

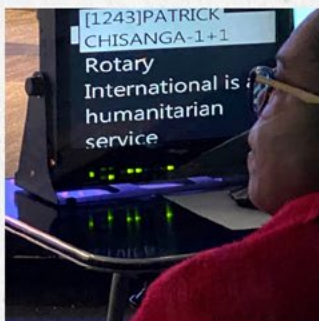
FEBRUARY 2023

# Rotary

AFRICA | south



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



## Hope

an optimistic state of mind based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.



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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
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# WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Happy New Year! 2023 has begun and let's hope it is an improvement on the previous years.

It is always a challenge to write this column after the holidays, as my mind has entered the new year and although it was only a little over three weeks ago that 2022 ended, it feels like it was a year ago.

Already my Christmas break is a blurry memory (and no that has nothing to do with festive cocktails), while my brain is trying its best to move into 2023, my fingers rebel and keep typing 2022.

So, there. Three paragraphs about almost nothing at all... and still I find myself searching desperately for words. Oddly, while inspiration evades me, random facts have invaded my thoughts. For example, did you know that nine languages a year, or one every 40 days, go extinct? This is according to data released by [thelanguageconservancy.org](http://thelanguageconservancy.org) in 2020. According to this NGO, in 2020 "the voices of more than 7 000 languages resound across our planet every moment, but about 2 900 or 41% are endangered. At current rates, about 90% of all languages will become extinct in the next 100 years."

Which I suppose, may be good news for editors who are struggling to complete a column, but not great news in general. The reason is that when a language dies, it takes with it a large part of the culture that existed around it. Africa is a continent of diversity that is rich in culture, languages and history. Imagine an Africa where that is reduced by 41%?

I know that when we consider the problems surrounding us at the moment, vanishing languages seem trivial. When I look out my window and see the kids playing on a school ground - a group of children representing at least 7 cultures - and hear strains of various home languages, I don't understand every word, but it is melodic and there is a beauty to it... and suddenly, the loss of language and culture seems very sad.

So, maybe this year, let's do something different and look for inspiration in finding sustainable solutions to preserve the languages of our planet as well.

## 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

## Empowering girls is about more than creating equity

Recently, I spent time in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda. As the “settlement” in its name suggests, the people living there are free to move around and integrate as best they can - one thing that makes the place unique.

I had a chance to play soccer with boys and girls from about a dozen nations and talk with women who had fled areas of conflict. It was a tapestry of human experience shared through both laughter and tears.

As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls’ education. Most don’t get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriages to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity sometimes, it’s about health or education. Other times it’s about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it’s always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls’ menstrual hygiene products. Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference.

Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily. But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows



Jones and Zimbabwean actor Sibongile Mlambo watch a soccer match in Nakivale settlement. It’s part of an effort to build community among residents of different nationalities.

and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine and wherever we can inspire others.

As you do so, it’s important to provide information that helps our Rotary family connect with others who are implementing activities in their regions, as well as across the world. Let’s share our successes and learn from one another - then proudly tell our stories to a larger audience.

These are exciting times in Rotary and the world is taking notice. As we work to empower women and girls to step into their full potential, we create new pathways for membership growth and greater collaboration with partners to create positive, lasting change. Thank you for your continued action in this vital effort.

**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](https://my.rotary.org)



## FAMILY FRIENDLY!

### 2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

Make the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne your next family trip. You'll find activities for all ages and interests during your stay in Australia for the 27-31 May convention. Highlights include museums, an aquarium, an informative ship voyage and a zoo tour.

The Museum of Play and Art opened last year with exhibits designed for ages 1 to 7, including a real car to paint and a playground that looks like tall city buildings. (Tip: The museum has been requiring advance reservations.)

At Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, watch fish and crocodile feedings and see sharks and rays up close. You can even suit up in snow gear and get onto the exhibit ice to mingle with penguins. And you can surround yourself (safely) with thousands of jellyfish in an immersive exhibit.

Check out Rotary-organised family-friendly tours too. For the Tall Ships Experience, guests as young as 12 ride on the One and All ship, the craft that Australian teenagers learn on in the Youth Sailing Challenge through District 9510. You'll sail from a wharf near the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre along the Yarra River toward Port Phillip Bay. You'll learn about landmarks you float by, talk with the crew and eat traditional Australian food.

Rotary members and their friends and family members can also sign up for a behind-the-scenes experience at the Melbourne Zoo. On the two-hour guided walking tour, you'll visit koalas, kangaroos and a wombat's underground burrow. To browse tours and book your spot, visit [rotarymelbourne2023.org/tours](https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/tours).



## Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

One of the fascinating things about Rotary is that we are many things at once. We are a service organisation based on action. We are also a professional and community networking group, not to mention a place to find friendship and fun.

And, when you stop to think about it, you and I are also part of a peace organisation. I saw this in 2013, when I represented Rotary at an international symposium on advancing a peaceful democratic transition for Myanmar. Despite recent setbacks, the fact that Rotary was at the table demonstrates that the world sees us as peacebuilders who are not deterred by the most difficult issues.

How did we earn this reputation? Through literacy projects that help people expand their minds and viewpoints. And through water, sanitation and hygiene projects that create common ground for communities in conflict. The Rotary Action Group for Peace promotes hands-on service projects and our annual international conventions unite thousands in a celebration of global harmony.

Perhaps the most visible face of this cause is the Rotary Peace Centres programme, now in its 21st year. Today, more than 1 600 Rotary Peace Fellows are advancing the cause of peace in more than 140 countries. On 1 February, we open applications for

the next generation of peace fellows. Encourage your local peacebuilders to learn about Rotary and apply for this unique fellowship.

And soon, we'll be recruiting fellows for a new peace centre in the Middle East and North Africa region as we begin working this year with a recently selected partner university. Made possible by a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, the addition of this centre furthers Rotary's vision of peacemaking in action.

As we celebrate Rotary's 118th anniversary and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we can be proud of the many ways Rotary promotes peace. Without The Rotary Foundation and your support of it, none of that would be possible.

You can directly support this work through the Foundation by visiting [rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate) and selecting the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus. I also encourage you to contribute to the Ian and Juliet Riseley Endowed Fund in The Rotary Foundation to support peace projects.

If Paul Harris could see us now, he would be amazed by the astonishing growth of the little club he founded in 1905 and the global force for good - and peace - that Rotary is today.

## Coming up...

**21 APRIL 2023**

**ROTARY CLUB OF WORCESTER (D9350)** The GiGi Classic Golf Day golf tournament for women who CANNOT play golf. Sign up for a day filled with loads of prizes and lots of laughs. **Contact:** Juanita Wilkinson at [juanitaw@breede.co.za](mailto:juanitaw@breede.co.za).

Submit your Rotary club or district events to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za).

Please include 'calendar' in the subject line





# Just imagine

**DR PATRICK COLEMAN**  
**ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFT ADVISOR**

## **VALENTINE'S DAY, ROTARY STYLE!**

Each year on 14 February, many people exchange cards, candy, gifts or flowers with their special valentine. The day of romance we call Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia.

St Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to 14 February and added to later martyrologies.

