

APRIL 2025

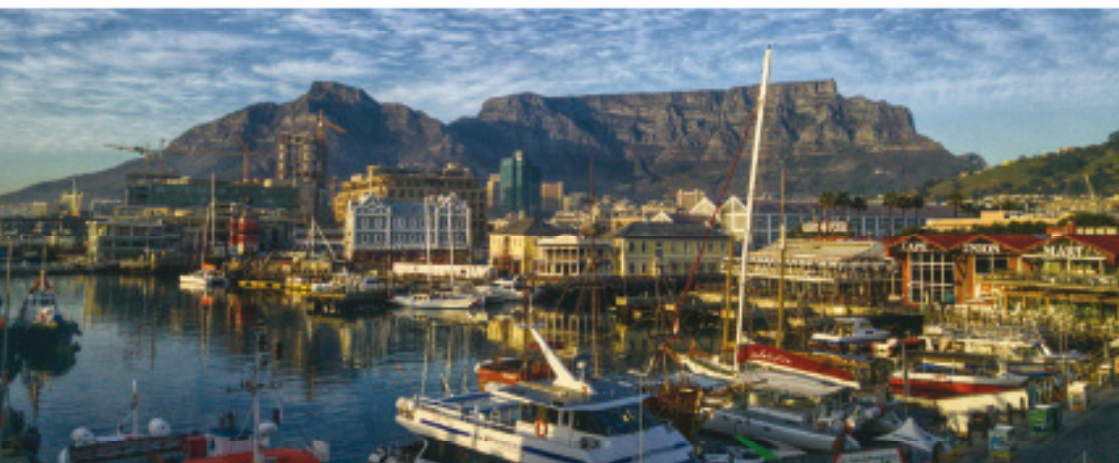
Rotary

AFRICA | SOUTH



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KIDNEY,
ONE
MISSION**

Rotary 



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Cape Town, South Africa**

***"Bridging Cultures,
Building Positive Peace."***

25-27 April 2025

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

If you asked most people what their kidneys do, you'd probably get a few blank stares. To be honest, many of us don't give them much thought. That is, until something goes wrong. Suddenly, kidneys become a very big deal indeed.

In this month, Rotary Africa focuses on kidney health and the power of kidney disease prevention. The reason is simple - catching a problem early is much easier than fixing it later. It's cheaper too. Prevention means looking after your kidneys long before they send you to the hospital.

Take high blood pressure and diabetes - two conditions common in our communities. If your blood pressure is too high, it's like forcing too much water through a delicate strainer. Eventually, it gets damaged. Diabetes, on the other hand, thickens your blood, like trying to push syrup through that same filter. It clogs up, slows down and eventually stops working.

But here's the good news - both high blood pressure and diabetes can be managed. Small changes make a huge difference. The more we talk about prevention, the less we'll have to talk

about dialysis and kidney transplants later.

Now, even with all the prevention in the world, sometimes kidneys still fail. That's where organ donation steps in and it's a subject Rotary clubs across Southern Africa are talking about more and more after being visited by Anil and Deepali Srivatsa who are driving around the world to have these conversations with Rotary clubs and communities.

It is important that we break down myths and get people thinking about what it really means to donate an organ. No pressure, just honest conversations. It makes a big difference.

Anil, a Rotarian, gave his kidney to save his brother's life. He's healthy, active and determined to prove that donating an organ doesn't stop you from living a full life. He's walking proof that organ donation is safe, effective and life-changing. Kidney care and organ donation aren't just medical issues - they're community issues. Rotarians can do a lot by spreading awareness, promoting healthy living and breaking the stigma around donation.

So let's talk about kidneys before they become a problem.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Stephanie Urchick
President, Rotary International

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

As the chill of winter in the northern hemisphere gives way to the warmth of spring, we have an opportunity to rejuvenate our commitments to each other and to the communities we serve.

A shining example is the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland in Ontario, whose members support a programme providing hot meals to people facing homelessness and food insecurity. On any given evening, the Soup Shack run by Feed Windsor-Essex serves up to 130 people, offering nourishment and a sense of community and care.

Club member and Past District Governor Aruna Koushik got the club involved after seeing a news segment about the Soup Shack.

Koushik collaborated with club members to quickly approve the purchase of a stove, pots and pans for its new permanent space. Soon after, club members met with the Soup Shack team, toured the new location and presented a check for 3,000 Canadian dollars (about US\$2,000) to support its efforts. They also

committed to volunteering their time to prepare and serve meals once the facility is operational.

This exemplifies how Rotary members can come together to address community needs, foster engagement and make a tangible impact. By identifying opportunities for service and mobilising resources, we not only support those in need but also strengthen our bonds with each other and with the communities we serve.

As we embrace the renewal that spring offers, let's take inspiration from the Windsor-Roseland club. Consider these ways to reinvigorate engagement within your club:

- **Identify emerging needs:** Stay attuned to the evolving challenges in your communities. Engage with local organisations to understand where your club's support can make the most difference.
- **Mobilise resources quickly:** When opportunities arise, act swiftly. Leverage the skills and networks within your club to gather resources, from financial contributions to equipment to volunteer time.
- **Foster collaboration:** Encourage members to take initiative and collaborate on projects. Empowering individuals to lead and contribute their unique talents enhances engagement and drives success.
- **Commit to ongoing involvement:** Beyond initial contributions, pledge continued support.

Regular service keeps members connected and reinforces the club's commitment to sustained impact.

By embracing these approaches, we can harness the energy of spring to renew our dedication to service and engagement. Let's seize this season as an opportunity to revitalise our efforts, strengthen our connections and continue making a positive difference in the world.

This is *The Magic of Rotary* - transforming lives, inspiring hope and creating lasting change for the communities we serve.

I am also proud of our new strategic partnership with the United Nations

I thank you, as always, for all that you do for Rotary and our Foundation.

2025 Rotary International Convention Countdown

WANT TO BREAK OUT?



Among the most anticipated parts of the Rotary International Convention are the breakout sessions that give you the chance to design your own master class in how to punch up the power of your projects. The smaller-group sessions are where much of the convention's in-depth learning happens and the line-up of topics for Calgary is stacked with inspiration and innovation.

Learn to use artificial intelligence responsibly to supercharge project results and inject fun into club activities. In a live interactive simulation, immerse yourself in two contrasting cultures to understand how differences deeply affect leaders. Discover the secrets to an empowering storytelling method called photovoice, asking people to record their everyday experiences in photos to inspire action.

Choose from 70 breakout sessions to bank ideas to invigorate your club and its projects. For example, explore how to weave peacebuilding

into any initiative to expand its benefits. Hear from Rotaractors and young Rotarians on how they put The Rotary Foundation to work with community improvement grants. Learn techniques to welcome and keep young leaders and diverse members. You'll examine generational differences and how to use emotional intelligence and global connections.

