

JUNE 2024

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Contents

- 4 Welcome
- 6 President's Message
- 8 Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
- 9 Happy accidents
- 11 Your planning experts
- 12 Superb Singapore!
- 19 Fynbos rescue
- 21 Partners in learning
- 22 Quality camp
- 23 Maude's 100
- 24 Safe facilities
- 26 Gift of hope
- 28 Buy to teach
- 30 Courting opportunity
- 31 Visionary outreach
- 32 Africa in Brief
- 36 Kyle's rocking service
- 37 Wall of honour



WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Last month, I spent some time exploring Lake Geneva in Switzerland, which led to some deep thinking about water.

One often hears the word “crystalline” when discussing water. I have seen exceptionally clean streams and rivers, but the meaning of crystalline only became truly apparent when I stood before the waters of Lake Geneva. With the Alps at my back and this incredible expanse of clear, beautiful water ahead of me, I was shamed by the state of water resources the world over.

Water is life-giving and life-sustaining. It is essential to our existence. This is not an issue that affects ‘someone else’. Water (scarcity, pollution and security) impacts every single human, animal and plant living on this planet. If we have water issues in one area, it undoubtedly will trickle (or pour) into neighbouring areas.

We should all be a little more worried. A little more proactive. I know for a fact that this is an issue we can make serious inroads

into rectifying. We may not solve it in my lifetime, but I am committed to doing all that I can.

So, how can we do this? Easy. To paraphrase something that Nick Jordan, the Founder and CEO of Wells of Life, Inc., said in a recent Zoom meeting: There is more than enough money in the world to fund this, just not the human will to do so. So we need to develop the will!

So, yes, we can create real change and progress - that which you can see, touch and taste! We need to direct more funding and resources into projects that create lasting change. We need to ensure that we support organisations that use water sustainably. We need to have more conversations about water. There is so much we need to do, but it all starts with one step and that step can create a ripple that crosses a lake and finds its way to a river leading to an ocean.

So now, the question remains, what will be my first step?

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Rotary



Rotary Africa Magazine

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Subscription rates from 1st July 2024

Printed 6-month subscription rate: R245 (postal addresses in South Africa) and **R300** (postal addresses outside South Africa)

6-MONTH DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (R135)

Rotary Africa magazine subscriptions are billed bi-annually in January and July of each year. **We do not have access to ClubRunner or My Rotary and rely on clubs for member updates.**

Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records. Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

DEADLINE

The cut-off date for membership updates for the July to December 2024 billing period is the 20th June 2024.

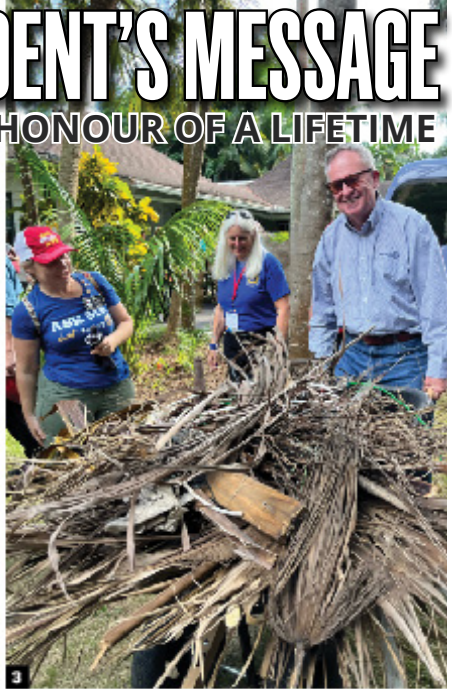
At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.

New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE HONOUR OF A LIFETIME



1. During a country visit to Mongolia, RI President Gordon McNally tries his hand at falconry, an ancient practice in the region. 2. McNally (second from left) and leaders of District 3450 give the thumbs up during preparations for the Macau Grand Prix in November. 3. While visiting Nassau, Bahamas, for a Rotary institute, McNally drops by an environmental project run by Rotary members. 4. McNally shares a moment with Kenyan Rotarian and Rotaractor Kennedy Gayah at the Rotary Institute in Lusaka, Zambia (D9210). 5. McNally and his wife, Heather, greet Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.

It's customary for a Rotary president during the final month in office to recap the past year on this page. I am proud of all we have achieved together. But I want to focus on our future and that begins with polio.

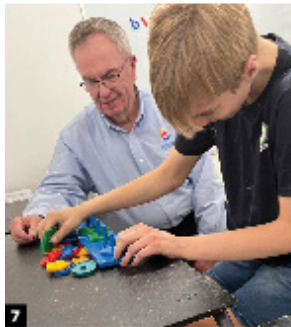
We have reached an astonishing 3 billion children with the polio vaccine and we have averted an estimated 20 million cases of paralysis. But it's not enough. We must continue supporting the End Polio Now campaign to reach zero cases and keep our promise to the world's children.

Polio is not our only global commitment. In fact, Rotary has been working toward global peace even longer. Spreading Positive Peace through service projects and Rotary Peace Centres around the world is more important than ever.

We must also continue to build peace from within and that begins with supporting mental health and wellness among our fellow Rotary members and the communities we serve. Rotary has an opportunity to help build a global mental health system that currently does not exist and I urge all members to consider joining the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives to keep up the momentum we began this year.

It's been the honour of a lifetime to serve as your president. You have given Heather and me memories we will cherish forever. I look forward to our continued friendship and our collective commitment to Create Hope in the World.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



6. The McNallys visit with Rotary leaders in Bhubaneswar, known as India's "temple city." 7. A student works on a puzzle with McNally at a school for young people with disabilities in South Africa that is supported by Rotary clubs. 8. McNally works on his forearm at a demonstration space for tennis players who use wheelchairs while in Rome for a Rotary institute. 9. During a tour of Africa, McNally presents Malawi's president, Lazarus Chakwera, with a quacha, a Scottish gift of friendship.

