary Club.

Since that time the Club has been involved in some great projects:

In 1943-44 The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale initiated moves to establish the first Kindergarten & Baby Health Centre in Bairnsdale

In 1949-50, 88 street trees were planted in Main Street, Bairnsdale.

Other past community programs included erection of memorial gates, two cemetery gazebos, the Nicholson Street Mall kiosk, shade sails at Howitt Park, Children's Playground with equipment, strongly supporting an Olympic Pool building fund, Botanic Gardens set up, to name just a few

Recently the Positive Futures committee comprising Rotarians from both Mitchell River and Bairnsdale Rotary Clubs, were instrumental in providing Architectural Plans & Specification, so that the Changing Lanes learning facility, at 91 Rupert St., Bairnsdale, could be built.

Rotarians help deliver meals on wheels to home care recipients

We provide ongoing financial and administrative assistance to Rotary Centenary House, a cancer patient and family support facility, at 39 Valley Drive, Traralgon

We raise funds to provide equipment for the Bairnsdale Hospital, including Oncology unit fit-out chairs

We distribute & collect bowel scan kits

We have distributed Ambulance Emergency information booklets

We have run a Mental Health Forum

Combined with other Bairnsdale Rotary Clubs, we have run a Blood Pressure Awareness program.

We have provided fundraising & hands on support for Flood & Bushfire relief

The Long Term Rotary Youth Exchange program is strongly supported with a number of students being hosted from or sent overseas.

We are involved with schools and students in awards, scholarships and leadership camps

In 2009 through the combined efforts of the 3 Bairnsdale Rotary Clubs, 3 Secondary Students went to Gallipoli to participate in the ANZAC Services, and attended a Turkish school experiencing a different culture in another country that had World War I ties.

## **ABOUT ROTARY**

You cannot join a Rotary Club except by invitation from the Club and you are chosen as a representative of your business or profession. It is through you that the message of Rotary will be imparted to your family, friends, and business acquaintances.

Rotary has no racial, religious or political boundaries, nor does it seek to supplant or interfere with a member's religious or political activities.

A Rotarian is not asked to put Rotary before family or business life.

Each active member of the Club is given a classification in accordance with that person's business or profession.

Regular attendance at weekly meetings is expected. You are a member of a Rotary Club only as long as you maintain an interest in the Club by your regular attendance.

As a business or professional person you will realise that you fail or succeed because of many factors, the main being your personal interest in your vocation. The success or failure of a Rotary Club is as good as the interest and involvement of its members.

Rotarians are not members of Rotary International, they are members of a Rotary Club and it is the Club which has membership of Rotary International.

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IN 200 COUNTRIES**

Rotary has over 1.2 million members in 32,000 plus clubs worldwide with 35,000 members in 1,200 clubs in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. Members of Rotary find they are welcome at any other Rotary Club throughout the world.

## **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?**

- The most precious thing – your time
- Attendance - at least 50% regular attendance at Club meetings during each six month half of the fiscal year, or attendance made up at meetings of other Rotary Clubs (see also section on Leave of Absence).
- Participation and interest at committee meetings and in Rotary projects locally, interstate and internationally.
- The acceptance of higher office within the Club at a later date.
- To learn to know fellow members; to join in building the fellowship which is an essential basis for true and lasting service.
- To learn Rotary history, how it is administered, its objects and ideals so you may truly understand the value of a Rotary Club in the community.

- The obligation of membership is to bring all worthwhile knowledge about your vocation to us and to transmit to other members of your vocation the ideals of Rotary.
- A member is expected to be active in the Club and be mindful of the maintenance of ethical standards within their vocation.
- One of the most important jobs that a member of a Rotary Club may assign themselves is that of sponsoring new members and later taking responsibility of looking after and helping to educate a new Rotarian.  
**Note:** A prospective Rotarian gets his or her first meal free at the club. Thereafter the person, or if thought more appropriate, their sponsor, must pay for the meal. After attendance at 3 meetings the prospective Rotarian can be proposed by the sponsor for membership of the Club.

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

A Rotary Club is governed by a **Board** which is elected during the last quarter of the calendar year and installed the following July. The official club function held in June or early July to install the new Board is called the **Changeover**.

