

MARCH 2023

Rotary

AFRICA | south





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



MELBOURNE
2023

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Something that has been on my mind is a statement which is gaining in popularity both in social media and in the public narrative: "It's never OK to give unsolicited advice." We give advice because we mean well, or because we are frustrated as we think the solution is simple and can't understand why it is not being implemented. The thing is, in these circumstances we are viewing it solely from our perspective and experience. Until our advice is asked for, we need to learn to keep it to ourselves and rather focus on being supportive. It's a lesson I have to learn and a habit I still have to break.

I personally believe that we don't pay nearly enough attention to how we speak and the impact our words have on others. Another example is a story a friend shared with me. Her mother had not realised her best friend's husband had been in hospital. The mother was shocked, "But why didn't she tell me?" The answer was simple. Because every conversation had been about the mother's situation and problems, not once had she asked, "How are you doing?" and listened to the answer.

It is the same with assumptions. People assume that they know all of the details about a person's work and personal life, because the conclusions they draw are "logical". They make broad sweeping statements and tarnish the opinion of others. This may be an innocent mistake born from conflict, but it is still wrong, insulting and hurtful. Just as wrong as yelling at a person in a public arena about matters that should be discussed in private (no matter the situation, this is not acceptable), or one which I have frequently witnessed in town and online, people who use disabled parking bays without the necessary disc because, "I am old and allowed to." Well, age is not a disability and I burn with rage when I see this happen, knowing that a genuinely disabled person will struggle to find an accessible parking bay, because an elderly able-bodied person parked in theirs.

So why this rant? Well, because I am sick and tired of watching people who should know better behave so badly, and I have an idea for a few simple projects to address this behaviour. Why not institute a few kindness projects in our communities? Reward and celebrate respect, gratitude and kindness and start talking about behaviour that is unacceptable - and hopefully, make people think about how they think, speak and act.

These are worthwhile projects, especially considering that our organisation is embracing diversity, inclusion and equity. Bad conduct as mentioned above, regardless of the reasons or justification, isn't acceptable; it divides, excludes and belittles people. AND THAT... is not the Rotary way!

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

Lessons from the tea master



Genshitsu Sen, former grand master of the Urasenke tea tradition, performs a traditional Japanese tea ceremony for Jones during her trip to Japan in November. Rotary magazine wrote about Sen's remarkable story in the August 2022 issue. You can listen to an audio version of the story at rotary.org/peace-through-bowl-tea.

I will never forget meeting tea master Genshitsu Sen during my trip to Japan in November.

Not only is Sen the former grand master of the Urasenke tea tradition, but he is also an accomplished Rotarian. Those accomplishments include helping charter the Rotary Club of Kyoto-South, Japan, serving as president of the Rotary Club of Kyoto and governor of District 2650 and holding leadership roles in Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

It was an honour to spend time with him. He is a remarkable human being and a joyful soul and his leadership and engagement in Rotary remain strong.

During that same week in Japan, I had the opportunity to record a video for a 100-year-old World War II naval hero and two-time Rotary district governor from Park City, Utah.

Sen and the Rotarian from Park City shared similar stories, though they served on opposing sides of the war. What was remarkable to me was that each of them chose Rotary to live lives of peacemaking. It struck me that we are all on this planet simply trying to do our best, and we are much more similar than we are different.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to witness these stories and meet such incredible people.

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



ONLY IN MELBOURNE

2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

Take your pick of exclusive and private events planned for the Rotary International Convention, highlighting Melbourne's culture, sports and hospitality. Just-for-Rotary experiences include world-class golfing, special access to a waterfront restaurant district and a convention favourite: dinner at a Rotary member's home.

Golfers who get to town ahead of 27-31 May convention can attend a Rotary day at Victoria Golf Club, one of eight courses in the Melbourne Sandbelt, known for beautiful layouts on sandy soil ideal for the game. (Proceeds from the outing on 26 May will go to polio eradication).

Visit another Melbourne treasure among Rotary friends during the Night at the Museum welcome cultural event on 27 May. Explore Melbourne Museum after hours to learn about the city's history and catch up over regional food and drinks.

Rotary members who live throughout metropolitan Melbourne are ready to have fellow convention goers over for dinner. For Host Hospitality evening, you'll attend a dinner on 29 May given by a member at home or by a club.

For another special evening meal, Rotary members get exclusive access to the South Wharf restaurant area from 29-30 May to taste the multitude of foods that draw visitors to the city. The Streets of Melbourne food exposition is just outside the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, one of the Rotary convention venues. Or book an evening outing on 30 May to the famed Flemington Racecourse, including three-course fine dining and photos with winning thoroughbreds.



Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

Living in Australia, you think a lot about water. When you travel to the nation's vast interior, the Outback, you can't help but wonder how such an arid climate has supported life for millennia. There, each sip of water feels precious.