Keep dreaming big

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair



Every June, we in Rotary look back at our accomplishments and plan for what's next. For me, this month is the end of seven years in Rotary leadership that began as president-elect of RI.

It's remarkable how far we have come during that time and how much we've done through The Rotary Foundation. We wouldn't be where we are without your support and without dreaming big.

A few months back, I saw these big dreams when I visited a hospital in India where doctors perform 4,200 paediatric heart surgeries a year thanks to a global grant. I will never forget the hospital in Taiwan where ambulances funded by another Foundation grant have doubled the survival rate for heart patients. And these examples barely scratch the surface; your Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants during the 2022-23 Rotary year. Think about the scale of that work - the magnitude of our impact.

Our Programmes of Scale initiatives around the world are more proof of how big dreams are becoming reality. We have grant recipients working to end malaria in Zambia, reduce the mortality rate of mothers and infants in Nigeria and eliminate cervical cancer in Egypt. Soon, our fourth programme of scale will get started, dedicated to sustainable farming in

India.

Through your support, our dream of spreading peace is growing, with the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Centre set to welcome its first students at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul next year. And if we hadn't envisioned a better world and supported PolioPlus, would it have been possible that Nigeria would be declared polio-free, as it was in 2020?

This is why your support of the Foundation is so critical. We set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million this year. We are well on our way to reaching the goal and with the support of everyone reading this we'll make it. I'm especially counting on Rotary members who have not yet contributed. Whatever you give, know that your gift will make a difference, whether it's for polio eradication, literacy initiatives, peace education or any other area in which Rotary excels.

These seven years have been a fantastic time for me. I have met so many passionate leaders in Rotary, Rotaract, Interact and other members of our Rotary family. You have all inspired me with your drive and the big dreams you dare to dream.

All I can do is say thank you. I can't wait to see how far those Rotary dreams will take us in the years ahead.

Happy accidents

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation
Major Gifts Advisor



Ever wondered how some of your favourite foods came to be? Gifted chefs invent new recipes all the time, but you might be surprised to discover just how many popular foods were actually invented by happy accident. From chocolate chip cookies to potato chips, check out the list below to learn the fascinating stories behind some iconic foods.

Ruth Wakefield, the owner of Toll House Inn in Whitman, Massachusetts, accidentally created the iconic chocolate chip cookie in the 1930s. How did she do it? She added broken chocolate bar fragments into her cookie batter under the presumption they would melt in the oven. Her mistake is the world's gain, since these are now arguably the most popular and beloved cookie in the world.

An 11-year-old boy created popsicles. All the way back in 1905 in San Francisco, a boy named Frank Epperson mixed a sugary soda powder and left it sitting out overnight. It was so cold that it froze. In the morning, he tasted (and enjoyed) it and decided to call it an Epsicle. Fast forward to 1924 and he patented the frozen treat and changed the name, at the urging of his children, to Popsicle (a play on the phrase, Pop's 'Sicle').

One of the world's most popular snack foods was invented by accident in 1853.

George Crum, a chef at Moon's Lake House in New York, was working on the night a guest returned plate after plate of fries with the complaint that they were not crisp enough. Crum finally sliced the potatoes shockingly thin, fried them in hot oil, and topped them with salt before sending them back to the dining room. At the time, they were called Saratoga Chips, but today we simply call them the humble potato chip (or crisps for us in Africa).

People do only what they plan to do: travel, hobbies, even cooking a meal requires planning. Planning is the primary key to success in everything we do! Sometimes we are surprised by a new and unexpected treat. What we learn from all of these "accidental snacks" is that every single inventor was already "cooking" something. The result came from being in place and continuing to "cook".

It seems like just yesterday we were starting a new Rotary year filled with excitement about "Creating Hope in the World." The celebrations of the district conferences showed our victories – and challenges – of this past Rotary year. We look back at the goals and dreams of the past and prepare for the onward demonstration of the Magic of Rotary in 2024-2025.

What was your goal or resolution?

- Perfect club meeting attendance?

- More fellowship (or “swallowship” as they say at the Rotary Club of Kitwe)?
- Creating a project for a Global Grant?
- Maybe even a target for increased Rotary Foundation contributions?

Our (Sherry and my) first Rotary International Convention (RICON) was in Singapore in 1999. Getting off the plane we realised that we were among friends from not just four countries (as with district conference), but many countries from all six inhabited continents.

We met people at that convention who have become life-long friends! We have been able to share experiences (both positive and less-than-positive) that have enhanced our Rotary life in ways that I can hardly explain.

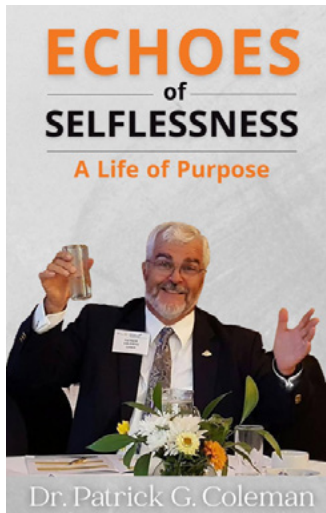
At one RICON we walked through the “House of Friendship” and saw projects from places we had never visited, giving us fresh ideas of what might work at home. One of them was a solar cooking project that was so simple it hardly seemed possible. It was a cardboard frame with aluminium foil covering one surface. The

frame folded so that the reflective sunlight became so effective that it brought water to just below boiling and cooked an entire meal without electricity, gas or charcoal. The Rotarian who introduced this project, Wilfred Pimental, was not an engineer... he was a retired veterinarian with a passion for renewable energy. He was so excited that a couple of Rotarians from Southern Africa showed interest in his project that he flew here and carried a few dozen solar cookers with him.

