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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Wow.. It has been a busy year! After the world began to reopen, it feels a little like we are trying to make up for lost time. We just can't wait to get out and see people, have events and attend conferences. It's great, but I also feel as if I am no-longer 'socially-fit' - I am tired! Three years ago, the news that I should be attending a cheese and wine evening tomorrow night, would have been thrilling. Sure, I am excited, but I am also hoping to get home early and hop into bed!

So if you are like me, who is looking forward to an evening in and a good read, I hope you will dive into these pages because we have great content for you.

For nearly two years now, we have added variety to the type of content we publish. We have started to include articles which, while may not have a direct Rotary connection, may be of interest or a source of inspiration for our People of Action! This month is no different and thanks to Ground Up, an amazing non-profit working in the journalism space, we have three really interesting articles. We look at an effective way to tackle plastic pollution, the shocking reality of child abuse in South Africa and the amazingly uplifting rise of township art.

These are all areas that I have noticed clubs being particularly passionate about over the years, so if you are inspired or have a project relating to these topics, why not tell us about it?

The sad reality is that due to the aging membership in our region, it is not feasible for Rotary Africa to print obituaries and this is something that we find very hard, because we know the depth of the bonds of friendship often extend across countries and the globe.

There have been very few occasions where I have broken our policy (being editor-in-chief has its perks), and today is one of those occasions. Last week, my phone pinged and the first line of an email popped up, "Dear Rotarians, this is for those of you who knew Pippa Steele-Gray."

The editor in me immediately noted the 'incorrect tense'... and then realisation dawned and it felt like a blow to the stomach, Pippa was gone.

Pippa was someone who threw herself into whatever she did with the enthusiasm and passion of a 30-something, which is why the announcement of her death was such a shock. She was ready to try anything and was also a talent artist. But most of all she was a woman of compassion, I had seen her listen intently to people's stories and genuinely empathise with them.

She was remarkable and we will miss her.

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

The power of uncomfortable choices



Jennifer Jones and her husband, Nick Krayacich, talk with Náthali Batzibal, a student they support through the Guatemala Literacy Project, during an April visit. Since 1997, the project has improved education in rural areas of the country by providing books, teacher training and scholarships.



Former scholarship recipient Rosa Ixcoy, also supported by Jones and Krayacich, poses with her daughter and mother.

Recently, Nick and I spent time in Guatemala, where we met wonderful fellow Rotary members and families who unofficially adopted me as “Tía Jennifer.” On the third day, after visiting Patzún in the mountainous western highlands, we set out for Lake Atitlán, which we needed to reach by nightfall. If we took a back road we could get there faster. Locals told us it had just been repaved and assured us, “You’ll have no problem.”

At first, it was a breeze. We wound through misty-green coffee and corn fields covering the hillside like a patchwork quilt. But at a river crossing, we found a bridge washed away. The only way to continue would be to ford the river in our small bus. There were a few tense moments, but we decided to give it a try and, thankfully, we made it across safely.

This adventure reminds me of two important truths in Rotary. One, we rely on local, on-the-ground expertise to do what we do best. And two, sometimes you have to take uncomfortable chances to reach important goals.

Every day, I am honoured to learn from our Rotary family. Every lesson is an opportunity to grow and each story adds a chapter to our collective Imagine Rotary year.

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



THE CALL OF THE WILD DOWN UNDER

2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

From koalas to kangaroos, Australia is home to some fascinating wildlife. Melbourne is no exception. The urban area's wild side includes non-native red foxes (considered pests) and a colony of penguins (much loved). While you're in town for the 2023 Rotary International Convention 27-31 May, take a break between breakout sessions and stroll through the parks to get up close with nature.

Head to the Melbourne Gardens, part of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and an oasis in the heart of the city since 1846. The 94-acre Melbourne Gardens is located between the convention's two venues, on the south bank of the Yarra River. Walk around tranquil lakes, learn about conservation and explore more than 8 500 plant species, including camellias, rainforest flora, cacti, succulents and roses. Don't forget to look up; Melbourne has dozens of bird species, including sulphur-crested cockatoos.

At about a foot tall, little penguins (also known as blue or fairy penguins) are the smallest of all penguins. The closest viewing spot, at St Kilda Pier, is under construction. But you can catch them on parade two hours south at Phillip Island.

A short drive or train ride out of the city will take you to Dandenong Ranges National Park, where you can venture through the rainforest, hike to Olinda Falls or climb the 1 000 Steps, known officially as the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk. The park's volcanic hills are home to the mountain ash, the world's tallest flowering tree. Its wildlife includes wallabies, lyrebirds and wombats. - EVA REMIJAN-TOBA



Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

One of my favourite books, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson, muses on the creation of the universe and how a tiny speck of it we call Earth went from being a fiery ball with seas of molten rock to the lush green-and-blue home we know today. Bryson's argument is that it is a miracle that we - our planet and our species - have survived. "We enjoy not only the privilege of existence," Bryson writes, "but also the singular ability to appreciate it and even, in a multitude of ways, to make it better."

We are fortunate to be able to read his words or any others. And we are fortunate to be part of an organisation that is making our world a better place by helping those who can't read them. There are an estimated 773 million illiterate adults - most of them women - who can't read these words or write their own name. They are at a clear disadvantage in life, with limited opportunities to work. And this situation isn't their fault.

Rotary has not forgotten them. In September, let's celebrate Basic Education and Literacy Month by looking at the long-term impact Rotary and The Rotary Foundation are making and how we are finding ways to lend a hand in the effort.

Last year alone, The Rotary Foundation approved

104 global grants totalling \$6.3 million for basic education and literacy projects, according to preliminary figures. This is on top of decades of work in our clubs and districts. As an Australian, I'm especially proud of the work of Dick Walker, a past district governor from Queensland, who used a Foundation matching grant to develop the concentrated language encounter method that has been adopted by other educational leaders around the world.

At the community level, our clubs are well known for book drives that have changed the lives of so many children. But when we gather many clubs and districts together and work on large-scale Rotary Foundation projects, we have the potential to impact entire communities for generations.

The opportunities for Rotary to make a difference in literacy are boundless. Once basic reading and writing is achieved, it opens a path to other types of literacy, such as numerical literacy, digital literacy and financial literacy.

Let's not squander our opportunity to improve our corner of the universe. I encourage you to think big about literacy and education and change the world - this month and beyond.



IF IT NO LONGER FITS. DONATE IT.

To Donate to the Salvation Army winter drive CALL 011 718 6747 or dropoff goods at your local Salvation Army.



Just Imagine

DR PATRICK COLEMAN

ROTARY E-CLUB OF SOUTHERN AFRICA D9400

BEES AND ROTARY – SWEET RESULTS

Bees are interesting creatures! They work together and each bee is essential to the hive. The average hive includes anywhere from 20 000 to 80 000 bees. So, it makes sense that these productive creatures have their own version of a chore chart.

Each bee has its own role. Queens lay thousands of eggs a day, the worker bees cycle through various roles depending on their age, some act as architects using their wax glands to build honeycombs and more. Others will become foragers, who leave the hive to scout for nectar. Some bees even have the job of insect undertaker, removing dead residents to keep the hive clean and healthy.

