

Rotary Opens Opportunities

# Rotary



# District 9400

Incorporating clubs in Botswana, Eswatini and parts of Mozambique and South Africa



## District Governor Newsletter

### February 2021

One year ago, RI President Holger Knaack unveiled this year's Rotary theme: **Rotary Opens Opportunities**. As leaders in virtually every community on earth, we bring a unique combination of local knowledge and access to global networks of expertise and resources. This year more than ever, you have shown me that you are resourceful, resilient, have indestructible usefulness, and find joy in serving.

**Thank you for participating in the Mid-Year Assembly. You shared your stories, and we celebrated together as you have stepped up!**

**The Headline Sponsor for the Centennial Celebration has been confirmed!**

**Turn to page 4!**

**DG Annemarie and  
PP Hans Mostert**

Despite the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, you live your life investing into the lives of so many families & communities around the world. You continue to bring comfort. Thank you.

We must prescribe to personal hygiene protocols, social distancing, and other guidelines outlined by the World Health Organisation. We should also encourage others to do the same. Special attention must be paid to our employees' life situation – the value of social responsibility has dramatically increased – and be ready to provide support. Rotarians must be active participants in the process of vaccination, to promote its necessity using our experience in the fight against Polio.





Over the past months we have lost Faithful Servants. Our sincere condolences to the members of the clubs, their family and friends who have suffered great loss. May God comfort you and give you the strength that you need during these difficult times. May their Souls Rest in Internal Peace.

This month we focus and pay tribute to non-violence and peace. The Knotted Gun sculpture, a 357 Magnum revolver with a muzzle tied, displayed outside UN in New York, is an iconic and powerful symbol of a WORLD at PEACE which has enriched the consciousness of humanity.



**My wish for you is to have more peace, more ME-time, be kinder to yourself and use every opportunity to connect and promote positive and hopeful stories.**



Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life, and Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts. Rotary creates environments of peace.

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe that by carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education,

and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today has challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary has four roles in promoting peace and creates environments where peace can happen. Rotary and its members are: Practitioners, Educators, Mediators and Advocates.





# SHIFTING OUR SAILS AND RIDING THE STORM

**SOMETIMES WE CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, NOT SO THE WORLD CAN SEE US, BUT SO WE CAN SEE THE WORLD.**

## Looking at life differently

DGA ANGELA NORRIS

Well, 2021, certainly did not miraculously clear all the drama from 2020, but I think whilst we were all hopeful, we were not naïve.

We greet one another with virtual hugs, or elbow touches. Our business meetings are still online via Zoom etc. So really nothing has changed since March last year. We had a modicum of reprieve for a few months but that was reversed, mainly I think to human nature, ignorance, and arrogance.

**So, what can we do now to keep the motivation up, how do we pull one another together and remain a part of our Rotary family and our community? If we only take one word forward every year it MUST be KINDNESS.**

We are not all in the same boat, but we are all facing the same storm, which means some of us will not easily ride the wave. It goes hand in hand that we will need to extend ourselves even more in the next few months. Lending a hand when and where we can.

I would like to challenge all Anns, that instead of giving up, or postponing your efforts, that you re-look at how you can work the challenges that come around your way, to accommodate you and your family.

If we are asked to take on a role for our Rotary family, then let our first answer not be no, but a discussion on how we can make it work as a team, rather than an individual.

Sharing the role as president, secretary, treasurer. Building a team to tackle the different projects. Making a **promise** to yourself and your team that if you are not able to do the leg work, **you** will find someone who will fill in for you, and you will work in for them on another stage. Commitment is what we need, dedicated ladies kindly working their commitment and fulfilling their promise to serve Rotary and their community.

**January was Vocational month and February will be Peace and conflict month... Lets promote the peace and do without the conflict.**



Feeding our community will be one of the main focuses of many Anns Clubs

We may not be able to travel over land borders, and we may not be able to have group meetings, but we are able to think, discuss over the phone, WhatsApp, Facebook, email etc. so let's put forward some ideas to each Anns club through some tough times.

How does your garden grow? Planting Spekboom was just one avenue to assist our environment, and it is most certainly an easy plant to grow. But now that you have all these plants what are you going to do with them?

Donate to an Old age home – not only for their gardens but for them to sell at their market days. And whilst we wait for market days to come back into favour, the little plants can sit on windowsills, in gardens, on driveways cleaning the air around us. Schools in our area, can also sell them to raise funds. Encourage your maid to plant it in the township, it won't take long for hedges and boundary lines to become favourable.

