

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

APRIL 2024



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



District
9400

Message from your District Governor: *Riana Pretorius*

My Dear Rotary Family,

In the world, the need for environmental conservation has never been more urgent. Rotary Clubs around the world are stepping up to the challenge by spearheading initiatives that promote sustainability, protect natural resources and combat climate change.

Visiting the projects in the district I found that on different scales people are doing projects in line with environmental conservation. Rotarians lead in different projects, from organising tree-planting drives to promoting recycling programs in local communities, cleaning rivers and being on the forefront of environmental activism.

By doing these projects we raise awareness about crucial issues such as deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity. Rotarians are inspiring positive change and paving the way for a greener future through their projects and actions.



The Rotary theme of environmental sustainability is not just a campaign – it is a movement. By working together, sharing best practices, and collaborating with like-minded organisations, Rotary Clubs are making a tangible impact on the world around them.



As we look to the future, let us be inspired by the dedication and passion of Rotary members who are committed to safeguarding our planet for generations to come. Together, we can make a difference and create a more sustainable world for all.

Next month the theme is Youth Service. Let's celebrate the youth in Rotary – they are the future Rotarians!

Finally, I remind you of the DISCON in Sabie. It is a wonderful program full of very interesting speakers and in between lots of fun. Do make sure that you do not miss out on this exciting experience.

See you at DISCON

Riana

Are you ready for the DISCON 2024 competitions?

There are great prizes to be won for the best-dressed couples and also individuals.

On Thursday: ROTARY REGALIA

On Friday: LADY AND THE TRAMP

On Saturday: MASKED BALL



And also the

Jerusalem

EndPolioNow

Dance Competition

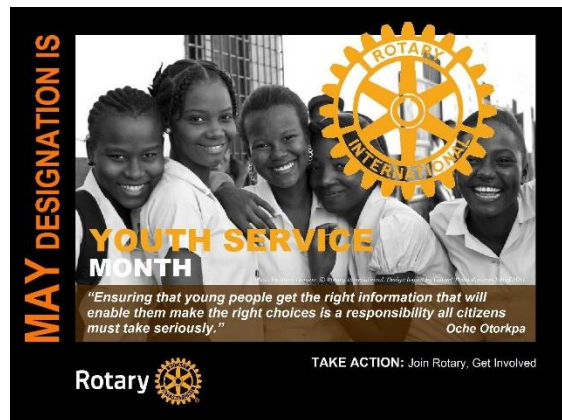
MAY is YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

May is Rotary's **Youth Service Month**! Throughout the month, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and younger members of the Rotary family, including Interactors and RYLA and Rotary Youth Exchange participants, celebrate the service, leadership development, connections, and FUN of Rotary's programs for young leaders.

Every year, over 350,000 young leaders participate in Rotary's youth programs across [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#) (RYLA), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#).

Rotary's Youth Service Month is an opportunity to promote our young leaders' local and global impacts and the Rotary and Rotaract clubs that make these programs possible.

Youth Service (commonly referred to as New Generations) is Rotary 5th Avenue of Service and comes a variety of forms throughout our District and the Rotary



Let's meet at Discon 2024

*"Hello there, I am a Happy Hippo who will help you
CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD this year!"*



DISCON is here at last! It takes place from **Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 MAY, 2024** at the **FLOREAT RIVERSIDE LODGE** in **SABIE**, ending in spectacular fashion on **Saturday** night with a gala dinner.

Since last year, your **2024 Rotary District Conference** mascot, has urged you to register, pay and book your accommodation as soon as possible. Rotarians, Rotary Anns, Rotaractors and their partners/ spouses are encouraged to register and pay immediately to make use of the Early bird special and subsequently also limited discounted rates.

There is a dedicated web page on the D9400 website where you can find out more about what is in store at this year's conference. Click [HERE](#) to read all the latest **INFORMATION** about **DISCON 2024**.

DISCON's theme **Empower to Prosper** encapsulates the essence of collaboration and positive transformation. It's about enabling individuals and communities to reach their full potential, fostering a sense of agency and ownership, and creating a better future through collective action. The Happy Hippo, represents hope and joy, reflecting the 2024 RI theme, **Create Hope in the World**.

