

FEBRUARY 2022

# Rotary

AFRICA | south

# IMAGINE

A WORLD WITHOUT POLIO. A WORLD WITH CLEAN WATER FOR EVERYONE. A WORLD FREE OF DISEASE. A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD LEARNS TO READ. A WORLD FILLED WITH KINDNESS, HOPE, LOVE AND PEACE.

# Contents

5	Welcome
6	President's Message
7	Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
8	Convention Countdown
9	Changemakers
10	Disability Desk
11	It's All Your Business
12	Global Citizen
14	Be Part of the Conversation
15	Panellists wanted
16	100 Members
17	Recognise our Heroes
18	Rotary at COP26
19	Natural Hazards
24	Behind the Theme
25	Imagine a World
28	50 Golden Years
29	Knysna's Comical Cricketers
30	Empowering Nigerian Girls
31	disABILITY Day
32	Access and Inclusion
33	No 'pour' decisions here
35	Africa in Brief
41	Wall of Honour

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New members from different groups in our communities bring fresh perspectives and ideas to our clubs and expand Rotary's presence. Invite prospective members from all backgrounds to experience Rotary.

**Refer a new member today**

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## 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?



# WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden  
**Editor in Chief**



It's the first magazine of 2022 and while we are not too sure what lies ahead, I hope that you, like me, are leaning more towards positive expectations. However, looking for the positive does not mean that you have to deny reality. For example, I know we can grow Rotary membership in Southern Africa (just look at East Africa, it's booming there), but realistically, to do so we need to create what Rotary President-Elect Jennifer Jones calls a culture of comfort and care. And she is right! The culture of a club is what creates or prevents membership retention.

I have sat through so many presentations where people have run the numbers and determined that the club membership is dwindling because people are retiring and moving away or being transferred to another city, province or country for work. Sure, that is happening, without a doubt. BUT if they really enjoyed and treasured their Rotary experience, they would ask for help to join a new club or just find one themselves.

A recent study found that telling people to give up one cup of coffee, a bottle of wine or dinner at a restaurant a week/month in order to save money or afford an additional expense (eg a membership, subscription or recurring donation), is counter productive and actually ineffective. People are not going to give up those 'treats' or 'spoils', because they value and enjoy them too much. This means that if you want people to join, subscribe or donate to something, you should instead make them enjoy or value the experience of doing so.

What this tells us is that if all those people truly valued their Rotary club experience when they moved away, they would seek out another club. But, not many are.

Club culture also includes not-so-obvious behaviours. Among these are passive-aggressive behaviours. Common examples include ignoring contributions or suggestions, only to acknowledge and agree with the same points when tabled by one of the 'in crowd', saddling women or young people with admin duties. And let's not forget message and email groups. Check your groups to ensure that people are always acknowledged when they contribute to a conversation or ask a question. If there is, I can guarantee that they have one foot out the door. For example, if I was in a group and every time I sent a message no one replied, and the conversation carried on around me as if I never 'spoke'. I would be seriously reconsidering my association with that group of people. The lesson here is to make sure that those who are in the minority in your clubs, be they old or young, men, women or gender neutral, able bodied or living with a disability, or considered a bit different/odd, are at least acknowledged by someone in every conversation, because more often than not, they are excluded from most.

Lastly, ensure that you have at least found out what each member in your club actually does for a living and not just in vague terms either. Make the effort to get to know them and their profession, especially if you are assigning them mostly admin jobs.

Seriously, if every time you spoke or offered to take part in something other than admin, asked a question or suggested a project/fundraising idea, you were ignored, told no or treated as if invisible, would you want to stick around?

I know I would not.  
Would you?

# President's Message

## Greetings, my dear changemakers,

At the start of the Rotary year, I challenged every club to plan and host at least one practical and action-oriented Rotary Day of Service. The event should address a challenge facing your community that fits into one or more of Rotary's areas of focus and brings together volunteers from within and outside of Rotary.

Rotary Days of Service can motivate Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs to plan innovative and impactful projects. They can showcase your work as people of action and introduce prospective members to your club.

I've been inspired by your response so far, and I want to share with you just one project that has captured my imagination.

India is home to an estimated 74 million people with diabetes, a disease that is a leading cause of death. Furthermore, about 50 percent of those people remain undiagnosed.

Rotary, together with the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, saw the urgent need to diagnose, track and treat those with diabetes. Working together and with other organisations, we hosted a nationwide blood glucose testing camp on 29 September, which is World Heart Day.

The camp was spread across more than 10 000 sites in India, with more than 2 000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs participating in the effort. More than 1 million blood-sugar tests were conducted in a day, a milestone recognised by the Asia Book of Records. But more important than breaking a record is the fact that tens of thousands of people learned that they may be living with diabetes. They can now be treated for the condition and have been made aware that they should take extra measures to shield themselves from COVID-19 and scores of other diseases that are caused or worsened by diabetes.

This month, on 23 February, the anniversary of Rotary, let us celebrate with more service days, showcasing Rotary's work in our areas of focus. I look forward to hearing about your Rotary Days



of Service. Please share your projects on Rotary Showcase or browse that website to find inspiration and project partners. In particular, I encourage you to execute projects that focus on empowering girls, as they have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The Empowering Girls programme is resonating very well with members of Rotary as well as with non-Rotarians. The governments and NGOs in various countries are appreciating this meaningful initiative. Let us keep focusing on it.

I am also happy that the Each One, Bring One ethos is bringing fruitful results. Let us ensure that all club members introduce at least one person to Rotary and that we all work to engage new members and keep them in our clubs.

In whatever we do, remember that we must push ourselves to grow more, do more as we Serve to Change Lives.

*Shekhar Mehta*

Shekhar Mehta,  
Rotary International President (2021/22)



# Foundation Trustee Chair

John Germ

I always look forward to February, the month of Rotary’s anniversary, as a time to remember our history. What began as a small gathering in a Chicago office in 1905 soon transformed into a global movement - one that you and I are a part of today.

February is also Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, when we celebrate a core Rotary concept: the pursuit of global peace and understanding.

Through our global and district grants, The Rotary Foundation is a force for peace - as are all of you who use these funds for projects. A grant that promotes literacy can lead to greater understanding and economic security in that community and beyond. This lays the foundation for peace. When communities aren’t fighting over scarce water resources because they have a working pump system, they can instead pursue education. Promoting peace is interwoven in all that Rotary does.

The work of actively building peace and understanding has been a hallmark of Rotary since its earliest days. But with the creation in 1999 of the Rotary Peace Centres we began a bold new chapter in this story. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the inaugural class of peace fellows; the innovative programme continues to merge a strong, academic

understanding of the roots of conflict with practical tactics for solving real-world problems.

Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Peace Centres were able to adapt, ensuring minimal disruptions to the programme. Now, students at our seven centres are resuming their normal activities. This includes young peacebuilders at our newest centre at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, who are preparing to apply their new knowledge and skills in a region that’s in need of peaceful solutions.

The peace centre programme keeps growing. Our search committee is researching potential locations in the Middle East or North Africa to establish our eighth centre, with plans for its launch as soon as 2024. This is a significant step for Rotary’s efforts in global peace education, as we lay the groundwork for the next generation of fellows to pursue peacebuilding in that region. And we aren’t stopping there: Our goal is to open a Rotary Peace Centre in Latin America by 2030.

In the last 117 years, Rotary has grown to become a global force for good - promoting peace and understanding in all of our endeavours. The staying power of Rotary, the Foundation and our decades-long commitment to peace are things that are worth celebrating, supporting and sustaining for the generations that will follow us.

## Rotary at a glance

**Rotary clubs:** 36 922  
**Members:** 1 196 404  
**Rotaract clubs:** 10 609  
**Members:** 227 177  
**Interact clubs:** 16 673  
**Members:** 383 479  
**RCCs:** 11 875

As at 18 October 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease





## Find Project Partners

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared their projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Now Rotary has added new features that make this online tool even more useful.

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly.

Learn more at [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org)



# TASTES OF H-TOWN

2022 Rotary International Convention Countdown

The Houston food scene presents a classic conundrum for visitors: too many restaurants, too little time. While you're in town for the 2022 Rotary International Convention 4-8 June, try a sampling of cuisines at these spots, all a short cab ride from downtown.

The Original Ninfa's on Navigation offers quintessential Tex-Mex, a blend of Southern American and Mexican ingredients. Founded by "Mama" Ninfa Lorenzo in 1973, this Houston staple is credited with helping to put fajitas on the national stage. Make sure to try their famous queso flameado and tacos al carbón and cool off with an agua fresca.

Brennan's of Houston serves up authentic Creole cuisine and Southern hospitality for a unique fine-dining experience. Enjoy their signature turtle soup and locally sourced Matagorda Bay oysters. This sister restaurant to the famed Commander's Palace in New Orleans also offers a jazz brunch on the weekend, perfect for beignets or shrimp and grits.

Nobie's, which bills its fare as new American, offers farm-to-table dining in a hip, relaxed atmosphere. The eclectic menu changes often, but you can expect innovative dishes like chicken-fried quail or steak tartare topped with devilled-egg cream. Soak in the party vibe as you sip a craft cocktail or an offering from the extensive wine list.

The classy-yet-casual Rosie Cannonball serves European comfort food with an Italian spin. Start with focaccia di recco or blue crab carbonara, then dive into pizza, charred octopus or other offerings from the wood-fired oven and grill. You'll leave feeling as if you got a warm hug from the most chic Italian you'll ever hope to meet.