DG Annemarie at the District assembly recognised all those Rotary Clubs that have already achieved their goals in this the first 6 months of our Rotary year.

As we encounter the many trials and tribulations that 2021 will bring us, let us not forget to give credit where credit is due. **Please** ensure that your DGAR is informed of any Ann that has gone the extra mile. I would love to share those stories with all the Anns clubs in our region and obviously share them with District. Where you can, please send me some super photos for our newsletters.

Presidents, Secretaries, and treasurers must be found for your new Rotary year, so please don't forget to let Rosalind Cartwright know who they are. Training for these roles is also being planned, so the information is important and urgent.

### WILL EVERYTHING EVER GO BACK TO NORMAL

How about we don't go back to normal?  
How about we go back to better?  
Normal wasn't good enough.  
We see that now.  
Don't you see that now?

In the quiet of lockdown  
We have witnessed the error of our ways  
So, let's stop pining for normal and start aiming higher

The planet deserves better, the people deserve better, who wants normal anyway?  
**WE ARE WORTH SO MUCH MORE.**

Donna Ashworth





AFRICAN BRAND ARCHITECTS a South African based turnkey Marketing Agency that designs, plans and develops integrated Marketing strategies, with tangible tactics to grow brands across Africa has come onboard as the Anchor Sponsor for the Rotary Africa Centennial 2021 event.

One of the Directors of this Company is Alumni Member of Rotary District 9400, Shereen Hunter who said, "We have aligned with Rotary International in this significant event in Africa because our vision for the short, medium and long-term align with Rotary's vision. We at African Brand Architects share a passion for all things African - we want to see African potential materialised and African networks and businesses prosper into the future."



Clubs are invited to participate in the **Projects Fair** in the **House of Friendship** from 22 to 26 April 2021. This fair will take the form of a virtual exhibition, and aims to inspire corporates, non-profits and local thought leaders to support Rotary in its drive for genuine and impactful socio-economic transformation in both the public and private sectors throughout the continent.

**Expect to be motivated!**

**Book a booth to showcase your project as soon as possible – [click here to view more details!](#)**



An exciting webinar took place on 29 January about the Community Mediators Global Grant that was approved just the day before! PDG Grant Daly was interviewed by Shereen Hunter – [click here to watch the interview, "An Introduction to Understanding ARCoM"](#)!



**Rotary  
Exhibition  
Centre**

E-mail [admin@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:admin@rotary9400.org.za)  
for more information!

Be a part of this significant Rotary structure by donating towards its construction and administration! Individual bricks are for sale for R50 each. All contributors' names will be recorded, and funding more than 25 bricks will secure your name on a plaque for posterity.



PDG Shirley Downie has been invited to be part of the 2022 International Convention promotions team to help promote attendance at the convention in Houston, Texas from 4 to 8 June, 2022.

RI annual conventions are the perfect opportunity to inspire, educate and motivate our membership. D9400 is very excited about her selection for this team because of her experience and knowledge of Rotary, and her enthusiasm for Rotary conventions. Shirley's leadership is fundamental to the collective success to motivate and inspire Rotarians in Southern Africa to attend.

## Positions available in D9400 structures!

Please [click here](#) for more information, including application details.

### 1. District Training Chair

District herewith calls for applications or nominations for an experienced Rotarian to lead District Training. The district training team oversees training in the district and plans and conducts training events. The deadline for applications is 7 February 2021.

### 2. District Programmes NPC Chair for 2021-2022

District herewith calls for applications or nominations for an experienced Rotarian to lead the Districts Programmes NPC. This includes serving on the District NPC Board. The deadline for applications is 7 February 2021.

### 3. District Finance Committee

Members with a financial background are invited to apply for Head of Finance for D9400, or Member of the Finance Committee. The deadline for applications is 7 February 2021.

The Challenge: Rotarians need to LIVE like Rotarians.  
 “Service Above Self” is not just a motto ... It is a way of life!  
[Click here to read more about Integrity & Ethics in Rotary!](#)

### Preparing your club for the new area of Focus

Thirty-one years ago, the environment was brought into Rotary under the Preserve Planet Earth banner and on the 1st July 2021 Protecting the Environment will be recognized as the 7th fully-fledged Rotary International focus area.

What should clubs be doing in the interim? From the onset, find out if you have members who are passionate about the environment/conservation to help you get out of the starting gate. [Click here to read more!](#)



At the Rotary Club Boksburg, Past President and Multiple Paul Harris Fellow Elsa Venter, has turned 75. To celebrate this momentous occasion, she is saving her Rotary memories in 7500 photographs - it took six weeks to finalise the hugely enjoyable process of strolling down memory lane to save these 7500 photographs onto roughly 60 CDs. PP Elsa has spent 16 years in Rotary, working at many tasks but mostly known for the thousands of photographs taken at innumerable Rotary events.

