

SEPTEMBER 2025

Rotary

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Quest

22 Dust, Elephants
and Bikes

29 Vision of
Care





ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026



Register and pay in full by 15 December 2025,
before prices increase, at convention.rotary.org.

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

September is a month that invites us to pause and reflect on the rhythm of service. The first quarter of the Rotary year is already behind us and, across our districts, clubs have wasted no time in rolling up their sleeves... Service Above Self is alive and well in Africa.

This month also holds special significance in Rotary's calendar. September is Basic Education and Literacy Month, a reminder that our efforts extend beyond immediate acts of service to acts of long-term empowerment. Education is the foundation on which opportunity is built. Whether it is providing reading materials to a rural school or mentoring young people to see a future filled with possibility, Rotarians continue to light the way for learners across our continent.

Education, however, does not end in the classroom. It is also about sharing knowledge, creating safe spaces for dialogue and ensuring that every person has the dignity of choice. This is reflected in the projects highlighted in this issue; each initiative reinforces the belief

that investing in people today transforms communities tomorrow.

As editor, I am always struck by the diversity of service stories that reaches my desk. They remind me that while the needs may differ from one town to another, the heart of Rotary remains consistent; people see a need and step forward to meet it. It is this spirit that continues to inspire readers and, I hope, motivates clubs to share their own stories so that others may be encouraged.

As we enter spring in the southern hemisphere, may we carry that same sense of renewal into our Rotary work. Fresh ideas, new partnerships and a renewed commitment to our communities will keep our movement vibrant and relevant.

Enjoy the September issue. It truly is a celebration of what we achieve together and a gentle reminder that every project, no matter how small, contributes to building a better tomorrow. Something, which I believe, brings light to an often gloomy world.

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When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment had come swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalised youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our Rotary theme is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources - not only among our clubs but across partners, organisations and communities - we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow and

bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood programme we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together (across borders, languages and generations) to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.

FRANCESCO AREZZO

President, Rotary International



During Basic Education and Literacy Month, I want to remind everyone why our work matters.

Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to opportunity and empowers individuals to transform their communities. But education doesn't exist in a vacuum. We must also address peace, health, clean water, economic opportunity, maternal and child health and the environment.

This is why Rotary has these areas of focus. Lasting change requires a comprehensive approach. When we collaborate across these areas through The Rotary Foundation, we raise up communities sustainably and with dignity.

Today, I have asked Lynne Paradis from the Rotary Club of Red Deer, Alberta, to share her passion for literacy:

"I believe that literacy is a human right. When I joined forces with the Rotary Club of San Ignacio, Belize, over a decade ago, we set out to improve reading instruction, but we had no idea how far this journey would take us.

Literacy Alive! has been supported by eight Rotary Foundation global grants since 2011. Using a straightforward approach based on phonics and science, we updated how teachers teach and focused on how students really learn. We collected data on reading skills improvement over six months.

After demonstrating that teachers had integrated new practices into daily instruction, the project snowballed. The Belize Ministry of Education took notice.

Today, over 1,300 teachers have been trained and more than 20,000 students have benefited. We've achieved over 90 percent success rates, with many students making more than a year's worth of improvement in just five months.

The programme is now compulsory in Belize primary schools. What moves me most is hearing teachers say how confident they are that they can change students' lives.

Our greatest success is working ourselves out of a job. When local educators take the lead, we know lasting change is underway."

Lynne's story exemplifies the power of Foundation grants. Through partnerships spanning six Rotary clubs and three countries, Literacy Alive! reminds us how good Rotary is at creating systemic change.

When our members' passion meets Foundation support, we don't just improve individual lives, we change entire communities. By supporting the Foundation, you can put your passion to work this month and every month.

HOLGER KNAACK
Foundation Trustee Chair



CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

THE HYPE IS REAL!

If you've never been to a Rotary International Convention, you might wonder if the global gathering lives up to the hype that it's more fun than any conference you've attended. Your fellow members are here to assure you that the convention 13-17 June 2026 in Taipei will prove the hype is real: You'll find best-in-class opportunities to learn, travel, grow and feel connected. Here are five ways the Rotary Convention breaks the mould:

1. **The main stage rocks.** This is especially true when famous bands perform. Daily big-group sessions are packed with performers, members with inspiring stories and speakers with serious star power.
2. **Learning workshops are FUN.** Forget boring lectures - breakout sessions are led by your Rotary pals and experts committed to RI's mission. They recharge your batteries and inspire your service.
3. **New members feel the benefits.** Newbies, not just club officers or long-time members,

say the programming is valuable and new friendships are guaranteed. We hear it all the time: You truly grasp Rotary's international power when you experience a convention.

4. **Families love the convention.** Relatives and travel companions are welcome under Rotary's global tent. Everyone enjoys the big-stage extravaganzas and House of Friendship activities.
5. **You can unwind and stay on budget.** It's easy to sneak in vacation excursions after convention hours with so many options close by in Taiwan. Register soon for limited time savings.

After their first convention, many members are hooked. Like a Rotarian attending her fifth one, in Calgary, Canada, said: Each is more enjoyable than the last.

Learn more and register at:
convention.rotary.org



Community Economic Development

PDG Patrick Coleman, Member of the Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development

Rotary International, through its members and The Rotary Foundation, actively promotes Community Economic Development (CED) globally. CED is a strategy focused on improving the economic well-being of a community, particularly those facing poverty and unemployment, by investing in local businesses and creating job opportunities. Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day.

The focus is on creating sustainable solutions to poverty and empowering individuals and communities to thrive financially and socially. This is particularly evident in under-served and impoverished communities, with a strong emphasis on empowering women.

The Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development (RAGCED) is a Rotary International affiliated group of experts supporting CED initiatives. RAGCED provides resources, project materials and advisers to help clubs and districts plan and implement projects that address poverty and promote sustainable economic growth worldwide.

Projects range from providing equipment to offering vocational training. Members work to strengthen local entrepreneurs and community

leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

How do we do this?

- **Focus on low-income communities:** CED programmes often target communities with persistent poverty and high unemployment rates, aiming to create pathways to economic mobility for residents.
- **Job creation and quality:** CED emphasises the creation of jobs that offer living wages, paid leave, benefits and opportunities for advancement, ensuring that employment translates into economic self-sufficiency.
- **Support services:** CED programmes provide access to critical services such as childcare, transport assistance and job training, helping individuals overcome barriers to employment and long-term success.
- **Community-based approach:** CED is often implemented through Community Development Corporations (CDCs), which are non-profit organisations working directly with local residents to identify needs and develop solutions.
- **Multi-faceted investment:** CED uses

various strategies, including business development, infrastructure improvements and housing initiatives, all aimed at strengthening the overall economic health of the community.

