

NOVEMBER 2022

Rotary

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HELLO

Melbourne





IMAGINE TRANSFORMATION

Renew your connections, perspective, and imagination in Melbourne, Australia, and carry the energy home to light up your community and communities around the world. You'll be transformed as you **Imagine What's Next.**

2023 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
27-31 MAY 2023



MELBOURNE
2023

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

LOADSHEDDING. NEED I SAY MORE. THE END...

Well not quite, I don't think I could get away with a one-line column, but in South Africa that one word evokes so much conversation, emotion and frustration that it could fill this magazine... and none of it is positive.

I like to look for the good in a situation as I truly believe that a positive mindset leads to a more productive life, better decision making and more motivation to finish what you start.

But not even I can find something good in loadshedding. I used to say that it is lovely as it forces me to switch off and take a break, but after a weekend of various outages, losing my oven and yet another gate battery to inevitable power surges, I start to yearn for the opportunity to switch on and stay on!

Reading headlines about looming recession, massive food and petrol price hikes and a debt crisis, is not helping my mood. BUT, while I may be a little gloomy, I am motivated. Why? Because this is when the world really needs us. Our communities need sustainable projects to help them through these difficult times. This is when we are at our best!

I have often seen Rotarians, who when faced with seemingly impossible challenges, think creatively and develop effective and sustainable solutions.

So, I suppose there is something positive.

Life may, literally, be on the dark side at the moment, but we have guiding lights in our communities to help us see our way through whatever desperate times may arise.

They are called Rotarians.

We call them our friends.

Go forth and shine!

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?

Rotary 

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharing our Rotary stories from the heart



Being asked to Imagine Rotary can seem like a big, heady exercise, but the most important element of it is something quite small, even personal.

Not too long ago, Rotary members were expected to perform our acts of service quietly. I understood and appreciated the thought behind that - humility is a wonderful trait and we should continue to nurture it in other ways.

But keeping Rotary to ourselves has a cost. And by sharing our Rotary moments, we are being generous with others and giving them an opportunity to understand the impact of Rotary.

It brings to mind that wonderful aphorism: “People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.”

So how do we make people feel Rotary? The best way is to share our Rotary moments. We have all had them - when the ordinary collides with the intention to create something extraordinary.

Some people have those Rotary moments the first time they go to a meeting. For others, it can take years,

before seeing the joy in the eyes of someone we serve. Or perhaps in hearing from another member something that hit close to home.

As Nick and I share this journey, we are amazed at the work you are performing and the lives that are transforming. Throughout the year, I’m going to share with you the sights and the stories that made those tours meaningful for us.

I hope you can do the same in your corner of Rotary. It can be something you share in meetings or on social media. For the most savvy and ambitious, it could be an event you publicise in the local media. Even sharing your stories with friends has impact.

We need ambassadors for Rotary’s message and our dreams for a better world. The best ambassadors are you. The more you share stories - and share them from the heart - the more you encourage others to partner with us, to join us and to stay.

To give you just one small example, in the months ahead, I will be turning over this column to Rotary members who will share their personal stories as they relate to diversity, equity and inclusion in our organisation. It’s important that we hear these stories directly from the people who experienced them as a way of feeling the importance of DEI for the future of Rotary.

In everything we do, what people feel about Rotary will shape our future. I can only imagine what you will inspire through the stories you’ll tell.

JENNIFER JONES

President, Rotary International



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



GETTING AROUND

2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

By foot, tram, boat or even waterbike, there are plenty of ways to tour Melbourne while you're in town for the 2023 Rotary International Convention 27-31 May. Each mode offers a unique perspective on the city's architecture, culture, history and hidden places.

Get in some extra steps and check out one of Melbourne's walking tours. One company called I'm Free Tours offers (you guessed it) free walking tours with local artists, musicians and travel aficionados serving as your guide. Their specialty tours cover the city's architecture, gardens, best-kept secrets and more. Along the way, you'll learn about the rich history of Melbourne from its indigenous beginnings to the vibrant, multicultural metropolis of today.

Running through the heart of downtown, the Yarra River offers another vantage point for exploring the city. Board a river cruise at Southbank. There are boat tours for all ages and tastes, including sightseeing, photography, cocktail, dinner and sunset cruises. There are even tours by waterbike, which are pedal bikes set on pontoons. You can also head out to sea to take in the area's beaches, wildlife and extraordinary coastal scenery.

Circling the business district, Melbourne's City Circle Tram is a free hop-on-hop-off ride popular with tourists. Making 28 stops, the tram is a great way to travel between city landmarks. Notable highlights include Flinders Street Station, State Library Victoria and the Melbourne Museum. The tram provides audio on the significance and history of each attraction.



Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

Many of you will recall my challenge to Rotary clubs when I was RI president in 2017-18: to plant one tree per member to help the environment. Thanks to you, we estimate over 4 million trees went into the ground in Rotary's name, quite a forest indeed.

This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's remember that each Foundation project is much like planting a tree. With each sapling of hope, health and peace we plant through the Foundation, we make an investment in the future that will one day grow into something even greater.

Such a tree was planted by Rotary in Sri Lanka, where more than 2 000 children born annually with a congenital heart defect can now get a corrective surgery, which allows them to survive to adulthood. Local Rotarians identified the need to make the surgery more available and effective and rallied 17 Rotary districts around the world to contribute District Designated Funds. After the Foundation matched those funds, a global grant of \$365 000 was used to create the first human heart-valve tissue bank in Sri Lanka, with the government providing the building, staffing and supplies to ensure its sustainability.

Visiting this life-saving facility in 2017 was an unforgettable experience for me. But I have seen countless other great "trees" planted across our

seven areas of focus. We planted PolioPlus in 1985 and it has grown into one of the greatest public health initiatives in history, helping reduce cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent. Seven Rotary Peace Centres around the world have also taken root and are now bearing fruit as scores of peacebuilders and community leaders go forth with the skills to make the world more safe and secure.

