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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

It is always inspiring to see Rotary clubs across Africa embarking on impactful projects, especially the long-term initiatives that often yield the most transformative results.

The Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) project in the Northern Cape exemplifies this perfectly. This multi-year endeavour, a collaborative effort between local Rotary clubs and grassroots organisations, tackles a critical health issue with deep-rooted societal implications. The importance of these initiatives cannot be overstated. They create a framework for ongoing support and adaptation to community needs, ensuring that our efforts are not just temporary fixes but are integral to creating lasting change.

The Rotary International Convention's House of Friendship is always a great source of inspiration for projects such as the above. Next year, Rotarians will meet in Calgary at what is promising to be an extraordinary gathering of minds and

spirits.

I encourage each one of you to attend, to engage with fellow Rotarians from around the world, share your projects, gain new insights, and return enriched and inspired. The convention is not only an invaluable opportunity for networking, learning, and growing together in service, but if you read the feature on Calgary, you will probably agree that this really is a destination worth exploring.

Lastly, as we approach World Polio Day next month, let us rekindle our commitment to ending this debilitating disease. Despite tremendous progress, our fight against polio is not over, and the urgency to eradicate it is greater than ever. We are so close to having a polio-free world and this a testament to what we can achieve together. So, use the day to amplify our actions, fundraise and ensure that no child in the future contracts this preventable disease. Together, we can end polio and secure a healthier future for all children.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM CHALLENGE TO
OPPORTUNITY



STEPHANIE URCHICK
President, Rotary International

The Magic of Rotary is belonging and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the US.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organised a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community centre of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community centre and heard traditional music from

my childhood - when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played - I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories. But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community centre.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community centre listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club - other members of our Rotary family - feel like they truly belong.

Foundation Trustee Chair's Message

A legacy for future generations

"The great use of a life," wrote American philosopher William James in 1900, "is to spend it for something that outlasts it."

Some leave a legacy through family and friendships, others through faith or principles and still others through their professions. The Rotary Foundation offers another powerful option.

As a believer in the power of passing down a legacy through The Rotary Foundation Endowment, I was humbled that my wife, Gay and I were recently able to help others in Rotary leave their legacy.

Our district (D6860, in northern Alabama) had never organised a fundraising dinner focused on the Foundation's Endowment before, but we knew it was time. We called it a legacy dinner, emphasising giving's long-term impact.

Progress was slow at first and there were sceptics who doubted we could raise \$1 million, our initial goal. However, we remained optimistic, setting a date for 23 February 2024, Rotary's anniversary.

During this campaign, committee members travelled throughout northern Alabama, meeting with small groups in fireside chats about contributing to the Endowment. Then, significant gifts began coming in. One Rotarian made a \$25,000 commitment, handing over a cheque for



Mark Maloney
Foundation Trustee Chair

\$10,000. Soon, other members followed suit and we had more than \$200,000 in gifts and commitments.

We still had far to go but if there is one thing I know about Rotary, it is this: If you present the opportunity to members, they will respond. Topping off the district's generosity were two surprises. One was a bequest commitment of \$500,000 and then another of \$560,000.

By the end of the campaign, our committee had exceeded our greatest expectations: We had raised \$2,729,863.14 for the Endowment, nearly triple our goal. The impact of those gifts will create a legacy that will keep on giving forever.

No single club or district alone will achieve our goal of fortifying The Rotary Foundation Endowment to \$2.025 billion by 2025. Not all of us can give \$25,000 now or as part of an estate plan. But I also know many of us can.

Please help us reach that Endowment

goal and in doing so leave behind a legacy and further the work of future generations of Rotary members by visiting rotary.

org/legacy. On behalf of the Foundation Trustees, I am grateful for your Rotary legacy.



NEW FRIENDS, OLD FRIENDS

2025 Rotary International Convention Countdown

The Rotarian magazine labelled the 1953 convention in Paris “an exciting adventure in friendship.” That description fits every convention before and since. At the Rotary International Convention in Calgary 21-25 June, jump wholeheartedly into your chance to renew old friendships and find “instant friends” among strangers, as one Rotaractor puts it. These friendships are among the top reasons members give for why they go to the convention.

Consider a few reflections from over the years on convention friends:

“You don’t need an introduction to talk to anyone at the convention, so go ahead and make new friends.”

“A new best friend awaits your arrival and I can promise it because it’s happened to me often over the years.”

“Where else but the Rotary Convention could you make new friends from Brazil, Taiwan and Kenya?”

Who couldn’t use a friend these days when adults report fewer close friends and more loneliness? Rotary encourages members to support each other’s mental well-being, but even in 1914, a magazine article said that valued convention friends “smooth the rugged path of life.”

At the core, Rotary’s good works emanate from friendships, new or old. Founder Paul Harris was looking for true friends, not just acquaintances, when he started Rotary. Past President Frank Devlyn addressed the topic in a 2001 convention speech in San Antonio: “We make new friends because that is the basis for everything we do.” You’ll find those people at the convention in Canada. Years later, there will be a good chance you’re still connected.

Learn more and register at convention.
rotary.org.

YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS



CAROLYN JOHNSON
United States, District 7780

CADRE TITLE:
Cadre Chair and Adviser for Basic Education and Literacy

OCCUPATION:
Educator



WHAT ARE ROTARY MEMBERS SAYING ABOUT CAROLYN?

“Carolyn really takes the time to look at a grant to make sure that Rotary’s money will be well spent! Her comments are honest, thought-provoking, and spot-on in terms of writing an ethical, culturally sensitive, and sustainable grant as defined by Rotary. In our world, she is known to be the must-go-to before submitting.”

— Temrah Okonski, Rotary Club of Ellicott City,
District 7620 (USA)

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!



Rotary at a Blink

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation
Major Gifts Advisor

We often think of snap judgements as lazy, superficial and likely incorrect. However, Malcolm Gladwell, in "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" (2005), suggests that snap judgements can be as good as or even better than decisions made through thorough analysis. "Blink" explores how and why we make quick decisions, when it's unsafe to trust our instincts and how to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of our snap judgements.

Throughout the book, Gladwell identifies three main takeaways:

- Quick decisions can be as significant as those made over a long period.
- Sometimes our instincts can mislead us.
- We can train ourselves to improve our first impressions and snap judgements.

When people observe Rotary, they might see us marching in a parade or imagine a group of older men in a smoke-filled room sipping brandy. What they often don't see is the global network of 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who strive to

create lasting change - globally, in our communities and within ourselves.

Many may not realise Rotary's guiding principles include the Four-way Test - Truth, Fairness, Goodwill and Friendship - or that our vision statement is: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves."

