

MAY 2025

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TRUE.

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Every act of service starts with a simple decision: show up. Not when it's easy, not when it's convenient, but when you see a need and refuse to look away.

That spirit runs through every page of this issue. From comfort given to vulnerable children, to meals shared with communities in need, to young leaders discovering their voices - this is Rotary at its best. Not waiting for perfect moments, but creating moments that matter.

It's easy these days to feel overwhelmed. The world feels noisy, complicated and divided. But Rotary gives us a different story to tell - one of hope, action and connection. Every time a Rotarian knits a jersey, funds a project, mentors a student or delivers a meal, they are choosing to write a better future, one small act at a time.

What struck me most while working on this issue is the way small gestures build into something powerful. A soft toy given with love. A leadership lesson that sparks confidence. A hot meal that reminds someone they are not forgotten. These are not grand gestures, but they leave a deep, lasting mark.

Rotary's strength is not just in what we do,

but how we do it - with compassion, humility and relentless optimism. We see problems not as reasons to despair, but as calls to act. We don't look for someone else to fix things. We roll up our sleeves and get to work.

There's something powerful about being part of a community that believes change is always possible. That tomorrow can be better. That service really is above self.

In Rotary, it's never about who gets the credit. It's about the ripple effect we leave behind - the families fed, the students inspired, the communities strengthened. We may never fully see the results of every act of service, but that's not why we do it. We plant seeds knowing others will sit in the shade. That is the legacy we are building, one project, one handshake, one act of kindness at a time.

So here's the challenge as we move forward: Stay bold. Stay kind. Stay committed. Keep showing up. Because the work we do, the lives we touch and the hope we build - it all matters. More than we may ever know.

Thank you for being part of this story. Let's keep writing it - together.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Stephanie Urchick
President, Rotary International

ROTARY'S YOUNG PEOPLE OF ACTION

No matter how long we've been with Rotary, we all benefit from the energy and fresh perspectives of our young leaders. It is my privilege to place this month's presidential message in the capable hands of one young leader, Vitor Joventino, of the Rotaract Club of Penápolis (D4470, Brazil). In his column, Vitor reminds us how teamwork and inclusivity can spark transformative change. As you read his message, I encourage you to reflect on its insights, share in his excitement and embrace new opportunities to learn. - Stephanie Urchick

I remember the exact moment when I realised the power of Rotary's youth programmes. It was a Saturday morning in Australia during my year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. I stood among a group of young leaders at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event. The organisers challenged us to stand on a large tarpaulin spread across the floor and, without stepping off, find a way to fold it in half.

At first, the task seemed simple. But as we moved, strategised and adjusted, the reality set in - it required teamwork, agility and constant

communication.

Rotaractors and Rotarians guided us, but no one dictated how to succeed. The decisions were ours to make. And then something remarkable happened. Without being instructed, we collectively decided that no one would be left behind as our space on the tarpaulin shrank.

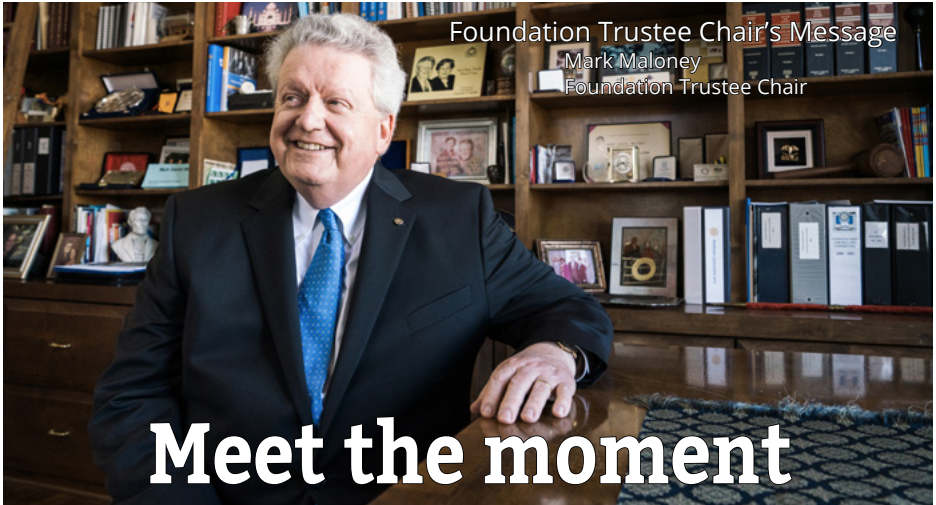
One of our teammates was a person who uses a wheelchair, giving us an opportunity to adapt, ensuring that he was fully part of the experience. We shifted, lifted the tarpaulin and reconfigured our positions, using our time to think, plan and act as a team. In the end, we successfully completed the challenge together.

As we celebrated our success, one participant said, "Society works the same way - challenges will come, but instead of leaving people behind, we must find ways to include everyone." It was such a profound thought for someone so young, yet it perfectly captured the essence of our experience.

Interact empowers young people to create service projects with real and lasting impact. Youth Exchange builds global citizens who return home with broader perspectives and stronger leadership skills. RYLA develops young leaders equipped to inspire and mobilise others. All of this is The Magic of Rotary, emerging through the actions of youth. These programmes are the heart of Rotary's ability to grow and adapt in a changing world.

But the success of these programmes depends on more than young leaders - it requires Rotary members who believe in their potential. I encourage you to sponsor an Interact club, host an exchange student and support a RYLA participant. Your involvement does more than sustain these programmes; it multiplies their impact and ensures that young leaders are not just beneficiaries of Rotary but active contributors.

To those already supporting youth programmes, thank you. Your mentorship and commitment make all the difference. And to those considering getting involved, now is the time! Because youth leadership isn't just Rotary's future, it's Rotary's present.



Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
Mark Maloney
Foundation Trustee Chair

Meet the moment

There are moments in our journey to end polio when doubt and uncertainty may take hold, yet we must remain steadfast and, above all, hopeful as we keep our eyes on the goal. As Winston Churchill once said in a moment of crisis: “We cannot afford - we have no right - to look back. We must look forward.”

In Rotary, we always rise to meet the moment. No challenge is too great. In 1988, when we partnered with the World Health Organisation to form the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, an estimated 350,000 polio cases occurred annually across 125 countries. Since then, the GPEI - which also includes UNICEF, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Gates Foundation and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance - has worked tirelessly with governments worldwide. Together, we have reduced wild poliovirus cases by 99.9 percent.

The journey has not been without challenges. Today in Afghanistan, vaccinators are prohibited from conducting house-to-house immunisation campaigns, while in Pakistan, conflict, terrorism and migration hinder access to children in certain regions.

Earlier this year, the United States announced its intention to withdraw from the WHO, froze USAID funding and restricted interactions with the CDC. These developments present obstacles

for our polio eradication efforts and other Rotary global partnerships and programmes.

Yet we rise to meet the moment, just as we have done before. We did so in India when we faced spikes in cases before the country was declared free of wild poliovirus in 2014. In Nigeria, we also encountered obstacles, but in 2020, WHO certified the country - and by extension, all 47 countries in the WHO Africa region - wild polio-free.

We are meeting the moment once again in 2025. Know that Rotary is working behind the scenes, collaborating with governments, international agencies and partners to address challenges, manage disruptions and explore alternative funding. As a nonpolitical organisation, we remain focused on operational solutions while serving communities and protecting public health.

My wife, Gay, and I have witnessed firsthand the urgent need of the moment in India, Nigeria and Pakistan, where we administered vaccines to children. Looking into their eyes, I saw the future we are fighting for - and the responsibility we carry to finish the job.

