

SEPTEMBER 2021

# Rotary

AFRICA | south



# Contents

4	Welcome
5	President's Message
6	Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
7	Changemakers
11	Convention Countdown
12	Good Business
15	Membership Society
16	Women Rocking Rotary
18	Rotary Responds
29	Coming Up
32	Knocking On Opportunity's Door
33	Together, We Do More
34	A Chance Meeting
35	Service and Soccer
36	Youth News
37	Africa In Brief
40	New Presidents
41	Wall of Honour

Order Online!

Rotary   
OFFICIAL LICENSEE

# HONOUR YOUR BRAND

*This winter.*



Ignition Fleece Jacket  
SKU: RT-4931

Cromwell Softshell Jacket  
▶ SKU: RT-1008



Knitted Scarf  
▼ SKU: C026



▼ Pinnacle Beanie  
SKU: RT-5650

*Brand your winter gear when you order from the only licensed vendor in SA.*



**PROMO WORLD**

SHOP INSTORE OR ONLINE

Contact our dedicated Rotary account manager

<https://merchadisestore.co.za/rotary>

 [rotary@promoworld.co.za](mailto:rotary@promoworld.co.za)  +27114550078

## Our Team

**Editor:**

Sarah van Heerden

**Administration:**

Sharon Robertson

**Directors:**

Greg Cryer  
 Andy Gray  
 Peter Hugo  
 Natty Moodley  
 Annemarie Mostert  
 Lee-Ann Shearing

**Publisher:**

Rotary in Africa

**Reg. No:** 71/04840/08 (incorp. association not for gain)

**PBO No:** 18/13/13/3091  
 Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

**Design & Layout:** Rotary in Africa

**Printers:** ROC Media

**Advertising:**

Sharon Robertson  
 Sarah van Heerden  
 Tariff card on request at  
[www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com)

**Subscriptions:** Sharon Robertson  
[www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com) (digital)

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

Distributed to Rotary Districts 9210, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9220, 9350, 9370 and 9400 (Southern and Eastern Africa)

**Postal address:** PO Box 563  
 Westville, 3630  
 South Africa

**Telephone:** +27 (31) 267 1848

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

**www.rotaryafrica.com**

*The Rotary Emblem, Rotary International, Rotary, Rotary Club and Rotarian are trademarks of Rotary International and are used under licence. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of Rotary Africa, Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation*

## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

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



# WELCOME



Sarah van Heerden  
**Editor**

*In August, the Chairman of the Rotary Africa Board of Directors, PDG Gerald Sieberhagen, died suddenly. Gerald served as a director of Rotary Africa for more than a decade. He and I had become a team over the years and worked closely together. Below is a copy of the eulogy I posted the day he died. I think this says it all.*

Wow, Gerald, I don't think you know what a hole you have left behind!

I first met Gerald in, well about this time of the year in 2008, when I was interviewed to become the permanent editor of Rotary Africa. He terrified me!

Over the years he became a huge part of my life. He joined the team of proofreaders and then later was elected as chairman of the board, a position he could not escape – because he was good at it!

What made him so good at it, what made him a force to be reckoned with, what made him an amazing Rotary member and what made anyone who was presenting any financials or reports hesitate when they saw him in the audience, was probably what made Gerald, Gerald – his steadfast conviction in right and wrong. You simply do the right thing, and don't try to smudge the lines... Because he would notice!

There are very few people I know whose convictions are as steadfast and admirable as his were. Some saw him as grumpy (and sometimes he was), but he really had no time to waste when something needed to be done.

He was humble too. I remember we were discussing someone who was set in their ways, but very aggressive and combative. He said to me, "But I am set in my ways, is that how you see me?" I replied, very honestly, "No. You are set in your ways, but you are kind, and they are not. You argue for what's right." What was more admirable was that if you could present a reasonable argument to Gerald and show him that he was wrong or there was another way, he would agree with you.

He was 82, but I never saw him as any older than 60. He might have aged, but his intelligence and wit were still razor sharp.

Over the years we frustrated each other, argued, and laughed. We had ins and outs, but I never stopped admiring him or asking his opinion.

His attention to detail was remarkable and I knew whenever he called and said, "Have you seen this XYZ and what do you think?", that there was something bothering him. He had spotted something that was incorrectly done. And you know what – after nearly 14 years of proofreading meetings and phone calls – he was almost always right!

Yes, he had a mind like a steel trap. I never ended a conversation with Gerald without learning something new or re-evaluating how I viewed a situation. But what a lot of people who did not know him that well didn't realise, was that Gerald was a man with huge heart and great compassion.

Do you know that my go-to-expert in the field of reusable sanitary pad



*This is how I remember Gerald! He used to sign his emails, 'Have FUN,' and he meant it!*

distribution projects was an 80+ year-old man? Yes, Gerald! If he saw a problem and could solve it, he would! It was something we laughed about in one of our proofreading meetings. That he, a man in his 80s, knew everything there was to know about getting reusable pad kits to girls and getting them to use them!

Laughter. That was another great thing about Gerald, you could have mind-bendingly intelligent conversations with him, but he was also darn funny. He had the driest sense of humour and could make me laugh until my stomach cramped.

He was also mischievous; I remember thinking he must have been fun in school. As his humour was so dry, I often did not know when he was joking. It was worse over the phone, because at least in person I could look for the little naughty twinkle while he waited for me to catch on... and then, the chuckle as he called me slow!

After we changed the Rotary Africa board meetings and AGMs to include online attendance some years ago, it became a regular occurrence (it really should've been an actual agenda item) for Gerald to raise a piece of Sharon's millionaire's shortbread, show it off to all the virtual attendees and remind us that had we been there, we could have had some!

But that was also where his kindness shone. I remember he kept a few pieces of that shortbread in his freezer and delivered them to a board member in the Western Cape. He would also do things like tell me to look out for certain people at events and

give them his regards. He would fill me in on their backgrounds and what made them stand out.

Gerald loved sport and I remember getting a call from him, one of my first one-on-one encounters with him in probably 2009, telling me I had to go to Kloof Country Club and take photos of cricket. Rotarians from around the world, who were members of the Cricket Fellowship, were holding a tournament at the club. Gerald explained the whole thing to me, probably worried because I mentioned that I am rubbish at sports reporting. Gerald told me how they score in runs and walks; the walks were scored by the older players who were too old to run... and that he was still a runner!

He was an excellent judge of character and even when I disagreed with him about his views of a person, over time he was always proved right – it was frustrating!

There are so many stories and memories. I could go on forever. But I am worried that he is sitting up there, reading this, and correcting my writing... unless he is debating with the angels, watching rugby or enjoying a nice Chardonnay!

This was not his time to go.

We were not, and are not, ready to say goodbye.

Gerald, you were a force of nature, role model, sounding board, sparring partner and a really good man. The world would be a much better place if we had more of you and is worse off without you.

We will miss you, Gerald. Terribly.

# President's message

## Greetings, my dear changemakers,

I am sure you are having an enriching experience as you Serve to Change Lives. One of the ways you can make the greatest change in a person's life is to help them learn to read. Literacy opens up the world to us. It makes us better informed about life in our own communities and opens vistas to other cultures. Reading and writing connects people and gives us another way to express our love for one another.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 percent of the world's adult population - 762 million people - lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtaining better housing, health care, and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle



Shekhar Mehta,  
Rotary International President (2021/22)

with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Starting this month, consider how your club can Serve to Change Lives through literacy: Support local organisations that offer free programmes to support adult literacy or local language learning, or that provide teachers with professional development centred around reading and writing. Become literacy mentors, or work with an organisation like the Global Partnership for Education to increase learning opportunities for children around the world. Have conversations with local schools and libraries to see how your club can support their existing programs or help create needed ones in your community.

In India, the TEACH programme, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

Shekhar Mehta



# Foundation Trustee Chair

John Germ

Malala Yousafzai is a young Pakistani activist for the education of girls and women. As a teenager, Malala, whom the world knows by her first name, courageously spoke out for the rights of girls to learn. Extremists in her country disagreed with Malala, and she was shot by a Taliban gunman on her way home from school.

But the attack didn't dissuade her; it made her more determined. As soon as she recuperated, she resumed her mission of education activism. Today the Malala Fund supports education through projects around the world. Not only is Malala an inspiration for Rotary members, we also have some commonalities: a drive to do what is right, a passion for literacy, and the power to transform dreams into reality.

One of my life mottos is: If you can dream it, you can do it. This applies to everything Rotarians do, particularly with The Rotary Foundation. We literally make our dreams happen.

Like Malala, we know that literacy is, for many, the first step out of poverty. To put our vision into action, we should first understand a community and the unique problems of its members, and then form a partnership with them. Next, we join forces with others - exchanging ideas with clubs

in other districts and working with people and organisations outside of Rotary.

Our solution, in the form of a district grant or global grant, will be tailored for that community. And if it's a Rotary grant, you can bet it will be well-planned, strategic, and most of all, sustainable. We want that gift of literacy not to be a one-time book donation but a plan to transform a community over time.

Over the years, I have seen countless literacy efforts in Rotary, from national programmes to local projects. When the global COVID-19 pandemic hit last year, many clubs took action to help communities adjust to online schooling, including providing laptop computers. Rotary's solutions are endless, our volunteers tireless. And if I know Rotarians, I know that more solutions are being created as I write these words.

Rotary's passion for literacy and education projects is well-known. So is our commitment to make them happen. You, through Rotary, are a big part of helping people take their first step out of illiteracy, out of poverty, and into something much better. Remember, if you can dream it, you can do it - just like Malala.

