

JULY 2023

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SHARING HOPE IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

When the Rotary family comes together for the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore, we'll share ideas, friendship, inspiration, and hope — with each other and the world!

Register by 15 December 2023 before prices increase.



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convention.rotary.org



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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

I believe in positivity - positive words, thoughts and actions. Our office has a rule, no problems are permitted to be tabled without at least two possible solutions - even if they are impractical. Why does this work? Because having two solutions means you have engaged positive thought - the problem is no longer an obstacle, but instead a puzzle that can be solved. Your positive brain gear has been engaged. This has attracted criticism at times and with the criticism has come the labels, including the amusing (but still ugly) virtue signaller. My choice to be positive does not mean I think I am perfect nor am I blowing my own trumpet. I share experiences and ideas because it is through sharing that we grow. If one person relates to or benefits from my experiences, then I am happy and I have helped them.

Being positive is a conscious decision not to let the toxicity of the world and its people poison me, poison my thoughts, my actions, my decision making, my words and my deeds. It takes work and effort because self awareness is not easy. However, as you realise that your positive (or negative) outlook, or state of being, impacts directly on those who you are around or interact with, you start to realise the responsibility and duty of care that leadership imposes - if you don't look after yourself, you are in no position to lead, achieve and/or nurture anything else. I saw a lovely graphic on LinkedIn that illustrated this. It had the number 1,000. Beneath each number was a word - 1 had health, 0 had career, 0 had family, 0 success. Under that was the statement, without one, there is no 1,000. In a nutshell, if you are not good to yourself, you are no good to anyone else!

When feeling overwhelmed or out of sorts, I deliberately list things I am grateful for. I don't make a cheesy-ice-breaker sort of way, I dig deep and it requires deliberate thought and self-awareness. I look for things that I may have overlooked, or unconsciously processed as run-of-the-mill. For example, the other day I took a drive to another city to put the finishing touches to this magazine while attending a course. I did not sign up for the course to learn something, I signed up for the distraction and the change of scenery. While busy working, I let my mind roam. I started to reflect on people.

I am mentoring a number of youth who are filled with raw talent, hope and dynamic ideas. Seven weeks ago, each of these people was fighting the crushing reality of having earned decent qualifications and being unable to find employment. I realised that each of them had taught me something new, something interesting. In fact, I am being enriched and am growing in new, unexpected ways because of them.

This. This is why I choose positivity. This is why I choose deliberation. This is why I really don't care if you label me, because if one person benefits from my insight or experience, then that is what matters. I don't need to know who they are or if I helped, that is not the point. The point is being able to help in whatever way I can, regardless of the reward.

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?





The recipient of the 2022-23 Programs of Scale award was announced at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

You can read about recent finalists at rotary.org/programsofscale and expect an update on this year's recipient in the August issue of *Rotary* magazine.

Apply for the 2023-24 Programs of Scale award

The application process for the 2023-24 Programs of Scale award opens 1 June!

Through the annual Programs of Scale competition, The Rotary Foundation selects an initiative that has demonstrated its success and is ready to expand in order to help more people in more places. The programs, which receive US\$2 million over three to five years, need to be sponsored by a club or district and implemented

with experienced partners who are also committed to their long-term success and sustainability.

Concept notes from qualified Rotary and Rotaract clubs and districts describing programs that have had an impact and how they're ready to scale will be accepted from 1 June until 1 August 2023.

Learn more about Programs of Scale at rotary.org/programsofscale



Rotary 

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Even as we face new and serious challenges, Rotary takes care of its members and those we serve, works to build lasting peace and embeds belonging and inclusion in everything we do. That is why I am asking everyone in Rotary to Create Hope in the World.

This year, we're prioritising projects to support mental health. This effort is deeply personal to me. I know what it's like to see someone suffer in silence. I have also witnessed the power of personal connections, the value of discussing emotional and mental well-being and the lifesaving impact of preventive care and treatment.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world.

Building peace is the essence of Rotary. Many of our service projects foster the conditions for Positive Peace. We work tirelessly to overcome barriers and create new connections. This year, we'll promote virtual international exchanges for members to strengthen those vital connections.

Peace isn't a dream and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently - and bravely. Everything we do across our areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible.

The spirit of connection and purpose should inspire every Rotary member. When club leaders

focus on offering an excellent club experience, we retain more members and attract more prospective members. We must make our clubs as welcoming and as engaging as we can.

Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, from our club meetings to our service activities. We need to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments where everyone can be their authentic selves. All people of action need to be able to imagine a place for themselves in Rotary - it's up to us to ensure they can do so.

Over the next year, I will be putting a focus on continuing our journey in diversity, equity and inclusion - ensuring that Rotary reflects the communities we serve and continues to take significant steps toward accessing the full range of human talents and experiences, so that we can better serve humanity. And we will continue to empower women and girls by helping them unlock the potential already within them.

As we begin this journey together, I take inspiration from Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, who in the 18th century spoke of all the world becoming kin, promoting "sense and worth, over all the earth." This has long been my call to action and I share it now with you.

Let us build peace within and spread it freely. Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and Create Hope in the World.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



Audacious Goals

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair

I love Rotary for many reasons, perhaps most of all for the impact we make when we work together. There is really no other group like us.

In the last five years, The Rotary Foundation has helped 100 million beneficiaries. That is staggering. But the need is great. There are countless more we could be reaching and supporting right now if we had the resources. We could reach twice as many in the next five years. And your fellow Rotaractors and Rotarians are ready to help. They're hungry for more grants to help more people who need us.

That's why, this year, The Rotary Foundation Trustees have set an ambitious goal for giving of \$500 million, our highest ever.

This breaks down to \$150 million for the Annual Fund to help fund grants and \$50 million for polio eradication, to be matched by \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For the Endowment Fund and our future, we are targeting \$60 million in outright giving and \$80 million in commitments, totalling \$140 million. And we want to collect \$60 million in other contributions, such as direct giving, cash for global grants and Disaster Response Fund donations.

To make this happen, we need all of you - each and every Rotarian and Rotaractor.

Did you know that over 80 percent of Rotary members make no contributions to PolioPlus or that over 60 percent make no donation at all to The Rotary Foundation? For an organisation of 1.4 million members, that means that nearly 1 million of us are not contributing each year.

Just imagine the tremendous difference it would make if each of those 1 million could contribute just \$25 a year. That would be \$25 million we wouldn't need to raise from our best donors.

We can all give something. That's why I am asking each of you to set a goal to give what you can to The Rotary Foundation this year.

Never have we set such an audacious goal, but I believe that you, who make up Rotary, always respond to a challenge, especially when you see the difference we can make with those funds. We are part of an audacious organisation, one that dreams big and makes our dreams a reality.