The winds of change may shift, but with your help, Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio will stand strong until our mission is complete.



2025 Rotary International Convention Countdown **YOUR CONVENTION FAVOURITES**

The votes are in: Members planning to attend the Rotary International Convention in Calgary say they're most excited to find project partners and learn about RI's work.

They also give high marks to seeing friends from past conventions and meeting new people from around the world, in a just-for-fun poll on Rotary's new channel on the messaging platform, WhatsApp. And a good number of people say they're eager to put on a cowboy hat in Calgary, a modern city with Western frontier roots.

President Stephanie Urchick asks you to join her in Canada 21-25 June because the convention is your place to form lifelong connections and discover new perspectives. "This motivating event will inspire and transform you," Urchick says.

Calgary is a travel destination that's easy to love. The bustling city centre is simple to get

around and close to hotels and the convention grounds, where you can watch a heart-pounding Wild West entertainment extravaganza. Your fellow members who are helping to organise the convention and special experiences can't wait to share with you Calgary's diversity in food, arts and cultures and its sustainable features, like a light rail line powered by wind energy. The dining scene is a favourite of Mark Starratt, co-chair of the Host Organisation Committee, who recommends the many downtown restaurants that feature ingredients from nearby farms or global fare from international chefs.

With so much to do close to the main event, Starratt says all members will find unforgettable experiences, "regardless of your age, regardless of whether you're bringing your family or your spouse, you're travelling as a single, you're 70, you're 40 or you're a Rotaractor."

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.



Creating YOUR Destiny

Dr Patrick Coleman

We all have a story... and most of us long to share it with somebody else.

If you think meeting new people nowadays is difficult, imagine doing it without a phone, a car or even a bike. This was the case for much of human history and it had such a profound effect on social interactions that the average distance between the birthplaces of spouses in England was just one mile prior to the invention of bicycles.

Those calculations come from Yale's Stephen Stearns, a professor of evolutionary biology, who studied parish registries of birth, marriage and death. He found that most couples were not just from the same village - they were often from neighbouring farms.

The bicycle was invented in 1817, which geneticist Steve Jones called "the most important event in recent human evolution" in his book *The Language of the Genes*. In addition to increasing genetic diversity by making it easier for couples who lived farther apart to meet and marry, bicycles were also intrinsically linked to women's rights because they allowed women greater autonomy in the early 20th century.

Susan B Anthony, a prominent women's rights advocate in the USA and leader of the women's suffrage movement, proclaimed in an 1896 interview with journalist Nellie Bly that bicycling "has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. I stand

and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel."

Anthony was raised in a Quaker family with a strong history of activism and a belief in equality under God. She became involved in the anti-slavery and temperance movements and was known for her passionate anti-slavery speeches. She did not have Facebook, Instagram or TikTok to find or create a social network, so her bicycle was a vital tool to keep her in touch with her personal network!

My good friend Wade Nomura (Rotary Past District Governor, civic leader, award-winning BMX racer, racing bicycle designer and chair of the WASH-RAG Operations Committee) wrote about his book *Creating Destiny*, saying, "I believe we can all be authors of our own story – though it might not be the story you thought you were going to write." (*You can order a copy of Wade's book at www.wadenomura.com/book.*)

Here's a more detailed look at the bicycle's journey:

Early Beginnings (1790s–1830s):

- 1791: Comte Mede de Sivrac designed a two-wheeled "wooden horse" called a celerifere, a precursor to the bicycle, with no pedals or steering.
- 1817: Baron Karl von Drais, in Germany, invented the "Laufmaschine" (running machine), a two-wheeled vehicle with no

pedals, handlebars and a seat, widely considered the first bicycle.

- 1839: It took nearly 50 years for someone to think about pedals! Kirkpatrick Macmillan, a Scottish blacksmith, fitted pedal-operated cranks to a hobby horse, creating the first bicycle with pedals.

The Rise of the Velocipede (1860s–1880s):

- 1860s: Pierre and Ernest Michaux introduced the first pedal-based velocipede, a precursor to the modern bicycle.
- 1870s: The “penny-farthing” emerged, featuring a large front wheel and a smaller rear wheel, offering higher speeds but raising safety concerns.
- 1880s: The “safety bicycle” with two wheels of the same size and a chain-driven rear wheel gained popularity, becoming safer and more comfortable.

The Modern Bicycle (1880s–Present):

- 1880s: Pneumatic tyres, ball bearings and tension-spoked wheels were developed, improving the bicycle’s performance and comfort.
- 19th Century: Bicycles became popular for transportation and recreation, with women also embracing them, leading to social change and the rise of cycling clubs.
- 20th Century: The bicycle continued to evolve with different types, including racing bikes, mountain bikes and BMX bikes.
- 21st Century: Electric bicycles have gained popularity and bicycles remain a sustainable and efficient mode of transport and recreation. Sherry and I just ordered two of these for our personal use!

Your story may have as many twists, turns and innovations as the evolution of the bicycle, but keep pedalling! Magic does not happen in idleness... it happens with action!

the Hyde

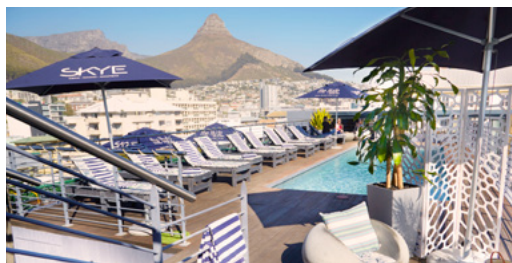
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8 am - noon



Leading with Purpose

By Sneha Saloni, Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention



Victor Barnes, a seasoned global health leader, brings more than 40 years of experience in public health, international development and strategic partnerships to the board of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA).

Barnes' journey into global health began unexpectedly. Initially working in education across Sub-Saharan Africa with USAID, he was asked to lead a groundbreaking HIV/AIDS programme within USAID's Global Health Bureau. "This shifted my focus entirely towards public health, healthcare infrastructure and service delivery," he recalls.

After 12 years with USAID, Barnes joined the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), expanding international and domestic health initiatives. His work included establishing UNAIDS in Geneva and roles with the Corporate Council on Africa and AIDS United. He spent 10 years with Rotary International as Director of Programmes and Grants, overseeing the Secretariat's support to clubs worldwide and managing The Rotary Foundation's global grants portfolio, Peace Centres and investment opportunities. His focus was on strengthening grant programmes and guiding sustainable, large-scale initiatives.

Barnes' connection with RFHA stems from admiration for founder Marion Bunch's commitment. Joining the RFHA board, he is focused on securing sustainable resources and forging partnerships to enhance its impact.

His experiences living and working across Africa shaped his approach. As a Peace Corps volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Barnes adapted to a new culture and language. "Health-seeking behaviour is influenced by cultural perceptions of disease, gender roles and structural barriers," he explains. These insights underpin RFHA's gender-intentional approach, which is funded by the Gates Foundation and aims at making healthcare more accessible and equitable.

"I am personally very excited about RFHA's gender-intentional approach," he says. "It's about understanding broader community obstacles and creating an environment where people feel safe and supported."

Barnes sees RFHA's strength as its ability to act as a catalyst, engaging Rotarians, Ministries of Health, private sector partners and NGOs to create an ecosystem for substantial healthcare responses. He emphasises the importance of partnerships for sustainability. He highlights RFHA's partnership with ABF Sugar, aimed at improving healthcare outcomes beyond employees to surrounding communities. Partnerships with the Gates Foundation have also opened avenues for future grants aligned with RFHA's mission.

