

DECEMBER 2024

Rotary

AFRICA | SOUTH





Rotary Africa
Magazine

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Subscription rates from 1st January 2025

Printed 6-month subscription rate: R260 (postal addresses in South Africa) and **R315** (postal addresses outside South Africa)

6-MONTH DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS R141.75

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Can you believe we are already on the December issue? It feels as if this year has flown by in the blink of an eye. At the same time, what an incredible issue this has turned out to be! These wonderfully positive and uplifting stories have set my mood perfectly for the festive season.

I absolutely love Christmas. It is a time of giving, joy and celebration - a time to reconnect, refresh and appreciate all that we have in this world. Rotary provides those same opportunities throughout the year. Every time I read about the amazing work being done by our clubs and members, I am reminded of the kindness, generosity and dedication that make Rotary so special.

For example, the heart-warming efforts of clubs in the Western Province to support flood victims have left me feeling truly grateful - not only for what I have, but for the incredible people we have in Rotary. It's stories like these that highlight the power of Service Above Self and the remarkable impact we can make when we work together.

The festive season is also a time to reflect on the year that has passed and the achievements

we have made together. Rotary has reached thousands of people this year, providing support, hope and opportunities to communities across the globe. Whether it's through disaster relief, educational programmes, or innovative projects, you, as Rotarians, are truly changing lives - and that is something to celebrate.

As we look to 2025, let's carry the spirit of giving and gratitude into the new year. Together, we can take on fresh challenges, support new causes and continue to make a meaningful difference in the world. I encourage you to share your stories of impact and inspiration with us because they serve as a reminder of why we do what we do - and they inspire others to do the same.

On behalf of myself, Sharon and our Board of Directors, I want to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I look forward to hearing about your remarkable projects in 2025 and continuing to share your stories of service, hope and change with the Rotary family.

Here's to a season filled with love, joy and gratitude!

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Publisher: Rotary in Africa. Reg. No: 71/004840/08 (incorp. association not for gain). PBO: 18/13/13/3091. Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

Design & Layout: Rotary in Africa

Printers: ROC Media

Advertising: Sharon Robertson. Tariff card on request

Subscriptions: Sharon Robertson

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Editorial submissions:

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Distributed to Rotary Districts 9210, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9220, 9350, 9370 and 9400 (Southern and Eastern Africa)

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A publication of Rotary Global Media Network of Rotary International

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Stephanie Urchick
President, Rotary International

WITH HEART & MIND

To adapt, as laid out in Rotary's Action Plan, we must occasionally step out of our comfort zone and try something new. Here are two examples of clubs that adapted - one with heart and one through critical thinking and strategy.

The Rotary Club of Chandigarh Mid Town (D3080, India) led with heart earlier this year. To engage members and grow membership, President Nitin Kapur personally called every former member of the club and invited them to a gathering billed as an alumni meet up.

Eight former members attended and the results were stupendous. The visitors had a chance to connect once more - not only with current members but with the sense of camaraderie and belonging that membership gave them. By the end of the evening, the club welcomed six of the former members back into the Rotary family.

Kapur showed courage when he reached out to the alumni. Not only did he adapt and

try something new but he had the strength of character to show the club's alumni how much they still meant to the family of Rotary. That bravery paid off.

People want to feel needed and appreciated. People want to feel that they belong. And they might never feel that way if we don't have the courage to tell them.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Seoul-Hansoo (D3640, Korea) has been experimenting with different club models to great effect. Over the past four years, Seoul-Hansoo has created and maintained four satellite clubs - a service club, an interest-based club for musicians, a cause-based club that mentors professionals and a club for college students.

These satellite clubs are part of a five-year plan the Seoul-Hansoo club implemented to increase membership through innovation.

What's the secret to founding and maintaining so many satellite clubs? Membership between Seoul-Hansoo and its satellite clubs is fluid and synergistic. Many members of the satellite clubs attend the sponsor club's meetings. And many of the sponsor club's members participate in the satellite clubs.

Additionally, the focus of each satellite club is no accident. Each one appeals to different interests of people in the sponsor club and in the community, attracting existing and potential members. This is an excellent strategy to both retain and attract members because it offers flexibility. If someone is interested in joining but they can't make it to the sponsor club's meetings, they have plenty of options to choose from.

These are just two examples of how we can adapt with our hearts and minds. Every club is different, so I encourage you to reach out to members of your club and of the community around you. Ask them about the club experience and what you can do to improve.

Talk to enough people and you might find ways that you can adapt and spark The Magic of Rotary in your club.

A season of lasting giving

Mark Maloney
Foundation Trustee Chair

December is a time for generosity and reflection when we think not only about our loved ones but about how we can make a difference in the world.

This year, consider giving a gift with an enduring impact, one that extends beyond these holidays, lasting for generations. Gifts to The Rotary Foundation Endowment are extraordinary gifts that create extraordinary change.

By supporting Rotary's Endowment, you help ensure that RI will have the resources it needs to develop and implement sustainable projects today and in the years to come. Members who include the Endowment in estate plans, or make an outright gift, support that mission.

Imagine your gift helping to fund the drop of vaccine that prevents the last case of polio, eradicating this devastating disease once and for all. Picture it supporting other health initiatives in 2034, 2044 and beyond.

If you make an outright gift today, you will have the opportunity to witness your support in action, working through clean water projects, literacy initiatives and economic development efforts. These Rotary Foundation-funded projects touch lives across the globe, bringing hope to individuals you may never meet, but who will know you through your generosity.

Past President Arch C Klumph, who first proposed an endowment more than 100 years ago, would be amazed not only at the opportunities Rotary has to help today but also at the future possibilities Rotary's Endowment provides.

