

MAY 2024

Rotary

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ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR



DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

Your year-end contribution to our Foundation's Annual Fund supports projects dedicated to making a positive, lasting change in communities around the world.

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

The International Convention is just weeks away and I am excited to be attending my first one. I can't wait to meet Africa's Rotarians in Singapore, so look out for me and my camera!

It's always inspiring to see our clubs tackle crucial community issues with dedication. Yet, what truly enriches these endeavours is when fun and laughter accompany hard work. A prime example of this is in a project undertaken by the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea. This is a club that excels at blending the seriousness of what they achieve, with fun and humour in a way that encapsulates the spirit of Rotary.

The club has a project in which it has 'dung' something quite extraordinary, generating significant revenue to fund its various activities and also creating employment for two people. This story brought an unexpected lightness to our workday, as we chuckled and dug deep to

add a few of our own punny edits.

This light-hearted approach is what Rotary is truly about - an experience where you find value, service and happiness. It's crucial to remember that the club environment we create impacts membership retention. It's not uncommon to hear members find the club atmosphere too serious, stressful or boring - that the joy that should be a part of our service is missing. Remember, there are many places where good deeds can be done, but what keeps people coming back to Rotary is the feeling of being valued and being actively engaged in a welcoming community.

You are welcome to share your stories and strategies on how you integrate fun into your service activities. Let's continue to spread this spirit of enjoyment and service.

Looking forward to hearing more about your fantastic projects and the fun ways you enhance the Rotary experience!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE FIRST GLIMMERS

I am deeply gratified by the enthusiasm shown across the world in the past year to better support the mental health needs of each other and the people we serve.

In January 2023 when I first spoke about the need for Rotary to become more engaged on this crisis, I noted that the global mental health system couldn't be described as broken only because it didn't exist. But I also offered a highly aspirational wish that Rotary could help build that system.

The first glimmers of this vision have been brought to light by you in dozens of mental health projects. But just as important is the invitation many of you have given to fellow Rotary members to share their stories. I am impressed by the leadership young Rotarians and Rotaractors have shown and by the brave, inspiring stories they have shared. Former Rotaractor Freddie Almazan, a survivor of gun violence who refused to give in to despair, has an especially powerful personal narrative that you can hear first-hand at this month's Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

To create lasting change, our work must

have a sustainable impact on the people and communities we serve. One great example of that kind of impact: Rotary clubs in Colorado endowing a paediatric mental health fellowship at Children's Hospital Colorado.

At the convention, you can also hear from 2024 People of Action honourees identified for the impact they and their clubs have made through mental health initiatives. Bindi Rajasegaran will talk about a Rotary-led project in Malaysia helping children develop skills to cope with mental health challenges and building capacity for support throughout the country. In addition, Rita Aggarwal, an officer of the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives, will be recognised for her success in applying the Wellness in a Box framework, a mental health literacy approach for adolescents, in her hometown of Nagpur, India. This highly scalable and clinically backed framework can be adapted for use just about anywhere - reach out to the action group if your club would like to support or implement it.

As we look ahead, the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives will play a critical leadership role in promoting proven, measurable projects. In doing so, it will empower clubs to focus on impactful initiatives that can be increased in size easily. I invite you to visit My Rotary's Learning Centre and see the Increase Your Impact series, which includes a wonderful short video explaining impact. When we focus on impact, we bring Rotary's vision to life, creating lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



Service at the centre

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair

There is something magical about Rotary. Even after all these years of being a member, I continue to be amazed by it. Take successful leaders from various backgrounds and professions and bring them together under a set of core values with service at the centre. Add networks and friendship and then watch the magic start happening.

It's you - Rotarians and Rotaractors - who make that magic happen. You are the business and community leaders and the entrepreneurs who bring your passions, skills and interests to everything we do. It's you who think outside of the box and apply what you know to serve others.

I see the same magic in Rotary Foundation grants that are funded by you and led by you. It's present in the partnership between Rotary clubs in Canada and Uganda that supports economic and community development vocational training at the same time. This global grant-funded initiative trains Ugandan youths in welding and related skills to make wheelchairs for a children's home serving people with disabilities. Technicians receive training in Canada and return home with valuable skills to start enterprises, helping meet the need for wheelchairs in the community.

Another global grant-supported project that reflects Rotary's entrepreneurial spirit is in Guatemala. To address the challenges of limited internet access

for rural schools, a host club in Guatemala partnered with Irish members to initiate a project that is equipping six schools and three community centres in the rural Sololá area with plug-and-play servers containing educational materials like books and videos. The grant also furnishes laptops and uninterruptible power supplies and trains teachers, benefiting about 1,800 individuals as it leverages technology for literacy and education.

Don't forget: Foundation global grants also support scholarships. One such scholarship, sponsored by Italian and German clubs, focuses on artificial intelligence in disease prevention and treatment. Italian scholar Salvatore Galati conducted research at a university in Bonn, Germany, using AI algorithms to analyse vast datasets for innovative drug development. Such computer-aided approaches can reduce costs and research time in the development of lifesaving drugs. It's fantastic to see us innovating and incorporating new approaches and technology into our Foundation grants.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore in a few short weeks, where we will learn about new opportunities to serve and innovate.

It will be a chance to celebrate that Rotary magic and the many ways we Create Hope in the World.



SHARE HOPE

IN SINGAPORE

The speakers list is packed with inspiration. Breakout sessions are primed to provide tools for your club and House of Friendship booths are set to spark connections.

The 2024 Rotary International Convention unfurls its pageantry this month against the backdrop of spectacular Singapore, whose beauty and cultures enrich the international business nerve centre.

Listen to Aidan O'Leary, polio eradication director at the World Health Organisation, discuss the work that is Rotary's legacy. Big-name speakers like O'Leary are one reason Chris Offer, a member of the Rotary Club of Ladner (D5040, Canada) goes to conventions year after year. "There are remarkable people onstage," he says. Other speakers include Rotary Peace Fellow Alexandra Rose, who helps communities heal through cultural practices and Jack Sim, who founded

the World Toilet Organisation to break sanitation taboos. Offer and his wife, Penny, also a Ladner club member, enjoy adding a vacation to convention trips and he relishes the exciting atmosphere as well as the chance to make a "heck of a lot of new friends."