## Rotary at a glance

- Rotary clubs:** 36 932
- Members:** 1 197 984
- Rotaract clubs:** 10 214
- Members:** 220 703
- Interact clubs:** 16 163
- Members:** 371 749
- RCCs:** 11 682

As at 18 June 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease





# Changemakers

**ROTARY GOVERNORS' COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
CHAIRMAN, PDG PATRICK COLEMAN**

Humour is a funny thing... No, not “funny” as in “Ha ha.” Funny as in difficult to actually describe or define. Even the spelling is confusing. Americans spell it humor, while the English-speaking world uses humour. Yet, humorous is accepted in British English while humourous is flagged as incorrect spelling! Who made up that rule? I don’t know... As I said, it is a difficult subject

For instance, depending on how the word is used, it can either mean the quality of being amusing or comic (especially in literature or speech) or simply to comply with the wishes of someone in order to keep them content, regardless of how reasonable said wishes may be.

The first is a good kind of humour... The second is often a matter of taking the “easy way out” of a difficult situation.

Sometimes humour is used to express a truth in a way to avoid conflict in a serious situation. Winston Churchill once remarked, “A joke is a very serious thing.” He was a master of the art of ‘serious humour’ and using it in his diplomatic interactions. One of his most famous comments was, “Tact is the ability to tell someone to go to hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip.” Yes, he could be humorous when being serious.

I remember playing records (yes, those vinyl discs that seem to have come back into style) of

Bob Newhart and Richard Pryor and laughing for hours about learning how to drive or a trip to the dentist.

Some people can be incredibly funny without saying much as all. Rowan Atkinson is hilarious as Mr Bean. Unfortunately, Mr Atkinson recently revealed that he will be retiring from the character that made him famous for more than 30 years. “I don’t much enjoy playing him. The weight of responsibility is not pleasant. I find it stressful and exhausting, and I look forward to the end of it,” the actor said in an interview with British weekly magazine Radio Times. Imagine! Being “funny” is exhausting!

We have seen others in the field of humour who have dealt with serious bouts of depression. The world was stunned by the suicide of one of the funniest entertainers in my lifetime – Robin Williams. He made literally millions of people laugh out loud while dealing with personal and emotional demons that led him to take his own life.

As sad as this is, it is also a warning for all of us to talk TO people – not just at them. Bring joy and laughter into the lives of those around us as we accept the joy and laughter from them.

The late Eric Marques (Past District 9210 Governor) was just such a personality. Eric could walk into a room and bring a smile to everyone



there. He was known as Mr Wonderful because he saw life as wonderful. He loved people just because he could and cared for the unfortunate child as if that child was his own.

In 1999 he asked me to compile a book of jokes and humorous stories. He said, “During a Rotary District Conference in Pietersburg, South Africa, I was requested to report to the conference on the discussions of the workshop I attended. I felt very privileged to be asked to do so, but not having done anything like that before, I was anxious to share with all the participants, the excitement of the experience rather than the content. As I faced some three hundred delegates, the only words that came out of my mouth were, ‘Before I speak, I want to say something’.” That, of course, not only broke the ice for Eric at that conference, but also gave him the courage to really share his Rotary passion for the decades since in his speeches and presentations. He went on from that first speech to represent Zimbabwe and District 9210 in Rotary circles around the globe including his home country of Portugal as the honorary consul in Zambia. His ability to smile and bring joy into almost any situation made him a Changemaker in his community – both locally and internationally.

We sold those little books all over the Rotary World and raised several thousand dollars for The Rotary Foundation!

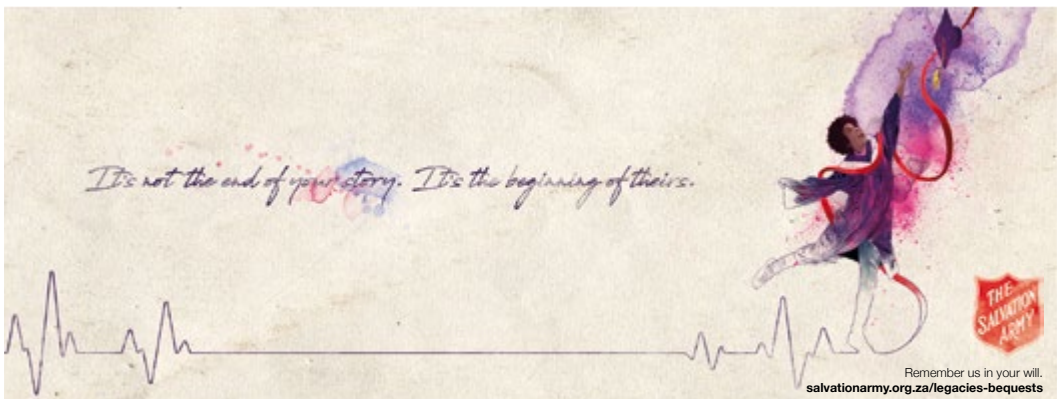
Yes, he changed me as well. When situations seem dire and choices are everything from bad to worse, I remember my friend and realise that life is “WONDERFUL” and move forward. Through our simple book project, I saw humour as a means of encouragement and hope.

The world is filled with violence and suffering. It has been so for generations. In all of these times there have been people who work to bring smiles, joy, and hope to a discouraged world.

Be a Changemaker. Help someone smile today!



PDG Eric Marques commissioned PDG Patrick Coleman to compile a ‘funny’ book!





**Rotary**   
姫路ロータリークラブ



# ONE VOICE. EVERY CLUB.

No matter where you are in the world or what language you speak, the Rotary logo is universal. It's what unites us and the impact we have around the world.

Rotary clubs can tap into the strength of this connection by using a consistent club logo. Because the more unified our voice is, the greater our impact will be.

Visit [rotary.org/brandcenter](http://rotary.org/brandcenter) to get started.

Evanston  
Lighthouse  
**Rotary**   
Club




**Rotary**   
Club de Vargem  
Grande Paulista



**Rotary**   
District 3790



 **Find Project Partners**

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

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

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



# CULTURAL BONANZA

2022 Rotary International Convention

Whether you are drawn to classical art or contemporary, to photography or architecture, Houston has a museum for you. During the 2022 Rotary International Convention 4-8 June, plan a day trip to the city’s museum district: Its 19 museums include the Contemporary Arts Museum; the Menil Collection, a 30-acre campus featuring free and fully accessible galleries; and the Children’s Museum Houston, one of the best of its kind in the United States.

With nearly 70 000 art pieces spread across three buildings - which are connected by interactive art tunnels - the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, ranges from ancient art to 20th-century sculptures by Henri Matisse and Joan Miró. It isn’t possible to view it all in one visit, so pace yourself and plan for what you most want to see.

The Rothko Chapel, commissioned by John and Dominique de Menil, who were known as pioneers of Houston’s art scene, has been a must-see destination since it opened its doors in 1971. Its 14 large abstract paintings by Mark Rothko and its intentional architectural choices are meant to provoke spiritual exploration and social change.

Ready to reconnect with nature? Head to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, where you can take a stroll through the Cockrell Butterfly Centre, peek underneath the Rainforest Conservatory’s waterfall, and listen to entomologists speak about the plethora of creatures on display. And if you’ve always been curious about what cricket chips taste like, you’re in luck - just grab a snack from the insect vending machine.

*Learn more and register at [convention.rotary.org](http://convention.rotary.org).*

# Good business

A fellowship celebrating Rotary's networking roots

Professional networking has been part of Rotary since our earliest days. "Part of being Rotarians doing business with each other is that we assume we are all going to follow The Four-Way Test," says Mark Burchill, a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, California. "So, there's a level of trust."

Burchill is the chair of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship, which was established in 2013 to celebrate and encourage networking among members and between clubs. The fellowship has expanded to include more than 120 chapters, with many of the chapters covering an entire district.

Two of its biggest growth areas have been in India and South America. Nicolás Juan Cánepa Arigón, a member of the Rotary Club of Montevideo, Uruguay, and leader of the Uruguay chapter of Rotary Means Business, notes that several Latin American chapters have recently joined forces - "a great forum that will unite most of southern America, from Mexico to Argentina" - to promote the value of the fellowship to clubs in other countries.

"Rotary Means Business is attractive to younger members," Burchill says. "A lot of the younger people whom Rotary is trying to attract don't have a lot of extra time. If they can consolidate Rotary and business networking, they're more likely to join a Rotary club."

- KRIS VIRE



## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

**"HAVING FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS** open to both Rotarians and non-Rotarians has made it very easy to recruit new Rotary members. Once a non-member attends and meets Rotarians - who tend to be ethical, helpful, courteous, upstanding, and successful business people - they realise that these are the kind of people they want to associate with, and they soon ask: 'How can I join Rotary?'"

- **Bill Fishman, Rotary Club of White Plains, New York**

**"WE SAW MANY** non-Rotarians coming in as guests for our fellowship meetings, looking forward to introducing themselves and their business to our members. Very quickly they realised the potential and quality of members of this fellowship and wanted to be part of it. Many of our guests soon became members of one of the Rotary clubs in the district. Usually, they join the club of the Rotarian who invited them to the meeting initially."

- **Rajamohan Dhandapani, Rotary Club of Coimbatore North, India**

**"A CHAPTER WAS** launched recently in India - RMB Rotaract Madurai - which is a purely Rotaract chapter. Another chapter that I know in India approaches many Rotaract entrepreneurs to become members of the fellowship, to encourage them to become full-time Rotarians in the near future."