However, our Endowment is only strong when we all support it. Because it is essential to our success, we have set an ambitious goal: to build our Endowment to \$2.025 billion in net assets and commitments by 30 June 2025. This goal is not just a number; it is a reaffirmation of our belief in Rotary's enduring ability to do good in the world. A fully funded \$2 billion endowment will provide more than \$100 million year after year for Rotary Foundation activities.

I have asked district governors and club presidents to lead by example before the year's end, but each of us has an opportunity to secure Rotary's legacy of service. Please join Gay and me in planning your estate or outright gift today.

Remember, this is no ordinary gift. Your generosity will provide a legacy for future generations to find solutions in the areas we care about, while creating a ripple of positive change that extends far beyond our lifetimes. What better gift could there be?



Various first nations dancers at Elbow River Camp during Stampede 2023. Photo: Colin Way.

2025 Rotary International Convention Countdown **EXPERIENCES NOT TO MISS**

When you're already travelling to the Rotary International Convention, why not add on a side trip? Members say they often double up on their travel to visit part of the world near the convention host city. And don't miss the chance to register by 15 December before the price goes up.

The timing of the convention in Calgary 21-25 June is just right to see an iconic Canadian event: the Calgary Stampede. Take a vacation or business trip after the convention and return to the city for the rodeo on 4-13 July that celebrates the country's West and Indigenous cultures. The Host Organisation Committee curated easy-to-book getaways ranging from a one-day tour of Banff and Lake Louise in the neighbouring Rockies to 12 days through the mountains to Vancouver with a train ride on the return trip to Calgary for the Stampede.

For a coastal experience, Tofino near Vancouver has surfing vibes and rugged landscapes. French-speaking members, in particular, would enjoy visiting Québec City to see its beautiful buildings and hear the locals' distinct take on the language. Beyond Banff, quaint towns in the Rockies with picture-postcard main streets seem endless.

Visit a famed vacation spot accessible from Calgary, like Toronto, New York City, the Grand Canyon, the Caribbean, Cancun resorts in Mexico or Los Angeles and Disneyland.

Beyond big-name tourist stops, try Oregon's redwoods, Mexico's Baja California Sur for ecotourism, sites that inspired *Anne of Green Gables* on Prince Edward Island or the Canadian Arctic for wildlife and the midnight sun that doesn't set. Whatever type of trip you prefer, Calgary is your gateway to North America.



Half-Time in Our Rotary Year!

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation
Major Gifts Advisor

In any sporting event, the half-time break often serves as a critical turning point. It's the moment when the coach (club president) rallies the team (Rotarians and Rotaractors), spurring them on to achieve their goals and "finish strong" in June 2025!

Much like athletes, we also need to rehydrate and refresh during this half-time. In football, it might be a piece of fruit; for us, it could mean a visit to the Rotary Learning Centre or attending a "booster" seminar. Many clubs use this time for mid-year fellowships or holiday gatherings to reignite team spirit and focus on goal achievement.

THE SELF-SPEECH

A successful half-time talk often follows the "sandwich method." Start on a positive note by highlighting achievements and strengths from the first half. Then, address areas for improvement with constructive feedback, offering two or three concrete tips for better results. Finally, close on an encouraging note, outlining the substitutions or tactical changes needed to hit those year-end goals. This balance ensures motivation remains high as we head into the second half of the Rotary year.

PREPARATION IS KEY

Preparation is the foundation of an effective

half-time talk. Jot down key points and, where possible, engage with fellow members to gain their insights. What are they observing in the club? How can you best motivate the team?

TIPS FOR A HALF-TIME SELF-TALK

- Have brief, encouraging conversations with individual members, perhaps on the way to the "locker room" (your club meeting).
- Foster open communication among members, ensuring discussions remain constructive, not contentious.
- If disagreements arise about club progress, remember that maintaining a positive club atmosphere is paramount. Criticism should quickly shift back to focus on second-half objectives.
- Speak directly to individual members, outlining their specific responsibilities to instil a sense of ownership.
- Avoid placing undue pressure on the team. If goals remain challenging, don't talk about "winning it all." Instead, shift the focus to "winning the second half."

Remember, the half-time talk is a supportive tool, not an end in itself.

Consider the legendary example of Liverpool's coach Rafa Benitez during the 2005

Champions League Final. Despite trailing 0-3 at half-time, he calmly laid out a second-half strategy and spoke of extra time, never once dwelling on the deficit. Liverpool went on to win in a dramatic penalty shoot-out, proving that a composed, forward-thinking approach can

turn the tide.

So, let's embrace the "Magic of Rotary" as we move into the second half of our Rotary year. Use your half-time moment wisely and let's aim for great successes across Africa. We'll celebrate those victories together in Calgary next June!

Coming up...

25 JANUARY 2025

ROTARY CLUB OF DURBAN (D9370) Centennial Charter Anniversary. Great Ilanga Room, Elangeni Hotel. Keynote speaker: Former Constitutional Court Judge and Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch, Justice Edwin Cameron. Tickets cost R450 per person. To book, contact: Hilary Augustus on 082 556 0299.

ROTARY CLUB OF KNIGHTS PENDRAGON (D9400) Burns Night Supper. The Rainbow Room Country Club of Johannesburg, Auckland Park. Starts 6:30 pm. Guest of honour: Michael Murray, Marquess of Tullibardine. Includes Robbie Burns recital, piper, haggis and neeps, whisky, wine and a buffet supper. Funds raised will support Bethany Home for Abused Women, Gerald Fitzpatrick Home for Aged Ladies and other Rotary projects. Dress Code: Formal with a touch of tartan. Tickets: R10,000 per table of 10. To book contact: Lauwrens Vosloo at operations@cresset.org.za or Tel: 082 839 4459

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A Life of Purpose



ON SALE NOW!