You'll find friends and excitement at Singapore's GastroBeats, a food and music festival that opens exclusively for Rotary on Saturday, 25 May. Browse all of the signature events on the convention webpage. Mingle at the House of Friendship and choose from dozens of breakout sessions, including ones on how to grow membership and deepen your projects' impact.

You'll be Sharing Hope With the World and having fun 25-29 May. Did you notice the bagpipe rock band on the schedule? Don't miss the Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

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.



WHAT WE NEED TO TELL YOUNG PEOPLE

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

THE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN WHO NEVER GAVE UP HOPE ON HIS DREAMS

Born into a middle-class family, he endured significant struggles as a child due to his stuttering and was also teased and bullied at school for his appearance. His peers unkindly thought he resembled an alien; a reminder of how cruel children can be.

Rowan Atkinson was soon labelled “strange” and became a very shy, withdrawn child. With few friends, he immersed himself in science. One of his teachers remarked, “There was nothing outstanding about him. I did not expect him to be a brilliant scientist, but he has proved everyone wrong.”

While at Oxford University, he began to fall in love with acting but was initially hindered by his speech disorder. He completed his master’s degree in electrical engineering before making any

appearances in films or television shows.

After graduating, he decided to pursue his dream of acting, so he joined a comedy group. However, his stammering initially interfered again.

Rejected by numerous television shows, he felt devastated, but despite the rejections, he never lost faith in himself. He had a fervent passion for making people laugh and was confident in his ability to entertain.

He gradually focused more on his original comedy sketches and soon discovered that he could speak fluently when he was playing a character. This breakthrough allowed him to overcome his stuttering and fuelled his inspiration for acting.

During his time studying for his master’s degree, Rowan Atkinson co-created the odd, surreal and now iconic character known as Mr Bean.

He found success with other shows, but it was Mr Bean that made him globally renowned. Despite facing challenges, including his appearance and speech disorder, he demonstrated that success does not require a heroic physique or a Hollywood face to become one of the most beloved and respected actors in the world.

The motivational success story of Rowan Atkinson is inspiring because it shows that success in life is chiefly about passion, hard work, dedication and never giving up hope.

Moral of the story: Nobody is born perfect. Do not fear. People achieve remarkable things daily despite their weaknesses and failures. So, go and do the best you can with the life you have.

Jim Valvano, an American basketball player and coach, said: “Every single day, in every walk of life ordinary people do extraordinary things.”

In June 1992, Valvano was diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma, a type of glandular cancer that spreads to the bones. His motto was, “Don’t give up. Don’t ever give up.” He said, “That’s what I’m going to try to do every minute that I have left. I will thank God for the day and the moment I have. And if you see me smile and maybe give me a hug because that’s important to me, too.”

We do not know what another person is experiencing, what bad news they have just received or what project ended in failure. Your kind word, your smile or even a pleasant word might change their life.

Rotary International President Gordon McInally has encouraged us to “Create Hope in the World.” The goal is to restore hope to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and to help achieve lasting change.

We cannot all make people laugh or be sports heroes, but you just might be the catalyst to change the world... One person at a time!

A SPECIAL NOTE!

What is the “International” in Rotary International?

When I joined Rotary in 1993, I had no real idea what I was joining other than the local club. I knew the name, but the international aspect was something I hadn’t considered.

Then, at the urging of my Rotary sponsor, PDG Dennis Figov, I attended my first district conference and met Rotarians from four countries gathering together for “fun and fellowship” in serving their communities.

A few years later, one of my Rotary mentors, PDG Eric Marques, suggested that Sherry and I travel to Singapore for the Rotary International Convention. We didn’t know what to expect. Trying to explain that feeling is not possible! The word “WOW” comes to mind!

In a few weeks, several thousand Rotarians will be boarding planes for flights to Singapore (yes, the venue of our first Convention 25 years ago).

It is “probably” too late for arrangements for a trip to Singapore, so allow me to let you in on a little secret: There is a special registration rate of US\$475 for the 2025 Rotary Convention in Calgary, Canada for those who register during the Singapore convention, between 25-29 May 2024, even if they are not in Singapore at the convention. After 29 May the price jumps to US\$525!



President Glen Ross and Rotary International President Gordon McNally with the plaque.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN D9400

In March, the Nyoka Ridge Cape Vulture project, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400), hosted Rotary International President Gordon McNally and his wife Heather, who hail from Lothian, Scotland.

This marked the second occasion that the Brits-Hartbeespoort club has had the honour of hosting a Rotary International President, the first being in 2018 with Ian Riseley.

The McNallys, along with past district governors and club members, spent the

morning at the club's vulture project. They were briefed by PAG John Wesson on the challenges facing vultures in Africa and the club's efforts to monitor and support the bird population. A presentation by Mike Benn, of the Magaliesberg Heritage and Culture Association, provided insight into the Magaliesberg Biosphere's heritage.

The event also featured the planting of a Karee tree and the unveiling of a plaque to mark the occasion. The day concluded with visits to the Rotary Interact Club of Mountain Cambridge School and Kuierkids.



Enhancing global peace through

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The International Country Committees (ICC) have been pivotal in reinforcing Rotary International's commitment to fostering global peace and cooperation. Key events such as the ICC Executive Council meeting in London and a virtual signing ceremony between India and Africa have spotlighted the extensive efforts by Rotary members worldwide to build bridges across continents and cultures.

During discussions at the London Executive Council meeting earlier this year, Rotary leaders, including Rotary International President Gordon McInally, focused on key objectives such as increasing Rotary's impact, expanding its reach, enhancing participant engagement and

improving the organisation's adaptability to global challenges. The ICC's commitment to "going global" was emphasised, with initiatives to enhance global collaboration, positive peace and impactful initiatives.