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** CED projects often involve partnerships between CDCs, local governments, businesses and residents, fostering a collaborative approach to development.
- **Measuring impact:** CED initiatives track the number of jobs created, wages and benefits provided, and the effect on the community's overall economic well-being.

Examples of CED activities:

- **Business development:** Providing loans, grants or equity investments to local

businesses, particularly those owned by individuals with low incomes.

- **Infrastructure improvements:** Investing in transport, housing and other infrastructure to attract businesses and improve quality of life.
- **Job training and placement:** Workforce development programmes that also connect individuals with job opportunities.
- **Community revitalisation:** Projects to improve the appearance and liveability of neighbourhoods.

We can “Unite for Good” to improve the economic well-being of our communities. For more information visit www.ragced.org

Coming up...

SEPTEMBER 2025

Basic Education and Literacy Month

OCTOBER 2025

Community Economic Development Month

24 October - World Polio Day

NOVEMBER 2025

Rotary Foundation Month

8 November - ROTARACT DISTRICT 9350 Africa Unite: A Gala for Peace and Polio. This African-themed gala supports The Rotary Foundation and polio awareness. Enjoy a welcome drink, three-course meal, DJ, auction and raffle. Dress code: Black Tie, Cultural Formal or Afro-Chic. Tickets: R700 at Quicket. Red carpet from 5pm, and main event starts at 6pm. Contact Rex on 073 125 0398 or by email at: annualendpolioevent@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2025

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month



Email info about your club's upcoming events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

ROTARY ACTION GROUP SPARKS NEW CHAPTER FOR Girls Worldwide



Rotarians, Rotaractors and people outside of the Rotary family are equally encouraged to join and share their expertise, experience and energy.

The call to uplift and support girls under 18 has reached a new height with the official launch of the Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment. Unveiled ahead of the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, this new global initiative aims to turn commitment into coordinated action for one of society's most under-represented demographics, girls.

Backed by Rotary's 2021–2024 Presidential Initiative, the Action Group is now open for membership. The group's mission is clear: to create, facilitate and support opportunities that improve girls' quality of life and to foster empowerment, equity and equality through sustained advocacy and targeted interventions.

This marks a pivotal evolution in how Rotary clubs worldwide can respond to gender-based challenges at grassroots level. While many clubs already run impactful projects targeting youth and education, the new action group offers specialised support. This includes technical expertise, help with community needs assessments, guidance on grant applications and the development of monitoring and evaluation tools – all crucial to making projects sustainable

and effective.

Membership is open not only to Rotarians and Rotaractors but also to non-Rotary members committed to gender equality. This inclusive approach reflects Rotary's recognition that lasting change demands diverse voices and collaborative strategies. And to energise early support, the first 250 members to register and pay will be officially recognised as charter members – a special acknowledgement for trailblazers stepping up for the cause.

Africa's participation in this initiative is already showing promise. With the continent's extensive Rotary footprint – from Kampala to Lusaka and Nairobi to Johannesburg – the foundation for widespread regional impact is firmly in place. Numerous clubs across Districts 9210, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9350, 9370 and 9400 already meet weekly and have strong youth and health portfolios that can benefit from the RAG's focused support.

Head to www.GirlsEmpowermentRAG.org to join the movement or to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities.



2026 CONVENTION

THE QUERY QUEST

BY DIANA SCHOBERG

Photograph by An Rong Xu

Why go to Taipei
for the 2026 Rotary
International Convention?
Question asked; question
happily answered

The best part about the red-eye flight to Taipei is that the most magnificent host will welcome you when you arrive: the sun. On the drive from the airport to my hotel, the city's illustrious landmarks become monumental inkblots when backlit by that blazing orb. As I cruise past rice paddies and riverfront paths, the palatial Grand Hotel, once a haven for foreign dignitaries, salutes me as if I too were visiting royalty, while in the distance, what appears to be an impossibly lofty pagoda, Taipei 101, formerly the world's tallest building, grandly ascends toward tangerine skies.

I've come to Taipei to discover for myself why Rotary members should travel to Taiwan's capital for the 2026 Rotary International Convention. After reviving myself with a visit to the myriad pools in the steam room and sauna at the Regent Taipei Hotel, my quarters in the trendy Zhongshan neighbourhood for the next few days, I set out to answer that question.

I begin by punching "coffee" into the map app on my phone. Half a dozen caf  s within blocks of my hotel pop up. Taiwan is known for its oolong teas so I wasn't sure how easy it would be to find a good cup of coffee, but it turns out Taipei has a thriving coffee culture; even the ubiquitous 7-Elevens serve good coffee, as several of my new Rotary friends tell me later. I choose the Libo Caf   and walk over. The friendly barista helps me choose a drink and giggles right along with me as I tentatively test out a thank you: *xi   xi  * (pronounced *Shee-eh Shee-eh*).

In Zhongshan, among all the caf  s, boutiques and thrift stores, you will find a bounty of luxury shopping. I should have known: My hotel is on a plaza called Fashion Square. "Many years ago, Zhongshan North Road was supposed to be the Champs-  lys  es of Taipei," Pauline Leung, secretary general of the convention's Host Organisation Committee, tells me a short while later over a lunch of beef noodle soup. "It was the major street where all the prestigious shops were." The city has since expanded eastward, as has the city centre, but the neighbourhood has

retained its chic reputation.

After lunch, I head out with Leung and other Rotary members for an afternoon of sightseeing. Our first stop is Liberty Square, a popular spot for concerts, festivals and, in the mornings, tai chi. Step outside the National Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, named after Taiwan's late leader and take in the sweeping view of the massive plaza below. Symmetrical garden beds line either side, with red flowers planted in a curved design. Cypress trees with bottlebrush branches stand like sentinels along the border. From this vantage point, the National Theatre is to your left, the National Concert Hall to your right. Both venues, which, with their yellow glazed-tile roofs and red columns, are masterful examples of Chinese palace architecture, will be home to host committee events for the Rotary Convention 13-17 June 2026. "This is a must that all visitors should come and see," insists Leung.

As we walk across the plaza, Leung extols Taipei's charms but expresses regret that it's a place not many people from the West have seen. "It's so different from places that you usually would go," she says. "It's just a jewel" - and the Rotary Convention will provide the perfect opportunity for newcomers to admire that precious gem.

Frank Ching-Huei Horng, a Rotary Foundation trustee, has joined us and he explains what keeps him returning to the convention year after year is the opportunity to meet with Rotary members from all over the world. "Maybe we can find some projects to work together," he says. "I love that." Horng has made friends with Rotarians from Japan and Korea and at every convention they search each other out to take photos and have dinner. Their face-to-face meetings may have only an annual cadence, but friendships made at the convention are friendships that last.