Let's think bigger and differently this year, so we can meet our goal and do more to Create Hope in the World. In this way, we will make the Rotary year ahead an unforgettable one, not just for ourselves, but most importantly, for those whose lives we will soon touch.



Rotary Showcase: Find Project Partners

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Your club can post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects, 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





Sharing: Resolutions

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

Happy New Year! It is the start of a new Rotary Year and President Gordon McInally has taken the reins with the theme of Create Hope in the World, something we have been doing for over a century. New district governors and presidents have taken office with new dreams for our success this Rotary Year. So, why don't we make a new resolution at the start of this Rotary year - Don't miss a meeting!

Let me tell you a story (you knew I would, didn't you). In the early years of the 20th century, a few men were talking about a new organisation. It would be designed for businessmen so they could network and have a bit of fun outside the normal workday chores. You have probably guessed that I am talking about Paul Harris and his friends.

One of those friends was Harry Ruggles. Ruggles was one of only two people Harris says he discussed his idea with from 1900 to 1905. On 23 February 1905, they met for lunch in the office of Gustavus Loehr and the Rotary legacy was started... But Harry missed that first meeting!

When we talk about the first Rotarians, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram E Shorey are mentioned, but Harry Ruggles, who missed that meeting even though he was one of the first people with whom Paul Harris discussed the concept of a businessman's club, is not.

Originally from Michigan, Ruggles was a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He joined Rotary at its second meeting. He was treasurer of the Chicago club during its first year, club president from 1908 to 1910 and a Rotary director from 1912 to 1913. He is known for

having introduced singing to Rotary club meetings. His printing company, HL Ruggles & Co, printed the first issue of The National Rotarian and the first Rotary songbook. He died on 23 October 1959, an honorary member of seven clubs in addition to his home club, the Rotary Club of Chicago.

But Harry missed that first meeting!

Harry Ruggles was a very moral man. He detested off-colour language, malicious innuendo and classless humour. He argued in club meetings for clean language. Little more than a year after Rotary had been formed, at an evening meeting in 1906, the guest speaker began a story. Having heard it before, Harry also had heard the off-colour ending and felt it was inappropriate for the club, so he jumped up in the middle of the joke and yelled, "Come on boys, let's sing!" He then led the club in the singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

This was not only the first time that members had ever sung in Rotary but apparently, also the first time that a group of businessmen ever sang at a business meeting anywhere. By his surprising actions at this evening meeting, Harry demonstrated that demeaning activities and off-colour stories were not welcome at Rotary gatherings.

It was reported at the time that the would-be speaker was embarrassed and sore. Harry Ruggles apologised, but the club backed him up. Right then and there, it was decided that all subsequent Rotary meetings should be conducted so that any woman could attend without being embarrassed. This has been the unwritten rule ever since, just as the tradition of singing has endured.

But Harry missed that first meeting!

Dirty words were not the only controversy in the early days of Rotary. Oren Arnold, in *The Golden Strand* (An informal History of the Rotary Club of Chicago), revealed, “The time came, repeatedly, when Paul Harris was faced with failure; for one reason or another - or for no real reason - the club often was at the point of disbanding. On such critical occasions Harry stepped up front and shouted, “Come on, fellows, let’s sing!”

Was it the magic of Harry Ruggles and his music that worked? Was it his infectious enthusiasm for singing? Or, just maybe, some of the reasons for its use had more to do with easing barriers between men, and ending acrimonious discussions than a

need for choral music.

But Harry missed that first meeting!

We all have a part to play in the success of our Rotary club projects, activities and fellowship. If you miss a meeting, your part is lost. We can only *Create Hope in the World* if you are there!

Much of the historical information in this article comes from <https://rghf.org/harry-ruggles-the-fifth-rotarian/> in an article written by Doug Rudman

The Golden Strand; an Informal History of the Rotary Club of Chicago by Oren Arnold can be purchased on [ebay.com](https://www.ebay.com) for about US\$20 plus shipping.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

See you soon, Singapore

Singapore and Rotary have some things in common. For one, the Southeast Asian island nation hosting the 2024 Rotary International Convention is known for bringing cultures together and celebrating business connections and innovation.

When Rotary chose the site, then-RI President Ian HS Riseley said Singapore was an excellent venue as a global business and knowledge hub. “Given our international scope and commitment to cultural diversity, our conventions are often described as a ‘mini-United Nations’ where our global network of volunteers connect to address lasting solutions to local and global humanitarian challenges,” he said.

Here’s a taste of what makes tropical, sunny Singapore special: The country has four official languages - English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese and Tamil, reflecting a population with heritages rooted in many countries. Singapore is committed to environmental sustainability and its main island - smaller than Rhode Island - is, quite simply, a beauty. Nearly half is covered in green space, including lush plantings in public areas and tidy parks tucked among modern skyscrapers.

Nature and technology converge in breathtaking fashion in attractions such as several giant human-



made waterfalls, including one in the main airport. Gardens by the Bay next to the convention site mixes plants and artistic fantasy, featuring steel “supertrees” and an artificial indoor mountain with piped-in clouds.

The convention is 25-29 May at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre with general sessions at National Stadium. Join us in Sharing Hope with the World.

BE A *Dreamer!* Join the team

After attending her first Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Aloysie Benite will not only attend every convention going forward, but will also serve as the District D9400 Convention Promotion Chair for the International Convention in Singapore, 2024. This is Aloysie's story:

Let me share with you a personal experience that transformed my life. When I attended the Convention in Melbourne, I discovered vitality, happiness, peace and a new-found purpose. The conversations I had, the connections I made and the inspiring sessions I attended left an indelible mark on my heart. It was at that moment that I knew my life had changed forever.

Now, I invite each one of you to experience the same transformation. The Rotary International Convention in Singapore (25-29 May 2024) is an opportunity to find vitality, happiness, peace and purpose in your own life. It is a chance to connect with fellow Rotarians from around the world, share ideas and create lasting friendships.

The convention is not just a gathering; it is a conversation that will ignite your passion for service and inspire you to make a difference in the world. From captivating keynote speeches to thought-provoking breakout sessions, you will be immersed in a sea of ideas and innovation.

I cannot put into words the profound impact this experience had on me. It reinvigorated my commitment to Rotary and showed me the immense power we possess to create positive change.

Please join me and thousands of other Rotarians in Singapore.

Embrace the vitality, happiness, peace, and purpose that await you. Let the conversations at the Convention shape your future and propel you towards a life of meaningful service.

INTER-DISTRICT PLANNING

Districts 9400, 9350 and 9370 are on fire and determined to grow membership and take as many people as possible to the RI convention in Singapore. The added benefit of this convention is that Singapore does not require a visa from citizens of many African nations.