A significant expansion of ICC sections now encompasses 721 operational units across 109 countries. The meeting addressed Rotary's proactive approach in removing barriers to collaboration, such as language differences and travel limitations, through innovative solutions like AI-powered translation services. Important agreements were signed, including partnerships with organisations like 'My Body is My Body' and 'End Plastic Soup', aiming to leverage Rotary's global network

for impactful projects in education and environmental conservation.

STRONGER BONDS BETWEEN INDIA AND AFRICA

In April 2024, a pivotal virtual event connected Rotary districts across India and Africa, underscoring Rotary's strategic focus on peace and international understanding. This ceremony celebrated the signing of the Protocol of Intent, marking a significant step in Rotary's mission to enhance peace-building efforts and foster international friendships.

District governors and representatives from multiple districts participated. This event not only reinforced existing partnerships but also paved the way for future collaborative projects aimed at conflict prevention and the promotion of peace.

The signing of the agreement of intent

between Africa (Zone 22) and four zones in India involved a total of 46 districts committed to creating collaboration, friendship and positive peace.

GOING GLOBAL

The London ICC Executive Council meeting marked a pivotal moment under the leadership of ICC Chairperson PDG Mohamed Ghammam and the Chairperson-Elect PDG Nathalie Huyghebaert. The first session showcased the incredible work accomplished by the task force and expansion leaders, emphasising ICC's commitment to being "People of Action."

To stay compliant with international fund transfer regulations, the ICC executive council has created an association: Rotary International-ICC in Montpellier, France. This will allow districts to pay their voluntary dues legally and more transparently.



See you in Singapore!

Looking forward, the ICC will be present at the International Convention in Singapore, highlighting its ongoing commitment to global peace initiatives. A workshop is planned for May 27th, inviting participation from ICC members worldwide.



A handover and demonstration event in February at the Tshemba Volunteer Centre Moditlo marked the deployment of the instruments in a week-long vision outreach campaign in Acornhoek.

SEE THEIR FUTURES

‘Old specs help someone see into their future’ is the slogan coined by the Rotary Club of Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr (D1180, Wales). The club collected 100s of pre-loved glasses from the public, which were then sent to the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400).

The Hoedspruit club donated these glasses to the Tshemba Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to enhancing health quality in rural communities. Optometrist Leoni Joubert, a volunteer at Tshemba, meticulously sorted these glasses, preparing them for distribution to those in need.

The Tshemba Foundation’s eye care programme is a cornerstone of their efforts, divided into hospital-based and outreach initiatives. The hospital programme at Tintswalo Hospital includes monthly cataract surgery drives, conducted in a fully equipped operating theatre, in collaboration with hospital management and theatre staff.

They also enhance prevention, correction and referral systems through the Tintswalo Hospital eye clinic.

The outreach programme involves volunteer doctors, optometrists, Tshemba staff, new partner Onesight and school health nurses from the Department of Health. They focus on vision screening for school children. A crucial need was identified for two specialist instruments to aid these outreach efforts: a portable tonometre, for measuring eye pressure to detect potential glaucoma and a vertometre or lensometre, which measures the power of spectacle lenses. Leoni Joubert noted that these instruments are essential for efficiently assigning the correct glasses to patients.

Hazel Partington, president of the Hoedspruit club, stated that through the Vision Out-reach project, their club has partnered with the Tshemba Foundation to provide these vital ophthalmic tools.



Barely a month after the launch of the aquaponics project, produce is being harvested daily. PDG Annemarie Mostert shows off the fresh produce from the aquaponics project in Randburg, Johannesburg.

READY IN NO TIME

Barely a month after its launch, the first harvest from Rotary International's state-of-the-art aquaponics plant has been realised. The project, led by chairperson of the Strategy Committee for Africa, PDG Annemarie Mostert marks a significant achievement in community development and sustainable agriculture. Located in Ferndale, Randburg at the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk, the R3.5 million facility was constructed in just over two months, transforming unused bush into a vibrant aquaponics plant.

The unveiling of this initiative took place on 24 March 2024, during the Human Rights weekend, under the auspices of

Rotary International President Dr Gordon McInally. It represents a monumental step in addressing community needs and environmental sustainability through innovative agricultural practices.

The aquaponics system combines aquaculture, the raising of fish, with hydroponics the soil free growing of plants, in a symbiotic environment. Fish waste provides an organic food source for the plants, while the plants naturally filter the water for the fish. This closed-loop system is notably efficient, consuming up to 90% less water than traditional farming methods.

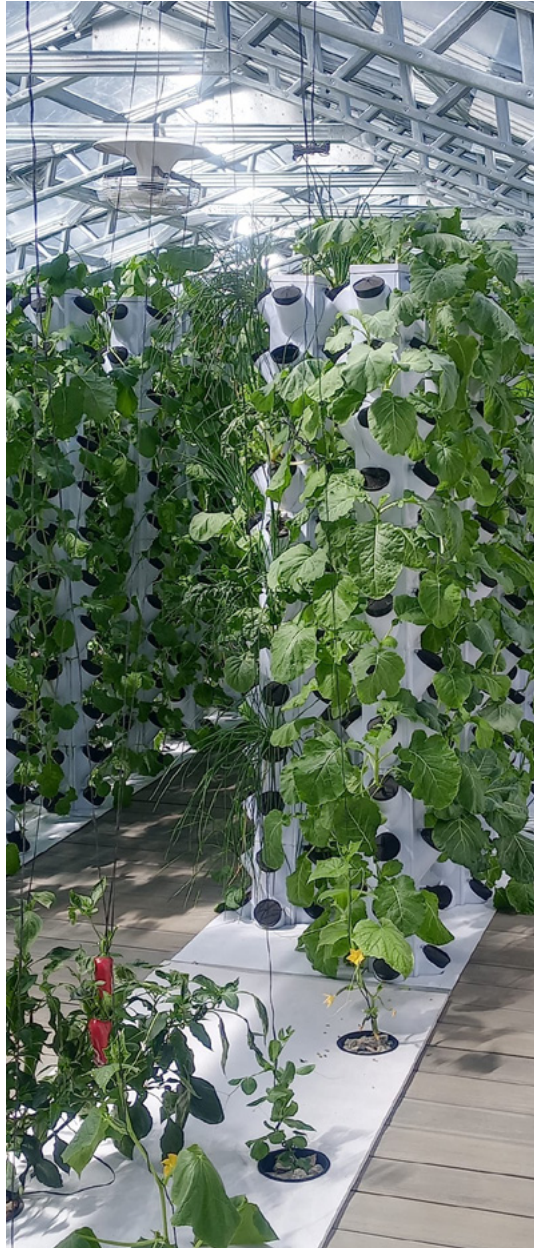
This initiative not only revitalises an

underused piece of land but also transforms it into a productive hub and a source of income for the church. The project also aims to combat hunger by feeding thousands of individuals who might otherwise lack sufficient food.