A popular account of St Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

Today, St Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, as well as in the Lutheran Church. The Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrates St Valentine's Day, albeit on 6 July and 30 July, the former date in honour of the Roman presbyter St Valentine and the latter date in honour of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

In Brazil, the Dia de São Valentim is recognised on 12 June.

The day was first associated with romantic love

in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the high Middle Ages when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery and sending greeting cards (known as valentines).

In Europe, St Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart" as well as to children in order to ward off St Valentine's Malady (epilepsy).

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. On Valentine's Day more chocolate, roses and perfume is given than any other day in the year.

By the way, were any of you born in mid-November? YOU may be a Valentine Baby!

As Rotarians, we've seen how community service can benefit people in need all over the world, but sometimes, serving others can bring unexpected benefits. That's a lesson Sherry and I learned as members of the Rotary Club of Luanshya (D9210, Zambia).

It was a long road that brought us both to Zambia. I had moved to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) from Los Angeles with my wife and children to teach and train leaders. Because of the outbreak of war, we later resettled in Zambia. In 1994, my wife, Cindy, who had been my high school sweetheart, was tragically killed in a car accident in



Ndola.

Sherry, a family friend, also came from the United States to serve as a missionary. She arrived in Zambia in 1990 to work as an administrator at a correspondence Bible school.

We met in 1991 during the evacuation into Zambia from Zaïre. Our eldest son became sick and doctors at the local hospital were unable to help. Sherry got on the mission radio network and suggestions were made that enabled us to travel to the US for further care.

Sherry and I were reintroduced in 1995 after I built the first wheelchair ramp for Luanshya's Civic Centre. Later, I recruited Sherry to join Rotary, but it wasn't until 1996, when we worked together on several PolioPlus National Immunisation Days (NIDs), that we became close friends.

Shortly after that, I visited a friend who asked if I'd ever have another 'special lady' in my life. I gave the same answer I always gave, "If God wants me to marry again, he'll put the lady right in front of me." This friend had a new reply, "If God does put someone in front of you, don't chase her away."

Later that night, I was still pondering my friend's response when I received an e-mail from Sherry, who had been finalising some Rotary projects in

my absence. I began to wonder... but no, I knew it would never work. Still, the thought lingered.

When I returned to Zambia, I invited Sherry to dinner, and dinner led to a second date, chaperoned by my seven-year-old son, Colin. Any concerns that Colin would object to our romance were put to rest later that night when Colin announced, "Daddy, if you ever get married again, you need to marry Aunt Sherry. I like her. She's nice."

We took Colin's advice. We were married on 1 August 1997, with Colin as a groomsman. Did all this happen because of Rotary's PolioPlus NIDs? If you ask us, we'll tell you it was God who intervened. He does use mysterious methods!

Sherry and I have made Rotary and The Rotary Foundation our Charity of Choice and we have fulfilled several club, district and zone responsibilities. We are multiple Major Donors of The Rotary Foundation; both have received the Service Above Self Award and each has received the Citation for Meritorious Service.

When we talk about The Rotary Foundation it is more than just talk. We want you to support by giving to Our Rotary Foundation!

So, how about a special Valentine's gift to Our Rotary Foundation?

## ROTARY SHOWCASE



## Attention Rotary clubs!

Please don't forget to record your project details on Rotary Showcase. This web-based platform helps promote your projects and will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!

# Connect *with* **THE CADRE** FOR YOUR GRANT PROJECT

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers is a network of hundreds of Rotary members who are experts from around the globe. These advisers use their professional skills and technical expertise to enhance Rotary members' grant projects in our areas of focus.

## THE CADRE CAN SUPPORT YOU BY:

- Providing project planning advice and implementation guidance
- Designing community assessments
- Incorporating elements of sustainability into projects
- Answering questions about Rotary's areas of focus
- Providing financial management best practices

Connect with a Cadre member today by visiting the Cadre page on My Rotary, or email us at [cadre@rotary.org](mailto:cadre@rotary.org).



**Michael E. Lirio**  
Philippines, District 3820

**Cadre title:**  
Cadre Financial Auditor

**Occupation:**  
Certified public accountant/  
chartered accountant and professor  
in accountancy

### **What are Rotary members saying about Mike?**

"Mike gave guidance on finishing reportorial requirements for a global grant to provide the island with potable water that started seven years ago. He patiently checked the voluminous documents and gave stakeholders much-needed direction and encouragement to complete the project."

— PDG Connie N. Beltran-DV, Assistant  
Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator

There are hundreds of experts standing by to help you plan or enhance your Rotary project!



# Where **HOPE** TAKES ROOT



Rotary International President-elect Gordon McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry (D1020, Scotland), revealed the 2023/24 presidential theme, Create Hope in the World, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

"The goal is to restore hope - to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

McNally spoke about a woman he met in Ban Taling Chan, Thailand, where Rotary members helped build houses, a meeting hall and childcare and health care facilities following the tsunami that devastated South Asia in late 2004. The woman had lost her husband, her daughter and her son in the tsunami, as well as her livelihood. But she still had a gift to offer McNally: a beautiful seashell.

"She went on to tell me that Rotary... had restored her optimism. We gave her hope," McNally said.

"This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world," he added, "one restored or newly created hope at a time."

### PROMOTING PEACE

A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McNally said. He cited the action Rotary members have taken in the past year to support the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. Rotary has made humanitarian relief a priority, attracting more Ukrainian members in the process. But McNally noted that true relief won't come without peace - not just in Ukraine, but in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and dozens of other places around the globe.

"Peace is the soil where hope takes root," McNally said.

McNally also emphasised the power of continuity, calling for Rotary members to continue the work of some past leaders. He pledged to maintain the Empowering Girls initiative launched by 2021/22 President Shekhar Mehta and uphold the emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion throughout Rotary. He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease.

To do that, McNally said, Rotary must continue to







raise at least US\$50 million each year to receive the full 2-to-1 funding match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

McInally asked the district governors-elect for support creating a new sense of urgency in their clubs to help realise Rotary's vision of a polio-free world. "This is the time for us to go beyond what's necessary year to year and make sure we provide every resource to succeed as quickly as possible," he added.

### FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH

In addition, McInally said, Rotary members should offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges - a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost family members, many more have found their social networks uprooted and young people especially have had their educational and developmental paths interrupted. As a result, more people around the world are facing mental health issues. And yet, seeking assistance is often perceived as a sign of weakness.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," McInally said. "Reaching out for help is courageous - and continuing on a path toward wellness is even more so."

He added that Rotary will work to improve mental health services in the next year and beyond. Rotary should be known as an organisation that takes care of its members as well as the people it serves, McInally said. "Any mental health professional will tell you that by helping others, we essentially help ourselves."

McInally ended his speech by describing his ideal balance of continuity and innovation. "Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity and a future worth living," he said.

