

Q & A @ MASH

ROTARY

ROTARY CLUB OF MONT ALBERT & SURREY HILLS INC

(MASH)

1. **How does the MASH Rotary Club operate?**

The club has a fortnightly meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6.45 for 7.00 pm. Given COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are either held on Zoom or at Box Hill Institute – Nelson Campus (Room G32 usually). This is in Nelson Road, Box Hill. (Melway Ref: 47 C9). NB the meeting date or venue sometimes changes. Please check the home page of our website.

As with most organisations, the club has a President and Board. Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings to input their thoughts. The Board, however, votes on all motions.

All members are involved in the decision-making process of our numerous projects. Projects and our budget are decided at Club Assemblies which are conducted bi- annually.

1. **What are the focus areas for the club?**

Our club has 5 key areas of focus in our Service Projects:

* Fundraising
* Membership and Public Image
* Youth
* Community
* International/Vocational/Environmental

1. **Are there other areas I can be involved in?**

The club has a number of roles which make the club “tick” such as coordinating the Speakers Program, Weekly Newsletter, Website, Media Relations, Membership, etc.

1. **Can I select which teams I would like to be involved with?**

Definitely – we encourage you to share your area of interest and expertise. Interestingly, some members prefer to be in an area which is different to their professional expertise so they can broaden their knowledge and interest.

# 5 How do the meetings work?

Our weekly meetings vary in format but over a typical month the meetings could be along the following lines:

Week 1 Team planning in Service and Club Operations committees.

Week 3 Key Note Speaker

Week 4 Social event (COVID-19 permitting)

**6 Is there a meal at Rotary?**

At the completion of our in-person meetings, we adjourn for a meal at the Box Hill RSL. The meal is optional so if members do not want to come for a meal after the meeting, they can just attend the Rotary meeting. The RSL is a 2 minute walk from our meeting venue

1. **How long do meetings go?**

With a start at 7.00 pm, meetings finish by 8.00 pm. Some Zoom meetings last a little longer.

Guests are welcome to join us at the Box Hill RSL for a meal after the meeting.

1. **Do I need to go to Rotary every week?**

Not at all. MASH meets throughout the year except Public Holidays and has a short break over Christmas / New Year. We encourage members to come along when they can and expect them to make it 50% of the time to meetings and participation in projects / activities at other times.

**9 Can I go to Rotary Meetings of other clubs when I am away on business?**

# Once you join a Rotary Club, you are welcome to visit any club anywhere in the world – in over 200 countries. Check [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for clubs in the area you are visiting.

1. **If I am unable to attend meetings for a period in excess of 3 weeks, what should I do?**

As a courtesy, please contact the secretary of the club requesting Leave of Absence and providing the dates you will be away.

# 11 Who can join Rotary?

Rotarians are people like you and me. We at MASH are keen to have a club made up of people in our community who want to make a difference. Rotary is not limited by gender or race. We are not a political organisation.

**12 Can my company be a member of the Rotary Club?**

Companies or other organisations can sign up one or two individuals to join the Club. Special provisions apply which are available on request.

1. **How are members kept up to date with what is happening in the club?**

All members are distributed our Weekly Newsletter titled “On the Radar” which provides updates on projects, upcoming meetings & speakers, happenings in the future, member updates, etc. It is not published on the public website.

# 14 What is the Rotary Club’s Web Site Address?

The Rotary Club of MASH’ website is [www.rotarymash.org.au](http://www.rotarymash.org.au)

**15 Other Club Communication Strategies**

The Rotary Club of MASH is active in its communication as follows:

* Club web site (above)
* Active on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mash.rotary>)

# 16 Am I allowed to invite other people along to Rotary?

Of course. You are most welcome to bring along guests at any time. Given COVID-19, there are no meeting fees at the moment.

If you have a partner and /or children, they are also most welcome to attend Rotary at any time.

# 17 How do I go about joining Rotary?

There are some basic steps to go through as follows:

* All members of the club require a sponsor (current member)
* Complete an application form – a one page document which provides your personal contact details and occupation.
* Your name is submitted to the Membership Chair who will present it to the Board for approval.
* Once approved by the Board, your name is circulated to all members to approve or identify if they know of any reason that a potential member should not be granted membership.
* Once the above is completed, you are invited to membership.
* You will then be inducted as a member of the club. You are encouraged to invite your family or colleagues to this occasion.
* Pay Joining and Annual membership fee

1. **Why would I find the Rotary Club of MASH more suited to me than other Rotary Clubs?**
   * We are very flexible in style and contribution.
   * Excellent for couples who would like to be involved in giving back together.
   * We suit younger members who are looking for engagement and prepared to become involved in fundraising or community activities rather than just sitting around talking.
   * This club is a happening club – focussed on our local community and near international neighbours in South East Asia and the South Pacific. We are also involved in 2 African projects – one in Tanzania and the other in South Africa.
   * We listen to your ideas and aim to incorporate them into our Projects and Activities. Our members decide their agenda.
2. **Are there key Policies that members of the club need to follow?**

Yes – our Rotary District 9810 has policies which are applicable to all Rotarians in the District. They include the Conflict Resolution Policy (covering Sexual Harassment, Bullying & Mediation), Privacy Policy, Email Policy and Youth Protection Policy.

All members are asked to hold a current Working with Children Card.

**20 How much are the annual fees?**

The annual membership fees for the current year (2021-2022) are $300.00 per person for a full year with the second family members fee $280.00. These are on a pro rata basis if you join during the year.

**21 Is there a joining fee?**

Yes. It is $80.00. This covers badges, MASH polo-Shirt and membership kit.

**22 What is the cost of meetings?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no fees in 2021-22

**23 What other costs are there with Rotary?**

## **Heads & Tails**

In the past, MASH has finished our meetings with a Heads & Tails session which costs a gold coin and all proceeds go to a suitable club project. There are no “fines” sessions as seen at other clubs.

## **Other Social Activities**

There are club social activities which we encourage all members and their partners and families to join in if they can. In MASH, we have several members who enjoy their Rotary membership without their family or they are single. All are very much an equal part of the club. We welcome members’ ideas for social activities. Given pandemic protocols, we will plan for social events when possible.

*Updated 19/08/2021- DW*