# Changemakers

ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER, PDG PATRICK COLEMAN

## HOW TO TALK TO ANYONE

“The moment someone looks at you, he or she experiences a massive hit, the impact of which lays the groundwork for the entire relationship. Just give ‘em great posture, a heads-up look, a confident smile, and a direct gaze.” Leil Lowndes, *How to Talk to Anyone: 92 Little Tricks for Big Success in Relationships* (See: [www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/35147](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/35147)).

Most of us have New Year’s Resolutions that last for almost as long as our New Year’s leftovers! A friend shared his resolution from last year just before Christmas: “My resolution last year was to lose 10 kg and I have only 15 more to go!”

That sounds all too familiar to me, but I digress!

One of my most important resolutions this year is to read at least one book every week to improve my personal and/or professional outreach. I just finished book two – *How To Talk To Anyone* by Leil Lowndes.

As Rotarians, we meet and speak to people all the time – in clubs, in community gatherings or family events. All too often Rotarians speak “Rotarian” when chatting with people leaving them completely lost when we say “PDG” or “TRF.” I have watched shocked listeners react when someone referred to another Rotarian as “PP.”

Using words that are Rotary-specific will confuse and even discourage potential members. If most of us walked into a room filled with nuclear physicists, we would find it difficult to converse with someone

talking about nuclear astrophysics, and we might find it hard to grasp the intersection of nuclear physics and astrophysics.

Leil Lowndes offers several ‘tricks’ about starting and keeping conversations alive. She also includes body language skills that often communicate better than the words we speak.

Here are a few:

- I always try to turn the spotlight on the other person. Truly confident people often do this. They know they grow more by listening than by talking.
- Let’s hear it again!” The sweetest sound your conversation partner can hear from your lips when you’re talking with a group of people is “Tell them about the time you . . .
- There are two kinds of people in this life: Those who walk into a room and say, ‘Well, here I am!’ And those who walk in and say, ‘Ahh, there you are.’

We have been challenged to be “Changemakers” by Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta. One of the best ways to make that change is to communicate effectively – both within and outside of Rotary circles.

One final quote: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care... about them.” Zig Ziglar is right. The secret to making people like you is showing how much you like them!”

Keep talking about Rotary!

# Disability Desk

MEET JEREMY OPPERMAN



Increasing access for people with disabilities requires a shift in attitude, says Jeremy Opperman of the Rotary Club of Newlands (D9370), a member of the Rotary International Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

**You have a condition called retinitis pigmentosa, which can result in total blindness. You also run your own consulting firm that focuses on diversity and disability issues. How has being blind shaped your work?**

I didn't become a diversity practitioner and a disability equity specialist because I was blind; I had a perfectly good career for more than 10 years before I started working in this field. But what my blindness did was give me credibility in the subject. It gave me empathy and a personal understanding of an impairment. As a result, I have been able to pursue these issues with greater understanding and empathy.

**As a member of Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, what experiences can you share with Rotary leaders that will help to create a more inclusive experience for all?**

One of the most glaringly obvious reasons why corporations struggle with disability equity and diversity is because leadership is not truly invested. It's vital that our leadership be invested and knowledgeable about diversity, and especially disability, because it is very nuanced, involved, and complex.

There is often activity in diversity areas, but organisations might be doing it in an ad hoc or reactive way. The diversity activities of an organisation might be confined to certain segments that don't intersect with other aspects of the business. It's very important that we ensure there's integration in all parts of an organisation such as Rotary. It's strategic; it's not just something you do here and there.

**You have written about the differences between a surface understanding of accessibility, such as wheelchair access, and a fuller understanding of what it means to have disability equity. What are some barriers that people often overlook?**

A major attitudinal barrier prevents us from bringing disability equity into mainstream inclusion. For generations and generations, we've had a paradigm that embraced exclusion. It's not unlike the paradigm that has kept women down for millennia. We are at the tail end of that, but it's hard to undo those things.

But as I like to say, physical barriers don't make themselves. Your inaccessible building didn't make itself; it was made by people. And if people were to think more about disability inclusion, you would have less inaccessibility. That's what I mean by an attitudinal barrier. To overcome the physical barriers, we need to overcome the attitudinal ones. And that's our greatest challenge.

**Why is it beneficial to all to make disability equity a priority?**

Because inclusion makes more sense than exclusion. If we categorically exclude people, even if we do so without realising it, we exclude more than just one individual. Say you are a party of four going out to eat at a restaurant, and one of you is in a wheelchair. Can you go anywhere you'd like? Chances are you can't, because of accessibility issues. Now, that restaurant you could not go to - did it lose one meal, or four? We can't afford to lose people through thoughtlessness, carelessness, or even tacit exclusion. — ARNOLD R GRAHL

# It's all your business

Non-profits need to embrace strategies for success from the for-profit world, says philanthropy expert Lisa Greer

“We are an NPO (non-profit organisation). We are not a business!” As someone who has served as a board member, adviser, and donor for NPOs, I’ve heard a version of this sentiment more times than I can count. At a meeting, it might be someone’s response while discussing a financial or organisational governance issue of the NPO. The statement often carries a whiff of disdain.

As someone who also has decades of business experience, I think it’s time to examine the abhorrence of the for-profit world that is sometimes voiced in the NPO one. While the distinction in virtue between NPOs and many profit-making ventures is clear, the scornful “we are not a business” attitude is used by some as a rationale for sidestepping the practices, standards, and protocols that are part and parcel of any for-profit entity. This is where NPOs get into trouble.

NPOs and traditional businesses are not diametrically opposite entities. The financial website Investopedia.com says businesses can be “for-profit entities or they can be NPO organisations that operate to fulfil a charitable mission or further a social cause.”

Why deny it? NPOs are businesses. They have overhead and administrative costs. They compensate staff in accordance with labour laws. They don’t have to pay some taxes, but they do have to file paperwork. They have by-laws. They carry appropriate insurance and meet safety standards. They have boards of directors with fiduciary responsibilities to their organisations.

So why does it seem as if so many NPOs rail against anything that sounds business-like? The view that businesses are bad, and NPOs are good is simplistic. Here are some common misconceptions I have heard that try to justify why NPOs shouldn’t operate like a business — and my thoughts about why they don’t make a whole lot of sense.

Only for-profit businesses focus on money. For-profit business is about making a profit, hence the name. However, NPO businesses can (and often do) make money — they just invest it back into their

mission. That mission, per their NPO tax status, is meant to benefit the public. How do you think NPOs have endowments, for example, if their income isn’t greater than their expenditures?

NPO folks are nicer and more caring than business people. As the NPO Idealist states, “Difficult personalities, big egos, and office politics can - and do - exist in any professional environment. Perhaps a higher percentage of kind-hearted people work in the NPO sector, but there is no way to measure this, and there are plenty of exceptions.”

NPOs are inconsequential in terms of the size of their workforce. NPOs employ more than 10 percent of America’s private workforce — providing more jobs than manufacturing, construction, or finance, according to the National Council of NPOs.

The 2021 Edelman Trust Barometer, based on an annual online survey conducted by global communications firm Edelman, found that businesses are now the most trusted institutions around the world because they are seen as both ethical and competent. NPOs are viewed as ethical but less competent. When people at NPOs say they don’t have to, and shouldn’t, operate like a business, or that they should ignore accepted rules and standards of business practice, it reinforces that image.

So, if people trust for-profit businesses more than NPOs, why do some NPOs continue to eschew business standards and practices?

An overly energetic expression of the “we are an NPO, we are not a business” attitude indicates that a person is thinking more about appearances than about the market forces and fundraising tactics that will make an organisation successful, because the roads to success in the for-profit space and in the NPO space are very similar. NPOs — including staff, board members, and donors — must insist on operating like a business. They just have to be choosy about which businesses to emulate, and smart about which tactics to pursue.

NPOs that are poised for long-term success will do what good businesses do: pay their staff

a living and competitive wage, train and support their personnel, embrace appropriate technology, welcome innovation, diversify their ranks, honour their volunteers, and do everything they can to be professional, honourable, and focused on results and their mission.

As an NPO, your work likely fights the ill effects of bad businesses. To win that fight, emulate the good ones.

How does your Rotary club operate like a business

— and how does it not? Continue the conversation at [yourletters@rotary.org](mailto:yourletters@rotary.org).

*Lisa Greer is a philanthropist, NPO adviser, meeting convener, and the author of the bestselling book *Philanthropy Revolution: How to Inspire Donors, Build Relationships and Make a Difference*. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills, California. Find her at [lisagreer.com](http://lisagreer.com).*

# Global Citizen

Rotary International President-Elect Jennifer Jones took the stage at the Global Citizen Live concert on 25 September in Paris and pledged that Rotary would provide \$97 million in grants to sustainable, club-led projects in 2022.

Global Citizen Live, a 24-hour broadcast with events and performances across six continents, was put on by the international advocacy organisation Global Citizen to unite people to take action to defend the planet, end the COVID-19 pandemic, defeat poverty, stop the hunger crisis, provide education for all children and promote equity and justice for everyone. Some of the world's best-known performing artists, activists, and government leaders participated in the event.

“Every day, millions of girls walk miles to fetch clean water, and millions of boys are on the streets instead of going to school. Every day, moms and dads struggle to find ways to feed their children,” Jones said. “And every day, members of Rotary and Global Citizen start our days knowing that we can make a difference.”

“This year we’re putting a special focus on empowering girls worldwide, opening doors for young women to build brighter futures,” Jones said. “Today Rotary is committed to helping end poverty globally and to protecting the planet by pledging \$97 million in grant funding during 2022 for sustainable, member-led projects.”

She added: “We stand together with Global Citizen as people of purpose, people of action.”

