

100 YEARS OF ROTARY IN QUEENSLAND

Written by PP Roger Crawfoot, Rotary Club of South Brisbane

Much has been written of the history of Rotary in Queensland, and in Australia, but it is worth starting with the broader history of Rotary International. Beginning in Chicago on 23 February 1905, the organisation became international in 1910 with the formation of clubs in Canada and in 1911 in England.

As early as 1913, the formation of Rotary in Australia was discussed, but with the intervention of the First World War, it was not until 1921 that the Rotary Club of Melbourne was chartered, becoming the first Rotary club in Australia. Sydney was chartered in 1922.

This was also the year in which the term Rotary International was formally adopted, but there were no districts at that time. The Charter Presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Melbourne and Sydney were appointed Special Commissioners for Rotary to further the movement and to form Rotary clubs throughout the country.

A meeting of business and professional men was called in Brisbane on 24 November 1922, and on 29 May 1923 the Rotary Club of Brisbane was granted its Charter by Rotary International.



The Rotary Club of Brisbane — Still serving the community after 100 years — John Smerdon and Cameron Gibson

It was not until 1927 that districting came to Australia. District 65, comprised 17 Rotary clubs throughout Australia, including four in Queensland — Brisbane, Rockhampton (1925), Townsville and Mackay (1926). Subsequently, in 1930–1931 District 76 was formed comprising much of New South Wales (NSW) and all of Queensland.

The rest of Australia was then designated District 56. Subsequently in 1938–1939 a further distribution saw District 56 applied to all of Queensland and part of northern NSW.

World War Two inhibited further Rotary development, but post war it proceeded quickly. By 1949–1950 when District 56 was renumbered District 31, but with similar boundaries, many new clubs had been formed. Queensland was divided in to two districts, with District 31 extending from Maryborough north, and District 35 to the south, still including the northern rivers of NSW.

In 1957–1958 further changes occurred, with Queensland north of Bundaberg becoming District 255, and south becoming District 260. In 1971 a new District 263 was created to take over the southern part of Queensland and northern NSW.

There followed a period of relative stability until 1977–1978 when a worldwide renumbering of Rotary districts was implemented. In Australia, '2' was changed to '9' so Queensland districts became 955, 960 and 963.

In Rotary's 75th year, 1979–1980, the three districts became four, with the addition of District 957 including clubs from Gympie north. Again there were changes, and in 1991, on 1 July that year, District 9630 was created.

In 2022 there was a rationalisation of Districts, with Central and North Queensland Districts 9550 and 9570 merging to form District 9560 and Southern Queensland Districts 9600 and

9630 merging to form District 9620. District 9640, comprising the Gold Coast, elected to remain autonomous.

Nor are districts restricted by state boundaries. D9560 includes Timor Leste and part of the Northern Territory; D9620 includes Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Naru; D9640 includes part of Northern NSW.

Club development proceeded slowly. It was 1926 before the Rotary Club of Brisbane sponsored the Rotary Clubs of Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville, and Bundaberg in 1929.

The period to 1939 saw an additional eight clubs chartered before the outbreak of World War Two. Six clubs were chartered during the war, and 14 between war's end and the end of 1950. Rotary activity extended to Papua New Guinea beginning in 1958–1959, and Timor Leste in 2002.

Since then, club development has proceeded apace. At the time of writing, there were 262 active clubs within Queensland, and 285 clubs across all three districts.

Clubs organise around Rotary's Five Avenues of Service: Club; Community; Vocational; International; and Youth. Coincidentally, the earliest recorded statement on community service was made internationally in 1923. While formal recognition of youth service is a recent decision, in fact youth has been a focus of Rotary from its earliest days.

More recently, seven areas of Rotary focus have been added: Basic Education and Literacy; Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Community and Economic Development; Maternal and Child health and Support for the Environment. These are increasingly becoming an integral part of Queensland club activity.

Until well into the 20th century, Rotary membership was contingent on professional qualifications. In Queensland districts this has evolved to encompass both professional and community persons of high regard who are willing to serve their community, nationally or internationally.

Nationally, including Queensland, there has been a decline in membership over many years, although this appears to have plateaued.

Projects originate at the club, district, national and international level. Since 1923 countless projects, both large and small, have originated in Queensland.

In youth service, RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), originally called 'Gundoo', evolved as a Queensland Centenary project of the Rotary Club of Brisbane. More recently, District 9640 developed the highly popular RYTS (Rotary Youth Transition Seminar) program, and this has extended to District 9620.