- **Sachin Gururaj, Rotary Club of Bangalore Oasis, India**

Rotary Means Business encourages members to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them and referring others to them. Learn more at: [rotarymeansbusiness.org](http://rotarymeansbusiness.org).

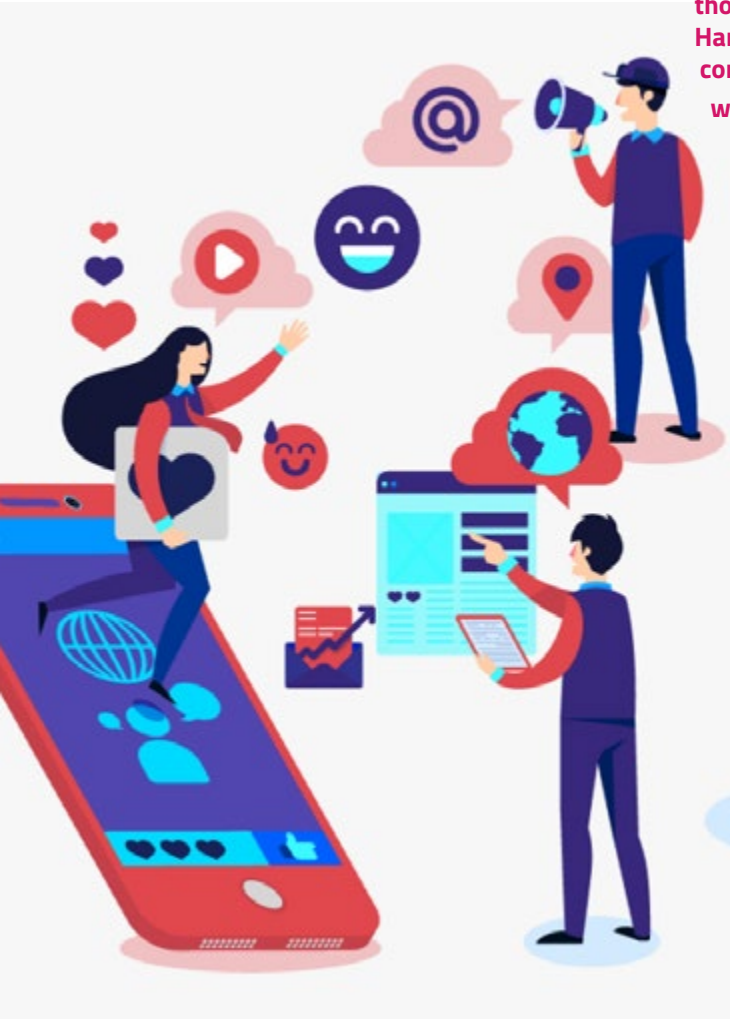


**“Rotary Means Business is a parallel way to connect with other Rotarians. It’s a way to get to know about their expertise as professionals.”**

- Claudia Arizmendi, Rotary Club of Hermosillo Milenio, Mexico

**“Networking is building relationships based in integrity. These relationships are built in layers, and when given the opportunity to grow, they are beneficial to both Rotary and the individual club member. I believe that this was the thought process that our founder, Paul Harris, had back in 1905. He successfully combined professional networking with service and fellowship.”**

- Linda Kemp, Rotary Club of Aurora, Illinois



## VALUE ADDED

**“YOU CAN COUNT** on the Rotary Means Business team in your region to encourage the development of a fair and ethical professional network. Use our services - we are here to help!”  
- Leonardo Santos

**“FOR THE PRESIDENTS** and committee chairs of Rotary clubs today, having a Rotary Means Business member in their club means having the keys to be able to execute anything that their members require or request. For every action that requires contacts, consulting a member of our group is bound to increase your impact.” - Nicolás Juan Cánepa Arigón

**“I HAVE SEEN** fellowship members connect with other Rotarians with whom they can create service projects based on their professions and the gifts and talents they carry with them. Just one small comment during a conversation can set the momentum for future service projects and professional opportunities.” - Linda Kemp

**“THE FELLOWSHIP IS** all about fostering business relationships within Rotary and in the community. I have seen this happen repeatedly over the years that I have led my chapter. It produces stronger local businesses, which leads to stronger Rotarians, then stronger clubs, which leads to a stronger Rotary and Rotary Foundation.” - Bill Fishman

**“In many clubs in South America, we realise that we often sit next to people, have dinner or lunch, and perform service projects. But we do not know what this person’s profession is. Why? I can’t say exactly. What we are doing in the fellowship is encouraging Rotarians to make professional connections - valuing the professional services of their peers, and especially providing references for their peers.”**

- Leonardo Santos, Rotary E-Club de Motociclistas, Brazil



# GROWING MEMBERSHIP INCREASES THE GOOD WE CAN DO!

## **Introducing the Membership Society for New Member Sponsors**

To recognize those who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and success in growing our membership, we have launched a new recognition program. The Membership Society for New Member Sponsors is a virtual gallery for those members who have sponsored 25 or more new members.

**Visit [rotary.org/membershipsociety](https://rotary.org/membershipsociety)**





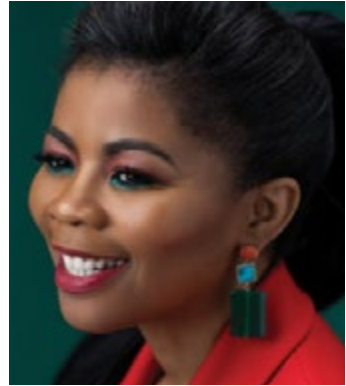
# Women Rocking Rotary

This month, we start a membership series that profiles dynamic men and women Rotary and Rotaract club members in Africa. Clubs that wish to have members featured can email [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).

Rotary offers a platform for ordinary women to do extraordinary things. Working with like-minded peers, they build on each other's strengths and their diversity to enhance the lives of individuals and the communities they live in, and this is also reflected in the membership of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400.

The direct contribution of women in the E-Club has delivered phenomenal results in recent years, with women like Professor Puleng LenkaBula (the Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa), Dionne Collett (Founder and Director of Take Note Reputation Management), Natalia Rosa (Managing Director of Big Ambitions Marketing) and Makumya M'membe (law student).

**PROFESSOR PULENG LENKABULA** is the first female Principal and Vice-Chancellor of UNISA, since its establishment 148 years ago. She has many years of managerial experience in higher education and was Vice-Rector of Institutional Change, Student Affairs and Community Engagement at the University of the Free State. Puleng has also held many different management positions at different institutions. In addition, her work has been internationally revered, and she is a board member on the local ecumenical and academic formations, including the Council for the Development of Social Sciences Research in Africa (CODESRIA), She recently addressed the Rotary District 9370 Conference in Lesotho.



**DIONNE COLLETT** is the Founder and Director of Take Note Reputation Management and an expert and leader in marketing and branding. She was born in Nairobi and has a passion for all things Africa. Dionne has always been captivated by the tourism and hospitality sector, where she has been involved in various roles, including operations, sales, and marketing. She is a District 9400 Public Image Committee member who will oversee Reputation Management for the District and she recently participated with her colleague and new Rotarian Natalia Rosa as strategic partners in the Centennial conference.

**MAKUMYA M'MEMBE (M'AX)** is an entertainer best known for her debut album "Based on a True Story" and her award-winning radio shows on TuksFM. M'ax is drawn to and has participated in various forms of entertainment including singing, acting, dancing, YouTube content creation and radio presenting. M'ax is a District 9400 Public Image Committee member and will be hosting video interviews for the district in 2021/2022. M'ax says she is excited and honoured to be part of the committee. "It's directly aligned with my abilities and having grown up seeing powerful, strong women being involved and doing work through Rotary, I'm finally inspired to know that it's my turn to also make a contribution and give back."







**NTHABISENG KHOZA** would like to think of herself as a conscientious hard worker, which enticed her passion for entrepreneurship. She participated in various youth programmes facilitated by the Golden Institute of Business Science (GIBS) in 2004, which inspired her to further her studies in business. In 2007, she attained an International Diploma in Business issued by the NCC Education from the London School of Business and Management. She completed her BCom (Hons) degree in Business with the University of Greenwich through the CTI education group in 2009 and two years later, started her own business doing Facilities Management for municipalities and helped run family businesses. She has also partnered up on other business ventures including Events Management and Space and Interior design. Since becoming a mother, more and more focus leaned towards the home front, but she still continues to work on projects that come around.

**NATALIA ROSA** is the Founder and Managing Director of Big Ambitions, a specialist content and communications agency, connecting companies with their customers through innovative content marketing, digital marketing, public relations and strategic marketing. Along with Dionne, Natalia is one of the founding members of a pro bono initiative called South Africa is Travel Ready to shine a spotlight on South Africa’s tourism sector through COVID and uplift the tourism community which has been deeply affected by the pandemic. She also joins the District 9400 Public Image Committee as an expert in content and public relations and looks forward to contributing to special Rotary initiatives, such as Empowering Girls.



## Meet Stanford’s Ansie!

Ansie Reitsma’s passion is making sure there is food for the poor, disadvantaged and elderly. It’s something she learnt from her parents and as she says it was a natural extension of growing up in a big family.

Soon after arriving in Stanford in 2000, Ansie met Junetta Rooi of Anchor Ministries who shared her interest in feeding the hungry. When the Rotary Club of Stanford (D9350) was chartered in 2008, with Ansie as one of the charter members, the Rotary relationship with Stanford Soup Kitchens began. The Stanford South communities have the greatest respect and gratitude for Ansie and it is largely due to her that they trust Rotary today.

Ansie is a hard-working and dedicated Rotarian, having fulfilled posts such as Secretary and President, and has also been recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow.