During these past weeks, we have experienced an incredibly busy month of May with district conferences and the Rotary International Convention in Singapore. Dozens of Rotarians in Africa have said, “One day I’ll attend a RICON.”

Well... make a plan! This is the chance to see the magic of Rotary by planning NOW to make arrangements for RICON Calgary. Start saving weekly, monthly or even daily. If you don’t plan to go, you will fail to go!

Meanwhile, take the rest of this month and strive to make the goals of 2023-24 a reality!



ECHOES
of
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A Life of Purpose

Dr. Patrick G. Coleman

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YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS



SIMONA PINTON
Italy, District 2060

CADRE TITLE:

Cadre Adviser and former Technical Coordinator for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention; Past Regional Organizer for Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

OCCUPATION:

Lawyer and senior research fellow, international criminal law and human rights



**WHAT ARE
ROTARY
MEMBERS
SAYING
ABOUT
SIMONA?**

"Thanks to Simona Pinton's contribution, we were able to focus well on the area of intervention. Through her preliminary analysis, we understood that our project had the requirements of interest and novelty regarding a very sensitive topic in Italy and the world. Her support helped us to carefully evaluate the cooperating associations and pay attention to the evaluation of the social context on which the project operates and collect data for measuring the results."

— PRIMA (prevenzione intervento maltrattamento) global grant project committee members from the Rotary Clubs of Roma Cassia, District 2080 (Italy), and Tunis Méditerranée, District 9010 (Tunisia)

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers is a network of hundreds of Rotary members who are experts from around the globe. These advisers use their professional skills and technical expertise to enhance Rotary members' grant projects in our areas of focus.

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There are hundreds of experts standing by to help you plan or enhance your Rotary project!



Positive peace, community economic development, supporting health and wellness were dominant themes at the 2024 Rotary Convention. The opening session highlighted how Rotary members create long-lasting change with incredible impact. Above: The He Xin Lion & Dragon Arts Troupe performs at the opening general session of the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

Superb Singapore

The 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore began with a sweeping global vision. International humanitarian Graça Machel and Rotary International President Gordon McNally called on people to take action to make the world more equitable and more peaceful.

Machel is renowned for her work on behalf of women and children, the Mozambican humanitarian urged convention attendees to work for equality for women and equal access to education for girls.

“Why is it we still have millions and

millions of children out of school? Why have we [not] recognised that it’s their fundamental right?” asked Machel, former first lady of both Mozambique and South Africa and current deputy chair of The Elders. “The question now is, are we all prepared to take the challenge and say to ourselves, ‘We have to eradicate illiteracy, particularly for girls?’”

McNally called on the convention participants to promote peace through their work with Rotary.

“We are an example of what a better world could be: one where people find

common ground across their divides and common purpose in elevating humanity,” McNally said. “Through our service projects, our humanitarian efforts and our systematic approach to peace building and conflict resolution, we can be catalysts for positive change in the world.”

McNally also spoke about his commitment to improving mental health and well-being around the world, a key initiative of his presidential term.

“We can fight the stigma against reaching out for help,” he said. “We can make a difference for the people we serve by investing in the tools, people, institutions and systems that will ensure access to quality, affordable care.”



Before the convention, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRag) held the World Water Summit 16. Experts and leaders from around the world addressed the summit, including Jack Sim (right), founder and director of the World Toilet Organisation. Discussions and presentations delved into issues surrounding not just water and hygiene, but also took a serious look at sustainable projects in treating and recycling human waste. With Sim are Kelvin Ng and Val Post.



Humanitarian Graça Machel, co-founder of the global leadership group The Elders, being interviewed by CNN correspondent Manisha Tank at the opening general session at the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore.



During his address to the convention attendees John Hewko shared five ways Rotary members can revolutionise Rotary.

1. Make your club brand new: think of ways to address your club's challenges
2. Embrace new club models
3. Focus on achieving more by doing less: focus your resources on well-planned projects based on community assessments
4. Look for and find allies everywhere
5. Embrace new technologies

"When it comes to growing our membership, we can't wait around for someone to provide us with a magical solution. Each of us needs to take the initiative. Because we all have the potential to address this issue, we have the potential to be an organisation that constantly evolves to reflect a changing world. How can you evolve your club or projects?"





Bringing their own island style to Singapore are PDG Dinesh Gajeelee (third from right) and his fellow Rotary members from Mauritius, District 9220.



PDG Carl-Heinz Duisberg (D9350) with Past RI Director Yinka Babalola.



President Rex Omameh of the Rotary Club of Blouberg (D9350) filming a discussion near the RFHA booth.

Barry Rassin, chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees, announces the winner of the US\$2 million Programmes of Scale grant will support members' work with Indian farmers who have been affected by climate change.

The programme, Partners for Water Access and Better Harvests in India, will aim to increase groundwater tables, extend cultivation areas and raise the incomes of about 60,000 farmers by 25% to 30%. Partners for Water Access and

Better Harvests in India will build rainwater collection systems such as check dams and ponds to increase groundwater tables by 10% to 15% each year in four states. It will also work to reduce soil erosion on about 4,100 hectares (more than 10,000 acres) of land by introducing drip irrigation and planting native species and fruit trees.