My hope is that once you have read this book, you will appreciate that it is possible to live a life of service whilst empowering others and additionally being successful in your personal and professional life. You will learn to leave footprints of care and compassion as your legacy - Geeta Manek

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Lighting the Way



Rosaline Akweba Obah's
Mission for Lasting Peace



by Gülin Eva Geloğulları, Journalist & Rotary Peace Fellow

Rosaline Akweba Obah, a Rotary Peace Fellow from Cameroon, is an experienced trainer and consultant in peace journalism, the Do No Harm principle (avoiding the unintentional exacerbation of conflicts) and conflict transformation. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Buea and a Master's degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communication from the University of Wolverhampton. Following her graduation, she moved to the United Kingdom.

As the National Coordinator of the Cameroon Community Media Network, Rosaline has trained media professionals and promoted responsible reporting amidst Cameroon's ongoing challenges. In collaboration with the Cameroon Journalists Trade Union, she has encouraged journalists to produce original work that reflects inclusive peacebuilding principles. Her dedication has earned her numerous awards and recognitions. Beyond her media work, she serves as the president of the Cameroon Chapter of the Young African Women Congress

Network. Recently, Rosaline completed her Rotary Peace Fellowship at Makerere University, where she gained transformative experiences and deepened her expertise.

HOW DID YOUR ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY START?

My journey began with over a decade of commitment to peacebuilding in Cameroon. As the national coordinator of the Cameroon Community Media Network (CCMN), I trained media professionals to create peace-orientated content, fostering understanding and conflict resolution. Despite my hands-on experience and training in peacebuilding and the Do No Harm principle, I sought a more comprehensive education to create a lasting impact. The Rotary Peace Fellowship provided the ideal opportunity to refine my skills, particularly in navigating complex conflicts and empowering media professionals as agents of peace. Acceptance into the programme was a pivotal step towards realising my vision of a peaceful, harmonious society in Cameroon and beyond.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST PROFOUND PEACE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE?

Our visit to Rwanda was the most profound

experience of my fellowship. Touring sites such as the genocide memorials and Peace Village, where genocide victims and perpetrators live together as one family, deeply moved me. Witnessing their decision to forgive and rebuild trust resonated strongly.

Reflecting on Cameroon's eight-year conflict, I saw parallels, although our crisis is less severe. Rwanda's example showed me that healing is possible and I firmly believe Cameroon can achieve reconciliation through forgiveness, dialogue and community healing. This experience reaffirmed my commitment to peace and conflict transformation, instilling hope and optimism despite adversity.

HOW DO YOU PROMOTE PEACE, HEALING AND DIALOGUE?

My approach centres on creating safe and inclusive spaces where individuals feel empowered to share their stories and listen actively. I design programmes that not only educate but also build empathy, resilience and cultural awareness, particularly in crisis-affected areas. Each programme is tailored to local challenges, addressing issues such as historical trauma, conflict resolution and interfaith dialogue.

Through storytelling and participatory activities, I encourage openness to foster mutual understanding. Collaborative projects like Global Peace Let's Talk UK and training in Peace Journalism, Do No Harm and Conflict Transformation help dismantle stereotypes and build trust. By engaging with local leaders and peace builders, I establish support networks to sustain peace efforts. My goal is to leave each community more connected, resilient and inspired to continue their journey towards peace.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN?

Never underestimate your power! Growing



up, I often found myself in spaces where women's voices were undervalued, but I learned that change starts with self-belief. Speak up, even when it feels difficult - your voice matters. Find your passion, develop your skills and never stop learning. Surround yourself with supportive people and take bold steps towards your dreams. Don't wait for the perfect moment; create your own opportunities. You are capable of making a difference and the world needs your unique contribution.

WHAT MAKES CAMEROONIANS UNIQUE AND HOW CAN THEY INSPIRE OTHERS?

Cameroonians are resilient and diverse, uniting over 250 ethnic groups with unique languages and cultures. Our strength lies in our unity, warmth and adaptability, showing how, despite differences, people can coexist, thrive and build inclusive societies.

CONSIDERING YOUR EXPERIENCES, HOW DO YOU DEFINE PEACE?

Peace is where people feel safe, respected and valued in environments that foster dialogue, forgiveness, empathy and dignity to heal wounds and rebuild trust.



While part of a project to end hunger, this aquaponics project does more than grow food. It develops sustainable agribusiness opportunities, offering the tools for communities to become self-sufficient.

A JOURNEY ABOUT MORE THAN *Food!*

The Rotary E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400) and the Rotary Club of Jacksonville (D6970, USA) have been awarded a global grant of US\$69,943 by The Rotary Foundation to train 90 individuals in aquaponics agriculture. This ambitious initiative, in partnership with FreshMinistries and the Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger, aims to

bring sustainable aquaponics greenhouses to underserved communities to help resolve food insecurity, promote job training and increase educational opportunities.

The training will take place at the state-of-the-art Aquaponics Centre located at Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk in Ferndale, Johannesburg. This centre, officially unveiled by Past Rotary



The aquaponics farming model involves pumping water from large fish tanks to the vertical gardens. The natural filtration process removes the nitrates from the water, which then feed the plants and the clean water is pumped back to the fish tanks. The centre is environmentally friendly, being fully solar-powered, using 95% less water than conventional farming, avoiding harsh chemicals or pesticides and reducing soil degradation.



The vertical garden towers use 5% less water than other aquaponics methods and 95% less than standard agricultural practices. These vertical systems produce three times as much yield in the same space, are more heat resilient, easier to harvest and can grow a wider variety of plants compared to other hydroponics or aquaponics systems.