Looking ahead, Barnes sees RFHA expanding beyond Africa. "Expansion requires stronger operational infrastructure and strategic focus, but with the right partnerships, it's achievable," he says.



To get at the real issue, start with a community assessment

THE PROBLEM THAT ISN'T

Even with the best of intentions, sometimes a project can go awry. Toilets end up under-utilised because they're seen as a luxury. A water system is abandoned once people realise that the cost to power it will drain household incomes. Donated medical supplies remain stockpiled because a hospital didn't need or can't use them or nobody has the time to sort them.

Identifying the precise problem that a community wants to address will help avoid such outcomes. Say you learn that girls are dropping out of school and you want to develop a project to help. Is their primary obstacle the cost to attend school? Or is it related to something else, like menstrual hygiene and a need for better facilities or perhaps they are bullied.

To find out, you need to ask. Conducting a community assessment helps a club better understand the place it's working in and encourages residents to take ownership of the

project. "You are not to suggest your solutions," says Marcel van Opstal, a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, a group that helps Rotary members plan and carry out grant projects around the world. "You are there to implement their solution. They are the ones to decide."

If you're not sure where to start when doing the community assessment, try working with someone from the Cadre or an expert from a Rotary Action Group. If it's a peace project, a Rotary Peace Fellow or a Positive Peace Activator may be able to advise. Or check with a local university or Rotaract club to find someone with expertise in project management, suggests van Opstal, a Cadre member in Colombia. You can connect with experts and other potential partners through your district resource network. Think of it as an in-house consulting firm made up of fellow Rotary members.

The point within a project when members conduct the assessment will vary, says Brenda Anena, a Cadre member from Uganda. If someone in your club sees a need and brings it to the club, do a community assessment before proceeding. Do likewise if someone in the community comes to the club with a request. Remember that a community assessment is different from a feasibility study. A community assessment focuses on understanding the community's main concerns and the underlying causes, rather than analysing the practicality of a proposed initiative. Your project should be related to the findings from your community assessment.

Sometimes clubs will do a comprehensive community assessment to evaluate a variety of needs in a community, identifying several projects to conduct over a period of time. Then, before each project begins, they complete a more specific assessment with residents and others involved.

One of the biggest challenges can be identifying who should be involved. "Sometimes the loudest speakers, the politicians and all that, are not the people you need to listen to," Anena says. "You need to listen to the people at the back." Meet people in their community or on neutral ground, rather than having them come to you, to help them feel more comfortable sharing their priorities.

A community assessment can take many forms: an inventory of assets related to the issue you are exploring, community mapping, a review of documents and policies, community meetings, focus groups, interviews and surveys. Other local institutions or partners often have already gathered some of the information you need and are familiar with the community. Don't be afraid to ask, van Opstal says. "Keep it simple. Don't complicate it too much," he says. "Otherwise, you can go and go with no end in sight."

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS HOW-TO GUIDE

Rotary recently updated its guidebook on how to involve community members in setting priorities and designing a project. The following are tips from Rotary's Conducting Community Assessments handbook, available at [rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org):

- **Make sure local clubs are involved.** Their members will help build ongoing relationships and ensure a deep understanding of the community.
- **Choose participants carefully.** Include a representative cross section of groups, considering gender, age, ethnicity, religion, income level and vocation. Talk separately with people from frequently marginalised groups if that makes them more comfortable sharing their perspectives.
- **Determine what data is relevant.** Seek out available data from other organisations and government entities. Consider who will collect the data and how. Collaborate, don't



duplicate.

- **Learn from what hasn't worked.** Find out why.
- **Go to the community.** Meet in community members' space rather than asking them to travel to a place where they might feel uncomfortable or incur travel costs.
- **Listen without judgment.** Suspend your preconceived ideas and focus on learning and understanding other perspectives. Speak with people in the community, not at them and find ways they can be actively involved.

Seven Cases, Two Countries

Nearly 40 years after Rotary International launched its campaign to eradicate polio, the world is closer than ever to achieving the goal. In 1985, there were approximately 350,000 cases of polio each year. Today, thanks to decades of relentless effort, that number has dropped by 99.99%.

Between February and April 2025, only seven cases of wild poliovirus were reported globally - six in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan. This remarkable progress is a testament to the commitment of health workers, governments, global partners and Rotary members who have stayed focused on making polio a disease of the past.

Since the beginning of its campaign, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2 billion towards polio eradication. The effort has included

funding immunisation campaigns, improving surveillance systems and strengthening healthcare infrastructures in vulnerable areas.

Since 2013, Rotary's impact has been further amplified through a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For every US\$1 Rotary commits to polio eradication, the Gates Foundation contributes US\$2, up to US\$35 million per year. This matching agreement has helped push global efforts even closer to the finish line.

According to the World Health Organisation's Polio Eradication Initiative, while wild poliovirus remains endemic in only two countries, the risk of outbreaks still exists, especially in areas with low immunisation rates. Ongoing vaccination campaigns and community engagement continue to be essential to protect children everywhere.

Rotary members are encouraged to maintain momentum by advocating for sustained funding and supporting immunisation drives. While the progress is undeniable, the final push remains critical - after all, polio is just a plane ride away.



Rotary
Africa - South

Which Club Meets Today

2025/26 Directory

Please email your club meeting and leadership information for the 2025-26 Rotary Year to:
rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

ARE YOUR CLUB DETAILS CORRECT?

Club Information Required: President's, and Secretary's names and contact details, club meeting location (full physical address), day and time of meeting

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 30 May 2025

Teaching Peace

A MOTHER'S MISSION IN GHANA

by Gülin Eva Geloğulları – Journalist & Rotary Peace Fellow



Clara Valentine Tigenoah grew up in the Upper East Region of Ghana, where the long-standing Bawku conflict, rooted in a historic chieftaincy dispute, shaped much of her early life. Although her town lay outside the immediate conflict zone, the ripple effects reached across the entire region and continue to this day. The conflict has left a legacy of economic stagnation, educational setbacks, food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition and deepening poverty.

During her Rotary Peace Fellowship training at Makerere University, Clara found the field trips profoundly transformative. “Looking directly into the eyes of both former warlords and genocide survivors in Rwanda, interacting with refugees, the Ugandan Refugee Board, and various NGOs all working tirelessly for peace, provided us with profound insights that no textbook could convey,” she said. The fellowship nurtured a strong sense of purpose and a deep drive to contribute towards a more peaceful world.

Drawing on her professional background in education, Clara recognised the critical need to integrate peacebuilding into her work in Ghana. She saw an opportunity to engage the younger generations early. “I could not look away,” she recalled. “This conflict was robbing young people of their future. I knew I had to do something.”

Clara has chosen to focus on peace education, using her platform to ensure that young people are not influenced by those who perpetuate conflict. As a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Accra Legon East (D9104, Ghana), she furthers her commitment to promoting peace education both locally and internationally.

She has launched peace education projects in basic schools, incorporating the Positive Peace framework. Through this, she guides children in understanding the values of tolerance, dialogue and peaceful coexistence. As a Peace Fellow and Rotarian, Clara has become a familiar face at conferences and Rotary events, where she shares practical insights on building and sustaining peace.

Recently, she attended the Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul, where Rotarians from across the globe gathered to address increasing polarisation and conflict. “I don’t just speak about peace. I invite people to live it,” she explained.

When reflecting on how motherhood influenced her worldview and

her work, Clara spoke candidly. “To me, motherhood is a symbol of peace. Mothers give life - a sacred gift from God - and should protect and nurture it. When you cradle a new life in your arms, you deeply understand that every life is sacred. Every decision I make, every word I speak, is rooted in a longing for harmony.”