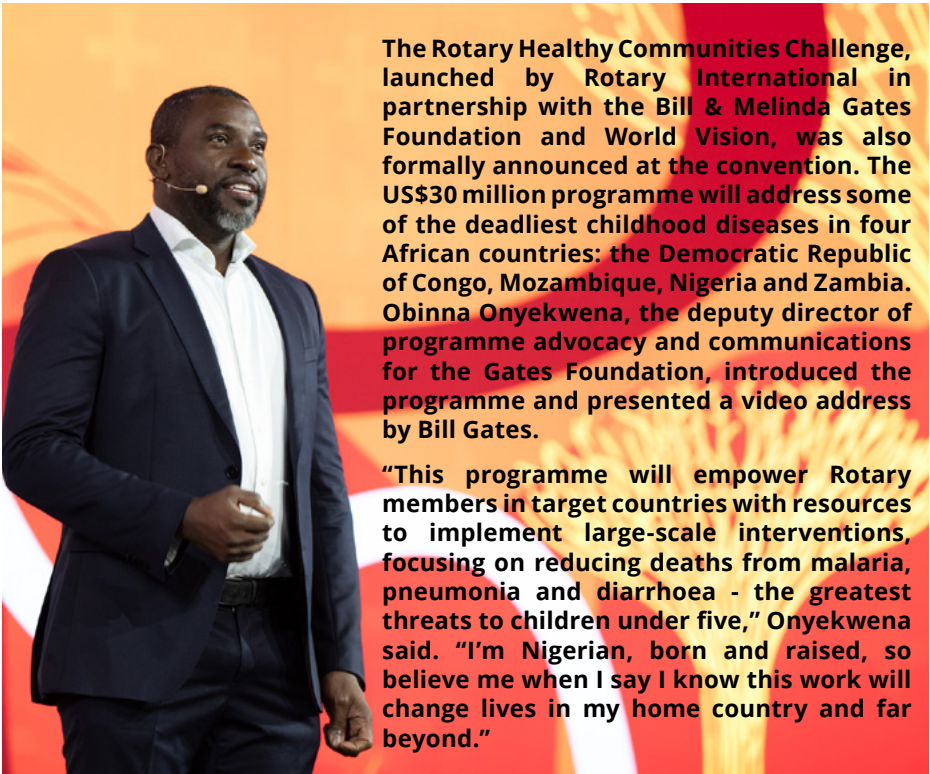


Above: An attendee is sketched by a HOC volunteer. Right: Emily O'Ryan of the Rotary Club of Blouberg at the Rotary E-Club of Baobab (D9400) Head to Heart project booth.





Youth Exchange was well represented at the convention.





Angela Semukutu, Victor Bibagambe and Angela Gichuki manning the Districts 9213 and 9214 booth.



As the 2024 convention ended, people began thinking about when the global Rotary community would gather again to share experiences, get ideas and connect with friends. Calgary is home to people of more than 240 ethnicities who speak 165 languages. It is mere moments away from the stunning Rocky Mountains and within driving distance of Calgary. You can find not one, but six UNESCO sites, including Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which Rotarians helped establish.



Clockwise from left: PDG June Webber tries her hand at alien vegetation clearing. At the launch are DG Ann Wright, President Mymoena Ismail (Waterfront), Maya Naumann (Sugarbird Project) and Lisa-Ann Hosking, Chief Destination Officer, Cape Tourism. Sugarbird Project Trustee Maya Naumann with Project Manager Glen Mabekha and the teams from Devil's Peak and Table Mountain.

FYNBOS RESCUE

The Cape Floral Kingdom is the smallest and richest of the world's floral kingdoms and is renowned for its unique biodiversity. Located at the southern tip of South Africa, it encompasses an area of just 90,000 square kilometres and boasts over 9,000 plant species, two-thirds of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

This remarkable biodiversity has earned it a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. The region's unique vegetation, primarily composed of fynbos, plays a critical role in sustaining local ecosystems and supporting a variety of wildlife.

The Cape Floral Kingdom's exceptional

plant diversity not only enhances its ecological value but also contributes to its aesthetic and economic importance, drawing researchers, conservationists and tourists from around the globe. However, it is under severe threat from invasive alien plants (IAPs), climate change, urbanisation and agricultural expansion.

Particularly alarming is the proliferation of invasive species as they spread faster than authorities can manage and out compete native fynbos for resources. This has caused a serious decline in biodiversity and significant habitat loss. Targeted conservation interventions are needed to overcome these threats and ensure the

long-term survival of fynbos.

The Rotary Club of Waterfront (D9350) has joined the battle to protect the Cape Floral Kingdom with the implementation of a global grant to fund the removal of these invasive species, ensuring the survival of the native fynbos on Devil's Peak. Undertaken in collaboration with the Rotary Club of St Catharines (D7090) and the Sugarbird Project, this is the first environmental global grant in District 9350.

Ralph Roseman's commitment and leadership were instrumental in securing this grant. Ralph is a passionate environmentalist and member of the Waterfront club, who dedicates countless weekends to volunteer with various alien clearing teams.

Partnerships between Rotary clubs, public benefit organisations like the Sugarbird Project and SANParks are crucial for the success of such initiatives. These collaborations bring together resources, expertise and volunteers, creating a

sustainable model for environmental preservation.

The Sugarbird Project plays a vital role in this endeavour by training and managing the small teams of 'invasive alien plant warriors.' The teams are skilled to identify and remove invasive species, contributing significantly to the conservation efforts on Table Mountain National Park. The project relies on volunteer support for oversight, administration and fundraising, highlighting the community's collective effort in safeguarding their natural heritage.