The convention promotion chairs of Districts 9400, 9370 and 9350, with the support of District Governors Riana Pretorius (D9400), Ann Wright (D9350) and DG Jacques Venter (D9370), as well as PDG Annemarie Mostert (D9400) who lead the Singapore convention promotion for the region in Africa, have set an ambitious target of increasing our region's convention attendance by at least 20% for next year.

So, why don't you join the Dreamer Team? These are Rotarians who believe in Rotary and its benefits and are determined to contribute to the growth of the organisation while increasing attendance from Africa at the conventions.

Any Rotarian can participate, the primary criterion is to be a dreamer - an individual who believes in turning the impossible into something achievable. Join by emailing alloysie.benite@gmail.com.

SOUTHERN AFRICA PROMOTION CHAIRS:

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TOGETHER, we can make a difference, learn and have fun! Register now <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/registration> and be a part of the transformative 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore.



My special moments with friends old and new
at the Rotary International Convention!



ETHOS INTO ACTION

**Scotland's Gordon
McInally stands ready
to bring his presidential
priorities to fruition**

BY DAVE KING

Photography by Monika Lozinska





McInally at The Borders
Distillery in Hawick,
Scotland

A young bagpiper parades out of a hotel banquet room playing the familiar refrain of "Scotland the Brave." Behind him, carrying a plated ceremonial haggis and wearing blue, green, black and yellow Gordon Modern tartan, is 2023/24 Rotary International President Gordon McNally.

It's Burns Night, celebrated every January with folk music, drams of Scotch whisky, enthusiastic renditions of the songs and poems of Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns and, of course, haggis with neeps and tatties (turnips and potatoes). It is quintessentially Scottish and McNally is in his element with friends as he marks the occasion in Galashiels, a town in Scottish Borders close to his home in Yetholm.

Heather McNally, his wife of 42 years, is wearing a sash of tartan - checks of green, light blue and dark red - created for the 1997 Rotary International Convention in Glasgow. A classically trained former professional opera singer and music teacher, she belts out songs by Burns learnt from childhood.

*Contented wi' little and cantie wi' mair,
Whene'er I forgather wi' Sorrow and Care,
I gie them a skelp as they're creeping along,
Wi' a cog o' gude swats and an auld Scottish sang.*

NOW THE HAGGIS IS SOMETHING ELSE. It is made of a sheep's pluck - the heart, liver and lungs - minced with onions, oatmeal, suet, salt, pepper and other spices, mixed with stock and then originally, boiled in the animal's cleaned stomach. It sounds like a culinary nightmare, but on their travels the McNallys have been spreading word of haggis's appeal throughout the Rotary community.

Heather McNally explains how, on their visits to the States, they have sourced local supplies of haggis and even warmed up the Scottish delicacy in their hotel room microwave. "The smell of haggis lingered in the room the entire week," she recalls. "We served it to other RI Board members while in Chicago. Everyone seems to love it, even though they were not quite sure what they were eating."

Gordon McNally grew up in Portobello, a picturesque seaside area of Edinburgh, notable for its beautiful beach with light-coloured sand and wooden groynes (barriers to protect the shoreline) jutting out into the water of the Firth of Forth. His mother owned and operated a private nursery and

his father worked for Macdonald & Muir, which makes Glenmorangie whiskies. His late brother, Ian, was three years younger and the two spent much of their childhood playing and watching rugby.

Gordon and Heather met in their late teens and their relationship blossomed on a trip to Florence, Italy, with a combined choir from their separate schools in Edinburgh. "We're not in each other's pockets; we do our own thing," Heather McNally says. "Even with Rotary, I belong to the Borderlands passport club [a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Selkirk] and Gordon is a member of South Queensferry. Our lives have always worked like that, largely due to work commitments, where we go off in different directions. We're both independent people, but we always come home at night and tell each other what we've been doing."

Her husband agrees. The couple have two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah and two grandchildren, Ivy and Florence. He describes Heather as "a very, very tolerant lady who has been a great support to me over the years."

He adds: "She's always a good sounding board. I can rely on Heather to tell me it as it is. If I give a presentation, everyone's going to tell me it was great, but Heather will always tell me the truth! I know I couldn't do this job without her support."

When they married at Craigsbank Parish Church in Edinburgh, Gordon McNally became a member of the Church of Scotland, having previously been a member of the Methodist Church. Now an elder and trustee in the church, he has also served as a Presbytery elder, chairman of his parish congregational board and a commissioner to the church's general assembly.

"My parents instilled in me and my late brother a sense of helping and caring for others that has remained with me for life," he says. "My personal faith and my upbringing within a family with a similarly strong faith, has definitely impacted my life choices and career."

McNally owned and ran a busy dental practice in Scotland's capital for more than three decades, retiring in 2016. He held teaching and examining posts and served as a branch chairman of the British Paedodontic

Society (now the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry). After living for many years in South Queensferry, the McNallys relocated to Scottish Borders when he stepped back from day-to-day practice. The move was over 30 years in the planning.

“All the time I was working as a dentist, we said it would be nice to ultimately make our home in the Borders, because it’s where my forebears came from,” he says. “My mother’s family were farmers and my mother was born on a farm about 15 miles from here. I’ve said to people since we came here that I feel as if my DNA has come home.”

For McNally, this is a night off, listening to youngsters from Galashiels’ schools deliver dramatic recitations of Burns’ works, including the “Address to a Haggis” read by young Poppy Lunn, who then theatrically cuts it open. There’s more pipe music and fiddle playing, plus community singing, until the evening rounds off with a hearty rendition of “Auld Lang Syne.”

A FEW DAYS LATER, McNally is at Abbotsford House, which towers over the gently flowing River Tweed in the heart of Scottish Borders country. The countryside is a tapestry of greens and in the distance loom the three conical peaks of the Eildon Hills, steeped in Roman history. It’s a beautiful spot and one of McNally’s favourite places to take visitors, as he has done today.

Abbotsford House was the home of Sir Walter Scott, the novelist, poet and historian, who popularised the wearing of tartan, created the historical novel and counted Queen Victoria among his fans. Abbotsford’s architectural style inspired many buildings in Scotland, including Balmoral Castle, Queen Elizabeth II’s summer home. Now, Scott’s works such as Ivanhoe and Rob Roy have been adapted for the screen.

On this day, the 19th century Scots Baronial building with its crow-stepped gables, “pepper-pot” bartisans and elements taken from medieval structures in Scotland,

The McNallys talk with Anna Hinnigan, senior operations manager at Lochcarron of Scotland, a manufacturer of tartan cloth in Selkirk.



is shut to the public for the winter. Dust sheets hang over the furniture and one poor soul is in the middle of cleaning the 9,000 books that line the library's shelves.