Charity Navigator, an independent agency, has given The Rotary Foundation its highest ranking for more than a decade. Why? Our overhead expense level is much lower than most similar organisations - 91 percent of gifts to the Foundation go to programmes and operations. Not only are we efficient stewards, but Rotary's requirement of a community-needs assessment for global grants helps ensure the sustainability of our projects over the long term. And the Foundation is a charity you can trust because it is run by your fellow Rotarians.

However, only about 38 percent of members actively support our own organisation's great charity. We can and should do better. Just as I challenged you to plant trees as president, as Foundation trustee chair I would like to challenge each club to make a giving plan for our Rotary Foundation this year.

Imagine our impact - Rotary's great forest of hope and peace that will flourish - and please give today.

ANNUAL FUND SHARE

Your gift to the Annual Fund empowers Rotary members to take action today to create positive change in communities close to home and around the globe. Through the SHARE system, contributions are transformed into grants that fund local and international humanitarian projects, scholarships, and activities.

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate





Just imagine

DR PATRICK COLEMAN
ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFT ADVISOR

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR GIFT CAN LAST FOREVER!

I have talked about The Rotary Foundation almost since I joined the Rotary Club of Luanshya (D9210) in 1993 because my mentor, PDG Dennis Figov, talked about The Rotary Foundation from day one of my membership. I continue speaking about The Rotary Foundation as the E-Club of Southern Africa D9400 TRF chair. It is a passion that grows every year because I see where the money goes in projects across Africa and around the world.

My mother helped to raise money to eradicate polio in our neighbourhood when I was a boy and as such, my first contribution to The Rotary Foundation in 1995 was to the End Polio Now campaign. Our efforts to eradicate polio in Zambia led to my falling in love with Sherry whose mother was a polio survivor. Yes, it is personal for us.

Sherry and I wanted to do something more. We came together while working to eradicate polio, we worked together to provide water to rural schools. We cared for orphans and abandoned children. Nevertheless, we wanted to do something that would last for years to come.

We then met Elizabeth Lamberti from the Rotary Regional Office in Zurich and she shared something that we hadn't considered – A Forever Gift!

She explained that an endowment gift to The Rotary Foundation today provides a brighter picture for our future.

When we make a donation to our endowment, we give a gift with both immediate and long-term benefits.

IMAGINE:

- A gift that can provide water, sanitation and hygiene in rural villages endlessly.
- A gift that would protect mothers and babies from disease for centuries.
- A gift that will help children learn to read and write perpetually, long after we are gone.

In our case, we chose to support Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. We live in Africa where peace in many places is rare and conflict is accepted as “normal.” As I write this article we read about the conflict between the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan forces, allegations of genocide, rape and other atrocities in Cameroon, Boko Haram terrorists in northern Nigeria, constant struggles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and terrorism and natural disasters in northern Mozambique that have combined to kill hundreds and displaced nearly one million people.

Is there a greater need in Africa than peace and conflict resolution? As we talked about and then created our endowment for peace there was talk of a Peace Centre in Africa. That dream became real with the creation of the Rotary Peace Centre at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

FROM THE ROTARY SITE:

Throughout our lifetime, most of us strive to make a difference in the lives of others, providing gifts to the people and causes we value. Wouldn't it be nice to know that you could continue to change lives even after you are gone - creating a legacy of support for the causes most important to you? By creating an endowment with our Rotary Foundation, or adding

to our existing endowment, you can give a gift that lasts forever.

HOW IT WORKS

- You give cash, securities or other assets to an existing endowment or an endowment you create with our Rotary Foundation. If you can't give up assets today, consider making the gift in your will or other estate plan, specifying that you would like your gift to be used to fund an endowment.
- You determine if your endowment will be designated to fund a specific programme or service, or given without restrictions to allow The Rotary Foundation to direct the fund to our

most critical needs.

- We use a small portion of the fund to support our mission, but the balance always remains invested in order to perpetuate the fund.
- PLUS! You can build on your endowment as you continue to give to The Rotary Foundation! Simply direct your gift to the Endowment Fund and your gift continues to grow.

Just IMAGINE creating a specific named endowment focused on the Area of Focus that is nearest and dearest to your heart.

Perhaps Maya Angelou said it best: If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased.

HOW CAN I BECOME A PEACEBUILDER?

Start by enrolling in the Rotary Positive Peace Academy.

- You'll learn to be an effective peacebuilder in your community
- You'll understand how to develop stronger, more sustainable projects
- You'll hear from global leaders in the study of peace
- You can complete the free, self-guided course in just two hours

Get started at
positivepeace.academy/rotary





Gates grant for RFHA

The Donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help RFHA expand its Rotary Family Health Days Programme, writes Sneha Singh for RFHA.

The Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention is honoured to announce the award of a \$3 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fund a two-year pilot programme.

This will support the roll-out of the Rotary Family Health Day Programme in several countries and will include messaging, advocacy, education and surveillance on polio as part of RFHA's integrated disease prevention programme at community level.

The focus will be to integrate polio-specific activities and vaccination into the Rotary Family Health Days and to support expanding the programmes into countries where these have not been held previously.

"The partnership between RFHA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was formed in full consultation with the Rotary International Polio team led by Mike McGovern and Dr Carol Pandak and we thank them for their support in endorsing RFHA and the RFHD programme," said Sue Paget, CEO of RFHA. The priority countries are Nigeria, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania,

Zambia and Malawi, with additional countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Niger to roll out later in 2023. The initial event across Nigeria was held around World Polio Day in October.

Working in collaboration and consultation has always been the cornerstone of how RFHA works and this new alliance is no different. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will work in collaboration with RFHA, Ministries of Health and GPEI partners in the identified countries to select districts where these Family Health Days can have an impact, in particular where there are polio outbreaks.