On Friday 26 April, coinciding with Rotary's Environmental Month, the project was officially launched atop Devils Peak. The event saw a gathering of district leadership, Rotary club members, Sugarbird Project trustees, alien vegetation clearing team members and numerous other volunteers dedicated to preserving this natural heritage. The City of Cape Town was represented at the event by Lisa-Ann Hosking.



Fynbos is not a single plant like the protea. It belongs to a diverse group of plant families. While it is often associated with three main families – proteas, restios, and ericas – each plant within these families has a unique shape and form.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING



Through international collaboration and local engagement, the Books for Lesotho (B4L) project and District 9370 Rotary clubs in Lesotho are advancing educational initiatives across the region. This initiative is significantly fostering literacy and providing resources to schools throughout the Kingdom in the Sky.

During a recent visit to Lesotho, B4L founders Liz and David Linn marked their 16th visit, celebrating the project's profound impact. The trip, dubbed a 'farewell tour', underscored the deep-rooted connections and commitments between B4L and its local partners, including the Rotary Club of Maloti-Maseru and the Rotary Club of Mantsopa-Maseru.

A key event was a combined reception at the Transformation Resource Centre, a major B4L partner. This event highlighted the successful collaboration and allowed local students to showcase their literary progress through poetry recitations and speeches.

Further enriching the educational landscape, B4L's engagement with the Rotary Club of Maloti-Maseru included a significant donation event. David Linn presented T-shirts for needy children, while Liz Linn presented a book of images from Australia, symbolising cultural exchange.

In a new development, the Rotary Club of Mantsopa-Maseru held its first face-to-face meeting with B4L representatives. This foundational step aimed to strengthen their partnership and discuss future collaborations to support educational initiatives in Lesotho.

These activities underscore the crucial role Rotary clubs in Lesotho play in supporting educational projects. By facilitating connections, providing resources, and fostering community engagement, these clubs are pivotal in advancing literacy and educational outcomes in one of the most picturesque yet challenged regions of Africa.



Children enjoying arts and crafts activities and team-building exercises at Camp Quality.

QUALITY CAMP

The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) has once again demonstrated its commitment to making a positive impact. Recently, they enriched the lives of eight learners from Siloe School for the Blind by fully funding their trip to Camp Quality in White River. Initiated by the Rotary Club of Nelspruit in 1987, Camp Quality provides a haven for children aged 8 to 13 who face challenges such as cancer, serious illnesses, disabilities or come from marginalised backgrounds.

Camp Quality offers these children a chance to engage in activities and adventures they may have never imagined. Accompanied by Rotarians Conny Koma and Nkeke Lesolang, the learners experienced a weekend filled with exhilarating activities.

From flights in light aircraft and helicopter rides to close encounters with

elephants, the children were immersed in a world of wonder and excitement. Motorcycle rides added an extra thrill, allowing them to feel the wind in their hair and the joy of freedom.

Arts and crafts activities allowed the children to unleash their creativity, while movies provided moments of laughter and entertainment. And what's a weekend without delicious treats? Pizza and ice cream added to the delight, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

For these learners from Siloe School for the Blind, the trip to Camp Quality was more than just a getaway; it was a transformative experience. It gave them new possibilities and opportunities to consider, reminding them that despite their challenges, they are capable of achieving greatness and experiencing joy.



Rosebank Rotary Anns Debby Steenhoff and Liz Short with the centennial birthday girl, Maude Londal.

MAUDE'S 100

Maude Londal (nee Hundley) was born in Durban on 8 March 1924. She attended Penzance Primary School and Durban Girls High School, before embarking on a career at Barclays Bank. It was there she met Norman Londal, with whom she would share a lifelong partnership after their marriage on 6 March, 1948. The happy couple raised a family of four - two sons and two daughters. Today, Maude has nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

After raising her family, Maude returned to the

workforce, initially in retail before moving on to the finance sector, where she remained until retirement. In 1992, she moved to Johannesburg and was introduced to the Anns of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) by a friend, Vivvie Craig. Maude actively participated in the club and among her notable contributions were crafting, selling steering wheel covers and preparing comfort bags for victims of rape and abuse. These bags were packed with essential items and distributed by various organisations to give to those in need. Other projects she greatly enjoyed included fashion shows and district teas.

Maude's commitment to the Rosebank Anns continued unabated until 2020 when at the age of 96, she attended her final meeting. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to Zoom meetings allowed her to retire gracefully, closing a significant chapter of her Rotary life.

On 8 March 2024, Maude celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by 40 members of her immediate family at her granddaughter's home. Her continued good health allows her to enjoy the simple pleasures of her garden and the birds which visit.



Cutting the ribbon are DG Riana Pretorius and Rotary International Representative and Past District Governor Abdul Hamid El Awa from Egypt.