First Interact conference in Australia held in May 1967 in Brisbane

Increased awareness of opportunities offered by The Rotary Foundation saw the first scholarship offered to a Queenslander, Brian Kruger, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ipswich in 1949–1950. Three more scholars from other Queensland clubs soon followed. Paul Harris Fellow recognition has become a popular means of raising funds for The Rotary Foundation while recognising merited service.

Youth Exchange in Queensland had its inception in 1963–1964 and remained a popular program until interrupted by COVID-19. An Interact club started at Mackay High School followed in 1964 by one at Brisbane Grammar School.

The first Rotaract district conference in Australia was held in Queensland in 1969. This followed the creation of the first Rotaract club in Australia by the then Rotary Club of Brisbane West in June 1968.

South Brisbane Rotary created a picnic for special needs children in 1948, and the program continues to this day. At the other end of the scale, Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo has generated almost \$5 million towards community needs since 1963.



Activity at the South Brisbane annual picnic and the Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo

In 1930, Cairns Rotary organised picture shows to raise funds, a precursor of today's club activity. In 1970, the then Rotary Club of Geebung initiated a program of Indigenous trade training.

The 1974 Brisbane floods and Cyclone Tracy in Darwin highlighted to Queensland Rotarians the importance of disaster relief. This was followed in 1987 by the creation of Rotary Australia

World Community Service. Drought relief became an issue in the early 21st century — an innovative scheme in District 9630 provided relief not only to affected victims but supported their local townships. District 9620 continues with a broader ambit towards disaster relief.

In 1985, the newly formed Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (now ARH) offered six scholarships, including one at the University of Queensland, for research into cot death. The goodwill generated by the positive outcomes sustains ARH to this day.

At club level, service activities are constantly being implemented — and changing. Surfers Paradise Rotary offered Gold Coast holidays to returning veterans. Babinda supported the town library. Mt Gravatt raised funds for community care and health centre for Blue Nurses.

An early Indigenous trade training program was implemented by the then Geebung club in 1974, while Nerang Rotary started a wider program in 1978. In 1955 Brisbane Rotary initiated the International House program at the University of Queensland.



Rotary Peace Fellows with Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias

Many Queensland Rotarians have participated in National Immunisation Days overseas as polio approaches elimination. The Lighthouse literacy program implemented in Thailand by PDG Dick Walker (Salisbury Rotary) proved to be a game changer for thousands of youngsters. Darwin clubs cooperated in projects with near Asian neighbours.

Toowoomba Rotary implemented a program to send industrial sewing machines to Melanesia, training the trainer who would implement the program in their homeland. Other districts implemented overseas aid programs within Queensland districts.

A recent relaxation in the meeting requirements has seen many clubs change to fortnightly meetings. The traditional dinner and guest speaker format has changed to meet the requirements of individual clubs, and the use of on-line meetings has overcome many of the difficulties presented by COVID.

Two new clubs recently chartered have a specific focus. The Rotary Club of Global Nurses and Midwives counts membership from all over the world. The Rotaract Club of Woolloongabba Pride is Rotary's first openly gay club, although sexuality is not a criterion of membership.

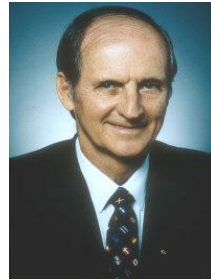
Rotary offers leadership opportunities at club, district, national and international levels.

Four Queensland Rotarians have been elected as directors of Rotary International (RI), and two went on to become International Presidents — Sir Clem Renouf AM (Nambour Rotary) (1978–1979) and Glen Kinross AO (Hamilton) (1997–1998). Both were responsible for lasting projects of global importance.

PRIP the Sir Clem Renouf AM



PRIP Glen Kinross AO



Sir Clem Renouf was RI President in the year the Rotary Club of Duarte had its charter removed due to it inducting women members, in contravention of the RI Constitution. Prior to this, there had been considerable support for women to be admitted to membership but failure to achieve a two thirds majority at the RI Council on Legislation meant the proposal was rejected.

Ultimately, the US Supreme Court ruled in favour of the club and in 1989 women were admitted to Rotary membership.

At the same time, Sir Clem Renouf presided over polio eradication campaigns that ultimately became 'End Polio Now', and also introduced the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3H) program.

PDG Glen Kinross initiated a low-cost housing program that supplied approximately 700 basic shelters in Bangladesh, with further construction ten years later.