As a mother of two, Clara’s maternal experiences have significantly shaped her approach to conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding. She encourages fellow mothers to create nurturing homes, rich in love, empathy and stability. “When a child grows up surrounded by peace, they carry it with them. It shapes who they become and how they shape the world,” she said.

For Clara, lasting peace does not begin with grand policies or sweeping reforms. “Mothers who intentionally raise their children, who choose understanding over conflict and unity over division, ultimately contribute to a more peaceful world,” she said.

During the interview, Clara also reflected on the cultural wisdom embedded within Ghanaian society. She shared a local proverb: “Anomaa antu a, obua da,” meaning, “If a bird does not fly, it goes to bed hungry.” It reflects a belief that life rewards effort and resilience. “We believe the world does not owe any individual anything and nobody will give a person anything on a silver platter. If you want something, you have to work for it,” she explained.

For Clara, peacebuilding is not an abstract idea. It is a lived commitment, a daily practice and a promise to future generations. When asked to define peace, she paused thoughtfully before answering: “Peace is the meeting of minds.”

WHAT IS POSITIVE PEACE?

When we talk about peace, it’s easy to think only of the absence of war or violence. But true peace is much more than that. Positive peace is the presence of conditions that create and sustain peaceful societies over the long term.

It is built on eight key pillars:

1. A well-functioning government
2. A sound business environment
3. Acceptance of the rights of others
4. Good relations with neighbours
5. Free flow of information
6. High levels of human capital
7. Low levels of corruption
8. Equitable distribution of resources

These pillars work together to create the structures that allow communities to thrive. Positive peace means having strong institutions, access to education and healthcare, respect for human rights and opportunities for all. It is about building societies where fairness, resilience and opportunity are part of everyday life.

Unlike negative peace, which is simply the absence of conflict, positive peace focuses on strengthening the systems that prevent conflict from happening in the first place. It is proactive, not reactive.

Rotary’s work in education, clean water, healthcare, community development and peacebuilding directly supports these pillars. Every time a Rotarian invests in a project that strengthens a community, they are building positive peace.

Creating positive peace is a journey, not a one-time achievement. It requires vision, collaboration and commitment from individuals, communities and governments. It is about creating the foundations for lasting change, where people can live with dignity, opportunity and hope.

Positive peace is not just the absence of war - it is the presence of justice, resilience and opportunity for all.



D9370 RFE Chair AG Ash Maharaj receives a token of appreciation from D3132 RFE Team Leader Girish Doshi. With them is DGN Jayesh Patel.

A Journey to Satara

By Ash Maharaj – Assistant Governor and RFE District Chair

The Rotary Friendship Exchange to Satara organised by District 9370, offered participants a chance to experience a vibrant part of India often missed by conventional travellers. Situated 350km southeast of Mumbai, Satara boasts tourist attractions, local cuisine, shopping, dams and ancient caves.

Following a scenic five-hour drive from Mumbai, the team arrived to a warm welcome organised by the Rotary Club of Satara (D3132), where garlands, sweets, flower petals and heartfelt embraces greeted them.

The visiting team comprised three participants, including Jay and Pravashini Naicker, a couple relatively new to Rotary. It was an ideal introduction to international Rotary friendship and service.

During their stay, the team engaged with members from the Rotary Clubs of Satara, Karad, Panchgani and Wai. Meetings were well organised and conducted with Rotary spirit and discipline. Highlights included celebrating the 49th wedding anniversary of Girish Doshi, the RFE Team Leader from District 3132 and reconnecting with two former Youth Exchange participants who had visited South Africa more

than eight years ago. Family involvement was notable throughout, particularly during evening programmes where the welcoming atmosphere was enriched by members' families.

The itinerary included visits to cultural and historical sites such as Fort Sajjangad, Ananoban School for Children with Special Needs, the Satara Officers' Club, a historical museum and the ancient Bhaje Caves. The visit to Asia's largest wind farm also provided insights into local innovation.

Every club visit involved lively conversations about South Africa and Rotary's activities, showcasing the shared spirit of service and global fellowship. Satara's rich culinary experiences, from traditional meals to exquisite regional dishes, deepened the team's appreciation of Indian culture.

The final evening was especially memorable, hosted under the stars by the joint Rotary clubs. District Governor Nominee Jayesh Patel (D3132) and Rotarians gathered for an evening of music, dance, traditional food and fellowship. A presentation by the district interact chair highlighted impressive projects and strong commitment to Service Above Self.

CELEBRATING ROTARY SERVICE

Charter anniversaries are more than just dates on a calendar - they are moments to celebrate Rotary's enduring spirit of service, fellowship and leadership. Across Africa, clubs are marking these milestones by reflecting on decades of community impact, growth and resilience. Each celebration marks the power of Rotary's shared commitment to making a difference, one project and one partnership at a time. As we honour these achievements, we also look ahead with renewed energy to the opportunities that the future holds for African Rotary clubs and the communities they serve.

99 Years

The Rotary Club of East London (D9370) celebrated a historic milestone on Wednesday, 2 April, as members and guests gathered at the East London Golf Club to mark the club's 99th Charter Dinner.

Founded in 1926, the club has played a significant role in serving the East London community through a variety of humanitarian projects, promoting fellowship and upholding Rotary's values. The evening brought together Rotarians, community leaders and guests to reflect on nearly a century of service.

District Governor Nominee, Melonie Gobel, delivered the keynote address, speaking about Rotary's contribution to the East London community over the past 99 years and its future impact. Special awards were presented during the evening.

The occasion was marked by camaraderie, fine dining and a reaffirmation of Rotary's motto: *Service Above Self*.

Looking ahead to its centenary in 2026, the club is planning a series of initiatives to strengthen community outreach, expand youth development programmes and support sustainable projects. Legacy projects already



At the 99th Charter Anniversary Dinner is President Angie Church.

underway include support for the Buffalo City Schools Chess Initiative, the Isethembiso Farming Initiative, the Fort Grey School library container conversion and scholarships for deserving students.

President Angela Church highlighted the club's vision: "As we look ahead to our centenary, we remain dedicated to evolving with the needs of our community. Our goal is to build on our proud history and ensure that the next century of Rotary in East London is even more impactful."



The Rotary Club of Durban (D9370) marked its centenary with a formal luncheon at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban on 25 January 2025. Main table: Back: Shereen Ramchunder, DG Raj Ramchunder, Richard Cluver. Front: Lauraine Lafferty, President Rydal Spavins, Ann President Liz Cluver, Guest Speaker Dr Raymond Perrier.

Centennial in Durban

By Liz Cluver

More than 120 Rotarians, past Rotarians, Rotary Anns and friends gathered at The Great Ilanga at Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel to celebrate a century of Rotary service in Durban, proudly wearing Rotary regalia.

Formalities included the traditional top-table procession, reciting the Four-Way Test, toasts to Rotary International, the country and the club and lighting an In Memoriam candle to honour deceased members. The ceremony was conducted by Richard Cluver and Lyster van der Brugge, who were celebrating 50 years since their joint induction. Both were the youngest members ever inducted at the time. Van der Brugge's handcrafted President's Chair, gifted in 1987, was prominently displayed and a historic

photograph was taken with past presidents who had each served seated in the chair.

Following the starter, Past President and Paul Harris Fellow Richard Cluver presented an engaging overview of the club's 100-year history. He recalled when the club had more than 150 members and highlighted Rotary's role in founding KwaMashu, the Community Chest, TAFTA, Child Welfare, Childline, Restmount Children's Holiday Home and Lulama Drug Addiction Treatment Centre.