**"By continuing what we do best, by remaining open and willing to change and by keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world - a more hopeful world."**

# Gordon McInally *invites you to* The Royal Edinburgh Rotary Foundation Million-Dollar Weekend in Scotland



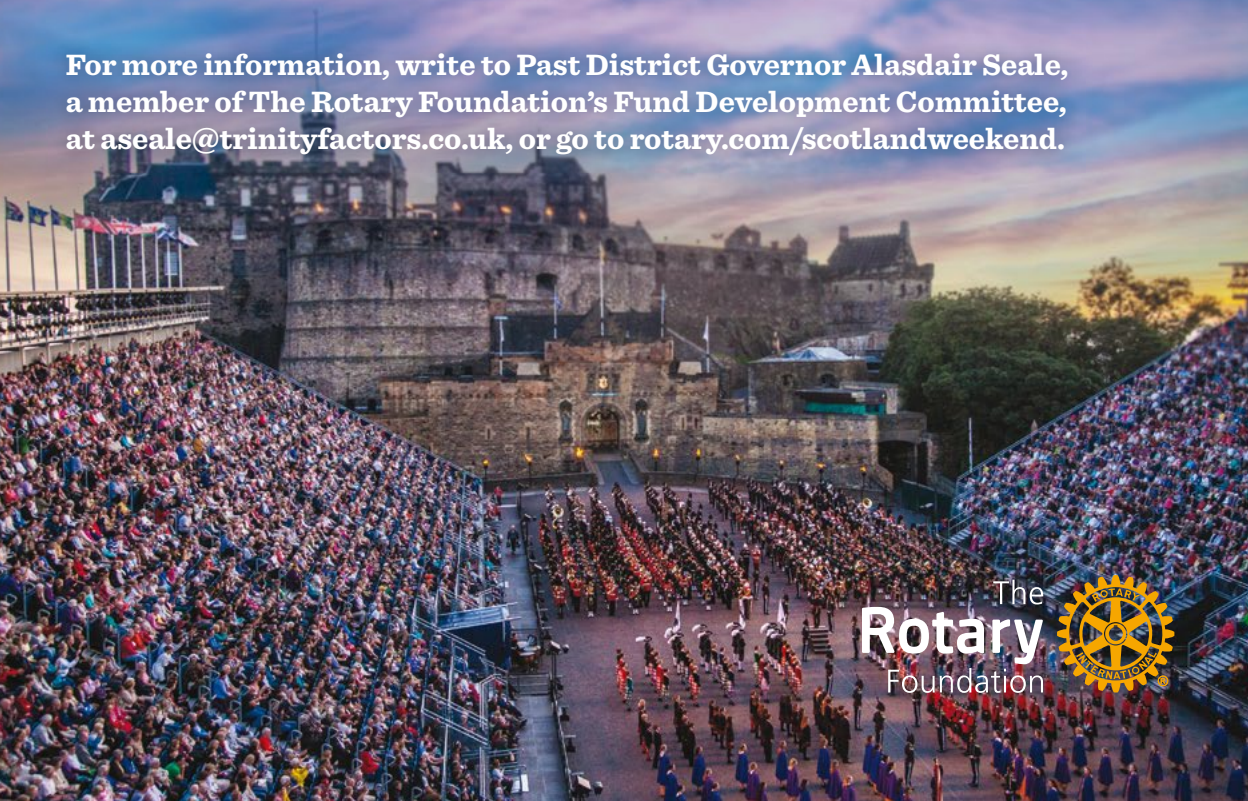
R. Gordon R. McInally, the 2023-24 RI president, plans to thank 10 couples or pairs who make gifts to The Rotary Foundation. For making outright donations of \$100,000 or more, or bequest commitments of \$250,000 or more, they'll be invited to a specially curated experience centered around the legendary Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo performance in Gordon's home country, Scotland, 18-20 August.

## The Royal Edinburgh Rotary Foundation Million-Dollar Weekend in Scotland will include:

- Private dinner in Edinburgh Castle
- VIP reserved seating at the world-renowned Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Breakfast aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia and a private tour of this yacht that once belonged to the royal family
- Access to a room block at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Edinburgh
- A tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of King Charles III in Scotland
- A choice of optional side trips, such as a round of golf with senior Rotary leaders at St. Andrews Old Course, lunch at the world-famous Gleneagles Hotel, or a trip by air to Islay, the home of island malt whisky, for a tour of Ardbeg distillery



**For more information, write to Past District Governor Alasdair Seale, a member of The Rotary Foundation's Fund Development Committee, at [aseale@trinityfactors.co.uk](mailto:aseale@trinityfactors.co.uk), or go to [rotary.com/scotlandweekend](http://rotary.com/scotlandweekend).**



The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation





# World Polio Day and Beyond

## Global health leaders see a clear path to polio eradication

Global health leaders expressed confidence that polio will be eradicated worldwide and praised the frontline workers who are striving to achieve that goal during an October event at the World Health Organisation headquarters in Geneva.

Sponsored by Rotary International and WHO, World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond updated participants and viewers on the status of polio eradication. The two-day event also discussed possible community-based solutions that go beyond immunisations to improve the health of mothers and children.

At the opening session, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that polio eradication is within reach. He cited the fact that the work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has helped reduce wild polio cases by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 in 1988 to only six in 2021. However, he acknowledged that the global effort lost ground in 2022, with more than 20 cases between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the only two countries where polio remains endemic. (Several wild polio cases were also detected last year in Mozambique.)

Furthermore, the diagnosis of a vaccine-derived polio case in the US and the detection of poliovirus in sewage in the UK “show that polio will remain a global threat until it is eradicated everywhere,” Tedros said. “We still face many challenges, including misinformation, hard-to-access populations and community fatigue.”

The GPEI’s polio eradication strategy for 2022-26 is designed to meet these challenges by using proven solutions and innovative new tools. Funding toward the strategy, including \$2.6 billion committed by Rotary and other donors at the World Health Summit in Berlin earlier in October, will support polio immunisations in countries where polio is endemic and in those that have experienced recent outbreaks.

Funds will also help with the continued rollout of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2. That modified vaccine is more genetically stable and therefore less likely to lead to outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived polio, also known as variant polio, in areas of low immunisation. (To learn more, read “A new weapon against polio” in the October issue.)

And the money will support the GPEI’s commitment to empowering women at all levels of health care. “Gender equality is critical to achieving eradication, because in many of the most affected communities, only women are allowed access to homes and [to] children other than their own,” Tedros noted. He assured the audience that polio eradication

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks at Rotary and WHO’s World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond event in Geneva in October.



will remain a top priority for WHO. “With Rotary’s support,” he said, “I look forward to a future when the only thing children ever learn about polio is in history books.”

Other global leaders who spoke at the event included Aidan O’Leary, director for polio eradication at WHO; Steven Lauwerier, director of polio eradication at UNICEF and Hans-Peter Jugel, Germany’s deputy permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva.

On 24 October, Rotary released its World Polio Day 2022 Global Update video, which featured remarks from additional experts, including Dr. Hamid Jafari, director of polio eradication for WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean region and John Vertefeuille, director of the global immunisation division at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. They underscored the importance of vaccinations as the only sure protection against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Speaking with Rotary President Jennifer Jones, partners in Pakistan emphasised the importance of employing women as frontline health workers so that campaigns can reach every child with the vaccine.

“In every strategy we make and in every activity that we conduct, we ensure that females are part of it,” said Soofia Yunus of Pakistan’s Federal Directorate of Immunisation. The path forward is absolutely clear,” O’Leary said at the Geneva event. “We have the tools. We have the strategies. We have a ruthless focus.”