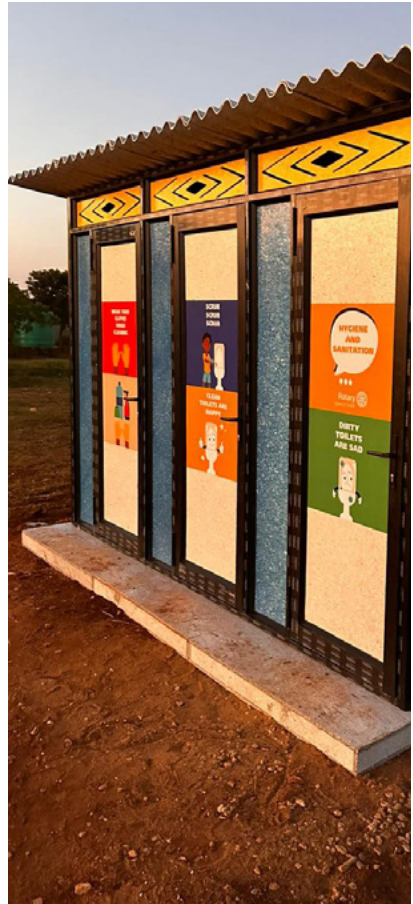
Safe facilities

In a remarkable stride towards improving sanitation in South African schools, Rotary District 9400, under the leadership of District Governor Riana Pretorius, has launched an ambitious project to eradicate unhealthy and dangerous pit latrines. This initiative, a significant milestone for the district that includes Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and the northern provinces of South Africa - Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West and Limpopo - aims to install modern, dignified toilet facilities in schools by the end of 2024. The project is backed by a coalition of organisations, including Sacta, Sesego Foundation, the Rotary E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400), the Rotary Club of Pretoria Capital (D9400), the Rotary Club of Charlottetown (D7815, Canada) and The Rotary Foundation.

It officially kicked off at Shayindlovu Primary School in Mbuzini, near

Komatipoort, marking a historic moment for the community. "This is a project of Rotary District 9400, through which we want to eradicate at least 120 pit latrines at schools as Rotary turns 120 in 2025," said Pretorius at the launch event. Driven by the urgent need to prevent further tragedies and improve living conditions for students, Pretorius' initiative comes after hearing heart-breaking stories of children drowning in pit latrines and the lack of proper ablution facilities. The concept document outlines the broader vision, which aims to eliminate pit latrines in approximately 5,000 schools across South Africa.

The new toilets, constructed by Infinite Industries using recycled plastic, are designed to operate without water, addressing the lack of running water in many schools. Twenty-one toilets have been installed at Shayindlovu - nine for boys and



twelve for girls. Each unit includes a wash basin, promoting hygiene among students.

“These toilets will give dignity to children and will prevent diseases. Children will be educated in hygiene,” said Pretorius. To ensure the project’s sustainability, a Rotary Community Corps is being chartered at the school and will be responsible for liaising with Infinite Industries in respect of maintenance.

The swift installation process highlights the project’s efficiency, with each three-toilet unit taking only three days to set up. These new facilities feature Urine

Diversion Dry Toilet (UDDT) technology, a sustainable solution used in Sweden for over two decades.

The system includes a micro flush function for urine and a container that processes faeces into a soil conditioner using solar-driven or electrical technology, ensuring that waste is managed efficiently and environmentally.

With an approximate cost of R 125,000 per unit, which includes the structure, plumbing and installation, the initiative represents a significant investment in the future of South Africa’s youth.



Rotaract President Emmanuel Buyonde and Rotarian Minenhle Majola give a Tutu Desk to the nursery caregiver.

GIFT OF HOPE

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400) has been making a significant impact through its collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Johannesburg. Recent endeavours undertaken by the club have made a massive impact in the lives of many.

In the village of Nyavini, the Rotaract club has taken on the commendable task of renovating

a nursery school, providing educational materials and supplying mattresses for the children. This effort not only enhances the learning environment but also shows the dedication of young Rotaractors to creating positive change within communities.

The success of this project lies in its leadership by Rotaract president Emmanuel Buyonde, Rotary Club of Johannesburg president-elect Minenhle Majola and Rotaractor Renaldy Beyeme. Their hard work exemplifies the spirit of Rotary and Rotaract, where young people come together to create meaningful impact. The children of Nyavini will undoubtedly benefit from these efforts for years to come, fostering an environment where they can thrive and learn.

A BEACON OF HOPE

In February, the Rotary Community Corps (RCC) of Thembisa, in collaboration with Ga Rona, launched a basic mental health counselling training initiative for community mental health counsellors. This fantastic programme underscores the importance of mental health awareness and support in the community.

By providing basic counselling training, the RCC is not only raising awareness about mental health but also establishing a robust support system for those in need. The involvement of lay counsellors and social workers demonstrates the RCC's commitment to holistic community support. This



The Director of Ga Rona Community Centre Aaron Segotla and the mental health awareness counselling trainees.

initiative marks an important step towards transforming Thembisa into a therapeutic township, offering vital mental health services to its residents.

The efforts of the RCC and Ga Rona are commendable and their dedication to building a healthier, more supportive

community is evident. Congratulations to everyone involved in this initiative and for the successful launch of the community counselling services. This programme is a significant step towards creating a more resilient and supportive community in Thembisa.



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With the children are Ntsako Mabunda, Ntsako's mother, President Silence Makhubele and the SGB chairperson.

BUY TO TEACH

The Rotary Club of Giyani (D9400) celebrated its highlights of 2023 during the visit by DG Riana Pretorius. During the visit, they viewed two projects that reflect the club's partnership with the community in local economic development.

One project involved helping a student, Tshembekile Mabunda (12), who had won a national Spelling Bee and was chosen to represent her province and school at an intercontinental event in Dubai in October 2023. The story started when her mother, Ntsako Mabunda, saw an advert for the competition on social media and entered Tshembekile. After winning the local rounds, she was selected to compete internationally. There was a real possibility that she would not attend, as her parents might not have been able to finance the trip.

Her parents, school and community rallied behind her. Since the school did not have funds to assist, Principal Angel Machaba of Vurhonga Primary School helped the family try to source sponsors, writing letters to everyone, from the Department of Education to the local municipality. During this time, Ntsako Mabunda participated in some club meetings as a friend of the Rotary club.