Several years ago, a Peace Corps volunteer from Chicago stayed at our home. Our home clearly reflects our Rotary affiliation and she asked, "What is Rotary?" I explained that Rotary is the oldest and most influential service organisation, founded in Chicago in 1905. Although she was from Chicago and had heard of Rotary, she had no clear understanding of what we do or why we do it.

She had heard about Rotary, envisioning the cliché scenarios, but had never actually seen Rotarians in service or the projects accomplished by them. Indeed, in urban Chicago, Rotary does not drill boreholes and polio has been eradicated in the USA for decades.

However, upon arriving in Zambia, she witnessed firsthand what Rotary does and what our Rotary Wheel symbolises to those at risk around the world: Truth, Fairness, Goodwill and Friendship.

The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have identified seven areas of focus reflecting critical humanitarian issues that Rotarians address worldwide. These areas align Rotary with other international development efforts and further the Foundation's mission.

Yet, the average person seldom sees what Rotary does because our activities are often not visible in urban settings. Projects in rural areas are not publicised in cities. Successes in Maternal and Child Health, one of our focus areas, are usually visible only at the point of contact in remote parts of the community.

The only way we, as Rotarians, can let the world know about our work and our reasons is to share them through social

media, mainstream media and word of mouth. My challenge to you, dear reader, is to share our stories, successes and challenges with everyone in your circle of influence.

Some years ago, a new Rotarian, asked in a club meeting if we were "allowed" to wear our Rotary pins to non-Rotary functions. I smiled and assured her that we could - and should - wear our Rotary identification everywhere. Almost all of my casual wear is Rotary branded and I have Rotary pins on all my suits and sports jackets. I even wear my pin to church services, including weddings and funerals.

We are our organisation's best advertisements. Our activities showcase our work and our attitudes demonstrate our integrity to our community.

We are... The Magic of Rotary!

PS: If you really want to know more, I invite you to read my book!

ECHOES of SELFLESSNESS

A Life of Purpose



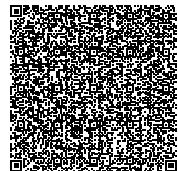
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"My hope is that once you have read this book, you will appreciate that it is possible to live a life of service whilst empowering others and additionally being successful in your personal and professional life. You will learn to leave footprints of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

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The Rotary Foundation*



Ubuntu

Peacebuilding: a Journey of Hope and Interconnectedness

As a Rotary Peace Fellow and Rotarian, Hope Tichaenzana Chichaya has dedicated his career to advancing humanitarian protection, promoting equity, and fostering positive peace across Africa and beyond. Hope is guided by the values instilled by his parents, the Ubuntu philosophy and his interdisciplinary education in theology, peace studies and business. His story inspires many to continue building peace during turbulent times, writes **Gulin 'Eva' Gelogullari – Journalist and Rotary Peace Fellow.**

You frequently say, "I am privileged." What do you mean by privilege?

I am privileged because of the meaningful relationships in my life – my virtuous wife and our amazing children, nurturing friendships and inspiring network. I've overcome difficult experiences and gained valuable international exposure. I reflect on my life with gratitude. My wife produces organic household food. The best response to such a gift is to accept, acknowledge and appreciate it. My colleagues and friends always tell me I exude positive energy and they wonder where I get this energy from. Well, I have a healed memory. I am inspired and encouraged by Dr Curt Thompson's emphasis that we should pay attention to our feelings. Having a supportive social network is something that reminds me of privilege. I am not privileged in terms of riches. Neither am

I privileged in the sense of the 'black' and 'white' privilege discourse in the Global North, nor do I have wealth. My father was a humble farm worker who had to overwork through overtime to make sure his kids went to school.

You were given profound names: Hope Tichaenzana. What is the story behind your names?

My late grandfather was excited to have me as his first grandson. He named me Hope, believing there was hope cooking in the family because of me. Tichaenzana, in my Shona native language, means we shall be equal or at the same par. My current family's names revolve around or are close to the name and meaning of hope. It is said, 'Hope is the last thing to die in the world.' We need to inspire hope and expand perspectives more than anything these days.



Above and right: Hope is a committed family man, Rotarian and champion of peace.

Below: Hope Tichaenzana Chichaya speaking at the Rotary Peace Centre in Thailand.



How did your parents influence your career path?

My father inspired me with the concepts and practices of inclusive dialogue, nonviolence, humility and

improving the safety of all people. He taught me that our interventions must be dignifying and empowering. My mother influenced my decisions. Before she passed away, she told me, "Take

care of your sisters,” and I was just 11. I have three siblings. As the eldest, she expected me to be a caring, supportive and encouraging brother. In Africa, the last words of a dying person are always treasured. It was like a life mission: taking care of your sisters. Throughout my career, I have advocated for equity, equal opportunities and strengthening humanitarian protection. I resonate with peacebuilder Irene Santiago’s statement: “If we are serious about peace, we must take women seriously.”

Your study journey is interdisciplinary, with unique twists and turns.

I started my career journey with a focus on commerce. Earlier in my studies, I did community volunteer work. It was an eye-opening experience to observe human suffering due to the ugly faces of poverty, HIV/AIDS, violence, and inequality, which I consider my enemies. I decided to support these communities spiritually and practically. I earned my bachelor’s degree in theology at the Theological College of Zimbabwe. Then, I completed a master’s degree in Peace Studies and International Relations at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Kenya. I hold an MBA from the University of Nicosia in Cyprus. These interdisciplinary studies taught me essential skills in understanding human needs from multiple layers, peacebuilding, human rights and conflict resolution, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa.

Violence against women has increased regardless of all the feminist movements and awareness campaigns. Concomitantly, we are also facing environmental crises. What is your insight regarding the correlation?

Unfortunately, multiple factors

contribute to the persistence of violence against women. The growing environmental crises pose an existential threat to both humanity and our planet. I observe a connection between women’s suffering and Mother Earth’s suffering. The neglect of our environment causes it to stop nurturing all its supports. A powerful dominion mindset, without the practice of stewardship, has led us to these environmental crises, which affect different genders in distinct ways.

How did your career path connect you with the Rotary Peace Fellowship?

Rotarian Dr Ann Frish from Nonviolent Peaceforce encouraged me to apply to the Rotary Peace Fellowship. I am grateful for her mentorship, which helped me widen my understanding of peacebuilding and conflict prevention at the Rotary Peace Centre in Thailand in 2017. Following my training, I’ve applied my knowledge in humanitarian protection, working in over 12 countries and I have embraced a calling to empower people.

You later became a Rotarian, right?

Yes, proudly! I am a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Mutare in District 9210. We contribute to various Rotary causes. I served as club president for two terms, which made me feel more fulfilled in the positive impact we make by connecting our Ubuntu values with Rotary’s Four-Way Test. Currently, I serve as the club foundation chair.