Mostert, instrumental in securing the location, noted the collaborative effort with the church's leadership. "It took a bit of convincing as we negotiated with the church leadership, but we found common ground. We will pay them to rent a space that was not being used; they benefit and the greater community benefits too," she explained.

Furthermore, the project is run in conjunction with the FreshMinistries' Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger, underscoring its commitment to addressing global food insecurities. As part of the educational aspect of the project, 30 individuals will be trained every ten weeks in the management and establishment of aquaponics systems, ensuring the project's sustainability and spreading this valuable knowledge through-out the region.

This aquaponics plant is poised to be a cornerstone in its mission to foster prosperity and eradicate hunger, setting a precedent for future projects on the African continent. It showcases innovation in sustainable agriculture and highlights how collaborative efforts can lead to substantial community benefits.



The interior of the aquaponics plant that is being run in conjunction with the FreshMinistries' Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger



“Clubs can begin by being intentional in bringing people together and encouraging all to share their personal stories.”

The **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**

EXPANDING OUR REACH

WITH ANDRÉ HADLEY MARRIA

André Hadley Marria is governor of District 6900 and a member of the Rotary Club of Thomasville, Georgia, USA. She's a founding mentor of Spark Thomasville, a program for local entrepreneurs from underrepresented communities.

reach both globally and locally?

ANDRÉ: Expanding our reach and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) mean that we need to embrace all the talents and skills that we have, and we need to acknowledge that we've not always done that in Rotary.

When I was asked in 2020 to work with Rotary's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, I had a keen awareness that until I and others were ready to take a personal inventory of our own internal biases, we could not implement change. I started working with individuals in a small group of clubs and said we need to look at ourselves and see whether we're really inclusive in the work that we're doing. We used a variety of methods to measure our attitudes and beliefs and took training to build our skills to engage with and facilitate difficult conversations.

Q: What can clubs do to begin expanding their reach? Where do they start?

ANDRÉ: Clubs can begin by being intentional in bringing people together and encouraging all to share their personal stories. And by being progressive in our thinking as we look at the talents of individuals that we want to be a part of our club. If a club has difficulty making change, that hinders growth and our appeal to new, younger people, especially if we don't adapt to how our members and participants want to engage with Rotary. If they are service oriented and outcome driven, we should broaden our reach to include those individuals who want to get work done. Clubs also need to address the needs of the community, ensuring that the members and leaders reflect the community they serve.

Q: How did the partnership between Spark Thomasville and your Rotary club help expand your club's reach?

ANDRÉ: We expanded our reach through collaboration with the local chamber of commerce, which supported our mentorship initiative with Spark. Our members were asked

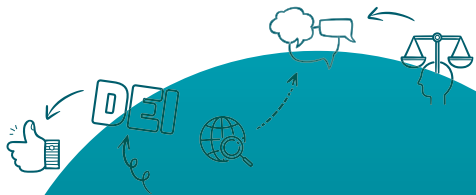
our partnership with the chamber as both organizations provided mentors to Spark. Participating in Spark allowed our Rotary club to meet other community leaders who could learn what we do.

Q: How can this approach be applied to other Rotary clubs?

ANDRÉ: Become a part of the community at large, know where to find businesses to connect with and other organizations, and find the real voices of the community. It's up to Rotary members to get these leaders involved, by being authentic, intentional, and willing to share their own stories, inspiring others to do likewise. In Thomasville, one real voice was the Thomas County Family Connection, made up of social service, grassroots, health care, civic, and judicial agencies that serve families and children. Find those organizations, and any Rotary or Rotaract club can expand its reach.

Q: If there's one thing you could tell Rotary members about expanding our reach, what would it be?

ANDRÉ: We have to expand beyond our traditional way of partnering. We're going to have to look at our relationships and continue to do our work a different kind of way. You make sure that you do something differently so you can give people an opportunity to have a voice.



Learn what your club can do at
rotary.org/actionplan

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The **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**



Is your club looking for new ways to
connect with your community?

The Action Plan can help.



Learn about expanding your club's reach:
rotary.org/actionplan

YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS



FREDRICK MUYODI
Uganda, District 9214

CADRE TITLE:

Cadre Adviser for Environment and former Technical Coordinator for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

OCCUPATION:

University professor, water resources management



WHAT ARE ROTARY MEMBERS SAYING ABOUT FREDRICK?

"I confidently say he was very helpful and was on point in identifying the project gaps and offered guidance on the way forward. Rotarian Fred helped us with some aspects of the project that were hindering success and guided us in changing certain aspects of the project implementation methods."

— Osborn Mutapa, Rotary Club of Livingstone,
District 9210 (Zambia)

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.

THE CADRE CAN SUPPORT YOU BY:

- Providing project planning advice and implementation guidance
- Helping with community assessment design
- Incorporating elements of sustainability into projects
- Answering questions about Rotary's areas of focus
- Providing financial management best practices

Connect with a Cadre member today by visiting the Cadre page on My Rotary, or email us at cadre@rotary.org.

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



The Siya Soup Kitchen is one of the many successful projects undertaken by the club.

15 BRILLIANT YEARS!

In July 2008, inspired by fellow Rotarians Dave Slater and Roger Carthew from the Rotary Club of Port Alfred, Bruce Steele-Gray initiated the formation of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370). The founding team meticulously selected 33 members, many of whom remain engaged as active or honorary members 15 years later.