Your DISCON SHOWCASE Line-up

- ✚ Friendship Exchange – Learn more about past visits, future exchanges & host registration
- ✚ Interact Clubs, projects and experiences
- ✚ SOUNDS literacy project
- ✚ Rotaract Clubs, project photos & Rotaractors to interact with delegates
- ✚ Hello Welcome to Africa Books Cultural Books
- ✚ Leeuwkop Portraits - oil paintings celebs & sportsmen
- ✚ Saris for Change - recycling by seamstresses
- ✚ Donate-a-Loo - replacing pit toilets at junior schools
- ✚ World clean-up day - 1000 volunteers cleaning 30km of river
- ✚ NSA & Seedling Farm - Interact Club, bursaries & seedlings
- ✚ Polio walk, Polio information and branded products for sale
- ✚ Handmade bags from a skills development project for sale
- ✚ 35 years of Camp Quality

ANN'S MESSAGE

FROM IPDGA CHRISTINA

Dear Rotary Anns and Friends,

The month's highlight for the Anns was their annual Conference, hosted by the Rotary Anns of **Benoni van Ryn** on 20 April, when 71 ladies gathered for the event. They renewed long-standing friendships and shared information on their various projects and fund raisers, while enjoying a fun morning of social interaction. The very interesting speaker was psychologist Daniel Greenslade, who presented some simple steps on how to maintain our emotional health.



The Riverside Rotary Anns again won the *Best Attendance Trophy*, while White River took the *Most Original Project* award. The trophy winners were with DG Riana and PDGAs Janet and Ros. Ann Presidents with DG Riana and certificate awards.

PDGA Janet Callard said she was privileged to announce the awarding of Paul Harris Recognitions to three Rotary Anns who have excelled in the area of *Service Above Self*. Warm congratulations to all of you as you wear your well-deserved medals with pride!

Meanwhile, the Rotary Anns kept busy with gifts, donations and generally helping their communities.



PHF Julia du Plessis
Krugersdorp



PHF Margie Austin
Rosebank



PHF Neha Motiram
White River



Rosebank donated baby wipes and zinc balm to the Hlokomela Play and Education Centre



Rotary Clubs of :
Haenertsburg, Mokopane, Club 100, Baobab E-club, Polokwane
The Pietersberg 100 Anns joined forces with the five Limpopo Rotary Clubs for the annual Limpopo Potjie Competition, having loads of fun and fellowship, while raising funds for their various causes.



It was all system go for **White River** with the annual Camp Quality project in conjunction with Uplands School for children suffering with life threatening illnesses. DGAR Frances reported that they were too busy to take photos, but managed to submit one! White River has come to the end of our Rotary Camp Quality. The Ann's were too busy getting set up to take photos but they were there with the Rotarians every day. The kids had a marvellous time.



Khopotso, who runs the New Life Centre with her colleague Ria, at Kyalami's New Life Centre for Girls which received Easter gifts of food, toiletries and towels with, of course Easter sweets.

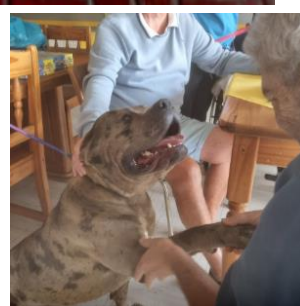


Riverside was as active as ever and assisted by ladies from the Vereeniging Presbyterian Church, supplied 11 beautiful, brightly coloured knitted blankets to Theresa, who runs the Galaxy Children's Haven. Each child also received a beanie and scarf, and there were plenty of Easter treats!



The Aurora Anns have been knitting and trimming colourful "Twiddle Sleeves" that have a relaxing therapeutic effect on dementia patients. They are also promoting Jimmy's Sewing School at the Daveyton Bespoke Sewing Centre, which recently formed a RCC Club. The students are presently preparing a Trashion Show, using unwanted items to create beautiful garments.

Benoni Aurora visited the Cosmos Old Age Home with members of PAWS 4U and their therapy dogs. The residents were given biscuits and Easter goodies, plus furry love from the gorgeous therapy pooches.



Therapy dogs spent time with elderly residents, and the dogs receive treats from their owners.