RI President Jennifer Jones speaks with Jeffrey Kluger, a Time magazine editor, at World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond.

## Powerful words - and powerful acts

### A conversation about Rotary and polio

Rotary President Jennifer Jones spoke about Rotary and polio eradication with Jeffrey Kluger, an editor at large for *Time* magazine, in October during the World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond event held in Geneva and organised by Rotary International and the World Health Organisation. An edited and condensed version of their conversation follows. You can watch the entire conversation at [rotary.org/watch-world-polio-day-2022-and-beyond](https://rotary.org/watch-world-polio-day-2022-and-beyond).

**JEFFREY KLUGER:** Some folks in our audience might not be aware of how long Rotary has been in this fight against polio. Can you let us know how rich Rotary's legacy is in the polio eradication world?

**JENNIFER JONES:** Let me take you back to 1979 and the Philippines. It was the power of one person to say: Let's try to eliminate polio from this island nation. Others gathered around and said that this was possible. And they came forward to challenge the rest of us to say: If we can do it here, can't we replicate it around the world? It was an unrealistic goal in many people's eyes, but slowly we started to collect our [Global Polio Eradication Initiative] partners: UNICEF, WHO, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. We're down to two endemic countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our membership has raised more than \$2.6 billion to move this forward, and I'm really proud that, as an organisation, we were able to commit to an additional \$150 million over the next three years. But we [the GPEI] need to get to \$4.8 billion, and that's going to require all of us working

with our governments making sure it's on the front burner.

**KLUGER:** I often think of a time when my younger daughter was 7 years old. I was doing some reporting on polio and she saw a picture of a child in leg braces. She said, "What's wrong with that boy?" And I said, "Well, he has polio." She asked, "Could that happen to me?" And I was able to say four of the most powerful words I've ever been able to say to one of my children: "No, honey, it can't." And the reason is, she was vaccinated. We have to remember that this is not something that is guaranteed around the world. This is something that has to be worked for, so that all parents can say, "No, honey, it can't."

**JONES:** In the early days, when you were writing about polio, Rotary was not on your radar. I know when we first came to you to be included in some of those writings, it was a bit of a wake-up call.

**KLUGER:** When I was first approached by Rotary, I was surprised. When I thought of the key players in polio eradication, I had not thought of Rotarians. I was unfamiliar with not just the enormity of Rotary's footprint but the leadership role Rotary has taken. Now, whenever I'm writing a story about polio and I list the partners in the GPEI, I always list Rotary International first, simply because Rotary stepped forward and said: We were not founded to do this, but we have elected to make it our mission. We have chosen to eradicate polio.

**JONES:** You had a chance to provide those critical lifesaving drops to a child.

**KLUGER:** I had the privilege to travel to Nigeria with Rotary and UNICEF in 2018. I was able to attend a naming ceremony of a 7-day-old baby named Ramlatu Musaa. I will never forget her name. I was able to administer her first polio vaccine. I didn't pretend that I was a hero that day. She would have got her vaccine anyway. But to have a hand, a literal hand, in preventing a child from ever coming down with this disease that has so terrorised humanity for so long was one of the most moving and gratifying experiences of my career and of my life.





For kerb appeal, the windows are decorated with bold phrases and an electronic banner lights up with photos and video.

# Rotary welcomes you in

New building displays draw in community, inspire visitors

Rotary International's headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, has an exciting new experience for visitors.

When headquarters closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rotary staff took advantage of the nearly empty building to fast-track a plan to renovate exhibit spaces, with a close eye to creating a cohesive visitor experience. New first floor exhibits at One Rotary Centre introduce the organisation to visitors as a network of People of Action, while displays on the 17th floor encourage visitors to support that network and the 18th floor inspires them to take action by joining as a programme participant, donor or member.

The updated lobby space, pictured in the main

photo above, is designed to draw in passers-by and engage more actively with the local community.

"Our goal is to inspire visitors," Rotary General Secretary John Hewko says. "A lot of people know the Rotary building, but some do not really understand what Rotary is and does."

**SCHEDULE A TOUR:** Free 45-minute tours of Rotary's headquarters are available to members and the public.

Learn more and schedule a tour at [rotary.org/visit](https://rotary.org/visit).



Short text and photos inside the sphere inform visitors about Rotary's work ending polio, building partnerships, developing leaders and helping members grow their connections.

We Are People of Action

Rotary  
We are problem solvers, opportunity creators, and community builders.  
We are also neighbors, friends, and leaders.

Photography by Monika Lozinska



## Exhibits throughout the building

Headlines on this wall highlight different ways that Rotary makes an impact in the world.



A first floor exhibit explores Rotary's beginnings and how vision, leadership and action have been a part of the organisation since the start. The "Focusing Our Actions" area includes an interactive opportunity where visitors can lift heavy buckets to imagine what it's like to carry water long distances.



The 17th floor exhibit shows how The Rotary Foundation helps our network put ideas into action. Digital displays provide updates on polio statistics, acknowledge our partners and sponsors and honour some of our leaders in philanthropy.



An interactive wall on the 18th floor highlights how Rotary evolved into a global network. Rotary's vision statement encourages visitors to look into the future and an interactive kiosk asks them to make a pledge about an action they will take when they leave.

A kiosk gives visitors an opportunity to take a deeper dive through videos, photos and short stories.

# MAJOR DONOR ROAD SHOW

During The Rotary Foundation month, Past District Governor and Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) for Region 28, Jankees Sligcher, held a road show to promote Major Donor giving. Past District Governor and Endowment/Major Gifts Adviser (E/MGA) Eric Kimani, who is also an Arch Klumph Society member, addressed potential Major Donors in the three most southern districts on the African continent, Districts 9350, 9370 and 9400.

Four events were planned in District 9400 with an excellent luncheon arranged by Immediate Past District Governor/End Polio Now Coordinator Stella Anyangwe and Rotarian Grant Adams, whose beautiful home was the setting of an intimate affair. This was followed by a prestigious dinner arranged by the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, at the Johannesburg Country Club.

From Johannesburg, the Road show headed down to the Pavilion Hotel in Durban, District 9370. This successful event included District Governor Gavin Jepson, together with District Governor Nominee Raj Ramchunder and other well-known Rotarians.

Next up was Cape Town, D9350. A luncheon was organised at Vergelegen Wine Estate in Somerset

West and was attended by, among others, Past District Governors Michael Johnson and Lynette Stassen, DG Tracey Wilson, DGE Ann Wright, PDG Ian Robertson, PDG David Holzhausen and Past President Joke Young.

These intimate affairs gave E/MGA Eric Kimani and RRFC Jankees Sligcher the opportunity to not only thank the Major Donors, but to share the success of The Rotary Foundation.

The road show was a success and inspired others to pledge to become Major Donors, either through a bequest or through an outright contribution.

“This proves, that when simply asked, many Rotarians are willing and able to consider financial support, beyond pledging support in the form of time spent on projects... To be more successful in spending our District Designated Fund and Global Grant funds responsibly to assist our valued projects, we need to do a little bit more, to make a huge difference,” said Sligcher.