Later, Past RI President Gary C.K. Huang reminisces about the 40-plus Rotary Conventions he's attended in his nearly 50 years as a member of Rotary. He too cherishes



Jiufen
Old
Street



Left: Pauline Leung (left), secretary general of the convention's Host Organisation Committee and Frank Ching-Huei Horng, a Rotary Foundation trustee, walk along Dihua Street. **Right:** Yi Lo (left), of the Rotary Club of Taipei Huapeng, and Chi-Min Cheng, of the Rotary Club of Wu Jie, sample food in Jiufen.

the many opportunities to meet so many people of varied cultures and customs. “People will love Rotary more because of this type of cultural exchange,” he says. “That is the special character of Rotary.”

Taipei lies in a basin surrounded by mountains whose hazy outlines make you feel like you’ve landed in a painting. The city grew along the Tamsui River and its tributaries, which encircle much of the city centre. The rivers brought Chinese settlers and European explorers. The island became a colony of Japan in 1895, which it remained through to the end of World War II.

You can experience this historical tapestry as you stroll along Dihua Street. Situated in the Dadaocheng neighbourhood, it is the oldest of Taipei’s vibrant “old streets.” Chinese settlers arrived here in the mid-1800s and built the earliest trading shops on the street, which runs north-south near the Tamsui River. These older, red brick buildings intermingle with structures from the Japanese colonial era.

The street is closed to vehicles on the weekends, so on the day I visit, Dihua is full of families and tourists milling around, eating and shopping at stores that sell everything from traditional Chinese medicines to fabrics, soaps, bags and countless other goods. The sound of a woman singing floats above the crowd, but it’s soon drowned out by the thump of a drumbeat and a crash of cymbals as a parade for a nearby temple snakes through the throng.

We make stops to visit the Taiyuan Asian Puppet Theatre Museum, which displays traditional and modern Taiwanese hand puppets and marionettes and the Dadaocheng Visitor Centre, where, by appointment, you can don the traditional clothing and hats lining the room for photo shoots. Even without the costumes, rooms seemingly made for selfies beckon, including one filled with multi-coloured lanterns where I couldn’t resist the urge to pull out my camera.

Dinner is at Du Hsiao Yueh, a Dihua restaurant known for its danzai noodles in a prawn broth with a rich minced pork topping.

Ping Lee, another of my new Rotary friends, says that one of the best parts about attending a Rotary Convention is exactly what we’re experiencing at this very moment: getting to know a culture from the perspective of a fellow Rotary member. “You get to meet the locals and see how they live,” says Lee, the host committee treasurer. “Each city has something different to offer, which makes it very attractive.”

Savour another of Taiwan’s old streets by taking a day trip to Jiufen, a mountain town with stunning views of hills and sea. Turn down an alleyway and you enter a different dimension. Shops line both sides of the narrow brick path and their overlapping awnings make it feel as if you’re walking through a tunnel, albeit one lit by the warm glow of red lanterns. This former gold mining community is home to more than two dozen teahouses - the Amei Tea House resembles the bathhouse in the Oscar-winning anime movie *Spirited Away* - and we head down a set of stairs to get a closer look at one of the shops.

Local artist Hung Chi-Sheng has converted the town’s oldest building into Jiufen Teahouse, a gallery featuring pottery, painting and, of course, tea. Charcoal embers nestle safely beneath a hefty wooden table, atop which bubbling teapots billow clouds of steam. One of the staff demonstrates the intricacies of brewing tea and leaves us to steep our tea on our own. More than an hour passes as we sip tea, chat and contemplate the shadowy hills receding into the sea. Once again, the sun becomes the star attraction, casting a sublime pink light before it finally disappears with a sigh.

At the National Palace Museum, you’ll find more than 600,000 pieces of Chinese art and artefacts that span more than 8,000 years, including some 300 items designated as national treasures. You can see scholarly scrolls, elaborately inscribed bronze cookware and exhibits that trace the development of porcelain techniques. But the piece of art that everyone covets is a drool-inducing rock resembling

a chunk of cooked pork that looks ready to eat. An unnamed craftsman carved Meat-Shaped Stone - yes, that's its name - out of a piece of banded jasper, stained the rock various shades of brown that mimic layers of meat and fat and created dimples on top to resemble pork skin. The result looks like Dongpo pork, a braised pork belly dish.

While the amazingly realistic stone and its tasty, adjacent bok choy companion, Jadeite Cabbage, may attract the most attention, Beatrice Hui-Shen Liang made sure to show me her favourite work: Lofty Mount Lu, a 6-foot-tall scroll painted in 1467 by Shen Zhou. "I like to show people our Chinese paintings because they're very, very special," says Liang, whose spouse, Kevin Wen-Ta Liao, is a past district governor and the charter president of the Rotary Club of Taipei Min-Kuan. Liang became a volunteer guide at the museum when she returned to her native Taiwan after spending time living in Canada. "I wanted to learn more about our culture," says Liang, who likes to explain the artwork as seen through the artist's eyes. "The museum is a treasure," she concludes, imparting her most important lesson. "It's not a Chinese treasure; it's a world treasure. A heritage."

After I satisfy my hunger for artefacts, I make my way to the Silks Palace restaurant on the museum grounds to sate my



Taipei
Metro



craving for actual food. There, you can order items inspired by pieces in the museum's collection, including, you guessed it, cabbage and Dongpo pork.

It seems my primary occupation (make that, indulgence) while I'm in Taipei is eating. Now, as the day winds down, I'm back at it again, this time at the Ningxia Night Market, where food stalls line a narrow path jammed with people sampling traditional Taiwanese foods, such as stinky tofu and oyster omelettes.

It's one of nearly 40 night markets in the city, says Sweetme Shui-Mei Chou, who heads up the Taipei Business District and Industrial Confederation. "Night markets are a very important part of life for locals here in Taiwan and a very popular place to hang out at night," says Chou, a member of the Rotary Club of Taipei Hwa Yueh. Different markets around the city are known

for different things, some famous for spicy foods, others for sweets, she explains.

While at the market, I chat with Jackson San-Lien Hsieh, the convention host committee chair and a past RI director and trustee. The hosts, he says, have had a lot of time to prepare for the thousands of Rotary members expected to descend on the city: Taipei's convention team first made its bid in 2014 and was supposed to host the event in 2021, but the convention went virtual because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For June, the committee has planned extracurricular events that include a run, cycling, symphonic music and opera. "We have 37,000 Rotary members in Taiwan," Hsieh says. "We're excited to welcome Rotarians from all over the world."