As peacebuilders, we sometimes question our effectiveness. Do you have doubtful moments?

Oh, yes! I sometimes question my effectiveness and the possibility of achieving positive peace. For example, when a peace agreement is reached at the local, national or meta-level, there can still be a fall back into

violence. The increasing hotspots of violence, unconstitutional changes of government, rising terrorism, climate emergencies and threatening political systems challenge me. Interacting with structures that resist or do not adhere to normative frameworks like human rights and international humanitarian law and observing double standards have made me doubt my life goals. Engaging with systems embedded with violence that perpetuate the injustices of poverty and violence has been very challenging. There have been moments when I have struggled to sleep because of these challenges and my desire to improve the situation.

What gives you hope?

The resilience and energy of young people, women and children, networking and forming alliances for advocacy and the rise and use of technology give me hope.

Despite experiencing turbulence and suffering throughout history, Africans have a good reputation for unique peacebuilding approaches. What can other nations learn from Zimbabweans? Zimbabweans are resilient people since our mindset is woven through the 'hunhu', 'untu' or 'ubuntu' dictum: I am because we are. Ubuntu is an African philosophy that emphasises the interconnectedness of humanity and the importance of community, compassion and mutual respect. Our traditional and religious leaders play significant roles in fostering community cohesion. We promote collective well-being and practise inclusive dialogue to bring positive changes in many areas of our lives.

How would you define peace?

Peace is the harmony of and with diversity - within one's self and beyond.



Gülin 'Eva' Gelogullari, a Rotary Peace Fellow, is a seasoned professional in Intercultural Communication, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. With an interdisciplinary education across seven countries - Turkey, Germany, USA, Israel, Palestine, Thailand and the Netherlands - Eva brings a global perspective to her work. She is passionate about promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and is a certified mediator dedicated to fostering collaborative and harmonious environments.

As a volunteer peace journalist for Rotary Africa, Gülin regularly shares inspiring stories and insights from Rotary Peace Fellows and Peace Fellow Alumni around the world.



SHARE YOUR FUN TIMES

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

Content is **KING**

**A side hustle becomes a
journalistic calling**

FELIX OSIKE

Rotary Club of Muyenga (D9214, Uganda)
News executive

My journalism career started as a side gig. In the mid-1990s, while working as an assistant accountant in Uganda's capital, Kampala, I contacted The Crusader for an opportunity to become a freelancer.

Despite my lack of training, I had some letters and commentaries published in other newspapers. The Crusader took a chance on me and one of my articles even ended up on its front page. So, I quit

my accounting job, joined the paper full time and soon became its star reporter.

In 1998, I moved to the Vision Group, Uganda's largest state-run media company. Rising up the ranks, I became assistant news editor and later political and investigative editor. I covered the horrific armed conflicts in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. There were fun moments too. While reporting on the 2003 Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in Nigeria, I met Queen Elizabeth II.

In the UK, after completing a fellowship in 2006 with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, I earned a master's in

journalism at Cardiff University two years later. Between 2011 and 2014, I taught investigative reporting at Makerere University, the oldest in Uganda.

As the Vision Group transformed into a multimedia conglomerate, my responsibilities changed. In the integrated newsroom, I headed the news and current affairs hub before being promoted to deputy editor in chief in 2021.

We operate six TV stations, seven radio stations, two dailies and various websites. The company offers an app, publishes books and reports and runs digital outdoor advertising. I'm the head of content generation for the platforms.

The media environment in Uganda is tough because, as in other parts of the world, the advertising-based revenue

model has collapsed. So, we have diversified into unconventional areas, including hosting commercial agricultural expos and a farming competition.

The Vision Group controls 54 percent of Uganda's media market and 74 percent of the print market. We're actively engaging in digital transformation, including strategising on how to introduce a paywall for premium content to balance the need for revenue generation and free access.

People predicted that newspapers would disappear, but there is still a demand for print as a record of history and a source for authoritative information. Regardless of the platform, engaging and compelling information will always win.

Healing in a Divided World

2025 PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Connect with others committed to peacebuilding at this special, one-time event led by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick in Istanbul, Türkiye, 20-22 February.



Register today at
rotary.org/istanbul25





Going to

Moh'kinstsisi

By **Geoffrey Johnson**

Photography by **Monika Lozinska**

I arrive expecting to see mountains.

What I get is sky, lots and lots of sky with muscular white clouds coursing across that vast blue expanse like a herd of wild horses galloping over the open range, unbridled and unbroken.

OK, maybe that's a bit much. Or not. Because when I get off the plane in Calgary, the first thing that greets me at the airport, after a mural of red maple leaves emblazoned *Bienvenue au Canada*, is a swirling maelstrom of bronze horses in full stride that their sculptor, Calgary native Robert Spait, has said evokes the "strength, spirit and maturity" of Calgary. So, clouds as stampeding stallions it is.

These thoughts occur to me as I travel by taxi toward downtown Calgary. Three centuries ago, this was a traditional gathering site of the Siksika, Kainai and Piikani nations, known collectively as the Siksikaitsitapi or Blackfoot Confederacy. They called this place Moh'kinstsisi, which means "elbow" and references the big bend where today's Bow River abruptly changes course from east to south shortly after its confluence with the Elbow River. "In the old Blackfoot sign language, patting your elbow indicated you were going to Moh'kinstsisi," explains

the Piikani scholar and storyteller Eldon Yellowhorn. Even today, "the same sign means a trip to Calgary."

Following that ancient impulse to gather by the water, other First Nations people, among them the Tsuut'ina and the Nakoda, congregated at the junction of the two rivers and when European settlers made their way into southwestern Alberta, they too made this place home. A great city arose and today, with a population of 1.6 million people, Calgary is Canada's fourth-largest metro area, though one that retains a palpable sense of its place and its past.

And now here am I in late October 2023 to get a close look at the city that will host the Rotary International Convention in June 2025. It's not Rotary's first rodeo (for once the tired cliché is apt): In 1996, 25,000 Rotarians from 126 countries and geographical areas travelled to Calgary for the 87th annual convention with its theme of Rotary Family Roundup. Pay attention to that second word, because when you come to Calgary for the 2025 convention, you will want to bring your family (kids included), as well as your friends and any strangers you meet along the way. Because if you haven't experienced Calgary and the great North American West, this is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is a city and a country you must see for yourself.

When viewed in person at the Confluence Historic Site and Parkland, the wooden installation called Marking transforms into three-dimensional shadows of people and horses.



First stop: an ascent into that crystalline cerulean canopy - this place provokes rhetorical excess - otherwise known as the sky.

And mountains? Rest easy. There will be mountains.

