



## The Racing Wheel

The Rotary Club of Bathurst East Inc NSW Australia.  
Bathurst East: The Friendly Club



Building Better Communities



### 110 YEARS OLD TODAY

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Hello fellow Rotarians,

Today two special events occur, the first being Dick and Ginger Crossing's wedding anniversary, with congratulations being extended to the two of them.

The second is today Rotary turns 110.

This is a great milestone and the thought was the day should be remembered with a special edition of "The Racing Wheel".

Due to the fact I'll be away for the next two weeks (with President Elect Training in the middle), this was my only opportunity of sending the information to you, and trust it will prove of interest.

Tony Pollard, Editor.

## Rotary International celebrates 110 years

Paul Harris wanted to create a professional group with the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth.

On 23 February 1905 **Paul Harris** (an attorney), **Gustavus Loehr** (a mining engineer), **Silvester Schiele** (a coal dealer) and **Hiram Shorey** gathered at Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary club meeting. They decided to call the new club "Rotary" after the practice of rotating meeting locations.



**Harry Ruggles** (a printer) joined the second meeting and within five years clubs had formed across the country from San Francisco to New York.

In August 1910, Rotarians held their first convention in Chicago. The 16 clubs that existed at that time united to form the National Association of Rotary Clubs.

In 1912, the name changed to International Association of Rotary Clubs to reflect the addition of clubs in other countries. The name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

By July 1925, Rotary had grown to more than 2,000 clubs and an estimated 108,000 members on six continents.

Rotary's reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers and a host of other luminaries to its ranks — among them author Thomas Mann, diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, and composer Jean Sibelius.

As Rotary grew, members pooled their resources and used their talents to serve their communities. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

The Rotary Club of Chatswood included the article "A One Page History of Rotary" in their Bulletin this week, and is reproduced as under, it makes interesting reading.

## **A One Page History of Rotary**

*In 1905, 37 year old attorney Paul Harris changed the world*

Paul Harris, who was raised by his New England grandparents with values of tolerance toward all, gained his law degree in 1891. <sup>1</sup>In his senior year, a former graduate told his class that they should "Go to a small town for five years make a fool of themselves, then go to the big city!" Paul decided to hit the road for the entire world. He worked as a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, 1891; manual labourer on a fruit ranch, then raisin packing plant, teacher at the L.A. Business College in 1892. Denver, Colorado, 1892: Actor in a stock company, reporter for the Rocky Mountain News, cowboy, reporter for The Republican. Jacksonville, Florida: St. James Hotel night clerk, travelling granite/marble salesman 1892/93, reporter on the Washington Star, cattleman on a ship 1893, haymaker and cannery worker 1893, sub-foreman of the gang of cattlemen 1893, (where he wrote that, on his first voyage, he experienced sub-human conditions); orange picker in Florida 1893, back to Jacksonville selling marble granite. His territory included the southern states, Cuba, the Bahamas and Europe. When he announced that he was going to Chicago to practice law his employer said, "Whatever the advantages of settling in Chicago may be, I am satisfied you will make more money if you remain with me." To which Paul replied: "I am sure you are right but I am not going to Chicago for the purpose of making money; I am going to the purpose of living a life."

In 1896, he did go to Chicago to practice law. One evening, in the early 1900's, Paul went with a professional friend to his suburban home. After dinner, as they strolled through the neighbourhood, Paul's friend introduced him to tradesmen in their stores. This reminded Paul of his grandparent's home in New England. "Why not have a fellowship composed of businessmen from different occupations, without restrictions of politics or religion?" he thought.

<sup>2</sup>On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris had dinner with his closest friend, Chicago coal dealer Silvester Schiele. Afterwards they walked over the river to Room 711 of the Unity Building where they met their host, Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer; and another friend, Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor. Harris proposed that they form a club. No name was chosen for the group. The second meeting was March 9th. Three other men, Harry Ruggles, William Jenson, and A. L. White joined them. Ruggles was a printer, and created the "name badge" version of the Rotary "wheel" and also started singing in Rotary. In fact his singing kept the group from disbanding more than once. Paul Harris later wrote: "The significant occurrence of the second meeting was the introduction of Harry Ruggles, the printer. Harry was destined to play an important part in the life of the Chicago club, for through his suggestion of club singing his influence has been made felt by the entire movement." Paul P. Harris, page 95 "The Founder of Rotary 1928. Two weeks later the group gathered at the office of Silvester Schiele, in his coal yard at Twelfth and State Streets. Six of the previous seven were present along with Charles Newton and Arthur B. Irwin.