Back to that idea to inject more fun into Rotary: Have you seen the videos of members interviewed in Singapore with a teensy microphone? In one posted on Rotary's social media accounts, General Secretary John Hewko shows off his dance moves during the interview in a convention hallway.

See what you'll miss if you miss the convention 21-25 June in Canada? Hewko, who's been to more than a dozen conventions, says, via the tiny mic, "If you want to understand the world and see the world in action, you come to a Rotary convention."

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

Coming up...

25 APRIL 2025

ROTARY CLUB OF WORCESTER (D9350) 25th of April 2025. The GiGi Classic is a golf tournament for ladies who CANNOT play golf. It is a day filled with loads of prizes and lots of laughs. For more information please contact Marcelle 083 290 9677 or Leonie 072 268 3299. www.gigiclassic.co.za

Email info about your club's upcoming events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Maternal & Child Health: What Can I Do?

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

Ok... Let's get this over with. Carol Burnett explained it perfectly: Giving birth is like taking your lower lip and forcing it over your head. Men have no idea how it feels to be pregnant. Don't even pretend that you do!

I watched the birth of my two children. I can attest to the fact that NO man would ever go through this if he knew what I know. He certainly would not do it twice - we could never handle that kind of pain. If Adam had given birth instead of Eve, the entire human race would have ended after the birth of Cain!

So... here is the whole truth: Maternal and child health encompasses the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, as well as the health of children from birth to adolescence, focusing on improving outcomes and ensuring access to quality healthcare.

Each stage should be a positive experience, ensuring women and their babies reach their full potential for health and well-being. Although important progress has been made in the last two decades, about 250,000 women die during and following pregnancy and childbirth annually. This number is unacceptably high.

The most common direct causes of maternal injury and death are excessive blood loss, infection, high blood pressure, unsafe abortion and obstructed labour, as well as indirect causes such as anaemia, malaria and heart disease.

Most maternal deaths are preventable

with timely management by a skilled health professional working in a supportive environment. Ending preventable maternal death must remain at the top of the global agenda. At the same time, simply surviving pregnancy and childbirth can never be the marker of successful maternal healthcare. It is critical to expand efforts to reduce maternal injury and disability and to promote health and well-being.

Every pregnancy and every birth is unique. Addressing inequalities that affect health outcomes, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights, is fundamental to ensuring all women have access to respectful and high-quality maternity care.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Visit your local birthing centre or maternity healthcare facility. Ask yourself, "Would I want my child born here?"

If the answer is not an enthusiastic "YES!" then fix it! Use a global grant to create a state-of-the-art delivery theatre, birthing centre or emergency room.

I did this a few years ago and worked with a local Rotary club to completely renovate the water reticulation system, remodel the delivery facility and create an atmosphere of safe and secure hygiene for mothers, babies and hospital staff.

It isn't magic... It is the Magic of Rotary!

Introducing Regional Plan Team Leads

COORDINATED STRATEGY

Tailored for the region

Rotary is changing the way it plans for the future. Instead of focusing on just one year at a time, leaders are now looking three years ahead. This shift brings more stability, encourages bigger goals and fosters collaboration at every level.

To support this, each Rotary International director will appoint a regional plan team lead. Their job is to coordinate a strategy tailored to their region, ensuring that clubs align with Rotary's Action Plan and long-term priorities. For Zone 22, PDG Annemarie Mostert (D9400) has taken on this role.

Each district should integrate this approach into their learning events for 2024-25, including the district team learning seminar, presidents-elect training seminar and district training assembly. District leaders can reach out to their director to connect with their regional plan team lead and access the tools and strategies available.

Presidents-elect play a key role in this process. They should set goals in Rotary Club Central, using their club's current situation as a starting point and its strategic plan as a roadmap for the next three years. When setting goals, they should consider:

- How many members does the club aim to have by the end of the Rotary year?
- How many members will take part in service activities?
- Does the club have an up-to-date strategic plan?
- How much will be contributed to The Rotary



Rotary International Director, Daniel Tanase, Zone 22, appointed Annemarie Mostert as the Regional Plan Team Lead.

Foundation Annual Fund?

- How much will be donated to the PolioPlus Fund?
- How many individuals or couples will include The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund in their estate plans or make a gift of US\$1,000 or more?

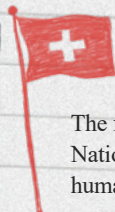
Future club presidents will be able to adjust these goals as needed, ensuring that clubs are always thinking ahead. To keep the planning process smooth, clubs should make sure each new president-elect has a My Rotary account and is properly listed in My Rotary or their club management software.

By focusing on long-term planning and encouraging collaboration across regions, Rotary is setting itself up for sustainable success. With dedicated leaders like Annemarie Mostert helping to guide the way, clubs will be better equipped to tackle challenges and make a lasting impact.

GENEVA JOURNAL

THE NEXT GLOBAL LEADERS

YOUNG TRAILBLAZERS
FIND INSPIRATION
AT ROTARACT UN
DAYS



The first Rotaract UN Days brought about 200 young people to the United Nations Office at Geneva for four days of inspiring discussions about human rights, health, economic development, peace and science - and of course some fun (they're Rotaractors, after all). We asked three participants in the 30 October-2 November gathering to tell us about the experience, their takeaways and what it was like to enter the halls of the historic Palais des Nations.

DAY ONE

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Landing in Geneva feels surreal. Over the past year, I've travelled to events in Dubai, Mexico and Chicago. But Geneva's been on my bucket list for as long as I can remember. Even better, I quickly run into my friend Christina from my Rotary district. What are the odds? Even better still, it's her birthday. We head into the city centre to do some sightseeing and

THE ROTARACTORS

HANEEKAH RAHIL

- Law graduate, advocate for peace and climate justice
- Rotaract Club of Cinnamon Gardens, Sri Lanka



ZAYNE SINCLAIR

- Entrepreneur, food security, sustainable development
- Rotaract Club of Bermuda, Bermuda



LAMECH OPIYO

- Climate activist
- Rotaract Club of Nairobi Central, Kenya



THAT'S ME, HANEEKAH!