As the night winds down, Hsieh and Chou take me to finish off the long day of sightseeing with a foot massage, a reflexology treatment steeped in Chinese tradition. As I settle comfortably into my chair, my feet and calves are stroked, kneaded, punched and ... I'd tell you more, but the session was so relaxing, I fell asleep.

Public transit in Taipei is remarkably clean; I'm pleased to notice during my travels the next day. Absolutely no food and beverages are allowed on the Taipei Metro, so take note: Finish that bubble tea before you get on! In addition, people here are expected to take their trash home with them, which is why you will see very few garbage cans on the streets.

Stops on the MRT, as it's known, are listed in English and Chinese. While that would make it easy for an English speaker like me to navigate the Metro alone, today I have Eric Chiu showing me the city.

Chiu, 44, runs a lifestyle media company and looks the fashionable part. When the Rotary Club of Taipei Generation Next was founded in 2011 as an alternative for younger people in the city, the club members were on average in their 30s and Chiu, as the son of a Rotarian, was charter president. "They kind of tricked me into it," he jokes, "and then 10 years pass by."

We make a quick stop at Xingtian Temple, one of the most visited temples in Taiwan. Folk



Mango shaved ice. Convention host committee Chair Jackson San-Lien Hsieh enjoys a snack.



beliefs that combine Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism are most common in Taiwan and this temple is devoted to Guan Gong, a deified real-life military general. Chiu joins the masses of people bowing and praying inside the temple, then we grab lunch and a mango shaved ice for dessert, which turns out to be my own little piece of heaven. Scraped in thin layers as it's served into a bowl, it looks like a mango orange flower.

Refreshed, we head back to the MRT and make our way to the Taipei Dome, an indoor baseball stadium and concert venue that opened in 2023. It will be home to the opening and closing sessions for the Rotary Convention; other sessions and the House of Friendship will convene at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre, a short ride from the dome on the MRT (transit passes are included with your convention registration).

The Taipei Dome's glistening titanium facade provides an interesting juxtaposition to the neighbouring historical Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, a refurbished cigarette-rolling factory that houses the Taiwan Design Museum and a hip collection of galleries and shops. Chiu owns one of them, Everyday Object, which sells coffee, books, household items, games and more. Within the park you will find a hidden courtyard and fountain, behind which rises the dome and the Taipei skyline. "I think every single individual can find something they would really love about this city," Chiu says. "That's the most special thing about Taipei."

This is it, the moment I've been dreading my whole trip. It's my last day in Taipei and it's time to make my way up Taipei 101.

I'm not typically one for elevators and heights - but I'm also not typically one to turn down an adventure. So, after some gentle encouragement, promises that someone will hold my hand if I freak out and a gut-busting serving of xiao long bao (soup dumplings) at Din Tai Fung on the skyscraper's ground floor, I step into the elevator.

As the elevator climbs from the fifth to the 89th floor, a digital sign tells you how fast

you're going as well other statistics. Or so I'm told: I couldn't bear to look. But I barely have time to get nervous before we complete our trip and the doors open; the ride takes only 37 seconds, reaching a top speed of 38 miles, or about 60 kilometres, per hour. This was without question the smoothest elevator ride I've ever taken. I exhale in relief and step out.

I'm glad I conquered my fear. From this height I can see the outlines of Taipei's basin, the mountains rising in the distance. The roofs of the buildings in Liberty Square, the gleaming silver Taipei Dome. It's like a fast-motion review of all the marvellous places I explored, all the wonderful people that I met - which, now that I think about it, are the answer to my question about why Rotary members should travel to Taipei for the 2026 convention.

I also see things I didn't have time to visit. I wish I had had more time so I could hike at Yangmingshan National Park, take a gondola to see the tea plantations in Maokong, stay at the Grand Hotel and shop at more of the night markets.

This might be the sunset of my time in Taipei, but the sun will come back and undoubtedly, so will I.



National
Palace
Museum

CLUB PRESIDENTS

2025/26

A warm welcome to our new club presidents!



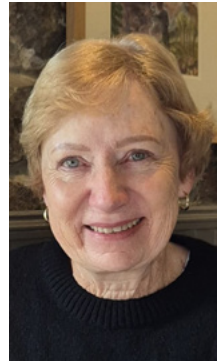
Murro-Wayne Spies
Knysna, 9350



Laurence Chambers
Stellenbosch, 9350



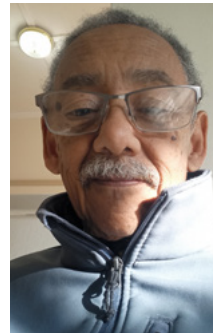
Barbara Mupawaenda
Chitungwiza, 9210



Sandy Whitehead
Constantia, 9350



Juanita Wilkinson
Worcester, 9350



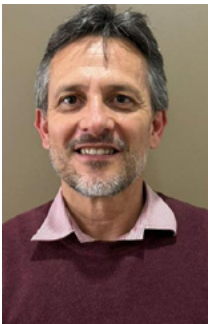
Christopher Jacobs
Kirstenbosch, 9350



Regina Kasongo
Port Elizabeth, 9370



Elenore Baiocchi
Strand, 9350



Johan Jacobz
Haenertsburg, 9400



Owen Govender. Cape
of Good Hope, 9350



Neil Strydom
Orkney, 9370



John Stephenson
Newlands, 9350



Adele Hayden
Hout Bay, 9350



Gail Sykes, Helderberg
Sunrise, 9350



Willy Watson
Tygerberg, 9350



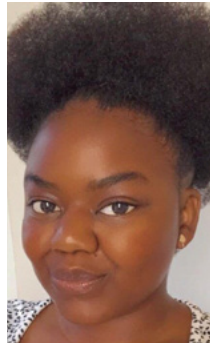
Pieter van der Walt
Bellville, 9350



Martina
Schwardmann
Klein Windhoek
Valley, 9350



Benedictus
Diergaardt
Keetmanshoop,
9350



Tariro Namawa
(Rotaract). Hout Bay,
9350



Nathanael
Nuulimba
Windhoek, 9350



Keith Radmore
Greyton, 9350



Eppie McFarlane
Somerset West,
9350



Tricia Wylde
Plettenberg Bay,
9350



Peter Herweg
Benoni Aurora,
9400

The LAST, last CALL for President photos

email your president's name and photo to: rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



To mark Women's Month, PDG Shân Biesman-Simons, PDG Tracey Wilson, DG Pamela Rawbone, PDG Lynette Stassen, PDG Ann Wright, and PDG June Webber met for a celebratory lunch, sharing stories of leadership and solidarity. While reflecting on their personal journeys, they also acknowledged the support received from male Rotarians.