During her 16 years as a Rotarian, Elsa worked with many Presidents, District Governors, journalists and editors of both Rotary and outside publications. All these years of reporting on and photographing Rotary events made for wonderful memories, fondly recalled by many Rotarians. Two items, amongst many others, are especially and foremost in her mind. Firstly, the coffee table book put together from her photos and articles for Past District Governor



Trevor Nienaber (District 9300, 2008-2009) and secondly the six annual VER-DUR Cycle Tours to Durban, a project of Rotary Club Vereeniging, led by PP and PHF Arthur Doyle, who turned 85 this year.



# D9400 Mid-Year Assembly

The Mid-Year Assembly of 23 January, celebrating the achievements and progress on set goals of the clubs in D9400, was a huge success. DG Annemarie Mostert outlined that the purpose of this meeting, the first of its kind, was to provide feedback to clubs on three important aspects of our District:

- Membership (growth)
- Foundation (giving) and
- Presidential Citation & Strategic Plan (achieving goals).

Also, as it is half way through the 2020/21 Rotary year, it also built on our planning for the next 6 months. All the D9400 Rotary clubs were invited to share their stories of opportunities, perseverance, courage, doggedness, hope, commitment, inspiration, innovation and life itself! We celebrated successes – how members were able to achieve them and overcome obstacles.

D9400 recognises those who are opening opportunities! Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Rotary Anns submitted their own stories and gave us a reason to celebrate them!

Here are some impressive and inspiring facts and figures that were shared during the Assembly:

## GOALS

96% of the clubs in D9400 have achieved the setting of their club Strategic Plan! 40 of these clubs have begun achieving their goals!

## PUBLIC IMAGE

Almost 99% of the D9400 clubs have an Online presence and the use of official Rotary promotional materials is at almost 95%.

## PROJECTS

Many clubs turned the pandemic into an opportunity to team up with local businesses and international Rotary clubs to provide food and clothing to a variety of worthy recipients.

## MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Four of our smaller clubs have successfully moved from under 10 members to over 10 members! Congratulations Benoni, Moument, Selebi-Phikwe and Warmbaths!

[\*\*Click here to read more about our District's goals and achievements!\*\*](#)

rotary youth exchange



Interact 

Rotaract 

The **Interact Club of Mountain Cambridge School**, which is the second interact club established by the Brits-Hartbeespoort Rotary Club, held a Purple Pinkie Polio Awareness Day. This annual event for this worthy cause was enjoyed by the pupils of Mountain Cambridge School and R2 600 was collected.



The **Benoni Aurora Rotaract Club** has had a very productive year so far! They have provided much needed Christmas Cheer to the families in need at Benoni High School by donating food and non-perishable goods, and they also held a blood donation drive, assisting the SANBS to save lives!



Another Rotaract club that has been very busy is the **Southern Star Rotaract Club**. Members have been helping learners with exam preparation, increasing awareness around mental health issues, making donations to Door of Hope, and making donations to the Jackson's Drift informal settlement's Christmas party.

[Please click here to read more about these activities, and to see more inspiring photos!](#)



The **Maputo Rotaract Club** carried out the Massaca Stop COVID 19 Project as part of the preventive measures against the pandemic. The project consisted of a donation to the Massaca II Health Center, of adapted and sustainable materials to be used in preventing the transmission of COVID-19. Member contributions enabled the Rotaractors to offer 5 buckets with taps for hand washing, 3 soap boxes and 20 washable and reusable cloth face masks. [Please click here to see more photos!](#)



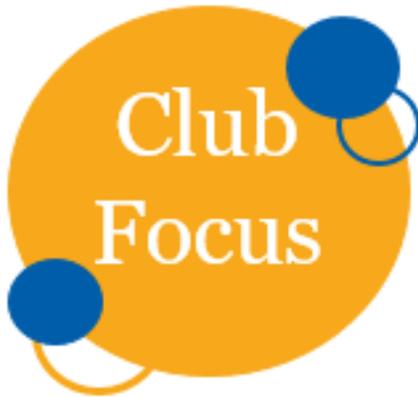
The **Maputo Rotaract Club** also held a National Oratory Award project which aims to involve young people in a learning cycle and challenge them to communicate ideas and develop arguments. The club partnered with a Toastmasters Club that collaborated on the technical component, with sharing relevant content, held online-workshops to clarify doubts opened to participants and the public, and led the evaluation process. [Please click here for more information about the project, and to see more photos!](#)

**Mbabane Campus Rotaract Club** conducted a Blood donation project themed “BE A HERO DONATE BLOOD”.



**Mbabane Campus Rotaract Club** also worked with Sigma in a project at Sitjeni community, making donations of food parcels, shoes, toys and seedlings. [Click here for more information and some beautiful pictures from both events!](#)





[Click here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online!