How did Rotary get its name? Harris explains from "The Founder of Rotary" page 96: "During

the course of one of the early meetings, Paul suggested several possible names for the new club. Among others—Rotary. It met with general favour and was adopted forthwith. The significance of the name becomes apparent on examination of the original plan of the club, which provided for rotation in the place of meeting, in the chairmanship, and even in membership which was to be continued for one year only." <sup>2</sup>Who was the first Rotary president? Silvester Schiele. The meeting was in Schiele's office, hence, as a courtesy, he became the president. ""Silvester Schiele, my most intimate Chicago friend, and one of the three who first met with me, was made our first president, and has been a constant member. Gustavus Loehr and Hiram Shorey were the other two but they failed to follow through. On the other hand Harry Ruggles, Charley Newton, and others who were quickly added to the group, with hearty zest joined in developing the project." (Paul Harris, page 231 "My Road to Rotary")

When it came time for the meeting to be held at A. L. White's place of business (at Englewood), the location was "inconvenient" and thus was cause of the first Rotary meeting in a hotel. When did weekly meetings begin? <sup>6</sup>According to the general secretary in 1948, it was Oakland #3 in 1909.

<sup>1</sup>Paul was very interested in starting Rotary in other cities. The second Rotary club was founded by Homer Wood in San Francisco in 1908. <sup>7</sup>Wood then quickly organized Oakland #3, Seattle #4 and Los Angeles #5. In fact, before the end of 1909, there were seven clubs, including New York City #6 and Boston #7. That's right, in 1908 and 1909, Homer Wood started four clubs. In the rest of the United States there were two, and the San Francisco club is credited, by some, with starting New York.

<sup>2</sup>The activity caused by San Francisco created the first major conflict within the Rotary Club of Chicago. Too much of the meeting time was being taken up with reports of "new clubs." Harris also had a vision of "Around the World Rotary" which was also opposed by many of his fellow Rotarians. It was not until he won the loyalty of the man who was to be Rotary's secretary from 1910 – 1942 that Rotary became organized and international. That man was Chesley Perry, whom Paul called the "Builder of Rotary."

<sup>3&7</sup> By August 1910 there were sixteen clubs and the National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized and held its first convention that year, in Chicago. At the 1911 Portland Convention, "Service, Not Self" was introduced by Frank Collins of Minneapolis. It later became "Service Above Self." The slogan "He profits most who serves best," was also read there. It had been written by Arthur Sheldon and delivered by him at the first convention the previous year in Chicago. Both were approved by RI in 1950. Learn what Sheldon really meant by his well thought phrase. You can study all of Rotary's conventions from 1910 on and learn about each of our presidents from Paul Harris to the present as well as their clubs from our website dedicated to presidents of Rotary.

Another important event at the 1911 Portland convention was the platform brought forward by Seattle #4. This platform, is still essential to the philosophy of Rotary today.

<sup>4</sup>When clubs were formed in Canada and Great Britain in 1912, the name was changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs, and was later shortened to Rotary International in 1922. <sup>5</sup>Paul Harris was the first president of the National Association of Rotary Clubs, serving two terms. He was named President Emeritus of the International Association in 1912 and served until his death in 1947. <sup>1</sup>Harris suffered a near fatal heart attack in his final year as president of the National Association and required a full year to recover. Yet, over the next 35 years, he and his wife Jean Thomson Harris made numerous exhausting trips to nearly every continent, visiting hundreds of cities, planting friendship trees and attending Rotary conferences.