D9350'S WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Rotary District 9350 celebrated Women's Month by recognising the leadership and impact of its women Past District Governors, a moment which underscored just how far Rotary has come since its days as a men-only organisation.

Rotary formally opened its doors to women

in 1989, after California's Sylvia Whitlock challenged the organisation's constitution and became the first female club president. That same year marked the beginning of a global shift, with female membership growing from 20,000 in 1990 to over 277,000 by 2020.

In 2022 Jennifer Jones became Rotary International's first female president, followed by Stephanie Urchick in 2024.

District 9350 marked its own milestone in 1990, when Eubeth Beyers of the Kleinmond

club became the district's first woman club president. Today, nearly half of the district's membership are women, actively shaping projects and leadership across Angola, Namibia and western South Africa.

MEET THE LEADERS



PDG Ann Wright with Sylvia Whitlock.

- **PDG June Webber** of the Waterfront club, who served in 2004–05 led the “Kick Polio Out of Africa” campaign, which saw a football signed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu travel through 24 polio-endemic countries ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. June was Rotary's first female governor across 47 sub-Saharan countries.
- **PDG Shân Biesman-Simons** of the Newlands club balanced a full-time career and family life during her 2010–11 term. She credited her successful year to time management and family support.
- The late **PDG Geraldine Nicol**, also of Newlands, led in 2015–16 and was passionate about early childhood

development and the environment. Under her guidance, the district secured R5.8 million for a project in Langa.

- **PDG Lynette Stassen**, a professional engineer from the E-Club of Greater Cape Town, led in 2017–18 and described Rotary as “the most rewarding part of my life. It's the best gift you can give yourself as a woman.”
- **PDG Tracey Wilson** of the Helderberg Sunrise club guided the district through her 2022–23 term during the pandemic. She secured a Rotary International Disaster Grant to send First Aid kits and power banks to Ukraine, saying, “Words may inspire, but action creates change.”
- **PDG Ann Wright** of the Hermanus club, governor in 2023–24, faced multiple challenges including floods and power outages. Drawing inspiration from Rotary International President Gordon McInally's focus on mental health, she organised a wellness weekend and co-hosted a peace conference in Cape Town, which included the opening of a Rotary Peace Garden.
- **DG Pamella Rawbone** of the Bellville club began her term in July 2025 with a focus on youth development and encouraging more women into leadership. As she visits the district's 59 clubs, she is sharing a message of inclusion and opportunity.

DUST, ELEPHANTS AND BIKES!

A decade on, the K2C Cycle Tour continues to draw riders and stories



At first light on 21 June, cyclists gathered at Timbavati airfield to mark the 10th annual Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400) K2C Cycle Tour. One hundred and seventy-two riders lined up at the hangar, their jerseys emblazoned with the hornbills drawn by local artist Warren Cary, before setting off on a 104-kilometre route through Timbavati, Thornybush and Kapama.

The pelotons departed at ten-minute intervals, their wheels cutting into the gravel as the sun broke across the bushveld. Riders would spend the day pedalling through reserves that offered both challenge and spectacle, from long stretches of dust to unexpected encounters with herds of elephant and buffalo.

By late afternoon, the cyclists had made their way back to the airfield runway. Drums from Southern Cross School echoed across the veld as the finishers rode through the arch, greeted by family and friends who had waited in anticipation. Many went straight to a bush shower or the cold pool before gathering again for wine tastings led by Hoedspruit sommelier

Amanda Smith.

Much of the event's appeal lies in the hospitality provided along the way. Lodges on the route went out of their way to make the riders feel welcome, from the well-known Rotary breakfasts after the opening 42 kilometres to Kapama's carefully prepared lunch spread. Cyclists spoke of the support stations as a highlight in themselves, describing the sense of being looked after at every turn.

Nature provided its own challenges and rewards. One group was forced to take a detour to avoid a breeding herd of more than 100 elephants, while another peloton cycled quietly through a herd of buffalo, conscious not to disturb them. For many, these encounters became the defining memories of the ride.

The Hoedspruit community once again played a central role in supporting the tour. Bananas from La Bamba, sweet packets from Seeds of Light and WiFi provided by Letaba Networks at the hangar were just some of the contributions that added to the event's atmosphere. It is

this involvement from local businesses and organisations, encouraged over the years by organising chair Michael Henderson, that gives the tour its distinctly communal feel.

Participants came from across South Africa and beyond, but the event has remained firmly rooted in Hoedspruit. As the sun set on the winter equinox, riders and supporters sat on lucerne bales, later destined for animal feed at Raptors View Wildlife Estate, sharing stories well into the night. The chatter carried the same

energy that had driven them along the reserve tracks earlier in the day.

Reflections from those who took part captured the mood. Southern Cross Schools Executive Head, Sam Hamman, described the tour as “remarkable.”

Rider Tessa Shellard thanked the organisers for what she said was “an amazing K2C,” noting that the guiding and the supper on Saturday evening had made the 2025 experience stand out.



With 40 riders already signed up for 20 June 2026, the appeal of the cycle tour shows no sign of slowing down... so, are you ready for a wild ride?



DISTRICT 9210 JOINS 9370 FOR SOME

Toppling Good Fun!

Rotary District 9210 has officially joined the Global Domino Challenge, marking a creative step in expanding the fundraising initiative across Africa. First introduced at District 9370's conference earlier this year, the challenge uses the engaging act of domino-toppling to raise funds for Rotary projects both locally and internationally.

The announcement came in August after a presentation by Rotarian Colin Hegter, project leader of the Global Domino Challenge, and District Governor Elect Melonie Gobel. The idea has already captured the imagination of clubs, schools and youth groups, and District 9210's involvement will extend the project into Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The move was driven by Rotarian Rose Peters, chair of the district's Polio Committee and member of the Rotary Club of Chitungwiza (D9210). She saw the potential of the challenge to boost PolioPlus fundraising while also giving clubs a fun and educational way to engage communities. With sponsorships secured for each domino, teams can raise money for vital causes while building connections across generations.

At its heart, the initiative is about more than toppling tiles. It promotes teamwork, creativity and learning, particularly among young people. Schools and youth groups can register at no cost, design their own domino runs and raise sponsorship funds. The format ensures valuable lessons in planning and cooperation while supporting Rotary's projects.



District 9370's vision is to grow the challenge into a global fundraiser. Monthly online meetings will allow districts to share experiences and adapt the model to local needs. Proceeds will support polio eradication as well as projects that empower entrepreneurs, assist women and expand access to education and health.

Hegter, with more than 40 years in the sports and IT sector, believes the Global Domino Challenge combines fun with meaningful impact. His presentation highlighted how a simple idea can unite clubs, strengthen Rotary's visibility and create long-term community value.