"It is because of this incredible opportunity that RFHA is now poised for the growth and development of this significant programme of scale through Africa and beyond. Integrating polio vaccinations and education with the services for preventive healthcare that RFHA already provides at our Rotary Family Health Days, means that this partnership will go a long way toward our united mission to improve the health of all," added Paget.

A capital destination



The host city of the 2023 Rotary International Convention is multiple cities rolled into one. You're going to need to start planning now to make the most of your visit.

●
By Meagan Martin

●
Photography by Rhys Martin

The vibrant and stately city of Melbourne is an Australian capital city in every sense of the word. ● Now, I understand that Canberra is Australia's federal political capital and Sydney its financial center. But if you dig into Melbourne's rich history and look closely at its many tourist attractions, you will discover that the home of the 2023 Rotary International Convention might easily claim the crown as Australia's culinary, cultural, sports and shopping capital, in addition to being the capital of the state of Victoria. ● In the leadup to the 2023 convention, we asked two Australians — *Rotary Down Under* magazine Editor Meagan Martin and her husband, creative director Rhys Martin — to test those claims. They got a friendly assist from several local Rotary members, who provided insider intel on their much-loved city on Australia's southeast coast. If their generosity is any indication, Melbourne may very well deserve another accolade: the capital of hospitality. Join us in Melbourne 27-31 May 2023 and find out for yourselves. — WEN HUANG

The culinary capital

● **VICTORIA'S ECONOMIC HUB**, Melbourne has been defined by decades no, make that centuries, of immigration. The city says it is home to some 140 cultures, from the state's original Indigenous population to a multitude of migrants from countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. As of 2021, about 36 percent of Greater Melbourne's residents had been born overseas.

Such diversity has contributed to a lively, varied and ever-evolving culture, which you notice most in the city's dining and drinking scene. Melbourne has more than 2 000 cafes and restaurants. Mix in lofty rooftop cocktail lounges, congenial Aussie pubs and hidden bars found in basements and alleyways and you get an embarrassment of riches.

In South Melbourne, Amanda Wendt, governor of District 9800 and a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, recommends a long lunch in the chic European bistro Bellota. Ad-

joining the Prince Wine Store, the restaurant says it has one of Melbourne's longest wine lists. Ask a knowledgeable staff member to walk you through the 3 000-some options to find the perfect selection. Lounge the day away over boards of charcuterie and cheese, platters of oysters and larger plates spanning European cultures.

"Bellota never disappoints," Wendt says. "Everything on the menu is amazing."

We'll let that whet your appetite. Watch for more on the city's foodie finds in an upcoming issue and on rotary.org.



Register now at
convention.rotary.org.
15 December is
the last day for the
early registration
discount.

The culture capital

● **MELBOURNE GAVE RISE TO** Australian Impressionism and Australian cinema - *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, often considered the world's first feature-length narrative film, was produced there - and in 2008, UNESCO selected it as a City of Literature. A 2017 census of live music venues in Greater Melbourne found that it boasts one venue for every 9 503 residents, making it arguably the live music capital of the world on a per capita basis. Its grand heritage architecture, dating from the earliest years of European settlement, stands elegantly side by side with bold, contemporary neighbours.

Those ingredients combined give Rotary Convention attendees their first look at Melbourne as an Australian cultural capital. Lift the curtain on your visit to the East End Theatre District and perhaps the city's most spectacular landmark, the Princess Theatre, which dates to 1854. ("It has no equal in London," gushed one British critic after the Princess was rebuilt from the ground up in the 1880s.) Nearby, Her Majesty's Theatre has a Victorian-era facade and an art deco auditorium, while the Regent Theatre, a former movie house, has been reimagined as a venue for some of the world's big-name theater productions.

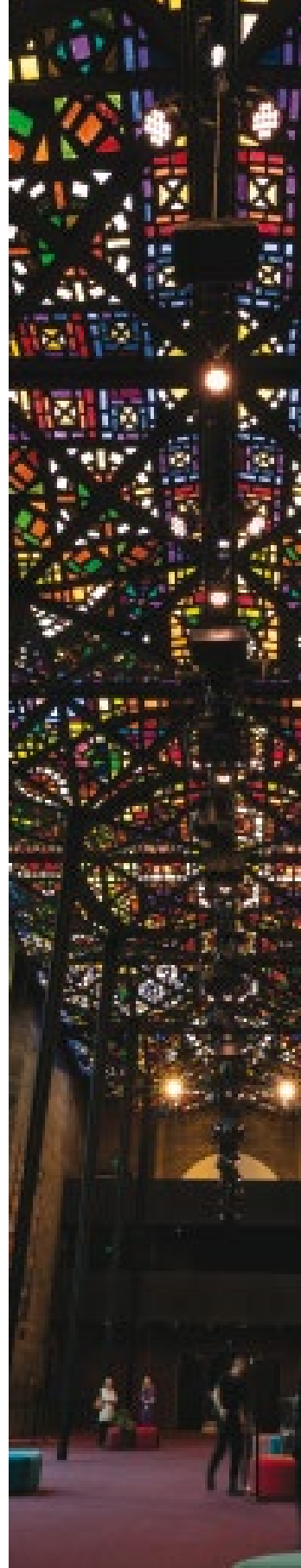
Across the street you will find the Athenaeum Theatre, which hosts performances of the Melbourne Opera and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. For a more casual experience, Jennie Franklin of the Rotary Club of Melbourne Passport recommends the Sun Theatre's open-air cinema in Williamstown. "Looking out across the bay, with a backdrop of the city lights, this is a wonderful place to catch up with friends," Franklin says.