Scott's connection to the Borders began when he contracted polio at 18 months old. He was paralysed in the right leg and so his parents sent him to recover at his grandfather's farm outside Kelso. "It was because of polio that Sir Walter was brought to the Borders where he heard the stories and songs which would inspire his writing," explains Mary Kenny, Abbotsford's heritage engagement officer. McNally and Kenny agree that Scott would have made a great Rotary member.

McNally's own Rotary journey began at 26. He joined the South Queensferry club after being invited by a farmer friend who was a member of the family's church. "Initially I saw the Rotary club as a great way to make friends in the town and to do things in the area that would benefit the wider community," he says. "As time went by and I realised the work done by Rotary all around the world, I was hooked."

Except for a three-year period when McNally was a member of the sadly now-closed Rotary Club of Kelso, he has remained a member of the South Queensferry club. He was district governor in 1997/98 and marked Rotary's centenary year in 2004/05 by serving as president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

Shortly before becoming RIBI president, McNally visited Rwanda and South Africa to work with children orphaned by the 1994 Rwandan genocide and by HIV/AIDS. He subsequently helped set up an RIBI partnership project with Hope and Homes for Children, which had been operating in both countries, to support orphans there with food, shelter, medicine and education toward a sustainable future. McNally is a proud patron of Hope and Homes for Children, which is now supporting the Rwandan government to develop a national child protection system that minimises family separation and provides family-based alternatives.

McNally's work in Africa has spread to Kenya. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic, he travelled to the country to volunteer as part of an initiative led by Scottish Rotary members. There he carried out dental screenings in Nyumbani Village, a self-sustaining, purpose-built eco-village that provides homes and support for orphaned children and grandparents who serve as their guardians. He also helped renovate residents' accommodations.

"I have found Rotary to be a great vehicle for being able to care for and help others," he says. "Rotary has also given me friends all over the world and, as a consequence, a better understanding of the world in which I live. All that, together with the personal

"My parents instilled in me and my late brother a sense of helping and caring for others that has remained with me for life."

development, is what makes it continue to appeal to me and what makes me want to share it with others."

WHILE MCINALLY STAYED CLOSE TO HOME, his brother, Ian, after graduating from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, lived outside of London, where he was a member of Rotaract and met his wife while working in the computer industry. The two brothers and their families would visit one another over the years, but little did McNally suspect that his brother was suffering from the "black dog" of depression, as Winston Churchill called it. Ian McNally took his life on 8 February 2014.

That moment forever changed the lives of those who loved Ian and they continue to ask themselves questions: Why? What signs did we miss? What more could we have done?

McNally recalled all of this in a speech at the International Assembly in Florida in January, the first time he spoke on a public stage about his brother's suicide. He had gotten emotional when he practiced the address.

"I might tell you, it was not an easy presentation to give," he says. "That day was the first time I had ever been able to get through it without breaking down."

His goal in telling the story was not to seek sympathy but rather to let people know mental health issues can touch anyone, to illustrate why he feels so strongly about this subject. "A number of people came up to me afterwards and said, 'Your story is very similar to mine,'" he says.

Last year, McNally became an ambassador for the charity Bipolar UK, which then launched a partnership with RIBI. After his brother's experience, he shares a deep resonance with the



McInally introduces the 2023/24 presidential theme at the International Assembly in Florida in January.

organisation and has supported it by hosting a webinar about suicide prevention and producing a video about the condition.

And one of his presidential initiatives is prioritising mental health. “My call to action in this new initiative for Rotary,” he says, “is that we advocate for removal of the stigma of talking about mental health, help people to find better quality care and also support them through their journey to recovery.”

It’s another opportunity for McInally, through Rotary, to put his personal ethos into action.

AFTER ABBOTSFORD HOUSE, McInally’s next stop is the grounds of the Kelso Rugby Football Club for its local derby against Gala in the Tennent’s National League Division 1. If there is one passion that unites Border folk, it’s rugby. The region has produced some of the best rugby players to come out of Scotland, many of whom have gone on to play for the revered British & Irish Lions.

Joining the McInallys at the clubhouse for a pre-match meal of lentil soup followed by steak pie are six friends from their Rotary clubs. The conversation is rich and the laughter frequent with friends catching up on the latest news.

A former police officer, Doug Forsyth has good instincts and takes the opportunity to approach Kelso RFC President Neil Hastie to talk about joining the new Borderlands passport club.

“Neil is someone who knows what Rotary is about in the community, but he likes the flexible approach of the passport club,” says Forsyth. “We don’t have weekly meetings, we don’t have meals. We meet maybe once a month for a coffee and a scone and we do projects. ... We’re here to do Rotary, not talk Rotary. We’re all about making Rotary active and attractive.”

McInally looks on approvingly. “This is flexible Rotary and this is the future,” he adds.

Around the table, there’s widespread admiration for the man who will become president of Rotary International - the second Scot and the sixth person from the UK. Out of earshot,



The McNallys with Rotarian Andy Ireland (left) and friend Eric Williamson at Murrayfield rugby stadium in Edinburgh



The McNallys with daughters Sarah Wardell (left) and Rebecca McNally in Yetholm



McNally skips around a maypole with his granddaughters, Florence (centre) and Ivy, in East Lothian.

Sandy McKenzie, president of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, insists everyone is very proud of the achievement. “We are absolutely delighted,” McKenzie says. “Gordon is a down-to-earth, coalface Rotarian. He is a man with his feet on the ground.”

Club colleague Kate Gibb reveals how she always knew her good friend of almost 30 years would reach the pinnacle of Rotary International. “I remember telling our [Queensferry Parish Church] minister, David Cameron - not the former British prime minister - that he would be Rotary International president one day,” she says. “Call it instinct. Gordon is self-effacing, humble and hardworking.”

McNally was a second row forward and a number 8 in his rugby playing days - “a promising career cut short by a severe lack of talent,” he concedes. After the meal, at the Kelso rugby match with his friends, he watches from the stands wedged in the front row between boisterous fans of both teams. It’s a fast and flowing match with plenty of tries and plenty of good-humoured advice being dished out by the spectators.

Rugby is a big part of the family’s life. McNally’s former dental practice is just a drop kick from the

Murrayfield rugby stadium. When he sold the practice in 2016, one condition was that he had permission to park there for Scotland internationals.

Heather McNally recalls one occasion when the television cameras were at Kelso and they homed in on daughter Sarah, then a toddler, who was with Gordon watching a match. “Aye, they start them young in the Borders,” sang the lyrical tones of legendary BBC rugby commentator Bill McLaren.

Gala steal victory over Kelso 36-31 with two late penalty goals. As we’re getting ready to leave the ground, Heather notes: “Gordon jokes in his speeches how he is waiting for someone from the nominating committee for RI president to come along and say, ‘Sorry, we called the wrong person with the invitation to be president. We meant to call the next person on the list!’”

