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History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Rotary e-clubs began in the early 2000s as a pilot project to modernise Rotary, improve flexibility for busy professionals, and reach members with physical limitations or mobility constraints. Initiated under RI President Frank Devlyn (2000-2001), these clubs allow members to engage in community service, foster friendships, and hold meetings virtually, removing the need for traditional in-person attendance.

Following the 2001 Rotary Council on Legislation (COL), the Rotary International Board authorised up to 200 "CyberClubs" to test flexible, internet-based meeting formats, with Rotary eClub One being the first.

E-clubs were designed to accommodate professionals with busy schedules, those who travel frequently, or individuals with disabilities. They allowed for a "screen time" alternative to traditional "seat time" requirements, enabling a more global, diverse membership.

In 2010, the Council on Legislation formally recognized e-clubs as a standard part of Rotary International after a successful six-year pilot.

Rotary E-Clubs are similar to other Rotary clubs. They meet regularly, carry out service projects, support The Rotary Foundation, and socialise with each other.

While maintaining the core "Service Above Self" motto, e-clubs focus on global networking and digital collaboration, often for humanitarian service projects.

These clubs are not restricted by geography, allowing members from all over the world to work together.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the history of Rotary e-Club of Change Makers.

2. SCOPE

The scope of this document includes not only the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers, but to include its conception and predecessor entities.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Club Administration

Club Administration is responsible for the maintenance of this document.

4. ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHERN MITCHELL

The genesis of what would eventually become the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers were discussions between PDG Philip Clancy, Don Hamilton and Bill Wilson during November and December 2013 and into early January 2014.

Don Hamilton undertook a mail out to all former Rotarians of the District 9790 who had resigned in the previous three years whilst Bill Wilson researched Clubs and tried to glean how the e-club might operate.

Early ideas for the proposed e-club would be to follow the path of a number of other clubs and have a weekly meeting online with a website and Facebook page reaching out to the wider community. This meant the need to build a forum for members on a weekly basis. A short while after starting the private forum for members only, it was decided that teleconferences were a useful means of keeping members in contact and developed monthly meetings using the Citrix program and later Zoom because it is cheaper. Most Rotary e-clubs worldwide use Zoom.

In anticipation of an initial low application rate for the proposed Rotary e-club, PDG Philip and Bill Wilson examined the possibility of forming a satellite club based on the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell.

In late January 2014, applications were being received as a result of the mail outs and it was decided that the e-club would go live on 26 February 2014. By mid-February there were 19 members. It seemed that there was a possibility to be able to charter as a club independently. Unfortunately, the bottom fell out of membership. The membership dropped to fifteen members as members realised they still had obligations and required a computer to join. The membership numbers then increased to 16 and finally, 17 members.

On 25 February 2014, Bill Wilson visited the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell and outlined the plans for an e-Club. The new club 'went live' on 26 February 2014 as a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell.

The Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell Inc Secretary, Jenny McDougall sent a Notice to Members of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell dated 04 March 2014. It stated that in accordance with Article 7 and Article 26 of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell Club Rules, the Board at its meeting on 01 March 2014 accepted for membership applicants for the satellite club 'eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland' (Refer to Figure 13-1).

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

5. ROTARY SATELLITE E-CLUB OF SOUTHERN MITCHELL

The first tranche of members credited as being ‘foundation’ members of the satellite club ‘eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland’ are shown in Table 5-1:

Table 5-1 Satellite club ‘eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland’ Foundation Members

Surname	Given Name	Background
Bhatti	Makdoom	Rotarian
Burns	Nicola	Rotarian
Flower	David	Former Rotarian
Franks	Ashley	Introduced by DGN Richard Luke
Free	Peter	Former Rotarian
Harvey	Ian	Former Rotarian
Hill	Chris	Rotarian
Horsfall	Rodney	Former Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Euroa
Kite	Lyndie	Former Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell
Marshall	Louise	Former Rotarian
Marshall	Paul	Former Rotarian
Palermo	David	Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek
Redmond	Heather	Former Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Myrtleford
Sivasubramaniam	Diane	Introduced by DGN Richard Luke
Stephens	Mark	Former Rotarian
Wilson	Bill	Rotarian from Rotary Club of Beechworth

At some point, the satellite club eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland was renamed to the Rotary Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell.

Shortly afterwards, Rotary Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell lost several members as the reality of being an e-club member became evident and eventually dropped to 10 members by July 2015. Membership then gradually climbed to 17.

The office bearers of the Rotary Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell are shown in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2 Office Bearers of the Rotary Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
2013 - 2014	Paul Marshall	Bill Wilson	David Palermo
2014 – 2015	Rodney Horsfall	Heather Redmond	David Palermo
2015 – 2016	Heather Redmond	Bill Wilson	David Palermo

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

6. ROTARY CLUB OF RIDDELLS CREEK

The Rotary Club of Riddells Creek was chartered in 1993. As it had no active members, it ceased to operate in its original form in 2016. With the advice of Richard Luke, the District Governor of District 9790, the members of the Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell transferred to the Rotary Club of Riddells Creek in order to maintain its viability.

The members of the Rotary Club of Riddells Creek voted to change the name and become the Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe.

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

7. ROTARY E-CLUB 9790 LATROBE

The Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe was chartered in its own right on 23 February 2016. The charter ceremony was held at the La Trobe University campus at Shepparton, representing the Club’s links with youth and a position around the centre of District 9790 and is shown in Figure 7-1.