District 9210's leadership has welcomed the initiative under this Rotary year's theme, Unite for Good. The challenge provides a platform for collaboration across borders and showcases Rotary's service areas in action: promoting peace, fighting disease, supporting education and protecting the environment.

Support within the district has already been strong. Peters emphasised that the project brings a new dimension to fundraising and creates a way to connect with young people and introduce a new generation to the ideals of Service Above Self.



Rotaractors created a safe space where hygiene and sexual health issues could be addressed openly, providing reassurance as well as practical knowledge.

DIGNITY AND CARE

The Rotaract E-Club of Cape Town (D9350) launched its first project with an initiative that placed health and dignity at the centre. Partnering with the Rotaract Club of Blouberg, members spent their lunch break on 25 July 2025 at Sophakama Primary School in Dunoon, engaging Grade 6 and 7 learners in an open conversation about hygiene and self-care.

For many learners, guidance on menstruation, hygiene and sexual health is not always available at home. The Rotaract E-Club of Cape Town, chartered in May 2025 as the first Rotaract e-club in District 9350 and South Africa, was formed to connect young leaders, especially past Interactors. Its digital format enables service across distances while keeping members engaged in Rotary after their Interact years.

Working with the Blouberg club strengthened the impact of the project. Alongside the discussion, Rotaractors distributed essential items to ensure that the learners not only had information but also the means to care for themselves.

A total of 218 girls received sanitary pads, roll-on deodorant and small treats, while 176

boys received toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and snacks. Each pack was designed to meet immediate needs and to underline the message that self-care is an important part of wellbeing.

The engagement was more than just a handout. Learners were encouraged to ask questions, and Rotaractors emphasised that personal health is something to be spoken about with confidence. The gratitude expressed by the children confirmed that such interventions fill a real gap in their lives.

For the new e-club, the project set the tone for what it hopes to achieve. Members believe service can be both innovative and rooted in local needs, and that collaboration between clubs is essential. Skipping lunch to talk to young people about hygiene felt less like giving up time and more like seizing an opportunity to serve.

The clubs extended thanks to all members and supporters who made the project possible. For the Rotaract E-Club of Cape Town, this first initiative marks the beginning of a journey dedicated to empowering communities, one project at a time.



A powerful message echoed through schools in Cape Town, helping learners unpack their emotions, challenge stigma and discover that real strength includes knowing when to ask for help.

Healthy Minds

The Rotary Club of South Peninsula–Cape Town (D9350), in partnership with Rotary District 9350, launched a mental health awareness initiative at eight schools across Cape Town’s Deep South. One of the most impactful visits took place at Simon’s Town School, where learners from multiple grades participated in three sessions led by a trained mental health facilitator.

The sessions explored topics such as emotional intelligence, stress management, bullying and speaking up when feeling overwhelmed. Learners were encouraged to understand their emotions, support peers and build healthier relationships.

“Doing the mental health awareness talk at Simon’s Town was a profound experience,” said the facilitator. “We created a space of understanding and empathy where students learned that it’s OK not to be OK. We encouraged them not to bottle up their emotions and reminded them that real men do cry.”

The programme focused on showing that mental health is just as important as physical health and that acknowledging feelings does

not undermine strength. Many learners left with a new perspective, equipped to identify when they or others may need help.

To further engage participants, learners completed anonymous questionnaires. They responded to questions such as:

- What does mental health mean to you?
- How can you support a friend who might be struggling?
- Do you think mental illness is a weakness?
- What are healthy ways to cope with stress?

Responses revealed strong levels of insight and a clear shift in understanding. One learner wrote, “It’s okay to feel sad. I don’t need to hide it.” Another said, “Helping someone who is struggling doesn’t always mean solving their problem. Just listening can help.” A third commented, “I now know what to look out for in my friends and myself.”

This project is just the beginning. The South Peninsula club plans to continue working with schools to support mental health education and create safe spaces for learners. The initiative was supported by a Rotary District 9350 matching grant.



The exchange of banners, led by Past President Rita Benecke, the club's Youth Officer, symbolised the bonds of international goodwill and fellowship.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

August was a lively month for the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400), with its Youth Exchange programme at the centre of activity. The club, recognised as the leading supporter of Youth Exchange in the district, welcomed and bade farewell to several short-term exchange students while hosting special events to share experiences.

At the first gathering, five students presented their impressions of South Africa. Matteo Orioly, Martina Bozza and Melissa Badalin from Italy, Noah Penhallegen from Germany and Roman Klement from France spoke about the highlights of their visit and the warm reception they received. The evening was also

noteworthy as it marked President Zander Lintvelt's first official meeting.

A second event introduced three new arrivals: Wivien Nolkensmeier from Germany, Martha Lehto from Finland and Nycolle Rico Vilani Oliveira from Brazil.

Each shared their reflections on the African experience, offering insight into the value of cross-cultural exchange and the friendships formed along the way.

Both gatherings drew a wide circle of participants, including incoming and outgoing students, alumni, prospective exchange candidates, host parents, Rotarians and friends of Rotary.



SHARE YOUR PROJECTS

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



A team of John Dory and Spur staff members tackle the Ifafi bird sanctuary area with team leader Jo Dreyer.

400 BAGS GONE!

More than 70 volunteers rolled up their sleeves alongside the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400) and WESSA's Magaliesberg Biosphere branch for a bold clean-up effort.

The Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort and WESSA's Magaliesberg Biosphere led a large-scale clean-up on 26 July 2025 in a shared commitment to restoring the environment.

The Harties Clean and Restore Project drew more than 70 volunteers, including local residents, organisations and regional partners. By the end of the day, participants had collected an estimated 400 bags of rubbish, making a clear statement about the impact of collective action.

Volunteers were supported throughout the day with medical care, water and meals. A community braai brought added energy to the event, giving participants the chance to connect

while celebrating their achievements.

Organisers described the initiative as more than a clean-up. They said it was an example of what can be achieved when communities work together with purpose and a reminder that environmental stewardship is an ongoing responsibility.

The project also encouraged residents and businesses to take ownership of their surroundings beyond the day's effort. Sustained commitment to maintaining cleaner, healthier spaces was highlighted as the next important step in ensuring lasting change for Hartbeespoort and its natural environment.

Vision of Care

The Rotary Club of Chitungwiza (D9210) celebrated its 18th anniversary with a message of unity and a clear purpose – to stand with the albino community of Zimbabwe in recognition and tangible care.

At the heart of the commemoration was a gathering at CITIMED Hospital on 11 July 2025. Rotarian Dr Timothy Goche, representing the club's host corporate sponsor, engaged with members of the albino community as they collected sunscreen lotions, generously donated by PetroZimLine.