“It is such an honour. We’re meeting heads of state, visiting glamorous places and I’m pinching myself thinking, ‘I am just Heather. What on earth are we doing here?’” she says. “We’re from a small village in Scotland of 500 people and here we are representing Rotary International.”

Before we part, she acknowledges being immensely proud of what he’s achieved: “Of course,” she says, “but please don’t tell him that!”

“I have found Rotary to be a great vehicle for being able to care for and help others. Rotary has also given me friends all over the world and ... a better understanding of the world.”



2023/24 PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH

Talking about mental illness and emotional health may feel uncomfortable, but it's vital to the well-being of Rotary's global community. RI President Gordon McNally encourages clubs and districts to work toward creating a space where it's safe to address these issues to help provide a welcoming and equitable environment for all.

To do that, think about ways that you can:

- Erase any stigma associated with discussions of emotional well-being
- Raise awareness of mental health needs
- Improve access to mental health services

EMPOWERING GIRLS

McNally will continue the initiative launched by 2021/22 RI President Shekhar Mehta and maintained by 2022/23 RI President Jennifer Jones that focused on elevating the voices and unlocking the power of girls and women around the world. Rotary encourages members to keep finding ways to improve the health,

well-being, education, economic security and agency of girls.

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH VIRTUAL EXCHANGES

Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to do that face to face. Inspired by what we've learned during this time, McNally encourages districts to incorporate virtual components into more of their programmes, events and activities. By using innovative technologies to make connections, we give more people the opportunity to experience Rotary's global community while laying the foundation for peacebuilding through improved intercultural dialogue, awareness and understanding.

Adding or maintaining these components in our exchange programmes like Rotary Youth Exchanges and Rotary Friendship Exchanges will:

- Give members and participants new ways to experience other cultures, make new friends and broaden their global awareness
- Make membership more accessible to people with time, health, or financial considerations
- Build stronger intercultural communication and understanding and ultimately foster more stable and peaceful communities

For more information, please visit
rotary.org/initiatives23-24.

A LESSON IN TRUE GENEROSITY

by PP Ricky Pott,
Rotary Club of White River (D9400)



Some years ago, I was conducting an environmental impact study to the north of Beira, where the Mozambican government had offered my company an area to develop a forestry project. Mozambique had recently come out of a civil war, and there were land-mines everywhere. Most of the bridges in the area had been blown up. Apart from a few trading stores there was nothing. No schools, no hospitals or clinics. Just bush. There were few roads in the area, so we normally travelled on paths using motor bikes. These were deemed to be safe, as the mere fact that they existed indicated that they had not been mined. Just as one knew to avoid the citrus trees laden with ripe fruit near an old trading store - the fruit was untouched for obvious reasons.

I had been assigned a translator whose name was Pedro. He could speak English, Portuguese, Senna and Shona. Pedro was about twenty-four years old, and was always smiling. We would drive to homesteads scattered through the area and I would ask questions about the animals commonly seen in the area. Apart from a few scrawny chickens, they had no livestock. To feed themselves, most had snares to catch porcupine, mongooses, genets, civet cats and, if they were lucky, suni antelope. All the homesteads were surrounded by fields of maize and they all grew pumpkins, chillis and legumes.

I had started my inspection of the area on a Monday, and was due to complete it on the coming Sunday. It was hot, the temperature had never dropped below 30 degrees! That is until one Sunday when a cold drizzle started and the mercury plummeted to an unheard-of 16 degrees. Considering the rain and the state of the road we would need to travel, I decided to use another department's Landrover to visit a little church on the eastern boundary of the proposed project area. Pedro and I left the base camp at 7am. As it was cold, we both were wearing woollen jerseys.

Five kilometres from the camp, we saw an old man walking quickly along the road. I stopped and Pedro asked him where he was going in such a hurry.

He said he was going to the church and accepted our offer of a lift. We travelled in silence as the old vehicle had a hole in its silencer and the noise made talking impossible. We eventually reached the church; a round building with palm fronds for a roof and wooden poles for walls. There were 20 chairs made from poles. We sat on three of these and I started chatting to the old man. He was 70 years old and had lived in the area all his life. He had two sons, one had joined Frelimo and one Renamo, both had died during the war. When he was younger there were very few people living in the general area, but as the fighting escalated, many people had fled to shelter there.

I showed him a book of mammals and asked to show me the animals he commonly saw in the area. I noticed he had trouble seeing the pictures clearly and gave him my glasses. His reaction when he put them on was one of amazement - for the first time in twenty years he could see properly! He was a wealth of information and told us elephant, giraffe, rhino and buffalo were the first to disappear, followed by lions, hartebeest and eland. Other buck species started disappearing; many killed and eaten by the soldiers from the opposing parties. Now, all that was left was the odd bushbuck and suni. He hadn't seen or heard hyaenas for years, but had heard people talking of a leopard killing their chickens. He looked through the book and identified warthog, bush pig and honey badger as being present.

The old man returned my glasses back and I noticed that he was shivering uncontrollably. While he was walking in the rain, he had been warm. Now, after a period of inactivity, he was wet and cold. It was then that Pedro did something that made me hang my head in shame. He took his jersey off and gave it to the old man! "Now, why hadn't I done that," I asked myself. That jersey was probably the only one Pedro had, and I had at least three more at home.

I will never forget Pedro, who showed me what true generosity is.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Apply yourself

As members of the family of Rotary, we are people of purpose, people of influence and people of action. Each year, committees that support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation focus on putting Rotary's strategic priorities into action, challenging us to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

Would you like to contribute to Rotary's success?

We are searching for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to apply their leadership skills to serve on a committee in the 2024/25 Rotary year. These positions offer an opportunity for you to share your vocational expertise and skill set and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee. Rotarians and Rotaractors with areas of expertise detailed in the chart are encouraged to apply. The number of openings is limited. If you are not selected this year, we encourage you to apply again next year.

All committees correspond via email and on virtual platforms, typically with one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Rotaractors are encouraged to apply to any area of expertise based on their background and the skills and experience detailed for each area. Dual members of Rotary and Rotaract are especially encouraged to apply.

To be considered for committee membership or recommend someone for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/application2023. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at my.rotary.org and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications are due by **15 August**.