Jamie Robertson of the Rotary Club of Footscray recommends State Library Victoria, which "has enough grandeur and quirkiness to please the most jaded traveller," he says. At the centre of the historic Carlton Gardens sits the ultramodern Melbourne Museum, which will host the convention's signature cultural welcome event on 27 May. "With its dinosaurs and dugout canoes, its stagecoaches and science exhibits, the museum provides a different perspective on Victoria's natural environment, cultures and history," says Dennis Shore, a vice chair of the convention's Host Organisation Committee and a member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn.

To learn more about local history, Michelle Crawford of the Rotary Club of Central Melbourne recommends a visit to the Koorie Heritage Trust, which promotes the art and culture of aboriginal Victoria. Or cruise down the Yarra River to Williamstown, Melbourne's first port settlement; you will find the Seaworks Maritime Museum and the Newport Railway Museum is in an adjacent suburb. "The views of Melbourne from Williamstown are spectacular, particularly as the sun sets on the city," says Crawford.

Generations of Melbourne residents and visitors from around the world have enjoyed Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, established in 1846. Nearby, the Shrine of Remembrance offers a moving insight into Australia's wartime history. Ascend the stairs to the balcony to enjoy panoramic views of Melbourne's skyline beyond the 250-plus memorial trees of the Shrine Reserve.

National Gallery of Victoria





A sampling of dishes at the Red Emperor restaurant

The sports capital

● **WITH MORE THAN 20** professional teams in the metropolitan area, Melbourne is sport crazy and has a dazzling array of venues to indulge that passion. Nine of these teams play Australian-rules football, invented in Melbourne in the late 1850s. In Mel-

bourne Park, the Rod Laver Arena, where the Rotary Convention's general sessions will take place, is the centre court for the Australian Open, the first of four annual Grand Slam tennis tournaments. The mighty Melbourne Cricket Ground is the largest stadium in the southern hemisphere and arguably Australia's sporting mecca. Flemington Racecourse is home to the Melbourne Cup (known as the race that stops the nation), it's the richest 2-mile handicap thoroughbred horse race in the world in terms of prizes.

Albert Park is the location of the Formula One Australian Grand Prix, a four-day motor sport extravaganza that uses everyday sections of road that circle Albert Park Lake. The rest of the year, locals and tourists alike enjoy this lakeside oasis. "Surrounding the lake are a number of picnic spots and restaurants, as well as the Albert Park Golf Course," says Matthew Proctor, a member of the Rotary Club of Albert Park. "It's a popular location for a relaxing walk or cycle. It also has a number of boating and fishing activities." And it's just a short tram ride or walk from St Kilda Beach, which Aviv Palti, president of the Rotary Club of Melbourne Passport, calls "one of the city's most vibrant and eclectic spots."

A 10-minute drive south of St Kilda will bring you to Brighton's Dendy Street Beach, a highlight for Maria Hicks, the Melbourne Passport club's charter president. "Over 100 years old, the beach's colorful bathing boxes evoke times past," Hicks says. "Walk south towards Green Point and you will find a hidden beach called Hol-loway Bay, a quiet, sheltered picnic spot."

If you prefer your motor sports on two wheels, head to scenic Phillip Island for the site of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix. For something completely different, check out the Phillip Island Penguin Parade, where thousands of little blue penguins dash home across the sand at sunset.



From top: Signs point the way at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG); Trent Rivers of the Melbourne Demons in action during the 2022 AFL Second Qualifying Final match; the MCG is the largest stadium in the southern hemisphere.





Left, from top: Mary Barry, chair of the 2023 Rotary International Convention Host Organisation Committee, in ACDC Lane; an exterior view of the Queen Victoria Market; meats for sale at the market

The shopping capital

● **TO SEE SOME MEMORABLE** Melbourne architecture and get a hit of retail therapy, explore the Block Arcade's high-end retail shops. For more shopping options, jump on a tram to the "Paris end" of town for an array of boutique outlets.

At the opposite end of the shopping spectrum is the 144-year-old Queen Victoria Market. With more than 500 vendors, the Queen Vic is a hive of activity spread across two city blocks. Begin your visit at the meat and fish hall, two long corridors of carnivorous chaos that offers everything needed to fulfill your wildest backyard barbie dreams.

Peter Shephard of the Rotary Club of Altona is a manager at the market and he says the dairy and produce hall is the place to try two must-eat treats. "No Queen Vic experience is complete without a stop at the Bratwurst Shop & Co.," he says. "Top that off with a savory Turkish [pastry] delicacy from the Borek Shop."

Along the Yarra River is the dining and shopping hotspot of Southbank. Some of the best shopping in Melbourne is on hand at the Crown complex, including designer brands such as Louis Vuitton, Prada and Salvatore Ferragamo. For unsurpassed city views, take the lift up to Melbourne Skydeck within Eureka Tower - which bills itself as the highest observation deck in the southern hemisphere.

A little further along the Yarra will bring you to South Wharf. Walk the promenade, lined with restaurants, bars, cafes and shops, and admire the historic Polly Woodside tall ship. South Wharf is also the location of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, where the Rotary Convention's House of Friendship and breakout sessions will be held.

With that, we've barely scratched the surface of all that Melbourne has to offer. It would take a lifetime to unearth all its treasures and secrets. But if you are looking for something a bit special to do during your time in Melbourne for the 2023 convention, just ask a friendly local Rotary member and find out first-hand why their city could be Australia's hospitality capital. ■



Melbourne's Chinatown



Top Row: Melbourne Museum, Italian cafe Brunetti, Hosier Lane street art.
Middle: Regent Theatre, Coombe Yarra Valley, Punch Lane Wine Bar & Restaurant.
Bottom: A busker in Melbourne, Thai restaurant Cookie.

Giving Tuesday: 29 November

During this season of giving, remember
The Rotary Foundation as your charity of choice.
A donation to our Annual Fund helps strengthen
communities close to home and around the globe.