Rotary clubs, like beehives, have Rotarians with various talents and responsibilities. Each Rotarian is essential to the club. Without Rotarians there are no clubs. Without Rotary clubs there is no Rotary International. Without Rotary International we would still have 350 000 polio victims every year, there would be no Rotary Peace Scholars and the world would be in worse shape than any of us can imagine!

Not all bees are social creatures; some live their entire lives as solo pollinators that burrow their homes in the ground instead of living in hives. Solitary bees are actually more common than hive bees, making up around 75% of all species. While these solitary bees contribute to the pollination, they do not contribute to honey production. For that to happen requires teamwork!

The analogy is simple... If every Rotarian is important, then YOU are important! Your contribution

to your Rotary club contributes to the success of Rotary International, just as every bee is vital to the production of every drop of honey.

Each project of a Rotary club demonstrates to its community that IT is important. The children educated, the water provided, the mothers saved and every tree that is planted is part of our campaign of “Do Good in the World.”

Additionally, every dollar, rand, pula, kwacha or shilling given to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is invested in your community through your club service projects. Charity watchdog organisations give TRF the highest ranking for the philanthropic accountability that we insist on maintaining.

Charity Navigator is an assessment organisation which audits 100s of 1000s of NGOS from the United States. It evaluates their financial health, measures of stability, efficiency and sustainability, while also tracking the NGO’s accountability and transparency policies to ensure its good governance and integrity. The score for The Rotary Foundation is a perfect 100 and a four-star rating... for fourteen straight years!

Imagine what is required to achieve and maintain that level of accountability for almost a decade and half! Our contributions to The Rotary Foundation are protected, invested and utilised by... US - Rotarians in over 46 000 Rotary clubs.

Despite their microscopic brains - smaller than a grain of rice - bees are able to grasp complex social concepts like voting. Hives are led by a queen, but some decisions are made by the entire swarm, including relocating the hive to a new home. Older bees first scout for new real estate, sharing their top

picks with other bees by dancing. Their “waggle dancing” actually gives other bees directions to the site. More scouts will observe the recommended spot, then return to the hive to vote either for or against it with their own dance.

With each wave of research, more and more bees vote by performing enthusiastic dances that give feedback until the entire hive agrees - displayed in a large-scale dance that signals consensus. We choose the projects. We oversee the projects. We improve the lives of millions of people.

I am not sure how many Rotarians do a ‘waggle dance’ to make decisions, but that may be a story for

another day.

By the way, in case you think that your contribution is insignificant, the average worker bee makes 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime which is six weeks long. That little dab of honey that you put on your toast this morning is the combined effort of 20 bees working their entire lives to bring you sweet joy for breakfast!

Your contribution to Rotary – whether it be financial or “sweat equity” – is valuable! Rotary membership can be as sweet as honey! Just Imagine how sweet your membership could be when you find your place of service, fellowship and fun!

Your enhanced online Rotary experience is beginning to unfold. Enjoy a modern design and search functionality that’s fast and easy-to-use.

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MY ROTARY.

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THREE CHEERS FOR THE WINNERS

At the end of the last Rotary year, then-Rotary Public Image Coordinator Lee-Ann Shearing recognised clubs and Rotarians which excelled in terms of their written and photographic contributions to Rotary Africa. The awards were judged in conjunction with the Rotary Africa editor-in-chief, Sarah van Heerden.

EDITORS CHOICE:

Jerry Opperman, Rotary Club of Newlands (D9350)

POSTHUMOUS SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Koos Burger

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Rotary Clubs of Century City, Cape Town, (D9350), Swakopmund (D9350), St Francis Bay (D9370), Pietersburg 100 (D9400) and Kasese (then-D9211) and Rakesh Gaju of the Rotary Club of Beau Bassin Rose-Hill Mauritius (D9220).

GOOD EFFORT:

Rotary Clubs of George (D9350), Helderberg Sunrise (D9350), Blouberg (D9350), Kenton-on-Sea (D9370), Knysna (D9350), Newlands (D9350), Swellendam (D9350), Helderberg (D9350), Dundee (D9370), Umhlanga (D9370), Westville (D9370), Benoni-Aurora (D9400), Boksburg (D9400), Gaborone (D9400), Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400), Polokwane (D9400), Pretoria East (D9400) and Rosebank (D9400) and Dr Mohammed Mir of the Rotary Club of Nairobi-Utumushi (D9212).

SPECIAL CITATION:

Rex Omameh Rotaract Club of Blouberg (D9350)

COMMENDATION:

Jacqui Pirzenthall of the Rotary Club of Jeffreys Bay (D9370)

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Charmaine Wheatley of the E-Club South Africa One (D9370), Jill Lombard of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370), Annemarie Mostert of the E-Club Southern Africa D9400

SPECIAL COMMENDATION:

Rotary Clubs of Gately (D9370) and Grahamstown (D9370)



ROTARY IN AFRICA

REG.NO. 1971/004840/07

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 09H00

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Rotary in Africa will be held at 728 Main Road Northdene, Durban, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa on Friday 16 September 2022 commencing at 09h00.

AGENDA

1. Call to order and announcements
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 21 May 2021
3. Chairman's report
4. Editor's report
5. Treasurer's report and submission of annual financial statements for the 18-month ended 30 June 2022.
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Election of directors (up to 3) to serve on the Board for a period of 2 years. In terms of the Company's Article of Association, the following directors are due to retire from the Board:
 - i. Andy Gray
 - ii. Lee-Ann Shearing
 - iii. Natty Moodley

Being eligible, the abovenamed individuals make themselves available for re-election together with any other nominations that may be submitted to the Secretary on or before Friday 09 September 2022.

Nominations must be emailed directly to Rotary in Africa at rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

8. To conduct or transact any other business pertinent to an Annual General Meeting.

**All current, immediate incoming and past Governors of Rotary District 9200, 9210, 9211, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9220, 9250, 9270, 9350, 9370 and 9400 are ex officio members of Rotary in Africa. A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf, provided that such appointment is advised to the Secretary at the offices of the company at least 48 hours before the meeting.*

Members can also attend online (contact us for a link).

Natty Moodley

Secretary

28/07/2022

REGISTERED OFFICE: 728 Main Road, Northdene, Durban, 4064

EMAIL: ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA

TELEPHONE: 083 701 5951

The **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**

INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT

A CONVERSATION WITH
NICKI SCOTT

"We can achieve harmony and amplify the sound if we all play the same tune instead of a staccato selection of solos."



Learn what your club can do at rotary.org/actionplan

Q. Why is increasing our ability to adapt one of the priorities of the Action Plan?

NICKI: Everyone, and every organization, is looking to make a greater societal impact. It's an enormous opportunity for Rotary to be a thought leader and a sought-after partner. But if we want to lead in a time of accelerating change, we need to become — and to be seen as — more agile and relevant.

Q. What are the challenges?

NICKI: As an organization, we're very fragmented and hierarchical. We have rules, officers, titles, and committees instead of teams. The more administrative layers you have, the more removed you are from the actual work.

We need to look at leadership as something anyone at any age can own. You don't need 40 years of experience before you can significantly contribute. Remember, Paul Harris was only 36 when he started Rotary.

Q. Where are you seeing opportunities?

NICKI: Before the pandemic, a large percentage of Rotary members didn't really think or see beyond their club. They didn't have a sense of themselves as a global network of change-makers. During the pandemic, people were joining virtual meetings in different districts and countries and seeing for the first time all the things Rotary was doing.

