



Who can join Rotary?

Consider your reply

(Article amended, to reflect our club's programs, from one published in Rotary Down Under by Jennifer Coburn, Rotary Club of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills, Vic.)

I am often asked the question: "Who can join Rotary?" I am sure that I am not alone in being asked this question.

But when asked, I often think and perhaps wonder if the reply often given goes something like this:

- A business leader
- A professional person
- Both men and women are Rotarians
- A person committed to service.

Would you also have considered the following when responding:

- Rotarians are also young people in innovative and emerging businesses
- Rotarians are people wanting to make a difference in the world
- Rotarians are people committed to peace and conflict resolution
- Rotarians are people who care for their fellow man
- Rotarians are fun-loving
- Rotarians are individuals responding to a need
- Rotarians are people who share their vocations with the world in the spirit of service, goodwill and international understanding.

So in what way can we contribute to the world through Rotary's Four Avenues of Service?

Firstly, through **servicing our club**

- Through building relationships with fellow club members.
- Through ensuring our club is well run and active.
- Through having a diverse and vibrant guest speaker program and contributing to it.
- Through being innovative in our meeting style and structure
- Through being responsive to our members needs and the modern business needs of today
- Through being respectful of our family and business structures and needs and involving our families where appropriate.

Secondly, through using our vocation to serve the community and by setting an example of exemplary business standards and high ethical practice in all that we do.

- We develop **vocational service** through our leadership programs
- Through recognition of service excellence and pride of workmanship
- Through funding of scholarships for those who can best benefit
- Assisting your local school with literacy and numeracy aids
- We need to be considerate of what vocational talents our members have and how they wish to utilize them in their service life.

Our third Avenue of Service is demonstrated by taking part in **Community Service** activities

- By supporting local charities and support services such as Careflight
- Working to develop programs for the unemployed
- By providing some Christmas presents for local charities

And finally through the **International Service** aspect of Rotary

- Through our Wheelchair program - one of the most successful Rotary projects in our region
- Through providing schools in earthquake and Tsunami-ravaged countries such as the one going to Thailand
- Through involvement in the Polio Eradication program, an amazing achievement of Rotary
- Through participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program by sponsoring a young person to learn another country's culture and make lifelong contacts in another part of the world, such as currently Emma Woods is doing in France
- Donations in kind to those in need

And last, but not least, our continued strong involvement in **Youth Services**, by sponsoring young people to attend Youth Camps where they can learn how to achieve things they never dreamed of achieving:

RYPEN - Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, a program designed for 14—16 year olds to increase participants' self-esteem and at the same time to develop a respect for the beliefs and ideas of others.

RYTS - Rotary Youth Training Seminar, a program designed for Year 12 Students to prepare them for life as an adult

RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a program which is a challenging one week expedition that provides a unique opportunity for leadership skills development.

Rotary is, and always will be there to help the needy of our world. You and I gain by giving.

We gain the satisfaction of giving of ourselves, of that one thing which cannot be valued in monetary terms. In Rotary we know it simply as Service Above Self.

Why not invite a friend or colleague along to Rotary to join an organization which has all aspects of service? It has an envied reputation for excellence and ethics. Invite them today. **You will then be a true friend.**

There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.

J F Kennedy