+my Rotary friends
Shahd Elshazly & Noël Kutz

sample Switzerland's legendary chocolate. Let me tell you, it did not disappoint. We head back for the welcome cocktail ceremony and after running into more old friends,

we celebrate Christina's birthday at a rooftop bar with a gorgeous view of the city. — **ZAYNE SINCLAIR**

In 2020, I was deputy secretary general for the National Youth Model United Nations in Sri Lanka. I made a promise to myself: One day, I would walk through the halls of the United Nations Office in Geneva. But little did I know that Rotary would bring this dream to life. I'm so excited to see inside the iconic Palais des Nations. - **HANEEKAH RAHIL**

As an environmentalist, I'm very interested in working with the UN in Nairobi, where I'm from and the home of the United Nations Environment Programme, which partners with Rotary on clean water projects. So, I have dreamed of visiting the United Nations Office in Geneva for a long time. - **LAMECH OPIYO**

DAY TWO

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

I stop to take a picture in front of the United Nations building. I'm not exactly sure why I feel compelled to do this, maybe as a silent promise to myself that one day I'll contribute to service on this scale, far beyond Bermuda's pink shores. The morning session begins with a welcome address by Tatiana Valovaya, the first woman to serve as director-general here. She shares that only 20 percent of global diplomatic roles are held by women, a sobering statistic. Another eye-opener: even Grammy Award-winning singer Gaby Moreno has self-doubts at times. The Rotary celebrity ambassador is speaking about the migration crisis, particularly in Latin America, when she acknowledges once doubting whether her music could make a difference. But she realised that just bringing people joy and comfort matters. My takeaway: Even the smallest acts can create ripples of hope. Then, as if to make that point, Moreno closes out the session with a heartfelt performance of her music. — ZAYNE SINCLAIR - - -

In her speech, Rotary President Stephanie Urchick puts an emphasis on youth as leaders of today - not just of tomorrow. That is incredibly powerful and resonates deeply with me. Later, I have the honour of sharing a panel discussion with her. During my own speech on youth in humanitarian action, I discuss the role young people play in driving solutions to global challenges. It is my vision to see Rotaract working



toward peace and reconciliation in my home country of Sri Lanka after decades of civil war. — HANEKAH RAHIL

I don't just get to meet Gaby Moreno, I have the honour of sitting on the same panel as her for a discussion about human rights, immigrants and refugees. I've interacted with so many artists, but what stands out with her is how she uses her songs to advocate for human rights and to create something positive, which I find inspiring. She is very approachable. She shares her insights and encourages me to do the work that I do. Apart from the serious side, we are having lots of fun. The first evening we attend a VIP dinner and awards ceremony with cocktails. There is a DJ, so of course we dance a lot. Sometimes you almost forget to sleep! — LAMECH OPIYO

www.rotaryafrica.com



DAY THREE

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

We are welcomed by the organisation's Director-General Darin Tang with remarks on innovation as a driver of global progress. That is particularly impactful for me, as I focused on intellectual property law in my graduate studies — **HANEKAH RAHIL**

There is a lot of discussion about how we can apply technological advances and innovations to environmental and sustainability projects and maybe to drive climate action projects as well. Two of the speakers introduce us to WIPO Green, an online platform for technology exchange that supports global efforts to address climate change. Now I'm thinking about how I can apply some of these technologies, for environmental monitoring, for instance. — **LAMECH OPIYO**



LAMECH OPIYO
+ Rotaractor Daniel Zavala

DAY FOUR

CERN (EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH)

An outing to the birthplace of the World Wide Web! The CERN international physics laboratory on the Swiss-French border is also home to the world's largest particle accelerator and more than 12,000 scientists from over 70 countries are exploring the origins of the universe and more. Its legacy is not just in scientific discovery but in proving that collaboration can overcome division. As CERN's former Director-General Rolf-Dieter Heuer told us a day earlier, "Science has no agenda; it belongs to everyone." I am struck by the similarity with our Rotaract values - collaboration, innovation and the drive to create a better future. — **ZAYNE SINCLAIR**





After completing his Rotary Peace Fellowship at Makerere University in 2022, Bayvel Moono launched campaigns supporting women and girls in both Uganda and Zambia. Today, he leads a Menstrual Health and Hygiene Awareness Campaign.

ROTARY GAVE ME A VOICE

by Gülin Eva Geloğulları – Journalist & Rotary Peace Fellow

Growing up in Ndola and working in Kitwe, Zambia, Bayvel Moono witnessed the challenges faced by communities struggling with HIV/AIDS, an experience that motivated him to focus on healthcare and social change, ultimately becoming a social worker and Rotary Peace Fellow.

“Seeing how HIV/AIDS affected families and communities made me realise that healthcare and peace are connected,” he explains. “When people don’t have access to good healthcare, their suffering increases and this creates tension and instability.”

Reflecting on his time as a Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University, Uganda, Bayvel highlights a study tour to Rwanda as one of the

most impactful experiences. “Learning about the genocide from survivors was one of the most challenging and eye-opening experiences of my life,” he says.

“Seeing bones and blood-stained clothes in the genocide museum was surreal,” he continues. “It was hard to believe that people could do that to one another. But what really struck me was how some people could forgive their enemies and move on with life after all they went through.”

Bayvel recalls the testimonies of survivors, saying, “I still remember the shaking voices and tears of rape survivors. Hearing those stories made me realise how dangerous discrimination, hate speech and misogyny are to humanity.”

The lessons from Rwanda gave him a deeper understanding of the impact of conflict and what happens if ethnic conflict is not addressed. It motivated him to advocate for peace and for the rights of women and girls. Bayvel also gained important skills during his fellowship, especially in conflict analysis and prevention, giving him the tools to advocate for peacebuilding in real situations, not just in theory.

The link between peacebuilding and healthcare is undeniable. "Peacebuilding is not just about wars and fighting," he says. "It's also about making sure people have access to good healthcare. If communities are healthy, they are more stable."

He explains that for vulnerable groups, especially refugees, healthcare is a basic need. "Without healthcare, the struggles refugees face only get worse," he says. "For example, adolescent girls in refugee settlements live in very poor conditions and this affects their physical and mental health. If we take care of their health, we are also helping prevent future conflicts."

This thinking is what led Bayvel to start his Menstrual Health and Hygiene Awareness Campaign. He says, "Menstruation is still a taboo in many African communities. Girls miss school because they don't have access to proper menstrual products. Some even suffer infections from using unsafe alternatives."

The campaign focuses on girls aged 12 to 19, but also supports women in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda and schoolgirls in Zambia's Kitwe District. "We want to educate communities, break the stigma around menstruation and make sure girls have the products they need to manage their periods safely," Bayvel explains.

The initiative includes distributing reusable sanitary pads to girls who cannot afford them. "We don't just give out pads - we also hold

six interactive sessions where we talk about reproductive health and teach practical skills like hairstyling, so girls can learn something that can help them earn a living," he adds.

Bayvel's work also goes beyond menstrual health. His team provides counselling, psychosocial support, HIV prevention and care for people living with HIV/AIDS. "Many girls and women face more than one challenge. We want to address all these challenges together," he says.

Despite the success of the campaign, funding remains the biggest challenge. More sponsors and partners are needed to keep the campaign going and to reach many more women and girls.

Speaking about the values of Zambian society, Bayvel highlights unity and community as strengths. "In Zambia, we embrace unity among our 73 ethnic groups and our motto 'One Zambia, One Nation' reminds us that we are stronger together," he says.

He also shares the importance of Ubuntu - the idea that our well-being is tied to the well-being of others. "Ubuntu teaches us that we are part of a community and that our health, peace and happiness depend on each other."

Zambians, he says, are curious and eager to learn from other cultures. "We have a saying, 'Umwana ashenda atasha nyina ukunaya,' which means, 'A child who does not travel praises their mother as the best cook.' It's a way of saying that if you don't go out and learn from others, you think your way is the only way."