Rotary has worked with Global Citizen for more than a decade, primarily in the effort to eradicate polio worldwide. In conjunction with the September event, governments, corporations and other organisations announced financial commitments totalling more than \$1.1 billion, along with pledges to plant 157 million trees and donate 60 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries.

— RYAN HYLAND





# 2022 PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

Be part of the conversation about women and youth empowerment through issues relating to Peace, Environment and Economy.

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**CONFERÊNCIA MOÇAMBIQUE  
PRESIDENCIAL**



*Be part of the conversation about women and youth empowerment through issues relating to Peace, Environment and Economy.*

# Be part of the conversation

A Rotary Presidential Conference will be held in Mozambique on 4-5 March 2022. The conference will see an expected 400 or so African community development leaders gather at the Maputo Congress Hotel to discuss issues relating to peace and conflict resolution, economic development, girls' empowerment, agriculture and environment.

It is mainly aimed at providing independent solutions to the development of the African continent, focusing on corporate social responsibility in our communities.

The conference is also aimed at ensuring that all Rotary club members experience Mozambique, while reminding them of the value they add to their countries through community development.

The organising committee's communication strategy will engage the African media, create awareness of the conference and encourage both Rotary members and the public to attend.

## GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

- To critically discuss effective and proactive strategies on how to deal with conflict and maintain peace across the African region and beyond.
- To generate a pool of diverse ideas in harnessing productivity in economic development.
- To encourage all Rotarians to actively partake in economic agriculture and environment activities to enhance sustainability across the continent of Africa.
- To raise a generation full of empowered girls who will be ready to independently influence the economic and political spectrum of the African region.
- To establish a harmonious environment amongst Rotarians who are socially responsible and ready to make tangible changes in their respective countries.

Learn more and register at: [rotarymaputo2022.com](http://rotarymaputo2022.com)



**CONFERÊNCIA MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**PRESIDENCIAL**



**CONFERÊNCIA MOÇAMBIQUE  
PRESIDENCIAL**

# PANELLISTS WANTED

## FOR MOZAMBIQUE RI PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

The topic for the upcoming RI Presidential Peace Conference to be held (both in person and via zoom) in Mozambique on 4th and 5th March will be:

- Economy
- Peace
- Empowerment of Women and Youth.

The team of the newly formed African Peacebuilders was tasked with assisting with the second day of the conference.

Four panellists, one from each of the four regions

of Africa (north, south, east and west) who have the knowledge and expertise to contribute to one of the three topics, are being sought for day two.

Ideally, the prospective panellists should have an overview of all three topics, as well as an understanding of how each fit into Rotary.

They should also have a knowledge of the specific issues and challenges their region faces regarding each of the topics.

CVs and applications can be submitted to Grace van Zyl at [grace@gracevanzyl.com](mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com).

# Together, we are building peace

Last year the African Peace Hour, a Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) initiative, was launched writes Past President Grace van Zyl of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).

The aim of the African Peace Hour is to provide a platform where all peace builders, peace ambassadors, peace fellows and Rotarians can meet and discuss various issues regarding peace in their region, share projects, and brainstorm solutions.

The immediate goal is to increase the number of peace builder clubs and encourage participation with the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), aligning the eight pillars of positive peace with Rotary's seven areas of focus. Increasing the number of peace builder clubs will eventually lead to regional chapters focusing on issues relative to each region.

The African Peace Hour leadership has also been approached by the organising committee for the RI Presidential Peace conference in Mozambique in

2022 which will allow us to build on the outcomes of the conference.

The four regional leaders of the African Peace Hour are: Dalia Monsef (Egypt) representing North Africa; Pietro Uzochukwu Macleo (Nigeria) representing West Africa; Anne Nkutu (Uganda) representing East Africa; Grace Van Zyl (Johannesburg) representing South Africa. RAGFP is represented by past chair Alison Sutherland (Wales).

For more information on the African Peace Hour or peace builder clubs contact:

Nigeria: [pietrouzo@gmail.com](mailto:pietrouzo@gmail.com)

South Africa: [grace@gracevanzyl.com](mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com)

RAGFP: [ypalison@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ypalison@yahoo.co.uk)

# 101 Members Strong

E-Club inducts 100+ members during Rotary in Africa’s centennial year

In April 2021, Rotary International celebrated a century since it was first established in Africa. Rotary International Zone 22 celebrated this huge milestone in a hybrid Centennial Conference which digitally congregated Rotarians and non-Rotarians from around the world.

The Centennial Conference recognised some of the true trailblazers within Rotary International and their partner organisations. The programme culminated in a look at future opportunities and challenges and how young people can help to secure a better future for Africa.

In line with Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta’s “Each One Bring One” membership extension initiative, the Rotary E-Club

of Southern Africa (D9400) surpassed its target goal of inducting its 100th member in the centennial year.

In November, the club inducted 11 new members, bringing the member total to 101, with Ilse Jaquire being the official 100th member. During 2021, the E-Club inducted 33 members and now has a membership that is 58% female.

“To invite your neighbour, colleague, family or friends into Rotary is a demonstration of People of Action. It is to cultivate a sense of compassion and not only empathy. Empathy is a feeling and compassion is an action – we are People of Action, join the Each One Bring One movement,” said PDG Annemarie Mostert.

## Your voice...

### Editor,

During my 38 years as a Rotarian I have always felt that the 3rd ‘Test’ should refer to “Bridges of Friendship” rather than “Better Friendships.”

My view on this matter is that I would prefer to see Rotary building bridges towards establishing new friendships than merely building on existing ones. To me, this is more in keeping with Rotary’s

Send your letters to

[rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).

Please include ‘letter’ in the subject

ideals.

Just a thought for you.

Thank you for the magazine, which has undoubtedly improved in content and class in recent times.

**Bill Cozens**

**Rotary Club of Gately D9370**

## Coming up...

### 14 FEBRUARY

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF HELDERBERG SUNRISE** and E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350) is drawing the winner of its 1oz Gold Kruger Rand raffle (valued at more than R28 000). The raffle is being held to raise funds in support of food security initiatives in the Western Cape. **Tickets cost:** R200 - and are limited to 1 000. The raffle is audited by WEBB accounting (Gordon Webb). National Lotteries Commission Reg No. 00355/01. **Buy tickets on Quicket:** [www.quicket.co.za/events/163051-gold-kruger-rand-raffle](http://www.quicket.co.za/events/163051-gold-kruger-rand-raffle). **Contact:** A Lubbe at: [lubbea@mweb.co.za](mailto:lubbea@mweb.co.za).

### 26 FEBRUARY

**ROTARY CLUB OF HIBISCUS COAST (D9370)** Charity Golf Day at Margate Country Club starting at 9am. Format: Better Ball Stableford. Playing fees on the day will be R320 per golfer, including green and competition fees. The golf day is an Honours’ Board event (the winner’s name will be added to the Honours’ board the country club). Prizegiving will start at about 5pm. Sponsorship opportunities: R500 - R1000 per green or tee and R200 for flag/banner around the clubhouse.

**Contact:** Johnny De Wet on 082 576 3404 or Angus McLachlan on 039 317 1504/083 262 3308.

Submit your Rotary club or district

events to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).

Please include ‘calendar’ in the subject



# Recognise our Heroes

It is now possible for all firefighters, police officers, and frontline workers to receive the recognition and honour due to them, thanks to a project by Rotarian Joe Wutkowski, of the Rotary Club of Carteret (D7475, USA).

This began as a community service project of the Carteret club and the National Medal of Honour was designed by Wutkowski. “I joined the Rotary club in a professional capacity as a local town accountant and former city councilman. However, my original passion before and during my years as an accountant was being a volunteer firefighter, serving my town of Carteret, New Jersey.”

The Rotary Heroes Medal has been licensed and approved by the Rotary International licensing department. “I know Rotary clubs already honour their local heroes. However, there is no national standard among clubs for doing so,” explains Wutkowski. “I am proud to have created this new way of formalising and standardising how Rotary clubs honour and recognise local firefighters,



police officers and EMTs (emergency medical technicians).” The new recognition gives them a medal that can be worn on their formal uniforms.

The formalisation and standardisation of the medal, as well as the fact that its recipients span the globe, means that Rotary clubs and districts can now present frontline heroes with an award that reflects their heroism and dedication to their community.

*For more on the Rotary National Medal of Honour, contact Joseph Wutkowski directly at [RotarianJoe7475@gmail.com](mailto:RotarianJoe7475@gmail.com) or visit [www.RotaryMedals.com](http://www.RotaryMedals.com)*

# Rotary at COP26

Climate and environmental representatives and experts from more than 20 countries attended the round table 26th United Nations climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, last November and pledged to act alongside Rotary to help save and restore mangroves.

The climate summit, also known as COP26 (short for Conference of the Parties), brought together nearly 100 heads of state and governments over a two-week period to set new targets for fossil fuel emissions.

It was the first time that Rotary had participated in the annual conference. The Rotary delegation, led by Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta, attended to explore ways Rotary can work on environmental challenges, including restoring mangroves, a crucial ecosystem that can mitigate the effects of climate change in coastal areas.

Mehta co-led a round table discussion with Patricia Scotland, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, that focused on the critical role mangroves play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Mangroves use large amounts of carbon and also protect against storm surges and coastal erosion, filter pollutants and provide

habitat for aquatic life, among other benefits.

Of the 54 Commonwealth countries, 33 contain mangrove ecosystems that together represent 22% of the world's mangroves. Over the last half century, 50% of the world's mangrove systems have been lost due to climate change and rapid urbanisation.