The Board in our Club includes the following:

**President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer** and a number of other Directors of various Standing Committees in areas such as club administration and local and overseas projects. Other persons may be appointed in areas such as **Membership, Public Relations** and the **Rotary Foundation**. Decisions reached by the Board are final, subject to successful appeal by the club members by a two-thirds vote of the club membership then present.

The Board of the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale normally meets monthly but can meet at any time for extraordinary business. Board meetings are conducted in accordance with common business principles and practice. Minutes are kept and reports are presented by Directors and the Treasurer. These minutes are available to any member of the club at any time.

Other important positions in the Club include the **Sergeant-at-Arms** who provides control and humour at our meetings, the **Attendance Officer** who keeps the attendance records and the **Bulletin Editor(s)** who produce a weekly account of the meetings and other useful information.

Once assigned a service responsibility, a member is expected to investigate what is involved, recommend what initiatives might be taken, and to provide leadership in activities pursued in that field.

Rotarians are placed on the various committees each year under the elected Director. Other Sub Committees including the Youth (combined Clubs) and the management of **Holston Award Trust Fund (used for Scholarship for Omeo students)** are formed for the efficient running of the Club. For the Club to function well, it needs its Committees to function. A Committee is only as good as the attendance and effort of the individual Rotarian.

Club members participate in an open club forum once or twice each year, called a **Club Assembly**. The Assembly is used to develop and co-ordinate club programs, consult directly with members and to provide an opportunity for all members to raise any matters of concern to them. A Club Assembly may make recommendations to the Club Board, but cannot make decisions binding the club to a course of action. A change to the **Club By-Laws** can be proposed at any time as long as 10 days clear notice of the motion is given.

Full details of how the Club operates are recorded in the standard Rotary **Constitution** and Club specific **By-laws**. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary. Rotary International's web-site [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) also contains a wealth of useful information including the Manual of Procedure which outlines the full details of how Rotary operates. The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale also has a website [www.rcbairnsdale.org](http://www.rcbairnsdale.org)

For administrative and motivational purposes, Clubs are grouped within a **Rotary District**, which is administered by a **District Governor** who visits each Club in his District during the Rotary Year. A Rotarian, nominated for office by clubs within the District holds the position of District Governor for twelve months. Our Rotary District is 9820 and includes the 3 clubs from Bairnsdale and the majority of Clubs in Eastern Victoria.

Groups of Clubs such as the 3 in Bairnsdale plus Lakes Entrance, and Orbost are further grouped under an **Assistant Governor**.

Each year a **District Conference** is held for District 9820 and all Rotarians and Partners are encouraged to attend.

There is also an **International Convention** each year which any member can attend.

The Board of Directors of **Rotary International**, which has its headquarters in Chicago USA is truly an international body. It is elected in a manner which ensures all Rotary Clubs of the world are represented. Many Australians have served on the Board and three have served as the President.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Classification**

Is a word or phrase, which accurately describes the business or professional activity of the firm, company or institution, with which a member is connected. Rotary is built on the classification principle - members from different vocations in the community give the Club a true cross-section of business and professional life within its area. It is designed to be inclusive not exclusive.

### **Leave of Absence (4 meetings or more)**

Upon written application to the Board (E-mail is sufficient), setting forth good reason, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending for a specified period. During any leave of absence, a member is expected to do make-up at Clubs in the area they are visiting unless this is impractical.

## **Make-Ups**

Any member absent from a regular meeting of the Club is expected to make up such absence by attending a regular meeting of another Rotary Club. This can be done on any of the 14 days prior to or after a missed meeting. Bairnsdale area make-up opportunities (times bold are start times – arrive before this time & phone in your proposed attendance) are:

- Mitchell River at the Bairnsdale RSL, on Monday at 5.45pm for 6.15pm; phone 9517 1220; and
- Bairnsdale Sunrise at the Main Hotel, on Wednesday mornings at 6.45am for 7.00am phone 5152 2236; and
- Orbost at Commonwealth Hotel, Nicholson St., Orbost on Thursday nights at 6.00pm for 6.30pm phone: 5154 1077; and
- Lakes Entrance at the Vibe Restaurant, 575 The Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, on Wednesday nights at 6.00pm for 6.30pm phone Rob 5155 1949

## **Annual Fees**

An fee of **\$230-00** is levied. This fee includes a subscription to a Rotary magazine and provides funds for the administration of Rotary International, the District and Club, including liability insurance whilst taking part in Rotary events.