The inaugural meetings of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea began in August 2008, quickly leading to their first significant undertaking: the repair of the seawall at the Kariega Pathway. This project marked the commencement of numerous community initiatives, encapsulating the club's ethos of merging enjoyment with service.

KEY MILESTONES:

- First Board Meeting: 23 September 2008
- Rotary International First Charter: 24 February 2009
- Gala Dinner to celebrate the First Charter: 4 April 2009

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER ROTARY CLUBS:

- Chain of Office: PDG Oom Wynand (D9320)
- The Podium: Andy Crowe – Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West
- The Rotary Bell: Roux Wentzel – Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South

- The Gavel: Helen McCallum – Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset
- Rotary Greeting Mirror: Harry Rama – Rotary Club of Grahamstown
- The Rotary Flag: PDG Anne Botha
- Three Paul Harris Fellow recognitions: two from PDG Jaap (D9320) and one from the Rotary Club of East London

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ROLES:

- Council on Legislation and Resolution Delegate: Bruce Steele Gray (3 years)
- District Treasurer: Tony Swift
- Assistant Governors: Bruce Steele Gray, Roger Carthew and Mike Peter
- District Governors: Bruce Steele-Gray and Tom McGhee
- Assistant Zone Coordinator: Pippa Steele-Gray

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

- Establishment of the Save The Rhino Club in September 2012
- Ongoing initiatives like the Tree of Joy, Snare Eradication Programme, and the Ekupumleni Feeding Scheme since December 2009
- Global grant project on Early Childhood Development, focusing on the training of child carers
- National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) project, with an ambitious fundraising target of R1.2 million achieved to establish a NSRI station in Kenton, culminating in the stationing of a jet rib vessel and a Suzuki tow vehicle at

Middle Beach in December 2023

REVIEW OF THE LAST YEAR:

This past year has been particularly significant for the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea, highlighted by the establishment of a permanent NSRI station. The station, a result of the club's fundraising efforts, is a vital community resource now housed at Middle Beach.

The Siya Soup Initiative has also continued to play a critical role, distributing around 5,000 meals weekly to local communities. In addition, the Kenton Sees project has provided essential eye care to over a hundred residents, addressing conditions such as cataracts and glaucoma.

The club's support extended to local orphanages and new mothers through the Fish n Chip Initiative. Infrastructure improvements and environmental conservation were also a focus. These included projects such as pathway paving and snare eradication walks.

Engagement with youth included supporting local schools and training members as mediators under the African Rotary Community Mediation Initiative. The variety of fundraising events, from wine tastings to sports events, not only raised crucial funds but also strengthened community bonds.

The charter anniversary with a dinner held at Stanley's on 5 April and was attended by 56 people including DG



DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

Submit your stories and photos (at least 1MB in size) by email to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

Jacques Venter and his wife, Lynda remains committed to enhancing community life and environmental conservation, continuing to make a profound impact on

Kenton's residents and its surroundings. Regular meetings every Tuesday ensure ongoing community involvement and enjoyment.



Scenes from the Charter Anniversary Dinner which was attended by 56 people.





Charter president of the Rotary Club of Yumbe, Rukia Driciru, with a new VSLA borrower.

ONE AT A TIME

A young, small but mighty club delivers BIG results

By Helene B Dudley

The Rotary Club of Yumbe (D9213, Uganda) is transforming one of the poorest districts in Uganda, one village at a time. The members of this club are mostly female farmers and entrepreneurs from rural Uganda, and 2023 was a pivotal year for the 22-member club.

They manually dug eight wells serving approximately 4,000 people across four

villages, distributed 200 water filters to benefit 5,600 people for a decade. They tested and treated 10,000 residents in eight villages for malaria and oversaw the construction of 380 latrines and hand-wash stations.

As a result, expenditure on preventable illnesses in these villages plummeted from 61% of household income to 3% and the average time spent fetching water was



Top: Members of the Rotary Club of Yumbe proudly displaying their new shirts with the 'Caring for Humanity' slogan on the back.

reduced from over three hours to just 15 minutes.

The Yumbe club identifies priorities and implements programmes in the field. They do not act alone, drawing on a vast network of Rotary supporters. The Rotary Club of Arua (D9213), located 90 kilometres southwest of Yumbe and the club's sponsor, provides ongoing support.

Royce Gloria Androa, past assistant governor and past president of the Arua club, affectionately known as the Mother of the Yumbe club, offers guidance through weekly Rotary Zoom meetings, which are also attended by Rotarians from US clubs in Kansas, Washington and Florida. To assist the club in keeping these active Rotarians in Rotary, the Rotary Club of Topeka (D5710, Kansas) subsidised the international dues for the Yumbe club's first two years. The Yumbe club is actively working on developing a revenue stream to cover their Rotary dues and operational expenses.

Financing Rotary dues, attending workshops and supporting Rotary programmes pose significant challenges for a club primarily composed of subsistence

farmers and market vendors, many of whom have limited formal education. Despite these financial challenges, the Yumbe club excels in service above self, bringing entrepreneurial skills, hard work and a commitment to caring for humanity.

Membership in a women's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) is common among all club members and often a foundational element of their engagement.

Chris Roesel, a member of the Rotary E-Club of WASH (D9980, New Zealand) and the Rotary Cadre of WASH experts, has visited Yumbe many times. He introduced a well-driller from Malawi to teach the community well-drilling techniques, acquired two Makiga machines for producing eco-friendly bricks for latrine construction and purchased Sawyer Water Filters, which were distributed by Rotarians after training locals in their use and maintenance. Each filter can support four families for five years with proper maintenance.

The Care Community Education Centre (CCEDUC), led by Innocent Ajaga, leader of the Yumbe Rotary Community Corps,



Partnerships with international clubs, local NGOs and development initiatives such as VSLA and TCP Global have seen a network of support and development between club members and its community.

provides crucial logistical support for Rotary projects.