“The sea is washing away coastlines because mangroves have gone,” said Mehta. “We are losing our ecosystem. Once mangroves die, our marine system and coastal communities will be lost.”

The members of Rotary's delegation to COP26 were Judith Diment, dean of the Rotary Representative Network, which comprises 32 unofficial ambassadors to the UN and other international organisations; Doug Wills, Rotary representative to the Commonwealth; Karen Kendrick-Hands, who attended on behalf of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group; and John MacPherson and Tariq Durrani, who helped organise a competition for school children in the UK to create posters for display at the conference. - Ryan Hyland

*Mems Ramaila, a member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400) shared her insights on African honey bees for Climate Justice with speakers from Northern Ireland, Ireland, and the US at the Climate Change Conference that was hosted by International Chamber of Commerce at COP26. The excellent panel also discussed ideas around the important role small and medium businesses can play in protecting our environment.*





# Natural Hazards

A new report from the Institute for Economics and Peace highlights grave ecological threats around the world — and suggests ways advocates can nurture a more benign environmental future, writes *Miles Howard*

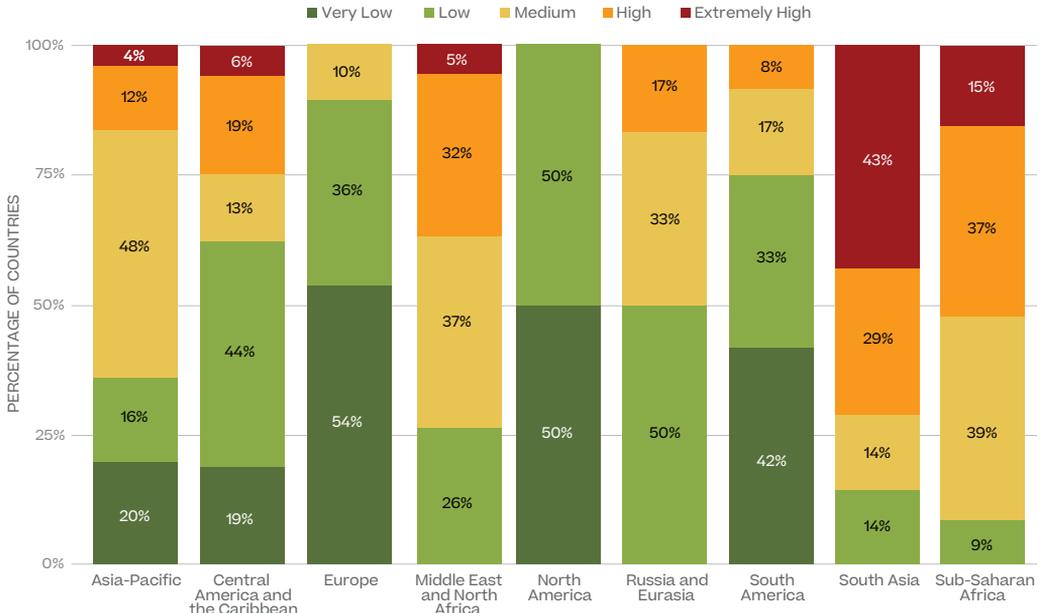
At first glance, the Jaguar cacao fruit resembles a glowing green orb wrapped in earthen brown roots. But the fruit's value lies within: a multitude of edible seeds that, when roasted and ground into powder, give chocolate a nuttier flavour profile.

The fruit grows in a few ecosystems in Central

and South America, such as the foothills of south-eastern Colombia. There, in the Amazon River basin, Rotary Peace Fellow Lorena Rodriguez has played a pivotal role in seeding this rare crop and quite a few others. During her fellowship, Rodriguez spent time in rural Colombia conducting field

## REGIONAL COMPOSITION OF ECOLOGICAL THREAT SCORES, 2021

The highest percentage of countries facing high and extremely high threats are in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa



Source: Institute for Economics and Peace  
 Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

research on food sovereignty, which prioritises the needs of the people who grow and otherwise produce food over the demands of the markets and corporations that distribute it.

In 2019, she joined forces with friends and launched La Realidad, an NGO that helps communities in the Putumayo region of Colombia grow their own fruit and vegetable crops using regenerative agriculture practices - such as crop rotation, composting and cover cropping - that help to create a more nutrient-rich soil and reduce excess carbon in the atmosphere.

“Putumayo has been highly affected by the armed conflict in Colombia, by narco traffic and by the structural violence that arises from the gap between urban and rural societies,” Rodriguez says. “A lot of the elders there were leaving and their kids

cannot sustain their lives doing agriculture the way their parents did, using pesticides and heavy chemicals to produce bigger yields of corn or sugarcane for the global market. It’s not sustainable economically or environmentally.”

In recent years, Putumayo has also felt the scourge of deforestation inflicted by loggers and cattle ranchers. That’s the fractious backdrop against which La Realidad partners with Putumayo residents to grow sustaining crops that are endemic to the Amazon belt - cultivating a food source that can ultimately bolster the security of rural communities. Ecological degradation, including the burning or uprooting of forests, can undermine a community’s resilience, especially when it comes to food security. In the worst cases, it can sow the seeds

of conflict and fuel a relentless cycle of collapse and violence.

The relationship between ecological shocks and conflict isn’t speculation. It’s the latest finding from the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a partner of Rotary International. Founded in 2007 by Australian software entrepreneur and philanthropist Steve Killelea, the IEP uses data from global and national indices to explain why some regions of the world are enjoying peace and prosperity while others are mired in or on the brink of conflict. This data often pertains to issues such as resource availability and economic power. But the IEP’s second Ecological Threat Report, released in October, zooms in on the symbiotic relationship between conflicts and ecological calamities such as droughts, record-breaking

storms and temperature changes.

According to Michael Collins, the IEP’s executive director in the Americas, the Ecological Threat Report can function as something of a blueprint not only for recognising ecological vulnerability at both local and regional levels but also for improving societal resilience in vulnerable countries and, hopefully, averting conflict. “Climate change can certainly act as an aggravator of issues such as food insecurity and water stress,” says Collins. “But some ecological threats are going to happen independently. They’re the next step of what any country could be ‘attacked’ with.”

SO HOW DOES THE REPORT score the severity of the ecological threat facing 178 independent countries and territories? It focuses on five things that can endanger the ecological stability of a society: food risk, water risk, rapid population growth, temperature anomalies and natural disasters. The report also uses the IEP’s Positive Peace Index, which identifies the attitudes, institutions and structures that ultimately create

peaceful societies. Conversely, the absence of societal bedrock - such as an equitable distribution of goods, a well-functioning government, or healthy business sector - can leave nations primed for conflict, to the point where all it takes is one final shock to ignite relentless violence. The report shows that ecological shocks can be that incendiary spark.

“Indicated throughout this report is the deep, deep cyclical relationship that exists between ecological degradation and levels of conflict around the world,” says Collins. He also notes that once violence has begun, it can actually worsen the ecological problems, like food or water shortages, that predated the conflict. “Eleven of the countries with the report’s worst scores are now in conflict,” says Collins. Most of these countries are located in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa and the report highlights one particularly profound driver of their conflicts - food insecurity.

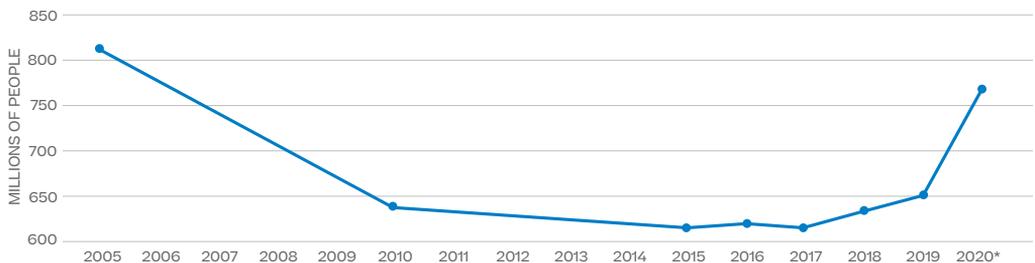
Since 2014, global food insecurity, which had been lessening for decades, has risen an alarming 44 percent, a situation further aggravated by

the COVID-19 pandemic. Its steady resurgence didn’t occur in isolation; it was sometimes fuelled by natural events, such as insufficient rainfall, or in many cases by sectarian conflicts. In South Sudan, these forces merged and have exacted a terrible toll. By 2018 - half a decade after civil war erupted between the South Sudanese government and insurgents - an estimated 190 000 people had been killed through direct warfare. Another 193 000 are believed to have died as a result of disruptions to the country’s fragile food production and health systems. Their food systems were already vulnerable to droughts and flooding, and they still haven’t recovered. As recently as 2020, about 85 percent of South Sudan’s population was struggling to find sufficient food on a daily basis.

Without intervention, global food insecurity is expected to get much worse over the next three decades. The Ecological Threat Report projects that by 2050, the number of people who are experiencing undernourishment - not getting enough food to sustain day-to-day physiological health - could rise by a staggering 45 percent. The broad global demand for food could also grow

## GLOBAL UNDERNOURISHMENT, 2005-20

The number of undernourished people rose by an estimated 118 million in 2020, marking the sharpest increase since at least 2005.