We're capitalizing on this momentum. I worked with a team in Great Britain and Ireland that started a Rotary global hub, an online platform that connects people to clubs but also gives them the opportunity to participate based on causes rather than location. And their involvement can be episodic rather than tied to a weekly meeting at a specific time. It is proving very successful in both attracting new and retaining existing Rotarians.

MEET NICKI SCOTT. A change-management consultant and a member of the Rotary Club of The North Cotswolds, England, Scott helped develop our Action Plan as part of Rotary's Strategic Planning Committee. She is the 2022-23 vice president of Rotary International.



I also see Rotary doing more to build on the work of others, to share leadership. In Great Britain and Ireland, we host Volunteer Expo, an event where all kinds of people and organizations can come together and collaborate. We don't have to reinvent the wheel every time.

Q. What structural changes will increase Rotary's ability to adapt?

NICKI: More regional autonomy is key. What might work for one region might not be a cultural fit for another.

We can be much more regionally focused without losing the ideals of a global organization, or losing the power of a global brand. We can achieve harmony and amplify the sound if we all play the same tune instead of a staccato selection of solos.

Q. What makes you most optimistic?

NICKI: Rotary has something powerful to offer. There are a lot of well-meaning organizations out there, but good intentions don't always translate to results. Rotary has the infrastructure and the integrity that people are looking for, and the connections in communities to know what is really needed. We know how to get the job done. We are people of action.



From our Sister Magazine: Revista Rotary Brazil

Focusing on a child's vision

At least 2.2 billion people around the world have a vision impairment, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed, says the World Health Organisation. In its 2019 publication World Report on Vision, WHO cites late detection due to a lack of access to preventive care and treatment as one of the main contributing factors.

Dom Pedrito, a small Brazilian municipality in the state of Rio Grande do Sul with a population of a little more than 38 000 residents, has stood out as a model in the early detection and treatment of amblyopia, an eye disease known as “lazy eye.”

The Rotary Club of Dom Pedrito, in partnership with the Dom Pedrito municipal government, established the Vision Forever programme in 2003. Over the past 19 years, the programme has served the city's entire population of children under age 5,

an essential stage for full vision development.

The idea started in 2002 at a conference in Florianópolis. One of its participants, Rogério Riet Vargas Tomasi, an ophthalmologist at the Hospital Banco de Olhos in Porto Alegre, was attending a plenary session about vision problems facing Brazil's elderly population. It occurred to him that a more effective way to alleviate eye diseases and vision loss among older adults was to promote the correction of visual impairment in childhood.

Members of the Rotary Club of Dom Pedrito learned about Tomasi's work and in the following year invited him to be a technical consultant when the club was planning a project related to eye health. Tomasi proposed that the club focus on early detection and treatment of amblyopia among children. The disease leads to a breakdown in how the brain and the eyes work together. As a



With the help of Rotary, more than 2 660 children were screened in Dom Pedrito in 2018 and 2019.

A child receives an amblyopia screening at a meeting place of Rotary Club of Dom Pedrito.



consequence, the brain can't recognise the sight from one eye. Amblyopia affects between 2 to 4 percent of children.

"Despite the prevalence of this problem, a large segment of the population was ignorant of amblyopia," Tomasi recalls.

Tomasi was not aware of any previous vision health projects aimed at pre-schoolers. Often, visual acuity exams were conducted on older children when amblyopia had already become difficult to reverse. "If the disease is left untreated, it could result in irreversible blindness," he says. Raising public awareness and early detection would therefore have clear benefits to children, allowing them to receive timely treatment. "Since the average life expectancy of Brazilians is over 75 years," Tomasi says, "that's giving children at least 70 years of good vision."

The Rotary Club of Dom Pedrito readily embraced Tomasi's proposal. In 2003, through a partnership with the municipal government, the project began. All children under 5 years of age received free eye examinations every year, regardless of whether they were enrolled in day care centres or in public and private preschools or whether they resided in urban or rural areas.

The amblyopia screenings normally took place inside a quiet, calm, well-lit clinic. Two medical staff members evaluated the visual acuity of a child's eye while covering the other eye with an ophthalmic occluder or plastic cup. Six meters away stood a panel with simple figures for the child to read.

If signs of amblyopia were detected, the child would be directed to an ophthalmologist for further examination and treatment in the public health network.

Meanwhile, an ophthalmologist offered periodic training for teachers and other school employees, teaching them how to detect amblyopia in younger children. In addition, educational signs were posted in the lobbies of all the local public schools. Record cards were created to keep track of each student's eye data, as well as a table of eye tests for each child up to 5 years of age, to accompany vaccination booklets.

By 2005, this initiative had screened 2 687 children. Among those, 59 were diagnosed with the disease. Tomasi, who joined the Rotary Club of Dom Pedrito in 2007, has continued to play a major role in the programme. In 2010, the project became so popular that the municipal government passed a law that allowed young children to receive free eye examinations. In 2014, the city of Sant'Ana do Livramento initiated a similar programme.

In 2018 and 2019, more than 2 660 children undertook amblyopia screening in Dom Pedrito; among them, 135 symptomatic children received proper medical care.

In early 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the programme. Tomasi says the amblyopia screening will resume next year. Despite this major setback, Tomasi says the programme has helped educate the public about amblyopia through the Rotary club's campaign and reports in the local media. "We have changed the general culture that ignores the vision of a young child," Tomasi explains. "You have to worry about amblyopia and other eye diseases when your child is 1 or 2 years of age."

- LUIZ RENATO DANTAS

Child abuse: has the early warning system broken down?

Children are dying because of failure to identify abuse, overworked social workers and too much red tape. By Lenina Rassool, courtesy of Ground Up

Eighteen-month-old Jeremiah Ruiters should not have died.

The toddler's ordeal could have ended soon after he was admitted to Cape Town's Red Cross Children's Hospital — with a broken arm — prompting doctors to suspect that he was a victim of abuse. Perhaps, it could have ended after Jeremiah returned to the hospital less than a month later with a badly injured finger, prompting doctors again to flag the case with social workers. If the social worker assigned to the case had paid more attention when she visited Jeremiah's home, instead of deciding that the child was not at risk, his life could have been saved.

Instead, on 12 June 2017, Jeremiah was raped and murdered by Ameerodien Peters, his mother's boyfriend and the man who had caused the injuries twice flagged by doctors.

More than three years later, in August 2020, the Western Cape High Court sentenced Peters to life imprisonment after convicting him on charges which included child abuse, rape and murder.

Jeremiah's tragic death reflects the alarming combination of a dysfunctional system, overworked social workers and a mess of red tape in the systems meant to keep children safe.

Professor Shanaaz Mathews, Director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Children's Institute, has been researching fatal child abuse since 2012 when she co-authored a mortuary-based retrospective survey on child homicides resulting from child abuse and neglect.

The study, commissioned by the Gender and Health Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council, looked at the records of 38 mortuaries to identify all instances of child homicides in 2009. It



Jeremiah Ruiters. Photo supplied

found that almost half (nearly 45%) of the 1,018 child homicides that year were due to child abuse or neglect. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the victims were babies and children aged four or younger. And, in 18% of cases where there was rape and homicide, the victims were aged five or younger.