Fundraising has always been central to the club's activities. Notable projects include the launch of the Tour d'Urban Cycle Race with Kings Park Cycling Club in 1994 and the Jersey Project, initiated in 2003, where handmade jerseys are distributed to underprivileged

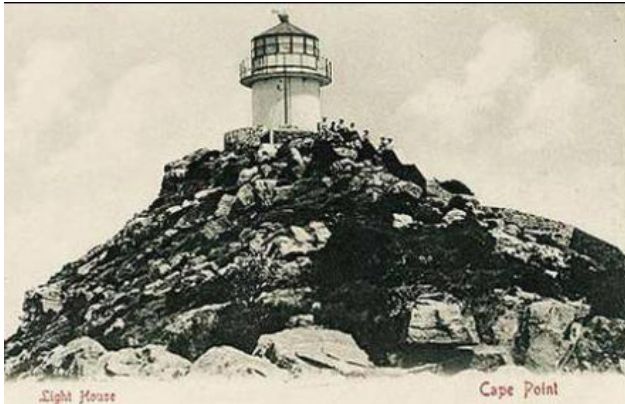
children.

The highlight of the celebration was an address by Dr Raymond Perrier, Director of the Denis Hurley Centre, which now carries out much of the outreach once managed by the club. He congratulated the club, “I wish enormous congratulations and best wishes to all members on this extraordinary achievement of 100 years of service to Durban and the community.”

Reflecting on changes over the past century,

he said, “As I look around this room, I see quite a lot of change... women, younger people, members of Interact clubs and a diversity of colour.”

Perrier emphasised Rotary’s ethical principles enshrined in the Four-Way Test and urged attendees to remain hopeful despite challenges. A certificate and letter from Rotary International were presented to the club president by District Governor Raj Ramchunder.



An old postcard of the lighthouse at Cape Point. The club helped found the Cape Point Nature Reserve Society and its members helped promote conservation efforts and ensure that this natural wonder, a reserve encompassing 7750 hectares of rich and varied fauna and flora, was protected for future generations.

100 years of Impact

The Rotary Club of Cape Town (D9350) marked a significant milestone on 29 April 2025 - 100 years of service, impact and fellowship. Chartered in 1925, it was the fourth Rotary club established in Southern Africa, following Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elizabeth.

Since its founding, the Rotary Club of Cape Town has played a leading role in community development, humanitarian service and fostering global understanding. Over the decades, it has initiated and supported numerous projects that have left a lasting legacy across the city and the broader region.

One of its earliest initiatives was the establishment of the Cape Town Community Chest in 1927, aimed at supporting charitable activities across the city. During World War II, members of the club contributed significantly

to the war effort, setting up a recreation centre for soldiers, supplying radios to minesweepers, contributing to the Lifeboat Fund and supporting South African soldiers stationed in Cairo.

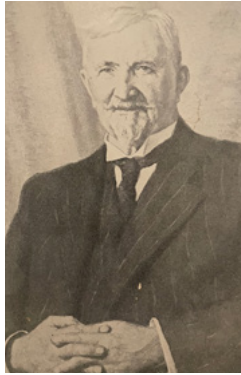
The post-war years saw the club continue its community-focused initiatives. It was instrumental in founding the Cape Point Nature Reserve Society and helped establish Glencairn Youth Camp, providing outdoor education opportunities for young people. The club also played a role in transferring 500 patients to the newly built Groote Schuur Hospital and contributed to training community nurses, ensuring better healthcare for underserved communities.

Responding to broader social needs, the club established the Cape Flats Distress Association for Clinical Services, further demonstrating its

commitment to improving health and welfare services for vulnerable populations.

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Cape Town has also expanded Rotary's footprint across the region. Clubs it chartered included Bellville, George, Hermanus, Mossel Bay, Paarl, Stellenbosch and Windhoek, helping to strengthen the Rotary network and extend service opportunities throughout Southern Africa.

While reflecting on a century of achievements, the club continues to look forward. Its ongoing commitment to Service Above Self remains central, with a focus on creating lasting impact within local communities. Current members are dedicating themselves to



Sir John (Jock) Carruthers Beattie, charter president of the Rotary Club of Cape Town. He was the first principal and vice chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

building on the club's rich history by supporting projects that respond to emerging needs, particularly in a changing social landscape.

Among its more recent initiatives is the innovative Guest Conductor project organised in partnership with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, which honoured PDG Dick Friedlander. This project combined community engagement with the promotion of the arts, a reflection of the club's broader commitment to holistic development.

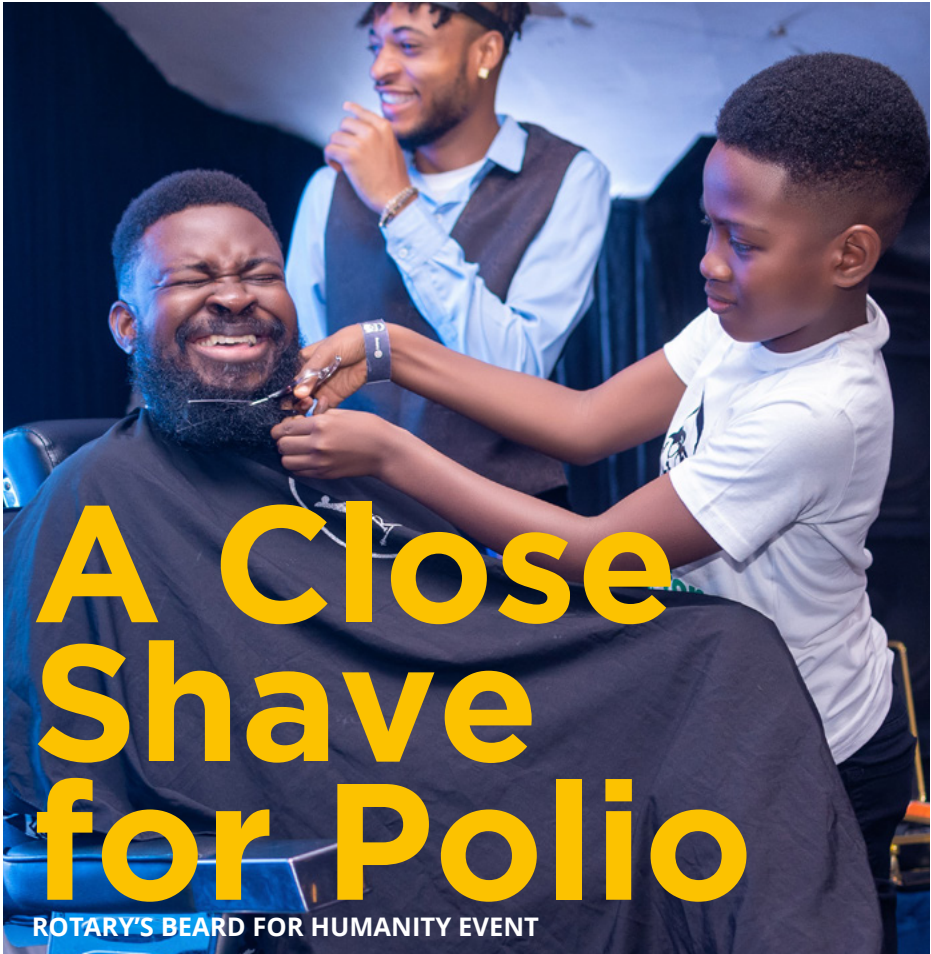
From addressing healthcare needs and supporting war efforts to conserving the environment and fostering education, the club's initiatives have touched the lives of thousands of people.