Send your Club newsletters to [admin@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:admin@rotary9400.org.za) to have them loaded onto the District website!

Many of the residents of the Tweedy Park Retirement Complex in Brakpan are not visited by any of their family and live only on a state pension. The **Rotary East Rand e-Club** helps residents of the retirement home with basic food items and toiletries on a monthly basis. In December, club members packed 120 food parcels and delivered these to each of the residents of Tweedy Park to make their festive season a little easier. Each person also received a handmade Christmas card (made by the children at one of the foster homes supported by the club) and a packet of sweets.

More photos are on the club's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=RotaryEReClub&set=a.2819792808260672>



During December, **Ermelo Phoenix Rotary Club** visited 3 orphanages - CMR Ermelo, Bambanani Village and Children of the Dawn Ermelo to spread the Christmas spirit of giving and to bring a smile to these children during the festive season.

[Click here to read more about the club's visits, and to see the wonderful pictures!](#)

The **Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100** brightened up the lives of many people during this COVID pandemic. They delivered 90 boxes (and counting) of export flowers to those in and around the town – police, health workers, frontline, seniors etc. The flowers were intended for overseas markets, but could not be dispatched.

With the help a very generous sponsor the club recently put up a Tunnel at the “Our Home Old Age Home” where the elderly residents can now grow their own vegetables and whatever else they would like. At Leeukuil Shelter something similar was done as well as various other things to help the residents be more self-reliant.

The **Rotary Club of Northcliff**'s wheelchair project currently has stock of wheelchairs and mobility aids such as walking sticks, walkers and rollators (3 wheeled stroller suitable for seniors who require assistance, either shopping or generally). Should you require wheelchairs, it is important to specify the size, for example a large or smaller person, big wheels for someone who can propel themselves, or small wheels for someone who needs to be pushed around by a carer. The club asks for a contribution to the shipping costs of R400 per wheelchair. Please contact Dave Woodhouse on 082 459 6105.

The **Rotary Club of Morningside** has recently coordinated four amazing projects –

- Raised over R220 000 for the Sechaba Support Project, supporting 89 early care practitioners and their families who were without income during the hard lockdown.
- Teamed up with Rose Park Rose Croix to make available R40 000 to support the aged who were receiving government pensions only.
- Collected Pick n Pay hampers worth R188 000 and donated these to Bethany Home, a shelter for abused women and their children in Bertrams, Johannesburg), as well as to their Sechaba partner in Diepsloot and to the old age home, Park Royale.
- Facilitated a donation of approximately 5,000 square metres of used carpet tiles in good condition to Diepsloot ECD schools and homes.



[Please click here to read more about these projects, and see more photos!](#)

Members of the Rotary Satellite Club of Kyalami, Sandton Central undertook a micro project to pack instant food parcels for distribution by the Rotary Community Corps of Alexandra. The Rotary Community Corps of Alexandra comprises 15 volunteers from the Alex Men's Forum that works primarily to combat gender-based violence.

[Click here to read more about this project and see more photos!](#)



### The **Rotary Club of White River...**

- Started a Disaster Fund for the impending shortage of food, and the response has been incredible! The club has been instrumental in raising over two million rand in money, goods and services. The Rotary Club of White River stands proud of what it has accomplished through goodwill and love!
- Teamed up with Paediatric Care, an organisation involved in the distribution of food and emergency medical services to children in the area.
- Has run a project called Camp Quality for over 30 years, providing a special week of quality activity to children that have or have had Cancer.
- Collects expired food from Woolworths on a weekly basis for distribution to the Mashadza Home for the Mentally challenged.

[Click here for more information about this inspiring club's projects!!](#)

The **Rotaract Club of Benoni Aurora** has also been in action together with the **Benoni Aurora Rotary Club**! By means of their team effort, they set up a Garden of Life vegetable garden in Benoni for the local community!