GIVE TODAY: my.rotary.org/giving-tuesday



Babu Mhlinza with his new book trolley!

The book trolley that changed a town

When you live in a small town, you all inevitably get to know each other. It is usually at the local grocery shop where everybody meets. “Do we know each other?” someone will ask. “Must have seen you at the shop,” is the common reply.

In Mtunzini, nobody is as well-known as Babu Mhlinza. He is the man outside the shop who used to sell green avocados, guavadillas or whatever is in season and grows wild in our area. Beloved and always very friendly and as we later found out, an

avid reader.

A few years ago, the Rotary Club of Mtunzini (D9370) received two containers of books from the Second Wind Foundation. The club distributed the books to schools and libraries in the area. It was an ongoing process and very effectively ticked off the literacy responsibility that the club had as one of its goals. However, Babu allowed the club to add economic and community development to this project. Not only was he in need of books,

but the little town does not have a bookstore and since COVID-19, the choice offered by the local library had been exhausted.

After some creative thinking, a book trolley was designed and made for Babu. Errol Schlanders, a retired member and carpenter made the trolley and Jan Turner, a local artist, drew Zebra stripes. Aaron Ngubane, a handyman painted the trolley, and now the town has a second-hand bookstore and Babu is a very successful shop owner.

Quietly and without much fuss, the Rotary Club of Mtunzini made yet another small change to our town and the people who live and shop here.

Top: Babu Mhlinza and Rotarian Elize Viljoen with his book trolley. Right: Errol Schlanders and his son made the trolley.



Gifting books to Endlovini

At the bottom of a page in a 2022 diary is a quote by Joshua J Marine: “Challenges are what makes life interesting, overcoming them is what makes life meaningful”

And this certainly was the case at Endlovini Primary School in Obanjeni. While the school is located in one of the most picturesque areas, serving the children from the community, keeping it running is not without its challenges.

About a year ago, the Rotary Club of Mtunzini (D9370) received a request from Mrs Busisiwe Manaba, the library officer of the Endlovini Primary School, to assist in enhancing the library. Understanding the power of reading, she wanted to make it a haven for its learners. In rural communities where access to the internet is limited, books still play a massive role in entertainment and education.

Never shy to take on a challenge, the Rotary Club of Mtunzini’s members went to inspect and met with Mrs Manaba and the principal. The challenge to the school was not impossible to overcome.

With additional financial assistance from the Rotary Club of Cranbrook Sunrise (D5080, Canada), the club was able to have four bookcases and a table with two benches made. A colourful carpet of interlocking rubber mats was laid for the children to sit on in the reading corner, two new ceiling fans and some light bulbs were replaced in the library and books were brought in from the Rotary Club of Mtunzini Book Project.

For the first time in years, the Endlovini Primary School could give its learners what they have been dreaming about!

Beading brings hope

When South Africa and in particular eThekweni Metro in KwaZulu-Natal was hit by floods in April 2022, homes were washed away and families had to shelter indefinitely in community halls, churches and other communal areas.

Support from public and private organisations as well as NGOs consisted mainly of essentials like food, blankets, clothes and basic necessities. As time went on it became clear that those who had lost homes and were unemployed needed a more sustainable form of help.

Counselling sessions were held and 10 women agreed to be part of the Beading for Hope project. Thanks to the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370), which secured funding from the USA, training material was procured for 10 women to be taught to make beaded jewellery. The purpose was to engage the women in a therapeutic and creative activity that could lead to business opportunities.

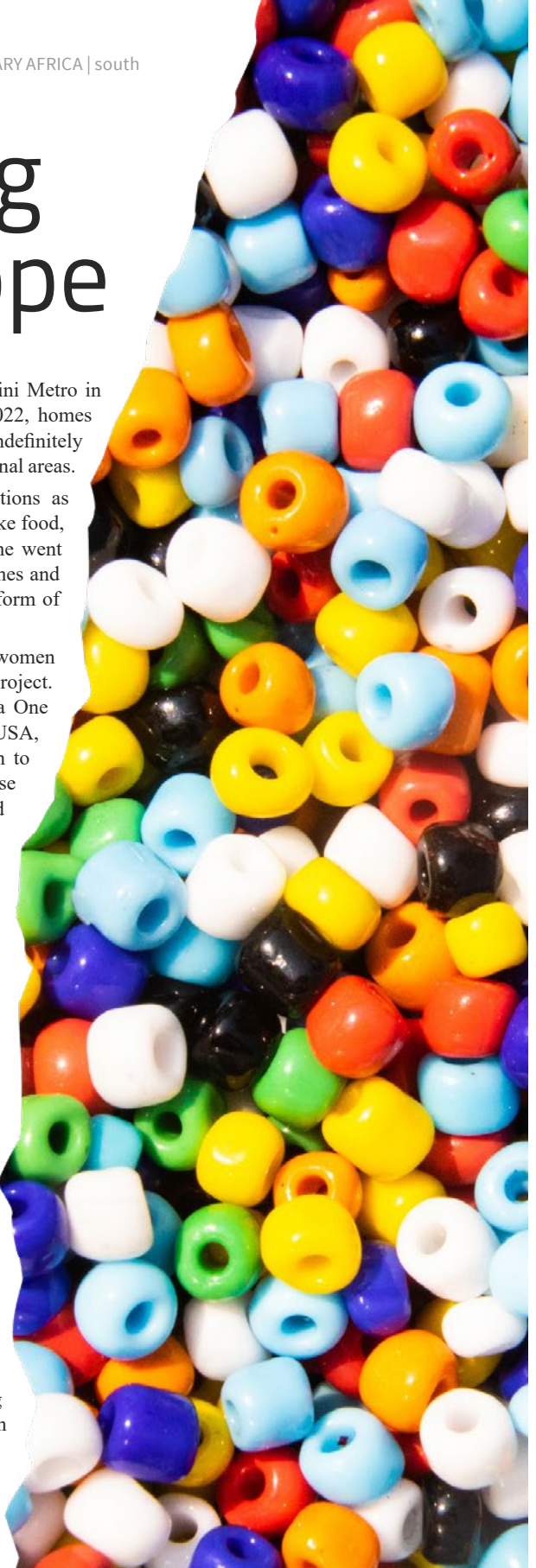
The first skill taught was beading with a loom. Each trainee was given a beading loom and completed a theory session before being taught how to thread the loom. They then learnt to string the beads through the loom before being paired up and given a design to complete.