International President Gordon McNally in March 2024, has already begun to make a difference. Since 5 May, it has been harvesting produce weekly, generating an average turnover of R10,000 per harvest.

Drawing on 25 years of aquaponics expertise from FreshMinistries and successful projects from the Americas to Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga, the initiative is more than just a project; it is a lifeline. It has already transformed lives, fought malnutrition and promoted community economic development.

There are considerable benefits to this aquaponics project, which extend beyond addressing hunger and food security. These include education, economic stability, mental health, gender equality and more. “This truly makes an enormous impact on an incalculable number of people and communities,” said Dr Robert V Lee III, founder of FreshMinistries.

MULTI-FACETED APPROACH

The project’s impact spans multiple aspects of community development, offering a variety of production models to cater to local needs:

- All food produced through the aquaponics system is dedicated to feeding the community, ensuring food security and nutritional support.
- Produce and fish are sold at local markets, generating financial resources for healthcare, education and infrastructure.
- A hybrid model where some produce feeds the community, while the rest is sold to support maintenance and other needs.

The initiative focuses on creating sustainable agribusiness opportunities, offering the tools for communities to become self-sufficient. It promotes climate-smart farming techniques, using aquaponics systems that consume 95% less water than traditional methods and operate on renewable energy, such as solar power. The emphasis is on providing a year-round food supply, regardless of climate disruptions, ensuring both sustainability and resilience.



In October, the Rotary E-Club of Eagle Canyon project, championed by PDG Annemarie Mostert, was awarded a global grant to train 90 people in aquaponics agriculture.



The project develops a number of economic development and employment opportunities. Ayanda Mkhwane is one of the people currently employed at the centre in Johannesburg.



The controlled, soil-free environment reduces the likelihood of soil-borne pathogens, while clean water prevents waterborne diseases, promoting healthier produce and fish. Good agricultural and handling practices, including stringent food safety standards, are taught, implemented and documented.



The specially designed vertical towers offer numerous advantages as a climate-smart solution: they conserve water, require no arable soil, use no chemical fertilisers or residual pesticides and are solar-powered. These towers provide a shorter time to harvest and maintain consistent production regardless of weather conditions, while supporting diverse crop growth and producing higher nutritional value.





Dr Robert V Lee III, founder of FreshMinistries with 2023/24 RI President Gordon McNally at the opening of the aquaponics centre in March.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EDUCATION

This project aims to create over 800 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs, spanning roles like farm associates, managers, technicians, marketers and distributors. It also promotes entrepreneurship and economic independence, focusing particularly on women and youth to bridge economic inequalities.

Extensive training programmes are offered, covering everything from managing and operating aquaponics systems to water conservation, energy efficiency and business management.

This knowledge is retained within the community, ensuring long-term economic independence and sustainable growth.

LASTING IMPACT

FreshMinistries' locally driven approach has a history of success, exemplified by the Siyafundisa HIV/AIDS Programme, which reached over 900,000 young people in its

first five years. Similarly, the Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger applies this model, ensuring project success through community ownership and sustainability.

The 198 planned aquaponics facilities address urgent needs in food security, economic empowerment, education and environmental sustainability. Capable of producing up to 151,800 meals per day, the facilities offer a transformative solution adaptable to regions with droughts, poor soil quality and climate shocks. Over the course of 20 years, these facilities are expected to provide over 1.1 billion meals.

"The production will meet the nutrient requirements (for the produce portion of a balanced meal) for up to 158,000 people per day," explained Lee. "Per year, the number increases to over 55 million and over the useful life of the facilities, over 1.1 billion. With an overall investment in 198 aquaponics systems, that computes to around \$0.10 per meal."



From the first meeting until 1972, the club met in the Palm Court of the Marine Hotel, on the corner of Gardiner Street and the Victoria Embankment. According to South African History Online, among its many prominent guests were the Prince of Wales in 1923, Prince George in 1934 and Prince Bernhardt of The Netherlands in 1954 . Photo: Facebook

The Rotary Club of Durban (D9370) celebrates its centennial anniversary in January 2025.

IN THE BEGINNING

The year 1924 marked significant advancements with inventions such as the loudspeaker, the first public television transmission and IBM's tabulation machine, which played a key role in the development of modern computing and data handling systems.

It was also in 1924 that Durban's mayor, Walter Gilbert, invited 43 prominent citizens involved in local charity work to a lunch on 31 March. Among them were the founders of institutions that would become today's Durban University of Technology, the Durban YMCA and many other landmarks. This gathering led to the charter of the Rotary Club of Durban on

25 January 1925.

At the first club lunch, it was decided to apply to Rotary International for chartering, which was granted on 25 January 1925. Initially, the club met at the Marine Hotel's Palm Court until its demolition in 1972, after which meetings moved to the Elangeni Hotel. Past President Richard Cluver recalls, "It was here in the Elangeni that Bruce Carte, Lyster van Brugge and I were inducted as the youngest ever members of the club, 50 years ago this year... and where, many years later, I became club president."

The club and its members have since played

a pivotal role in Durban's development, often piloting major city projects during their regular Tuesday lunches. In the 1950s, Rotary played a key role in establishing KwaMashu township, now home to a quarter of Durban's residents. The project aimed to provide formal housing for Cato Manor's shack dwellers, inspired by Rotary Anns who, while running a clinic there, were shocked by the living conditions. KwaMashu was built on land once farmed by Dr Sam Campbell, a Rotarian and founder of Durban Technicon.

The Durban club primarily focused on creating projects to address social needs rather than physical structures. However, members also generously funded the construction of old-age homes, community centres and other facilities. Further achievements of the club include the founding of The Durban Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest, TAFTA (The Association for the Aged), Lifeline and SANCA's Laluma Treatment Centre.