Sadly, they did not raise enough funds, but Tshembekile's determined mother, Ntsako Mabunda, made another plan to raise the airfare. She published a book, *Lazy Mister Sloth* and together with her daughter, launched the Buy 6, Teach 6 campaign. This campaign served two purposes: it was a fundraiser for Tshembekile's trip and it allowed for six children at a school of the

purchaser's choice to own their very first reading book. Then visa problems struck and they missed their flight but were told that for a penalty fee of just over R10,000 the airline would keep the booking active. It looked like Tshembekile would not compete in Dubai and instead, would soon be boarding a bus for the long trip home. However, her heartbroken and tearful mother was not yet ready to quit - she had one more idea and was determined to make it work.

When she launched her book, Ntsako had sent a proposal to the embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Pretoria, asking it to support the Buy 6, Teach 6 literacy programme and Tshembekile's trip to Dubai by buying her new book in bulk and distributing it to schools. The embassy had pledged to donate R10,000 towards the programme. However, the funds had not yet been deposited. She made a phone call and explained the situation. The embassy responded very quickly and asked her to go and collect the cash. When she said there

was not enough time to get to the embassy, the money was immediately deposited into her account... and they were off!

The competition was more difficult than anticipated and in spite of an unexpected twist, where contestants were first shown the definition, had to identify the word and then spell it. Tshembekile was named first runner-up in the Grades 5 to 7 category.

After returning from Dubai, Ntsako joined a Rotary Club of Giyani meeting at Giyani Oasis Lodge where she presented the trophies won by Tshembekile. The club had purchased a number of copies of *Lazy Mister Sloth* which were later donated to Dzumeri Primary School, the school which Ntsako attended as a child.

At the formal presentation of the books, the club was represented by President Silence Makhubele and Secretary Max Sithole. During the event, Principal Ms Hlungwani thanked Ntsako for choosing their school and said that the books will sow the seeds of a love for literature.



District Governor Riana Pretorius (front, second from left) with members of the Rotary Club of Giyani.



COURTING OPPORTUNITY

The Rotary Club of Uitenhage (D9370) recently showcased its commitment to fostering youth development and community spirit by sponsoring a special netball tournament aimed at schools lacking the necessary resources for such events. This tournament was designed to provide children with the opportunity to compete, while also teaching valuable lessons about community, safety, sportsmanship and fun.

The tournament prioritised participation over winning, giving players a chance to display their abilities and build camaraderie with their teammates. By focusing on teamwork, the event helped children learn to work towards shared goals, boosting their motivation to succeed in other areas of life, including additional sports, hobbies and schoolwork. The experience of losing was also framed positively, teaching resilience and the importance of handling setbacks with dignity and perspective.

Rotarians played a key role in demonstrating and encouraging proper behaviour, using the tournament as a platform to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. This approach ensured that all players had fun, regardless of the outcome,

and highlighted the importance of leading by example.

Participation in competitive sports is crucial for children's development, fostering good habits, a healthy lifestyle and discipline. The joy of competition, coupled with learning important life lessons, helps shape young athletes into mature and responsible individuals.

In support of the 10 participating schools, the Rotary Club of Uitenhage provided:

- A R600 donation for the development of U11 netball at each school.
- Floating trophies for the winning school, runner-up school, and the school with the best team spirit and sportsmanship.
- An additional R600 for the school that received the Spirit Trophy to further develop U11 netball.
- A medal and certificate for the netball player of the day.
- Transport for schools in need.
- Free lunch, a cool drink, a certificate of participation and a drawstring backpack for each player attending the tournament.



Visionary outreach

The Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370) held its latest Kenton Sees eye screening day in April, continuing its commitment to improving eye health in the community. This event, crucial for many, was made possible through the collaboration with Graham Critch Optometrists from Kenton on Sea and Dr Davies Optometrists from Grahamstown.

The Kenton on Sea club manages the project administration, organises the venue, and facilitates the optometrists' work and patient registration. They also handle follow-up appointments and operations, transporting and accompanying patients to Grahamstown. The club works closely with the local clinic to facilitate visits to the Provincial Hospital in Port Elizabeth and to source additional medications.

In total, eighty-three patients were screened, with only three not requiring any care. Unfortunately, sixty patients could not be attended to and are now on a waiting list. Twenty-one people will be taken to Davies Optometrists in Grahamstown for further investigation, and eighteen of these patients will be scheduled for cataract operations at

Settlers Hospital in Grahamstown as soon as space is available.

Additionally, sixty-five pairs of spectacles have been prescribed and will be sourced and delivered to the relevant individuals within two to three months.

Starting in June 2024, the format of the outreach will change. Graham Critch has agreed to screen ten patients per month, for eleven months of the year. This change aims to spread the load more evenly and provide a smoother service, ensuring that those in most need are not overlooked. The club is fully booked from June to December 2024, with appointments for February 2025 to be taken once December bookings are completed.

This eye screening initiative is one of the most necessary and rewarding projects facilitated by the Kenton on Sea club. The joy of an elderly cataract patient, the day after their operation, looking up and saying, "Oh, I can see you now!" is unparalleled.

The first family day for this outreach was held in 2012, established by Barbara Matthews and Dr Davies from Grahamstown.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Rotary clubs from across Limpopo recently gathered for a memorable day filled with camaraderie, culinary delights and friendly competition at the Potjie Competition organised by the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400). The event not only highlighted the participants' culinary skills but also served as a platform to strengthen the bonds of friendship among Rotarians. The Rotary Club of Polokwane emerged as the champions of the competition, showcasing their culinary prowess and teamwork. Led by Rotarian Denzil Antonio, the winning team included Rotarian Pethambaram Francis, Rotarian Geshim Francis, Rotarian Vinesh Devchand and their families. Their dedication and skill in crafting the perfect dish earned them well-deserved recognition and applause from fellow participants. Events like the Potjie Competition not only foster camaraderie among Rotarians but also serve as a reminder of the impact that collective action can have in creating positive change within communities. By coming together in fellowship and service, clubs in Limpopo continue to make a difference and inspire others to join them in their mission of making the world a better place.