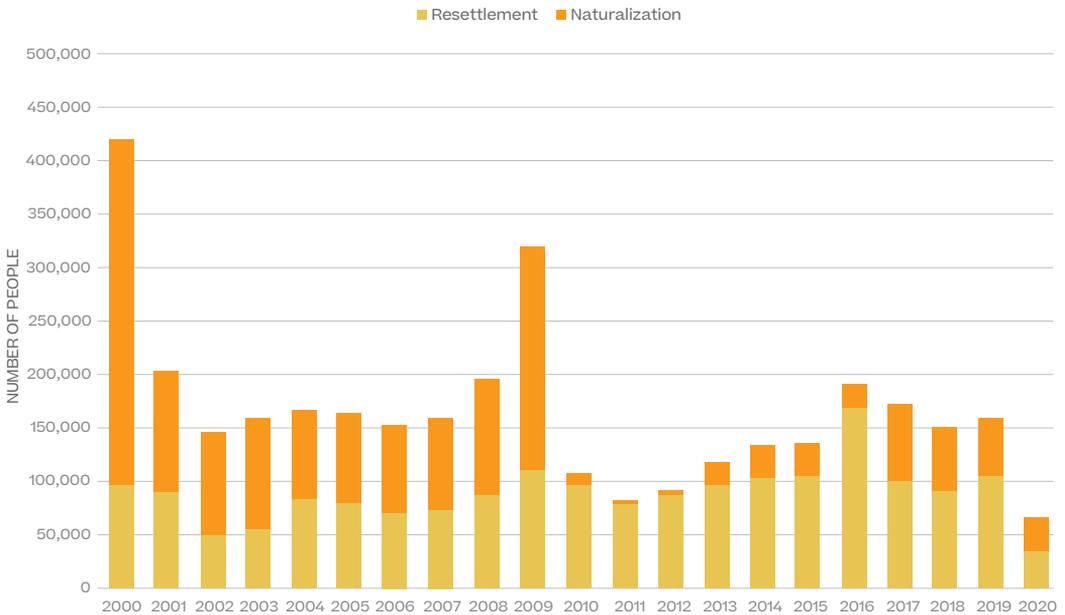


Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Note: \*Figures for 2020 are projections. 768 million represents a middle projection between a possible high of 811 million and a possible low of 720.4 million.

## RESETTLEMENT AND NATURALISATION OF REFUGEES, 2000-20

*In 2020, the number of refugees who were resettled or naturalised was at the lowest levels on record.*



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

by more than 50 percent within this time frame. As ecological events like rising temperatures, earthquakes, or hurricanes exacerbate resource scarcity in vulnerable countries, the risk of conflict and societal collapse becomes more severe and more liable to spill beyond borders.

This can already be seen today in the rate of forced displacements and migration occurring around the world. The report’s researchers found that in 2020, 82.4 million people were displaced - the highest number of global displacements on record, 1 in 94 people. It’s a tremendous shift from 2000, when 1 in 161 people worldwide had been displaced. But like the recent rebound of food insecurity, this surge also didn’t happen overnight. Forced displacements have been rising over the past

nine years, as hot spot regions, identified by the report, reckon with worsening ecological deterioration, resource deficits, warfare and, in several cases, significant population growth.

IN THE FACE OF SUCH massively worrying trends, how can one begin to promote peace and sustainability at a local level, let alone a regional one? Collins is quick to spotlight two of the Ecological Threat Report’s most salient policy recommendations for humanitarian agencies and organisations: thinking about ecological risk as a systemic problem, and empowering communities in ecologically vulnerable nations to become more resilient. This can be done through collaborative grassroots projects that focus on intersectional issues such as

agriculture, economic prosperity, and human security.

Collins comes from a family of construction professionals and before joining the IEP, he applied his family trade to humanitarian projects in developing nations, including Indonesia and Haiti, often in the wake of natural disasters. “Initially, a lot of this revolved around training programmes for people who are seeking to enter or are already in the construction sector,” he says. “Due to a number of social and institutional issues, construction quality is extremely low in a number of developing countries.” In Padang Alai, a town on the outskirts of West Sumatra’s capital city of Padang, Collins addressed this problem by working with community members to create a brick making cooperative, owned and

managed by its members.

Rodriguez would adopt a similar approach in 2020 when building La Realidad. As she and her friends converted the setup of their Putumayo cacao orchard into organic production, neighbours would drop by and ask why the group was doing all the “hard work” of regenerative growing techniques. Why not just spray the cacao trees with pesticides that would work faster than organic alternatives? “These questions created a conversation about why it was important for Putumayo residents to prioritise their homeland and not the global market,” Rodriguez recalls.

The farmland on which La Realidad hosts several regenerative agriculture projects - including a food forest (a diverse, multi-layered blend of edible plants and trees) - was acquired through this community outreach. “The owner was selling her land,” Rodriguez recalls that she met them and said, “I really want to leave the land to someone who appreciates this ecosystem. I don’t want to just give it to another person who will put cows here.”

Whether the product at the heart of a community resilience project is organic fruits and vegetables or stronger building materials, the best results come when the project is conceived and launched in close partnership with residents who will manage the work long term. The way Collins sees it, members of Rotary are uniquely well-positioned to step up and invest their knowledge and labour into these collaborations. “One of the amazing things about Rotary is the ability of every club and every district to contribute,” he says. “Because Rotary is made up of community members, you have this grassroots network of individuals throughout the world who can develop a variety of different projects that are very well-tailored to the community in question - because a lot of Rotarians are actually from those communities.”

Recently, Rotary has taken two big steps to catalyse more projects that address the intersection of ecological degradation and conflict. In 2020, it added a new area of focus - protecting the environment. (More than \$18 million in global grant funding from The Rotary Foundation had already been allocated to ecological projects in the five preceding years.) Also in 2020, working with the IEP, Rotary launched the Positive Peace Activator Programme. It has already trained 90 peace activators, who are also Rotary Peace Fellows (such as Rodriguez) or members of Rotary and those activators have since taught more than 50,000 people in North America, South America and

Europe about the tenets of the Positive Peace Index - the same framework that underlies the Ecological Threat Report. “Rotary’s key strengths lie in our ability to convene and mobilise communities both locally and globally,” says Rebecca Crall, Rotary’s area of focus manager for peacebuilding and conflict prevention. “Merging with the empirical research and analysis of the IEP is a potent force for creating good in the world.”

For a literal taste of that good in the United States, look to the vacant lots of Atlanta, where urban farmers are growing fruits and vegetables that find their way into refrigerators and pantries across the city. Atlanta’s recent urban farming boom is partially the result of the city’s AgLanta initiative. Its goal is to put fresh produce within half a mile of 85 percent of Atlanta’s population by the end of this year by offering residents the education and resources they need to get involved with urban farming.

As the number of urban farmers swelled, it became clear that AgLanta needed a framework for settling disputes between growers. The city turned to Kate Keator, a Rotary Positive Peace Activator specialising in conflict resolution. Through her conversations with urban farmers and AgLanta leaders, Keator identified two things that could help keep the peace: virtual gatherings in which growers could connect and foster a foundational culture of dispute resolution and access to an informal mediator when necessary.

Atlanta might seem a world apart from the regions spotlighted in the Ecological Threat Report, where ecological degradation and conflict are more severe. But peacemaking and community empowerment can be applied, at scale, anywhere that conflict arises.

In an era of climatological changes that will reshape the way billions live, there can be an enduring glint of hope in this potential for collaboration. “One of the things that I learned through community development is that people are people,” Collins says. “The same solutions don’t work for everybody, but there are synergies. There are many, many ways.”

Learn more about Rotary International’s partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace and other organisations at [rotary.org/partnerships](https://rotary.org/partnerships).



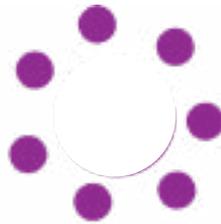
# IMAGINE ROTARY

## Behind the **THEME**

“I believe there will be many ways for people to interpret the design and that’s perfect – there’s lots of positive imagery and no right or wrong way to explain it,” said Rotary President-Elect Jennifer Jones. The theme has a link to the 2023 Melbourne convention logo and was designed by Australian artist, Riki Salam, an aboriginal indigenous artist with deep ties to the people of the land.



In aboriginal culture, the circle signifies our connections to one another.



The dots around it represent people - there are seven because of our areas of focus.



The circle and the dots become a navigation star and it is our guiding light.



The green line is what is referred to as a digging stick and it is used when doing hard work. For us, as people of action – it represents a tool for getting things done.

There are several ways to interpret the colours and quite easily they could mean:

**PURPLE** for polio

**GREEN** for the environment

**WHITE** for peace

They are also the colours of the women’s movement and a subtle nod from Jones to this history.

# Imagine a World

That deserves our best. Where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference

Rotary President-Elect Jennifer Jones revealed the 2022/23 presidential theme, Imagine Rotary, during a live online address to precede Rotary’s annual training event for district governors from around the world, the International Assembly. The assembly was rescheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held virtually 7-14 February. Her speech to the incoming governors focused on how we can create the world and Rotary we imagine.

## USE OUR ROTARY CONNECTIONS

Rotary members must dream big and harness the power of their connections and the power of Rotary to turn dreams into reality. Jones shared a personal example of what can be achieved when this is done.

She received a private message from a Rotarian she had met in Hamburg that set in motion a series of events which in less than 24 hours ensured that a young woman, who was a scholar and peace activist, was safely evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan, last year. The message contained ‘a long-shot favour’. The Rotarian’s club had a relationship with the scholar who was in serious danger after the Taliban assumed control of the country. It asked if there was anything that Jones could do to get her onto an evacuation plane. Smart phones were being confiscated and she was using hers on a private network to hide where she was phoning from. “We all remember the scenes as thousands of desperate people were trying to flee from Kabul airport. From the comfort of my new office, and sitting behind my big desk, I suddenly felt very small. Who was I, and what could I possibly do?”