The women were so motivated that by the time the facilitator and project coordinator arrived on the second morning, they had already started working on their pieces.

On day three, the trainer introduced a second way of beading, which was a free-hand method that did not need the loom.

When the course was completed, a mini graduation was held and each woman received a certificate of completion for beading with a loom at a beginner's level

The training had a positive impact on the women who mastered the skill within a short period of time. Future plans include enrolling them in intermediate level and subsequently, an advanced level of training.





Rotarians Maurice Stander and Betty Ramasalela during a recent food gardens training session.

Choice food gardens

The Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) has a successful Food Gardens Global Grant Project at Making, Segwashi and Spitzkop villages.

“We are very fortunate to have partnered with Choice Trust in Tzaneen which is a very professional organisation. The training we have witnessed at a recent practical course was absolutely fantastic, lots of fun for the participants who gained an obvious

understanding on how to be self-sustainable. This is what Rotary is about, changing lives and communities for the better. We sorely lacked the knowledge on the benefits of permaculture (the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient). We have learned a lot since the inception of this Food Gardens Global Grant Project,” said President Daria Gorbaszewicz.

Coming up...

21 APRIL 2023

ROTARY CLUB OF WORCESTER (D9350) The GiGi Classic Golf Day golf tournament for women who CANNOT play golf. Sign up for a day filled with loads of prizes and lots of laughs.

Contact: Juanita Wilkinson at juanitaw@breede.co.za.

Submit your Rotary club or district events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

Please include 'calendar' in the subject



DG Gavin Jepson gets a lesson in Makaton sign language.

A special DG visit

Our hearts were touched by the warmth of all the staff, and the love they portrayed towards their learners. To become a teacher at Cornerstone Learning Centre is a commitment to a calling to make a difference in the lives of these children and their families, *writes President Cathy De Boer, the Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370).*

District Governor Gavin Jepson and I were joined by Assistant Governor Rowan D'Arcy, Rotarians Wilma Lig and Mike Macrae and Friend of Rotary, Kay Macrae, for a visit to the centre. We were all warmly greeted at the school by the principal Tammy Smulders and founding principal Sheryl Mulder.

Cornerstone Learning Centre is an English medium school, catering for the needs of pupils diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or developmental delays, which prohibit them from benefiting from mainstream education. Classes are small with a ratio of five children to one educator or a maximum of 8 to 10 children in a class with an educator and teaching assistant. The school caters for children from the ages of three to 15 years.

The educators provide a safe, secure, caring, excellent and effective learning environment for pupils with autism or developmental delays where they can minimise their disability and maximise their ability.

The highlight of our visit was enjoying listening to the South African national anthem, Nkosi Sikelel

iAfrika. The anthem was sung beautifully and signed in Makaton with passion by the senior class. They also shared their poetry and dance items with us.

The Hibiscus Coast club has been involved with the school since 2014 and past projects have included the tiling of floors in the admin block, a donation to help fund the installation of swings and senior class jungle gym, the donation of a stove, fridge, laptop, flat monitors for the computer classes and the rethatching of two garden umbrellas.

This year, the club is helping to send principal Tammy Smulders to the Makaton Tutor Training in Cape Town in October 2022. Tammy is the only one in the province who was selected for the training and once qualified as a tutor, Tammy will be able to offer Makaton training in Port Shepstone without the need to hire trainers from Johannesburg or Cape Town.

Makaton signing helps autistic children who have delayed language development, as it makes communication easier for them.



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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.

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Leaders learning

Sixty-three Grade 11 learners from schools across KwaZulu-Natal and eight mentors attended the 57th annual Youth Leadership Course of the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).

An inspiring week of promoting better understanding and awareness was enjoyed by the learners who were from both private and public schools.

The course is organised and hosted by Port Shepstone's Rotarians in collaboration with Rotary clubs across the province. They are each invited to identify and sponsor one or two leaders from schools or Interact clubs in their community.

The young leaders also learn about Rotary's values and ethos while experiencing a jam-packed week of inspiring lectures, team-building activities, visits to local businesses and service organisations and meals at the homes of Rotarians. The evening activities allows for some unwinding and relaxation.

Healthy new friendships are also formed, providing a wonderful network of like-minded leaders and thinkers throughout the province to serve as a springboard for promoting better understanding and collaboration among schools and communities.





It's back and better than before!

After a three-year break, thanks to COVID-19, the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) youth committee was once again in a position to arrange the annual Senior Youth Leadership Course (SYLC).

The very first course was held 50 years ago in 1972 at Parktown Convent. Subsequent annual weekend courses were held at a fellow Rotarian's farm, Kloofwaters in the Magaliesberg and more recently, at Kadesh Barnea Campsite near Hartbeespoort Dam.

Invitations are sent to various Johannesburg schools for Grade 11





learners to attend the three-day course, at which their leadership skills are honed.

On Friday morning 32 learners arrived at Bryanston High School, where they were randomly divided into five groups. Their first assignment was to choose team names: Team Rio, The Silencers, The Rainbow Tree, The Band and The Alphas.

The Anns were at hand to feed the youngsters. Before heading out to the camp the groups were given a nominal amount of money to purchase all their food for Friday evening, Saturday breakfast, lunch and a three-course dinner that they had to prepare. The dinner was judged for nutritional value, taste, ambience, presentation and creativity.