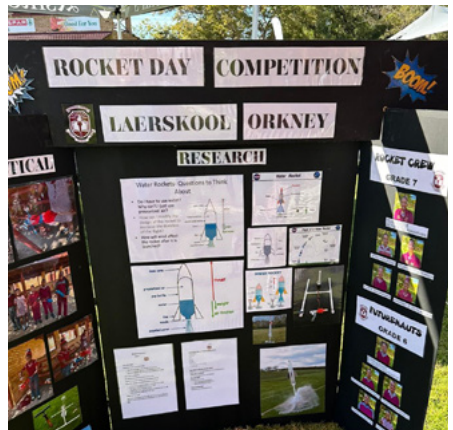


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The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp's (D9370) annual Rocket Day truly took off with a blast this year, offering a fun-filled outdoor experience for both kids and adults. This exciting event brought families together to enjoy the thrill of launching rockets made from everyday materials. The Klerksdorp club's Rocket Day is more than just an event; it's an opportunity to inspire curiosity and foster a love for science and exploration by engaging families in such exciting activities.





The Paarl town hall was buzzing with excitement as 400 senior citizens gathered for the annual variety concert organised by the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350). Launched over 30 years ago by Rotarian Kaufie Kaufman, this concert has become a cherished tradition, bringing joy and nostalgia to the community. The artists performed songs that transported the audience back to their favourite memories, with many seniors enthusiastically singing and dancing along to the tunes. The event featured a vibrant mix of marimba players, singers and musicians, all of whom offered their services free of charge. The Rotary Club of Paarl not only organised the entertainment but also provided transport and refreshments for the attendees, ensuring a delightful and comfortable experience for everyone.





The Rotary Club Of Durban (D9370) held a fun quiz evening. The winners won a packet of Smarties and a cap. This event is one of the many that is raising funds for the club's centennial celebration in January 2025. Right: At the quiz evening are President Rydal Spavins, Lauraine Lafferty, Jimmy Lee, John Johnston-Webber and Derek Hucklesby.



A Mad Hatters Tea Party was held by the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370). At the party a competition was held for the Largest, Smallest and Funkiest Hat. The winners were Dulcie Harris, Val Hardy and Nici Esterhuizen.



Vice President Noelene Jorgensen, President Antoinette Esterhuyse, Rotarian Mandy Volschenk and Kyle.

Kyle's rocking service

In the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, there exists a compassionate and kind-hearted young man called Kyle Pienaar, who has been involved in serving the underprivileged since the age of seven. His aunt, Mandy Volschenk, is a member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370), and Kyle, aged 12, has participated in many of the club's projects as well as those initiated by himself.

Kyle is proficient in assembling parcels and gifts for the underprivileged and is well-versed in building hamburgers and the perfect hot dog for the club's various missions. He never shies away from confronting the sad reality of poverty and

the emotional pain suffered by destitute individuals, challenges that even some adults find very difficult to handle.

Furthermore, Kyle assists with matters concerning two of the several safe houses in their community. His compassion is not confined to assisting with Rotary club projects but also extends to other community initiatives. Last year, his school implemented the Love Sandwich initiative and Kyle made 140 school lunch sandwiches for underprivileged children.

So it is no surprise, that the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South recently recognised Kyle's commitment with a Community Service Award.

WALL OF HONOUR



Margaret Stafford is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Jeff Stafford is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Sanet Aldrich is a new member of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370).



Mea-Mari Aldrich is a new member of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370).



The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) has welcomed six new members. Alice de Jager, Sandy du Toit, Thabiso Mthabela, Semende Munguambe, Allen Doyle, and Gontse Ndlovu. With them is President Adri Roos.



Patrick Klaassen is a new member of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350).



Darron Moore is a new member of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350).



Babes Gopichund and Selvie Ramsunker are new members of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370).



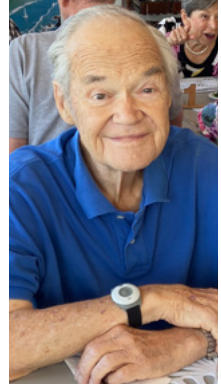
Lee-Ann Govender is a new member of the Rotary Club of the Cape of Good Hope (D9350).



Elwin Thompson was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Kali Khama is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Ian Uys was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



John Satchel was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



At the recent District 9400 Rotary Anns Conference, three Rotary Anns, Neha Motiram (White River), Margie Austin (Rosebank) and Julia du Plessis (Krugersdorp), were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows.

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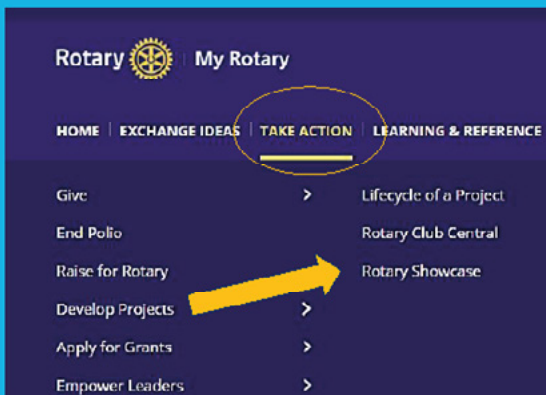
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