



ROTARY

Rotary is the world's oldest and largest network of business, professional, political, and civic leaders united in friendship to do good in the world. The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed in February 1905 by lawyer Paul Harris, who wanted to recapture the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small town of his youth, but within a professional club. The name *Rotary* was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. By 1922, there were Rotary clubs on six continents and the organization adopted the name *Rotary International*.

Today, Rotary International has grown to >40,000 Clubs in 200+ countries with 1.2 million members. In 1921, Rotary was established in Australia, when the Rotary Club of Melbourne was chartered with 30 members. In 1945, Rotary was established on the Gold Coast with the formation of the Rotary Club of Southport.

ABOUT BURLEIGH HEADS ROTARY

Burleigh Heads Rotary is the second oldest Rotary Club on the Gold Coast having started in 1955 with 22 members under the guidance and sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Southport. The first Club President was Lindsay Firth. We have subsequently sponsored the Rotary Club of Palm Beach (1976) the Rotary Club of Mudgeeraba (1980) and are currently working to establish a new style satellite club in Palm Beach. Today, Burleigh Heads Rotary is one of the most friendly and vibrant community organisations on the Gold Coast, with over 40 active members.

Burleigh Heads Rotary is committed to the youth in our community and actively supports Rotary's International Youth Exchange and Leadership programs. The club has initiated the formation of Interact Clubs at Marymount College and Miami State High School (Interact Clubs are sponsored by Rotary to provide opportunities for leadership skill development and international understanding for teenagers aged 14-18 years). We also formed the Rotaract Club of Burleigh Heads (Rotaract is a Rotary sponsored community or University based organisation for men and women aged 18-30 years).

In addition to working on youth programs, we actively support Rotary's seven core focus areas plus have on-going community (Rotary Scooter Program) and international (Donations-in-Kind) projects as well as engaging in numerous one-off projects, such the Endeavour Foundation Community Garden in Mermaid Beach.

WHAT ROTARY DOES

Rotary's dedication to service is best expressed in its motto: *Service Above Self*. During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding. In 1945, 49 Rotary members served in 29 country delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences with a Permanent Observer Seat in the UN General Assembly.

In 1985, Rotary International launched a global effort to immunize the world's children against polio, followed by the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988. The GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments with six partners – the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the vaccine alliance. When the GPEI started, polio paralysed more than 1000 children worldwide every day. Since then, more than 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio thanks to the cooperation of more than 200 countries and 20 million volunteers. Today, wild poliovirus continues to circulate in only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and global incidence of polio cases has decreased by 99%. Rotarians remain committed to deliver their gift to humanity.

Rotary has declared seven areas of focus:

- PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION
- DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT
- WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE
- MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
- BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY
- GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES
- SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT



For more information on Rotary Burleigh Heads please visit or email.

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