A few people know that Ansie is an excellent swimmer and represented South Africa as a Springbok in the 1970s. She is an avid reader and collects cookery books, especially old ones. Her collection includes more than 1 000 books.



Eighteen months ago, the world ground to a halt, and for one brief moment, Rotary paused along with it. In March 2020, as many African countries prepared to enter a hard lockdown, our magazine stopped production to redesign pages to include a newly written message from 2019/20 RI President Mark Maloney.

# ROTARY RESPONDS

“Throughout early March, the news about COVID-19 became increasingly serious throughout the world,” he explained. “We asked all Rotary districts and clubs to curb face-to-face meetings until further notice and to hold virtual meetings instead.” Then Maloney kicked things back into gear: “The world is changing rapidly,” he wrote, “and so must Rotary. Our adaptability and strength will help us navigate this experience.”

Rotarians everywhere responded to Maloney’s call to action. In some cases, they had even anticipated it. By the time that issue landed in mailboxes, many clubs had already shifted to virtual meetings, and members worldwide were providing on-the-ground support for health care workers, communities in need, and the people most susceptible to the pandemic’s reach.

Soon the flood of reports of COVID-related projects began to arrive in our inbox and in July, 2020/21 RI President Holger Knaack noted in his first magazine message that “every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth.”

We learned how Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative had been drawing on their experience to respond to the pandemic, and how Rotarians and clubs were taking the initiative to meet differently and ‘do Rotary’ differently. From making sandwiches at home and using QR codes on Facebook to collect donations for food security projects, our clubs have

continued to amaze us with the nimble and creative ways clubs have found to respond to the pandemic.

Globally, grants from The Rotary Foundation have helped communities survive: As of June, more than \$27 million in Global Grant funding had been injected directly into Rotary’s COVID-19 response, on top of nearly \$8 million in disaster response funding.

Rotary has adapted, just as Maloney and Knaack assured us we could. And despite the pandemic, Rotarians and Rotaractors have continued to make a difference. We celebrated the end of wild poliovirus in Africa. We adopted a new area of focus, the environment. And earlier this year, we welcomed the inaugural cohort of peace fellows to the first Rotary Peace Centre in Africa.

In this issue, we take stock of the last 18 months and look ahead to what’s next. You will find examples of the ingenuity, creativity, and resilience that Rotary members have displayed from the start. You will hear from a Rotarian epidemiologist and COVID-19 task force member about Rotary’s role in the pandemic response. In the past year, because of everything we’ve been through together, each of us has changed, taking on new challenges and learning new skills. Rotary has changed as well, and more change is surely coming. But as RI President Shekhar Mehta reminded us two months ago in his first Rotary message to members: “No challenge is too big for Rotarians.”



**TOGETHER, WE**

# INSPIRE

Rotary believes in taking action to create positive change in communities. That’s why Rotary members participate in thousands of events around the globe, including the Miles to End Polio bike ride, to raise funds to help eradicate polio and support other causes. Inspiring others and leading by example - that’s what people of action do.

**Learn more at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org)**

**Rotary**  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

Members of Rotary served as volunteers, as professionals, and as role models, advocating for vaccination and encouraging others by their own example. Clubs provided masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE), testing kits, educational materials, diagnostic equipment, intubation tubes, ventilators, hand sanitiser, personal hygiene items, and other essentials such as food and water. They provided aid to refugees and people who were homeless, as well as vocational training to assist people looking for work. Through online seminars, social media updates, and other outlets, clubs also served as a reliable source of information about vaccines and other pandemic-related topics.



Photo credits from left to right, top to bottom: B M Imranul Islam EMU & M Khairul Alam, District 3281; Rex Villegas; Rakesh Gaju; Scott Franklin; Bill Glader; Natasza Witczak; Fernando Teixeira; Teresa Mendoza Palma; Rex Villegas; Flavio Bomfim; Flavio Bomfim; Tejesh A. Mehta; Olga Gnich; B M Imranul Islam EMU & M Khairul Alam, District 3281; Flavio Bomfim; Teresa Mendoza Palma.



Rotary Responds

# THE SCIENCE OF SAVING LIVES



Ann Marie Kimball knows about pandemics - in fact, she wrote a book about them. An epidemiologist and physician, Kimball lectured on emerging infections at the University of Washington, worked with the White House to set up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emerging Infections Network, earned Fulbright and Guggenheim awards for her work on global trade and emerging infections, designed a global disease surveillance strategy for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and authored *Risky Trade: Infectious Disease in the Era of Global Trade*.

Kimball was introduced to Rotary not by a member, but by vaccines. “Part of my job when I first started working in West Africa was to ensure that the vaccines arriving at airports moved from the tarmac into storage safely,” she says. “I started seeing these crates with the Rotary wheel, and I didn’t know what Rotary was. So, I resolved to find out.”

Now a member of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, Washington, Kimball also serves on Rotary’s COVID-19 task force, which is exploring the organisation’s role in responding to the pandemic. The task force is encouraging actions such as mobilising clubs and promoting vaccinations.

Kimball spoke with Rotary senior staff writer Diana Schoberg in May about the pandemic and Rotary’s work.

## **What is your role on Rotary’s COVID-19 task force?**

My role is primarily technical: to advise the members on the global state of the pandemic. Unfortunately, worldwide, we still have a very active pandemic. We’ve lost more than 3.5 million people [at the time of writing] across the globe, and we believe that’s an undercount. The other thing we’re tracking very closely is vaccine equity and access. Despite 1.4 billion doses [as of 13 May] being administered worldwide, fewer than 1 percent of those are in sub-Saharan Africa. So we’re seeing real inequality. I will advise the task force on situation awareness and policy options as we move forward.

## **How is Rotary well-positioned to address COVID-19? What are our strengths and how can we best put them to use?**

You’re seeing a lot of great work by Rotarians across the board, and it’s very heartening. There’s a lot of altruism and community spirit. To a certain extent, we hear all of the bad news and we don’t hear enough of the good news. And Rotary is in the business of creating good news.

Rotary is a very powerful partner in COVID-19 response because our organisation is multisectoral; it’s not confined to the health sector. And it also brings a strong level of volunteerism. Our response is both diverse and tailored locally, which makes it

even more valuable.

**You've written that Rotary can bridge the gap between science and values in the COVID-19 response. What did you mean by that?**

Altruism is very much a core value of Rotary. So, in speaking about why an individual should get a vaccination, you can cite the figures, that it's 94 percent protective or it's 80 percent protective. But the conversations that I'm hearing in my community, for example, are about your responsibility to get vaccinated to help protect the rest of your community and the people you interact with. And that's what I think Rotary can really bring forward.

Community education is a way of providing the science and awareness of the situation to an individual community. It also involves reaching out to other civic organisations and government entities to coordinate and collaborate. So many people have died, and so we have a mission of the heart, too. Many Rotary clubs have committees that reach out to support bereaved people and people who are ill. That's another piece of it, in terms of values.

**What might combating misinformation look like for a Rotary club? And how will that vary by region?**

It depends on what the rumours are. I've tried to keep my ear to the ground in my own community, and it just means listening and then having respectful conversations.

People who believe misinformation aren't stupid; they're just misinformed. Bringing credible information forward in a respectful manner can often make the difference.

We can tell them, from our experience with polio and our long experience with childhood vaccinations, that these vaccines are safe and they're highly effective, and that we know vaccines work.

**What's the difference between dialogue and persuasion when it comes to vaccine hesitancy?**

When I first joined the task force, I recommended a book to the other members titled *Stuck: How Vaccine Rumors Start — and Why They Don't Go Away*, by Heidi Larson. It draws from years of research on vaccine hesitancy. The takeaway is that you need to listen, and then there has to be an interchange.

You may or may not be successful at persuasion, but really listening is very, very important. I was amazed at some of the rumours going around that have a slim basis in some piece of fact but have

been entirely distorted and misinterpreted. It's really a dialogue. Rotary is non-political. We have a vast array of Rotarians with a vast array of political beliefs, and we don't do politics in our clubs. And that is very important for Rotary's credibility.

**As the vaccine rollout continues, how concerned should we be about outbreaks of variants?**

If I had a crystal ball, I could tell you. There are a lot of questions about variants. Variants will always evolve, although the coronavirus mutates more slowly than influenza, and more slowly by far than HIV. But it is an RNA virus [which mutates more rapidly than a DNA virus]. So the more it transmits, the more opportunities there are for variants to occur. Vaccination remains our only tool, and if you were able to vaccinate everyone successfully, you could really tamp down transmission and variants. Generally, viruses mutate toward more infectiousness, but they don't mutate toward more lethality for their host — that's a very broad generalisation. The virus wants you walking around and passing it on to other people.

**If the coronavirus doesn't evolve as fast as influenza, does that mean that if enough people get vaccinated, there will be fewer variants, and we won't have to get a shot every year? Or am I asking you something that we just don't know yet?**

You're asking something we just don't know yet. The strategy is to vaccinate as much as we can and cut down the transmission, and that should cut down on the variants. But you have to remember that influenza is totally different to the coronavirus, except that they're both RNA viruses.

We thought the coronavirus was going to be seasonal because it tended to have peaks that correlated with winter, but now we're seeing that it also has peaks correlating with summer. So in that sense, it's not exactly like the pattern of transmission of influenza.

Influenza shifts and drifts on an annual basis, and flu vaccines are composed to match what strain is circulating. And that may eventually become what we see with the coronavirus. But because it's a new virus, its transmission patterns, related to seasonality and to other dynamic forces, are not really clear. We don't know how long a person's immunity from the shot will last.