When asked to define peace, Bayvel has a simple answer. "Peace is friendship and harmony without hostility or violence. It's about respecting each other and our shared humanity."

Through his work, Bayvel continues to live out that definition - advocating for dignity, health and peace for women and girls in some of the region's most vulnerable communities.

"The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave me a voice to speak up for women and girls," he says. "Now I want to use that voice to make sure they are heard."



GET GRANT HELP!

Your district Rotary Foundation chair has the answer.

Peace Geoffrey Taremwa has more than 20 years' experience implementing grants through his work for an overseas development agency. So, during some of his visits to Rotary club projects, he noticed a problem.

"Clubs would receive their money but would end up doing something else that they thought was good," says Taremwa, a past district governor of District 9214 in Tanzania and parts of Uganda. "At the end of the day, this becomes a stewardship issue because it was not what was discussed in the grant application."

"The biggest problem we had was a lack of knowledge," he adds. "Many Rotarians do not have sufficient knowledge of how to complete a global grant application."

District Rotary Foundation chairs can bridge that gap. These advisers help clubs by explaining grant eligibility and procedures, building relationships with districts around the world as potential project partners, securing funding and creating connections with mentors who can help with grant applications and reports. By working with their district Rotary Foundation chair, clubs can have a smoother global grant experience and ultimately support more communities in a more effective, sustainable way.

Taremwa, now the district Foundation chair,

is working to streamline the grant process in his district, implementing changes he launched as district governor in 2022-23. The new process clusters clubs together for grant applications, activities and training events. The district's outgoing Foundation chair and grants team conduct the training rather than incoming leaders. And grant support officers (a new role) mentor the club clusters on all grant applications, making sure money is spent according to plan and reports are filed on time.

The new process is working. "We have many more global grant applications," Taremwa says. "And many clubs have been inviting our teams to go to them and do a training at the club level. Our stewardship teams are busier than before."

"Fundraising is also becoming easier," he says. "We have told members; this is your money. Please contribute and your money is available. If you don't contribute, your money is not there."

District 3292 in Nepal and Bhutan modified its grant process to address a different problem: Within clubs involved in global grant projects, many members lacked critical information about the grant.

MK Jha, a past district Foundation chair from Nepal, recalls an example from when two Rotary club presidents, from Nepal and

India, met at a conference and decided to pursue a global grant together. But after it had been approved, the Nepalese Rotarian moved on and no one else in his club knew anything about the grant.

To prevent issues like this, the district created a review committee, which includes the district Foundation chair, to screen all grant applications. To be considered, clubs complete a community assessment and fill out an authorisation form and District Designated Fund request form. Projects must have been selected by the club's service project committee and approved by both its Rotary Foundation committee (which identifies funding) and board. The club is then required to hold an assembly to discuss the project with all its members.

The district review committee pores over minutes of the club's meetings and verifies the data in the community assessment. If it all looks good, the team then helps the club through the rest of the application and reporting process.

"By doing this, each and every member comes to know what is going on," says Jha, now an assistant regional Rotary Foundation

coordinator. "If members know what is being done in the community, it helps with reporting and avoids many issues."

Between administering grant applications, overseeing fundraising efforts and managing district grant funds, district Rotary Foundation chairs have a lot on their plate. Rotary International has created many resources, including online learning courses and downloadable guides to help district Rotary Foundation chairs understand and relay information about the grant application process. These resources help the leaders serving in this role to work with clubs to produce projects that have an even greater impact.

RI's regional grants officers are also available to help districts with their grant processes. These Rotary staff members can provide guidance on project eligibility, address common problems and offer tips for success. Clubs are strongly encouraged to contact their regional grants officers in the early stages of project planning.

Learn more about Rotary Foundation grants at rotary.org/grants.

The graphic features a dark blue background with various geometric shapes and icons. At the top left is a globe icon. Below it is a circular photo of three men looking at a document. To the right of this is a large blue circle containing the text "ROTARY'S SERVICE PROJECT CENTER" in white and yellow. Below this circle is the text "SHARE STORIES. FIND PARTNERS. BE INSPIRED." in white. To the left of the central circle is a diamond-shaped photo of a man and a woman. Below that is a QR code. To the right of the central circle is a circular photo of three people wearing masks. Above this is the "Rotary" logo with a gear icon. Below the central circle is a paper plane icon. The bottom right corner has a diamond-shaped icon.

**ROTARY'S
SERVICE
PROJECT
CENTER**

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Visit the **Service Project Center**
at spc.rotary.org today!



DISPATCHES FROM
OUR SISTER MAGAZINES
ROTARY DOWN UNDER

Cooking for a Cause

Australian Rotarian Terri Taylor is using her chef skills for good

French-trained chef Terri Taylor, a member of the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads (D9640, Australia), was an early adopter of the no-waste movement.

“One of my first jobs as an apprentice chef was trimming strawberries,” says Taylor. “The chef wasn’t happy with me as I had thrown out the equivalent of one punnet of strawberries for every four I had trimmed. It was money thrown in the bin. Early lessons like this gave me a no-wastage mentality.”

Following a successful career as a chef, which included opening and running her own cooking school in the Gold Coast hinterland, Taylor moved to the Gold Coast’s glitter strip and discovered OzHarvest.

Founded by social entrepreneur Ronni Kahn in 2004 after she noticed the huge volume of food going to waste, OzHarvest quickly became Australia’s leading food rescue organisation. In 2019, Kahn was awarded the Officer of the Order for her



Rotarian chef Terri Taylor volunteers at OzHarvest, heading up its Cooking for a Cause programme on the Gold Coast of Australia.

high degree of distinguished service to Australia and humanity at large.

A dedicated team of nearly 300 staff and more than 3,000 volunteers share Kahn’s devotion to the cause: They are on a mission to stop food waste, feed people in need and protect our planet by championing the value of food and driving change at all levels of society.

With its recognisable yellow food rescue vans, the company saves more than 250 metric tons of good food every week from more than 2,600 food donors and delivers it directly to more

than 1,500 charities which feed people in need. The company's values of generosity and inclusiveness instantly appealed to Taylor, who now runs the OzHarvest Cooking for a Cause programme on the Gold Coast.

"OzHarvest was easy for me to identify with," Taylor says. "There was perfectly good food going to waste; almost half of the fruit and vegetables grown end up in the landfill and one quarter of the world's water is wasted on food that won't be eaten." And yet people are going hungry. OzHarvest provided a solution.

"When I closed the cooking school, I had plenty of spare time, so I volunteered straight away."

The Cooking for a Cause programme is a unique hands-on team building activity open to corporate groups. Led by OzHarvest chefs like Taylor, teams get busy in the kitchen over a three-hour period, transforming rescued food into restaurant quality meals that are then delivered directly to local disadvantaged communities.