The decision of the US Supreme Court in 1989 that by law Rotary must admit women as members had an immediate effect. Clubs are bound by the Constitution of Rotary International, and from then on, any new club is open to both male and female members.

The position with clubs chartered prior to this was that although they were technically required to abide by the new law, there was a proviso that where there were "cultural concerns", existing clubs could be exempted. Many clubs in Queensland took advantage of this to retain their men only status, but over time most have opened their doors to women members.

This has been exemplified by the number of women arising to leadership roles at the club and district level, particularly as club presidents and district governors. Internationally, the first female RI President, Jennifer Jones, assumed her role in July 2022.

Inner Wheel remains exclusively a female club, not bound by the Constitution of Rotary, but nevertheless very active. The term "Rotaryanne", once popular as referring to the wife of a Rotarian, has disappeared.

For 100 years, Rotary in Queensland has been a vibrant contributor to the community. As well as local community involvement, it has developed programs that ultimately would be accepted internationally. It has readily adopted programs from elsewhere that are relevant to local needs.

The future is assured.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BRISBANE CONFERENCE

A Mighty Crusade

WORK IN FOSTERING PEACE

BRISBANE, April 15.

The first conference of the 76th district of the Rotary International commenced to-day. Representatives were present from all over the district, which comprises an area from north of the Murrumbidgee to the border and the whole of Queensland. A civic reception was accorded the delegates at the City Hall.

The Lord Mayor, in a welcoming speech, said that no person could read the six objects of Rotary without being tremendously impressed with its lofty ideals. Rotary, with its 3400 clubs and 160,000 members in 50 to 60 countries, was conducting one of the mightiest crusades the world of late years had known.

Speaking at the opening session, the Governor (Sir John Goodwin) said that the Rotary movement was growing steadily. There were 565 clubs in Europe, of which over 300 were in England, a fact of which he thought England might well be proud. The world was passing through a critical stage, and the great need was peace in the widest sense of the word, not only between the nations, but in the affairs of nations themselves. He believed that Rotary was doing important work in fostering the peace so much desired.

The conference will be continued tomorrow.

FOUNDER OF ROTARY

ARRIVAL IN BRISBANE.

Brisbane, March 12.

Dr. Paul Harris, of Chicago, founder of the Rotary international movement, arrived in Brisbane today from the East by the Kitano Maru, en route to Melbourne to attend the Rotary Conference there. Dr. Harris, who was accorded a civic reception, stated that the movement was growing at an amazing rate all over the world. Rotary was now established in 80 countries, and only one country—Turkey—had refused a permit for the formation of a Rotary club.

In Australia, said Dr. Harris, the growth of the Rotary movement had been astounding. There were now 43 Australian clubs with as many thousands of members. Australians took the movement very seriously and were putting its principles into practice.

Since he left America he got "Pacific Ocean conscious," said Dr. Harris. He believed the Pacific to be the theatre of commerce of the world. America and the East and Australia could supplement each other's products and industries more readily than America and European countries.

Rotary International Day

On the occasion of Rotary International Day, the meeting to-day of the Brisbane Rotary Club was addressed by the Consul for the United States, Mr. J. P. Ragland, who spoke of the American foreign service. He stated that there were 700 officers in the service, stationed in 57 countries at 259 Embassies and consulates. The speaker discussed the work of consular officers and said that officers of the United States foreign service took a practical interest in the problems of the country in which they were stationed and were desirous of promoting world peace.

Mr. R. C. Hancock said that Rotary was building bridges between nations and was helping to repair the damage which had been done by the war in forcing nations apart. He moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ragland for his

Telegraph (Brisbane,

International House

QLD. PLANS BY ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Brisbane has plans for the establishment in Queensland of an International House as a central meeting place with residential facilities for both Australian and overseas students.

This was stated today by the president of the Rotary Club of Brisbane (Mr. W. R. Gilbert), in commenting on a report that the Commonwealth Government had made a grant to the Melbourne University to assist in the establishment of an International House.

Mr. Gilbert said he was pleased that the Government had, in so practical a manner, demonstrated its recognition of the need of international houses or colleges within the universities.

It was Rotary's aim to prepare a constitution for International House and submit this to the Senate of the University of Queensland and so that the house when established could apply for affiliation as a college within the University, he said.

Already representatives of the Rotary Club of Brisbane had discussed matters affecting overseas students with the select committee of the Senate, and would soon begin to collect donations from members to inaugurate the scheme.

