

BRIEF HISTORY OF ROTARY

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name Rotary came from the initial meetings being held in rotation at each member's place of business.



The first four Rotarians were: (from left) Gustavus Loehr a mining engineer; Silvester Schiele a coal merchant; Hiram Shorey a tailor; and attorney Paul Harris

Rotary's popularity spread with clubs chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada within a decade. By 1921 Rotary clubs were established on six continents and the organisation adopted the Rotary International name a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to serve communities in need. The organisation's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: **Service Above Self**. Rotarians in Australia continue to recognise this motto through the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellowship recognition.

Today Rotary International is a worldwide organisation of service clubs with a membership of 1.228 million Rotarians in around 34,340 clubs in 215 countries. Rotary encourages diversity in membership that includes a mix of vocations, ethnic backgrounds, age and genders within Club members.

Did you know

- 🌐 THERE ARE 32,240+ ROTARIANS IN 1136 CLUBS
IN 21 DISTRICTS IN AUSTRALIA
- 🌐 IN OUR DISTRICT 9700 THERE ARE
1140 MEMBERS IN 40 CLUBS