Over the years, the club has chartered twelve additional Rotary clubs in the province and consistently responded to Durban's social needs. Notably, it funded the Boy Scouts movement in 1925 and supported Durban Radio, the forerunner to the SABC, where Huntley Stewart, the first anchor, was a long-time club member.

Several charter members left lasting legacies. Norman Henwood established the city's first YMCA, Len Baumann, former CEO of Bakers Biscuits, founded Lifeline. Walter Greenacre, owner of the city's largest department store, envisioned the Community Chest, a cornerstone of Durban's philanthropy.

The Rotary club's unique structure, with members representing different business and professional categories, provided an early-warning system for community needs. This

enabled the club to pioneer initiatives such as the Black Schools Eisteddfod, the first-ever African Arts Festival, radio communication facilities between rural clinics and cinema screenings at old-age homes. The club also supported prisoner rehabilitation and created the Mnene Holiday Resort and the Beatrice Street YMCA.

Dr Fred Cluver, the father of Richard Cluver and a pioneer in the fight against malaria in the 1930s, joined the club with the goal of leading charitable efforts to address malnutrition, a significant issue for black workers migrating to Durban. A strong proponent of the value of annual mountain holidays and healthy diets, Dr Cluver was also instrumental in establishing Restmount, a holiday retreat for underprivileged children, which became a club project in the early 1940s. Hymie Zulman, founder of Beacon Sweets, led fundraising for Restmount.

The club was also instrumental in launching the Tour D'Urban Cycle Race in 1974. Initiated by Rotarian and Kings Park Cycling Club Chair Mike Staphorst, the first race raised around R15,000 for Rotary and attracted 2,000 participants. Today, the event is known as the aQuellé Tour Durban.

The Rotary Club of Durban has also sponsored many Rotaract and Interact clubs over the years and currently sponsors five Interact clubs. The club's youth committee was the first to organise inter-racial career guidance and vocational camps.

The Durban Rotary Anns have supported Rotarian projects and launched many of their own. During WWII, the Anns knitted more than 50,000 pairs of socks for the troops. The Anns still have a group of knitters who have produced thousands of jerseys for children in need. They also ran the Botanic Gardens Charity Tea Kiosk, famous for its tea, scones and crumpets, in the 1970s and 80s.

The Centennial Charter Anniversary will be held on 25 January 2025 at the Great Ilanga Room, Elangeni Hotel. The keynote speaker is former Constitutional Court Judge and Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch, Justice Edwin Cameron. Tickets cost R450 per person. To book, contact: Hilary Augustus on 082 556 0299.



With its focus on personal development, practical experience and community engagement, the Youth Leadership Course is making a significant impact.

Building leaders

Sixty-nine Grade 11 learners from various schools across KwaZulu-Natal (District 9370), along with eight mentors, recently attended an inspiring, meaningful and educational week-long leadership course. The event focused on learning, understanding and included topics crucial for developing future leaders.

Hosted annually by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone, the course celebrated its 59th year during the September school holidays. Learners, selected by schools and Interact clubs within their communities, were sponsored by participating Rotary clubs. The aim was to guide these young individuals towards becoming more confident and proactive leaders.

Youth Director of the club, AG Shamin Maharaj, shared, “It’s always encouraging to see the group of learners arrive uncertain and scared, but leave here armed with knowledge and ready to face the world as friends.” The course includes a mix of presentations, discussions, teamwork and lots of fun, according to Shamin.

Relevant and current topics are included in the agenda every year, including conflict resolution, environmental awareness, entrepreneurship, managing emotional barriers, financial management, communication and leadership. Learners engage in projects that allow them to apply their skills in practical scenarios, with each session led by trained mentors and skilled presenters.

A significant component of the course is its focus on community engagement. “We want young people to see that leadership is not just about titles - it’s about making a difference wherever you are and with whatever resources are at your disposal.” Learners described the camp as a “life-changing experience.”

The course is designed to foster long-term leadership skills that learners can carry with them into adulthood. Not only are participants growing in confidence, but they are also learning how to use their leadership skills to positively influence their communities.



Top left: Auctioneer Dan Nicholl in action. Top right: Guests Simone and Paul van Eyssen with President Rudy Dupont (Paarl). Above: Jenny and Jo Kentgens (Riebeeck) and the winners of the Mauritius lot, Tony and Barbara Asquith. Left: Rotarian Pierre Botha and his wife, Chantelle, with musician Stanislav Angelov.

Winning Wine Auction

The annual wine auction of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350), held in collaboration with the neighbouring Rotary Clubs of Riebeeck Valley and Franschhoek and Drakenstein Valley was another great success.

Approximately 180 guests attended the event, enjoying ideal spring weather. Celebrity auctioneer Dan Nicholl kept the crowd entertained throughout the day with his witty and humorous commentary.

The auction was made possible through generous donations of wine, meal vouchers, hotel accommodation and other items. A total of 36 lots, combining wine and hospitality experiences, went under the hammer, with the

highest bid reaching R110,000 for a package that included a selection of premium wines and a six-day trip to Mauritius, complete with luxury resort accommodation.

Rotarians hosted the tables, while other members worked diligently behind the scenes, managing registration and dispatch. Members of a local Interact club were enlisted to assist successful bidders in transporting their purchases to their cars, adding a touch of youthful energy to the proceedings.

A silent auction featuring paintings by local artists added an extra layer of sophistication to the festive occasion, making the event a memorable highlight for all who attended.



More than 30 local residents participated in the tour, led by tour guide Joy Phirisi of Native Minds. The event was facilitated by the Galeshewe Youth Network and sponsored by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

Heritage Bike Tour

The Galeshewe Bicycle Resource Centre marked a significant milestone on 6 November when it provided bicycles in support of the Mayibuye Uprising Heritage Bicycle Tour.