In January 2020, during his second visit to Yumbe, Chris met Innocent of CCEDUC. They held a community visioning and planning exercise attended by 200 locals, resulting in Chris's support for enhancing the local VSLAs. He donated \$1,200 remaining from his travel funds, which helped increase the funds available for business loans within these groups. At a later conference, Chris met Helene Dudley and introduced her to Innocent Ajaga, leading to the introduction of TCP Global's micro-loan programme in Yumbe, with CCEDUC acting as the fiscal agent.

To date, 59 out of an estimated 1,000 VSLA groups in Yumbe and the nearby Bidibidi Refugee Camp have joined the

TCP Global programme, facilitating over 6,500 loans valued at \$1.3 million. These groups maintain a 99.9% repayment rate.

The impact of the loan programme has been transformative, enabling women to move from informal street vending to more stable retail environments, expand their businesses and improve their families' livelihoods.

Within a year of receiving their first loans from TCP Global, leaders of 22 VSLA groups joined forces to form a Rotary club, even amidst a global pandemic. They initiated community service projects and health workshops, demonstrating their commitment to improving their community.

With support from Chris and Gloria, the Yumbe club secured a \$10,000 grant from Malaria Partners International and is now



Many of the club members are farmers and entrepreneurs who have received micro-financing through the Village Savings and Loan Association project, which the club continues to support as an economic development initiative.

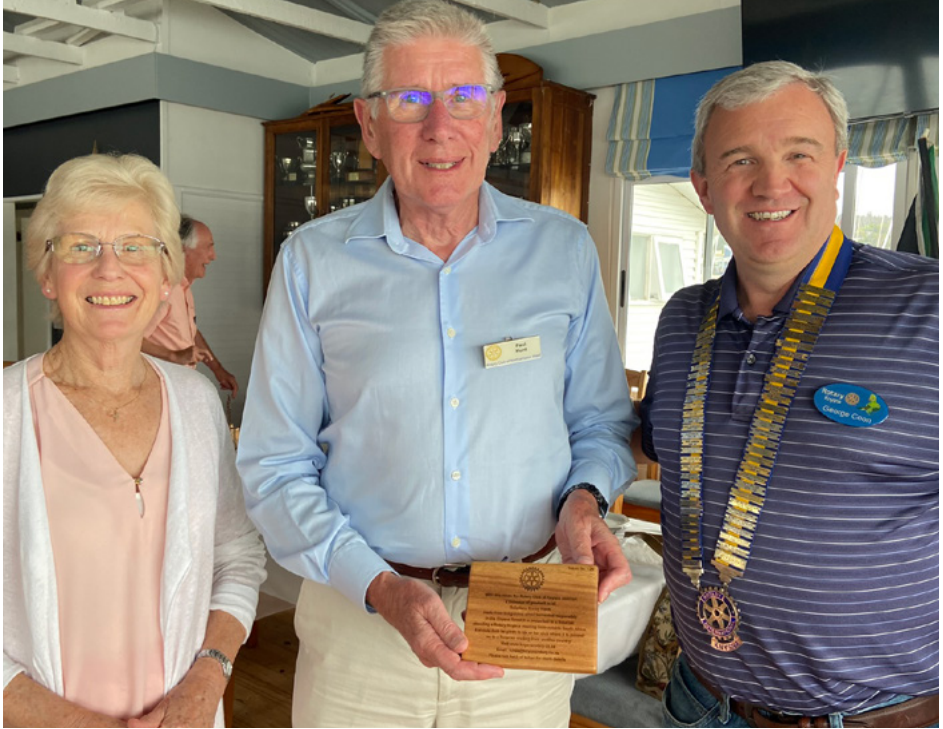
pursuing a second grant. They are also part of a larger \$121,000 grant initiative involving multiple Rotary clubs across continents, led by Royce Gloria Androa of the Arua club and Chris Roesel, with the Yumbe club responsible for on-the-ground implementation.

This model of empowering local communities through providing resources and support from global networks underscores the potential impact of Rotary

clubs in Africa and beyond.

For more information, visit [TCPGlobal.ngo](https://tcpglobal.ngo) or email Contact@tcpglobal.ngo, Chris.Roesel@gmail.com

Helene B Dudley is a past president of the Rotary Club of Coconut Grove (D6990, USA) and the Founder and President of TCP Global.



Chris and Paul Hunt receiving the travelling token from then president of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) George Coon. Nearly two years later, the club received a pleasant surprise.

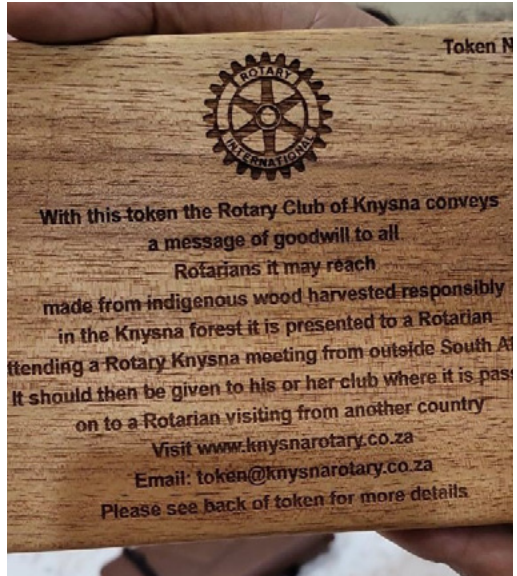
THE TALE OF THE *Travelling token*

When a Rotarian from outside South Africa visits the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350), they are presented with a “travelling token” crafted from indigenous wood.

The recipient is encouraged to take this token back to their home club and pass it on to an international Rotarian visitor. A QR code system affixed to the back of the plaque facilitates the collection of contact details for each subsequent recipient,

ensuring the journey of each token is traceable.

In November 2022, Paul and Chris Hunt from the Rotary Club of Northampton West (D1070, UK) visited the Rotary Club of Knysna. The Northampton West club was a global grant partner in the Rotary Club of Knysna’s Early Childhood Development project. The project aims to ensure every child in Knysna has access to



Dr Prasad Punnoose presents Token 126 (right) to President Byju Chacko of the Rotary Club of Angamaly Heritage.

a quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility by 2025. During the visit, the Hunts were presented with Travelling Token 126, marking their participation in this exchange.