Jones remembered being introduced to a peace fellow who held the type of position which could possibly help. It was her turn to ask a ‘long-shot favour’. She reached out and then the Rotary magic unfolded.

“It’s the Rotary Peace Fellow who’s the hero of this story. I don’t know everything that happened, but in less than 24 hours, the young woman was on an evacuation list. Two days later, we learned she was safely en route to Europe for further processing.

“Imagine her thoughts that day as the plane launched into the sky.

“This is the power of Rotary. When the right connections are made, the world aligns and our stories merge. Our differences dissolve, and the only limit to our impact is the barrier of our imagination.”

**We all have dreams but acting on them is a choice. And when organisations like ours dream big things like ending polio and creating peace, it becomes our responsibility to make these dreams a reality.**

## THE POWER OF SHARED EXPERIENCES

Another story she shared was that of meeting a German journalist, Tatjana Jury, at the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 2014, who

was a fresh-faced radio reporter at the time. It was chaos and Jury didn’t know what to do. She decided to take her tape recorder and explore, because, in her words, “When you want to grab history, you have to grab history.” Thousands of people were moving between the east and the west; people chipping away at the barrier. she went back to her newsroom and filed her story.

That same day, in Canada, a rookie reporter was alone in a newsroom when alarm bells rang, signalling a significant world event was under way. At the news wire machine, she read that the wall was falling, ending the Cold War. She decided to “grab history.” So, rookie reporter Jennifer Jones shared the incredible news. “Imagine, the two of us being more than 4,000 miles apart yet sharing in a world-altering experience.” These shared experiences are what create world peace through understanding.

## INCLUDING MORE

“As we strive to weave diversity, equity, and inclusion into Rotary, removing the barriers is the key to inclusion. And inclusion is the key to membership,” said Jones.

The movement towards ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion in Rotary is not a new fad. Recordings of an address made by Paul Harris himself at the 24th annual convention show us that it was already a concern in 1933.

“Rotary is thrown open to representatives of all walks of life, to representatives of all countries and all forms of religion.

“Herein lies the genius and the glory of Rotary. “While Rotarians differ in many respects, in two respects they are in perfect accord.”

## ENGAGE OUR MEMBERS

Jones explained how she grew up in the automotive capital of Canada and plants would shut down for repairs or to prepare for new parts or enhanced models – they retooled. When competitive market forces forced many of the plants to close, leaving tens of thousands without work. The community adapted and after some time, it emerged as a world-class leader in agribusiness.

Adapting and retooling, finding the right ‘part’ to engage each member should become a core function, as membership comes down to the comfort and care of our members.

“We don’t have a problem bringing members into Rotary. We struggle to keep them. We’re a revolving door — in every part of our world.”

By asking members what they want from their Rotary experience and providing them with meaningful responsibilities, Rotary clubs and districts can stop the membership drain. “It’s our offer of hands-on service, personal growth, leadership development, and lifelong friendships that creates purpose and passion. These are our responsibilities. If we don’t serve our members, we don’t serve our communities. And if we don’t provide comfort and care for our members, they may never truly “get” the power of Rotary.”

She added that the term members “Means Rotary and Rotaract. We are all Rotary members.”

Rotaractors have been included on several Rotary committees, and on 1 July, a Rotaractor, appointed by Jones, will become a Rotary public image coordinator. She will also begin to assign a select group of Rotaractors as president’s representatives.

Embracing the different and unique, through new clubs and especially new club models, are vital to growing Rotary. She asked that the incoming governors help form at least two new innovative or cause-based clubs during their term.

By instilling the comfort and care philosophy in the new and existing clubs, members can become engaged and love their clubs and their Rotary experience.

## RAISING OUR PROFILE

She said that emphasis must also be placed on raising Rotary’s profile in the world. Plans include a global impact tour to celebrate Rotary’s achievements and actively connect with thought and world leaders in dialogue one working together to address the world’s most pressing challenges. “Rotary opens these doors, and we need to harness our connections to deepen these relationships and create new partnerships. And the best part is, this can happen at every level of leadership. We all feel the impact that Rotary service and Rotary values have on us. Now it’s our opportunity to share that feeling with others.”

## EMPOWERING GIRLS

The Empowering Girls initiative, that was launched by President Shekhar Mehta, has resonated around the world and Jones assured the incoming governors that the bold effort will continue.

She also said that Rotary has less than 18 months to achieve the board-set target of 30% women in Rotary, a target that Rotaract has already achieved. So far, more than 110 countries have achieved this goal. And while this is progress, there is still a long way to go, as “30% is the next stop on the way to 50%.”

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**YOU DON'T IMAGINE YESTERDAY  
YOU IMAGINE TOMORROW**

# Meet Joburg's Good Citizen

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400) Good Citizen Award was presented to Georgia Willcox during the valedictory service at Parktown Girl's High. Georgia epitomises and embodies the notion of being a good citizen through her willingness to serve with the intention of uplifting those around her.

Within the school community she has always consistently displayed good citizenship. She secured funding for wool and crocheting supplies to extend the 67 blankets project to the broader school community and held classes to teach learners to crochet.

Georgia took on the unofficial role of captain of Sole Survivors to help girls feel good about themselves. She also started to help raise awareness in the community around Zoo Lake of the dangers of feeding bread to the ducks. Georgia has also held the tutoring portfolio on the Representative Council of Learners - something she had already done on her own.

Georgia's role as a good citizen extends beyond school. If Georgia is not "picnicking" for a purpose to help raise funds for women against abuse, she is running holiday clubs for children in her holidays.

In addition, she was involved in painting and revamping iPhutheng Primary School and joined a group to visit an impoverished community in Mozambique that improved roads and painted buildings. Georgia ran two holiday programmes for the community's children.



## ROTARY SHOWCASE



## Attention Rotary clubs!

Attention Rotary members! An Empowering Girls tab has been added to Rotary Showcase. Project champions are encouraged to log into My Rotary and upload their empowering girls projects. This will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!

# 50 Years of Golden Service

On 23 November, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg South 101 (D9400) celebrated a very important milestone. Peter Soester, a long-time resident in the south of Johannesburg, had completed his 50th year of Rotary membership.

The club celebrated his outstanding service with a meal at the Lupa Osteria restaurant in Meyersdal. A long time resident of Mondeor and Glenanda, Peter and his wife Jane, a long-serving Rotary Ann, had also recently celebrated her 80th birthday.

Peter has been the club's treasurer for many years. He has chartered several Rotary clubs, managed the district finances and run his own successful businesses at the same time. Peter has been a mentor to many young Rotarians and loves conducting 'Fireside chats', a casual interview (over a glass of wine typically), with prospective new members.



## McCannix, Popsicle Toes and Flying Unicorns

Twenty-nine teams of four gathered on the rooftop of Shelly Centre for the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370) Amazing Race contest.

In a format similar to the popular TV show, contestants had to drive along the Southern Explorer route and perform various tasks at each point before receiving a clue for the next stop. There were 14 stops and the tasks included puzzles, horseback rides on the beach, counting bananas, paddling in a canoe, go-kart racing and counting Ferraris.

After a day filled with adrenaline surges, some pain and lots of fun and laughter, the winners, South Coast McCannix, finished the event in a remarkably good time.

First prize included a trip to Dezzi South Coast Raceway to experience some drifting, plus a stay at Umthunzi Hotel. Second and third places went to Smokey Joes and Goal Diggers, while Popsicle Toes and Flying Unicorns raced off with the best-dressed team award.



# Knysna's Comical Cricketers

by Rotarian Barbara Ikin

The Epilepsy SA Southern Cape/Karoo branch - Knysna Rotary Cricket Match 2021 was held in November. It was a truly international event - both in the nationalities of players, as well as in the adoption of 'international' rules. The match was fun and flexible, with many surprises and unexpected moments. The Epilepsy SA team was slick, fit and coordinated. The Rotary team was comical, gallant and brave.

Our Canadian and American members, making their cricket debuts, put their baseball skills to good

use, but needed to be reminded not to throw down the bat before running! At least one Rotary player was made up of the composite parts: Janet Hunter could not run, but batted and Carol Wilkinson could not bat, but ran for Janet. Together they scored a magnificent 5! But alas, it was no use: Epilepsy SA beat Rotary by 107 to 65 – fair and square. Well done, Epilepsy SA!

Thank you for a great, fun-filled day – to all the organisers (in particular Rotarian Mike Smerdon who also chairs the Epilepsy SA Board), players, scorekeepers, rule changers, spectators, hecklers and master-braaiers.



## And so it was Christmas

2021 was the fifth year that the Rotary Club of Hout Bay (D9350) did a Community Christmas. The parties were made possible thanks to the support of the Teddy Bear Trust, the club members and volunteers. Although COVID prevented the members from joining the fun-filled party, they enjoyed packing and delivering goodie bags. At Maniefah's feeding scheme, each child received a goodie bag filled with cool drinks, sweets, chips as well as a tube of bubble fun. Peeping out the top of each bag was a teddy from the Teddy Bear Trust. Forty goodie bags were packed and delivered to Main Road Clinic for the pharmacist to 'dispense' to vulnerable children aged 3-12 when they collected their December medication. Goodie bags were also given to the Stein House Elders and the residents of Abbeyfield Retirement Home's York House.



# Empowering Nigerian Girls

Empowering Girls has been the rallying cry of Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta and it is a movement that will continue past his presidency.

The members of Rotaract District 9110 were inspired and created the Pad a Girl Child project at Odogunyan Senior Grammar School, Ikorodu, Nigeria.