The judges, President Ann Hope-Bailie, Jean Bernardo, Sonja Hood and Sybille Essmann were blown away by the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness that each group brought to the table and the competitiveness was evident.

Tyron Sharnock, who has been the facilitator for many years, once again agreed to take on this task. He had been on one of the courses and knew first-hand how valuable this leadership course can be. Team-building games like Monopoly, tower construction with straws and outside activities such as braving an obstacle course kept the learners very busy.



Rotary Africa
Magazine

*No Increase for
Jan-June 2023*

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Rotary Africa magazine subscriptions are billed bi-annually in January and July of each year. **We do not have access to ClubRunner or My Rotary and rely on clubs for member updates.**

Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records. Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

DEADLINES

20 December - Final day for updated subscriber list for
billing period January - June 2023

At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

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.





We love to read!

Sithanda Ukufunda|We Love to Read (SUWR) operates as a mobile library taking reading books to rural schools on the lower south coast of KZN and adjoining areas of the Eastern Cape. They aim to inspire a love of reading in the learners and to help enhance their literacy skills.

Meg Dickson, founder of the organisation and her team are responsible for packing more than 7 000 books into grade-specific boxes that get delivered to rural schools at the beginning of the term and then collected at the end of the term. The teachers are encouraged to keep the boxes in their classrooms, like a class library – so that there is always an opportunity to look at a book.

In addition to taking books to schools, they

have been engaging voluntary readers to go to the schools throughout the term, to read aloud in English to the learners.

Research recognises reading aloud as a crucial factor in enhancing the learning and understanding of a language. Assisting with concentration, building vocabulary, increasing communication skills, stimulating the imagination and creativity and enhancing social skills are among the positive results of reading aloud to children.

The Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370) is proud to be one of their supporters and would like to encourage others to learn more about the work they do by following them on Facebook or visiting their web page: www.sithanda-ukufunda.co.za

WE WANT YOUR CLUB NEWS

Celebrate your new club's achievements. Submit stories and photos of at least 1MB in size. Email them to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Life's a fest!

October is always a special month in Polokwane and this year started in a more spectacular manner than usual. The Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400) not only held its annual Oktoberfest but combined it with a day-long Business Expo at the Pietersburg Civil Airport.

Many local businesses and several international companies had outdoor exhibits that ranged from air-conditioning to water management. These exhibits enabled the public to interact informally with company representatives, obtain detailed product information and discuss ideas regarding special applications.

The expo included stalls selling biltong, jewellery and other items, displays of cars, trucks, heavy machinery and the ever-popular exhibit, the almost 100 vintage and classic motor cars of the Limpopo Classic Car Club. The cars ranged



from a beautifully restored 1909 Model T Ford to modern sports and luxury models; with several that evoked fond memories of days gone by. A variety of food to tempt every palate was available and as the day was quite warm, the beer garden was very popular.

The evening was rounded off with a traditional 'German style Oktoberfest' with live music supplied by an 'Oompa Band' playing late into the night. Platters of cold meats, cheese and pretzels, along with other light refreshments were available to accompany the essential liquid sustenance.

The expo was so well received that it was suggested that it be repeated several times a year. It was organised by the Rotarians of Pietersburg 100 and raised funds for its many outreach programmes. These programmes include assisting several old age homes, help groups and shelters in and around Polokwane as well as numerous crèches and child-care organisations.

AFRICA IN BRIEF

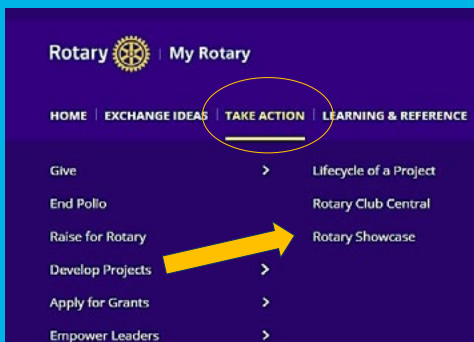


Members of the Rotary Club of Hout Bay (D9350) helped marshal at the Cape Town Marathon. Mhinti and Ricky Pato of Sakhisizwe successfully managed the Hout Bay marshals and coped with last minute, pre-dawn challenges. This event was another joint operation between the IY Team and the Rotary Club of Hout Bay and resulted in a cash injection into 57 households in an informal settlement where the majority is unemployed.



DG Tracey Wilson and AG Claire du Plessis visited the Rotary Club of George (D9350) and its Carpe Diem veggie project. Afterwards the group went to the George Homeless Shelter where the club is busy with various projects to upgrade the quality of life for the homeless folk who make use of this facility.

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' and other projects. This will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!



The Rotary Club of White River (D9400) and Detroit Spur Steak Ranch in Nelspruit, supported the Meerhof School from Hartbeespoort and gave each of the children a burger meal. Meerhof is a school for disabled children which during an annual trip to the Kruger National Park stops for a lunch organised by the club.



The Rotary Club of Helderberg's (D9350) Rotary Ann Ingrid Edelson visited Tobias Gillen while on holiday in Germany. Tobias was a Rotary Exchange Student in 1994/95 and the two remained in contact for the 27 years since then. While visiting him, she attended a Rotary meeting in Düsseldorf where Tobias is a member. Ingrid gave a short talk on her activities as a Rotary Ann and what her club still manages to achieve regardless of its members' ages. With Tobias Gillen are Ingrid Edelson and President Hagen Lippe-Weissenfeld.



The Rotary Club of Durban-Clairwood Park (D9370) sponsored a security hut at the Umgeni Road Temple after soaring crime levels in the area necessitated the need for an on-site guard.



The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) donated a tennis racquet, tennis shoes and clothing to a promising tennis player who had been playing in his school shoes with a borrowed tennis racquet.