The **Benoni Aurora Rotary Anns** recently participated in a Charity Golf Day at the Benoni Country Club. It was hosted by the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora and the Anns raised funds for their Christmas Gift Drive which will allow numerous local charities, families and individuals (predominantly based in the Greater Benoni area) to receive food parcels and toiletry hampers over the Christmas period. The largest donation for the Charity Golf Day was from local artist and owner of Art Alive Art School, Elaine Marx, who generously donated two of her paintings to the Anns Club for auction. The paintings brought in just over half of the funds raised by the Anns on the day.

The Anns also had a Food Collection at Farrarmere Pick 'n Pay, and all items and donations were added to the hampers and food parcels for Christmas.

Read more about the work of the Benoni Aurora Rotary Anns on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BenoniAuroraRotaryAnns](http://www.facebook.com/BenoniAuroraRotaryAnns)

The **Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort** has had numerous projects to raise funds during the COVID-19 pandemic! The club held a number of car boot sales at the local mall as well as their first ever online Auction! The club coffers were further boosted with a Mystery Car Meander (Heritage Tour) which was an abbreviated alternative to the usual annual Hartbeespoort Classic Car Meander. All these projects raised funds for their Covid-19 Feeding Scheme. The Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort donated 2 000 food parcels and 2 500 beverage parcels which were professionally distributed to those most in need by the “Help is on the Way Foundation”.



*Contestants lining up at the start of the Mystery Meander*

The **Rotary Club of Manzini** participates in several outstanding projects!

- The Dr Basil Khosa Medical Outreach Project provides health services at the Kaphunga Clinic. It is a joint Project of the Rotary Clubs of Manzini and Phalaborwa, with funding from the Rotary Club of Los Altos.
- The Michelo Project – a school dental and educational project - is normally held annually at St. Joseph Special Needs School. The international partner is the Rotary Club of Bailey’s Crossroads, USA.
- Another noteworthy project is the Good Shepherd Hospital Project where the RC of Manzini collaborates with RC Los Altos to provide medical equipment to the Good Shepherd Hospital in Siteki.
- The Manzini Youth Care project of the Salesian Community and the RC of Manzini has supported the Homes administered by Manzini Youth Care for the past 40 years, with clothing and shoes for orphans, bedding, and food.
- The RC of Manzini also runs a Book Centre Project in partnership with Second Wind Foundation, Texas, USA; Rotary Club of Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada; Rotary Clubs in Eswatini; Municipal Councils of Mbabane and Manzini; FLAS; and Eswatini Ministry of Education.

[Click here to read more about these inspiring projects!](#)



Rotary always finds time for fellowship and friendship, even during the hard times of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. After a tough year, the **Ermelo Phoenix Rotary Friendship Club** met in December to celebrate birthdays and the festive season as well as provide an opportunity for friends to catch up.



To see more photos of the day please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Ermelo-Phoenix-Rotary-Club-2345403332353708>

### IN MEMORY

This month we pay tribute to the following Rotarians who have been called to higher service:

Leon van Huyssteen (25/01/2021) (RC Potgietersrust)

Carla Barnard (wife of Leon Barnard, President of RC Louis Trichardt) (23/01/2021)

Janine Taljaardt (22/01/2021) RC White River

Ivan Allan (16/01/2021) (RC Johannesburg)

PP Marius Liebenberg (09/01/2021) (RC Polokwane)

### Let's plan ahead: Important dates in February

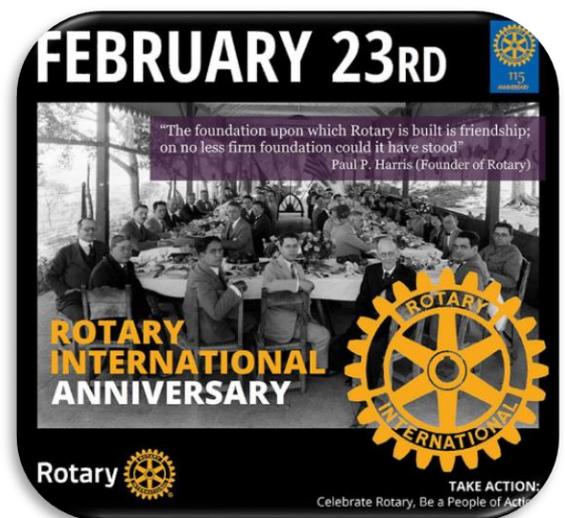
**1 – 11 February** – International Assembly (virtual)

**20 February** – PETS (AGs & Committee Chairs)

**23 February** – Rotary's Anniversary

**26 – 28 February** – RYLA (Emseni, Benoni)

March is Water and Sanitation month!



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