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION ON COMMITTEE	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS & COMMITMENT
AUDIT	Advises leadership on audited financial reports, internal and external audits and internal control systems	Independence, appropriate business experience and demonstrated financial literacy in accounting, auditing, banking, insurance, investment, risk management, executive management or audit governance	One position with a four-year term
COMMUNICATIONS	Advises leadership on Rotary's overall public image, branding, communications, content strategy and approach	Professional background and experience in internal and external communications, marketing, public image, brand and content strategy	Two positions with three-year terms
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION	Advises leadership on the implementation of a diversity, equity and inclusion action plan	Professional or educational experience related to diversity, equity and inclusion	Two to four positions with terms of up to three years
FINANCE	Advises the RI Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets, investment policy and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; nonprofit experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	Two positions with three-year terms
FUND DEVELOPMENT	Provides guidance and advice to the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation on all aspects of fundraising	Significant fund development or fundraising professional experience. Committee members actively fundraise and support the Foundation.	Three positions with three-year terms
LEARNING	Advises leadership with respect to creating effective learning opportunities for Rotary leaders and members	Adult learning expertise within or outside Rotary. Experience in the professional learning field including e-learning and/or with planning and implementing learning events at the member, club, district, zone and international levels.	Two positions with three-year terms
OPERATIONS REVIEW	Advises leadership on the effectiveness of operations, administrative procedures and standards of conduct. Serves as the advisory compensation committee to the Executive Committee of the RI Board.	Experience in management, leadership development or financial management and thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations. Appointments are limited to past RI directors and past Foundation trustees.	One position with a six-year term
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Advises leadership on matters regarding the strategic plan	Significant experience in long-term planning, financial management and RI and Foundation programme activities	Two positions with four-year terms
TECHNOLOGY	Advises leadership with respect to enhancing technology practices, products and strategy to improve the member and participant experience at Rotary	Expertise in technology development, security and data privacy, product and project management and user/participant experience. Non-Rotarian technology experts may be appointed.	Two positions with three-year terms

TOUR THE NEW ROTARY TIMELINE

Rotary 

Explore Rotary's milestones and legacy, from our 1905 founding to the present, with the new Rotary timeline. Featuring materials from our archives, the new timeline is your authoritative source about Rotary's significant moments, events, and programs.

rotary.org/rotarys-timeline





Children enjoying the new playground.



PP Saran Naidoo, Liezel Patterson and David Simpson (Victor Daitz Foundation) with Principal Cindy Mamela and PP Ash Maharaj.

What a difference!

The Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside (D9370) and the Victor Daitz Foundation, partnered with various donors and fundraising initiatives to deliver a project that is set to make a big difference to the learners of VN Naik School for the Deaf in Inanda, Durban.

It all started in May 2019, when the club's Youth Director at the time, PP Ash Maharaj, visited the school and was shown a barren piece of earth that the foundation phase children, those aged three to 12 years, used as a play area. It was nothing more than a sandy area with sparse grass, no tables or benches and just one point for about 100 children to use to drink water.

Ash was moved by what he saw and this visit marked the beginning of a new era for the deaf and physically challenged school children, as Ash envisioned a play area that would develop their cognitive, perceptual, social and mental skills.

He shared his vision with his Rotary club and the members quickly agreed that it would make a remarkable project.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic halted to the project's progress for about two years. However, plans were prepared and fundraising for the project began as soon as possible. Led by Ash Maharaj, who has a construction background, and the club members planned various fundraising initiatives and sourced a number of partners. The largest donor was the Victor Daitz Foundation.

In 2022, work began. The project that cost more than R500,000 included groundwork, concrete, planter boxes, fencing, additional water points, Astro Turf, a sand pit, jungle gym items and play items. By the end of 2022, the playground was completed and in May, the school management, governing body, staff and learners hosted a thank you function for the club and its project partners.



Players towing their clubs in a brisk 4 degrees at the Knysna Golf Club. Unseasonably high rainfall resulted in a soggy course and carts were not allowed on the course.

Four days, four courses... for good causes!

The Rotary Club of Knysna held its 23rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament in May.

Played over four days, the event included Pinnacle Point Golf Club near Mossel Bay, Pezula Golf Club and Championship Course, Simola Golf and Country Estate, Knysna Golf Club and Goose Valley Country Club in Plettenberg Bay.

The Garden Route experienced its wettest May in many years, which resulted in waterlogging at the courses. In some cases bunkers were out of play and rules were in place to keep golf carts off the fairways. However, the golfers were undeterred by the damp conditions and the single digit temperatures at the early morning starts.

Rain set in at about midday on the first day of the tournament at Pinnacle Point, but the 126 players on

the course had come prepared and most completed their 18 holes.

The popularity of the tournament continues to grow, with many returning year after year. This year 226 golfers from around the country booked and played 780 rounds of golf. Four golfers, Johann de Klerk, Anton Strydom, Stephen Paulsen and Cuan Williams qualified to receive 10 year caps.

Club President George Coon explained that funds raised at the day would support the club's education, youth and food security initiatives, assist to local NPOs and NGOs.

"Without this event, we would not be able to do nearly as much for the betterment of Knysna. We are already looking forward to another great event in 2024!"



From top: Damp but cheerful golfers at Pinnacle Point.

Enjoying day two at Simola Golf and Country Estate are George Craul, Troy Gahman and Phil Golson.

Rotarians Vicky Tricker, Margi McAlpine and Louise Pannell keeping things running smoothly at Goose Valley Country Club. Photos: Elle Photo





Play at Pezula Golf Course. Below: Dave Howard receives his prize for being closest to the pin at Simola from Sue Fairweather. Photos: Elle Photo



The origin story

When golfers teed off in the very first Rotary Club of Knysna Charity Golf Tournament, no one realised that two decades later, this would be an extremely popular annual four-day event that attracts participants from far and wide.

It all began when the Director of Golf at Sparrebosch Golf Estate, Jeff Clause, approached Rotarian Des Wearne and suggested that the estate's golf course become part of the Rotary club's fledgeling fundraising efforts at Knysna Golf Club.

Clause, the son of a Rotarian from Jefferson (D6000, USA), was initially able to offer the course and carts free of charge on an out of season Sunday. Rotarian Peter Klews wrote to all 65 clubs in District 9350 and invited their members to support the event. In 2001, the president of the Rotary Club of Bredasdorp, Nico du Plessis, brought 12 golfers to participate.

Du Plessis also publicised the weekend through SAGES senior golf in the Overberg region and entry

numbers began to increase. Sparrebosch was renamed Pezula. In 2007, Sessel Hartshorne took over managing the project when Klews became club president and further developed the event. Simola Golf Estate was added as a venue which alternated with Pezula.

Each year the numbers increased and in 2008, led to the event turning into a weekend affair that included play at Simola Golf Estate on Friday, Knysna Golf Club on Saturday and Pezula on Sunday. It was renamed the Rotary Club of Knysna Charity Golf Event.

Hartshorne negotiated special accommodation, wellness packages and organised non-golfing activities to encourage golfers to bring their partners and families. Soon it was necessary to play at both Pezula and Simola courses on Friday and Sunday. Pinnacle Point was brought into the event for Thursdays and in 2014, Goose Valley was offered for Saturdays to ease congestion at Knysna Golf Club. Henry Fairweather took over the event management in 2016 and has successfully grown the revenue.