When the Calgary Tower opened in 1968, it was not only the tallest structure in Calgary but the tallest in all of western Canada. Since then, in this city alone, it has been surpassed six times. Yet the tower remains the lofty symbol of Calgary and the lodestar by which visitors can orientate themselves as they explore the city. It is also their stairway to heaven. Make that elevator, which I take to the observation deck that stands near the tower's 626-foot summit. As you proceed around the deck, there are brief descriptions of everything you're observing from above and might want to see up close later; that includes the concave-roofed Scotiabank Saddledome, the arena that lies at the centre of Stampede Park, the venue for the 2025 convention. For the daring and the bold, there is a glass-floor platform onto which you can step and stare directly down

onto distant 9th Avenue. And finally, off to the west, a craggy apparition beckons: the Rocky Mountains, rising like a grey ghost on the western fringe of the Great Plains.

As the view from the tower suggests, Calgary has a lot to offer. "Anyone who grew up here will tell you that Calgary has all the big city amenities without the big city problems," says Craig Stokke, the co-chair of the Host Organisation Committee. "And though we've grown to be a big city, we still have that small-town mentality" - as evidenced last year when Condé Nast Traveller readers voted Calgary the friendliest city in the world.

The city of Calgary's story began in 1875 when the North-West Mounted Police established an outpost at what had been for centuries the traditional gathering place of Indigenous people; the commander's superior officer, Lieutenant Colonel James Farquharson Macleod, eventually dubbed it Fort Calgary after a castle in Scotland. By some accounts, "Calgary" means, in Gaelic, "clear running water," a fitting name for this place where the Elbow meets the Bow.

Today, Fort Calgary is a 40-acre campus devoted to the city's origins.

In May, it was renamed the Confluence Historic Site and Parkland (or l'táámito'táaattsiyio'pi - "harmonious meeting place" - in Blackfoot), aiming to present a broader and more comprehensive narrative of the area's history.

I already see that as I walk through the campus, reading the copious signage outside the replica of the military barracks and spending a few enlightening hours touring the interpretive centre. Alongside and intertwined with the settlers' stories are the tales of those who were here first. There are some beautiful artefacts - such as the brightly beaded Métis octopus bag, named for the four pairs of decorative tabs that hang from its body - but what I primarily see is a progression of losses. The Great Slaughter, a three-dimensional piece by the Saulteaux Métis archaeologist and artist Autumn Whiteway (Night Singing Woman), evokes the near-extinction of the bison and the decimation of the people who relied on and revered them. There's a reproduction and explanation of Treaty 7, by which the Blackfoot and other First Nations ceded their lands in southern Alberta. It's accompanied by an interactive exhibit that focuses on truth and reconciliation and their relationship to the treaty.

Before leaving the Confluence site, be sure to explore the grounds. Pay close attention to an unassuming assemblage of lumber that, on close inspection, turns out to be a remarkable optical illusion. Called Marking, the wooden framework delineates in part the outline of the original fort.



Right: The Calgary Tower is reflected in one of the many pieces of public art in the city's downtown.

Its vertical uprights are irregularly shaped and, in some instances, resemble the silhouette of a face or a body's curve. Ignore that. Instead, stand back from the structure and pace alongside it. Look at it without looking at it and from behind the unfinished palisade wall emerge three-dimensional shadows of people and horses. Stare directly at those ephemeral figures and they vanish. And yet ...

Earlier, on my walk to the fort, I passed a theatre whose exterior wall was draped in green artificial grass. From it, four words had been cut: THIS FEELS SO REAL. Exactly.



From top: Mark Starratt and his son Alex enjoy the Calgary Zoo; a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Starratt is co-chair of the Host Organisation Committee.

In the heart of Calgary's revitalised East Village, Studio Bell offers an irresistible array of euterpian delights (look it up). Home to the National Music Centre and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, four of the five floors are devoted to different aspects of music and there are endless opportunities to listen to it, learn how it's made, perform it and comment on how it makes us feel, as scores of people have done in a variety of languages. Start on the top floor and work your way down, allotting yourself several hours to explore and experience it.

The same holds true for the Calgary Zoo, which when I visit is a work in progress. There are signs announcing what is temporarily closed and what will be open when Rotary members arrive in 2025. Chief among these impending attractions is a new exhibit called Wild Canada, devoted to grey wolves, polar bears and other wildlife that dwell in the country's untamed regions. Despite the closures, I stroll leisurely through lush gardens and see lots of animals, including

zebras and giraffes, lions and lemurs and a water-loving waddle of king penguins. And in Prehistoric Park, I encounter animatronic dinosaurs that disconcert and delight the enraptured children.

In this pedestrian and bike-friendly city - with more miles of bike and walking trails than any other city in North America - I had walked to the zoo. With various stops along the way, that took a couple of hours. To return downtown, I hop on the CTrain light rail - part of Calgary's extensive public transportation system that will be free for full registrants for the 2025 convention - which makes for a significantly shorter trip. I'm back at my hotel, the Fairmont Palliser, with plenty of time to prepare for my dinner reservation. Just as Calgary has world-class architecture, bike trails, bonhomie and nightlife, it is also a gastronomical paradise, with opportunities to sample every imaginable cuisine. But tonight, I plan to dine on what I'm led to believe is the city's signature dish.

Calgary is a cattle town and residents are proud of their beef, whose rich

flavour is a result of the Alberta cows' barley-based diet. And so tonight I find myself at the convivial and cosily lit Vintage Chophouse & Tavern, where I enjoy a 24-ounce bone-in New York strip steak, dispatched with the aid of a knife masquerading as a small sabre. The meal leaves me well fortified for what lies ahead.

It had snowed for much of the night and traffic was a mess. "If you don't have to drive today," advised the stern voice on the radio, "stay home."

I ignore him. I must drive. Blame it on Cindy Walker, the central Texas girl who in 1950 composed a quintessential lyric of the Canadian West. It begins:

*In the blue Canadian Rockies,
Spring is sighing through the trees.
And the golden poppies are blooming
Round the banks of Lake Louise.*

Because of that plaintive song, I had always wanted to visit Lake Louise and now it was a mere 115 miles away. It was going to take more than an October blizzard to kibosh my quest.

I find my way to the Trans-Canada Highway and point the car toward Banff, where I plan to spend the night. The snow has let up, but the skies have not cleared and visibility is minimal. An hour or so into my journey I appear to be heading directly into a big, densely black thunderhead, which only at the last minute reveals itself to be the side of a mountain huddled close to the road.

I finally arrive in Banff, having accomplished the usual 90-minute drive in about three hours. It is a charming, little low-rise town. Because it's between seasons, the streets are relatively quiet. After checking into my room, I walk through the town, stopping into two or three shops before I make my way to Chuck's. There, I launch into an 8-ounce

tenderloin, wielding the small cutlass that will be the second entry in my forthcoming treatise, *The Steak Knives of Alberta*.