Almost two years later, the club was contacted by Dr Prasad Punnoose of the Rotary Club of Angamaly Heritage (D3211, India). Dr. Punnoose had visited Northampton West during a trip to the UK,

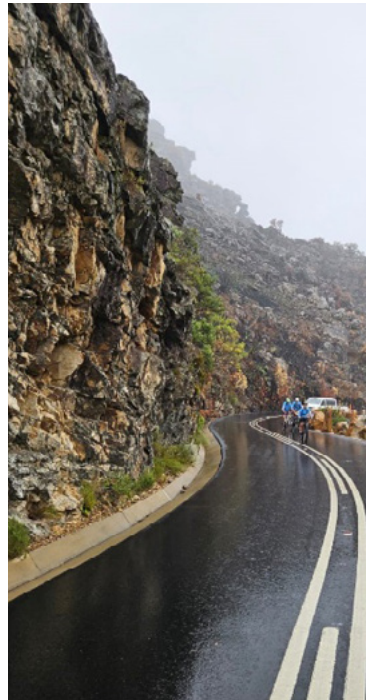
where he learned about the project between the Northampton West and Knysna clubs.

The president of the Northampton West club presented him with the travelling token previously given to them by the Rotary Club of Knysna. Later, Dr Punnoose gave the token to his club president, along with the instructions to pass it on to visiting international Rotarians, ensuring its perpetual journey.



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Cyclists celebrate the success of their Karoo Hope Ride adventure after they arrive in Cape Town. The Hope Ride was a collaborative effort between the Rotary Clubs of Mtunzini and Empangeni and raised funds to support global grants.

In South Africa, hope does not float...

IT CYCLES!

It has often been said that ordinary people can do extraordinary things and members of Rotary clubs can certainly attest to this belief.

For six months, sixteen cyclists and four support team members tirelessly collaborated to organise and train for the Rotary Karoo Hope Ride. This ambitious cycle journey spanned approximately 1,000 km from Aliwal North to Bloubergstrand in Cape Town. Undertaken on e-bikes and traditional mountain bikes, the ride

presented significant challenges from the very start. One may wonder what would motivate individuals to embark on such a formidable expedition. The answer is deceptively straightforward, “We do it just because we can!” An additional motivation was the opportunity to raise funds as seed capital for Rotary global grants.

This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Mtunzini and the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370). Christo van Heerden, president



After the team arrived in Cape Town, DG Ann Wright of District 9350 was joined by local Rotarians to welcome the visitors from D9370.

of the Mtunzini club, was responsible for planning the route, which included a ‘prologue’ ride of 180 km.

This initial leg served dual purposes: testing the cyclists’ endurance and familiarising the support teams with their roles and responsibilities, as well as ensuring the readiness of vehicles and trailers for the adventure, which officially took place from 01 March to 08 March. Following this, most cyclists rested for a day before participating in the Cape Town Cycle Tour, covering a modest 110 km.

Unlike a race, this event allowed participants to appreciate the stunning landscapes of South Africa, including the tranquil barrenness of the Karoo and its serene accommodation offerings. After each demanding day, the cyclists’ immediate needs were simple: a shower, some food and a good night’s sleep.

Evenings were structured around a meal and a briefing, which covered the day’s achievements and the plan for the next day.

To foster group cohesion and strengthen friendships, the evenings included light hearted “fines” for good deeds and any minor infractions. Awards were presented daily, including the King of the Karoo (KOK) for the Cyclist of the Day, the “Baa Award” for the Team Builder of the Day, the “Chirper of the Day” and the “Poop Scoop” for the Stirrer of the Day.

The final evening featured special awards for each participant, acknowledging their efforts in raising funds and fostering hope. Sponsors and donors were thanked for their vital support of the ride’s goals and associated costs.

The final morning was marked by excitement and a gentle 55 km ride to the finish, where participants were greeted by Ann Wright, the District Governor from District 9350 and presidents from two Cape Town-based clubs. A letter of goodwill from Jacques Venter, District Governor of District 9370, was presented by DG Ann Wright to the cyclists and attendees.



Swimmers don the event's signature yellow caps, sponsored by the Waterfront Canal Challenge and City of Cape Town.

Come rain or shine the **SWIM GOES ON**

On a brisk morning on April 6, over two hundred swimmers and volunteers gathered at Battery Park to participate in the fifth Waterfront Canal Challenge. This event, a collaboration between the Rotary Club of Waterfront (D9350), the V&A Waterfront and the City of Cape Town, is the only timed urban canal swim in Africa. Participants had the option to tackle a one-mile (1600m) or a half-mile (800m) route, starting and finishing at Battery Park and passing notable landmarks such as the One & Only Hotel.

The Waterfront club organised the challenge which not only tested the

stamina of participants but also aimed to raise funds for local community projects. These projects include support for the Christine Revell Children's Home in Athlone and the Salesian Institute Learn to Live School of Skills in Green Point. The event also marked the introduction of a floating schools' trophy, with Anieka Louw from Durbanville High School winning the inaugural award.

President Mymoena Ismail praised the event, highlighting the collective effort of various partners such as the City of Cape Town, V&A Waterfront and local organisations like Phoenix Risk, Adinga,

Christine Revell Children's Home, Salesian Institute Youth Projects, Roxy Foundation and Big Bay Events. Their contributions were pivotal in amplifying the impact of the event on the community.

The Waterfront Canal Challenge garnered extensive media coverage across radio, print, television and digital platforms, enhancing Rotary's visibility and appealing to corporate funders. The event was celebrated as a significant success, demonstrating the professionalism and event management skills of the organising team and underlining the positive influence of the Rotary club on the local community.

Camden Hartwood from the Roxy Foundation enjoys paddle boarding during the event.



Spiro Mitchell, President Mymoena Ismail, James Vos (Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Waterfront) and June Webber at the event.



Rotarians Bev Frieslich and Marcel van den Berg try the new swings in the refurbished play area.