"You get to see the results of your efforts straight away. The food that is rescued and prepared is distributed and clients are enjoying a nutritious meal straight away," says Taylor. "The programme is tax-deductible, fits in with companies' corporate responsibility requirements and is fun and educational, with participants receiving some great cooking tips on how to save money and prepare delicious meals. The revenue from this programme keeps our vans on the road, picking up the produce and delivering it to charities."

A number of Rotary clubs and business owners from Rotary have taken part in Cooking for a Cause, including the Rotary Club of Gold Coast Passport. Members with yellow aprons and chef's knives delved into the world of zero-waste cooking last year, learning valuable skills while transforming rescued ingredients into gourmet meals.

"Rotarians have become regular volunteers, assisting with the van runs and community gardens," says Taylor. "Equipment has also been shared for catering events and Rotary Youth Exchange students have enthusiastically helped cook meals for the charities."

Tips to reduce food waste at home

One in 5 shopping bags of food that Australians buy is thrown away. StatsSA reports that approximately 10 million tons of food are wasted annually in South Africa, about a third of its annual food production. In sub-Saharan Africa, it's estimated that approximately 37% of food is lost or wasted annually. Taylor recommends addressing household food waste by adopting the motto of look, cook, plan, shop:

- See what's in your cupboard and fridge first. Cook what you have and plan some meals.
- Then, shop for only what you need.
- Check that the fridge temperature is under 4 degrees Celsius to prevent spoilage. Bring older produce to the front.
- Purchase smaller quantities and make an effort to use everything.
- Understand "use by" and "best before" dates. The former is from a spoilage point of view, while the latter relates to quality and you can use the item after that day.
- If you find yourself throwing away spoiled food, opt for long-lasting tinned, frozen and dry items.
- Freeze leftovers and bread.
- Put a value on food - that lettuce may have cost only R20, but use it, don't throw it away.

EIGHT EXCITING AND IMPACTFUL

Environmental Projects

FOR ROTARY CLUBS

April is Rotary's Environmental Month, so why not launch a green project that leaves a lasting impact? Whether your club is big or small, these creative, high-energy projects will engage communities, inspire change and make environmental stewardship exciting.

1. ADOPT A FOREST – AND MAKE IT WILD AGAIN!

Forget just planting a few trees - why not restore an entire degraded or eroded area? Find a neglected forest, wetland or park and commit to bringing it back to life. Plant indigenous trees, remove invasive species and create walking trails with educational signs. Partner with local schools and let kids “adopt” sections to care for.



2. THE PLASTIC-FREE CHALLENGE

Challenge your community to go plastic-free for a month! Set up a support system with reusable bag giveaways, eco-friendly alternatives and a leaderboard for people who cut out the most plastic. Work with local businesses to provide discounts to customers who bring their own cups, bags and containers. Turn it into a social media challenge with prizes!



3. BUILD WITH ECO-BRICKS

Plastic waste is a crisis, so why not turn it into construction material? Start a project collecting plastic bottles and stuffing them with non-recyclable plastic waste to create eco-bricks. Then, use them to build community structures like benches, classrooms or bus stops. Get schools involved by challenging students to create as many eco-bricks as possible. It's waste management, recycling and community building all in one!



4. TRASH TO TREASURE – UPCYCLING POP-UP MARKET

Host a morning at a shopping centre or market where artists and entrepreneurs showcase products made from upcycled materials. From jewellery made of electronic waste to furniture crafted from old tyres, there's no limit to what creativity can do. Set up workshops where people can learn to make their own upcycled goods and raise funds for an environmental cause.

5. LIGHT A VILLAGE – SOLAR-POWERED SOLUTIONS

Many communities still rely on harmful kerosene lamps. Raise funds to instal solar-powered lights in homes, schools or public spaces. Train community members to maintain them, ensuring the project has a long-term impact. Bonus: A solar-powered phone charging station could even become a micro-business for a local entrepreneur!



6. SAVE THE BEES!



Without bees, food production collapses. Start a bee-friendly initiative by planting pollinator-friendly gardens, working with local beekeepers to set up community hives or running workshops on sustainable beekeeping. Even better? Help schools create a living natural science classroom by planting a pollinator-friendly garden and installing a “bee hotel” to provide safe habitats for native bees, as well as a place for the learners to watch the bees as they learn about nature.

7. ADOPT A RIVER – AND MAKE IT SWIMMABLE AGAIN

Take river clean-ups to the next level! Work with experts to test the water quality, instal waste traps and advocate for stricter pollution controls. Engage fishermen, swimmers and local businesses to join forces. Host an annual “Cleanest River Festival” with swimming competitions once it's restored! Suggestion: Look into the restoration of natural ecosystems and how regreening can help heal waterways.

8. GROW A FOOD FOREST – NOT JUST A GARDEN

A community garden is great, but a food forest is a game-changer. Instead of just vegetables, plant a mix of fruit trees, herbs and crops that regenerate themselves. Teach communities how to harvest and maintain the food forest, creating long-term food security. You can expand this forest with the inclusion of bee hives and teach people bee keeping and how to harvest honey, allowing this project to grow beyond food security and into economic development.

Make It Big, Bold & Fun!

Environmental action doesn't have to be boring. These projects aren't just impactful; they're fun, engaging and easy to scale. Whether you're building with eco-bricks, saving rivers or lighting up villages, take on a project that excites people and makes a difference. The planet - and future generations - will thank you!



One Kidney, One Mission

Organ donation is a difficult subject to discuss, but as Anil's mission shows, it's a conversation that can save lives.

Sometimes, it only takes one person to start a movement. And sometimes, that person could be you.

When Anil Srivatsa donated a kidney to save his brother's life, he didn't imagine it would lead to a global movement. But nearly a decade later, he has visited more than 70 countries to start one essential conversation - why more people should say "yes" to organ donation.

Right now, Anil is travelling through Southern Africa, visiting Rotary clubs and other organisations to challenge misconceptions about organ donation and share his story. From Zimbabwe to South Africa, he's meeting with Rotarians, schools and communities, determined to raise awareness and encourage action.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 2014, Anil's brother, a neurosurgeon in India, was diagnosed with kidney failure. The only way to save him was a transplant. Without hesitation, Anil offered to donate one of his kidneys. The surgery was successful, giving his brother a second chance at life - and changing Anil's life in ways he never expected.

Anil soon realised that many people are afraid of organ donation. Fear, stigma and misinformation stop people from signing up to become donors - often with tragic results. Across the world, countless patients die every day while waiting for life-saving organs.

Determined to change that, Anil created the Gift of Life Adventure Foundation (GOLA), with a mission to inspire people to talk openly about organ donation.

DRIVING THE MESSAGE - LITERALLY

Instead of launching a campaign from behind a desk, Anil took to the road. He now drives a boldly branded SUV covered with slogans that spark conversations wherever he goes - including phrases like "Kidney donors are sexy!"