**Can the strategies that Rotarians have used with polio be applied to COVID-19?**

There are experiences and infrastructure that will be helpful: the emergency operations centres,

for example, in Nigeria. And also, the cold chain logistics and management of the shipment of vaccines, and the vaccination campaigns and the messaging — although the message is different, and it's a different age group.

What Rotary has done with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has been absolutely phenomenal. With our 36,000 clubs, we've mobilised populations and community leaders all over the world.

Rotarians can work fast and know how to get resources where they are needed most.

**How else can Rotary clubs help with COVID-19 vaccinations?**

Clubs are promoting vaccines through publicity and advocacy, and Rotary members who have a medical background are helping with the actual shot administration. We have great experience in logistics, and our members are helping with traffic and sign-up and reception at vaccination sites, depending on the club. It's been very hands-on for Rotarians.

**Is there a model for equitable distribution, or is that something we'll need to invent? If you had to start from scratch, what would that look like?**

The thinking behind the rollout in the United States primarily came from the National Academy of Medicine. Their recommendation was focused on who had the greatest morbidity and mortality from the disease.

So first you have health care workers, because they're continuously at risk and your health care system will break down if you cannot protect them. And then there was a large discussion about the disproportionate risk for communities of colour and public-facing workers, especially wage workers, and for the elderly. They looked at the burden of disease and used that to form a decision on what equitable distribution would look like.

That would be a little bit different for every society. We know what we don't mean when we talk about equitable. We don't mean that vaccines only go to the wealthier class that can pay for it. Or to important politicians who happen to have access to it because they jumped the queue.

**We've seen what inequitable distribution can look like. Is there a vision for equitable distribution where we'd look globally at the burden of disease?**

I think our information basis is pretty imperfect. But focusing on countries that have high transmission would make strategic sense. The

**5**

**WAYS TO HELP STOP COVID-19 IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**1. EDUCATE PEOPLE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATION**

As of the last week of June, only one percent of Nigeria's population had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; the country has struggled with a lack of supply, receiving its first four million doses through the COVAX vaccine-sharing programme in March.

In the meantime, Rotary members in the country are using connections they have made through their polio eradication work to advocate among political leaders, health care workers, the media, and traditional and religious leaders for the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations.

They are reaching the general population through informational campaigns on social media, television, and radio, as well as public service announcements broadcast in public squares.

**2. ADVOCATE FOR FAIR AND EQUAL VACCINE DISTRIBUTION**

The Rotary Club of Demerara, Guyana, has been conducting medical missions in remote parts of the country for decades, which has given members first-hand knowledge of the needs of the communities in those areas. In March, partnering with the country's Ministry of Health and its Civil Defence Commission, club members travelled by boat to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to the



indigenous villages of Muritaro and Malali.

Traditional leaders were among those receiving the vaccines, setting an example for their communities. “Our linkage to these communities and history with our polio efforts gave residents confidence that Rotary wouldn’t leave them behind when COVID-19 vaccines became available,” said club member Lancelot Khan. Singapore has been steadily vaccinating its population and addressing vaccine hesitancy by sharing accurate, fact-based information - but significant pockets of people remain hesitant to take the vaccine.

The Rotary Club of Singapore worked with the National University of Singapore’s Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health to launch a public health ambassador programme in June. In addition to organising a webinar to answer questions from the public, the school put on a workshop directed at Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians to equip them with the knowledge and skills to dispel myths and educate communities about vaccine safety.

### **3. ENCOURAGE MASK WEARING AND PROPER HYGIENE PRACTICES**

With limited vaccines available, Pakistan faced a third wave of COVID-19 cases this spring. The Rotary-supported polio resource centre in Bannu is using its expertise to educate the community about hand washing and other precautionary measures against infection. More than 25 women attended a session in May led by health care workers.

### **4. SUPPORT HEALTH AGENCIES’ VACCINE DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS**

Rotary members in District 2060 (Italy) became critical government partners in getting vaccination sites up and running earlier this year.

Within a week of an initial call for volunteers in January, more than 150 Rotarians and Rotaractors stepped forward, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, lawyers, and a notary to help with paperwork.

Impressed, the medical authorities in Verona put the district in charge of all volunteer activities related to COVID-19 vaccination in the region, including scheduling patients, assigning shifts, and reporting data. By the end of May, more than 700 volunteers had participated, and more than 300 000 people in the region were vaccinated.

**Read more about how clubs are fighting COVID-19 at [rotary.org/covid19](https://rotary.org/covid19).**

barriers to doing that have been remarkable. There has been a lot of talk about some countries that have three to five times the number of doses reserved as their population. And that’s the process that COVAX [a global public-private partnership to secure and distribute COVID-19 vaccines] is trying to orchestrate more equitably to ensure vaccine access for low and lower middle-income countries.

### **Where will Rotary fit into the long-term recovery from COVID-19 — things like education, mental health, and other needs that might come after the crisis part is over?**

That’s exactly where Rotary’s impact could be the strongest. But it will be different in each place. I certainly see economic recovery as part of what we will be addressing. There are some other areas as well. In February, the United Nations Security Council called for a global ceasefire in order to allow for vaccinations.

I see Rotary as being part of that peace effort. In the environmental arena, we know that deforestation and the wildlife trade have led to the emergence of these kinds of pathogens, and Rotary can be involved there as well. If you look at our areas of focus, you can’t find one that hasn’t been impacted by this pandemic.

### **Did you foresee a health crisis like COVID-19 coming? And did the world react the way that you thought it would?**

Everyone knew that a respiratory pathogen could be dangerous. No one had planned for complete science denialism in leadership, which we have seen [in some countries].

I have colleagues who had worked very closely on the pandemic plans that had been in place, and that playbook was thrown out. No one foresaw that.

Everyone assumed that if you have all of these plans and you have a pretty good idea of what you need to do, you’ll do it. We need to be a lot more conscious of the political economy than we have been as a scientific group.

I think the big lesson we have learned is that science-based leadership is critically important. You need to have the very top of your government supporting the very best measures that society can take to protect itself. That has to be really clear and it has to be said many, many times.

## Rotary Responds



# Lesson plans

Smart strategies to improve learning in low and middle-income nations

Education is a good investment: It can transform the prospects of a community along with the lives of individuals. But if you want to improve education, what kinds of investments work best?

A recent World Bank report, “Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning,” looks at different interventions and how well they work in low and middle-income countries. It includes recommendations from education and policy experts convened by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office and the World Bank.

Smart education investments are even more important in the wake of the pandemic, says Halsey Rogers, lead economist with the World Bank’s Education Global Practice.

“Children may have lost half a year’s worth of learning or more,” says Deon Filmer, director of the World Bank’s Development Research Group. “So the question is, how can governments prioritise, with constrained resources, so that those children recover as quickly as possible?”

Remember that context is important: What works in Tanzania might not work in Ecuador. Here we lay out some of the effective strategies outlined in the

report and some of the potential pitfalls.

### **COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES SUPPORTED BY STRONG EVIDENCE**

Share information with parents and children on how education can increase income, on available sources of funding, and on the quality of local schools. When parents know what they’re paying for, how much children are learning, and how much money is going to schools, they can demand better outcomes. Provide structured lesson plans with linked materials and ongoing teacher monitoring and training. In a randomised, controlled trial in The Gambia, scripted lesson plans, after-school supplementary classes, and frequent monitoring and teacher coaching dramatically improved learning outcomes for students. Target instruction by learning level, not grade. When one classroom serves a wide variety of learning levels, some students can get left behind. Group children for all or part of the day based on their learning levels, with help from teacher assistants or volunteers.

### **REDUCE COMMUTE TIMES TO SCHOOL.**

Building new schools closer to students can be prohibitively expensive. A more cost-effective

strategy entails setting up schools in existing community buildings or reducing travel times through other methods.

In one study, when girls in the Indian state of Bihar received bikes, their secondary school attendance increased by 30 percent.

Give merit-based scholarships to disadvantaged children.

Merit-based scholarships targeted at disadvantaged young people can act as an extra incentive to improve attendance and student effort.

**PROVIDE SOFTWARE THAT ADAPTS TO A CHILD'S LEARNING LEVEL.**

Adaptive or self-paced software targeted to the individual student can be very effective. But reliable electricity, internet connections, teacher training, and available hardware for all students are critical to this strategy.

**SUPPORT PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (AGES 3-5).**

Poor children tend to start school with lower levels of cognitive and language development than children from higher-income households. Intervention in those pre-primary years can have long-term economic benefits.

**TIPS FOR AVOIDING PITFALLS**

Studies have shown that providing money or supplies alone - whether it's books, computers, school

buildings, grants, salaries, or libraries - without addressing other issues is often ineffective. Donated laptops, for example, won't improve learning if the school doesn't have reliable electricity or teachers aren't trained to use them. Even providing textbooks might not be as simple as it seems. In one case, new textbooks in Sierra Leone went unused because administrators weren't assured that damaged books would be replaced.

For any intervention to be effective, "you need to have a real sense of what those schools need," Rogers says. "You need to build that relationship and have a sustained commitment." And whatever the strategy, Filmer advises, pay attention to outcomes, learn from them, and adapt. Come back in a few months to see whether donated books are being used. Come back in a year and replace them if needed. Rotary members can also use their influence to improve global learning. "Rotarians can help get the private sector involved in telling the government that education is the future of our country, and we need to invest smartly in our country," Rogers says. "It really packs a punch when business leaders like Rotarians say that."

"When countries have made learning for all children a priority, they can achieve remarkable results," Filmer adds. "We've seen that happen around the world, whether in Korea or Finland or Vietnam or states like Ceara in Brazil. What it takes is commitment by all of society."