IT'S PLAYTIME

On 14 March 2024, the Valley Development Projects' (VDP) Open Door Building in Ocean View, Cape Town, celebrated the reopening of its newly renovated children's playground. The project was implemented to create a more welcoming and safe space for vulnerable children. This significant upgrade was the result of collaborative efforts involving several key stakeholders:

- The Rotary Club of Wateringen (D1600, Netherlands), championed by Rotarian Marcel van den Berg.
- The Rotary Club of the Cape of Good Hope (D9350), championed by Rotarian Bev Frieslich.
- VDP Social Work Project Manager Sue Burger, (project manager).

BACKGROUND

The Open Door Building is a hub for the combined efforts of the Social Work and Community Services, operating under the Department of Social Development (DSD) as a child protection agency. Nine social workers handle Children's Court investigations, foster care placements

and family counselling, among other responsibilities. Additionally, the facility provides daily meals, aftercare and a safe environment for children.

The area has seen an increase in cases of neglect and sexual abuse among children, often exacerbated by drug and alcohol use in their homes.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The initiative to upgrade the playground was funded through a unique partnership. Funds were raised in the Netherlands, primarily through the sale of Carmen Stevens Wines. The efforts of the Wateringen club, including presentations and pre-sales, raised R 200,000 - far exceeding the initial budget.

The funds were managed by the Rotary Club of the Cape of Good Hope. Marcel van den Berg, alongside his wife, Shadiya and Bev Frieslich, maintained close contact with Sue Burger through regular visits and communications, ensuring the project's success.

KENTON'S *shi(p?)* SHOW



A project that has dung wonders for a blossoming community

Most successful projects sprout from seeds of good ideas, are fertilised with hard work, and blossom with community support. But when you're dealing with tons of "brown gold," a good sense of humour (and perhaps a strong stomach) also adds to the formula for success!

Members of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370); Simon Matthews and Norman Smith, own a dairy farm and offered to give the club a whole load of well-matured moo-poo (aka manure) packed in a large supply of bags and delivered free of charge to Kenton-on-Sea.

The members thought this was a manure-ific idea and were soon, to their amusement, in deep shi(p)! The club employed two casual gardeners to help the team of Rotarians pack bags of dried prime pasture patties.

Adverts were sent to garden clubs, posted on social media and shared on WhatsApp. In no time, the orders were piling up like... well, you know. Waiting lists were created and repeat orders placed. Not even

COVID-19 lockdowns could stem the flow!

"When you have something to sell that every gardener wants, you have a winner," says Roger Carthew, who along with Peter Reid, is instrumental in keeping the project, now fondly known as the B... Shi(p) Project, alive.

Since cows never go on strike, two unemployed people were hired to, well, scoop the poop. There is no doubt about it, with this project the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea has hit the motherload as it makes a fertile fortune of approximately R120,000 a year selling its bags of vintage dung.

The management of Rotary Africa would like to assure its readers that at no time is it endorsing the comedic aspirations or PUN-tentions of its editor in chief and proofreaders - Ed.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Drakenstein and Franschhoek Valley (D9350) recently celebrated a significant milestone with the hosting of a student Certificate Award Ceremony. The event took place on Wednesday, 27 March, at the Franschhoek Valley Community Sports Centre. This ceremony marked the culmination of two years of diligent study by a group of students at Boland College. The journey began with their initiation into the field as Early Childhood Development (ECD) carers and concluded with their graduation as fully qualified ECD teachers. These new educators are now equipped to prepare young children for school and manage their own ECD centres. The impact of this project is substantial, promising to benefit several hundred children in the Franschhoek community annually. Beryl Liebetrau, a member of the Drakenstein and Franschhoek Valley club, has played a crucial role in the success of this initiative. Her dedication has been instrumental in both coordinating the project and maintaining student motivation during challenging times.



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Jenni Gault, a prominent jewellery designer based in Port Elizabeth and exclusive designer for Swarovski, donated jewellery materials, tools, beads and Swarovski crystals valued at approximately R40,000 to the Motherwell Community and Enviro Hub. This initiative is supported by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370) and focuses on environmental and community development. This donation will support the talented women at the centre who specialise in various artistic beading techniques. Gault also conducted a workshop, sharing her expertise with the project's participants, offering encouragement and initiating a creative beading project scheduled for completion in late May.



The Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) held its Artists for Artists art auction in partnership with a local auction house. The event featured over 100 works by 35 local artists, available for bidding both online and at the live auction. Proceeds will support art students and fund art tuition.



Rotarians Jean Bernardo and Jeannette Horner of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) led an initiative to give care packages to the residents of Eventide Old Age Home in Greenside. Club members supported the initiative by collecting and packing personalised shopping bags with toiletries, sweets and other items. Spar Norwood partially funded the items, while Rotarians, Anns, and local businesses contributed the remainder. The home, run by The Salvation Army, accommodates elderly people, most of whom receive only an old-age pension from the state.



The Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) hosted an awards and member induction evening attended by District Governor-Elect Raj Ramchunder and members from the Rotary Clubs of Hillcrest and Clairwood Park (D9370), as well as visitors from the Rotary Club of Mississauga Meadowvale (D7080, Canada). DGE Raj praised the Chatsworth club for its commitment to the theme 'Creating Hope in the World' and for exemplifying the spirit of 'People of Action'.

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MISCELLANEOUS

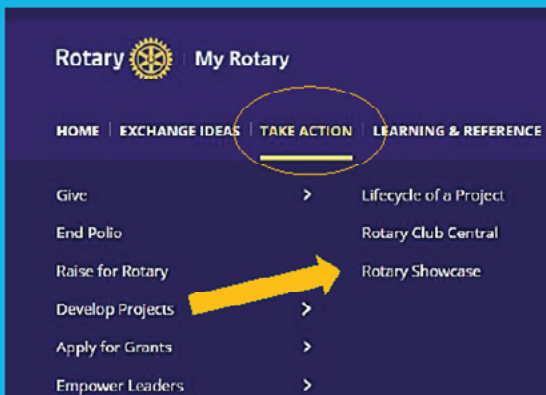
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