The findings were confirmed by a second study, part of a child death review pilot study, which looked at records generated between 1 January and 31 December 2014 at the Salt River Mortuary in the Western Cape and Phoenix Mortuary in KwaZulu-Natal. The study found that 44% of child homicides were attributed to fatal child abuse.

Researchers found that police didn't consider solving young children's murders a priority. Most cases in the report were not properly investigated and very little was done to hold people accountable for child deaths from abuse and neglect. Researchers also inquired about social welfare involvement in the investigations; they found none.

In September 2015, the failure of social workers to identify and intervene in child abuse cases was emphasised by Mathews in a presentation to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

She highlighted two cases where young children had been left in dangerous situations and died as a likely result:

TIMELINE

Child Protection Investigation of Jeremiah Ruiters

2017

16 March

Red Cross Hospital sends a (referral) letter to the Western Cape Department of Social Development (DSD), saying they suspect he is a child at risk.

13 March

Jeremiah Ruiters is admitted to Red Cross Children's Hospital with a broken arm. The attending doctor records that Jeremiah may be a child at risk.

29 March

The social worker assigned to the case receives the referral letter and conducts a home visit on the same day. She finds Jeremiah at home with his stepfather. The visit lasts no longer than 30 minutes she concludes that Jeremiah is not a child at risk.

07 April

Jeremiah is admitted to Red Cross Children's Hospital a second time with an injury to his finger. Doctors send a second referral to the Department of Social Development that he may be a child at risk.

13 April

The social worker does not conduct a home visit. She meets with Jeremiah's mother and her partner, Peters, at her office. She notes that they appear to be a happy couple. After the consultation, she again decided that Jeremiah and his siblings are not children at risk of harm or abuse.

12 June 2017

Jeremiah is murdered by his mother's boyfriend, Ameerudien Peters.

and placed the child back in the foster parent's care, Mathews said. Two months later the child was dead and an autopsy revealed that he weighed a mere 9 kg. There was "no evidence of medical care" even though the child was found to have cerebral palsy.

These deaths were preventable, said Mathews.

Jeremiah Ruiters was in part a victim of this dysfunctional system. Advocate Bonnie Currie-Gamwo, a former Deputy Director of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and now Special Director of Public Prosecutions: Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, says social workers missed several chances to save the toddler's life.

Currie-Gamwo worked directly on the prosecution of Jeremiah's killer, Ameerodien Peters. (The little boy's mother, Abigail Ruiters, was convicted of child neglect.) Currie-Gamwo was also part of the Child Death Review project in the Western Cape, an initiative of the UCT Children's Institute first piloted in 2014.

The project brings together a panel of representatives from law enforcement, child protection and social services, a paediatric nurse, a paediatrician, a forensic pathologist and a prosecutor to review child deaths on a regular basis.

Jeremiah's case was among those reviewed – and it quickly became clear how his case had slipped through the cracks before his death.

"Because we have people from Red Cross on the panel, we immediately picked up that this child had been seen by a doctor who wrote on the form that this is a child at risk," said Currie-Gamwo.

"So immediately there should be intervention from social services."

A social worker did visit the home, but did not do a proper investigation, Currie-Gamwo says.

"She only ticked the boxes, as per the form, based on a home visit that lasted no more than 30 minutes. She left the file with her supervisor who was supposed to deal with it further down the line."

The Child Death Review team recommended that the Department of Social Development "take steps" to discipline the social worker. Currie-Gamwo said this had happened and the social worker had been cleared of any wrongdoing.

"We weren't particularly happy with that. But

A four-year-old child was brought to Red Cross Hospital with a severe head injury, as well as other injuries sustained at various ages. The child died in 2014, but the case had been known to the Department of Social Development since 2012, said Mathews. The mother used "harsh discipline", "leaves the child without food", and was "physically abusive".

An eight-year-old boy who had been in foster care since the age of one month died in 2015 of severe dehydration and malnutrition. The child - a "definite abuse case" - was admitted to Red Cross in December 2014. The Department of Social Development looked into the home



About 1 000 children die by homicide yearly. Archive photo: Ashraf Hendricks

it's their process. We cannot dictate to a department," she said.

Galled by the failures in Jeremiah's case, Currie-Gamwo and Mathews wrote to the then-Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille, in August 2017.

This letter added to mounting civil society pressure on the Western Cape government to do something to intervene in the high rates of child murders in the province. In 2018, the provincial government adopted an Action Plan which noted that among the "gaps in early detection, referrals, and protection of children at risk" was the failure of social workers to do proper "risk assessments".

Since then, training and procedures have been improved and adherence to a Safety and Risk Assessment Tool is now mandatory for all social workers, the department has said. But is it being used?

The Safety and Risk Assessment Tool for child protection investigations was developed by Professor Vollie Spies, an associate professor at the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria, at the request of the national Department of Social Development. It was intended to be a step-by-step protocol because there was nothing like it available for social workers at the time, Spies says. Staff in the department's offices all over the country were trained in the use of the tool in 2015.

But, Spies suspects, many social workers did not make use of the tool to its full potential.

"Unfortunately, and I'm saying this with regret and sadness, like all other professions, people find their own ways, which is not always the scientific way," said Spies.

Asked about the use of the Safety and Risk Assessment Tool, the Western Cape Department of Social Development responded at length.

"The tool has assisted both DSD and designated child protection organisations' social workers with early intervention and prevention services. The assessment identifies the level and type of risks, and appropriate support given before a child is removed. This can be measured by the number and type of interventions done with the families, and adherence to the safety plan," said Esther Lewis, the department's spokesperson.

A DANGEROUS JOB

Social workers do not bear the blame alone when the system fails children. Interviewed on condition of anonymity, social workers with experience working in both government and in civil society agencies said they struggled to balance their obligations with the often dangerous aspects of their jobs and an overwhelming workload.

One social worker said social workers are often abused or attacked while investigating child abuse reports. As a result, many do not do all they should to investigate child abuse or to place a child in a safe place, she said.

Some areas are so dangerous that social workers need a police escort.

“You have to go to the actual police station, tell them that there’s a particular case and possible risk, and they then send out a police van with you.” Sometimes a shortage of police vehicles meant that social workers could spend hours waiting for an escort.

“I had one case like that which was horrific. When we got to the house, there were gangsters, there was a shebeen, it was so bad and the police just left me there. I was 21 years old, it was my very first job, and here I am in this house where there’s possible abuse.”

She said some social workers made up their case notes to protect themselves, pretending, for instance, that they had visited a house but no-one had opened the door.

A lack of supervision is a serious problem, she said.

The supervisor in the Jeremiah Ruiters case, for instance, should have questioned the social worker. “The normal process is that you have to actually wake up that kid, you have to take the child’s clothes off, even to the point where you have to take that child to be assessed medically and that’s what that social worker needs to do, but it often doesn’t happen.”

“Social workers are coming out of institutions with all the theory, but are then thrown into a landscape of violence and social ills and are required to do so much that they’re not really prepared for,” said another social worker, with 24 years experience.

“It can never be about one person, a social worker, having to make such a profound definitive decision regarding families’ lives or a child’s life on their own. Where was the supervisor in [Jeremiah’s case]?”

All the social workers interviewed complained about the laborious, slow paper-based system for case management. Work had often to be duplicated, sometimes reports were sent to the wrong jurisdiction repeatedly, and the absence of electronic records and data search facilities made tracing cases very slow.

