

Rotary – the Bigger Picture

As a Rotarian you are a member of Rotary International...as well as a member of this Rotary Club. ***Individuals, not clubs, are members of RI.

As a club member we elect our own leaders each year, the club pays dues to RI (which is part of the membership fees you've recently paid), and in return Rotary International provides resources, training, and programs to help clubs be effective.

Whilst all clubs are governed by the Rotary International guidelines – they are autonomous...which is why you get such different clubs around the world.

There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries doing good all over the world. This network of clubs makes up Rotary International.

Rotary International supports Rotary clubs worldwide by coordinating global programs, campaigns, and initiatives.

One of the ways this is done is through Rotary International working with a wide variety of partners, including:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
- Global FoodBanking Network
- ShelterBox
- UNESCO-IHE
- UNICEF
- United Nations
- World Health Organization

Rotary International is headed by the world president, who is elected by Rotarians and leads an elected board of 16 directors. The president serves for one year, and directors serve for two years. (For anyone aspiring to be a world President, on average past RI Presidents have been members of Rotary for 38 years). This also helps explain why there has not yet been a female world president as women were not admitted into Rotary until 1987.

The Rotary International board of directors establishes policy for Rotary International and provides guidance that helps clubs. Clubs elect the members of the board every year at the RI Convention with each director serving for two years.

Rotary's world headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois, USA, where Rotary's general secretary and executive team oversee a staff of more than 800 who serve Rotarians from the RI World Headquarters in, and seven international offices. Our regional office is in Parramatta. This office offers support to Clubs and Districts in areas of Club administration and the Rotary Foundation.

There are over 1100 Rotary Clubs in Australia, with each Club belonging to one of 21 Rotary Districts in Australia (this also includes Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea). Districts are geographically defined and sometimes cross state and even international borders. Our club and others in the local geographic area are part of District 9465 – one of two Districts in WA.

There are 530 districts around the world, and these are organized into 34 zones. Each zone has about the same number of Rotarians.

Australia is in Zone 8. Zones are then grouped into regions – Australia is grouped with Zone 7b (New Zealand/Pacific Islands) and Group 7a (Philippines)

Our current Zone Director is Noel Trevaskis – from the Rotary Club of Bega in NSW

There are also a number of other regional roles – which include Regional Rotary Foundation coordinators, Rotary Coordinators, Rotary Public image coordinators, and endowment/major gifts advisers that help connect Rotarians with the resources and assistance they need to succeed. Regional leaders are appointed by the RI president-elect or Rotary Foundation trustee chair-elect and are appointed for three years.