The next day, in the moments before sunrise, I open the curtains on my first-floor window and discover two towering lodgepole pines holding aloft an azure sky touched by gold. I'm soon back on the Trans-Canada and in less than an hour I am a sigh among the trees of Lake Louise.

In the summer of 1882, Thomas Edmonds Wilson, a seasoned 23-year-old Alberta trailblazer, followed his Nakoda guide Edwin Hunter through the thick, virgin timber of the Rockies until they emerged on a pristine body of water. Wilson was astounded. "As God is my judge, I never in all my explorations saw such a matchless scene," he later recalled. "On the right and the left, forests that had never known the axe came down to the shores, apparently growing out of the blue and green waters. The background, a mile and a half away, was divided into three tones of white, opal and brown where the glacier ceased and merged with the shining water."

The Nakoda called this place Horâ Juthin Îmne, the "lake of the little fishes." Wilson changed it to Emerald Lake and in 1884 it was changed again, this time to honor Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the wife of the fourth governor general of Canada, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and the woman who gave this province its name. The Canadian Pacific Railway arrived at about that time and today's 539-room Chateau Lake Louise, a magnet for politicians, movie stars and tourists from around the world, had its origins with a single-story building erected in 1894. Things would never be the same and despite today's snow and cold weather, dozens of people jockey for



Calgary's light rail system is part of the city's public transportation network; Corinne Wilkinson and Craig Stokke, a co-chair of the Host Organisation Committee, stroll along the extensive Mattamy Greenway, created in part by Calgary's Rotarians.

I close my day serenely soaking in the mineral-rich waters of the Banff Upper Hot Springs. The vertical panorama is unsurpassed: a forest of snow-laden firs giving way to the summit of Mount Rundle, its jagged peaks flush with the rays of the setting sun. If there are any sighs this evening in the blue Canadian Rockies, they are only sighs of contentment.

position along the shoreline so that they might return home with a memorable photo.

Yet the scene remains exactly as Tom Wilson described it, with the aquamarine water, the white fields of snow and the differently shaded green trees and brown mountainsides layered in a series of overlapping and magically integrated planes. Immutable, Lake Louise is still capable of instilling a sense of wonder.

My last full day in Calgary is a day of welcomes. The first comes at the midday meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, where I am the guest of Craig Stokke. As much as anyone, it was Stokke who ensured

Calgary got the opportunity to host its second Rotary International Convention. He was not a member of Rotary 28 years ago, so did not attend the 1996 convention. But nine years ago, while in Rome, he met another member of Rotary. When he learned that Stokke was from Calgary, the Italian Rotarian described his marvellous experience at that '96 convention and vowed that, if Calgary ever hosted another convention, he would not fail to attend.

Working alongside Mark Starratt, the other co-chair of the Host Organisation Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Stokke got to work at bringing another convention to his hometown. They were assisted by scores of enthusiastic Rotary members, by the city's civic leaders and by its most prominent public face: the Stampede, the annual rodeo, parade and 10-day festival that each year attracts more than 1 million visitors to Calgary. "The people at the Stampede are skilled at working with crowds," says Stokke. "We've got thousands of volunteers who know what to do and they're ready to go. Their participation helped make our case that Calgary deserved the convention."

In 2017, Rotary made it official: Calgary would host the 2025 convention. Stokke, Starratt, et al. quadrupled their efforts. "The '96 convention set the bar high," Stokke admits, "but we didn't want to do a redo." He doesn't provide any specifics, but he does make one promise. "We can put on a great party," he says. "People are going to know they've been in Calgary."

Stokke explains all this as we tour the Stampede grounds prior to the meeting. Situated on the perimeter of the park, the club's gathering space is a rustically modern cabin. Today it's packed, with roughly 125 people filling nine tables.

After lunch, the meeting gets underway with an official welcome to visiting guests.

I meet many Rotary members and even 18 months out, they share a mutual excitement for the upcoming convention. On more than one occasion I hear about one benefit of holding the convention in Calgary that these folks plan to press to maximum advantage. "There are a lot of things we hope to do by bringing people in from the community and letting them know about Rotary and the great things it's doing locally," Stokke says. "This is our chance to show who Rotary is."

After the Stampede Park meeting, I dash to my lunch date with the folks from Tourism Calgary. My three hosts - Aviva Kohen, Shelley Zucht-Shorter and Fraser Abbott - treat me to a delicious meal at Deane House, one of Calgary's finest restaurants. It's one of two, along with River Café, run by Sal Howell, a champion of locally sourced ingredients and sustainable dining.

But the highlight is the surprise premeal ceremony where Abbott officially welcomes me to Calgary. "It's not relevant where you come from or what you look like or how you worship or whom you love," says Abbott, quoting a former mayor. "What really matters is that you are welcome here and you belong here and you've come to a place where you can be your best." Abbott presents me with one of the city's signature white, red-beribboned Smithbilt cowboy hats. I don the chapeau as instructed and join Abbott in reciting the traditional white hat oath of hospitality, which concludes with a rousing "yahoo!"

With that, I saunter into the dining room. And were I wearing spurs, they would undoubtedly be jingle-jangle-jingling as I go stridin' merrily along. All that's missing is a horse.



SADDLE UP The Calgary convention ends on 25 June; stick around for the world famous **Calgary Stampede**, which begins 4 July. Those intervening days are the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunity to visit a few of Alberta's six **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

○ Straddling the border between Alberta and Montana and comprising Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park and the US Glacier National Park, **Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park** is both a monument to global amity and a breathtakingly beautiful natural wonderland.

○ A vivid insight into Plains culture, **Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump** is more than just the 33-foot-high cliff where, beginning more than 5,500 years ago, Indigenous people on the hunt drove bison to their deaths.

○ A 14-hour drive from Calgary, the vast **Wood Buffalo National Park** is home to about 3,000 free-range bison, in addition to bears, moose, wolves, owls and whooping cranes. Stargazers take note: It's also the world's largest dark sky preserve.

○ **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks** consists of seven contiguous national and provincial parks. One of them, Banff, is justly celebrated, but with their waterfalls and lakes, their snowcapped mountains and starlit nights, the other parks warrant a visit - and perhaps an extended stay.

○ Over the years, Alberta's boundless Badlands have yielded a treasure trove of Cretaceous jewels. See for yourself at **Dinosaur Provincial Park**, followed by a swing up to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller.

○ A sacred Blackfoot site, **Áísai'pi** (meaning "it is written" or "it is pictured"), also known as **Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park**, is one of the largest aggregations of petroglyphs in North America, carved either by the Indigenous people who once lived here or by the spirits said to dwell among the adjacent hills.