**More than 50 percent of children in low and middle income countries don't learn to read with comprehension by age 10. Post-COVID, that number could rise to an estimated 63 percent.**



**Just before the pandemic struck, 53 percent of young people were completing secondary school globally, but only 29 percent in sub-Saharan Africa.**



**In rural India in 2016, only half of grade 5 students could fluently read text at the grade 2 curriculum level.**



**In Uruguay, poor children in grade 6 are assessed as "not competent" in math at five times the rate of wealthy children.**

## Rotary Responds



*On 10 May, Adré Smit, the Community Services Chairman of Hermanus, broke the seal and opened the container.*

# Care from Canada

A donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Canada, valued at R2.5 million, arrived in Cape Town earlier this year. The container of PPE was sent for distribution by Rotary World Help.

It all began in early November last year, not long after South Africa had crested the first COVID-19 wave and there were rumblings of an impending second wave.

Past President Patrick MacPhail of the Rotary Club of Hermanus (D9350) was contacted by his nephew, Ian MacPhail, a past president of the Rotary Club of Port Moody, Vancouver, Canada.

Ian wanted to know whether the Hermanus club would be interested in distributing a container load of personal protective equipment (PPE). Patrick highlighted the essentials on the World Health Organisation (WHO) list of PPE and sent it off to Canada.

Meanwhile the Rotary machinery sprang into action. The plan was that Hermanus would share the container and any costs, with nine other clubs in District 9350; the Rotary Clubs of Blouberg, Claremont, Kromboom, Kirstenbosch, Newlands, Somerset West, Strand, Waterfront and the E-Club of Greater Cape Town.

Assistant Governors Ann Wright and Jenny Howard, both members of Hermanus, used their district network to recruit the help of other clubs. These clubs would distribute the PPE to recipients they identified in their communities.

“But what do we know about shipping, freight forwarding and the South African Customs minefield?” asked Patrick. In stepped Mike Walwyn, from the Rotary Club of Newlands, who has more than 40 years’ experience as a ships’ agent and forwarder. With the help of Nexlog Supply Chain Solutions, he guided Hermanus through the process. The Hermanus club agreed initially to cover the import costs, which would then be shared equally between the participating clubs.

It was agreed that a 20-foot container, containing only PPE, would be sent. If there was space, wheelchairs, crutches, bed tables and the like could be added to make up the load.

At the end of February, a picture of Ian triumphantly sealing the container and a final list of contents was

sent to South Africa. The list showed that the extra space had been filled with soccer equipment, which included a mix of new and used soccer balls, shirts, socks and shorts. Mike advised that SARS had clothing imports under the microscope and second-hand clothing was generally treated as a prohibited import. However, since it was a charitable donation, there was a reasonable chance of getting permits.

The container arrived in Cape Town on 29 April and Smit Marine, who had previously helped with other Rotary-bound containers, generously provided space and a forklift to unpack the container.

South African Customs embargoed the container because of suspicious items of clothing, notably the soccer equipment, but Mike successfully spearheaded negotiations that resulted in the container being opened in the presence of customs officials at the Smit Marine premises.

Customs examined the boxes of soccer equipment, and despite Ann Wright describing the aims and benefits of Rotary, the officials sealed boxes of soccer kit with SARS tape and issued the instruction not to distribute them.

The unpacking began and piles of boxes containing 126 000 face masks, 2 600 face shields, 59 000 pairs of gloves, gowns and soccer balls were soon ready for distribution among the ten Rotary clubs. The container also contained wheelchairs, over-bed tables, crutches and walkers.

The following afternoon, after all the Rotary clubs had collected their share except for a forlorn pile of soccer kit wrapped up in customs tape, word was received that customs had released the soccer kit with no duty to pay!

The response to the donated PPE was overwhelming and letters of gratitude poured in. But, there was one final problem. What could be done with the several boxes of high-tech angiogram syringes and other medical equipment included with the PPE?

Patrick asked a radiology colleague for advice and was told that only the Dr George Makhari Hospital in Ga-Rankuwa used this equipment. DHL agreed to courier the boxes free at no cost to the Rotary Club of Pretoria-Hatfield which delivered them to Ga-Rankuwa.



*Ian MacPhail sealing the container in Canada.*



*A customs official inspecting the donated soccer kit.*

#### LESSONS LEARNED

1. Have an expert on board who understands shipping and customs before you start.
2. Know what they are sending you upfront, but:
  - Tell them what you need;
  - Ask them to tell you what they are sending before packing and be selective.
3. Plan your distribution strategy upfront – spread the load.
4. Find a secure friendly central place to unpack and distribute.

# Share your club's stories with Africa

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

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

## Rotary Responds



# Fundraising in the Age of COVID-19

Desperate times call for desperate measures! Our club had to call on the ingenuity of all our members to find new ways of fundraising during the COVID-19 pandemic, writes *Pippa Steele-Gray* of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).

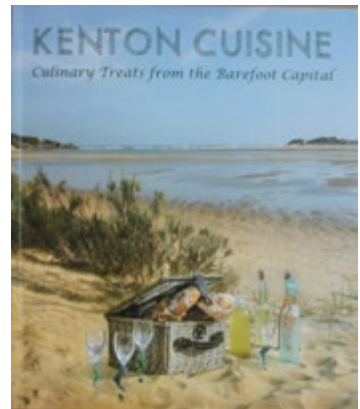
On-line raffles for a sewing machine and then a bottle of Johnny Walker Blue Whisky, plus some delicious wines provided a jump-start, but we needed way more than that to support the COVID-19 relief projects we implemented in our community.

The idea that finally surfaced was to publish a cookbook... with a twist. This cookbook would not only have recipes but would also include some of the history of our town and iconic land and seascape photos. The recipes, which have stood the test of time through generations of Settler families, were ones which we, the club members, loved and wanted to share. And so, *Kenton Cuisine* came into being. Our members had a great deal of fun compiling the recipes and cooking (and tasting!) the food. David Stott, a well-known photographer, donated a great deal of his time, to bring this book to life.

With 96 full-colour pages, the cookbook celebrates what is known as the Barefoot Capital region of South Africa and proved to be the most successful fundraising project the club had ever run.

Standard Bank provided a massive sponsorship to get it off the ground and the first run of 500 copies was sold out before the ink was dry. A second run of 700 copies is currently selling well.

Funds raised to date have been disbursed to assist in the purchase of oxygenators and ventilators, food parcels, sanitiser and face masks, as well as to the Dolphin Coast Frail Care (R 65 000) and Sunshine Coast Hospice (R 35 000). Future funds will address further COVID-19 related needs.



### TO ORDER:

To order contact Bev Rogers at [bevrogers@mweb.co.za](mailto:bevrogers@mweb.co.za).

Payment can be made to the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea, Standard Bank, branch code 051 117, account number 281106592.

### ORDER ONLINE:

Place your order at: <https://rotarykenton.co.za/product/kenton-cuisine-cookbook/>

*Kenton Cuisine costs R250 (excl. shipping)*

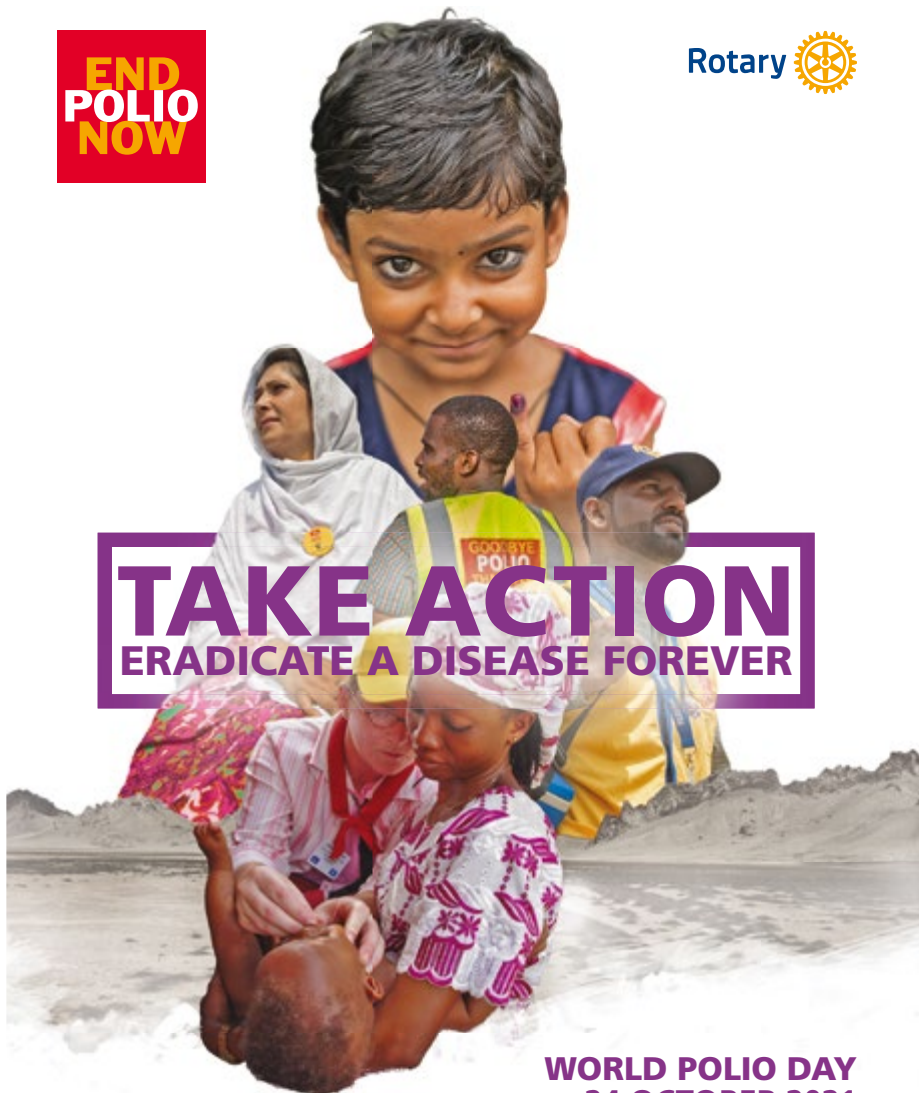
# Coming up...