To celebrate his birthday, the Rotaract District Administrative Officer, Taiwo Oladosu, partnered with the district in the project that involved the

donation of pads to at least 256 female students of the secondary school.

At the presentation, District Rotaract Representative Ayodeji Sobowale told the girls about serving humanity, Rotary, Rotaract and Interact while the guest speaker Oluwa Enitan Sophie spoke about Embracing your Growth.

The donation of pads commenced immediately after the speeches and the project ended with a photography session.

**What empowering girls and women projects are you busy with?**

We would love to hear more about them! Send your stories and photos to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)



# disABILITY Day

The Rotary Club of Hermanus (D9350) celebrated disABILITY day, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) and Rotary Family Health Days. The aim of the day was to do health promotion, empower, identify, and reduce barriers for persons living with and affected by any impairments.

The club also used the day to strengthen the liaison between the various therapists from the Department of Health and NGOs in the area and refocus on integration and community participation as part of recovering from the effects COVID-19 had on this group of people.

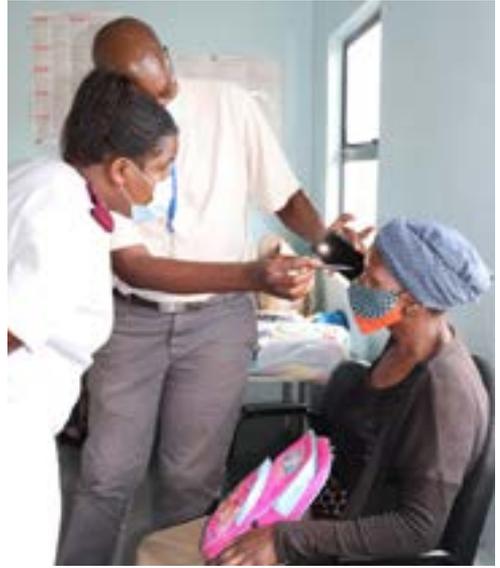
In Zwelihle, the team visited Ithemba Care (a day care for children living with disabilities) that is managed through the NGO APD and the children of Ekhaya Lezibusiso. After the health talks with the educators and carers, the children were spoilt with games, care packages and gifts. Lunch was provided

for every child, educator, and carer by Marifeed Abalone Farm.

In Hawston, the team visited the Love Ability House of OWA and had very informative empowerment and health promotion sessions, which included sugar awareness, speaking up against gender-based violence and oral health. Right 2 Care provided blood pressure and sugar tests as part of the general wellness and health promotion for people living with disabilities. A fun domino tournament was held, and the women were treated to a manicure.

Each person received gifts in the form of a care package, sponsored by the Hermanus Hospital Board and various other components within the Health Department. The Rotary club sponsored food and snacks for the event.





# Access and Inclusion

People with disability and their caregivers face a great deal of daily challenges and COVID-19 has made them more vulnerable to various health risks. To tackle the issue of lack of disability inclusion and accessibility, the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370) and the Ugu Health District organised a Rotary Family Health Day activation (RFHD) at the Ikhayaletu Home of Love and Care last November, writes *Sneha Saloni*.

“Disability inclusion is possible and with this idea, our club, with the Department of Health, decided to bring the family health day programme to the centre. We also set up a separate space in the parking lot of the Ikhayaletu Centre for the people living in the nearby areas. Everyone, from the children with disabilities, caregivers, administration staff to the security personnel and gardeners were all vaccinated,” said Wilma Lig, Public Image Director of the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast.

Site champions DGE Gavin Jepson and Anne Thompson organised the programme with the support from Bonginkosi Khowane, Deputy Director, Clinical and Programmes, Ugu Health District.

The club arranged add-on health services, which included eye testing, deworming, vitamin A supplements for children and family planning counselling. 150 reading glasses were donated and Optometrist Sidney Shingange tested people and prescribed glasses where needed.

People with disabilities are dependent on “someone to help them go to a medical centre. Another problem is the financial constraint... we hope to extend our help to more vulnerable

populations in the near future,” said Nonzwakazi Maphitshi, UGU Health District, manager for Disability and Rehabilitation.

They have also become even more vulnerable during the pandemic. “The Department of Health visits us once or twice a month. When a kid falls sick, we take them to the clinic using our own transport. The nearest clinic is around two kilometres from our centre. Transport is one of the major challenges we face here,” said Reggie Ntsebesha, centre manager.

“It was a mixed feeling of hopelessness and being hopeful at the same time. Seeing the kids at the centre was heart-breaking but the love and support of their caregivers was just beautiful. Being a Rotarian, I felt a sense of purpose,” added Wilma.

Using the unique public/private partnership created by its Rotary Family Health Days programme, the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention has joined the COVID-19 vaccination and awareness effort in countries which have implemented, and will be implementing, this preventative healthcare programme.



# No ‘pour’ Decisions here

More than R800 000 was raised at the 23rd annual wine auction of the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370). Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the event remains a popular item on the local social calendar and the club is optimistic that this year’s auction may just crack the R1m mark, writes *Ted Keenan*.

“This is without any doubt the best wine auction, with all the proceeds destined for charity, in the country, and that is based on 23 years of being the auctioneer,” said the country’s premier wine boffin, Michael Fridjhon, who is the annual event’s auctioneer.

“There are auctions in Cape Town with a larger turnover,” said Fridjhon, “but their lots are more lifestyle orientated, with comparatively little wine. They don’t have anywhere near the amount and the class of wine that Gately offers. I am bowled over with the quality and quantity of what the estates give Gately.”

Club President Roger Williams said Fridjhon’s brilliance with the gavel probably added 30% or more to the amount raised. “What many of the more than 160 guests were not aware of was that Michael pays for his own travel to East London and does not accept any payment. In fact he donates a wine lot out of his own pocket and it always fetches several thousand rand.”

Fridjhon has forty years’ experience in the production, wholesale and retail sectors. He is widely consulted by liquor industry authorities and is a highly-regarded international wine judge and one of the country’s leading wine writers. He writes a regular wine column for Daily Dispatch.

The club felt it had to tangibly support the wine industry, which led to the club buying a bus for one of the organisations it supports. In 2020, more than 30 organisations benefited from the auction.

Rotarian Mike Francis, an East London attorney, started the wine auction 30 years ago. He persuaded

the wine-loving Gately Rotarians to ransack their personal supplies and he put together 20 or so lots. The auction took place at the Coelacanth restaurant at the East London Museum and raised R5 000.

In the following years Francis travelled to Western Cape to collect wine and the lots grew. He was joined by Keith Mendes and John Keil, neither of them strangers to wine. Soon, several more members had joined the wine committee.

As the lots grew so did the auction’s amazing impact on fund raising. What had started as a hobby extension grew to generate a turnover of around R200 000. At around the same time, Gately Rotarian Stef Kriel introduced the club to Fridjhon, who said he was happy to be the auctioneer at the 1998 auction.

Another big development was when Corder Tilney, a pineapple farmer and producer, had the idea of offering something in return: pineapples. “He gave each winemaker a few,” said Francis, “then upped the ante by packing them in Gately branded boxes.” Francis said NVest, East London’s only listed company, and Standard Bank, Gately’s bankers, give financial donations to the event.

Eugene and Angela McNamara, who took over from Francis two years ago, said that the pandemic dented the auction, as despite Fridjhon’s brilliance on the podium, the 2020 auction raised R600 000, a R200 000 drop from what was raised in 2019.

Said Francis: “While the past 30 years has been a lot of fun, with hilarious anecdotes, we don’t lose sight of the fact that this is, first and foremost, charity fundraising.”



Winning speakers from Trinity House Randpark Ridge, Cameron Gaddin, Danni Vermaak and President Robert Jacobsz.

# Excellence achieved

Chief Adjudicator, Brian Appleton, of the National Eisteddfod Academy was impressed with the high standard and quality of the speeches.

The Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400), in conjunction with Northcliff Primary School, recently hosted its annual public speaking competition. Principal Debbie Smith welcomed the speakers, parents and educators.

“The club has been hosting this annual event for the past 40 years which has become a highlight in the primary school calendar over the years. This is indeed a milestone in the club’s history. It was rather unfortunate that it was the first time since inception that we could not host the competition last year due to the hard lockdown imposed,” said President Robert Jacobsz.

The contest was open to Grade 7 learners from both public and private primary schools and held at Northcliff Primary in October. Seven schools

participated in the contest: Constantia Kloof, Crawford Ruimsig, Montrose Primary, Franklin D Roosevelt, Northcliff Primary, Bryanston Primary, and Trinity House Randpark Ridge.

The winner of the prepared speech category was Sanrika Matai of Bryanston Primary and the runner up was Danni Vermaak of Trinity House Randpark Ridge. The Impromptu category was won by Saien Moodley of Crawford Preparatory School Ruimsig and the runner up was Cameron Gaddin from Trinity House Randpark Ridge. The winning school was Trinity House Randpark Ridge.

The concluding address was given by Dean Gounden and President Robert Jacobsz who awarded certificates and book prizes to the top speakers.

**Do you have an unusual and inspiring project? Tell us about it!**

Send your stories and photos to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)



# Oh yes, they did!

By Mzilikazi Khumalo

When Fellowship was the club's theme of the month, the Rotary Club of Randburg (D9400) members celebrated it with a social networking event that included the Anns, Rotaractor and Yes We Can Business Networking.

Ann President Angela Laughton and President Diana Musara organised a lunch where the clubs could share initiatives and discover possible areas of collaboration. The Rotary club also inducted its newest member Lerato Mapefane.

At the end of the month, the Rotaract Club of

Noble Pursuits, led by President Jessica Powell and Vice-President Zoe Menevissis, partnered with Yes We Can Business Network and organised a high tea.