The educational push extends into local schools, health clinics, and hospitals in Galeshewe, Kimberley, where FASD information leaflets and posters are widely distributed

Delivering lasting change

In a dynamic collaboration aimed at combating Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and enhancing community welfare, several Rotary clubs have joined forces with grassroots organisations across South Africa and the United States. The initiatives, spearheaded by the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region (D9370), the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (D7620, USA), and local clubs in Kimberley, Colesberg and Empangeni are making significant strides in education and community development.

One of the key projects is the development of a sports-based health education curriculum that focuses on FASD. Launched through a Rotary Global Grant, led by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in collaboration with Kimberley's clubs in 2015/16, this programme uses sports to teach young people about

the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and promotes healthy lifestyles.

Parallel to this educational initiative, targeted information sharing campaigns have been rolled out in the rural areas surrounding Colesberg and Richmond. These campaigns are specifically designed for women of childbearing age, informing them of the risks associated with drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

UNDERSTANDING FASD

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a serious, lifelong, disabling condition caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy. Alcohol can readily cross the placenta, resulting in permanent damage to the brain and other organs of the developing embryo and foetus. Consequently, individuals with FASD may face physical disabilities



Adding to these health-focused efforts, the Rotary partnership has also embarked on an international project to ship containers of used bicycles from the USA, Canada and Australia to underprivileged communities in South Africa. The first container recently arrived in Kimberley, with another on its way to Richmond. Managed by the Rotary Clubs of Carroll Creek and Empangeni, this initiative not only aims to tackle unemployment through job creation but also to establish Community Bicycle Resource Centres. These centres serve as hubs for cycling enthusiasts, whether they pursue the sport for fun, fitness, or practical commuting purposes.

such as hearing, visual and heart problems, alongside learning disabilities, difficulties with memory, attention, speech, social skills and coordination. They may also struggle with absorbing information, misinterpret social cues and exhibit a lower than average IQ.

The term “foetal alcohol spectrum disorders” encompasses a range of physical, behavioural, and cognitive impairments that occur due to alcohol exposure during pregnancy. The spectrum includes:

- Foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)
- Partial foetal alcohol syndrome (PFAS)
- Alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND)
- Alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD)
- Neurobehavioral disorder associated with prenatal alcohol exposure (ND-PAE).

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION

A study conducted among Grade 1 learners in 17 towns across three provinces in South Africa (2016) found FASD prevalence rates ranging between 3% and 29%. Another study among Grade 1 learners (2022) reported a prevalence rate of 31%. These rates are among the highest in the world and compare unfavourably with the United States, where FASD prevalence is estimated between 1% and 5%.

An alarming statistic from international studies (2018) reveals that the estimated prevalence of FASD among sub-populations, such as children in care, individuals in correctional service custody, and those in special education services, is 10 to 40 times higher than in the general population.

In a 2023 study in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa, aimed at

September is FASD Awareness Month and the 9th of the month marks International FASD Day.

identifying the causes of high alcohol consumption, 40% of respondents felt that residents consumed excessive alcohol as a response to unemployment-related hopelessness, while 52% attributed the prevalent drinking culture to a lack of hobbies and recreational opportunities.

SEPTEMBER IS FASD AWARENESS MONTH

Although there is no known safe amount of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, research indicates that binge and heavy drinking during pregnancy exposes a developing baby to the greatest risk of severe problems. Binge drinking typically occurs if a woman consumes four or more standard-sized drinks, or a man has five or more drinks, within about two hours.

A critical need for widespread awareness and preventive measures, especially considering the lifelong and

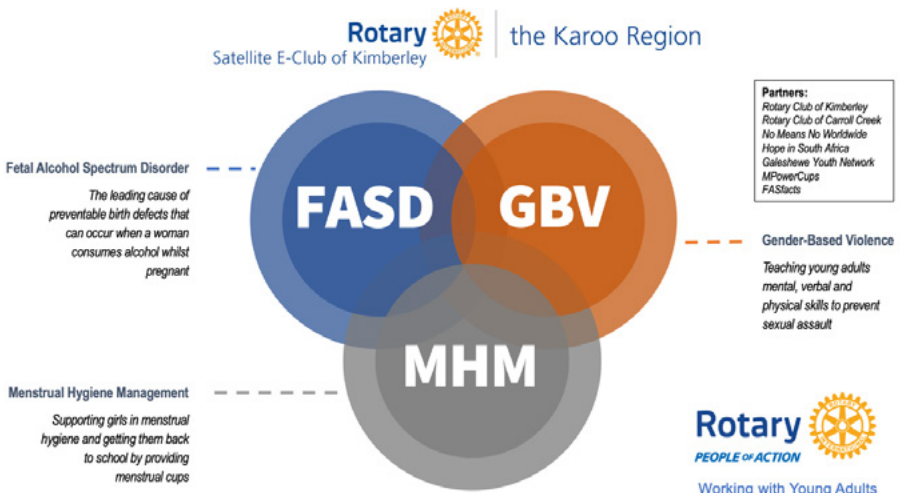
irreversible impact of FASD, is undeniable. Efforts to mitigate these rates involve comprehensive community outreach, educational programmes, and support for expectant mothers to promote alcohol-free pregnancies. Awareness campaigns and health interventions are crucial in tackling the root causes and providing support to at-risk populations.

To celebrate FASD Awareness Month in September, Rotarians in the Northern Cape will be engaging in new activities:

An FASD awareness campaign in Richmond, conducted jointly by Grassroots Hope in South Africa and the Department of Social Development.

The incorporation of FASD awareness into the "Information is Power" campaign, led by the Galeshewe Youth Network.

These initiatives aim to enhance understanding and provide crucial information to help mitigate the impacts of FASD within the community.



Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) represents a serious health concern that affects individuals throughout their lives. Addressing this issue is critical to reduce the incidence of FASD and support those living with its effects.

SWING for charity



The Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) held its 24th Annual Charity Golf Tournament in May. The event spanned six golf courses and 230 golfers from around the country booked and played 784 rounds of golf.

The tournament started on Thursday, 23 May, with games being played at Pinnacle Point outside Mossel Bay and, for the first time, Kingswood Golf Club in George. Always popular, Pinnacle Point saw a full field, with Kingswood also enjoying a good turnout. The weather kindly held out and a great opening day was enjoyed by all.

Friday, 24 May, saw the entire group split over the Pezula and Simola golf courses in Knysna. Once again, great fun was had, despite the heavy skies and bouts of drizzle. Goose Valley in Plettenberg Bay and Knysna golf courses were the venues for Saturday and the final games were played on Sunday at Simola and Pezula. A few of the golfers then stayed on to maximise their Garden Route golfing experience by playing at Kingswood on Monday.