104 Years of Fellowship, Service and Growth

Rotary arrived in Africa with the charter of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg in 1921. It, along with the Rotary Clubs of Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, were among the pioneer clubs instrumental in introducing Rotary's ideals of service and fellowship to Africa and formed the nucleus of early Rotary districts on the continent. Notably, after these first clubs chartered, Rotary's spread continued north: the first club in North Africa (Cairo, Egypt) came in 1929, the first in East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) in 1930 and the first in West Africa (Dakar, Senegal) in 1939. The legacy of the first ten clubs is evident in the robust growth that followed and by 1930 there were 17 clubs on the continent. Today there are Rotary clubs active across all of Africa, all tracing back to these early chartered clubs. The first five Rotary clubs chartered in Africa were:

1. **Rotary Club of Johannesburg** - Chartered: 1 July 1921
2. **Rotary Club of Durban** - Chartered: 25 January 1925
3. **Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth** - Chartered: 25 April 1925
4. **Rotary Club of Cape Town** - Chartered: 29 April 1925
5. **Rotary Club of Pietermaritzburg** - Chartered: 2 June 1925

Sources: Primary historical data was confirmed through Rotary International and Rotary Global History Fellowship archives, including club records and centennial publications. Each charter date and fact above is cited from Rotary's documented history for accuracy.



A Close Shave for Polio

ROTARY'S BEARD FOR HUMANITY EVENT

On 22 February 2025, President Jide Ogunleye of the Rotary Club of Omole-Golden (D9111, Nigeria) did something few could imagine: he shaved off his iconic beard of more than 10 years. The event, aptly named Beard for Humanity, was a unique fundraising initiative organised to raise money and awareness for the Rotary Foundation's Polio Fund.

What made this event particularly striking was the unusual concept - a respected club president agreeing to shave his famous beard if supporters stepped up to donate generously. This intriguing proposition immediately captured public interest, drawing significant community

attention and involvement.

To maximise participation, the club structured Beard for Humanity with various ticket categories. Guests could choose how they contributed, with higher levels of support earning the privilege of participating in the shave-off itself. Some attendees got the rare chance to wield the razor and take part directly in the symbolic shaving process.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the Rotary Club of Omole-Golden implemented an extensive media campaign. Through social media updates, radio spots and television appearances, anticipation was steadily built

among the public. Additionally, the event's profile was enhanced by celebrity comedian MC Odogwu, who hosted the day and with his well-known charisma, drew an even wider audience.

The event itself saw a remarkable turnout, with more than 200 guests attending. Among these were District Governor Dr Oluwole Kukoyi and Rotarian Adijat Motunrayo Adeleye, Hon. Commissioner for Women Affairs in Ogun State.

The fundraiser also attracted considerable support from corporate sponsors. Notable local businesses such as Ritemate Technologies, K-Dove Place, MTN Nigeria, Privet Limited, Abelinis Limited and Rodulaf Real Estate generously contributed to the event, underlining its broad community and corporate appeal. After expenses, The Rotary Foundation's Polio

Fund received a net contribution of US\$2,154 in support of its mission to eradicate polio globally.

Following the event, Beard for Humanity received extensive coverage in both print, broadcast and digital media.

To ensure broad accessibility, the fundraiser was live streamed on both YouTube and Zoom, allowing Rotarians and supporters worldwide to join in virtually.

The unique and interactive nature of the event provided a fresh perspective on Rotary's approach to community service, drawing interest from potential new members attracted by the club's creativity and commitment.

For further details on Beard for Humanity, the full report is available online at: <https://bit.ly/beardforpolio>.



Rotarians were hard at work serving refreshments during the concert interval.

The Fun Never Ends in Paarl

The Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) recently hosted its annual variety concert for senior citizens. The concert, first launched 40 years ago by local Rotarian Kaufie Kaufman, has become a highly anticipated event in the Paarl community.

Each year, local performers generously donate their talents and time, ensuring the concert remains a lively and memorable event. Rotary volunteers manage all transport arrangements and refreshments, providing a complete experience for over 400 enthusiastic senior citizens who attend.

This year's concert featured a vibrant array of entertainment including a lively line-dancing group, talented singers, skilled musicians, a comedian, a chair pilates instructor and a local choir. Popular local singer André Terblanche expertly coordinated the concert.



Gail Wilson fitting a child's new shoes. Thanks to the generosity of the Santa Shoebox Project, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400), 200 children in the area received new shoes.

200 Children's New Shoes

Hundreds of underprivileged children from Barcelona informal settlement in Etwatwa were bright smiles as they lined up at the Friends of Martin de Porres Centre to receive brand-new shoes.

According to Gail Wilson of the Benoni Aurora club, the inspiration behind the initiative came from a touching moment at the centre's soup kitchen. Wilson described how a young boy was spotted wearing a flip-flop on one foot and a Croc on the other. "That picture touched our members deeply, prompting them to take action," she said.

Margie Kostelac of the Santa Shoebox Project explained that the collaboration with Rotary emerged from a conversation with Rotary District Governor-Elect Grace van Zyl. "Upon learning about Rotary's ongoing shoe drive, the Santa Shoebox Project decided to assist.

This donation is not just about giving shoes; it is about showing these children they are cared

for and valued," said Kostelac.

Club president Garth Smithard emphasised the long-term benefits of the project. "This donation ensures children can walk to and from school in proper shoes that will last them a long time. We have seen cases where children cut off the front of their shoes to make them fit. This initiative aims to change that," Smithard explained.

Wilson added that the Rotary club has allocated R50,000 towards this shoe drive, a significant contribution allowing them to extend their generosity to another organisation, working alongside the Santa Shoebox Project.

Ligia da Silva, representing Friends of Martin de Porres, expressed her gratitude for the impactful donation. Friends of Martin de Porres is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting destitute women and children in the Barcelona community.



With 17 enthusiastic students participating and seven career fields represented, the World of Work Fair was declared a significant success.

WoW Career Fair

On a Saturday in March, the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea's (D9370) Youth Services Committee hosted its inaugural World of Work (WoW) Fair at The Goat Shed. The event was designed to give local youth insights into various career paths that do not necessarily require tertiary education.

Twenty students from Grades 10 to 12 attended the fair and had the opportunity to engage directly with professionals from seven distinct sectors: beauty, hospitality, farming, security, retail, tourism and caring professions. Industry experts staffed each career table, sharing their personal experiences, job expectations and available training opportunities within their fields.

The fair adopted an informal, interactive format, allowing students to sit in small groups with professionals for meaningful conversations. A particularly popular session was delivered by Chris Barnard, Operations Manager of Hi-Tec Security Coastal, who spoke about employment prospects and opportunities in the security

industry. At the end of each discussion, students were invited to ask questions, fostering a dynamic and interactive exchange of ideas.

Feedback from both the students and professionals who attended was highly positive. Many students felt inspired and encouraged to explore career opportunities they had not previously considered. The fair successfully highlighted the wide range of local employment opportunities available within the community.

The club expressed its appreciation to The Goat Shed Bush Bistro & Bar for providing refreshments and creating a comfortable atmosphere conducive to learning and discussion. Special thanks were also given to members of the Youth Services Committee for their dedication and hard work in organising the event.

The positive response has encouraged the Rotary club to plan for future events, aiming to expand the range of careers presented and increase the number of participating students from Kenton and its surrounding areas.



Career Guidance with Ramabanta high school learners.