## **Meal Costs**

Each member is responsible for the cost of their guest's meal (except a prospective Rotarian's first meal, which is paid for by the Club). The charge is currently **\$25.00** per meal.

## **Partners' Nights, Special Nights**

The Club holds a number of partners' nights and special evenings including the Changeover meeting. The cost of these nights may vary from the normal meeting night or the Board may vote to cover the extra cost with Club funds.

## **Other Costs**

The Sergeant conducts a "Fine Session" each week, our fines are **\$1.00**. Money received is used to cover administration fees (money received elsewhere cannot generally be used to cover these expenses).

Extra costs may be incurred through attendance at social events, projects (especially overseas) or attendance at Conferences or District training for new office holders. Part of these costs may also be met from Club funds.

## **Financial Accounts**

The Club operates 2 accounts, an **Administration Account**, and a **Project Account**

The Administration Account gains its funds from annual fees and the small loading on meals. It is used for the administrative costs of the Club.

The Project Account contains all money received into the club from community projects, donations, meeting fines and raffles. This money is put back into the local, national and international arenas, usually through Rotary or other community organisations but on rare occasions through individuals who have special needs, especially those who have disabilities.

**Resignation** The resignation of any member from a Club shall be in writing addressed to the President or Secretary and shall be accepted, provided that all indebtedness has been paid.

### **Duration of Membership**

Membership ceases when:

- An active member no longer has their place of residence or place of business located within the territorial limits of the Club (see Leave of Absence and Note below). The member however will remain financial and on the books as a member until annual fees are due or he or she transfers their membership to a new Club.

Note: Transfer of membership can be made to another Club when a Rotarian moves to another area. Assistance to communicate with a new Club can be made by this Club prior to any move and once a new Club is chosen we can nominate you for membership. It is important to maintain contact with us after any move and send details of any make-ups back to this Club until an official change is made, as you remain our member until induction into the new Club takes place.

- An active member ceases membership when the attendance percentage (including make-ups) is less than 50% during the Club's fiscal year, unless excused by the Board, OR
- An active member fails to attend or make up for four consecutive meetings unless otherwise excused by the Board for good and sufficient reason, OR
- For non-payment of membership fees on any of the dates outlined by the Board (special consideration can be given if cogent reasons exist for temporary non-payment), OR
- By termination by the Board for a reason which the Board may deem to be sufficient, by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the Board members, at a meeting called for that purpose.  
Note: There is a right of appeal or to request mediation or arbitration regarding any decision of the Board involving termination of membership.
- Rotary By-laws also allow for temporary suspension of membership if in the opinion of the Club Board "credible accusations" have been made against a member regarding a Rotarian's conduct.

## **IN CONCLUSION - WHY JOIN YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB?**

### **THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE**

Rotarians provide service at the local, national and international levels. Service programs address things like health-care and education needs, hunger, poverty, disaster relief and environmental clean-ups. Members experience fulfillment by

giving back to the community.

## **PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING**

A founding principle of Rotary was to provide a forum for professional and business leaders to interact. Rotary is the oldest, most prestigious service-club organisation in the world.

## **PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Membership in Rotary ensures continuing personal and professional development. Leadership, public speaking and communication, organisation and planning, team building, fundraising and teaching are just a sample of the skills that can be enhanced through Rotary.

## **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Rotary International is an association of local clubs in many countries. Clubs are open to members of every ethnic background, political persuasion, language and religious belief. Rotary clubs contain a cross section of the world's leaders who practice and promote tolerance.

## **WORLD UNDERSTANDING**

Rotary members gain an understanding of humanitarian issues and have significant impact on them through international service projects and exchange programs of Rotary International and its foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary. The promotion of peace is one of Rotary's highest objectives.

## **FAMILY FOUNDATIONS**

Rotary sponsors some of the world's largest youth, educational and scholarship exchange programs. Rotary clubs provide innovative training opportunities and mentoring for future leaders. They involve family members in a wide range of social and service activities.

## **ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT**

Rotarians practise a 4 Way test that measures words and actions by their truthfulness, fairness, goodwill and benefit to all. Encouraging high ethical standards in one's profession and respect for all worthy vocations has been the hallmark of Rotary from its beginning.

**Rotary can also be a lot of fun!**

**NOTES (i.e. record any questions that you wish to ask):**