He said that this was the first time a road show of this sort had been undertaken and that he was looking forward to the golf day being organised during The Rotary Foundation month (November 2023) in District 9350.

## DOING GOOD WITH OUR ANNUAL FUND



Did you know that The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund supports SHARE, the World Fund, and our areas of focus? When you give to the Annual Fund, you empower Rotary members to carry out sustainable projects in communities around the world. Contributions directed to Annual Fund-SHARE generate District Designated Funds and support our World Fund, which makes Doing Good in the World easier than ever.

**LEARN MORE:** [my.rotary.org/annual-fund](https://my.rotary.org/annual-fund)

**GIVE TO OUR ANNUAL FUND TODAY:** [rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate)

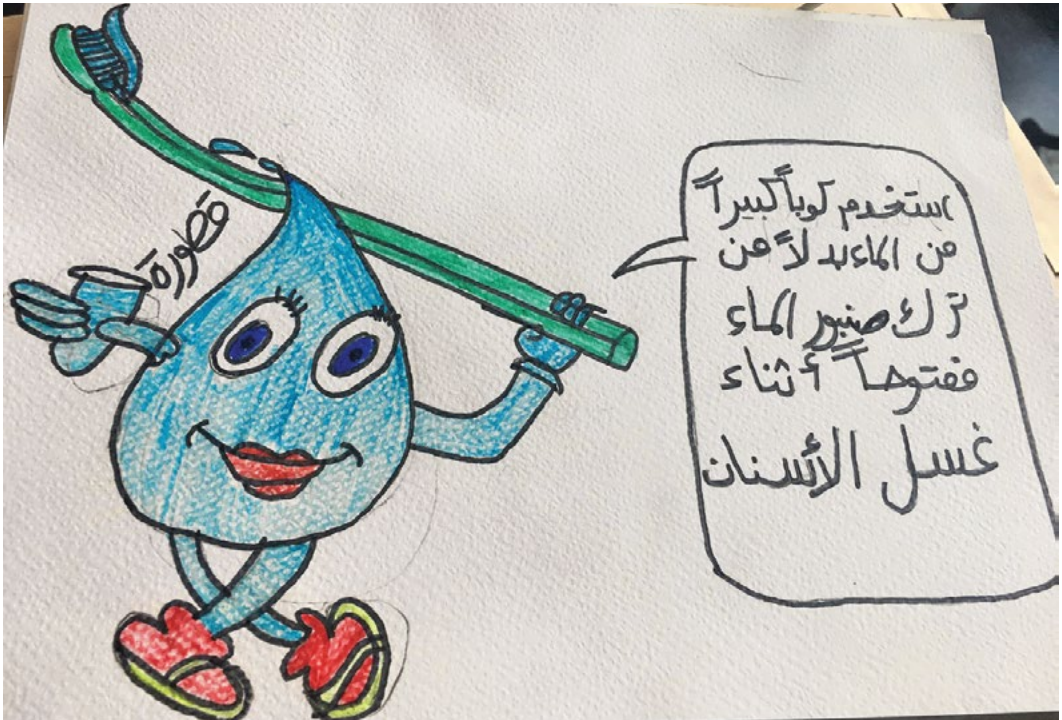


PROVIDING CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

# Signs of hope amid Lebanon's water crisis

Lebanon's Rotary clubs unite a divided nation  
around a massive water project





**Above:** A student's drawing reminds classmates to save water when brushing their teeth.

To find more water and sanitation information and get involved, take a look at [wash-rag.org](http://wash-rag.org).

At a school in northern Lebanon, students line up to drink from taps and wash their hands at basins. It's a luxury that was once rare for school children here, though the snow-capped mountains that supply much of the country's water loom not far in the distance.

"Before, the water was not drinkable, it contained many bacteria," explains Nabila Babetti, principal of the Adnan al-Jisr High School in Tripoli, the country's second-largest city. Students had to rely on bottled water that was expensive for families to provide. Some were sickened by unsafe water, forcing them to miss days of school.

Then in 2022, a new water filtration system was installed at the school with funding from a global grant awarded to the Rotary Clubs of Tripoli Cosmopolis (D2452) and Genève International (D1990, Switzerland). "Now we have had fewer absences. It has made things a lot easier," Babetti says. School officials were relieved, especially in light of an outbreak of cholera in northern Lebanon last year, the country's first since 1993. "We are eager to cooperate with Rotary on all future projects, especially those related to health," Babetti says.

In 2013, all two dozen Rotary clubs in Lebanon at the time united behind a global grant-funded project to bring clean drinking water to nearly every school in the country in partnership with outside groups and Lebanese government ministries. In May, the last of the more than 1 000 schools targeted by the effort received filters and tanks.

Despite having relatively plentiful water sources for a country in the Middle East, safe

## IN BRIEF

The 2022 Council on Resolutions concluded in November with the adoption of eight resolutions for the RI Board to consider. Read them at [my.rotary.org/cor/vote](http://my.rotary.org/cor/vote).

President Jennifer Jones and other Rotary leaders highlighted Rotary-led mangrove restoration projects at the United Nations COP27 climate change summit in November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.







A rooftop water tank supplies filtered water to ground-level taps.

a huge achievement.”

Twenty global grants later, an estimated 600 000 school children in Lebanon, half of whom are children of Syrian refugees, as well as the students’ parents and teachers have access to safe drinking water.

But the project has delivered more than just water. It has sown seeds of peace in a land torn by conflict. Lebanon’s civil war, fought largely along sectarian lines from 1975 to 1990, left the country deeply divided. Today, 18 recognised religious sects compete for power in a fractious political system and with the near-constant interference of neighbouring countries.

The project was deliberately designed to promote cooperation among different factions, by having Rotary clubs from various parts of the country work together to instal water systems in schools in both the north and south.

“What is good about Rotary is we don’t deal with religion or politics,” says Rym Dada-Husseini, a past president of the Tripoli Cosmopolis club, who spearheaded two of the global grants. “We deal with each other as humans. We are a big family all together and we want to make the best for this country. This is what united us and what keeps uniting us.”

Mouawad notes that Rotary’s ability to work together and get things done has earned it the trust of other entities in the country and the population. “Rotary has built such a good reputation that when we knock on the door of a big institution, they are ready to help us,” he says.

The project could not have come at a better time. On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, a crippling economic collapse has plunged much of the country into poverty, with the local currency losing more than 90 percent of its value over two years.

Beginning in 2019, new tax measures sent protesters into the streets by the tens of thousands to call for social and economic rights and an end to corruption. A 2020 explosion in the Port of Beirut

drinking water has been a problem in Lebanon for years as ageing infrastructure and mismanagement take their toll. Water flowing down from the mountains and feeding into rivers gets polluted by garbage, industrial waste, or agricultural runoff. Even treated municipal water is often contaminated before it reaches taps due to corroded pipes or tainted storage tanks. An influx of Syrian refugees has strained resources further.