Submit your Rotary club or district events to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za). Please include 'calendar' in the subject

## October

30-31 OCTOBER

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLAREMONT** presents Papa Paul's Halloween Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser (named in memory of Claremont Rotarian Paul "Hoopla" de Groot) at Marsh Memorial Rondebosch. Dress in your scariest outfit and enjoy two action-packed hours of scary fun and ghostly entertainment for the whole family! There are five two-hour scavenger hunts a day, starting from 10am. Bookings open on [quicket.co.za](http://quicket.co.za) in September. Tickets cost R100 per child and R50 per adult. All profits will be used for Rotary Claremont charitable projects in Cape Town. Contact: [papapaulshalloweenparty@gmail.com](mailto:papapaulshalloweenparty@gmail.com).



**TAKE ACTION**  
ERADICATE A DISEASE FOREVER

**WORLD POLIO DAY**  
**24 OCTOBER 2021**

[www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day](http://www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day)



*Morven M. Luswenyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Japan and Uli Kulz with the ambulance before it was shipped to Namibia.*

# Knocking on Opportunity's Door

Swakopmund is now the second city in Namibia, after Windhoek, to own its own ambulance and this is all thanks to Rotary connections and seized opportunities, writes *Helène Visser*, the District Rotary Foundation Chair.

On 18 September 2020 a refurbished ambulance (previously from the Kawasaki Fire Department), was presented to Morven M. Luswenyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Japan, by Mayor Fukuda of Kawasaki City. The ambulance was shipped and arrived in Namibia this July.

In Japan an ambulance is taken out of service after five years or 200 000 kilometres and is donated to any NGO, which pays to have it refurbished; this usually costs in the region of R100 000. Five Rotary clubs from D2590, Japan, the Rotary Clubs of Kawasaki Kita (North), Shin Yokohama, Kawasaki Naka, Kawasaki Nakahara, Kawasaki Miyamae and Kawasaki Saginuma, all contributed to this project.

The cost to ship the ambulance to Namibia was R250 000 and was sponsored by the Japanese government. All this was thanks to Rotarian Uli Kulz, of the Rotary Club of Shin Yokohama, and his friend Koichi Ichikawa, of the Rotary Club of Kawasaki Nakahara.

“Kawasaki Kita sourced the ambulance from the Kawasaki Fire Department. In the past they had sent

two of them to Vanuatu. Mr. Ichikawa asked me if I had a better place to send one this time. ‘Of course,’ I said. I thought of D9350.

“Seeing that my father was born in Namibia, I decided this time to connect with the Rotary Club of Swakopmund,” explained Uli, the CEO of International Education Consultants, who grew up in Stellenbosch and attended Stellenbosch University.

Uli moved to Japan 35 years ago, married Naomi and lives in Yokohama where he owns and runs a school and study centre, from which he also offers business seminars. Uli’s heart remains in Africa and through his network of Japanese Rotary friends, he has been instrumental in raising more than a million Rand over a nine-year period for the ‘Adopt a Learner’ programme, run by the Rotary Club of Cape Town (D9350).

Over the years, he has bought several Japanese Rotarians on tours to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and even the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Uli is also the Ambassador for Tourism, Education and Sports for the Namibian Embassy in Japan.





Members of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth together with their Anns at Phumela Children's Village.

# Together, we do more!

What started as planning the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) annual Mandela Day project, turned into a massive drive to give food hampers to people affected by the riots which shook South Africa in July, writes *Cogie Muthulingum*.

Our first project saw the distribution of bread, milk and canned beans to Chatsworth residents by members of our Rotary club, as well as some awesome volunteers. A local business, Take n Pay, sponsored 1 500 loaves of bread, milk and canned beans, for five days in the first week after the rioting.

An appeal was made for assistance with our grocery hamper drive. We were amazed by the support and sponsorship from the Rotary Clubs of Claremont, Seapoint and Knysna (D9350), as well as from the local, regional and international community. Approximately a quarter of a million rand was received from 54 donors!

A large number of grocery items was also

received from Cape Town, as well as locally and all this ensured that we were able to make substantial grocery hampers for our beneficiaries.

On 5 August, our Rotary club members and Anns distributed groceries, blankets, lunch boxes and goodie bags to Phumela Childrens Village, Kwaja Gareeb Nawaaz Home of Safety and the Cheshire Childrens Home.

No project is ever completed without the assistance of a dedicated band of people. The members of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth, the Anns and the hard working band of volunteers ensured that this project ran smoothly. They were led by President Tina Pillay and project coordinator PP Steve Chokalingam.





# A Chance meeting

I can't count the number of organisations we have supported over the years – there are far too many to remember. They include crèches, old age homes, hospitals, children's homes, CHOC and many more, *writes Liz Short.*

For many years the Rotary Anns of Rosebank (D9400) have supported a group of women at Golden Harvest Retirement Village called the Busy Bees.

It began, as many great stories, at the hair salon when Rotary Ann Ena Stubbs met Barbara Campbell, who had formed the knitting group.

It is thought that the chance meeting took place sometime in the 80s and today, the group continues to provide the Anns with beautifully knitted garments and blankets for distribution among their beneficiaries. Some of the beautiful blankets and jerseys have sold at our Bridge Drives, raising funds for wool and club projects.

There have been different conveners and of course, many of the members have died and the group numbers have dwindled – but the knitting goes on!

Every year at Christmas the Anns take tea to the village and give the group a monetary donation and collect all their goodies. It would be impossible to estimate how many items have been donated to the Anns during the last 40 or so years.

Six years ago, Saprotex in East London started donating enormous bags of wool (called 'seconds') to the Anns. So much wool was received that the club had enough to give to the Busy Bees and other Rotary Anns clubs in the area.



# Service and Soccer

As I sit here in a coffee shop on Wembley Way reflecting on the recently ended Euro 2020 soccer tournament, my thoughts turn to my African soccer family and my Rotary friends in Cape Town, *writes Julie Parry of the Rotary Club of Kromboom (D9350).*

The story began in 2015 when my husband Graham and I became ‘swallows’, drawn by the incredible diversity of people, landscapes and wildlife in Southern Africa (as well as a desire to escape our cold, wet British winters). I hoped to pursue my lifelong passion for team sport by coaching soccer and so, through a mutual connection to then President of the Rotary Club of Kromboom, Michael Johnson, we were introduced to Rotary and the ‘Where Rainbows Meet’ Training Development organisation.

Rainbows is in the informal settlement of Vrygrond on the Cape Flats; a small community where disenfranchised youth face extreme social and economic challenges, so typical of the region. Its founder, Mymoena Scholtz, kindly entrusted us to assist newly appointed coach, Ivan Blankenberg, with her beloved Rainbow Chiefs youth soccer club and everything snowballed from there!

With little experience of soccer coaching or management, Ivan embraced his new role, ably assisted by his wife Shireen, who took on

responsibility for the under 10s. What began as a desire to help soon developed into a passion for this soccer loving family, extending far beyond the soccer pitch. They became committed to helping transform the lives of the youngsters, giving them hope for the future and enabling them to make better life choices.

It was a steep learning curve for us too! Although I was a qualified coach getting to know everyone and the local culture, along with understanding the physical environment and how it impacted on things we took for granted, was enlightening. There was no playing field or area that was not littered with rubbish, glass and long sharp thorns. The club also had limited resources and running an engaging training session for 30 children with only a couple of balls was challenging.

Despite this, the Rainbow Chiefs were extremely successful, winning the Cape Town South Peninsula League in several junior age group categories in that first year.

Over the ensuing years the club continued to

flourish with successive generations of children passing from under 10 to senior level. Most importantly though they were establishing key life skills such as teamwork (the spirit of Ubuntu), leadership, respect and kindness. In short, they developed the emotional and social intelligence and resilience required to thrive as adults.

In 2019 it became apparent there was more demand for opportunities, so Ivan and Shireen decided to take the plunge and set up their own club from scratch. Eagle Spurs was born.

With kit donated by a UK Royal Air Force-based soccer charity and funds raised from the Cape Town Cycle Tour, the Blankenbergs' home was transformed into a club house, providing a safe haven for the children to meet, socialise and relax. They even cleared a patch of nearby land, by hand, to train on.

With further financial support from both Kromboom and Claremont clubs, five junior teams were registered for the 2019 season, where they did superbly well to finish just outside the top placings behind their now rivals, the Rainbow Chiefs!

All looked good for the 2020 season, with Rotary support once again enabling boot donations from the UK, league registrations and taxi fares to games: a necessity given the constant threat of

violence and distances involved. However, the pandemic sadly put soccer to one side, focusing minds on community support. With Rainbows becoming a community feeding hub, Ivan and Shireen received food donations to run a much-needed micro kitchen within a wider networked community feeding scheme.

Ivan says, "Eagle Spurs has given the children something to look forward to after school rather than having nothing to do." He describes the journey as a roller coaster ride for him and his family, but they remain undaunted and have big plans for the future!

