

The Basics

Membership of Rotary is by invitation. It is important to understand the expectations involved before submitting an Application and accepting a subsequent invitation to join Rotary. Joining follows a procedure that allows the individual and the Club to evaluate if they are suited to each other.

Your initial enquiry about Club membership will go to the Club Secretary. The Club's Membership Coordinator will then contact you to organize an informal meeting to share information about the club, answer questions and administer the application process.

At this stage you may also receive an invitation from a club member or the Membership Coordinator to attend up to two meetings as a paid guest to help establish your interest in Rotary.

Basically, Rotary members are expected to be *"of good character and of good business, professional or community reputation."* We want people who are keen to make a difference in the community and the wider world !

1. Once you decide to go ahead with an Application, The Membership Coordinator will present it to the Board and then the members, for approval. Notification will be advised within 30 days and if approved the Club Secretary will forward a Letter of Offer of Membership from the President along with a New Member Information Form, Media Consent Form and Membership fee and payment information. These should be completed and returned to Club Secretary at earliest convenience.

2. Once accepted, a special induction ceremony will be held during a meeting, where you will receive your Membership Certificate, lapel badge and Welcome Pack. The Membership Coordinator will support you at the Induction presentation and also sit with you at your first few meetings while you familiarize yourself with proceedings and also introduce you to other club members.

3. A Club mentor will also be allocated to you. They will be your first point of contact for any concerns or to answer any queries you have in regard to the operation of the Club and/or Rotary International. There will be an opportunity for you to express your interest in particular lines of service you choose to become involved in.

4. Our annual Club fee is \$260 (but this can vary with currency values). It is due around July each year. A discount is given for couples who join. We also have options for a *Corporate Membership* and involvement as a *Rotary Supporter (Friend of Rotary)*

5. If you wish, you can purchase Rotary signature gear - Shirts, hats etc via the Rotary website.

6. We have weekly meetings at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club. The meeting procedure is usually:

- Arrive between 5.30 and 5.45pm (Winter time) for a chat and a drink. (Summer time arrive 6pm for 6.30 start.)
- Register your arrival, collect your badge and maybe buy some raffle tickets at 3 for \$5.
- Find a table and note the table number. This will be required when ordering your meal which should be done as early as possible after your arrival. The meal is at your cost along with your drink which can be ordered at the bar prior to the meeting.
- The meeting starts with a welcome by the Chairman and then Club President; reports presented by Committees Chairs.
- The meals will be delivered around 6.30 or 7pm.
- Guest speaker - varies - we have a comprehensive program
- Happy & Sad Dollars - fundraiser
- Raffle draw
- We have some meetings with games/quizzes or just for fellowship

7. There are appointed jobs to perform at meetings - Greeter, Chairman, Raffle operator etc. These are allocated to all members on a roster system. Details will be provided.

8. Meeting attendance is NOT mandatory - nor is there an expected percentage attendance. Just come when you can. You will receive an email with on-line Jotform to complete and return to indicate whether

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you're able to come along. This should be done no later than 12 midday on the Monday prior to the meeting. Clearly, the more meetings you attend, the more you become familiar with Club activities.

9. We publish (via email) a weekly bulletin, detailing meeting content and appointments to meeting jobs (as described above). It covers details of the past meeting as well as upcoming meetings.

10. We have a club website which covers a host of Club information. www.rotaryoceangrove.org.au We also have a Facebook site - just search for Rotary Club of Ocean Grove in Facebook.

11. The club is involved in a wide range of support activities. Members are asked to volunteer to assist in these where they have the time/ability to do so. Lists are circulated at meetings to enable you to volunteer.

We look forward to you joining us! Board - Rotary Club of Ocean Grove. (February 2025)