So, when Jamil Mouawad, a member of the Rotary Club of Zgharta-Zawié (D2450), was preparing for his year as district governor in 2013/14 and looking for a “mega project” that could deliver widespread, lasting impact, water quickly emerged as a priority. A few Rotary clubs in northern Lebanon had already installed water tanks and filters in schools. And after meeting with government leaders and heads of organisations, Mouawad formed a committee that saw the potential of scaling up the effort countrywide. “When we set out, we said we wanted to do it in three years,” Mouawad recalls. “It was not easy to accomplish this big project. It took us eight years to make it happen. But in the end, we can say it has been

## IN BRIEF

Rotary’s 2021/22 Annual Report is now available at [rotary.org/annualreport](https://rotary.org/annualreport).

According to the latest Ecological Threat Report from the Institute for Economics and Peace (a Rotary partner), more than 1.4 billion people worldwide face extreme water stress.





An estimated 600 000 school children in Lebanon now have access to clean water.

that killed more than 200 people and left 300 000 homeless further fuelled tensions. And more recently, an energy crisis has left most homes with only an hour or two of power a day. The turmoil has made accessing safe water even harder for millions of people. The situation was so dire at one point that UNICEF warned in 2021 the country's water system was on the verge of collapse.

Many people have lost hope that the government can solve Lebanon's growing challenges, says Dada-Husseini. "Lots of people have left the country already," she says. "The thing that keeps us going is the feeling that we are changing people's lives." The water project's impact, for instance, extends beyond the students. The schools, she says, are now among the most reliable sources of clean water for families and many students fill bottles to take home.

The project by the Tripoli Cosmopolis club, one of the initiative's final pieces, involved schools in north Lebanon and the Saïda area of south Lebanon. Water for Life, a water treatment service in Beirut, installed triple-layer, fibreglass-reinforced plastic water tanks to replace corroded galvanised-steel tanks.

Water is pumped from the municipal source to a raw water tank and periodically treated with chlorine tablets. That water is then pumped through an initial filter to remove suspended solids and a carbon filter to eliminate the chlorine, before passing through an ultraviolet steriliser for disinfection. Water ends up in the plastic tank, mounted high enough that

water can flow by gravity to ground-level taps and fountains in the case of a power loss.

To ensure sustainability, Rotary clubs had schools and municipalities sign agreements to replace filters two to three times a year. The Ministry of Education issued a memorandum to all school directors telling them to permit access for testing and include money in their budgets for replacement filters.

Jad Gerjes, a former senior water, sanitation and hygiene coordinator with World Vision, was hired to assess each school's needs and to test the water before and after the systems are installed. He also monitors the results of the school's own testing during the first year.

The committee that runs the water project has been looking into providing solar panels for the schools as a way around power outages that threaten normal school operations. But the primary focus remains ensuring long-term sustainability of the water systems.

"We shall go with this project to the end," says Mouawad. "Children are the change agents for an entire community. I used to participate in the openings of the water systems and every time I would observe the children drinking clean water it would give me a huge lift. I see in their eyes what every Rotarian wants to see: happiness, trust, hope. It makes me realise the importance of what we are doing."





Pledge Nature Reserve Manager Albert de Villiers at the opening of the arboretum.

# New arboretum

In the heart of Knysna is a little slice of paradise - 10 hectares of indigenous forest, fynbos, streams and ponds known as Pledge Nature Reserve, which is also now home to the Rotary Arboretum.

The arboretum was born when members of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) bought 60 indigenous trees in celebration of the club's 60th anniversary. The arboretum was officially opened by DG Tracey Wilson during her visit to the club last year. Not only did she cut the ribbon, but she also endorsed the project by purchasing her own tree. Rotarian Andy Muir, a key player in the project, presented her with a bottle of aptly named Arboretum wine.

Reserve Manager Albert de Villiers spoke about the preparation involved in establishing the arboretum. Prior to planting out the new trees, alien vegetation needed to be cleared, exposed slopes shored up and pathways established. The next step will be the installation of plaques providing information on each tree and naming its donor.

This is the not the first time that Rotary has assisted Pledge Nature Reserve with new trees. During the devastating Knysna Fires in June 2017, three quarters of the park suffered severe damage, with most of



President George Coon presents DG Tracey Wilson with a bottle of Arboretum.

the infrastructure completely razed. The Rotary Club of Knysna planted 160 indigenous trees at Pledge, assisted by the Knysna Rotary Anns and in partnership with the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370).





The Eagle Spurs Football Club's end of season World Cup Tournament.

# Soaring to new heights

In September 2021, I shared how the Rotary Club of Kromboom (D9350) had supported the development of youth soccer in Vrygrond, one of Cape Town's oldest informal settlements, and the home of recently formed Eagle Spurs Soccer Club, writes *Julie Parry*.

In September 2021, all soccer leagues had been paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ivan and Shireen Blankenberg, the Eagle Spurs' founders, were focused on community feeding from the 'micro' kitchen at their home, which doubled as a club house for the 50 or so members. Meanwhile, my husband Graham and I were still stranded in the UK, eagerly awaiting our opportunity to return and resume our involvement, supporting and coaching the five junior teams.

Luckily, restrictions were lifted in early 2022 and we made it back for pre-season. It was so nice to see all the happy smiling faces, despite the hardship that everyone had been through.

This was fitting testimony to the enormous effort and ongoing commitment of the Blankenbergs, who kept everything going when it might have been much easier to quit! The pandemic had left a disturbing legacy of increased crime and violence in the community, and it was vital that the soccer-mad youngsters could return to a semblance of normality and have at least one stable focus for their energy!

The season re-commenced in May and ended in September. While Eagle Spurs did not win any titles, the club thrived. With the help of the fundraising efforts of Kromboom Rotarians, Ivan now has a bakkie, named Bush Pig, which enables him to



Rainboline 'Ntombi' Firestone, South Peninsula Local Football Association female Player of the Season.

transport the players safely to coaching and matches. It also opened a window of opportunity for those who showed talent to attend representative trials.

One of these was Rainbowline ‘Ntombi’ Firestone, the only female player at the club. Not only did she scoop the South Peninsula Football Association’s Female Player of the Season award on her 13th birthday, but she was also recently chosen as one of 28 girls to join the fledgling SAFA Women’s U15 Cape Town Academy.

Thanks to the Blankenbergs, Ntombi’s dream of playing professional soccer and travelling is alive and well. “I am happy with my progress. The award of Player of the Season was so humbling and I know if I work hard, I can live my dream, and no one will believe it!”

The Kromboomers also helped fund an enjoyable end of season World Cup tournament and braai, with a spot of swimming thrown in, at the YMCA / Rotary Camp facility in Strandfontein. All the players from U10 to seniors were able to relax and enjoy themselves in the secure surroundings of the camp.

The Eagle Spurs story continues to evolve and with support from families such as the Blankenbergs, and help from Rotary, hopefully many more young people will continue to benefit from playing sport and those with talent, like Ntombi, can be empowered to realise their dreams.

From top: Meet the Bush Pig! The Eagle Spurs team. The players enjoying a cool dip after their World Cup tournament.







Mike Francis, Lauren Brady Vlaming, Michael Fridjhon, Travis McClur and Eugene McNamara at the wine auction.