In another highlight of the day, the PetroZimLine representative and newly inducted club president Barbara Mupawaenda worked alongside charter member and past president Eletinah Muchada to share the club's journey since its founding in July 2007. Friends of Rotary and guests witnessed a snapshot of eighteen years of service, grounded in community, continuity and renewed purpose.

Albinism is a genetic condition marked by the absence of melanin in the skin, hair and eyes. This leaves individuals extremely vulnerable to ultraviolet exposure, increasing the risk of sunburn, long-term skin damage and skin cancer. Sunscreen and protective clothing are not luxuries but necessities for survival.

In Zimbabwe, these risks are compounded by social stigma and limited access to healthcare. Many people with albinism work outdoors in the informal sector without shelter from the sun, and their families often



President Barbara Mupawaenda (above) in distributing sunscreen lotions to members of the albino community at CITIMED Hospital grounds.

struggle to afford or source protective products. Misconceptions continue to fuel discrimination, leaving some households isolated and unsupported.

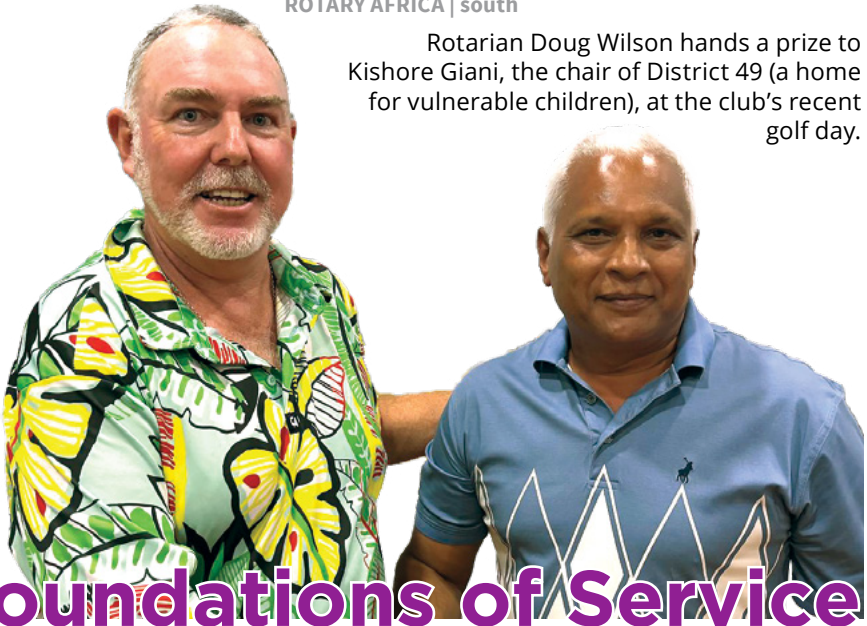
Against this backdrop, the gift of sunscreen becomes a lifeline. For the families who received it, the donation not only provides vital protection but also serves as recognition that their lives matter.



DID YOU KNOW?

To support long-term planning, RI directors appoint regional plan team leads to coordinate customised plans for their regions, aligned with Rotary's Action Plan. District leaders will share their region's plan with presidents-elect to use in their goal setting. Start planning your club's future at rotary.org/clubcentral

Rotarian Doug Wilson hands a prize to Kishore Giani, the chair of District 49 (a home for vulnerable children), at the club's recent golf day.



Foundations of Service

As one of the newest additions to Rotary District 9370, the Rotary Club of Widenham has wasted no time in laying the groundwork for a service portfolio grounded in structure, sustainability and member engagement.

Under the guidance of Projects Director Mike O'Brien, the club recently presented its first comprehensive project report, outlining current initiatives and introducing a practical model that could guide other clubs in their planning.

A retired project manager with global experience, O'Brien brought fresh energy and a clear process to the role. "Mike joined not knowing a thing about Rotary," said a fellow member, "but he's taken to it like a duck to water."

The club is currently engaged in several local and district-linked initiatives. One of its cornerstone projects supports the District 49 Child and Youth Care Centre. This includes infrastructure planning, budget development, tunnel gardening and fundraising events like the annual Golf Day, which took place successfully in June.

Members have also begun assessing the needs of a home for children with disabilities

in Mtwalume, and recently acquired and stored medical equipment for potential use. The club's Interact partnership with Scottburgh High School is up and running, strengthening youth involvement.

Beyond local projects, the Widenham club is exploring Rotary-linked opportunities such as the Global Domino Challenge, the One Million Trees campaign and Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives. International programmes like PolioPlus, Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Leadership Awards are also on the radar.

O'Brien's report included a step-by-step framework for planning Rotary projects. These range from conducting community assessments and defining goals, to implementing, evaluating and promoting projects. His structured approach offers clubs a repeatable process to maximise impact.

The club's project model is based on collaboration, accountability and clear task ownership. Planning includes identifying risks, fundraising strategies and long-term sustainability, while implementation prioritises working directly with local beneficiaries.



Past President Gordon Millar and his wife Carol with new President Eugene Balie and his wife Coleen.

SUPPORT AND SMILES

The Rotary Club of Durbanville (D9350) has spent the past year focused on service, support and community partnerships, with projects touching lives across the region.

A highlight has been the club's partnership with the University of the Western Cape in hosting the Dental Day at the Fisantekraal clinic. Held twice a year, the programme promotes oral health and provides free dental care to those who would otherwise struggle to access treatment.

Healthcare remains central to the club's work. Its telemedicine project offers remote consultations, bringing qualified advice closer to those who need it. Food security is another priority. The Fisantekraal and Morningstar feeding schemes supply soup kitchens with fresh produce from Kenridge Deli and potatoes from Tony's Fish. Additional food donations are distributed to organisations in need.

Education and youth support remain strong focus areas. At Attie van Wyk School, a container classroom was raised to prevent flooding. Several farm schools and crèches benefit from ongoing

assistance and donated learning materials. Top achievers in mathematics, English and home language studies received prizes.

To raise funds for Klippiess Crèche in Klipheuwel, two bingo days were hosted at the local Catholic church. Proceeds helped upgrade playground equipment, while the club also supports Montessori-based teacher training at the crèche.

The club extends its support to mobility and early childhood needs. Wheelchairs have been distributed, and baby clothes and nappies are regularly passed on to Tiny Owls Baby Home for redistribution.

An anticipated event in the year ahead is the return of Oom Piet's Christmas Party, to be held at the Durbanville racecourse in December 2025. Last held before the Covid-19 pandemic, this much-loved festival will again be sponsored by Hollywood Bets. Running for nearly two weeks, it promises food, entertainment and festivities, with the opening night dedicated to those less fortunate.