The National Child Protection Register is supposed to solve this problem, according to *Out of Harm’s Way: Tracking child abuse cases through the child protection system at five selected sites in South Africa* published by the UCT Children’s Institute. Specifically, Part A of the register, which is meant to keep a record of abuse or deliberate neglect inflicted on specific children, should be used to protect these children from further abuse and neglect. According to the Western Cape DSD, access to Part A Child Protection register is restricted and surveillance is done by the National Department of Social Development. The National Department did not

respond to questions about access and management of the register.

There have also been long standing concerns that the register is not properly maintained and so is not accurate.

In 2010, says the Institute, the Register noted 1 348 cases of abuse (sexual, physical, and emotional) and neglect cases. But in the same year the police recorded over 51 000 sexual offences and physical assaults against children - a disparity which suggests that the department is “almost certainly under-reporting levels of abuse.”

Between the subsequent financial years, 2011/12 to 2019/20, child abuse cases captured in the register have fluctuated between about 2 100 and 8 500.

BABY CASWELL

In December 2021, the body of nine-month-old Caswell Frans was found in a shallow grave in Vrygrond, south of Cape Town. Caswell’s mother was addicted to drugs, lived on the street and could not care for him. An agreement was reached with an acquaintance in the community to look after the baby. But Caswell’s aunt and grandfather soon became concerned that he was being abused and neglected. They say they contacted a social worker to inform him that Caswell might be at risk. They say the social worker failed to intervene.

Caswell’s care giver has since been arrested for his murder.

The Western Cape Department of Social Development launched an investigation into the conduct of the social worker. The family have been told that the information gathered is currently with the Premier’s office - which will consider whether disciplinary action against the social worker is warranted.

But for Caswell, it is too late.

This story was produced by Viewfinder for GroundUp with a grant from the Henry Nxumalo Fund for Investigative Journalism.



The Metalhead Fellowship promoted the worldwide release of the song “Cancer,” by the band Hostage (above), formed in 2018 by Nico Ruddies, Marvin Ruddies, David Fuß and Noah Müller.

Powered by metal

The Metalhead Fellowship, a Rotary Fellowship of heavy metal music lovers, often hosts fundraisers to support The Rotary Foundation and the Wacken Foundation, a non-profit that promotes young metal talent around the world. In its most recent gig, however, the fellowship turned to a different cause. The group teamed up with Hostage, a new metal band from Germany, to raise money for cancer research and treatment.

As part of the campaign, Hostage released a new song, “Cancer,” to raise money leading up to World Cancer Day on 4 February 2022. It’s a hard-hitting song about the painful and devastating disease of lung cancer. Donations collected through the song’s promotion went to the Union for International

Cancer Control, a Geneva-based international NGO.

“To our surprise, we received support from well-known commentators in the metalcore scene, who publicised the campaign on their channels,” says Marcos Ricardo Klitzke, co-founder of the fellowship, as well as a member of the Rotary Club of Timbó-Pérola do Vale, Brazil. And the fellowship’s chair, Felix Heintz, was also able to promote the fundraiser during a Rotary International webinar. “The campaign has helped increase the fellowship’s membership,” Klitzke adds. “We now have 207 members in 18 countries. Our fellowship group has shown the Rotary universe many new possibilities.”

- RENATA CORÉ



The Keys to Engagement:

Understanding and Delivering Personal Value Keeps Rotary Fulfilling,
by Andrea Elliott, RI Marketing and Communications

We know that people engage with Rotary to make connections, find opportunities for personal growth and develop leadership skills, all while making a difference in the world.

A 2020 survey reconfirmed that our members, more specifically, value community service, friendship and professional development. Knowing this helps us meet their needs and give them reasons to stay involved.

Our focus, then, should be offering more of these meaningful experiences. How do we do this? Two main ways are by fostering mentoring relationships and by supporting activities that let people use their skills in new ways or build new skills through membership and service.

MENTORING FOR GROWTH

A 2002 study by Melenie J Lankau and Terri A Scandura found that mentoring relationships in the workplace contribute to people's individual growth, help them reach goals, provide role models and offer them social and psychological support. All of these can lead employees to stay in their jobs longer.

We see this in Rotary as well. Flavia Maria Nakayima Miir, an epidemiologist who has been involved in Rotary since a friend invited her to join the Rotaract Club of Makerere (D9214) in 1995, says she has benefited from Rotary in many aspects of leadership development, particularly in mentoring relationships.

She experienced this as a Rotaractor, while she was pursuing a social sciences degree at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

"We would get Rotarians to speak to us about the career paths they have taken and how impactful Rotary has been in their lives. The interaction I had with different Rotarians, seeing the respect they had in society and seeing how Rotary could open doors, was enough to convince me," says Miir, who joined the Rotary Club of Kampala (D9213) in 2005 and is now a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers who focuses on disease prevention and maternal and child health. "Then, when I became more established career-wise, I mentored Rotaractors at the university to give them career guidance."

Miiró understands that either being or having a mentor can lead to meaningful personal and professional experiences — two things that appeal to both new and long-time participants.

“As a former Rotaractor, I know many Rotaractors in Uganda have joined Rotary because of those relationships. We have talks and mentorships with [Rotary members], but we also look at professional opportunities when that relationship is built, so that in Africa, where employment challenges exist, people get opportunities,” Miiró says.

Mentors can also encourage people “to step out of their own mental frames and into another’s,” according to the same 2002 study by Lankau and Scandura. Miiró’s Rotary membership continues to be influenced by such mentors.

“One member who made a lasting impression on me was a Ugandan Rotarian who used to say, ‘If I’m not there, then who is there?’ That saying comes to me whenever I feel like making an excuse. And then there was the late Sam Frobisher Owori, who was a member of my Rotary club. Sadly, he passed away a year before he was supposed to take office as Rotary president. He would attend meetings and projects diligently, impressing me with his humility and leadership. People like that have had an impact on me.”

USING AND BUILDING SKILLS IN SERVICE

Having or being a mentor can play an important role in another key component of engagement: how people use their skills and learn new ones.

Lankau and Scandura’s research shows that mentoring relationships help people develop interpersonal skills and provide other learning experiences that increase engagement. The researchers also note that relationships are a major factor in personal learning, which includes communicating effectively, listening attentively and solving problems.

All those skills are part of Rotary’s people of action mindset. They make us into leaders who can



get things done and positively influence others.

Miiró has experienced this since her time in Rotaract, when her club volunteered at monthly health camps that offered immunisations and dental care in a community near Kampala. Children under age 10 received toothpaste and toothbrushes each year. Miiró recalls teaching a six-year-old boy how to brush his teeth.

“Before our health camps, teeth brushing was never something for children. They would just rinse their mouth,” she says. “By providing the toothbrush and dental health education, the community as a whole learned about dental care and, in time, the number of people presenting with cavities was reduced.”

As a researcher and expert in public health and analysis, Miiró is familiar with needs assessments that identify gaps in service, but they often come from the assessor’s point of view. She finds Rotary’s community assessments, which propose solutions based on what residents say they need, more effective.

“Rotary’s emphasis is on assessing the problem through the eyes of the people in that community and whatever solution you come up with is from the community’s point of view,” she says. “You have their participation and they tell you what they want to see.”