Discon 2024 is just around the corner. Looking forward to seeing many of you at Sabie for a weekend of interesting speakers, fun and fellowship! Our speakers include:

- ▶ **Dr Llewelyn Curlewis**, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
- ▶ **Ziaad Suleman**, Chief Commercial Officer EOH
- ▶ **Gerrit Laning**, CEO Community Keepers
- ▶ **Anas Al-Hamati**, Deputy Director, Gift of the Givers (Rotary Peace Fellow)
- ▶ **Dr Emmanuel Taban**, Medical Doctor and COVID Champion
- ▶ **Vusi Thembekwayo**, Public Speaker, Investor & Author

Sincerely yours in Rotary, IPDGA Christina.

IPDGA Christina

FOR YOUR DIARY

D9400 DISCON: 2-5 May, Floreat Riverside Lodge, Sabie. Remember there will be fabulous prizes including weekend breakaways for the **best dressed couples** on all three nights!

- ▶ **Thursday - Rotary Regalia**
- ▶ **Friday - Lady & the Tramp**
- ▶ **Saturday - Mask Mania**

Interact



2024



District Interact
Chair Debbie Smit

Thank you to all Rotarians attending PETS & giving me the time to speak about Interact & our Youth. The response has been overwhelming with Rotary Clubs either wanting to find out more about Interact or requiring assistance to raise their Interact Club to the next level. Please do contact me should you need any info or assistance regarding Interact at djvr2404@gmail.com

May is **Youth month** so ensure your Rotary Club is involved with Interact and their activities. A suggestion would be to have a team building day with your Interactors to get to know them better.

To all the Youth Officers, please remember to start compiling your year-end reports that should be handed in to your Club's President for reporting purposes. Should your Interactors run a normal school year and not according to the Rotary year, please remember to compile from last July.



Interact



REDDAM HOUSE
WATERFALL

The Interact Club of Reddam House Waterfall had an Easter event at Cluny Farm on 13 April. The objective was to connect with the Residents and have fun. Some 42 Interactors and Volunteers from Reddam House Waterfall were present and programme was packed with lots of fun.

The performances by the Volunteers were mesmerising and enjoyed by the Residents who clapped, danced and sang along.

The Interactors did some face painting (even on themselves ;-)) and assisted the Residents with making their own Easter egg baskets for the Easter egg hunt. Thank you to the Interactors & their volunteers for making this a Special event for the Residents of Cluny Farm.





D9400 PEOPLE OF ACTION

Click [here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online! Send your Club Newsletters to admin@rotary9400.org.za to have them loaded onto the D9400 website!

Rotary Club of Johannesburg

On Tuesday, March 19, PP David Crossley and Rotaract Club of Johannesburg President Emmanuel Buyonde visited Hope School for the Easter egg donation project.

The donation of Easter eggs to Hope School has been a project that our club has run for many years and was always associated with one of our longstanding, and sadly late, members, Past President Ivan Allan.

Hope School was first thought of in the early 1900s when a remarkable couple, Raymond and Hope Schumacher, decided to make their home in South Africa and built a substantial house on the Westcliff Ridge, overlooking the Johannesburg Northern Suburbs.

Hope Schumacher was passionate about educating disabled children and for a number of years, she ran a school in their home. When the couple decided to leave South Africa in 1916, they left their property in trust for the purpose of housing and caring for disabled children.

In 1929, the then Department of Education established a school, named after Hope Schumacher, which started with 16 pupils. Now the school has 200 pupils from Foundation Phase right through to Grade 12 and is a vibrant and successful educational institution. PP David Crossley and Rotarian Emmanuel Buyonde arrived at Hope School to be greeted by excited and enthusiastic learners and teachers.



PP David Crossley addressing the learners at Hope School



The Easter eggs were handed out after PP David made a short address. The joy on the faces of the children was evident, and we both left with a warm feeling that another worthwhile project had been accomplished.

Once the school holidays have passed, the intention is to speak to the Headmaster with a view to establishing an Interact Club in the school.

Rotaract President Emmanuel Buyonde with some learners at Hope School

Rotary Club of Pretoria Capital

RC Pretoria Capital recently collected the first 22 of 50 wheelchairs for distribution to needy disabled persons. The club had them inspected, cleaned and ready to be picked up by mid-April.

The first delivery was made soon after.