The number of visiting golfers rose to 200. Each golfer plays three rounds during the



Johann de Klerk and Jean de Villiers winners of 3rd prize at Goose Valley. Johann is wearing his 10 year cap awarded at the tournament. Photo: Elle Photo

event, which is now the second-largest fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Knysna. The project has also provided a boost to the local economy during the tourism low-season.



Rotarians Julie Staub and Sue Fairweather with President George Coon at Pinnacle Point. Sue plays a pivotal role in organising the event. Photo: Elle Photo



President Morgan Moodley and his winning Rotary team that organised the blood drive.

Bleeding to heal

An impressive 93 units of blood were donated at a blood donor drive held by the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) at the Chatsworth Centre in May. The drive was held in partnership with SANBS (the South African National Blood Service).

SANBS Head of Donor Marketing, Neelashan Govender, praised the Rotary club for its kind and generous support that helped SANBS maintain a stable blood supply. Project Co-ordinator and Vocational Services Director, Bobby Pillay, commended his fellow members who undertook project with such enthusiasm. He also thanked the Chatsworth CPF and the Arena Park patrollers for their assistance and support. Other project partners included Babs Waste Paper and Hire, Disco Image, Michael John, the learners and educators of Arena Park and Kharwastan Secondary Schools and all the shoppers and patrons who donated a pint of 'liquid love'!

Community Radio station Sunrise FM supported the event with radio interviews and broadcast from the event. Southside FM also provided supportive publicity.



Mr Naicker (73) was the first donor of the weekend and donated his 90th pint. With him is project coordinator Bobby Pillay.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION!

Your donations to our Annual Fund support extraordinary projects that make an impact in communities close to home and around the globe. Thank you for making Doing Good in the World possible!

LEARN MORE: my.rotary.org/annual-fund



Guest speakers were Magda Pienaar and Yolandé Brand of True2You, Rudy du Pont (Paarl Rotary), Prof Dana Niehaus (Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University) and Karen Borochowitz (Dementia SA).

A CIRCLE OF CARE

The Labyrinth Circle, a programme developed by the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350), is helping people who are caring for family members with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease.

The first Labyrinth meeting was held in May and next-of-kin carers learned more about caring for a dementia patients. Professor Dana Niehaus, of Stellenbosch University's Department of Psychiatry, was one of the speakers and explained that the process of mental deterioration in these patients is irreversible, although medication may slow it down.

Typical symptoms of dementia are an inability to concentrate and plan, short-term memory problems and irritability and aggression. Untreated hearing problems and depression may contribute to the deterioration of the patient. Eventually the patients

cannot drive a car, cannot care for themselves and become incontinent. Family carers suffer as much as the patient and could benefit from attending the seminars to gain information and support.

To reach more people, the seminars are being rolled out in surrounding towns and are supported by Dementia SA and True2You. Rudy du Pont, a member of the Paarl club, founded this project. Dupont, who is originally from Belgium, was inspired by a similar project known that has been run by Dementia Vlaanderen for a number of years. Material for this course was purchased from the Belgian organisation by the club and a donor.

Clubs interested in hosting similar courses may contact Rudy at rudy.dupont@telenet.be



HAVE YOU GOT PROJECT NEWS TO SHARE?

Share them with us! Submit stories and photos of at least 1MB in size. Email rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Remarkable RYLA

The Rotary Club of Port Alfred (D9370) hosted its RYLA Leadership Summit in April at The Monastery in Grahamstown. Fifty Grade 11 learners from 26 different schools in the southern area of the Eastern Cape attended the camp that was themed Formulating Hope Through Leadership.

Dr Ian Knott-Craig, a well-known educator, facilitated the weekend and several guest speakers from Rhodes University shared their knowledge with the campers. The learners were placed in teams and given group work after each lecture, which they then presented to the other groups.

On the fun side, there were many popular and fun team building activities that were run by Naledi Adventures. Learners composed their own rap songs about Hope and each team entered an item for the Talent Show.

An interesting exercise for the learners was having no technology. Cell phones were removed for safe-keeping, to promote interaction and conversation.



OUR 2023/24 PRESIDENTS



Melba Blessing Mafika
(Rotaract) Avondale, 9210



Ruvimbo Moyo-Majapa
Claremont, 9350



Andrea Zhou (Rotaract)
Borrowdale Brooke, 9210



Aaron M Tyola
Solwezi, 9210



Ayushi M Gupta
Lusaka Midtown, 9210



Beatrice Mutetwa
Highlands, 9210



Beene Bwalya (Rotaract)
Ndola Mukuba, 9210



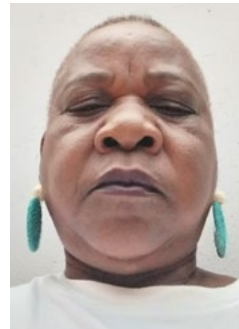
Beene Bwalya (Rotaract)
Ndola Mukuba, 9210



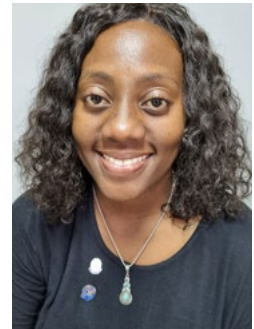
Mildred Mushunje
Borrowdale Brooke, 9210