SETTING PEOPLE UP FOR LONG-TERM INVOLVEMENT

Being in mentoring relationships and finding other opportunities to build her skills have kept Miiró interested in Rotary for more than two decades.

Even now, while living in the US and working toward a PhD in epidemiology at the University of Arizona, she attends her home club's meetings virtually and she has also gotten involved with two local Rotary clubs.

Miiró's experience shows that meaningful engagement on both a personal and a professional level is a valuable feature of Rotary. Lankau and Scandura tell us that "mentors provide a unique resource for the types of personal learning required ... in today's complex and rapidly changing environment."

By providing those kinds of relationships and opportunities to build and use skills, we make it more likely that Rotary participants will stay involved for years to come.



Diversity
strengthens
our clubs

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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Most of the effort to reduce plastic is going into dealing with single-use products like the water bottles in the above photo. This is not unimportant, but the bigger problem is long-life plastics, like the clothes we wear, earphones and the furniture we sit on.

Plastic pollution

We're getting it wrong. The focus on single-use plastics is diverting attention from a much more serious problem. It's also causing bad practices

By Neil Thomas Stacey, courtesy of Ground Up

Single-use plastics, like the ubiquitous plastic bottle, are often seen as the main cause of plastic waste. But in the long term, these are a much less serious threat to the environment than long-life plastics.

Single-use plastics only comprise about 40% of all plastic that is manufactured and they are more likely to be recycled or chemically converted after use so, over the long term, they would contribute less than 40% of total waste.

Furthermore, single-use plastic becomes waste almost immediately after use, whereas long-lived plastic products may last 10 to 20 years before being discarded. This means that when we look at today's waste, we are comparing today's single-use plastics to the long-lived plastics of decades past. Plastic production, of course, has been increasing exponentially since its invention, so this comparison distorts reality to make it appear as if single-use plastics are a bigger part of the problem than they are.

The truth is, single-use plastics are the easiest part

of the plastics problem for us to solve. They are made mostly of polypropylene, polyethylene, or polyethylene terephthalate, which are the easiest polymers to recycle.

These polymers are also suitable for thermochemical conversion at their end-of-life; they are mostly small and flexible and lend themselves to shredding and pelletization; and they are seldom joined to other materials. Long-lived plastics, on the other hand, are frequently combined with materials like metal and other textiles, making them problematic to process. Couches are mainly made of plastics these days, for example, but a recycling plant wouldn't even know where to start on one.

The other advantage of single-use plastics over longer-lived materials is the way they shed micro-plastic. Single-use plastics have a short usage cycle, so they don't produce much by way of micro-plastics until after they are discarded at end-of-life.

This means that if you solve the end-of-life processing of single-use plastics, then their micro-plastic emissions are taken care of too. Long-lived plastics, on the other hand, may shed micro-plastic

throughout their useful life, a problem which cannot be solved by end-of-life processing.

To put it another way, with single-use plastics the only problem we have to solve is how to get rid of them, and that is a problem we currently have the technology to solve. With long-lived plastics, however, there are two distinct problems - how to handle them at end of life, and how to prevent the release of micro-plastic during their useful life - and we have made virtually no progress in solving either.

Overall, single-use plastics are a less severe long-term problem than long-lived plastics, and a far more easily solvable one. That doesn't mean that single-use plastics should be ignored - they are a factor in the waste plastic problem and so reducing usage of them is important. But public attention is a finite commodity to be used sparingly, and the focus on the easy matter of single-use plastics may distract us from much more difficult and complex aspects of the waste plastic problem.

Up-cycling, the practice of converting waste plastic into something more valuable than the original product, seems like an obvious win-win, but in some cases it makes the problem of micro-plastics emissions worse.

Consider clothing, for instance. Most of our clothing today is made from polymer fibres that release micro-plastic fibres during normal wear and tear, and particularly when they are washed. Recently it has become common to see tags on clothing announcing proudly that it is made from recycled plastic bottles. This looks environmentally friendly and frequently draws applause. But in terms of micro-plastic release, the effects are damaging for two main reasons.

First, each time a polymer molecule is recycled, some portion of its chemical bonds are broken. This means that recycled plastic breaks down and sheds microplastic particles faster than fresh plastic does, which means that in general usage, their rate of micro-plastic emission will be higher.

Textiles are thought to contribute 16 to 35% of microplastics that enter the ocean, so minimizing that release should be a priority. This is exacerbated by the fact that recycling weakens plastic, making it less durable. Most of the micro-plastic release from clothing occurs during the first few washes, which

means that the more frequently you have to buy new items, the more micro-plastic is released.

In other words, when you buy a recycled plastic shirt, it sheds faster than one made from fresh plastic, and you have to buy a replacement sooner, further speeding up that release.

The second issue is end-of-life processing. Single-use plastics can mostly be converted into fuel or be used as a source of energy in high-temperature thermo-chemical processes, permanently removing them from the environment. Clothing is far more problematic.

Additives, fibre blends and dyes make it difficult to handle and, at present we just do not have any good end-of-life processing methodology for it.

So, while converting old plastic bottles into clothing delays that plastic's entry into the environment, it turns one solvable problem into two intractable problems - micro-plastic shedding during use, and end-of-life processing.

The excessive emphasis on single-use plastics has created an 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude toward plastic waste, where we focus on removing visible waste from sight without regard for the long-term danger of micro-plastic release.

We shouldn't be using recycled plastic to make products that are exposed to abrasion or photo-degradation, and we shouldn't use waste plastic in applications that prevent us from retrieving it later.

Mixing plastic into paving or road surfaces may remove it from sight, but in the end it will be broken down into micro-plastics that get dispersed into the environment. It may mean less plastic that we can see, but it means more plastic that we can't.

Keeping the focus on single-use plastics protects a business model that generates most of its revenue from higher-value, long-lived plastics that we don't yet have a plan for handling. Straws, bottles and packets, unfortunately, are the easy stuff. The hard conversation is about textiles, tyres, paint and countless other products that unavoidably shed micro-plastic both during their lifecycle and at the end of it. That conversation has barely even started.

Neil Thomas Stacey lectures on waste-water management at Wits University.

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.

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Ntinga Khozi means “arise eagle” in English.

Nwabisa Nkonyana teaches art to children

“We have so many artists in Khayelitsha” — owner of township art centre hopes to expand. By Ashraf Hendricks, courtesy of Ground Up

On a sandy piece of vacant land in Makhaza, Khayelitsha, is Nwabisa Nkonyana’s art centre.

The surrounding land was occupied earlier this year, but the new residents kept this plot for something to benefit the whole community. After several community meetings, Nkonyana was asked to use the plot for her project.

The Ntinga Khozi Fine Art Centre operates both as a gallery and as an art centre where children from six to 16 come to dance classes, art classes, storytelling and educational games. Nkonyana teaches the art classes - she can’t dance or write, she says, laughing.

Nkonyana, who is from Qonce (King William’s Town), came to Cape Town in December 2016

after completing a fine arts degree at Walter Sisulu University. But she struggled to find work as an artist in Khayelitsha. “I couldn’t find studios here, I couldn’t get galleries,” she said.

“I was just looking for space that I could work from, but I couldn’t get any,” she said.

Finally she decided to do it herself and in December 2018 she and her business partner Yolanda Sihlali launched the “Fugly” art gallery from a shack in Town 2, Khayelitsha.