"My leg was amputated in September 2018. I had developed blood clots in my thigh and had an operation to get rid of them. However, the only choice left was to amputate and find the cause after I had healed. Up to now I haven't been able to get any treatment. I now have difficulties in standing and walking. My spine gives me hell. I have a lot of discomfort and pain."

Rotary Club of Johannesburg

From Friday, 21 to Sunday, 23 March 2024, Rotaractors from the Rotaract Club of Johannesburg participated in a project in the village of Nyavini, in the Eastern Cape Province.

The Nyavini project was made possible through a district grant applied by the Rotaract Club of Johannesburg with assistance from RC Johannesburg.

The project aimed to renovate a nursery school in order to foster an environment in which children could be kept safe and take their first steps in education properly.



The Nyavini project Rotaract Team and the Nursery School beneficiaries.



Rotaract President Emmanuel Buyonde (left) and Rotarian Minenhle Majola (right) handing over educational material to the nursery caregiver.

Tutu Desk

This project was made possible thanks to the impressive work of Rotaract club president Emmanuel Buyonde, Rotary Club of Johannesburg president-elect Minenhle Majola, and Rotaractor Renaldy Beyeme.

The project consisted not only of renovating the nursery, but also providing educational materials as well as mattresses for the children.

It's great to see young people getting involved in meaningful projects like this. The work they are doing to improve the educational conditions of children in the Nyavini village is truly commendable.

This type of community service is what Rotary and Rotaract strive for. Congratulations to the Rotaract Club of Johannesburg for their dedication and hard work in making this project a reality. The impact they have on these children's lives will have a lasting effect for years to come.

Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark

RC Vanderbijlpark recently inducted 6 six new members to our Rotary Family at an event which took place at Stonehaven on Vaal.

The MC for the night was Rotarian Zander Lindveldt who ensured protocol was observed while President Adri Roos welcomed all the guests. Membership chair PP Mike Fraser enlightened the guests regarding how becoming a Rotarian could enrich their lives and that of the community they serve.

FLTR: New members Alice de Jager, Sandy du Toit, Thabiso Mthabela, Semende Munguambe, Allen Doyle, and Gontse Ndluvu with President Adri Roos



Rotary Club of Johannesburg

Basic Mental Health Counselling Training, a Beacon of Hope for the Thembisa Community by Thembisa Community Corps and Ga Rona

From February 19 to 23, 2024, the RCC in collaboration with Ga Rona began basic counselling training for community mental health counsellors.

This is a fantastic initiative by the Rotary Community Corps in Thembisa. Mental health awareness and support are so important, and it's great to see the RCC taking proactive steps to address this issue in the community. By providing basic counselling training to community counsellors, they are not only raising awareness about mental health but also creating a support system for those in need.

It's also wonderful to see the collaboration with lay counsellors and social workers, showing that the RCC is committed to providing comprehensive support to the community. The transformation of Thembisa into a therapeutic township is a commendable goal, and it's clear that the RCC and Ga Rona are working hard to make it a reality. Congratulations to all involved in this initiative, and best of luck as the community counselling services are launched in March 2024. This is a significant step towards building a healthier and more supportive community.



Director of Ga Rona Community Centre, Aaron Segotla, and the Mental Health awareness counselling trainees

Thembisa Community counsellors receive Mental Health awareness training from the RCC and Ga Rona



District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

2-5 May 2024 **D9400 District Conference**, FLOREAT Riverside Lodge, Sabie. Learn, have fun, enjoy!

4 May 2024 **2023-24 Rotary Day at UNESCO** will be held in Paris, France. The focus will be on education and peace.

15 May 2024 Rotary's **Youth Advisory Council** webinar on **Wednesday at 10:00AM (UTC-5)**.

24 May 2024 **World Water Summit 16**, WASH-RAG Summit on Sustainable sanitation. Click [HERE](#) to register.

25-29 May 2024 **2024 Rotary International Convention**, SINGAPORE

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

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

A Prova Quádrupla

Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:

1. É a VERDADE?
2. É JUSTO para todos os interessados?
3. Criará boa VONTADE e MELHORES AMIZADES?
4. Será BENÉFICO para todos os interessados?

DISTRICT 9400



To view the 4-Way Test in some of the other languages spoken in D9400, click [here](#)