His goal is simple: drive around the world and have real conversations, in person, with as many people as possible. From Rotary meetings to classrooms, Anil shares his story and encourages others to think about the lives they could save by becoming donors.

Right now, as he travels through Southern Africa,



The SUV that Anil and his wife, Deepali, are using to drive around the world is covered in brightly coloured branding highlighting their missions to Unite Rotary for Organ donation.



Deepali and Anil plan to arrive in Calgary in time for the 2025 Rotary International Convention. Although his application to speak in Calgary was unsuccessful, Anil is still excited to connect with convention goers and share his organ donation journey!

Anil is bringing his message directly to Rotary clubs - reminding members that Service Above Self isn't just a motto; it's a responsibility.

REACHING SOUTHERN AFRICA

During his current tour, Anil has visited Rotary clubs in Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa, including recent stops in Richards Bay, Durban and Johannesburg. He speaks to Rotarians about the importance of tackling organ donation hesitancy, encouraging clubs to start awareness drives in their communities.

At each club, Anil talks about the difference that one person can make - not just by becoming a donor but by simply starting the conversation in their own circles.

He also highlights Rotary's unique ability to amplify this cause. With members in nearly every country, Rotary can play a vital role in breaking down the myths that hold people back. Clubs can host community talks, share stories of people affected by kidney failure and transplant success and encourage more people to become registered donors.

THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

In Africa, the need for organ donors is growing. Kidney failure affects thousands, but organ donation rates remain low due to fear, cultural beliefs and a lack of information.

Some people fear that donating an organ will leave them permanently weakened. Others worry about what it means for them after death. Many simply don't know how to register as donors.

Anil's message is clear - living with one kidney is possible and people can live healthy, active lives after donating. In fact, Anil himself has travelled across deserts, hiked through mountains and



With Anil and Deepali is Mischelle, the daughter of the couple's host, President Thakane Masuphatau of the Rotary Club of Maloti-Maseru (D9370). Mischelle is a Taekwondo champion who is ranked third in the world and first in Africa. She is an Olympian for Lesotho who finished fourth in her weight class.



The couple with RI President Jennifer Jones at the 2023 International Convention in Melbourne.

even competed in the World Transplant Games, where he won medals as proof that donors can thrive.

He also reminds people of the families waiting for help - people hooked up to dialysis machines for hours each day, children who may never get a transplant in time. For them organ donation isn't an abstract issue. It's life and death.

If every Rotary club got just a few more people talking - and signing up as donors - the impact could be massive. As Anil says, it's about creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond one conversation.

GLOBAL REACH, LOCAL RELEVANCE

Anil's story has reached people worldwide, but it has particular relevance in places like Southern Africa, where organ donation rates are low and myths about donation are common. His journey reminds people that this is not just a "foreign" issue - it affects people here, in every community.

Anil doesn't just share facts and figures. He shares real human stories - his own and those of families he's met along the way. He challenges people to think about what they would do if it were their loved one in need.



Anil discussing strategy with Rotary club presidents in Malawi.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

As Anil continues his journey through Southern Africa, the invitation is open to every Rotary club: get involved, start talking and help raise awareness. If you're wondering where to begin, start by inviting Anil to speak to your club. You can also follow his journey for updates and inspiration on www.facebook.com/anil.radiowalla.

If your club is already working on organ donation awareness, Rotary Africa would love to hear from you. Share your story with us at rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.



The Gift of Life Adventure YouTube channel includes some of the lighter moments of the journey, including Deepali abseiling at Victoria Falls! Find the channel at: www.youtube.com/@GiftofLifeAdventure

The Global Kidney Crisis

Each year, millions of people worldwide need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. Yet only a fraction of them will ever receive a transplant. Kidney donations - especially from living donors - are scarce. Even in wealthy countries with advanced healthcare systems, long waiting lists are the norm.

Right now, it's estimated that over five million people are on dialysis worldwide, but only about 100,000 kidney transplants are performed each year. The gap is staggering and behind every statistic is a real person - a mother, a child, a friend - waiting for a second chance at life.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Addressing kidney disease in Southern Africa - and beyond - requires action on several levels:

Education and awareness:

- People need to know what puts them at risk and how to protect their kidneys.
- Clubs, schools, workplaces and community groups can all help spread this message.

Early screening programmes:

- Governments and healthcare providers must invest in screening to catch kidney problems before they become severe.
- Simple urine and blood tests can detect kidney issues, but people need easy access to these tests.

Increasing kidney donors:

- The shortage of kidney donors needs to be addressed through open and honest conversations.
- Communities need to understand what organ donation is — and what it isn't.
- Trust must be built and healthcare professionals should approach these conversations with care and sensitivity.

Supporting those living with kidney disease:

- There needs to be better access to dialysis and transplant programmes.
- Emotional and financial support is essential because kidney failure affects not just individuals but whole families and communities.

WHAT CAN OUR ROTARY CLUBS DO?

Rotary clubs across Southern Africa are in a powerful position to help. Clubs like yours can:

- Raise awareness by hosting talks on kidney health and organ donation.
- Partner with hospitals to run free screening days for blood pressure, diabetes and kidney health.
- Support patients and families, offering transport to dialysis centres or raising funds for medications.
- Promote donor registration by organising community campaigns to encourage people to become living or deceased donors.

Kidney failure isn't going away - and if the current trends continue, the number of people needing transplants will keep rising. But together, we can change the story.

Whether it's encouraging one person to get their blood pressure checked or helping a family understand organ donation, every small act counts.

Rotarians are known for stepping up where help is needed most. This is one of those moments.



Rotarian Dr Mussadiq Mir fitting Morris Macharia's new LN4 prosthetic hand.

A HAND UP FOR MOSES

The Rotary Club of Nairobi Utumishi (D9212, Kenya), in partnership with Rotary clubs from Oregon, USA (Districts 5110 and 5160), is transforming lives through the LN4 Prosthetic Hand Project. This initiative provides free prosthetic hands to individuals who have lost theirs due to landmines, accidents, violence or birth defects. The prosthetic hands are designed and produced by the Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation (EMPHF), a non-profit organisation dedicated to offering functional prosthetic hands at no cost to recipients.

The LN4 prosthetic hand is a lightweight, durable and functional device, specifically crafted for those who have lost a hand below the elbow. Since its inception in 2005, EMPHF has distributed over 82,000 hands across 99 countries, bringing hope and functionality to countless individuals.

A recent beneficiary of this project is 46-year-old Morris Macharia from Nakuru, Kenya. Formerly a lorry driver, Morris lost his non-dominant hand in a road traffic accident in July

2024. This tragic event significantly impacted his ability to perform daily tasks and provide for his wife and three children. Through the LN4 Prosthetic Hand Project, Morris received a prosthetic hand, enabling him to regain independence and resume daily chores.

