



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ~ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide organisation of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

What are some of the values of Rotary and Rotarians?

Rotarians worldwide are inspired by the Rotary theme of *'Service Above Self'* and are guided by reference to *'The Four-Way Test'*. In particular, *'The Four-Way Test'* challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask of themselves:

"Of the things we think say or do:

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?*
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"*

Who Joins Rotary?

Rotarians are business and professional leaders who take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. A Rotary club contains a diverse group of professional leaders from the community that the club serves.

What are some of the benefits of joining Rotary?

Membership in a Rotary club offers a number of benefits, including:

- Effecting change within the community.
- Developing leadership skills.
- Gaining an understanding of — and having an impact on — international humanitarian issues.
- Developing relationships with community and business leaders.

Through Rotary's service programs, a Rotary club can have a significant effect on the quality of life in its community. Programs of The Rotary Foundation offer opportunities to form international partnerships that help people in need worldwide.



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ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHBANK

What are some of the characteristics of the Rotary Club of Southbank?

We are a young Club (chartered in June 1999) with a membership that ranges in age from below 40 to over 60. At the 30th June 2009, we had 29 members of which the gender balance was around 50/50. Our members represent a wide range of vocations and most work or live in or around the Southbank/City area. The Rotary Club of Southbank is recognised as being one of the 'new breed' of Rotary Clubs with a membership that reflects the communities in which it operates.

How does the Rotary Club of Southbank support its communities?

In the ten years since the Club was formed, we have worked on a number of projects, providing support in the areas of:

- Assistance to local organisations such as:
 - The Big Issue's Community Street Soccer program
 - The Melbourne Homeless World Cup – December 2008
 - District 9800 Bushfire Recovery Fund projects
 - STEPS – outreach service for homeless youth
 - ABC Local Radio Giving Tree – Christmas gift collections
 - Hanover Welfare Services – crisis accommodation centre
 - SHARC - addiction rehabilitation for young people
 - Port Phillip Special School and Kindergarten
- Youth Programmes such as:
 - Young Achievement Australia (YAA)
 - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
 - Rotary Youth Program for Enrichment (RYPEN)
- Assistance to our international communities:
 - Rotary Club of Southbank Bali Trust – established to support Balinese communities following the 2002 terrorist attack
 - Support for the Xanana Vocational Education Trust and the Dili Institute in East Timor – providing vocational training to the East Timorese

How do I become a member?

Please feel free to visit us a few times to see how we operate and to get to know us better. During this time, we will ensure that you are provided with information about Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Southbank – this will assist you in deciding '*if Rotary is for you*'. Membership of Rotary is by invitation and if,



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after a period of four to five visits if you wish to join the Club, your application for membership will be submitted to the members and Board of the Club.

How much does it cost to join the Rotary Club of Southbank?¹

Membership costs include:

- Joining Fee of \$110
- Annual Membership Fee of \$300
- Weekly Meeting Dues of \$30 (includes dinner and drinks)
- Meeting Fines Session – you may be ‘fined’ a few coins by our Sergeant as part of our meeting fellowship
- Complimentary parking is provided at our meetings
- In addition, you may choose to attend functions in aid of fundraising, community projects or fellowship activities

Do I have to attend every meeting?

Members are encouraged to attend meetings on a regular basis. Attendance and fellowship at the weekly meetings is an important part of the fabric of the Club and provides the ‘glue’ that keeps us active in the community and successful with our service projects.

We do, however, recognise that members have commitments other than Rotary and therefore do not insist on attendance at *every* meeting. For periods of extended absence, it is possible to apply for a Leave of Absence (subject to membership fees etc being current). During such a period of absence, members are not expected to attend weekly meetings, but are certainly welcome to ‘pop in’ if time permits.

Where do I find out more about the Rotary Club of Southbank?

There are many ways to learn more:

- ask any member of our Club
- visit our website: www.rotary.to
- contact our Director Membership Development, Troy Gay
 - email: membership@rotary.to
- visit a weekly meeting:
 - Tuesdays, 6pm for 6.30pm to 7.30pm
 - Crown Towers Hotel, Garden Room, Southbank

¹ Costs include GST and are current as at 1st July 2009