

Xero for Rotary Clubs.



Using Xero for the financial administration of your Rotary club.

Why should you care?

Because, in the end, it's all about the money. One way or another if the money is not there or not accounted for properly your club's viability or even survival is in jeopardy.

Whether you like it or not, there is an increasing interest in the club's operations, not just from club members but from Government departments too. You have responsibilities to comply with the law and regulations imposed by:



The XRB (External Reporting Board) has recently published new accounting and reporting standards that apply to not-for-profit organisations. For the moment these will only apply to charities but the regulations and supporting documentation are full of the following words - %subscriptions+, %members+, %clubs+, so you can see where it is heading. The %simplified, easy user notes+are 45 pages long! Without a proper accounting system in place clubs will find it difficult or even impossible to comply when their turn comes.

Background .

For their size, Rotary clubs are actually quite complex organisations financially, having clubs activities, fundraising events and community giving all mixed up in one entity requires some good tools to be able to keep accurate and correct records . and be able to comply with the law.

In 2011 Rotary club financial administration was in trouble. %Clubmate+was terminally ill, and some %traditional+approaches to financial management in Rotary clubs were inadequate or served the clubs poorly. During his year, 9920 PDG Alan Eyes set up a taskforce to find a solution with the goals of:

- Reduce club administration burden / cost
- Improve support for club officers
- Improve district reporting
- Improve statutory compliance

The task force surveyed clubs and found a wide range of tools in use. We found that the most common %tool+in use at that time was Excel. We trialled and/or reviewed different commercial packages and settled on Xero for the reasons set out below.

What you get by using Xero



On line and In the cloud

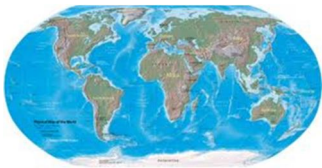
- No software to download
- All you need is access to the internet (with a reasonable connection.)
- Always available
- No backup worries – happens automatically



ANY system will work just fine –

Microsoft/windows laptops, Apple devices, tablets and even your smart phone will work .

Optional but recommended extras are a printer and a scanner.



Access anywhere. Anytime

As long as you have internet access, you have your club accounts available to you 24/7 (except when you are fishing).



User friendly. Very easy to use

This is one of the key benefits with Xero – simple, straight forward and uncomplicated. Very intuitive and functional. Quick to learn.



Saves TIME – lots of it.

The position of club Treasurer is traditionally hard to fill. This is because it is time consuming and largely “unloved”. Well, not anymore!

For a medium to large sized club with 50 – 60 members it is common to hear that the Treasurer spends 15 – 20 HOURS a month taking care of business. NOT with Xero, for the same tasks, 2- 3 hours a month is all it takes – promise! Weekly meals, billed to members’ accounts can be done in minutes. Bill all your members their 6 monthly subs in 30 seconds.

Multi –user access

Some Rotarians have trouble getting their head around this. But it is really a super benefit. All board members can have access (with



different privileges) and can review the details of the club accounts at will – right down to seeing copies of actual invoices paid. Your auditor can have access at any time. You can/could split the treasurer function into several tasks, completed by different members – e.g. one does meeting charges, another banking, the other payments,, etc.



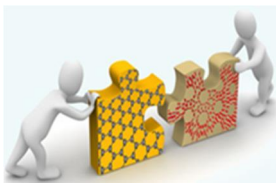
NO change over problems

The common scenario is that the new treasurer is left, hung out to dry – no hand over files, no software, or can't get the source disk, on transferred files, no flow on data, nothing!

Any treasurer that has gone through the pain of this, will fully understand why this is such a benefit. With Xero, it is all there – permanently. What's more with the multi user capabilities, an incoming Treasurer can begin using the system well before 30 June and be fully up to speed when the new club year comes around.

AND the outgoing treasurer can continue with access for a while in order to finish out his year properly – like filing tax and Incorporated Societies returns for the year just completed!

Xero is a very good fit to Rotary needs (but not perfect).



So let's be honest. Xero is designed for small businesses, not for Rotary clubs. As such it has a few idiosyncrasies that need to be accommodated, but the point is, they can be. We have used Xero now for 3 years and it is safe to say it is a really really good fit, easy to use and the benefits set out above are real. It is even Fun, now that's a winner!

Reasonable cost



Actual cost varies with the options and feature you choose to use.

The usual range is:
\$40 month for mid to large (account) clubs*
\$10 month for small cash clubs, not GST registered

*Rate includes 25% discount for Rotary clubs

Sign up support



If you sign up through me, we can get you a 25% discount automatically. I will get you live and set you up with Xero defaults for free.

For an extra fee we can assign you 3 – 4 hours of online, one on one

orientation and training, setup your member details automatically, set up a Rotary specific chart of accounts and see you off in the right direction.

Send me an email brucehowe@ihug.co.nz and we can establish exactly what your costs will be and get you started.



The choice is yours?