This year, seven golfers qualified to receive 10-year caps. These were awarded to: Andre Rheeder, Wayne Hilton, Malcolm Knipe, Harold Myburgh,

Morne le Roux, Charl du Toit and Andrew Theunissen.

A new award was created this year in honour of Rotarian Peter Klews. Peter was the founding organiser of this event and apparently at one tournament, was lauded for his fantastic long putt. It was recently agreed by the club that a floating trophy and prize for the 'Peter Klews Longest Putt Made' would be presented to the player who produced the longest putt over the weekend. The 2024 inaugural recipient for this award was Pieter Strauss.

Club President Herb Hunter explained that as the club's major fundraiser, proceeds raised at this event "enable us to continue to reach out to local communities through a variety of service projects that include dental care for school children, food security and food garden training, prevention of GBV, early childhood development and support for local NPOs."



Opposite page: Rotarian George Coon and his 'wheels' at Pinnacle Point. Above: Humphrey Price, Rotarian George Coon, Terence Cornelissen and Rotarian Mario du Toit at Pinnacle Point. Right: Andy Muir and Doug Emanuel playing at Pezula. Photos: Elle Photo



It was a team effort as people from across the community gathered to help refurbish the rehabilitation centre.

COMMUNITY EFFORT

In April, several organisations collaborated to support the Lesedi (Spitzkop) Rehabilitation Centre.

Twenty-five young men and women from Magoebaskloof Warriors Academy, along with staff members Rowena, Ruan and Max, formed teams to undertake various improvement projects. They painted, installed basins and toilets, repaired windows, replaced damaged ceilings and dug furrows for an irrigation system. The established gardens were fertilised and covered with grass to prevent soil drying.

Members of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) supervised the activities, with patients and community members joining the effort. After four hours of hard work, significant progress was made, leaving the centre to complete the tasks. Before departing, the Warriors cleared all litter under Ruan's leadership.

The gardens were funded by a R32,000 donation from Rotary District 9400. Choice NGO and Rod Harman, a member of the Haenertsburg club and project leader, spent five days training five staff and five community members in vegetable garden development, providing fertiliser and seeds. They plan to offer ongoing support to ensure the gardens flourish, providing vegetables for the inmates and engage them in rehabilitation activities.

Sponsorship for materials used in the centre's development came from Dream World Investments through The Kirk Group (R12,000) and the Haenertsburg club (R12,000). The event was attended by representatives from the Mamabolo Royal Family, Limpopo University lecturers and Khuluma Rehabilitation Centre representatives. A special lunch prepared by the centre.



Wilhelm van der Vyver (Rotarian and EarlyAct liaison), Ilze-Mari Rohwer, Carla Raubenheimer, Jinique Frans, President Di Kershaw and Danielle Barnard (educator and EarlyAct coordinator)

Value-driven service

In June, the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), received special recognition for their work. EarlyAct is sponsored at primary schools by the international Rotary service organisation and aims to provide young learners with opportunities to be active citizens in a culturally diverse democratic society in an interdependent world.

At the recent regional conference of Rotary (covering a geographical area from Plettenberg Bay to the Cape Town Metropole, and northwards including the Northern Cape, Namibia and Angola), three learners of the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School made a presentation on the multitude of projects they were involved in. Special mention was made of their outreaches to the Môreson Children's Home and the Milestone Development Programme (previously known as the Wikkellwurms) at Bethesda. Subsequently, the Outeniqua Primary EarlyAct Club was recognised as

having the best project in the region for 2023 and 2024.

At a school assembly on 15 July, the award was handed over by the Rotary Club of George to the school. Special mention was made of the outstanding presentation by the three Grade 7 learners to the Rotary conference: Jinique Frans, Carla Raubenheimer and Ilze-Mari Rohwer.

"Part of our mission as a value-driven school is assisting and empowering learners to understand the needs in our community and to assist them in making a positive contribution," notes Dr Nico Venter, principal of Outeniqua Primary. "EarlyAct provides a forum for answering this responsibility."

"We are so proud to be associated with the Outeniqua Primary EarlyActors," enthuses Di Kershaw, president of the George club. "Their initiatives embody the leadership, compassion and community spirit our country needs."



Community Services Director Sathie Moodliar and Rotary Ann Terona Govender with the excited Oceanview Learners and their stationery packs.

After-school is cool!

The Rotarians and Anns of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) celebrated Mandela Day 2024 at Oceanview Primary School in Havenside, Chatsworth. The club partnered with Duncan Rice from Yogam Yoga and Oceanview Primary School to launch an exceptional after school literacy programme. This initiative, vital for educational and life skill development, has identified sixty learners to participate. Alongside their daily academic activities, these students are equipped with essential tools for success.

Generously, the Rotarians donated 60 stationery packs while the Anns provided delicious sandwiches, muffins, fruit and goodie bags, bringing joy to the excited learners. Moreover, the Anns have committed to delivering lunch packs monthly to these deserving students.

Mrs. Moodley, the Principal of Oceanview Primary School, lavished praise on the Rotarians, Anns, and other project partners for offering such

a unique opportunity with this lovely programme on Mandela Day. "We are truly humbled and honoured that our learners have been given a front row seat to a better and brighter future," she remarked.

In South Africa, illiteracy remains a critical issue due to various challenges within the formal education system, such as the lack of basic educational resources and pervasive poverty. This necessitates a comprehensive approach, embodied by the Yogam Yoga After School Programme, which supports the broader educational framework at Oceanview Primary School and beyond.

This exciting project was supported by the Environment and Language Education Trust (ELET), which donated a collection of essential library books. ELET focuses on learner support, teacher development, early childhood development learnership programmes, literacy, and environmental education and rehabilitation.



Employees of Henque Waste, Rotarians and Mr Mathsini smiling despite the cold and wet conditions

E-WASTE COLLECTION

Every three months the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) organises an e-waste collection at Loerie Park. The collection on Saturday, 1 June, did not bode well as the weather forecast predicted heavy rains and wind all day.

Despite this, the team turned up at 7.30am and set up their station, ready to receive all manner of unwanted electronic and electrical items. Despite the very wet and cold conditions, donors arrived in a steady stream with their goods. These were received by employees of Henque Waste and loaded onto their trucks. Allsound security officer Mr Mathshini oversaw the site and helped whenever he could. A bedraggled, but amazingly cheerful team of Rotarians received the e-waste and the generous donations given by the donors.

Fortunately a sumptuous supply of hot coffee, sandwiches, rusks, biscuits and good humour kept everyone in happy spirits.