“I started collecting artworks from local artists. That’s how I knew we had so many artists in Khayelitsha,” she said. But it was challenging, she said, because the gallery was a new concept in the area.



Township galleries are still a new concept, says Nkonyana.

Except for a handful of “art lovers” most residents showed little interest. But with the help of tour guides, they got tourists to visit their gallery and started selling pieces.

Nkonyana said that she was surprised that she didn’t need to go to town to sell art. “I can sell art from a township! That was so huge for me.”

After her business partner left, Nkonyana found the gallery a new home in an RDP house in Makhaza. It was here that she realised she needed more than a gallery. She wanted to create an art centre where she could teach children and emerging artists, a place where she could host events.

This was the beginning of the Ntinga Khozi Fine Art Centre, meaning “arise eagle”.

Operating from occupied land has its own set of challenges. There isn’t any electricity and children have to use neighbours’ toilets. Safety is also an issue. “People are getting shot everyday in Khayelitsha. You never know when it’s your turn,” says



The centre cost R20 000 to build, which Nkonyana funded herself. She would like to paint the outside but paints and brushes are needed.





12-year-old Wonga Makrwaqa and 13-year-old Onako Dlakadla take part in a class at the Ntinga Khozi Fine Art Centre in Makhaza, Khayelitsha.

Photos: Ashraf Hendricks



Nwabisa Nkonyana shows a class how to get proportions right when drawing a face.



Nkonyana. A fence was donated to the centre but part of it was stolen. “More than anything else, we need to feel safe,” she said.

The classes, held every weekday, are free. Parents are asked to pay a small donation but that isn’t always possible. The centre needs art supplies, easels and chairs. The space is also cramped and Nkonyana would like to get containers to make the centre bigger, and to work with ceramics, paint and clay.

Nkonyana said that she has worked with close to 50 artists from Cape Town townships. “My focus now is to show township stories through the gallery,” she said.

“I have the land, but I don’t have the money,” she says.



District Governor Peace Taremwa helps out at a project during a club visit.

Taking Rotary to the People

District Governor Peace Taremwa's Official visits to Rotary clubs, will take place at project sites, in order to engage the community and demonstrate that Rotary is not only for the elite but exists to improve the lives of people from all walks of life.

On 1st July 2022, Peace Godfrey Taremwa of the Rotary Club of Kajjansi (D9214), took office as district governor (DG). District 9214 has more than 80 clubs with a membership that exceeds 2 000. The district includes the Republic of Tanzania and part of Uganda.

During his official visits to the clubs, DG Peace will share and discuss the priorities of the Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, his district goals and priorities, and highlight significant upcoming initiatives. He will also encourage club members to participate in club, district and other charitable events, recognise outstanding club projects as well as individual contributions to the foundation.

In a bid to enhance the public image of Rotary as People of Action, for the first time in Uganda and Tanzania, all the DG's official visits will take place at project sites or in communities served by Rotary clubs. These special visits will coincide with board meetings, club assemblies and gatherings for community participation.

"It is crucial for us to move Rotary out of our

typical meeting locations and offices to the people," said DG Peace during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Wandegeya members during his first official visit. "If we accomplish that, the globe and the communities in which we work will be able to fully experience Rotary's impact."

During his visit, he commissioned a \$95 000 WASH project for children with HIV/AIDS at UYWEFA Primary School in the Kazo Nansana Municipality. Kazo Central Village's chairman, Ssalongo Medi Mugerwa, thanked the governor and the Kampala-Wandegeya club for choosing to have the event at the project's site

The DG's visits aim to improve communities, as well as impact the lives of individuals. For his official visit to the Rotary Club of Masaka, he met the club members at the home of Ms Maulicia in Kkingo Village and officially handed over the house that the club had built for the old woman. The visibly excited and tearful Maulicia was overwhelmed with joy and danced nonstop.

At Rotary Club of Lyantonde Metropolitan, DG



Peace Taremwa laid the foundation stone for the first maternity unit at Kabayanda Health Centre II. He assured the residents that he will be back to commission the ward once it's completed later this the year.

The Rotary Club of Lyantonde also built a pit latrine at Kabetemere Primary School, which will greatly aid in addressing the issue of hygiene. While speaking to the community, DG Peace expressed concern on the lack of private spaces for the ladies and he said they are crucial.

On Sunday, 24 July, DG Peace travelled to Kanoni Church of Uganda and joined the ground-breaking ceremony for an early childhood development centre, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Kajjansi and Ibanda in partnership with IREAD International.

DG Peace Taremwa with Ms Maulicia who received a new home from the Rotary Club of Masaka.



A hive of competition

Sitting atop the Lebombo mountains, near Mkuze in Northern Zululand, Gobandlovu Private School educates many AIDS orphans who live with their illiterate grandparents. The remote rural area is plagued by poverty and while the school fees are kept minimal, the running of school is mostly funded by its founder, a man who grew up in the area and fully understands the role of education plays in dismantling poverty.

The humble school is a centre of inspiring learning where the education is provided in English to ensure that the children are confident and fluent in the language. It recently hosted a spelling bee in Mkuze town and invited 10 schools to participate. Four schools accepted the challenge and received a list of words for each grade. The schools began coaching all learners from Grades 1 to 8 and the top two spellers from each grade were entered into the interschool competition.

The Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370) helped with securing sponsorship from businesses in the Empangeni and Richards Bay areas, as well as the shareholders of Kube Yini Private Game Reserve.



Coming up...

Submit your Rotary club or district events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za. Please include 'calendar' in the subject

24 SEPTEMBER

THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF GREATER CAPE TOWN (D9350) Heritage day zoom event at 1pm. This event is FREE and focus is on the diversity of South Africa through the cultural cuisine of 12 acclaimed chefs. The event will also feature an introduction to The Rainbow Nation Cookery Guide, a collection of traditional South African recipes and stories as told by the 12 chefs and published as a fundraising initiative in collaboration with the E-Club. For more information on how to join and to RSVP, go to <https://www.rotaryclubonline/>

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.



It's been a busy Woman's Month for the Rotary Club of Riverside (D9400) as members have been giving knitted items to those in need. For a number of years, the club has run a knitting project from the Pioneer Hotel in Vanderbijlpark. The knitters are all volunteers and at one stage the club had 20 knitters. During Women's Month, the knitting group completed 53 teddies, 332 jerseys, 755 beanies, 17 babygrow and bootie sets and 12 baby blankets. Among the knitters is 89-year-old Tannie Babsie Laing who makes many of the baby items. The beautifully knitted items were distributed by the Rotary Anns' Club of Riverside to Eagle Wings Shelter situated in Meyerton. Other recipients included the Midvaal Municipality Community Services, the Kompas Church feeding scheme and a children's place of safety.



Mandela Day round up

Since former President Nelson Mandela described the elderly as “the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation and to the world,” it was fitting that the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) celebrated Mandela by honouring the elderly.

The Rotarians and Anns partnered in an exciting joint project that treated the 400 residents of Aryan Benevolent Home (ABH) to an extra special day.

The residents enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, interaction, good food and snacks, while 80 children also received hot dogs, juice and other treats.

Club President Morgan Moodley praised the members, sponsors and donors, “I applaud your true spirit of humanitarian work and appreciate the efforts you make to improve the plight and lives of the less fortunate”

The Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370) gave a winter warmth donation to Khanya Hospice. With the donation is Hospice CEO Neil McDonald.