A remarkable journey, which started with a bicycle from the Rotary Club of Empangeni, led to Halalisani Ndebele representing South Africa and finishing in seventh place at the CAC Mountain Bike Africa Continental Championships.

FROM BIKE TO MEDALS

When Halalisani Ndebele received his first bicycle through a Rotary project in Ingwavuma, few could have predicted where the journey would lead. At the time, the young boy from the rural town near the Eswatini and Mozambique borders had no cycling gear, no shock absorbers on his bike and only old-style brakes – but he had determination.

That bicycle came through a distribution project launched fifteen years ago by the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370). Spearheaded by Fulvio Pace and supported by international partners, the project sources and ships second-hand bicycles to under-resourced communities across South Africa. Each shipment brings not just wheels, but opportunities.

In Ingwavuma, the first container of bicycles was coordinated by Pastor Neil Coetzee. Local mechanics assembled and checked the bicycles

before they were handed over to recipients like Halalisani, who quickly made the roads and mountain trails his training ground.

Halalisani's grit and passion saw him compete in the Bell Big 5 mountain bike series in Zululand, where his performance stood out. Scouts from the Exxaro development team took notice, eventually leading to a contract with the Coopetto professional cycling team.

In a message to Pastor Neil, Halalisani recently shared his latest milestone. "Hi, I hope you are doing well," he wrote. "I was selected to represent South Africa at the CAC Mountain Bike Africa Continental Championships. I came seventh."

Pastor Neil, reflecting on Halalisani's journey, said, "Halalisani was one of the very first recipients. He took part in all of the Big 5 events. We are very proud of him."



Whether through a child's first canvas, a teacher's refined piece or a charity square purchased for a good cause, the exhibition offered something for everyone.

Art and Rotary

The Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) once again partnered with the Art Alive Art School for the school's annual art exhibition, held from 30 July to 2 August. The event has become a highlight on the local calendar, combining creativity with community spirit.

Under the guidance of artist and teacher Elaine Marx, Art Alive in Benoni provides training that transforms ordinary artistic talent into exceptional skill. The exhibition showcased works by teachers and pupils, with a dedicated children's section where participants as young as seven proudly displayed their art. Many of the pieces were available for sale, giving pupils the opportunity to benefit directly from their work.

This year marked the second time that proceeds from the exhibition were directed to Clean Projects Environmental NPO. Contributions came from ticket sales and

the popular charity squares initiative. These 20x20cm canvases, painted by teachers and students, had no set theme and were sold inside the Rotary Tent.

The Rotary Tent was a lively attraction in itself. Guests enjoyed music, wine and homemade soups with fresh bread rolls while browsing the charity squares on display. The welcoming atmosphere created a space where art, fellowship and community fundraising came together seamlessly.

Visitors to the exhibition were treated not only to art but also to the warmth of Benoni hospitality. Bomas dotted the space, conversations flowed easily and new friendships were formed.

Over four days, the community of Benoni enjoyed an event that celebrated both creative expression and the Rotary ideal of service.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth (D9370) and the Algoa Toastmasters Club continue to strengthen ties. In recent years, incoming presidents have completed an eight-week Speechcraft course at Algoa Toastmasters to sharpen meeting leadership skills. At a recent meeting are Angie Kivido (Algoa Toastmasters), Regina Kasongo (Algoa Toastmasters and new president of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth), Denise Pudney (Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth and former Algoa Toastmasters member) and Thomas Horne (Algoa Toastmasters).

Rotary Anns of

the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) visited Mama Themba in Somerset West to hand over hand-knitted baby jerseys and beanies. At the presentation are Desrae Miles, Ann President Carol Vader, Kathy Boonzaier, Mama Themba manager Lindy Officer and Ingrid Edelson.





The Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) members spent Mandela Day assisting with the renovation and cleaning of the Thusanang Training Centre. Pictured are charter member Deneys Barry and Rotarian Paddy Ansell during the day's hands-on work.



The Rotary Satellite Club of Sandton Central (a satellite of the Rotary Club of Kyalami, D9400) hosted a soup kitchen in Alexandra for Mandela Day. In partnership with Blue Ribbon Bakery, the City of Johannesburg Social Services and Gogo's Gift Smiles, the club served meals to the elderly residents of St Joseph Gerald Old Age Home and the children of St Martin's Pre-School.



Johanna Welsh of Camelot Retirement Home donated a large number of baby beanies to the Rotary Anns of Helderberg (D9350), which were given to Mama Themba. With the donation are Ann President Carol Vader, Ann Mieke MacDonald and Ann Pauline Brinkworth. The Anns also delivered 38 food hampers, valued at R10,000 and sponsored by a donor from Holland, to the residents of Camelot Retirement Home.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



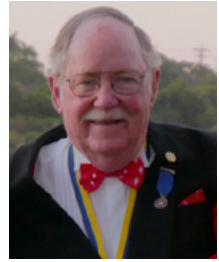
Johann du Plessis received a second Sapphire from the Rotary Club of Dundee (D9370).



John Landless was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Rowan D'Arcy was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Frank Vincent was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Sonja Gilliland received a second Sapphire from the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Shamin Maharaj was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Dell Pendock was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Kanaya Maharaj was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Brian Codling was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Errol Burman was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Petro Bester received a third Sapphire from the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Clive Thompson was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Ebhodaghe Iyere was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).



Dion Mostert was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400).



Debbie Hopewell was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Fourways Main Reef (D9400).



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



Rex Anderson received his second Sapphire Pin from the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Lidia Portelo was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Sam Boshielo was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Rod Genricks was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400).

CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

Have any of your members received awards or recognitions?

INCLUDE THEM HERE!

EMAIL THE FOLLOWING TO ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA
Name, club name, award name and a photo of awardee

WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS

Introduce your new members to the Rotary world! To include them in this section, please send their names and photos to: rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Fumo Chabalala
Haenertsburg
(D9400).



Aletta Nomgidi
Brook
Rosebank (D9400).



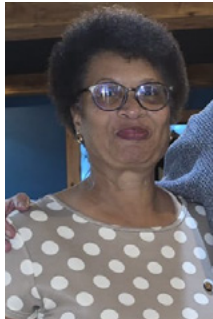
Rufaro Kashangura-
Majirija
Pinelands (D9350).



Helen Mkudu
Fourways Main Reef
(D9400).



Sibongile Nkuna
Fourways Main Reef
(D9400).



Charmaine Drew
Durban
(D9370).



Wim van Vliet
Knysna
(D9350).



Brett Van Vuuren
Knysna
(D9350).

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DECISIONS**

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OUTCOMES**

**BUILD
STRONGER
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

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SUSTAINABILITY**



**CONDUCTING
COMMUNITY
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