Neil McDonald, CEO of Khanya Hospice, received a donation from the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370). The hospice relies on the kind hearts of people and businesses to support it. The donation will enable the hospice staff to continue to help the less fortunate whom they meet daily in their line of work.



District Governor Koekie Makunyane-Quashie (D9400) visited the Rotary Club of Gaborone and some of its projects. During the club visit she addressed Rotarians at their fellowship lunch, where she also congratulated its surviving charter member Reg Loo, who joined the club in 1972. Project visits included tours of the Pula Sports and Stepping Stones projects.

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Aerobics Against Polio



Rotary Club of Luanshya (D9210) and its annual Aerobics Against Polio fundraiser in partnership with Kanoche Gymnasium.





The Rotary Club of Ficksburg (D9370) held Rotary Wellness Days and a Polio Day at Jesse Polyclinic, Maputsoe in October. Children were screened for nutritional status and vaccinated against all childhood diseases, including polio.



The Rotary Club of White River (D9400) had a fundraiser that enjoyed great support from the White River community. Guests enjoyed live music and a delicious meal under the trees at the Uplands White River Pavilion. Proceeds will support the Hospice in White River and other Rotary projects.

NEW PRESIDENTS



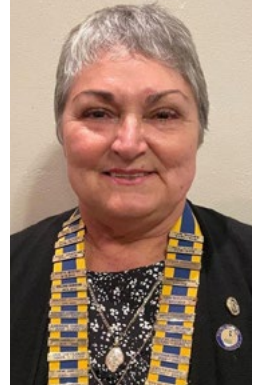
Simon Matthews
Kenton on Sea, 9370



Douglas Nyakungu
Chiradza, Chipinge, 9210



George Coon
Knysna, 9350



Petro Horne
Port Alfred, 9370



Susan van der Merwe
Polokwane, 9400



Litsoanelo Moiloa
Mantsopa-Maseru, 9370



Andre Schrier
Bonza Bay, 9370



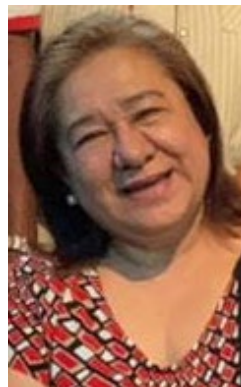
Raimar von Hase
Swakopmund, 9350



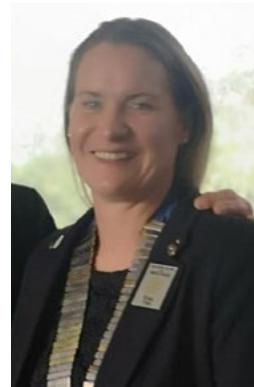
Deon Erasmus
Paarl, 9350



Celeste Lance
Vanderbijlpark, 9400



Julie Polo Lamsis - Kruger,
Luanshya, 9210



Elsa Fryer,
White River, 9400

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WALL OF HONOUR



Vassie Haripersad and Kuben Pather are new members of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370).



Butch Coetzee was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370).



Cornelius Mofokeng is a new member of the Rotary Club Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Riana Appel is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Liesel Muhl received a Paul Harris recognition from the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



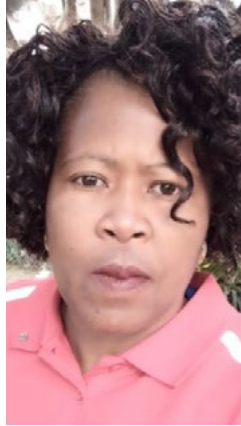
Rudy Dupont and Marlo Laubscher are new members of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350). With them is President Deon Erasmus (centre).



Ashleigh Venter, Michanda Rheeder, Arnomi Odendaal and JF Bosch are new members of the Rotary Club of Aliwal North (D9370).



Jeanette Steyn Nortje was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Zandile Keshwa is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Mali Sewell is a new member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



Mike Hiron was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Durban (D9370).

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Nkululeko Mjola, Wiam Haddid, Randy Makgoba and Johan Jacobsz are new members of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400).



Curry Letsoalo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400).



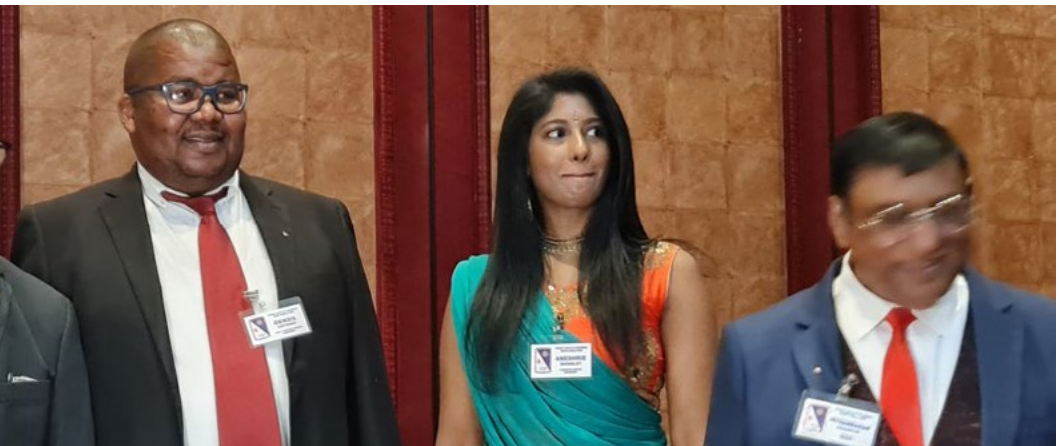
Denton 'Mac' Richardson received a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Bonza Bay (D9370).



Rob Hogg was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



Sidney Govindsamy was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Durban-Clairwood Park (D9370).



Denzil Antonio, Aneshrie Moodley and Pethambram Francis are new members of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).

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