This regular event has helped more Knysna citizens become aware of the complex and devastating effects our discarded electronic and electrical waste has on the immediate environment. By responsibly getting these goods to a reputable company, it is ensured that they are assessed, recycled or taken apart into recyclable components. This reduces non-biodegradable garbage and toxins in our landfills and ultimately in our water systems and seas.

A number of cash donations were received and will be used to fund environmental projects in the Knysna communities.



The Klerksdorp club's support of Alabama Secondary School is a targeted intervention to drive a meaningful improvement in education.

Motivate, inspire and empower

The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370) recently took significant steps to address the educational challenges faced by Alabama Secondary School. Last year, the school struggled with a matric pass rate of just 38.9%. Recognising the critical role that teachers play in shaping students' futures, the club met with the school to determine their immediate needs and identify areas for assistance.

To support the school's staff, including teaching and support staff, the Klerksdorp club organised a team-building session aimed at fostering a cohesive and high-performing team. The goal was to cultivate a positive work culture, enhance

staff engagement and ultimately drive academic success.

In collaboration with Tecno, the event included an array of prizes for the winning team, as well as t-shirts, bags, soccer balls and various other goodies for all participants. This initiative not only boosted morale but also reinforced the importance of teamwork and collaboration in achieving educational goals.

By investing in the motivation and well-being of the school's staff, the Klerksdorp club is helping to create a supportive environment that benefits both teachers and students.



Dr Tebogo Senyatsi and his wife, Temo, Lizelle Blom and Marnus Aucamp won the Rotary Club of Orkney (D9370) Corporate Bowls Charity Day at the Klerksdorp Bowling Club. Inspired by Roald Dahl's belief in the magical, the event was a vibrant affair, complete with colourful balloons, popcorn and whimsically named teams like Abracadabra, Hokus Pokus, Green Goblins and Sim Sala Bim. This enchanting setup was in line with Rotary's theme, "The Magic of Rotary." The primary goal was to collaborate with corporate enterprises to raise funds for charity, providing participants with a day full of fun, team-building and fellowship. Marius Koenig, the event planner, expressed his gratitude to all supporters and shared his hopes to turn the Corporate Charity Bowls Day into an annual event, further strengthening community ties and support for charitable causes.



Using club funds and donations from fellow clubs in District 9350, the Rotary Club of George (D9350) has been supporting 15 people who were seriously injured in a building collapse in May. One victim, Shadrack, a man from Lesotho, lost an arm and a leg. He was treated at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town before being sent back to George, where the club began assisting him. He now has a small radio to listen to football, pyjamas, toiletries and snacks. The gift of a mobile phone allowed him to speak to his family for the first time since the collapse. The next step in his recovery is admission to a step-down facility for rehabilitation, to recover his strength and to learn to use an electric wheelchair with one hand. This man desperately needs to see his family as part of his healing process and the club is also trying to arrange a new passport, as his was lost in the tragedy. President Di Kershaw with one of the victims.



Members of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) marked Mandela Day by harvesting vegetables from the newly established food garden of the Langabuya Primary School Mbeko Eco Club. The day saw everyone, from visitors to learners and teachers, join in to prepare a hearty vegetable soup for the school's 1,500 learners and to plant three indigenous trees to commemorate the event. Among those participating were President Rudy Dupont, Thys Els of Veolia Water Management Services and Vincent Mteta of the Mbeko Eco Club, who oversees the garden. The Mbeko Eco Club aims to educate learners about the connection between soil, biodiversity, water conservation and food security.



The Interact Club of Knysna Secondary School (D9350) celebrated Mandela Day by serving soup and oranges at Die Werkswinkel in Hornlee, Knysna. This NPO upsills people living with disabilities, enabling them to create products to sell on the open market.

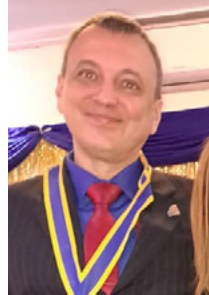
2024-25 Club Presidents



Mercy Magama
Victoria Falls, 9210



Lynda Venter
Alwal North, 9370



Mykhailo Danylov
Mansa, 9210



Gordon Millar
Durbanville, 9350



Andrew Killick
Empangeni, 9370



Richard Moloney
Rosebank, 9400



Peter Rogers
Constantia, 9350



Robert Bitaruho, Port
Elizabeth South, 9370



Saths Govender
Chatsworth High
Noon, 9370



Michael Holmes
(Rotaract)
Steenberg, 9350

LAST CALL....

This is your last chance to welcome your new club president in our Presidents' feature. The final new presidents' feature will run in our October 2024 issue. Please send the **name of your president** and **club**, as well as a **head and shoulders photo** to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za. Deadline for submissions is **10 September 2024**

WALL OF HONOUR



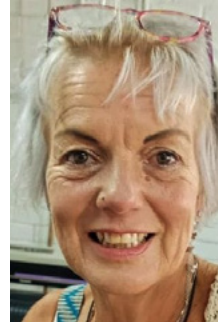
Doreen Nakasiina is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Wilhelm van Zyl is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Tania Yates is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Carina Segal is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



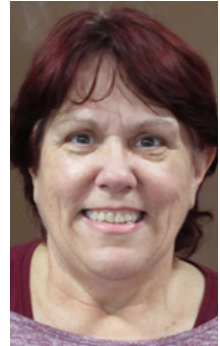
Sisanda Zakumba is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Ian Hart was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Constantia (D9350).



Val Thompson is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Debbie Boumeester is new member of the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370).



Chrissie and Mark Johnson are new members of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Peter Prinsloo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).

To welcome new members or congratulate your PHF recipients, email a photo to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

ACCOMMODATION OFFERED

*** B&B Accommodation in Kimberley. Staying over in Kimberley? The Nook B&B *** Semi-Self Catering B&B offers excellent accommodation and rates. All rooms luxury en-suite with private entrance and secure parking. Close to CBD and places of interest. For more info contact Rtn Rob Gibson at 072 116 8390. Web: www.thenookbnb.co.za

MISCELLANEOUS

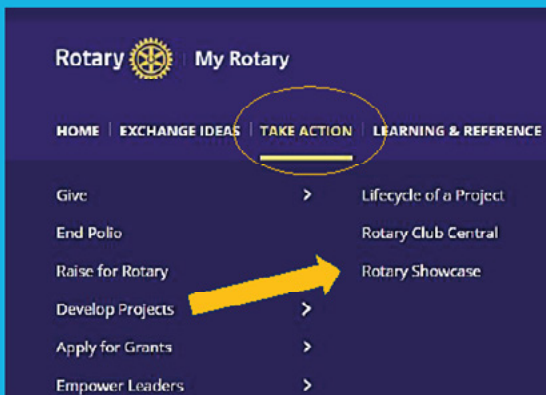
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**WORLD
POLIO DAY
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