Early in 1955 it was

to inaugurate the scheme.
Early in 1955 it was proposed to interest other service clubs and

the general public and to launch an appeal for the funds necessary to procure a suitable building and establish International House in Brisbane.

Mr. Gilbert said he hoped that when the time came assistance similar to that extended to Melbourne would be received from the Commonwealth Government. Present indications were that such a project was vitally necessary and would become even more so as more and more students from Asia and other overseas countries were enrolled at the Queensland University.

ROTARY LUNCHEON.

The weekly luncheon meeting of the Brisbane Rotary Club was held yesterday at the Hotel Carlton, when the vice-president (Rotarian T. J. Barry) was in the chair. The Right Rev. Bishop de Witt Batty was the speaker, and had as his subject "Some Thoughts on Democracy." The word "Democracy," he said, as its name suggested, was of Greek origin. The first democratic assemblies were held in the city States of Greece 2000 years ago. But they were very small and paid the penalty for their weakness by their disappearance, because free citizens were in the minority. The right kind of society to have was one in which people were mainly concerned in duties, and then every one would have rights. Rights and duties were co-relative terms. But it made all the difference as to which to emphasise, for persons seldom agreed as to their rights and insisted on the liberty to exaggerate them. But when all concerned with duties really learnt to put service before self, then a wholly different atmosphere was created and democracy meant not bitter rivalry and competition, but wider fellowship and truer brotherhood than can be created by any other means.

Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864-1933), Tuesday 22 July 1930, page 21



ROTARY leaders Mr. John Peden (present Rotary Governor, left), Mr. Ted Gold (incoming Governor, centre), and Mr. Harold Reed (Rotary International representative) shared a joke at the preliminary "get-together" last night for the 31st Rotary District conference in Brisbane.

Courier Mail (Brisbane, Qld: 1933-1954), Friday 17 August 1951, page 3

VISITED AN OVERSEAS MEETING EVERY WEEK


IN 364 days a Queensland Rotarian visited 52 overseas Rotary clubs in the British Isles and on the Continent.

He is Mr. Joe Allison, of Southport, a visitor to the Rotary conference and assembly which began with an informal "get-together" last night.

In his whirlwind tour Mr. Allison visited clubs in Norway, Sweden, Holland, and Switzerland.

At least 20 of the visiting Rotarians have visited overseas clubs.

This is the first time in 14 years that a Rotary conference and assembly of the 31st district (extending from Babinda to Grafton, N.S.W.), has been held in Brisbane. The district embraces 41 clubs.



Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld: 1933–1954), Friday 17 August 1951, page 3

ROTARY CLUB OF BRISBANE — THE FIRST CENTURY

*Written by
Hon Associate Professor Dr Dorothy Watts AM*

The Rotary Club of Brisbane was the first club in Queensland and the third in Australia. It was formed under the system of a Rotary Commissioner travelling to a town and getting together community leaders and was chartered on 29 May 1923 with a membership of 15. Peter B Macgregor, a leading Brisbane barrister, was the Charter President.



The Club sponsored numerous other clubs in Queensland and Northern New South Wales: Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Lismore, Fortitude Valley, South Brisbane, Brisbane North, Brisbane West and Brisbane Mid-City. It had five sister clubs worldwide: Tsim Sha Tsui Hong Kong, Taipei Tatung Taiwan, Kobe East Japan, Amsterdam International, and Charleston East South Carolina.

At its peak the Club had over 200 members (246 in 1969). The numbers dropped with the formation of the new clubs in

Brisbane CBD but had a resurgence in 2001–2002 when there were 101 members. The current membership is 30. In 1989, the Club was pleased to welcome women Rotarians and there has been a steady increase in female membership, including two presidents.

As befitting the motto 'Service Above Self', the Rotary Club of Brisbane in its 100 years has a proud history of support for community, national and international causes. As might be expected, the focus has changed as society itself has changed, and there is now much more emphasis on specific needs or organisations, rather than a broad-brush approach. But to deal with the increasing number of causes needing financial assistance, a less piece-meal approach was needed. In 1989–1990 the Club took the decision to establish a foundation that could attract donations and the fund be invested to provide income for community and international projects.



The Rotary Club of Brisbane Benevolent Foundation/Public Ancillary Fund was established on 28 August 1999 with Dr Brian Carss, Graham Alexander, Henry Milne and Ian Wilson as trustees. Initial funding came from bequests by Rotarians Lionel Walpole and Clive Morman, and the surplus from the 2003 Rotary International World Convention. Total assets at the end of May 2011 were \$501,570.16.

