

GUIDELINES FOR “FRIENDS OF ROTARY” GROUPS

BACKGROUND

As a result of a desire to bring Rotary to more people in the community in the hope that they will become full members and/or achieve the objects of Rotary some clubs have formed groups of “Friends of Rotary” for the express purpose of utilising resources of extra persons who may be interested in assisting as volunteers at Rotary programs and activities whilst not committing to the responsibilities of membership of Rotary. Such persons have been welcomed at club meetings and fellowship events.

This phenomenon is not peculiar to District 9800 and a simple “Google” search discloses many examples of this type of group around the world.

The Board of District 9800 considers that, in the interests of good governance and consistency of club operations in the District, it is appropriate for it to publish guidelines for the recommended operation of such groups in the District.

Accordingly the Board has resolved to publish the following guidelines for the operation of “Friends of Rotary” groups and recommends that clubs within the District that form such groups comply with the guidelines.

GUIDELINES

1.A Friend of Rotary is not a member of the sponsoring club and therefore is not entitled to the rights nor subject to the responsibilities of membership of the club , and thus of Rotary, as provided for in the club rules and bylaws.

2.A Friend of Rotary will be approved as a member of the group by the sponsoring Rotary club through a process identified by that club. It is recommended that, as with club membership, the approval be from the Board of the club after nomination by a member.

3.A Friend of Rotary can hold that position for a period as determined by the club. It is recommended that the position be renewable annually.

4.A Friend of Rotary shall not be entitled to wear the Rotary lapel badge or any insignia containing the Rotary wheel.

5. A Friend of Rotary may wear a badge describing him or her as a “Friend of the Rotary Club of”.

6.A Friend of Rotary is not entitled to hold office in the club or vote at any meeting of the club.

7.A Friend of Rotary may have the following financial obligations:

- (a) Joining Fee - If used, an amount determined by the club.
- (b) RI and District Dues – as Friends of rotary are not members of the club, RI dues do not apply however as Friends of Rotary receive the benefit of the insurance cover provided to the club, they may contribute to District dues.
- (c) Annual Dues – an amount determined by the club.
- (d) Meal Costs – an amount determined by the club.

It is recommended that the annual dues cover the costs to the club of administering the Friends of Rotary group so that club members are not subsidising the group.

8.A Friend of Rotary is entitled to receive the club bulletin if so determined by the club.

9.A Friend of Rotary is not entitled to receive the Rotary Down Under magazine unless so determined by the club. If so, it is recommended that the cost be met by the Friend of Rotary.

10.A Friend of Rotary may attend weekly club meetings on such terms as determined by the club.

11.A Friend of Rotary may participate in club programs and fellowship functions on such terms as determined by the club.

12.A Friend of Rotary is obliged to comply with all applicable District Protection Policies with respect to programs and activities of the club that involve youth and vulnerable adults. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that all Friends of Rotary are aware of their legal obligations under the relevant legislation and their obligations under the applicable District Policies.

13.A membership of a Friend of Rotary may be terminated by the club by a process determined by the club.

14.The composition of Friends of Rotary groups is a matter for the sponsoring club but clubs may wish to consider the following potential sources of members:

- (a) past club members;
- (b) individuals with past rotary experience such as RYLA students, GSE team members, Youth Exchange students and the like;
- (c) friends of club members who wish to participate in club programs and activities without the commitment of membership of the club;
- (d) corporations in the club's locality which wish to assist the club in its programs and activities; and
- (e) any other person the club deems suitable.

15.If at any time a Friend of Rotary expresses a wish to become a member of the club, the normal procedures for qualification as a member , nomination and acceptance by the Board of the club shall apply as for any new member.

16.A Friend of Rotary association with the club is open to existing club members with the agreement of the Board however the member must first resign from the club.