# RECORD SMASHED!

Last year, the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370) smashed its own record as it raised more than R1m for charity at its 31st annual wine auction. In 2019, the auction raised half a million, a total which increased to R600 000 in 2020 and R800 000 in 2021.

An impressive 1 670 bottles of South African wine, as well as a number of vouchers and getaway offerings went under the hammer that was wielded by veteran auctioneer, Michael Fridjhon. The auction raised R1 039 902 in total, with R910 500 being raised on the night. The highest bid was for a lot of 10 magnums of various wines that sold for R32 000.

Auctioneer and wine expert, Michael Fridjhon, has supported this event for more than 20 years, travelling to host it at his own expense.

As he wrote in the auction catalogue: “Every bottle offered for sale at this auction is imbued with the best of the human spirit; everyone who bids at this auction shares in the generosity of nature, in the craft of what has been produced, and in the gift of those who made it and then contributed it so willingly to the good work of the Rotary Club of Gately.”

The project was managed by Eugene McNamara and proceeds from the auction will assist a variety of beneficiaries, including African Angels, Berea Gardens Retirement Foundation, Buckaroo, Cansa, the Carel du Toit Centre, Guardians of Hope, Masithethe, NSRI, the Robin Good Initiative, Salem Baby Care Centre, St Bernards Hospice, Surf4Life and Umoya.



The biggest mobile dental clinic in South Africa valued at R3 million.



Professor Rob Barrie, June Webber, Johann Gerber (President), Dr Niel Myburgh, Janet Kriseman, Dr Stephanus Crous (Colgate-Palmolive) and kneeling in front, Piet Postma.

# CARE ON WHEELS

On the 7th November the Rotary Club of Waterfront (D9350), together with colleagues at the University of the Western Cape, the Dental Wellness Foundation and major sponsor Colgate-Palmolive, launched a magnificent new mobile dental clinic.

The challenges of COVID-19 and the delay in the

completion of the fitting out of the vehicle took two years.

The R3 million mobile dental clinic is said to be the biggest of its kind in South Africa and will significantly increase treatment and care of the impoverished communities in the Western Cape. In





President Johann Gerber, June Webber and Professor Rob Barrie who oversaw the project for the UWC Dental Faculty.

addition, dentistry students joining the mobile clinic will receive clinical training.

The new clinic replaces an old one that was used for 44 years and is the result of a joint partnership between UWC (which raised R1-million towards the clinic) and a long list of partners, including Colgate-Palmolive, the Rotary Club of Waterfront and the Dental Wellness Foundation.

It boasts three chairs, compared to the two that were in the old truck, and is fitted with a high-tech intra-oral camera that will be linked to the Faculty of Dentistry so that images may be sent from the mobile clinic for help and advice from colleagues at the faculty.

Delivering his welcome address at the clinic handover, UWC Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tyrone Pretorius said that “the reason I feel so passionate about this is because your gift will make an immeasurable difference to the lower- and middle-income communities in the Western Cape for whom dental care and treatments are too expensive”.

Fighting disease and improving health is one of Rotary’s core areas of focus. Through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, the Rotary Club of Waterfront was able to fundraise for the mobile dental clinic, tapping into Rotary connections

around the world. The Rotary Foundation matched 80% of the funds raised and the Rotary Club of Cardiff (D1150, UK) was the International Rotary Club Partner.

Waterfront plans to stay involved by helping the UWC coordinate their rural outreach programme, as Rotary has done for many decades. Janet Kriseman of Waterfront Rotary said in her address, “What we have learnt is that if one draws on the strengths of cooperation, mutual benefit and friendship, great things can be accomplished in the spirit of collaborative partnerships. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to have played a part.”



At the back of the vehicle are President Johann Gerber, June Webber, Professor Rob Barrie, Janet Kriseman and Piet Postema.





Steven Arendse, Community Service chair of the Rotary Club of Westville, Steve Phaup, Mary Davies, the original founder of the Right to Write project and PP Geoff Dawson.

# Right to write

Towards the end of last year, Geoff Dawson, Steven Arendse and Steve Phaup of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370), were invited to attend the prize-giving of the Right to Write Education Project at the Methodist Church in Westville, KZN.

The project, started by Mary Davies in 1998, received support at the time from then DG Mike Strong of the Westville club and R10 000 was donated to it to assist with its launch. Over the years, the club provided computers and equipment and in 2022 its vocational team funded a projector that improved the training facilities available to volunteer trainers.

The end of year function gave those present a chance to recognise and celebrate with a determined group of Westville men and women. During 2022, these people had made their way several times a week to the church to improve their English and IT skills. The function was also an opportunity to thank all the volunteer teachers involved.



*Every Rotarian has a legacy.  
Share yours today.*

Your actions have enhanced the power of Rotary. Your kindness, drive, and generous support have changed lives. It will take continued dedication like yours to keep Rotary effective for generations to come.

When the time is right for you:

- Explore options with a Rotary Gift Officer by emailing [plannedgiving@rotary.org](mailto:plannedgiving@rotary.org) or calling +1-847-866-3100
- Sign in to [Freewill.com/TheRotaryFoundation](https://Freewill.com/TheRotaryFoundation) to start your simple, no-cost will
- Discuss your intention to remember Rotary with your professional legal adviser



# Santa Flight 2022



A group of 69 children from George received a Christmas treat when they were entertained at the George Airport with some very special activities. This was the tenth time that the Santa flight, arranged through the combined efforts of the six service clubs of George, took place.

Through the project, vulnerable children who have never flown in an aircraft or helicopter before are treated to a special day of paintball, tombola, face-painting and colourful hairspray, ball games (presented by Living Ball), jumping castles and all kinds of treats to eat and drink. Each child also received a special boarding pass for the plane they would fly on.

After lunch, Father Christmas arrived and gave presents to all the children. “So many George businesses, which heard of this fantastic project over the years, help to raise funds, find sponsorship and even help on the day. There is literally one adult for every child on the day. Safety is of utmost importance and all rules are strictly enforced and supervised,” explains Simon Swan of the Rotary Club of George.

The six service clubs involved in the project are the Rotary Club of George (D9350), Round Table George 30, M.O.T.H Outeniqua Shellhole, Eden Lions, LC 20 Garden Route and Die Vryburgers of George. They were helped by Interactors and the Holy Cross Leos (junior members of the Lions).

## WE WANT YOUR CLUB NEWS

Celebrate your new club’s achievements. Submit stories and photos of at least 1MB in size. Email them to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

# Click buy click

Thirteen months ago, the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400) decided to try an online auction to raise funds for its next exciting community project.

The team beavered away, chatting to various members of the Hoedspruit community sourcing lots. It was not long before they had an amazing selection of items to auction off.

These included a night for two and a superb breakfast at Safari Moon (where Tom Cruise recently stayed while filming in the area) that was donated by Nicola Leitch, two exquisite glass vases from Bianca Black at KUKU that were purchased and donated by Christine Du Preez, a wonderful selection of paintings (still to be auctioned), an early morning nature walk with Professor Wayne Twine, dinner for two at the romantic Manor House, a gift from Trevor Jordan and a game drive and dinner at the luxurious Kings Camp courtesy Haley and Warren Cooper were among the items collected.

