

A Different way of “doing Rotary”

One of DG John’s goals for this Rotary Year is to charter at least 2 “Coffee” Clubs (for “Coffee” also read “Cocktail” or “Tea” or any other quick, tasty beverage).

PP Mike Hallen (Castle Hill) has been appointed Club Extension Chairman working with District Membership Chairman, Mark Anderson to investigate and form clubs of this type as soon practicable in this new Rotary Year.

An agreed set of requirements to form this type of Rotary Club has been signed off by DG John and Chairman Mark (copy attached) and some initial work has been done on the Central Coast to ascertain the level of interest that this form of Rotary Club might have in that area. It is early days but the word is getting out via a group of interested Central Coast Rotarians who live and work in the area.

Use the "Related Files" tab on this page to access the “Coffee Club Modus Operandi” document showing the significant points of difference in the manner in which these clubs will operate while at the same time observing all of the requirements of Rotary International.

What is missing includes a lot of the “local custom” that has built up in our District over the years but that may not be attractive to newer, younger members and/or potential members.

There is no intention to force any club or Rotarian to change the way that they conduct their Rotary. It is an alternative that may be suitable to some and not to others but it is intended to open the door for potential members who cannot commit to a Rotary Club in its present form.

For more information please contact Mike (mhallen@ozemail.com.au) or Mark (p.mark.anderson@gmail.com) who will be pleased to discuss this exciting project with you.

Suggested “Coffee Club” modus operandi

1. Coffee clubs are not part of, nor do they compete with, clubs participating in the “RI 2011-2014 Innovative and Flexible Rotary Club Pilot Program”.
2. Coffee Clubs are not “e-clubs” (although it is possible they could “morph” into this form of club at some future date).
3. Standard RI club constitution to be adopted.
4. Recommended RI Club By-laws to be adapted as appropriate and adopted.
5. Club Board structure to be based on the RI Club Leadership Plan (adapted as required to suit the club).
6. Coffee clubs to comply with all District protocols and reporting requirements.
7. All dues to be paid as for a “normal” club (RI, District, RDU).
8. Meeting frequency and attendance to reflect the extant RI requirements.
9. No meal (i.e. they are not Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner clubs).
10. Meeting in informal surroundings such as a coffee shop/café/micro brewery/wine bar etc.
11. No Rotary Regalia. No President’s collar. Some small RI insignia only?
12. Core meeting time to be limited to approximately 30 minutes; e.g. arrive at 0800 for 0815 meeting; close meeting by 0845. Note that the closing time could be extended from time to time as required/convenient to suit members and business of the day.
13. Meetings to be conducted as “business meetings” with an agenda and any items for consideration at the meeting to be available to members prior to the meeting.
14. Reports and actions arising at a meeting to be reported back at a designated future meeting with any supporting documentation made available to members prior to the meeting.
15. The majority of board and project discussion/debate to be conducted “in committee” by the respective members outside the normal meeting time. Brief update reports to be given at the club meeting.
16. The majority of club business outside the meeting may be conducted using social media tools/ClubRunner.
17. Important documents to be available electronically “on demand” to members with appropriate access permissions.
18. Recommended that all new Rotarians in the coffee club attend the Rotary Leadership Institute course to give them a basic Rotary knowledge and understanding. This also demonstrates a level of “Rotary commitment”.
19. Arrange “special events”/projects/joint meetings with “mother club” or other local Rotary club; e.g. use their facilities to hold, say, a joint Pride of Workmanship event or other such significant community project.

Supporting framework for a “Coffee Club” (with respect to items 14, 16 & 17 above)

Please note that District does not have a preferred method for clubs to maintain an on-line presence or a recommended communication model for clubs to follow.

1 Social media tools and ClubRunner (item 16)

- a. An on-line presence may be establishing using a combination of:
 - i. A standalone website such as provided by ClubRunner, Rotary Downunder, RotaryNews or others
 - ii. A Facebook group – [see privacy options for groups](#)
 - iii. A ‘secret’ Facebook group – [see more about groups here](#)
- b. As may be seen from the feature comparison provided by ClubRunner (on separate page but [available at this link](#)), ClubRunner for clubs provides a complete package including:
 - i. A template based website
 - ii. A secure database (synchronised with RI & District)
 - iii. File storage, including committees
 - iv. Club eBulletin preparation & distribution
 - v. Email communications
- c. Other website providers may offer similar services
- d. In order to ensure the district membership database is accurate, clubs would need to maintain their membership and officer record on the [District \(ClubRunner\) website](#) (as two-way synchronisation with the RI database is not presently available. This may lead to a return of duplicate data reporting. At present, the district website provides a single entry point (including RDU from 1 July).

2 Circulating documentation prior to meetings (item 14)

- a. As noted above, ClubRunner for Clubs offers document storage and email facilities.
- b. Alternatives include:
 - i. [Dropbox](#) or similar
 - ii. [Google Drive](#)
 - iii. [Google Groups](#)
 - iv. [A Facebook Group](#)
- c. The most important items to consider are:
 - i. Ease of storage
 - ii. Ease of access/retrieval
 - iii. Security
 - iv. The centralisation of the club’s records (rather than being in several places on members’ desktops etc)

Suggested tool Q&A

Can Club Runner (or any other readily available tool):

- Provide a "forum tool" that allows for discussion (Para 14)?
 - Not efficiently BUT it would be possible to establish a [WordPress](#) or similar blog site for that. A [‘secret’ Facebook group](#) is another possibility
- Facilitate collaboration, on-line discussion and adding document links within the discussion for easy retrieval (Paras 16 & 17)?
 - The ‘secret’ Facebook/blog would facilitate discussion and that could be coupled with document links to [ClubRunner](#), [Dropbox](#) or similar
- Allow collaboration within and/or outside of the district?
 - District people could be involved in the secret Facebook group and or blog at the invitation of the club.

This document is available on the District website

www.rotarydistrict9685.org.au under

Administration > Training > District Assembly > Presentations 2013-14

It may be directly accessed at this link:

http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/9680//HTML/195049//CoffeeClub_forDA.pdf

ClubRunner Feature Comparison

ClubRunner gives your club, district and zone access to a powerful suite of software to reach your fundraising, membership and public relation goals. ClubRunner is your complete online administration and communications tool that will help you streamline your communication efforts and centralize your membership database.

Modules		Club
Secure membership database		X
Mass or targeted email communication		X
Complete Director & Committee listings		X
District Organizational Charts with committee structures		
Secure downloads area		X
Event Planner with calendar		X
Create invoices and track bills		X
Track, monitor and report attendance		X
Send personalized eBulletin		X
Add-Ons Available		
Barcode Scanner Module		X
Enhanced Committees Module		X
Online Payment & eCommerce Module		X
MyEventRunner Lite		X
MyEventRunner Pro		X
X Available as an add-on X Included with version		