Jester Mlilo
Bulawayo, 9210



Brigitta Mundeta
Chipinge, 9210



Charmaine Botsch
Belmont, 9210



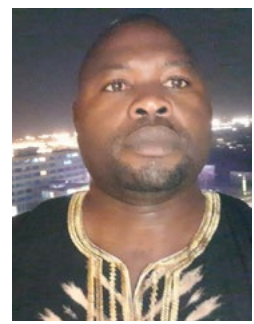
Danny Shaba Museteka
Nkwazi, 9210



Fidelis Kabwiri
Maluba, 9210



Giorgia Prizzon
Lilongwe-Lingadzi, 9210



Hope Chichaya
Mutare, 9210



Lombe Marilyn Lumbwe
Kusinta, 9210



Mabvuto Ng'ona
Chingola Metro, 9210



Makhalo Matola (Rotaract)
Luanar City Campus, 9210



Marie Paule Ndaya M
Kalala, Kabwe, 9210



Matengele Kaira
Kitwe, 9210



Mazwi Shamu
Marondera, 9210



Monica Tsindikidzo
Kitwe North, 9210



Mwangala Mubiana
Kalulushi, 9210



Mulomba Hibajene
Livingstone, 9210



Munalula Lukonga
Lusaka Pamodzi, 9210



Mwaluwa Mwamba
Luanshya, 9210



Patience Marck
Bulawayo Sunrise, 9210



Naftal Felimone
Tete-Zambeze, 9210



Nixon Nembaware
Harare, 9210



Natsai Meda-Charamba
(Rotaract) Greystone
Park, 9210



Opara Godwin Brown
Anamelechi
Lusaka Metro, 9210



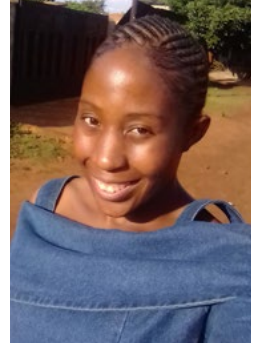
Rachel Silungwe
Lilongwe, 9210



Penelope Guzha
Harare The Bridge, 9210



Plaxcedes Majuru
Harare Central, 9210



Prisca Chifamba
Chitungwiza, 9210



Priyanshi Naik
Lusaka East, 9210



Taffy Gotora
Harare CBD, 9210



Rose Marck-Katumba
Msasa, 9210



Samson Sekeleti (Rotaract)
Mabanga-Solwezi, 9210



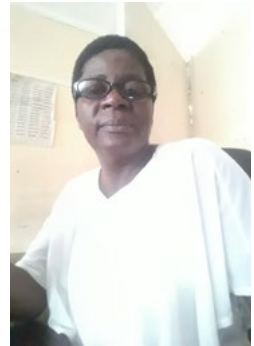
Sekwila Mumba Senga
(E-Club) D9210 Harare



Sheunesu Mavesera,
Harare Dawn, 9210



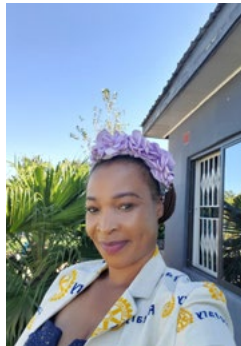
Sibusiwe Sibanda
Bulawayo South, 9210



Sifiso Dube
Plumtree, 9210



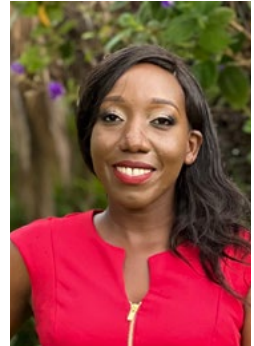
Sikhanyisiwe Mlotshwa-
Gumbo Avondale, 9210



Stella Gaviao
Kasama Central, 9210



Stephen Mwansa
Chilanga, 9210



Tafadzwa Machirori
Victoria Falls, 9210

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400) visited Lesotho to join collaborate with the Rotary Club of Maloti-Maseru (D9370) in a vocational project. This four-day Outreach Project was implemented in the village of Ramabanta. It included a drawing competition, career guidance at Rapaleboa High School and an athletics competition for all the primary schools. An embroidery workshop was also held to develop the skills of 15 women. The final component of the project was the distribution of 60 blankets to the maternity ward at Fatima Health Centre.





The Interact Club of Greenbury Secondary School (D9370) members, their parents and Ethekwini municipal staff cleaned Battery Beach in April. Shoba Champamoni, youth services director of The Rotary Club Of Phoenix, was impressed at how passionate the Interactors are about conserving the environment and spreading awareness to protect the marine ecosystem.



Recently, the EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School that is sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), embarked on another community service project. This project was in support of the ACVV that has a programme working with babies in foster care. The ACVV was established in 1904 in the wake of the South African War. Over the years it has expanded from emergency relief, primary health care and educational services to comprehensive social work and protection services for children and older persons. The EarlyActors, helped by their parents, collected more than R12 000 to purchase nappies and milk formula. Clicks donated 12 packs of nappies and Checkers 10 boxes of baby cereal. The grand total was 105 packs of nappies, 105 kilogrammes of formula and 10 packs of baby cereal.



Rotarians George Coon, Andy and Alison Muir, Michael Spies, and Derrick and Barbara Ikin, of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) joined representatives of the Forestry Department and Pledge Nature Reserve to celebrate World Environment Day by planting indigenous trees at Hornlee Primary School. A vibrant and impressive introduction to the theme was given in the form of talks by Principal Michael Kleinhans, President George and Rotarian Michael Spies. This was followed by a play written and performed by learners. The heart of the celebration was the planting on school grounds of indigenous trees donated by Rotary from the Forestry Department. Similar events were held at other primary schools in Knysna, such as Sunridge, Fraaisig and Knysna Pre-Primary School.



Dr Mussadiq Mir training Richard Omondi to use his new LN-4 Prosthetic Hand. The hand was given to Omondi through the LN-4 Prosthetic Hand project of the Rotary Club of Nairobi-Utumishi (D9212).



The Knit and Natter ladies met at Dunant Lodge to handover 178 beautifully knitted items to the Rotary Anns of Algoa Bay (D9370). The club cheerfully and lovingly knit away in support of the community. Another knitting group has been equally busy and added another 22 jerseys, four large blankets and 10 knee rugs to the k(n)itty. In total, the Anns now have 250 items to deliver to the Clothing Guild for distribution to its beneficiaries.



The Interact Club of Greenbury Secondary School (D9370) gave towels and linen to PACT for distribution to animal shelters.



The Rotary Club of Estcourt (D9370) gave a donation of books to Estcourt Secondary School.



The Rotary Club of George (D9350) raised substantial funds at its annual charity golf challenge. Despite windy conditions the day boasted a full field of four-balls and sponsors. Funds raised were in support of the Rosemore Old Age Home. The club is applying for a global grant to upgrade the home's facilities. Helping with registration are Mienkie van Zyl, PP Donald Goldfain, President Di Kershaw and Christine Jeffrey.

WALL OF HONOUR



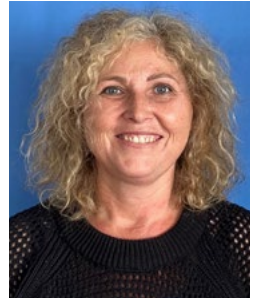
Rasigan Naidoo is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370).



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



Gail Petrie is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Genevieve Melville is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Past Presidents Anne Thompson, of the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370), received District Recognitions from RIPPR Bob Gallagher.



Ash Maharaj, of the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside (D9370) received District Recognitions from RIPPR Bob Gallagher.



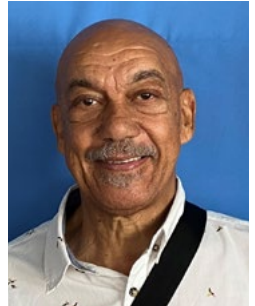
Magda van den Berg is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Jean Pierre Lacroix is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Mario du Toit is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



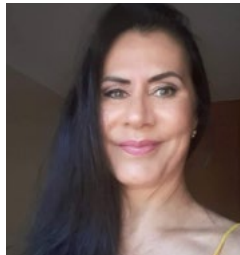
Michael Spies is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Patricia Mausela is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Charles Longman is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Lidia Portela Meza is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Zander Lindvelt is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).

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