No one at the club had any idea how to run an online auction, but after a bit of research and learning, Rotarian Sabine Gemmal got the ball rolling. A prospectus was created by Rhian Twine that described each lot and their opening bids.

By now the excitement was growing and the members had started dreaming about how much the lots they had sourced would raise on the day, while they sent messages about the auction to everyone in their address books. Soon the day arrived and the 'operations room' was set up on Rhian's dining room table. Bids were logged and monitored by club Secretary Monika Golightly. There was great excitement



The Operations Room with club President Wilana Manderson and Rotarians David Bertram and Rhian Twine running the auction.

and much banter in the operations room amongst the auctioneers, President Wilana Manderson, Rhian Twine and David Bertram whose cool head and expert timekeeping kept things on an even keel... and when the going got tough, double scoops of delicious ice cream were served!

After an exhilarating five hours of great fun, the final tally was done and the numbers far exceeded expectations. Wilana Manderson described it as "a night to remember and I can stop biting my nails now".

Now for the next one... the art auction!





Top: Hornlee girls at work making decorations for the Rotary Christmas tree. Above: Setting up the tree at the expo in the Knysna Mall. Rotarian Maurita Borchers-Hendricks, Rotarian Riana Appel and President George Coon were assisted by the girls.

## DELIVERING HOPE AND UNITY

Inspired by Rotary International President Jennifer Jones' Girl Empowerment programme, Knysna Rotarians readily accepted the Knysna Community Police Forum's invitation to local organisations to stand united and advocate for peace in the home during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, held annually from 25 November to 10 December, writes *Rotarian Carol Wilkinson*.

The Peace in the Home Christmas Tree Expo initiated by the Knysna Community Police Forum (CPF) offered the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) the opportunity to reach out to young girls in the community, spending time with them, creating Christmas decorations together and hearing about their lives. This was also an opportunity to inform the public of Rotary's spirit of giving and to top it all, monies raised from entering the tree in the expo and its auction would go to the CPF for its crime prevention and victim support initiatives. A win-win situation all round.

Rotarian Maurita Borchers-Hendricks, a well-known resident of Hornlee in Knysna, invited young ladies from the local community to a Girls' Date. It was agreed that the tree, all decorations and Christmas cards should be hand made from recycled material, as there was no budget.

After much discussion the group decided to re-use coffee pods as bells, ringing out the change in the

lives of abused victims, and white doves, cut out of cardboard, would carry a positive inspiring message. The tree, which had been passed down in the family, was given a coat of paint and even the wrapping paper was bespoke, carrying thoughts of inspiration.

A large A4 card, containing a Christmas message from club President George Coon, was placed in prime position at the foot of the tree. The afternoon was filled with laughter while hands created beautiful decorations. We learned from each other, with the adults gaining insights whilst caring for and guiding the girls. A truly happy time for both Rotarians and the young ladies.

On the first day of the 16 Days of Activism, our little Rotary tree was placed amongst fifteen others in the Knysna Mall, all carrying the message of unity and activism against abuse and violence. An embodiment of the United Nations 16 days of activism theme for 2022 - UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.



## Kids Christmas party

Last Christmas they gave them a party! After a two-year postponement, the annual Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) Children's Christmas Party returned and about 80 excited children were treated to fun and games on the banks of the Vaal River.

While the children had fun, Rotarians and friends prepared lunch. Boerie rolls, pizza, ice cream, watermelon and cooldrink were just a few items on the menu.

The highlight of the day was the arrival of Father Christmas. Each child had the opportunity to pose for a photo with Father Christmas when receiving their gift. As always the project ended with fun and fellowship amongst Rotarians, family and friends. The event was sponsored by Econoflex, Stonehaven on Vaal, Big Bull Bread, El Paso Spur and a number of Rotarians.



## AFRICA IN BRIEF



Babies born at Rahima Moosa Mother and Baby Hospital on Christmas Day, as well as mothers and babies who were identified as coming from vulnerable circumstances received baby hampers from the Anns of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400). The hampers included baby clothes, toiletries, blankets and soft toys.



It was all systems go as the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370) saddled up and raided its neighbour, the Rotary Club of Chatsworth. It was an evening of fun as the raiding guests enjoyed a delicious meal, great company and gifts were exchanged. At the raid are PP Rhona Chetty, President Neil McDonald (Amanzimtoti), President Morgan Moodley (Chatsworth), PP Aneska Dupont, Lerina and Neil Subbiah.





# GIVE THE GIFT OF ROTARY



Learners sponsored by the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370) attended the RYLA course in Port Shepstone last year and reported on their experience at the leadership camp. At the presentation are President Neil McDonald, Mqabadeli Vesi of Esizibeni High School, PP Aneska Dupont and Kwande Ntombele of Kingsway High School, (back) Nomusa Ntobele and Lwandile Ntobele, Debbie Potgieter of Kingsway High and Ncamisile Vesi.



Hassan Rashid Maalim (38), a teacher by trade, had his arm amputated after injuring it in a tree felling accident. The Rotary Club of Nairobi-Utumishi (D9212) gave him a new prosthetic through its LN-4 Prosthetic Hand project. Fitting the hand is Rotarian Mussadiq Mir.





Using a district grant, the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) installed a water tank at the Maria Magdalena Children's Home. Rotarian Alan Claase (Foundation chair) put the project together and President Celeste Lance attended the handover.



A placard demonstration was held at a busy intersection as the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) undertook a Polio Vaccination Awareness Campaign. The club was assisted by the Interact Club of Greenbury Secondary School.







Ann's of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) spread Christmas cheer at Gerald Fitzpatrick Nursing Home in Bertrams last year when they treated 74 women residents to a tea party. The women also received gift bags of food, clothing, toiletries and household items for the more independent residents. Lucky draws for costume jewellery and table linen were also held.



It was all about the hairy upper lip for some of the members of the Rotary Clubs of Amanzimtoti and Chatsworth (D9370) to celebrate Movember last November. Movember is an annual campaign where moustaches are grown in November to help men live happier, healthier and longer lives by raising awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's suicide.



The Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370) hosted a Business Breakfast at which the Gqeberha Mayor, Retief Odendaal, addressed the guests. The breakfast also functioned as a fundraiser and connected people from the city who arrived to hear more from the mayor about the way forward for the City of Gqeberha, and left feeling inspired!



Evans Kibet received a LN-4 prosthetic hand from the Rotary Club of Nairobi Utumishi (D9212).



Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor from abroad, the Rotary Club of Helderberg's Rotary Anns (D9350) treated the residents of Camelot to a Christmas lunch.

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## WALL OF HONOUR



In November, Bill Main, a director of the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370), attended a Rotary Foundation dinner in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia where the District Governor Tim Keeler (D9620) and Past District Governor Chris Wright presented Bill and his wife, Diane, with the crystal and pins acknowledging them as Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation.



Maurita Borchers-Hendricks is a new member of the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Andrew Watson is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Lindiwe Mvubu is a new member of the Rotary Club of Durban Bay (D9370).



Richard Vauquelin is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Achilles Chiotis is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Brigid Booth is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Shelley Schmollgruber's a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Margaret Dale is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Vivien Brokken is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Michelle von Benecke is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



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