The tour commemorated the Mayibuye Uprising of 7-8 November 1952, a pivotal event in South African history. The uprising was a reaction to the unjust laws imposed by the National Party. As part of the ANC's nationwide Defiance Campaign, Dr Arthur Letele, then ANC branch chairperson of No. 2 Location in Galeshewe, Kimberley, organised residents to occupy racially segregated public spaces in Kimberley. The unrest led to the deaths of 13 people and injuries to 78 others. The victims were buried at West End Cemetery, which has since been declared a provincial heritage site.

The 8km guided bicycle heritage tour began at the Mayibuye Uprising Memorial Precinct. The first stop was the Mayibuye Memorial Monument, where participants attended a brief lecture. The tour continued to the No. 1 Beer Hall (Glass House) and to Mzikinya Street, where a memorial for the 13 victims was held.

Other stops included Dr Arthur Letele's former surgery, the Tickey Shop and the graves at the historic West End Cemetery.

The Galeshewe Bicycle Resource Centre is part of an international collaboration. In July 2024, a 12-metre shipping container filled with 380 used bicycles arrived from Charleston, South Carolina, USA. This initiative was part of an ongoing project involving the Rotary Clubs of Carroll Creek (D7620, USA) and Empangeni (D9370, South Africa). The Rotary Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region (D9370), in partnership with the Galeshewe Youth Network, received one of the shipments.

The shipping container is being converted into a community bicycle resource centre, with several medium-term goals, including establishing a microbusiness for bicycle repairs, creating a bicycle rental outlet and developing a hub for cycling tourism and heritage trails.

The long-term vision supports the development of leisure cycling facilities, such as off-road trails and a pump track.



Recently, the Rosebank club celebrated its 200th quiz evening and invited the Rotary Clubs of Kyalami, Gaborone (D9400) and Kendal (D1190, UK) to join in the celebration.

Battle of the Brains

When the South African government announced a national lockdown at the end of March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400), like all clubs, had to switch its meetings to Zoom and cancel or postpone all social activities.

Rotarian David Bradshaw took the initiative to arrange quiz evenings with other Rotary clubs via Zoom. The first quiz was held on 21 May 2020 against the local Rotary Club of Kyalami and weekly quizzes soon followed. The club's first cross-border quiz was with the Rotary Club of Gaborone in Botswana.

Since the start of this initiative, 46 Rotary,

Rotaract and Anns clubs from South Africa, Botswana, eSwatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, England, Denmark, India and Romania have participated. Quizzes are typically held on Wednesday evenings but are occasionally moved to other nights to accommodate participating clubs. While Rosebank usually provides the quiz master, other clubs are encouraged to take on this role.

Members of Rosebank typically join the quizzes from their laptops at home, but some clubs prefer to gather at a single venue to participate as a group.



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The EarlyActors, with support from their parents, delivered stationery to Môreson Child and Youth Care Centre in October and spent time playing with the preschoolers, bringing smiles and creating unforgettable moments.

Young Changemakers

The EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), recently concluded its latest community service project. The club provides young learners with opportunities to act as active citizens in a culturally diverse, democratic society within an interdependent world.

“Having reached out to them before, the children at Môreson Child and Youth Care Centre occupy a special place in our hearts,” said Danielle Barnard, an educator and EarlyAct coordinator at Outeniqua Primary. “We wanted to do something special for these children again. Our EarlyActors, with the help of their parents, more than rose to the challenge.”

Môreson Child and Youth Care Centre, established in 1917, provides care for approximately 100 children aged between 3 and 18. These children are placed at Môreson by court order, often coming from backgrounds of emotional or physical abuse or neglect. At the centre, they are assigned to one of eight houses based on their developmental needs. A multi-disciplinary team supports their physical,

emotional, social and educational well-being.

The EarlyActors, supported by their parents, collected stationery and delivered it to Môreson in October. After presenting their gifts, the EarlyAct members spent time playing with the preschoolers, creating a joyful and memorable experience for all involved.

“Part of our mission as a value-driven school is assisting and empowering learners to make a positive contribution as active citizens in our society,” explained Dr Nico Venter, principal of Outeniqua Primary. “EarlyAct provides an excellent platform for us to fulfil this responsibility.”

Charles Rowe, president of the Rotary Club of George, expressed his admiration for the club’s efforts. “We are so proud to be associated with the Outeniqua Primary EarlyActors. Their initiatives embody the leadership, compassion and community spirit our country needs.”

Through this meaningful project, the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary demonstrated the power of young people in making a tangible difference in their community.



Executive mayor of Swartland municipality, Harold Cleophas, receives blankets and water bottles from President Wessie van der Westhuizen (Malmesbury) and Mark Solomon, headmaster of Riverlands Primary School.

Helping Riverlands

In response to the recent disaster that struck Riverlands in the Western Cape's Swartland Municipality, the Rotary Clubs of Atlantis, Malmesbury and Melkbos (D9350) united to assist the victims.

They provided essential items such as food parcels, clothing, blankets, drinking water and personal care packages to those in Riverlands who had lost everything due to the devastating flooding.

The disaster left scores of residents homeless with some losing everything when their homes were washed away. Riverlands Primary School became the base for relief operations, where members of the community assisted the

victims.

The Rotary Clubs of Atlantis, Malmesbury and Melkbos visited the disaster area to assist the victims, especially the residents who were cut off from the operational centre, by reaching them with three four-wheel-drive vehicles. Food parcels, clothes, blankets, drinking water and personal care packages were handed over to the victims. It was a blessing for the people as it was very difficult for them to get to the operation centre because it was still unsafe to walk due to the conditions. "We are very grateful to the Rotary clubs, which came to provide us with the basic necessities," said one of the victims, Wynonna Makriege.