Figure 7-1 Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe Charter Day on 23 February 2016 at Latrobe University, Shepparton. Pictured Rotarians: PDG Clive Walker, Kathryn Chivers, Tim Luke, David Palermo (first Treasurer), Bill Wilson, PDG Phil Clancy, Heather Redmond with DG Richard Luke



Charter members of the Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe are shown in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe Charter Members

Surname	Given Name	Background
Chivers	Kathryn	Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Beechworth
Clancy	Phil	Rotarian and PDG of Rotary District 9790
Conroy	Paul	Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Beechworth
Kite	Lyndie	Former Rotarian
Luke	Tim	
Palermo	David	Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Diamond Creek
Redmond	Heather	Former Rotarian
Thorpe	Leon	
Walker	Clive	Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Myrtleford and PDG of Rotary District 9790
Wilson	Bill	Rotarian from Rotary Club of Beechworth

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

The office bearers of the Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe are shown in Table 7-2.

Table 7-2 Office Bearers of the Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
2016 – 2017	Lyndie Kite	Clive Walker	Clive Walker
2017 – 2018	Rotating Presidents	Clive Walker	Clive Walker
2018 – 2019	Heather Redmond	Clive Walker	Clive Walker
2019 – 2020	Kathryn Chivers	Clive Walker	Clive Walker
2020 – 2021	Kathryn Chivers	Leslie Champion	Clive Walker
2021 – 2022	Matthew Irving	Leslie Champion	Roslyn Stewart
2022 – 2023	Roslyn Stewart	Leslie Champion	Clive Walker

There was wonderful District support from 2 Assistant Governors:

- Kaye Gauci.
- Gary Jungwirth

At some time before 1 July 2020, the link to Latrobe University was deleted leaving the name as the Rotary e-Club 9790.

The new name of 'Change Makers' was adopted and occurred on 19 May 2024.

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

8. ROTARY E-CLUB OF CHANGE MAKERS

The Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe became the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers on 19 May 2024.

The office bearers of the Rotary Satellite e-Club of Change Makers are shown in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1 Office Bearers of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
2023 – 2024	Paul Conroy	Kathryn Chivers	Clive Walker
2024 – 2025	Kevin Carey	Kathryn Chivers	Clive Walker
2025 – 2026	Susan Benedyka	Clark Fletcher	Clive Walker

9. PREDECESSOR CLUB NAMES

The details of the predecessor names of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers are shown in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 Predecessor Names of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

Date	Name	Club Type
2014.02.25	Satellite club of Southern Mitchell	Rotary Satellite Club
2014.03.01	eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland	Rotary Satellite Club
	Rotary Satellite e-Club of Southern Mitchell	Rotary Satellite Club
2016.02.23?	Rotary Club of Riddells Creek	Rotary Club
2016.02.23	Rotary e-Club 9790 Latrobe	Rotary Club
	Rotary e-Club 9790	Rotary Club
2024.05.19	Rotary e-Chub of Change Makers	Rotary Club

History of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers

10. GLOSSARY

Acronym or Symbol	Term	Definition
	Club	Rotary e-Club of Change Makers Incorporated
COL	Council on Legislation	The Rotary Council on Legislation (COL) is the official, democratic, and worldwide parliament of Rotary International that meets in Chicago every three years to amend Rotary International's constitutional documents. It brings together representatives from every Rotary district to review and vote on enactments (changes to bylaws/constitution) and resolutions, shaping the future and policies of the Rotary International.
DG	District Governor	
DGN	District Governor Nominee	
OAM	Order of Australia Medal	
PDG	Past District Governor	

11. REFERENCES

11.1 ClubRunner Documents

- 2014.03.14 Nomination for membership of E club
- 2016.05.01 Early History of the Rotary 9790 Latrobe Club
- 2020 Club History
- 2020 Club History (possible date)
- Rotary Club of Riddells Creek Name Change

12. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Description	Date
1.0	First edition of the history of the Rotary e-Club of Change Makers	2026.02.15
2.0	Add list of predecessor club name	2026.03.01

13. APPENDICES

Figure 13-1 Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell Inc - Notice to Members 2060.03.04

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHERN MITCHELL INC

Notice to members

In accordance with Article 7 and Article 26 of our Club Rules, the Board at its meeting on 1st March 2014 accepted for membership of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell the following applicants for the satellite club "The eRotary Club of Southern Mitchell Action Inland"

Last Name	First Name	
Bhatti	Makhdoom	Rotarian
Burns	Nicola	Rotarian
Flower	David	Former Rotarian
Franks	Ashley	Intruduced by DGN Richard Luke
Free	Peter	Former Rotarian
Hill	Chris	Rotarian
Horsfall	Rodney	Former Rotarian
Marshall	Louise	Former Rotarian
Marshall	Paul	Former Rotarian
Palermo	David	Rotarian
Redmond	Heather	Former Rotarian
Sivasubramania	Diane	Introduced by DGN Richard Luke
Stephens	Mark	Former Rotarian
Wilson	Bill	Rotarian
Harvey	Ian	Former Rotarian
Kite	Lyndi	Former Rotarian

In the absence of a written objection within seven days of this notice, these applicants will be considered to be elected to membership

Jenny McDougall

Secretary

4th March 2014