Rotary Ann Rachel Ulyate, of the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400), devised a creative project to celebrate Mandela Day. The goal of the Show Us Your Cans project was to collect 6 700 cans of food for the Mandela Day 67 minutes... and it did! More than 6 700 cans were collected by Anns, Rotarians and members of Round Table 181. The total value of the collected cans was approximated at R100 000.



To celebrate Mandela Day, the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) partnered with Geshim Francis, Pithambaram Francis and Aneshrie Moodley in a feeding scheme project. The project also included the distribution of 500 food parcels to homeless people in the community. The Rotary Club of Polokwane partnered with the Francis family (Pathmadevi Feeding Scheme) to continue working with the feeding scheme on a monthly basis.



The Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick (D9370) joined Love Howick NPC to celebrate Mandela Day by creating a welcome garden at the Nelson Mandela Capture Site and not one, but two, community food gardens at schools in Lions River. The club contributed more than 600 vegetable seedlings and arranged a donation of compost.



Women's Day tea

President Charlotte Khoza of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400 hosted a high tea at The Secret Tea Garden in Fourways, Johannesburg, to celebrate Women's Day.

The Let's Empower Women High Tea celebrated the strength and resilience of women and their contribution to society and country. A wonderful bouquet of women gathered and touched on Women Empowerment issues. The occasion commemorated social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women from various backgrounds and industries and reflected on the current hardships that have plagued women in our country.

"It is very liberating to have powerful women gathered here under the umbrella of Rotary, finding ways to support and stand for one another and empower each other. In the words of the esteemed Oprah Winfrey, 'When women put their heads together powerful things happen,'" said Khoza

The programme had an amazing line up of speakers, including Keabetswe Mashugane (a South African actress, Master of Ceremonies and businesswoman) and Dr Lee-Ann Moodley (Director for the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Sustainable Territorial Development and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of RIMM Sustainability, based in Singapore).

VALUABLE LESSONS AND INSIGHT SHARED BY THE SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

Rotarian Dr Miriam Sha, the Founder and Director of Awakening Excellence, who has helped organisations to grow and develop their businesses is driven primarily by the belief that an organisation's greatest asset is, indeed, its people. Some of the core beliefs shared by Dr Sha were that: "every individual possesses the resources to achieve their dreams and that everyone has the power within to be successful."

Charlotte du Plessis, CEO and Founder of The Woman of Stature Foundation, a visionary and philanthropist, entrepreneur and mentor, is building her legacy as a leader of mankind. "I believe that as we empower ourselves and assume every bit of responsibility to do so, we are empowering and building a new nation of women and men."

Rotarian Celeste Diale, a Brand Architect and Concept Developer, passionately promotes social entrepreneurship in peacebuilding innovations among the youth in different areas. Celeste said that women in the country are wounded and urged everyone to take a stand, participate in conversation and take key learnings from the day's discussions and find ways to help heal South Africa.

Africa's Region 28 Ambassador for Empowering Girls, PDG Annemarie Mostert was elated at the awareness that this gathering created adding, "Rotary International has a spotlight on our girls. We are more effective when the whole-of-society is working together to bring compassion, resources and expertise in response to the humanitarian crisis. Let's leave no girl behind!"



Youth Exchange is back!

On 1 August 2022, 19 excited Youth Exchange students from Germany and Italy gathered outside Virginia Airport and boarded the Rotary bus to the base camp for the week at St Lucia, writes *Hilary Augustus of D9370 Rotary Youth Exchange*.

Once we had unpacked and had lunch, it was time for our first experience of the trip, an afternoon boat trip on the estuary to look for hippos.

The following day, we had an early start and travelled to Sodwana Bay for a snorkelling experience, where we saw lots of whales but sadly, no dolphins. On Wednesday, we visited the Emdoneni Cheetah rehab centre to see, and in some instances, touch the friendlier cheetahs. Afterwards, we visited a traditional Zulu village.

Thursday was the day for a visit to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve. Sadly, we did not see all the big five, as no big cats were to be found, but everything else appeared for a photo shoot. Friday

was a day to relax on the beautiful beach at Cape Vidal and Saturday we visited the Goat Cheese Farm – unfortunately, we never got to experience goat milking as all the ewes were pregnant. Our last formal outing was the visit to the Crocodile Farm to watch the giant reptiles being fed.

By all accounts, it was a great week making new friends and having the opportunity to see a bit of our beautiful country.

A big thank you to Wally and Denise Brook, of the Rotary Club of Empangeni (D9370), for arranging the tour and to Joe Jagethpersad, of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370), our bus driver for the tour.

Share your news with Africa.

Email photos and details to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



Short Term Exchange Students receiving the Rotary Club of Chatsworth banners from Club President Morgan Moodley and Ann President Linda Moodley.

Exploring Africa

The Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) is hosting two short-term Rotary Youth Exchange Students, Nello Arand and Jan Conrad, from Germany.

Nello is being hosted by Past President Eugene Moodley and his family, whose son Saien Moodley is also part of the Short-Term Exchange Programme (STEP) and will visit Germany in December 2022.

Jan Conrad has been hosted by Endren Chetty and his family. Their only son, Eldren, will also visit Germany in December 2022.

These young German students have had an unforgettable adventure during the six-week programme, having been exposed to authentic Indian food and lifestyle.

ROTARY SHOWCASE



Attention Rotary clubs!

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

AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) lent a hand to the community of Riet River when it distributed 120 hot meals, 50 toiletry hampers and 65 warm blankets as part of its winter warmth campaign.

The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) hosted an exciting social Bingo night in July.

Organised by Rotarians Aneshrie Moodley and Geshim Francis, the night featured three rounds of Bingo. The winners were awarded prizes sponsored by Rotarians.

Left: Denzil Antonio, who won round one, receiving his prize from Rotarian Aneshrie Moodley.





The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) hosted Christmas in July and collected cans of non-perishable food from the attendees. Audra Visser and Jill Lombard presented the donation to Alina Molupe and Anna Esterhuyse of St Francis Haven in Welkom.



The Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) undertook a successful Garden of Life project. The garden has had several harvests this last year which provided food for numerous institutions from previously disadvantaged areas. This include several old age homes, a squatter camp, children's homes and some very needy destitute child-headed homes.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK



THE ALL-MEMBER SURVEY IS COMING IN OCTOBER!

This is your chance to tell us what you like, what you don't like, and what you want from your Rotary membership.

To make sure you receive the survey, update your email address at my.rotary.org/profile/me.

WALL OF HONOUR



Corder Tilney (seated), Ted Keenan, Rick Tudhope, Gordon Thompson and Anthony Godwin were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows by the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370). Corder Tilney received a sapphire pin.



Pierre Tromp is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Leonie Pelteret is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Anton Rousseau received a Long Service award from the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Mandy Volschenk was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



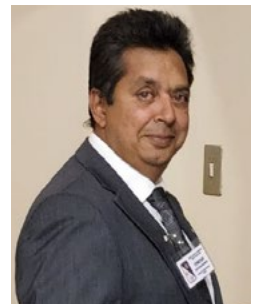
Pat Fleuriot is a new member of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).



Bill McAinsh received a Distinguished Service award from the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



John Mogodi is a new member of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Vinesh Devchand is a new member of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).

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