<sup>5</sup>As Rotary spanned the globe, branch offices were opened in Europe, South America, South Asia, Southwest Pacific. In the UK British Rotary had its own office. <sup>6</sup>When Rotary International President Emeritus, world traveller, author and prominent Chicago attorney Paul Harris passed away on January 27, 1947, his dream had grown from one group of four to 6,000 clubs in 75 countries with 300,000 members brought together through the service and fellowship of Rotary

<sup>4</sup>Two world wars changed the face of Rotary – parts of the Far East and Eastern Europe were closed to Rotary. Eventually, clubs were re-established in Japan, Germany, Poland and Hungary. In 1990 the first club was opened in the former Soviet Union and China. In 1987, Rotary membership was opened to women, and in 1989 the RI Council on Legislation standardized all Rotary documents and rules.

<sup>4</sup>There are over 31,000 Rotary clubs, in 164 countries, whose members carry on club, vocational, community and international service. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International annually spends some \$105 million on international education and humanitarian programs, providing grants which save lives and improve conditions throughout the world. Rotary also sponsors international ambassadors of good will through educational awards to university students and teachers, and through international exchange of business and professional people. Today the Rotary Foundation scholarship program is the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program. <sup>7</sup>Approximately 1,100 scholarships are awarded annually. Rotarians have raised some 438 million dollars for the [PolioPlus](#) program alone as well as provided thousands of volunteers to administer the vaccine around the world.

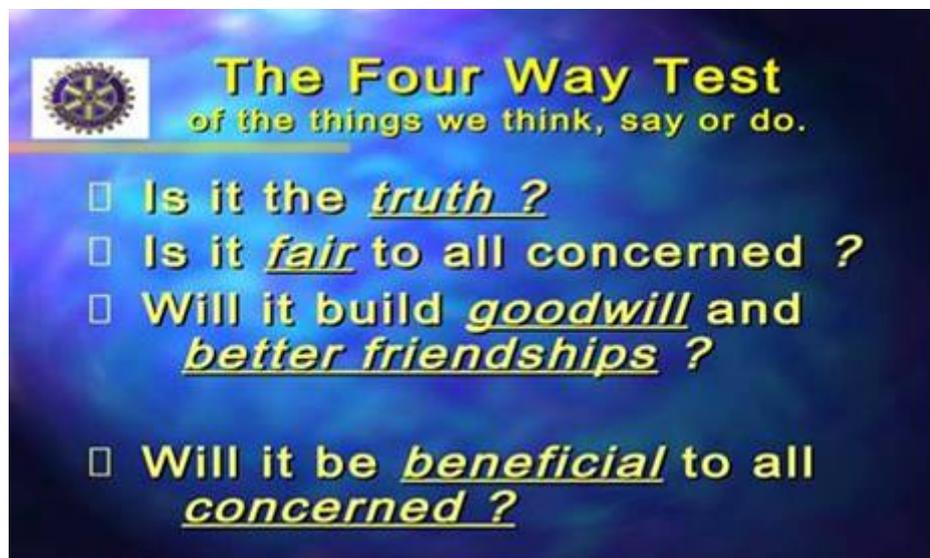
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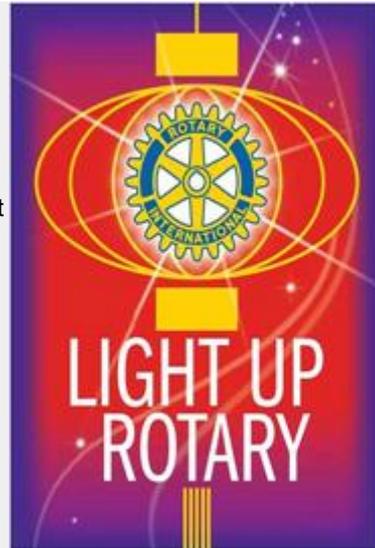
## What is Rotary?

Rotary is ordinary people around the world sharing their professional skills and working together in a social environment to build better communities.

We operate as a Club with weekly meetings developed around a guest speaker or special event where business, community and service issues are discussed in an interactive and relaxed atmosphere.

### **Come and join us:**

Wednesday evenings 6.00 for 6.30pm at Bathurst RSL Club  
Rankin Street, Bathurst, NSW 2795 Australia



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