The fitting took place in Nairobi, facilitated by Rotarian Dr Mussadiq Mir, a dedicated ambassador for the LN4 Hand Project in Kenya. Dr. Mir's commitment ensures that individuals like Morris receive the support they need to reclaim their lives.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi Utumishi's involvement in the LN4 Prosthetic Hand Project exemplifies Rotary's mission of 'Service Above Self.' By collaborating with international partners and local ambassadors, they continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by limb loss, restoring not just functionality but also hope and dignity.

For more insights into the impact of the LN4 Prosthetic Hand Project, watch the following video: https://youtu.be/mlh_jY9x5Jk



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) claimed the top prize for the fourth consecutive year with their Flavours of India potjie.

Flavour of the Day

In South Africa, few things bring people together like good food, friends and family gathered around a wood fire. Whether it's called a *braai*, a *sebesho*, a *potjie* or simply a party, South Africans love sunshine, outdoor fun and great company.

That's exactly why clubs in District 9400, based in Limpopo, decided to celebrate Rotary's 120th anniversary alongside the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100's annual Potjiekos Competition. For those unfamiliar with potjiekos, it's a traditional South African dish - a slow-cooked meat and vegetable stew prepared in a three-legged iron pot over an open fire. That same pot has been used for generations to cook porridge or "pap," another South African staple.

Over time, the humble potjie has evolved from a weekend family meal into a serious competition. Today, it's a fun way to bring together clubs, businesses and friends, all vying to create the most impressive dish. The Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100's annual Potjiekos

Competition is one such event and this year it was made extra special by incorporating Rotary International's 120th anniversary celebrations on 23 February 2025.

Not even the threat of rain could dampen spirits at the Polokwane Bowls Club. Smoke filled the air, the scent of simmering stews lingered and music had everyone dancing in true South African style. Rotarians from the clubs of Pietersburg 100, Haenertsburg, Mokopane and Polokwane, along with the Rotary E-Club of Baobab and Round Table 22, pulled out all the stops. Tables were decorated with international themes and each club prepared a full three-course meal - with one important rule: everything had to be cooked over the coals, right there on the spot.

Judges from the Limpopo Chefs Academy had the tough job of picking a winner. As part of the celebration, club presidents cut a massive birthday cake and a champagne toast was raised to Rotary's remarkable 120-year journey.



Rotary Club of Stellenbosch President Stuart Hunter inducts Ayron Julius and Rotaract Club President Rito Chabalala into the Rotaract Club of Stellenbosch.

Passion for Service

The Rotary Club of Stellenbosch (D9350) hosted the induction of the Rotaract Club of Stellenbosch, welcoming 19 enthusiastic young members into the global Rotary family. This marked the beginning of an exciting journey for these young leaders, who are committed to serving their community and making a real difference. With Rotary's values of service, leadership and fellowship at the core, they are set to play an active role in creating positive change.

The event brought together District 9350 leadership, Rotarians, friends and Stellenbosch University representatives to celebrate the

launch of this dynamic new club. Rotaract offers members the chance to develop leadership skills, take part in community service projects and build lifelong friendships.

District Governor Stephen Young and Jackie Young, District Governor-Elect Pam Rawbone and Past District Governor David Holtzhausen joined Stellenbosch President Stuart Hunter and the district Rotaract leadership in officially welcoming the new Rotaract members.

Also in attendance were Stellenbosch University's incoming rector and vice-chancellor, Professor Deresh Ramjugernath and Professor Prathieka Naidoo, Professor of

Chemical Engineering and Sasol-NRF Research Chair (SARChi) in Green Hydrogen. Many of the new Rotaractors are students at Stellenbosch University.

The induction ceremony was a proud and inspiring occasion as the new Rotaractors pledged their commitment to making the world a better place through service and innovation.

Leading this new club is President Rito Chabalala. With fresh energy and a passion for service, Rito and her team are ready to make a meaningful impact in Stellenbosch and beyond. They will tackle local challenges while embracing Rotary's broader global vision.



Rotary District 9350's leadership attends the induction ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Stellenbosch. Club President Stuart Hunter and Rotarian Jackie Hunter, (front) District Governor Stephen Young, Rotarian Christina Chambers and Past District Governor David Holtzhausen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR

PEACE

2nd Africa ICC Peace Forum, Cape Town 2025

The Rotary Inter-Country Committee invites all Rotarians to attend the 2nd Africa ICC Peace Forum, at Cape Town's

Vineyard Hotel from 25-27 April, 2025. This event will bring together thought leaders, Rotarians and changemakers dedicated to fostering peace and sustainable development across Africa and beyond. Attendees can look forward to dynamic discussions, inspiring

keynote addresses, expert panels, impactful networking opportunities and guided tours, including the 'Footsteps of Africa' bespoke tour and a visit to the Nelson Mandela Exhibition at Cape Town City Hall. Be part of a movement to shape Africa's future.

Book today: <https://iccpeaceforum-capetown.org/>

Peace and Service

Colonel Samuel Sekgota, Station Commander of Mahwelereng Police Station, was recently honoured by the Rotary Club of Mokopane (D9400) for his outstanding service to the community. His police station was recognised as runner-up for Best Police Station in South Africa and during the club's first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 1 March 2025, Colonel Sekgota was acknowledged for his dedication to keeping the community safe.

Held under the theme "The Promise," the AGM created a platform to recognise local heroes who work tirelessly to build safer, more peaceful communities - especially fitting as the event took place during Peace Week.

The club believes that peace is not just a word, but something built every day by people like Colonel Sekgota, whose leadership has made a visible difference. Honouring him was a way to say thank you on behalf of the community and Rotary.

The AGM was also an opportunity for the club to reflect on its achievements and recognise the hard work of its own members. Service Above Self Awards were presented to all Committee Chairs to celebrate their commitment and ongoing service to both the club and the wider community.

A special moment during the event was the induction of a new member, adding fresh



Colonel Samuel Sekgota was recognised for his leadership excellence and Service Above Self.

energy to the club as it continues to grow and reach more people in need.

The evening was attended by Assistant Governor Andrein Anderson, who joined in celebrating the club's successes and encouraged members to continue their work with enthusiasm and purpose.

For the Rotary Club of Mokopane, the message is simple - peace and service go hand in hand and recognising those who serve helps inspire more people to get involved.



Interact President Carrynne Moos receives the charter certificate from President Charles Rowe.

Unlimited Potential

George High School has officially chartered its own Interact club. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), the club will give students the opportunity to identify challenges in their school and community - and take action to solve them.

Under the guidance of teacher Cindy-Lee du Plessis and with support from Rotary member Zak de Klerk, the club is set to make an impact. Interact clubs exist in over 15,000 schools worldwide and now, George High School learners have the chance to be part of this global movement of service.

At a special charter event, Charles Rowe, the president of the Rotary Club of George,

presented the incoming Interact President, Carrynne Moos, with the club's official charter certificate from Rotary International. Moos was thrilled to step into this leadership role. "I'm really excited about the future of the Interact Club of George High School. I believe we have a lot of potential to make a big difference in our community," she said.