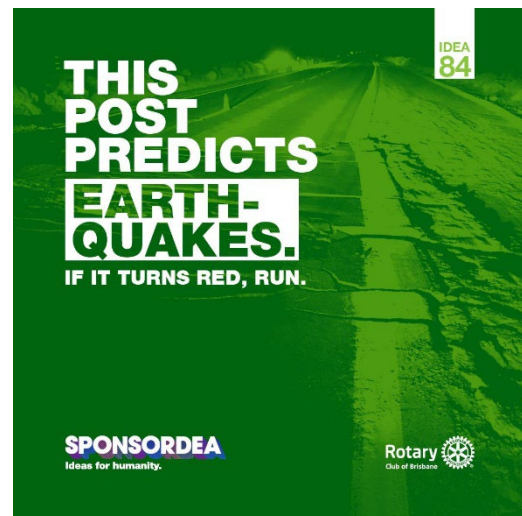
Following changes to the Act, the Foundation has been set up as the Rotary Club of Brisbane Public Ancillary Fund. The Rotary Club of Brisbane Inc is the Trustee and there is an independent

investment committee that manages all investment decisions. Total assets at the end of 2021 amounted to \$1,076,166.91. To meet Australian Taxation Office compliance guidelines, the Club must disburse at least five per cent of the fund balance (i.e. approximately \$50,000) each year by way of donations to Australian based charities by the end of each financial year. Donations in recent years include \$50,000 to Red Frogs (in 2017–2018) and \$50,000 to the Mater Foundation (in 2019–2020).



Over the years many major health and safety projects have been undertaken by the Club to benefit not just Brisbane but the wider Queensland community. Outstanding success stories include the establishment in 1977–1978 of a Foundation to provide ongoing support for the Queensland Surf Life Saving Association; the establishment of the Queensland Society for Crippled Children and a workshop for people with disability that developed into the Help Foundation; and the contribution of funds for the setting up of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia. Many and varied charities have benefited from donations by the club including Diabetes Australia, McIntyre Riding for the Disabled, Vision Queensland, and Canine Helpers Guide Dogs for the Disabled. In 1991–1992, the Club joined 20 others to establish Rotary Lodge at Wesley Hospital, providing accommodation for seriously ill patients (and their families) when receiving treatment.

Of more recent times the disadvantaged and homeless have been a special focus for the Club with funds and often the assistance of volunteer members. Recipients include the Salvation Army mobile food truck, Eddie's Food Van for the Homeless (run by the students of St Joseph's Gregory Terrace), and the Salvation Army's women's shelter. The poster pictured is part of the Sponsordea project, aimed at encouraging non-Rotarians to submit ideas that can be turned into a new grants and support project to help budding charities, startup NGOs, and worthwhile entrepreneurs to realise their dreams to bring to life ideas that will help the community.



Strong and continuing support has also been given to projects involving youth in the community. An early and outstanding project not long after WWII was support for the establishment of International House at the University of Queensland in 1954–1955 — the Club's community service to recognise the Rotary's Golden Anniversary. The project took ten years to come to fruition, and the Club's driving force was Rotarian Bert Martin. Other projects have supported youth groups, school communities, and vocational, Rotaract and RYLA initiatives.

Individual acts of service or philanthropy are recognised by contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Donor acknowledgement takes a number of forms including the award of Paul Harris Fellowships for each US\$1,000 donated. As at February 2021, through the Club Rotary International had bestowed 122 fellowships on members and recognised two major donors.

International causes have not been neglected, with donations given on many occasions involving natural disasters such as tsunamis, floods, and earthquakes.

One of the Club's ongoing and most rewarding activities has been Donations-in-Kind (now Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE)) to medical and educational recipients in Papua New Guinea. Regularly, Rotarians and their families gather to sort medical supplies that are just on their use-by date, equipment superseded or surplus to requirements and other valuable material to supplement stocks at PNG hospitals and clinics; and desks, chairs, or teaching material no longer need in Brisbane schools find a ready and welcome home in the classrooms of PNG.

Activities and projects such as these not only foster goodwill internationally, but they also are great for promoting fellowship in the club itself.

A strength of any Rotary club is the sense of community members gain from their involvement in club activities and social occasions, which might include partners or family members.