Building Futures

The Lesotho Outreach Programme was initiated by the Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400) in 2012 as its 'international' programme. For the past 13 years, club members, alongside members of the Rotary Club of Maloti-Maseru (D9370), have worked together on projects in the community of Ramabanta in Lesotho.

This partnership has fostered strong bonds between the two clubs, with fellowship evenings becoming a cherished part of the experience. One of the favourite activities during these evenings is a lively game of 30 Seconds after a productive day of service.

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield has significantly contributed to the welfare of schoolchildren in Ramabanta by providing essential items such as blankets, jackets, shirts, shoes and school supplies. The club has also enhanced the learning environment by planting trees and painting classrooms. Among the initiatives targeted at high school students, Skills Development and Career Guidance programmes have been a particular focus. These activities aim to introduce students to various career possibilities and equip them

with the knowledge needed to pursue their goals.

Two years ago, the club introduced a fun-filled sports day for the five primary schools in the area. This event has quickly become a highlight on the community calendar, drawing large crowds from nearby villages who come to cheer on the young participants. By popular demand, a special race category was added this year for mothers and grandmothers, whose competitive spirit delighted the audience. A trophy is awarded to the school that displays the most spirit and after the races, all participants receive a hearty snack pack. The event also provides an opportunity for teachers to identify talented runners with potential.

Four years ago, the club launched an embroidery project in Ramabanta with the aim of creating income-generating opportunities for women in the community. The initiative was met with enthusiasm and interestingly, a few gentlemen joined the initial training sessions. They have since proved themselves to be skilled embroiderers, demonstrating that talent knows no gender.



Some members of the Interact Club of Woodlands International College with their educator, Amber Bennett.

BIG HEARTS IN BENONI

The Rotary Club of Benoni van Ryn (D9400) recently celebrated a heartwarming collaboration that reflected Rotary's enduring spirit of service - a joint effort between the Interact Club of Woodlands International College and the Benoni van Ryn Rotary Anns, in support of Kuselo Child and Youth Care Centre.

Based in Boksburg, Kuselo provides a 24-hour frontline response for children in danger, offering emergency placement and protection for abused, neglected and abandoned children between the ages of 0 and 6. At any given time, Kuselo cares for between 12 and 30 vulnerable children, providing not only physical safety but also emotional nurturing, developmental support and the first steps towards healing.

Throughout the first school term, the Interact club, supported by teacher Amber Bennett, mobilised the broader student body to collect baby clothing, care products, non-perishable foods and essential toiletries. Donations poured in from both students and staff, who responded

enthusiastically through break-time collections, poster campaigns and strategically placed collection boxes around campus.

The Interact team also raised over R1,600, which was used to purchase more than 20 additional bags of groceries and baby essentials. Their drive and compassion turned the initiative into a powerful demonstration of youth-led service in action.

On 3 April, Benoni van Ryn Rotary Anns President Lynne Mehigan officially handed over the donations to Kuselo. The Rotary Anns had proudly supported the Interact club throughout the campaign, offering encouragement, guidance and hands-on help. They also contributed additional groceries to the value of R5,000, further demonstrating Rotary's commitment to uplifting vulnerable communities.

The success of this initiative highlighted the impact of intergenerational collaboration within Rotary, showing how mentorship and teamwork can amplify service efforts and create lasting change.

Living the Four-Way Test Across Languages

The Four-Way Test is one of Rotary's guiding set of principles, offering a simple yet powerful framework for ethical living based on Truth, Fairness, Goodwill and Friendship.

The test asks the following four questions of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

By promoting these values, The Four-Way Test helps to build bridges between individuals and communities, encouraging integrity and respect in every action.

During the 2024/2025 Rotary year, five members of the Rotary Club of Msasa (D9210) embarked on a project to collect translations of The Four-Way Test in different languages. Their goal was to celebrate inclusiveness and promote diversity within their club and across Rotary clubs worldwide.

The five Rotarians (Letty Warinda-Ndanga, Sam Chikowore, Phillipa Chengeta, Dorothy Pasipanodya and Buhlebenkosi Mkhwananzi) successfully gathered translations in ten languages: Shona, Ndebele, Swedish, French, Afrikaans, Bemba, Kalanga, Portuguese, Swahili and Chewa.

By sharing The Four-Way Test in these languages, the club hopes to bring fellow Rotarians together, encouraging members to recite the test in different languages and enjoy the spirit of fun and unity it creates.



Rotary
Club of Msasa

SHONA

The 4 Way Test

Pane zvese zvandinofunga, kutaura kana kuita:

1. I chokwadi here?
2. Zvakankira munhu wese here?
3. Zvinovaka hushamwari here nekuwirirana?
4. Zvinosimudzira munhu wese here?



Rotary
Club of Msasa

BEMBA

The 4 Way Test

**"Inshila shine isha kweshiwa.
Pa fintu tutontokanya, tusosa nangula ukucita;**

1. Bushe cishinka?
2. Bushe camulinganya?
3. Bushe cala kuula ukuyana na bucibusa busuma?
4. Bushe calaba ica bukumo kuli bonse ebo cikumine?



Rotary
Club of Msasa

SWEDISH

The 4 Way Test

Det vi tänker, säger eller gör:

1. Är det SANT?
2. Är det RÄTTVIST mot alla parter?
3. Kommer det att skapa GOD VILJA och BÄTTRE VÄNSKAPSFÖRHÅLLANDEN?
4. Kommer det att vara till FÖRDEL för alla som det berör?

Rotarians translated The Four-Way Test into 10 different languages to celebrate inclusiveness and promote diversity.



As the RYLA Leadership Summit 2025 drew to a close, it became clear that these students had gained much more than leadership skills - they had found their voices, built their confidence and developed a shared vision for the future.

Shaping Young Leaders

The RYLA Leadership Summit 2025, held from 13 to 17 March in Grahamstown, brought together 62 Grade 11 students from 35 schools for a week of learning, growth and inspiration.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programme focuses on nurturing leadership through personal development, teamwork and community engagement. This year's summit, facilitated by Dr Ian Knott-Craig, offered an action-packed schedule designed to challenge and empower the participants.

From the opening session where students shared their expectations, to lively debates and thought-provoking discussions, the energy at the camp was electric. Participants engaged in critical conversations about youth challenges and leadership styles, building strong bonds along the way.

An impressive line-up of speakers shaped the experience. Ruleen de Witt led a session on conflict management, teaching strategies for addressing disagreements constructively. Rev Tim Marshall explored character-building and leadership through interactive discussions, while Professor Tshidi Mohapela from Rhodes

Business School challenged students to define ethical leadership. Dr Lindsay Kelland from the Allan Gray Department of Philosophy facilitated sessions on critical social issues, encouraging deep thinking and reflection.

Team-building exercises, a character analysis of The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse and World Café discussions gave students practical leadership skills. Despite the rain moving some activities indoors, the energy and enthusiasm remained high.

One student, Uhuru Qabaka, shared, "At first, I didn't know what to expect, but RYLA turned out to be an unforgettable journey. The future is not something you wait for, it's something you build. We must not just make a difference - we must BE the difference."

Uhuru praised lessons from Rev Marshall on using leadership to influence and highlighted the value of understanding personal identity, as emphasised by Dr Mohapela. "I discovered my strengths, values and purpose. I now feel empowered to be a leader who brings light to others and makes a lasting impact in my community," said Uhuru.



Melkbos Interactors unpacking the soft toys.

Bringing Smiles

In March, the Rotary Club of Melkbos (D9350) and Interactors from Melkbosstrand High School joined forces to support the Wynberg Children's Court with a heartwarming donation of soft toys. Their goal was to bring comfort to children facing difficult circumstances.