This story is an incredible testament to the efforts of the Blankenberg family, showing just what one inspired family can achieve with a little help, even if they live in a challenging environment. It has been an incredible journey of love, commitment, challenges and fun. What began for me as a mission to fulfil personal dreams evolved into a desire to empower others with dreams of their own and to help them on a path to achieving them.

We have now been members of Kromboom club for six years and although still stranded in the UK due to COVID, we remain closely engaged and committed to helping Eagle Spurs thrive with support from our Rotary family!

## YOUTH NEWS



Grade 7 children at Thandinkosi Primary School received bicycles from the Interact Club of St Catherine's School. The Interact club had received the bicycles from the Rotary Club of Empangeni's (D9370) bicycle project.

# AFRICA IN BRIEF



Phuti Ragophala, a member of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400), with 104-year-old Seemole Maboya of Ga-Mashashane. Seemole was born on 3 September 1918 and the club gave her a wheelchair as part of its Mandela Day celebrations in July.

A donation of dry soup ingredients was given to Khanya Hospice for its patients by the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370). With Hospice CEO Neil MacDonal are GT Mthiyane, Lungi Khumalo, SR Mariane Visagie and Thabile Dlamini.



The Rotary Club of Durban Clairwood Park (D9370) held its annual Winter Warmth campaign that provided the residents of Clairwood with grocery hampers, blankets, vegetables, clothing, vitamin packs and a packed lunch.



The Rotary Club of Brits Hartbeespoort (D9400) implemented its free on a tree project to provide people with warm clothing. The free on a tree project involved people hanging unwanted winter clothes on a tree, where those who needed something warm can just ‘pick it off’ the tree – for free! The club decided to ramp the project up a level and partnered with the Village Mall Shopping Centre management. Clothes were collected in collection boxes that were placed around the centre and then hung on the frame of the mall’s Christmas tree. Dare 2 Share, a local NGO, distributed the clothes to the needy after the event.



Members of the Rotary Club of Bloemfontein Thabure (D9370) celebrated Mandela Day on 17 July 2021 at Anchor of Hope in Bloemfontein by donating food parcels to the needy.



District Governor Stella Anyangwe (D9400) virtually visited the Rotary Club of Polokwane in August. She was accompanied by District Secretary Alice Meyer and AG Horst Meyer of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100. President Mxolisi Bambo welcomed everyone before handing over to the DG.



Members of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) have collected hundreds of plastic shopping bags to help little school children keep warm. Jill Lombard, a member of the club, teaches crafts to a group of women and is passionate about recycling. One of the projects she taught her group was how to crochet sleeping mats from plastic shopping bags. Each bag was cut into circular strips, then knotted together and rolled up into a ball of ‘plastic wool’, before being crocheted into a sleeping mat. The mats, which are waterproof, provide insulation from a cold floor and are spongy to lie on, were given to playgroup children.



To celebrate Women’s Day, President Mxolisi Bambo from left followed by Mokgaetsi Baloyi, Selina Shoka and Honorary Rotarian Nellar Bambo of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400), distributed blankets in Thokgoaneng village.

# NEW PRESIDENTS



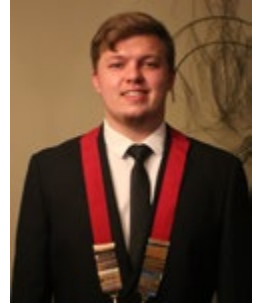
Casper Gilfillan  
Pietersburg 100, 9400



Tina Gilfillan (Ann)  
Pietersburg 100, 9400



Yegalan Chetty  
Benoni Aurora, 9400



Keanan van Moerkerken  
(Rotaract)  
Benoni Aurora, 9400



Angela Norris (Anns)  
Benoni Aurora, 9400



Ron Ellmore  
Estcourt, 9370



Gillian Anderson  
Cape of Good Hope, 9350



Blake Hunter  
Sea Point, 9350



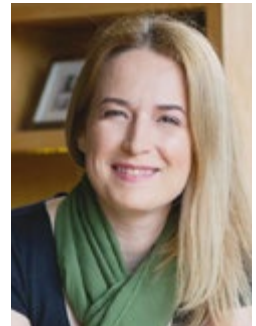
Sidney Govindsamy  
Durban Clairwood, 9370



Annie Ranger  
Stanford, 9350



Geno Demaio  
Durbanville, 9350



Kerry Moss  
Umhlanga, 9370



Jean Freeborough  
Blouberg, 9350



Raimar von Hase  
Swakopmund, 9350



Jo Hobson  
Claremont, 9350



Tjeketsi Tjeketsi  
Ficksburg, 9370





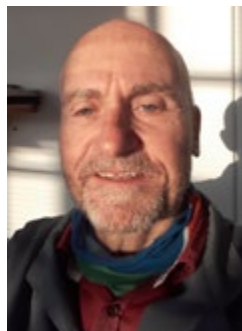
Tanya Stone  
Pinelands, 9350



Anneliese Marie Brandt  
Am Kap, 9350



Bert Fisher  
Oostenberg, 9350



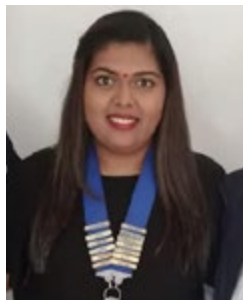
Erich Looser  
Luderitz, 9350



Marius Koenig  
Bloemfontein Thabure,  
9370



Doug Batchelor  
Helderberg Sunrise, 9350



Noleen Oldfield  
Pietermaritzburg, 9370



Colin Thornton  
Hilton and Howick, 9370

## WALL OF HONOUR



Mariette Pretorius and Adriaan Anderson are new members of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Marius Liebenburg was posthumously recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400). His son Micheal Liebenburg received the recognition from outgoing President Pierre Mouton.



Keith Alford is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Cohan Arjoona was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Umhlanga (D9370).



Dr Pieter Jooste received a special merit award from the Rotary Club of Kimberley South (D9370).

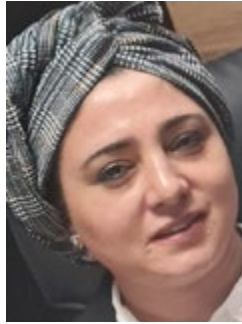


Steve Chokalingam of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) has achieved 30 years of 100% attendance.

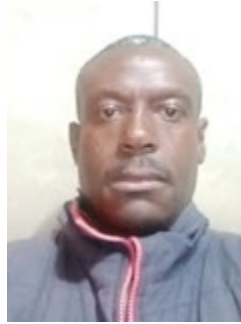
Welcome to the new members of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400



Rasigie Bhika



Maimoona Mahomed



Colin Mongezi Gila



Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich



Heather Groote



Thenjiwe Meyiwa



Ann Kleynhans



Edith Dinong Phaswana



Sergeant Murendeni Irwin Ndou



Hanan Jarrar



Veiccoh K Ngiwete



Kirsten Thackwell



Zukile Mbotshane



Zukhanye Mayekiso

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

**ACCOMMODATION OFFERED**

\*\*\* B&B Accommodation in Kimberley. Staying over in Kimberley? The Nook B&B \*\*\* Semi-Self Catering B&B offers excellent accommodation and rates. All rooms luxury en-suite with private entrance and secure parking.

Close to CBD and places of interest. For more info contact Rtn Rob Gibson at 072 116 8390. Web: www.thenookbnb.co.za

**‘Above the waves’ in Simon’s Town! A self-catering, one-bedroom flat for 2 with sunroom and magnificent view of False Bay. A stone’s throw from the beach, close to Cape Point and the penguin colony in the picturesque, historical Simon’s Town. Off street parking, free WiFi. Flat R750p/n. Contact 021 786 3331 or [peteandme@mweb.co.za](mailto:peteandme@mweb.co.za)**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

CONSTANTIABERG FUNERAL Home: Sensitive, dignified and personal service by Alan Lindhorst – all hours, anywhere within 200km of Cape Town. Very reasonable prices & premiums. Cnr Kenilworth & Rosmead Ave, Kenilworth. 021 671 2400 or 083 653 6536.



**ENHANCED.  
REDESIGNED.  
SIMPLIFIED.**

**Welcome to the new  
ROTARY LEARNING CENTER**

**Enrich your Rotary experience and leadership  
by visiting the improved [rotary.org/learn](http://rotary.org/learn)**



DISCLAIMER: All opinions published are not the opinion of the publisher. The publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of any of the opinions, information or advertisements in this publication. No responsibility is accepted for the quality of advertised goods or services or the accuracy of material submitted for reproduction. To the extent permitted by law, the publishers, their employees, agents and contractors exclude all liability to any person for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred as a result of material in this publication. All Rotary Marks (Masterbrand Signature, Mark of Excellence and so forth), as well as ROTARY are trademarks owned by Rotary International and used herein under licence.

# AMAKHOSI CONTAINER SALES

**STORAGE : REFRIGERATED : CONVERSIONS  
BEST PRICES AND QUALITY : 3m, 6m, 12m**

**DENNIS WESLEY: 083 733 6208**

**29 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
[dennisw@acsales.co.za](mailto:dennisw@acsales.co.za)



# Environment

**AN OFFICIAL CAUSE OF ROTARY**

Rotary's new cause focuses on comprehensively solving specific issues that have a detrimental effect on the environment. As people of action, let's take on projects that can make a positive, measurable, and sustainable impact on the one place we all call home.



Learn more about Rotary's new cause at [rotary.org/environment](https://rotary.org/environment)