At the tea, Rotarian Zanele Nkosi and Marilyn Apata spoke powerfully about business and emotional Upliftment. Their talk was followed by another talk which looked at dealing with anxiety.

The Youth Entrepreneurs who are part of Noble Pursuits and Yes We Can Business Network showcased their businesses, generating more than R15 000 in sales on that day.

## AFRICA IN BRIEF

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The Rotary Club of Estcourt (D9370) brought Christmas cheer to the Shyamoya Creche in Ntabamhlope. Eskort Ltd generously sponsored hampers for the occasion.



The Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) wheelchair project gave four wheelchairs to people identified by Lynette Temmers, an occupational therapist for the Swellendam sub-district of the Western Cape Department of Health, and another to Rotary Park's frail care unit.



Rotary Club of Gately (D9370) delivered 20 wheelchairs to Mdantsane and Duncan Village-based Thuma Mina care group. The wheelchairs were donated by supporters in the UK.



Members of the Interact Club of Dunamis Christian School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370), collected coins for polio.



Over the past year, the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) has been involved in upgrading the Kerith Retreat for mental health patients in Muldersvlei. After overseeing the upgrading of the kitchen and laundry and some housing units, the club launched a food garden and beautified the facility's entrance. Showing off an avenue of lemon trees that was planted are Mary Louw, President Hester Visagie, Werner Louw (manager of Kerith), Deon Erasmus, AG Tony Butcher and Marita van der Sluys. The trees were donated by Stargrow Nursery.



President Clinton Samuel with Past Presidents Sharm Moodley, Megs Pillay and Esaivani Naidoo with some of the hampers that were collected in support of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) grocery hamper project.



Zack and Jill Lombard at the very successful Car Boot Cake Sale held by the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370).



Ann President Mieke MacDonald (right) of the Rotary Anns of Helderberg (D9350) and Secretary Gail Boon gave six wheelchairs to the Zandvliet Care Centre in Macassar. To add some Christmas cheer, two soft toys were attached to each chair with a bright green ribbon and bow.



The Rotary Club of Plettenberg Bay (D9350) was visited by District Governor Ian Robertson. Assistant Governor Sune Ruppung and Rotarian John Jacobs from Cape Town accompanied the DG during his visit.



## SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

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### DEADLINES

**20 June** - Final day for updated subscriber list for  
**billing period July - December 2022**

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**Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.**

*New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.*



Wheelchair distribution within the Polokwane community and surrounds continues, thanks to the dedicated members of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) who keep the project going. During December several chairs were distributed thanks to the team which included Past Presidents Keith Moodie and Chymie Naidoo, and Rotarians like Phuti Ragophala who recently travelled to deliver a chair in Mankweng.



The Rotary Club of Port Alfred (D9370) hosted a Jukebox Christmas event to celebrate the year 2021 and share fellowship with its members. A number of service organisations were invited to join and when they sent their RSVPs, they were asked to share their favourite song. These songs were used to create a playlist that was played during the dinner.



The Rotary Club of Gaborone (D9400) answered a cry for help from Motswedi Rehabilitation Centre and Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo in Mochudi some 35 kilometres north of Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. Many of the people in their care had broken or patched wheelchairs, some had uncomfortable plastic chair seats instead of the conventional canvas seats. Nine Rotarians and a potential new member visited Mochudi to handover 18 wheelchairs. Sixty people from the two organisations attended the ceremony and eight people received their new wheelchairs directly from the Rotarians. The remainder were distributed during the following weeks.

## WALL OF HONOUR



Christopher James is a new member of the Rotary Club of Century City Cape Town (D9350).



Steve Arendse is a new member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



Mitch Harie is a new member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



Dick Strayer is a new member of Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).

**To celebrate member accomplishments and welcome new members email photos and details to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)**



Norah Patience Ncube is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Safoora Saib is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Patrick Coleman is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Roshan Isaacs is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Ban Farrell-Ebrahim is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Nikelo Bangisi is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Esmeralda Witbooi is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370).



Tommy Bornman is the president of the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370).



The (much delayed) physical induction ceremony of Albert Lombaard as the 2021/22 President of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) took place in November.



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



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



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

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Please note that photos need to be at least 1MB in size

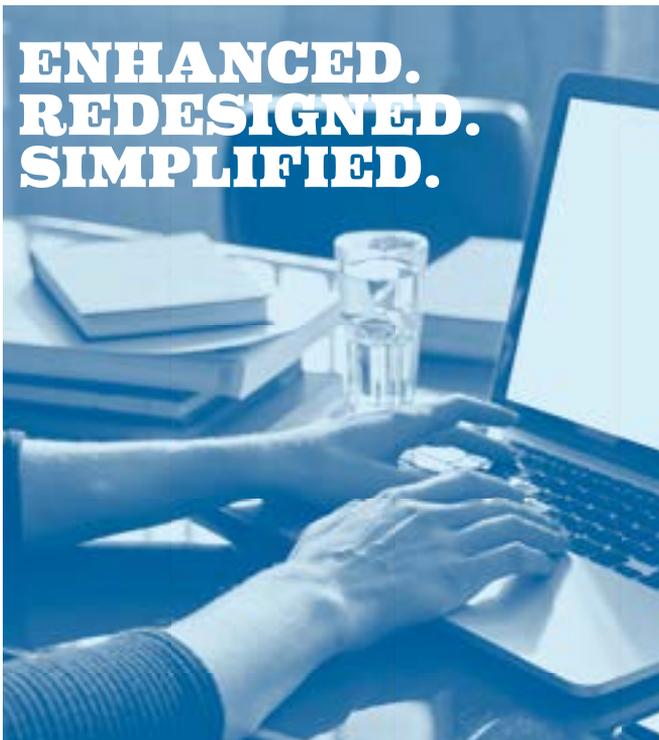
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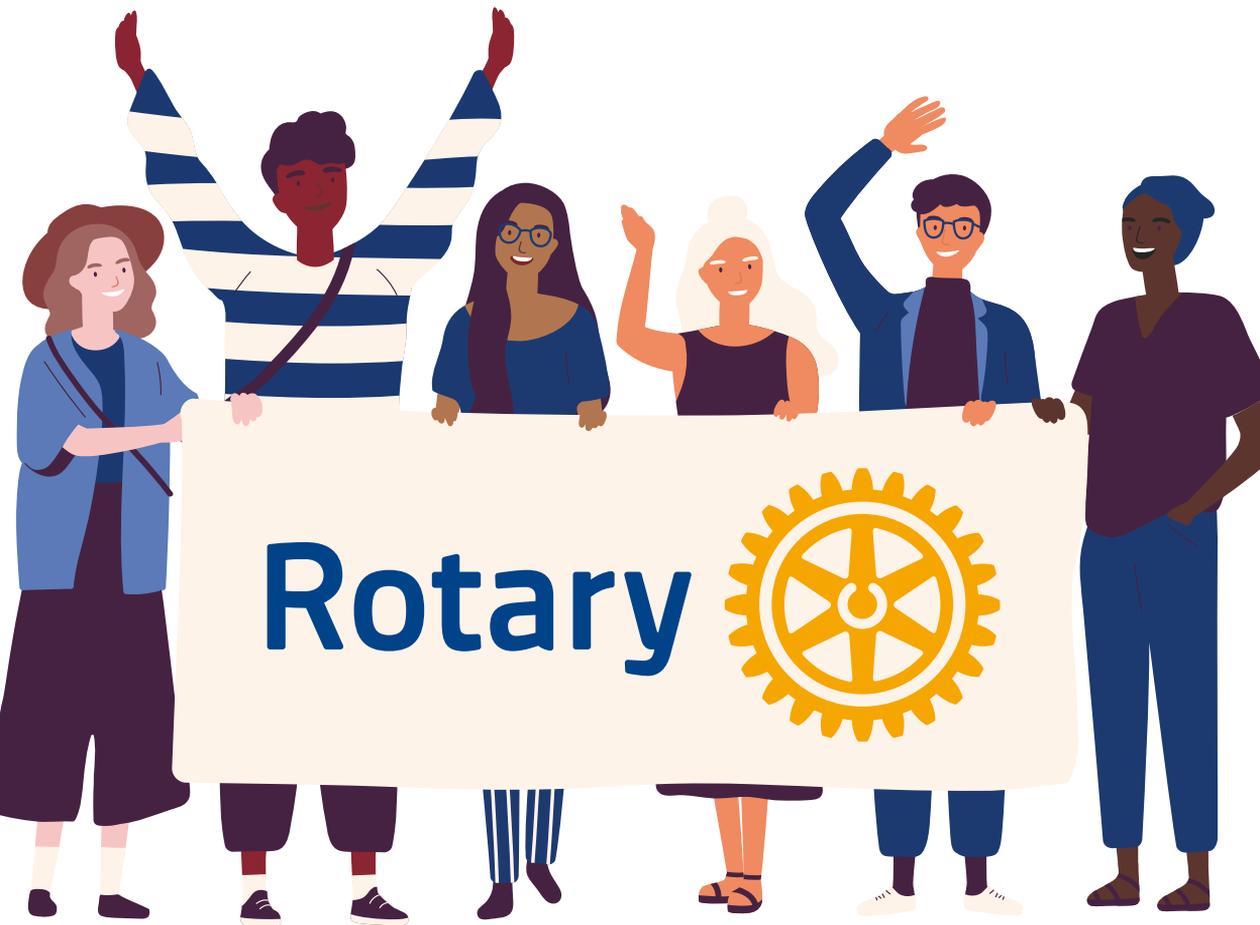
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