Rowe emphasised the significance of the new club and the role young people play in shaping the future. "It's a privilege for our club to support the George High Interact Club. Our motto is 'Service Above Self,' and we see that spirit in these students. We need leaders like them in our country."



WHICH CLUB MEETS TODAY

Please send us your club meeting and leadership information for the 2025/26 Which Club Meets Today directory. Email: rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.



Run a Mile for Polio laid a strong foundation for what is hoped to become an annual event in Richards Bay.

Running a Mile for Polio

The Rotary Club of Richards Bay (D9370) recently hosted its first-ever Run a Mile for Polio, bringing together community members for a morning of fun, fitness and purpose - all to support Rotary's mission to end polio.

The event was held at Veldenvlei Primary School and the club extends heartfelt thanks to the school for its incredible support in providing the venue, music and much-needed coffee to get participants going.

No event like this would be complete without making sure everyone stayed hydrated and One Stop Water took care of that, keeping water stations stocked and participants refreshed throughout the morning. The club also thanked Lindy from Eco Solar, who ensured an on-site medic was present to give everyone peace of mind.

The event received strong support from local businesses, many of whom purchased advertising boards to help fund the effort. Their contribution was crucial to making the day a success.

Families, friends and Rotarians came together to take part in the event, many signing up at the last minute. The sight of parents walking or running alongside their children highlighted the sense of community that Rotary works hard to build.

The club also recognised the efforts of the Anns, partners and Rotarians who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and on the day, coordinating every detail and making sure things ran smoothly. Special acknowledgement was given to Lelanie Groenewald, whose dedication and planning brought the event to life.

Plans are already being discussed to grow the event next year and bring even more people on board.

The event supported Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, with every cent raised going directly to the fight to eradicate polio worldwide. Participants also had the opportunity to compete for cash prizes awarded to the top three men and women.



Chris van der Leij, Lucille Lochner, Francesco Petruccione, Monique Labat, Aat van der Leij and Paul Lochner.

Friendship Freddy

By Monique Labat

Club President Stuart Hunter has introduced a new tradition at the Rotary Club of Stellenbosch (D9350) - Friendship Freddy!

Whether it's a dinner, coffee meet-up, picnic or brunch, the idea is simple: bring Rotarians together in a relaxed setting to build stronger connections and enjoy each other's company.

This month's Friendship Freddy gathering was hosted by Rotarians Francesco Petruccione and Monique Labat, who welcomed guests into their home for an evening of laughter, conversation and camaraderie. Joining them were Rotarian Lucille Lochner and her husband Paul, along with Rotarian Chris van der Leij and his wife Aat.

The evening was about more than just good food and wine - it was a chance to connect on a personal level. Rotarians shared stories about their careers, community work and personal interests, getting to know each other beyond the

usual club meetings.

Friendship Freddy captures the heart of Rotary - strong relationships and a shared commitment to service. It's a reminder that the best community work happens when there's genuine friendship at its core. And, of course, what's a great evening without a good glass of wine?

The club's fundraiser wine, the President's Selection, was on hand to keep spirits high. This red blend - Pinotage, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from the 2022 vintage - was produced by Rotarians Jacqueline Aaldering and Gert-Jan Posthuma at Aaldering Vineyards and Wines in Devon Valley, just outside Stellenbosch.

A few cases are still available, with proceeds of the sales to be used to support local community projects. To get your hands on a bottle (or a few!), you may contact President Stuart Hunter at 082 800 8286.



Aurelius Reinecke, a Rotary Youth Exchange Student, takes a dip for polio at the recent swimathon to raise funds for polio eradication.

Dundee Dives In for Polio

About ten years ago, Rotary clubs around the world were challenged to host a swimathon to raise funds for polio eradication. The Rotary Club of Dundee (D9370) jumped right in - and has never stopped swimming!

Every year since then, they've gathered their community for an afternoon of swimming, fun and fundraising. Thanks to the generosity of a local school, the club has access to a fantastic 250-metre, 10-lane pool. The event has become a familiar favourite for both children and adults in the community. And when it comes to polio eradication, this club has a special reason to care.

One of their long-standing and respected members, Jenny Thole, knows first-hand what it means to live with polio. She had polio as a child

and went on to teach swimming for more than 40 years. Even now, she still leads aqua-exercise classes in a heated pool. Her story reminds everyone why Rotary's work to end polio is so important - and why this Swimathon matters.

People are invited to donate R10 or more and over the years, these contributions have added up to significant support for Rotary's global fight against polio.

It's always tough to single out one swimmer in such a big event, but there is one young woman whose dedication stands out. Iman Yoosub, a Grade 9 learner, has taken part in every Swimathon since she was in Grade 2. This year, she completed an incredible 114 lengths - that's just over two kilometres!

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Fourteen sets of bed

linen were donated to the Maanblom Orphanage by the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370). The club used a district grant to finance this project. At the handover are (front) Ian Buchanan, Jill and Zack Lombard of Flamingo-Welkom club and (back) Paulina Mokheseng, Alida Stevens and Emily Molete of the Maanblom Orphanage.



Top left: Rotary Exchange Student Wolfgang Harlfinger (left) from Germany in 1993 and Rotary Exchange Student Tobias Gillen (right) from Germany in 1994 with their South African host mother, Ingrid Edelson. This photo was taken in 1996 when Ingrid visited Germany. Top right: More than two decades later, Tobias, Ingrid and Wolfgang reunited during another visit and remain in regular contact. Both men are active in Rotary in their hometowns.



SHARE YOUR PROJECTS

Email stories and photos (of at least 1mb in size) to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.



With the help of their parents, the learners at the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350) collected fresh fruit for the children at Môreson Child and Youth Care Centre. After handing over the fruit, the EarlyActors played with the preschoolers.

Alabama Secondary School was given a brand-new printer by the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370). This club has a strong focus on education in order to give young people a better shot at success. At the handover are Rotarians Joe Visser, Shereen Senxezi and Brian Smith with Mr H Davids and Dr A Abdool from the school and (front) Rotarian Allison de Lange.



WALL OF HONOUR



President Erik Howland with Kathy Knott, Michelle Mitana and Caro Holland, who are new members of the Rotary Club of White River (D9400).



Suraiya Essof is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).



Ruby Moodley is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).



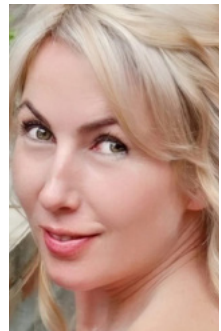
Tanyaradzwa Chifamba is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).



Jennifer van den Dool is a new member of the Rotary Club of Stellenbosch (D9350).



President Stuart Hunter (centre) with Naomi Kelly and Nicole Stephens, who are new members of the Rotary Club of Stellenbosch (D9350).



Anene Olivier is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND SHARE ACHIEVEMENTS HERE.
EMAIL PHOTOS AND DETAILS TO ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA

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MISCELLANEOUS

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