The partnership between the Rotary club and the school's Interact club continues to flourish, strengthened by generous community support. New and gently used soft toys were collected, reflecting a spirit of compassion and service.

Nine Interactors, accompanied by liaison teacher Petro Vermeulen, Rotarian Lisa Stander and Rotary Club of Melkbos President June Pettitt, were welcomed at the court by Magistrate Bawa and Senior Magistrate Erasmus. They explained the workings of the court system and the important role of adoption proceedings.

Magistrate G. McKellar praised the students' enthusiasm, noting, "Their sincere interest in the mission of the Children's Court was genuinely inspiring and commendable."

Throughout the visit, Interactors engaged

warmly with the children, helping them choose their favourite soft toys. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement, as connections were formed across different ages and backgrounds.

The initiative highlighted the importance of community support and showed that empathy and generosity have no age limit. It gave the students a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and the impact of simple acts of kindness.

During the visit, Magistrate Bawa and Senior Magistrate Erasmus answered questions about child protection and the court's role in supporting children, guardians and communities. The discussions gave valuable insights into the vital work carried out by the Children's Court.

Magistrate McKellar expressed deep gratitude, saying, "This is the single largest donation we have ever received. It will make a significant impact on the lives of the children who pass through our doors."



Easter brought extra smiles with treat packs and the donation of 150 plastic balls to children in Elandskop and Oriibi Village.

Service in Action

What began as a simple act of kindness has grown into a long-standing project driven by compassion and collaboration. The Oriibi Outreach, now officially a project of the Rotary Club of Pietermaritzburg Azalea (D9370), continues to support the residents of Oriibi Village with food, clothing and other necessities.

The project's origins trace back several years when Trudy Stegen, a member of the club, was approached by Oriibi Village residents through a mutual connection, Carol Holby of The Wheatfield Mission. At the time, Trudy had access to surplus stock, juice mixes, soups, stock cubes and soya products, originally sourced for composting but still safe for consumption.

Initially used by feeding schemes in Woodlands, the surplus soon expanded to benefit Oriibi Village. As supermarket donation streams dwindled, Trudy adapted by sourcing tinned foods, cereals, second-hand clothing, linen and furniture. Household goods found new homes in Oriibi and, later, in Elandskop.

Church involvement provided further

support, funding monthly food parcels for ten families with essentials like mielie meal, rice, oil and cereal. Even when church support shifted elsewhere, Trudy's wide network of friends and donors kept the project alive.

Annual Christmas parties and festive distributions added joy to the outreach work. Despite COVID-19 challenges, deliveries continued whenever possible.

Recently, Trudy proposed formalising the outreach under Rotary, allowing access to Rotary's systems of transparency and accountability without creating a separate NPO. This move aims to encourage overseas supporters to contribute confidently.

Partnerships continue to strengthen. Pastor Rajeshree Naiker of the Church of Galilee donated 50 litres of breyani for distribution through Kalinka Crèche and Pre-Primary School. Bernice Reddiar, the principal, facilitates regular meal distributions serving about 50 residents on weekends.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Anns of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) donated a large White Karee tree to Aanhou Wen in Dummer Street to provide shade for the newly completed buildings. The tree was supplied by Habitat and delivered free of charge. After the planting, the Anns enjoyed coffee at the new Birdbath Coffee Shop at Aanhou Wen.



The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) recently honoured exceptional community members and organisations at its Community Service and Vocational Awards ceremony. Attended by Rotary members, local dignitaries and community leaders, the event recognised those dedicated to outstanding public service and vocational excellence. Guest speaker Phillip Spencer (above), CFO of Kopanang, delivered an engaging presentation on the future of mining in South Africa.



The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) donated fresh vegetables and Easter eggs to the Klerksdorp Community Centre, helping to bring nourishment and festive cheer to families in need. At the handover are Michelle van Niekerk of KCC with Casey Sounes, Willie Venter, Andreas Demetriou and Juan Nel of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp.



The Rotary Club of East London

(D9370) celebrated the festive season with its Annual Christmas Lunch at Kidd's Beach, hosted by Rotarian Tim and Val Gane. A highlight was the Christmas Hamper raffle organised by the Anns, which raised over R4,000 for community projects. Funds supported Christmas parcels for elderly beneficiaries of the Victoria Trust and a donation of cat food and dewormer tablets to Angela Tuson's North End feeding scheme. Rotarian Janet Egothof won the festive hamper, adding extra cheer to the day.



Rotarian Dr Mussadiq Mir fits an LN4 prosthetic hand for Edwin Oyugi (38) in Nairobi, Kenya. Edwin, a former driver and manual worker, lost his hand in a road accident in 2022. His new prosthetic will help him carry out daily tasks at work and at home, restoring greater independence to his life. The LN4 Prosthetic Hand project is undertaken by the Rotary Club of Nairobi-Utumishi (D9212).



The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) recently hosted a Mad Hatters tea party to raise funds and collect Easter eggs for local orphanages. Guests participated in a hat competition based on the theme of Land, Sea and Air and the winners were Nici Esterhuizen, Alison Buchanan, Val Hardy, Dulcie Harris and Jenni Harrison. Guest speakers presented on each theme: the Land speaker discussed growing and caring for clivias, the Sea guest showcased photos of deep-sea fish and coral and the Air speaker shared images of birds, butterflies and flying insects found in Welkom. The event combined fun, learning and service, supporting the club's commitment to community upliftment.



The Anns of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) received another generous donation from Maria and Jan Manders, of The Netherlands, in support of its reusable sanitary pad project. The donation was enough to provide 40 girls with packs of reusable sanitary pads that will last a number of years. At the presentation are Maria Manders, Rotary Ann Ingrid Edelson and Jan Manders.

The Rotary Club of East

London (D9370) brought smiles to 126 beneficiaries through its Tree of Joy project. Recipients included Ambassadors' of Christ School, Dyam Dyam Village Chess Club, Guardians of Hope, Cocobana families and senior citizens supported by the Rotary Anns. For many, these gifts and food hampers were the highlight of their holidays, made possible by the continued generosity of the East London community.



SHARE YOUR PROJECTS

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

WALL OF HONOUR



Carrie Mackenzie is a new member of the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).



Marcia Cannon is a new member of the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).

Queen Boikhutso is a new member of the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).

Angus King is a new member of the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).



Debbie Jackson is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Mandy Walker is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Craig Thompson was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of East London (D9370).



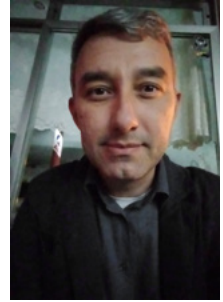
Rino Nepgen was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of East London (D9370).



The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) presented service awards to Rene Stimie, Madeleine Pieterse, Daddy Khuselo, Maggie van Zuydam, Anna Breedt, Michelle van Niekerk, Dr Andrew Abdool and Eddie and Dinah Engelbrecht (received on their behalf by Fernando Mousse).



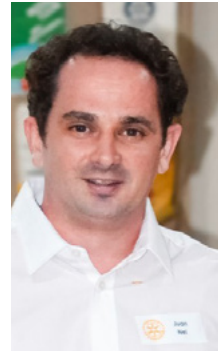
Sharon Purchase and Kevin Sprong are new members of the Rotary Club of Widenham (D9370).



Klaibson Natal Ribeiro Borges is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).



Patsy Roux and Michael Hughes are new members of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370). With them is President Manfred Burkert (centre).



Juan Nel is a new member of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370).

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