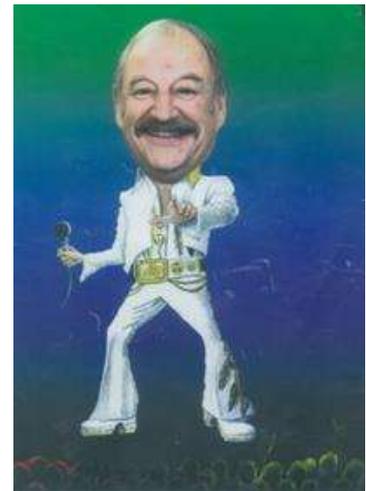


MY ROTARY by SERGEANT GEORGE TOEPFER

Why I am a member?

I joined Rotary over 40 years ago as it was an organisation where you “didn’t talk shop” if you spoke about your work, it was in response to another member’s question. It was an organisation that dealt with community both locally and globally supporting areas of need and Rotary was capable of helping in this regard. It was also easier to approach the varied projects with like-minded people. Rotary provides diverse skills in leadership and tackling many issues depending on what roles are undertaken each year. The different committees offer a range of new learnings to build on and use to fruition, it’s all about learning from others. I was taught there was no wrong question and equally the answers can be different, depending on the situation and all open to discussion.



What I get out of Rotary?

Rotary provides good fellowship and although membership has changed over the years, there is a strong sense of belonging to a special group through fun and life experience. New members often provide a new perspective and a different way of looking at things. Rotary builds confidence in taking on tasks which at times may seem daunting. There is always help at hand. New members need not be afraid to ask if they do not know, someone will know or will find out. Working as a team helps achieve more than trying to try a task on one’s own. Rotary does teach one to have an open mind and that all ideas are worth examining. Noting the good work that Rotary does, helps the spirits to keep going to help out, especially for those who can’t get that help readily. I was once told: *you get out of it what you put into it* and have tried to have that mantra in my mind.

Why I come to meetings every week?

I have always enjoyed Rotary in the different roles I have undertaken. Having had the role of Sarge over the many Rotary years, which requires research in a fun way, has enabled me to get to know members well. I come to Rotary hopefully to make a difference no matter how small that difference can be. If experience has taught me anything, I would happily and humbly pass on or share any knowledge I have gleaned over the years. I also know that learning never stops, every experience is an opportunity worth pursuing. Every week is different, that’s why Rotary is an experience to enjoy!

I pass “the Rotary insight-baton” to Rob Warren.