Students received wheelchairs that allowed them to engage fully in activities.

WHEELCHAIRS FOR MANY

In a remarkable act of generosity, Chair of Hope and the Wheelchair Foundation UK have made a profound difference in the Bay by donating 36 wheelchairs to the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370). For many, receiving a wheelchair was not simply a donation but a life-changing event. Some had waited over six years for this vital support.

The recipients of the wheelchairs spanned various communities, each with a unique story of transformation. In Bethelsdorp, two women who had faced years of restricted mobility now experience new-found freedom.

At a government-funded old age home, a resident's worn-out wheelchair was replaced, bringing much-needed relief. In Shauderville, a passionate community activist received a wheelchair after a severe back injury left him immobilised, enabling him to continue his valuable work.

In Algoa Park, a resident awaiting a double hip replacement can now look forward to regaining some independence. The Cleary Estate Cheshire Home, a respected institution for paraplegics, received several wheelchairs, enhancing the lives of its residents. At the Missionvale Care Centre, a young girl received a wheelchair, while

Lake Farm residents were also beneficiaries. In Despatch, two young children gained the opportunity to participate more actively in their education and community life.

In Zwide, a young mother, who previously used a trolley to transport her son, received a wheelchair for him, easing her burden and providing him with dignity and comfort.

Additionally, the Dubani Foundation distributed wheelchairs to elderly individuals in Cotswold and Motherwell, as well as to several schools, replacing makeshift equipment with reliable mobility aids that have significantly improved the quality of life for recipients.

This initiative was made possible through the dedication and teamwork of many individuals and organisations. Rotarians PDG Gianna Doubell, Deradie Lombard, Sandra Vye, Jeanne Lombard, Rob Godlonton, Melvyn Levitan, Vernon Naidoo and President Deidre Burger were instrumental in facilitating the donation and distribution, with Dane Doubell managing the process.

Special thanks go to President Friedhelm Averdunk and Saraswathi Pather of the Port Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West, whose support helped ensure the project's success.



Constantia President Peter Rogers and Siyazakha Primary School Principal Nomalizo Memani cut the ribbon.



MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport Ricardo Mackenzie addresses the audience.

Dream Big... Aim High

Brown's Farm in Philippi, often seen as a disadvantaged and challenging area, had a reason to celebrate recently. Siyazakha Primary School, home to 1,400 learners who previously lacked any sporting facilities, witnessed the official handover of a brand-new multi-purpose sports field.

The project, spearheaded by members of the Rotary Club of Constantia (D9350), was funded by a generous family trust and designed and built by sub-contractors under the direction of a skilled Rotary project team.

Dignitaries from the provincial government, the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Education Department, school principals and Rotary were in attendance to witness the transformation. Visitors were greeted with a vibrant showcase of the new facilities in action and the Provincial Minister of Sport was ceremonially marched in by a lively contingent of young majorettes. The school choir, dancers

and a praise singer added to the festivities with captivating performances between speeches.

Rotary Club of Constantia President Peter Rogers and Siyazakha Primary School Principal Nomalizo Memani cut the ribbon, marking the official opening of the facilities. Keynote speakers, including MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport Ricardo Mackenzie, City of Cape Town Deputy Mayor Alderman Eddie Andrews and District Governor Stephen Young, praised the club for this impactful legacy project. They highlighted how it would transform lives by teaching life skills, fostering leadership and creating opportunities for careers, travel and personal growth. Former Springbok Eddie Andrews inspired the children to dream big and aim high, regardless of their circumstances.

The newly inaugurated facilities are designed to accommodate up to five sporting activities simultaneously, including: an AstroTurf 7-a-side soccer field; an AstroTurf 8-lane 100m



Thanks to the Rotary Club of Constantia and its partners, school children in Philippi now have a brand-new multi-purpose sports field.

sprint track; cricket nets; a paved netball court; a long jump pit, high jump equipment and a bitumenised running circuit.

To ensure these facilities are used to their full potential, two full-time coaches, appointed

and supervised by Sporting Chance, have been employed to provide regular exercise and sports programmes for all learners.



A bird's eye view of the school and the land where the sports field was built.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Top and bottom:
Rotarians from District
9350 welcomed a new
club to their district.
The charter dinner
of the Rotary Club of
Malmesbury was held
at the Malmesbury
Golf Club. Left: At the
dinner are PDG Ann
Wright (Hermanus),
AG Frederik Jansen
(Melkbos) and DGE Pam
Rawbone (Belville).





Rotarians Jackie Young, DG Stephen Young, IPDG Ann Wright, Zone Director Daniel Tanase, DGE Pam Rawbone and PDG David Holtzhausen at the recent Zone Institute in Mauritius.

Tropical Zone Institute



PDGs Ify Ejezie (D9110, Nigeria), Jacques Venter (D9370) and Ann Wright (D9350) at the Institute in Mauritius.



The Rotaract Club of Kabale Community (D9214, Uganda) conducted a breast cancer awareness activity at St Ignatius University in Kabale, in partnership with Kabale Christian Care, a health facility providing chronic care services. The session focused on educating participants about breast cancer, covering topics such as its definition, risk factors, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, complications and breast self-awareness, including how to perform self-examinations. The students and the wider St Ignatius University community expressed their appreciation for the club's efforts to raise awareness and educate them about breast cancer. The university secretary, a breast cancer survivor, shared her inspiring story. After undergoing a mastectomy due to breast cancer, she is now living a cancer-free life. Her journey serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of awareness and early detection.