Over the many years the Club has been in existence, members have enjoyed functions ranging from the formal to the frantic— but always fun!

A trip to Taipei by members and partners (bearing Queensland wines, made by a Rotarian winemaker) was memorable and the hospitality of our hosts almost overwhelming; and wine-tasting and bottle-labelling at another Rotarian's winery well worth the price of several members getting lost on the way to the country estate.



There have been balls and dinners, film evenings and musical theatre outings, art shows and tree plantings. All have contributed to the sense of belonging that makes any organisation strong and its members committed.

The Rotary Club of Brisbane has come a long way in its 100 years and has had its highs and lows. But what has sustained it has been the belief of its members in the tenets of Rotary and The Four-Way Test that encourages ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things for the community and in their own way to make the world a better, more caring place. May it keep going for another 100 years!





Members of the Rotary Good-will Mission aboard the Taiping, after the vessel had arrived at Brisbane yesterday. Queensland Rotarians will join the party.

Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld: 1933-1954), Monday 22 February 1937, page 16

ROTARY'S RAPID GROWTH

3000 Clubs in 80 Countries

FOUNDER WELCOMED

When the founder of the Rotary International movement, Mr. Paul Harris, of Chicago, arrived in Brisbane in the Kitano Maru yesterday, he said that the movement was growing at an amazing rate all over the world. Rotary had now been established in 80 countries. Only one country, Turkey, had refused to permit the formation of a Rotary Club. He hoped that even this bar would be removed when a second application was



MR. P. HARRIS.

made. No attempt had been made to found a club in Russia.

Mr. Harris was for 40 years a lawyer in Chicago. Since his retirement a few years ago his wife and he have made a trip every year to some of the countries in which Rotary has been established. This year they left Chicago on January 21, and on January 25 sailed from San Francisco. They have visited Hawaii, Japan, China, and the Philippines. They are on their way now to a Rotary conference in Melbourne, after which they will go to New Zealand, and back to the United States.

In Australia, said Mr. Harris, the growth of the Rotary movement had been astounding. There were now 43 Australian clubs, with many thousands of members. Australians took the movement very seriously, and were putting its principles into practice.

"Since I left San Francisco I have got a Pacific Ocean conscience," Mr. Harris continued. "I believe the Pacific is to be the theatre of commerce of the world." America and the East and Australia, he went on, could supplement each other's products and industries more readily than America and European countries.

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CIVIC RECEPTION

At a civic reception at the City Hall, the Lord Mayor (Alderman Jones) welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Harris, and praised the work of the Rotary movement in Brisbane. There were now 3000 Rotary clubs, with 150,000 members, in 80 countries of the world, he said. The Brisbane club was formed in 1926, and now had 126 members. It had given great service to the city, notably in the establishing of the Montrose Home for crippled children, for which it had raised £1100. This home now accommodated 54 children. More recently the club had taken an active interest in the movement for raising £4000 for the Darnley art bequest fund, and in a general effort to stimulate interest in literature, art, and the public museum.

The Minister for Public Instruction (Mr. Cooper) welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Harris on behalf of the Government. There had been no time, he said, when the application of the Rotary motto of "Service before self" was more needed than to-day.

The president of the Brisbane Rotary Club (Rotarian W. B. Darker) supported the welcome.

Responding, Mr. Harris said that he was intensely interested in the work the Brisbane Rotary Club had done for the crippled children and the fostering of art. These were two of the finest avenues of expression of the Rotary ideals.

*Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld: 1933 - 1954),
Wednesday 13 March 1935, page 18*

Rotary plan for golden jubilee

TO mark the golden jubilee of Rotary the world's 8314 clubs will undertake a special community service project this year.

The Governor of Rotary's 56th district (Mr. Bert Martin) said yesterday this meant that, in addition to projects already under way, 3500 extra service projects would be started and completed.

Mr. Martin was addressing the Fortitude Valley Junior Chamber of Commerce on the Rotary movement and his recent visit overseas.

He said that Rotary now was established in 89 countries, and had a world membership of about 392,000.

Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld: 1933-1954), Wednesday 28 July 1954, page 9

FOR ROTARY CONVENTION.



A large number of friends gathered at the South Brisbane Station yesterday morning to farewell Mr. W. B. Darker (third from left), who left by the Sydney mail, and will embark on the Mariposa for America, where he will attend the World Rotary Convention at Boston.

Brisbane Courier (Qld: 1864-1933), Saturday 6 May 1933, page 16