Members of the Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400) acted as parking marshals at a Chamberlain Capital Classic marathon held at Pretoria Boys' High Old Boys. This entailed being at the grounds at 3 am to mark out parking lanes and usher in the cars. The marshals put their best foot forward as they collected donations from the runners.



The Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) hosted a highly successful Race Day at the Classic Room, Greyville Racecourse, on 3 November 2024. This event was one of the club's many fundraising initiatives aimed at supporting community upliftment projects in Phoenix and the surrounding areas. The funds raised will support the club's bursary fund and convert a shipping container into a classroom for a school in Phoenix. The container, which was shipped from the United States, arrived filled with thousands of books, including fiction and textbooks. These books have since been distributed to 25 primary schools and 22 secondary schools across Phoenix, Verulam and Tongaat, further supporting the educational needs of the community. At the race day are Raysellan and Vasantha Naidoo.



To raise awareness of polio among young people, the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) tasked the Grade 9 pupils of Appel Combined School with researching polio for a presentation to the school on World Polio Day. The learners were given guidelines for their research and pointers for suitable sites to examine. On World Polio Day, the four teams presented their research at a school assembly. At the end of the presentation, every pupil was given an End Polio Now ribbon and then given a party pack with goodies, a juice box and a packet of popcorn.





Colin Thornton, Glynn Harboth, Jean Harboth, Nicky Nicolson, Charlie Panday, Suren Singh and Colin Hall with a shipping container full of bicycles to be distributed in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands by the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick (D9370). The donation is part of an ongoing project by the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370), which has brought thousands of bicycles into South Africa for people in need. The bicycles provide a more cost-effective form of transport, reducing the need for expensive public transport to commute to work. It also supports economic development by training bicycle mechanics and donating empty shipping containers to entrepreneurial projects. The delivery and customs clearance were arranged by Charlie Panday of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) and Charpan Cargo.

Nicky Nicolson and Charlie Panday (Charpan Cargo) unpacking the container.





South African WBO world boxing champion Thulani “Tulz” Mbenge and Dewald Mostert of the Legacy Boxing Foundation collected a donation of 1,111 spectacles in the United Kingdom and delivered them to South Africa. The donation was arranged through the Intercountry Committee partnership between Rotary District 9400 and Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland. A team of Rotarians, friends, family members and NGOs worked behind the scenes to facilitate the donation. The spectacles were graded by South African optometrists and sent to the Rotary Family Health Days launch site at Impala Mines in Rustenburg on 15 November. At the site, optometrists screened individuals, including miners and children and issued spectacles to those in need. Arriving in Johannesburg with the donation are Sean Smith, Thulani Mbenge, Dewald Mostert and Laney Palmer.



Members of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370), in partnership with the Widows’ Sons, collected 25 Santa Shoeboxes for donation to people this festive season. With the boxes are Grant Lötter, Elvee Lötter, President Vicki Harrison, Petru Koch of Santa Shoebox, Jill Lombard and Ian Buchanan, who is a member of both the club and Widows’ Sons.



The Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400), together with the University of South Africa's College of Law, presented a number of conflict resolution workshops to NPOs in Pretoria. The communities indicated the types of problems they faced – which ranged from gender based violence, drug addictions, teenage pregnancy to unemployment – and the workshop programmes were tailored to address the specific problems. The objective of this programme is to provide participants with the tools to deal with conflict in their communities or daily lives.



Many senior citizens in communities are significantly affected by loneliness, depression and anxiety. Addressing this concern, the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) held a successful Mental Health Awareness Day in October at the Bethsaida Ministries International Full Gospel Church in Phoenix. The event aimed to educate the elderly about self-care techniques and raise awareness of how to prevent mental health challenges. One hundred and fifty elderly guests gathered at the church hall, where they were welcomed with a sumptuous breakfast and pampered with manicures, hand massages and medical checks by staff from the Mondia Mental Wellness Hospital. Professionals, including Psychiatrist Dr Lynette Moodley, Psychologist Lisha Bhadree and Social Worker Julie Gopal, addressed attendees during the formal programme, sharing practical tips for living an active and anxiety-free life. Guests left with goody bags, lucky prizes and valuable insights into managing their mental well-being.

From attending the charter of a new club, to motor shows, youth evenings and polio awareness events, the members of the Rotary Club of Bellville (D9350) have been kept busy recently.



The Rotary Club of Bellville (D9350) hosted a youth evening with members of the Interact Clubs of Settlers High School and Kasselsvlei Comprehensive High School. The Rotarians also welcomed exchange student Hugo Barbieux.



A number of Bellville Rotarians joined the festivities and celebrated the charter of the Rotary Club of Malmesbury (D9350).



The club joined the Rotary Club of Riebeeck Valley for its Motor Show, helping with marshalling duties and admiring the impressive vehicles on display. It was a fun day out with great company! At the motor show are Rotarians Ana Maria Florentino, JP Venter and Kirsten Nell.

WALL OF HONOUR



Boniswa Matana is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth (D9370).



Jamie Gantt is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



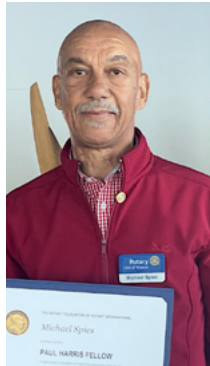
Simola du Plessis was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Ellen Letseka is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth (D9370).



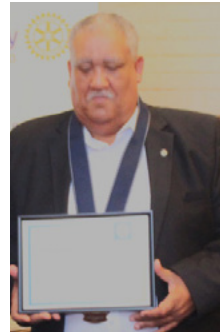
Gunda Kwint is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Michael Spies was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Riaan Odendaal is a new member of the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370).



Wessie van der Westhuizen is the charter president of the Rotary Club of Malmesbury (D9350).

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