Each sip seems to get more precious by the day as climate change continues to impact water supply everywhere. Where Juliet and I live, on the temperate coast not far from Melbourne, I remember times not long ago when water supplies were so low that severe usage restrictions were put into place. We now live on rainwater that falls onto our roof and is collected in a tank. In many parts of the world, people don't have that luxury.

Water is essential for life no matter where we live. Yet many of us take it for granted. Think of all the times just today you turned on the tap. About 1 in 4 people in the world have quite a different experience when they do - if they have a tap at all. Today, 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water, according to the United Nations. It is heart breaking that, each year, about 300 000 children under age five, die from diarrhoeal diseases caused by poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water - all preventable circumstances.

This is where Rotary comes in. Through your

support, The Rotary Foundation provides water and sanitation for countless communities around the globe. Foundation global grants have ranged from providing toilets and hygiene education for villages in the Philippines to building infrastructure for year-round access to safe, affordable drinking water in Brazil.

The water and sanitation problems we face are too great for any of us to solve alone. But whether we work with global grant partner districts across the world or with large agencies such as USAID, we are making a difference. When thinking of teaming up to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, remember that one of our greatest partners is right here within the family of Rotary: Rotaract.

Effective this Rotary year, Rotaract clubs may apply for global grants. I encourage Rotary and Rotaract clubs to work together on existing grants and for Rotary clubs to support grants sponsored by Rotaract clubs. Together, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are going to take the power of the Foundation to a new level.

The Rotary Foundation has more potential than ever to make a difference in the water and sanitation challenges we all face, thanks to your generous support.

Coming up...

24 MARCH 2023

ROTARY CLUBS OF CHATSWORTH, Phoenix, Durban-Merewent and Reservoir Hills (D9370) Inaugural Rotary Golf Challenge. Open to all Rotary club members, honorary members, Anns and Rotaractors. Venue: Royal Durban Golf Club, Registration at 10am and tee off at 11. Cost R600 per player. RSVP Anben Thulkanun 072 244 1802 or email: northcoastwindowcleaning@gmail.com. Entries close 10 March

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.



Just imagine

DR PATRICK COLEMAN
ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFT ADVISOR

BRAND YOURSELF!

Rotary branding is something we have heard a lot in recent years, for a good reason. Branding is something we see, and expect to see, on items of quality.

The tiny Rotary wheel worn on the lapels of suits, was seen as a sign of achievement in the business world. It indicated that the person wearing it had reached a level of excellence in their personal and professional life that merited Rotary membership.

The emblem on a luxury vehicle is considered far more prestigious to some than that one the front of a more economic model or a classic ‘workhorse’.

The difference is that people know the badges (branding) and associate specific qualities with them - such as luxury or functionality, and status or fuel economy. Think of the SUV market and how some of the top selling SUVs in the world are regarded. Sales are fuelled by the consistent reputation for high quality and dependability, not heated leather seats and fancy gadgets!

An SUV can go off-road much easier than the than a luxurious convertible, yet there is no comparison between the comfort of riding in the two. If you want to go anywhere, buy an SUV, but if you want people to know you are ‘going’ somewhere, buy that snazzy sedan with all the bells and whistles!

Some brands are not as obvious as others. Zippers are part of our daily lives, whether on our jeans, coats or bags and as long as they work, they usually do not receive intense scrutiny. However, a closer look at various zippers will likely reveal that many of them are inscribed with the letters YKK.

YKK stands for Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikikaisha, which roughly translates to Yoshida Manufacturing Company. This company, founded in 1934, uses its own brass, polyester, threads and even zipper machines. By controlling so much of the process, YKK can deliver high-quality zippers. The company also sells these zippers at reasonable prices. The combination has made YKK a go-to in the garment industry - and explains why half of the world’s zippers are YKK zippers. (I just checked... The zipper on my trousers has the YKK mark!)

Our largest brand ambassadors in Rotary are our members. The wheel we proudly wear and display around the world stands for particular qualities of the person wearing that pin. It means that they adhere to Rotary’s core values and represent the guiding principles of the organisation’s culture, including what guides our priorities and actions within the organisation. Values are an increasingly important component in strategic planning because they drive the intent and direction of the organisation’s leadership.

We believe that our service activities and programmes bring about greater world understanding and peace. Service is a major element of our mission. Through the plans and actions of individual clubs, we create a



culture of service throughout our organisation that provides unparalleled satisfaction for those who serve.

We believe that individual efforts focus on individual needs, but combined efforts serve humanity. The power of combined efforts knows no limitation, multiplies resources and broadens our lives and perspectives. Fellowship leads to tolerance and transcends racial, national and other boundaries.

We believe Rotary unifies all people internationally behind the ideal of service. We encourage diversity of vocations within our membership and in our activities and service work. A club which reflects its business and professional community is a club with a key to its future.

We are committed to and expect accountability from our leaders and fellow members; both in the results of our efforts and in the processes we use to accomplish our goals. We adhere to high ethical and professional standards in our work and personal relationships. We are fair and respectful in our interactions and we conscientiously steward the resources entrusted to us.

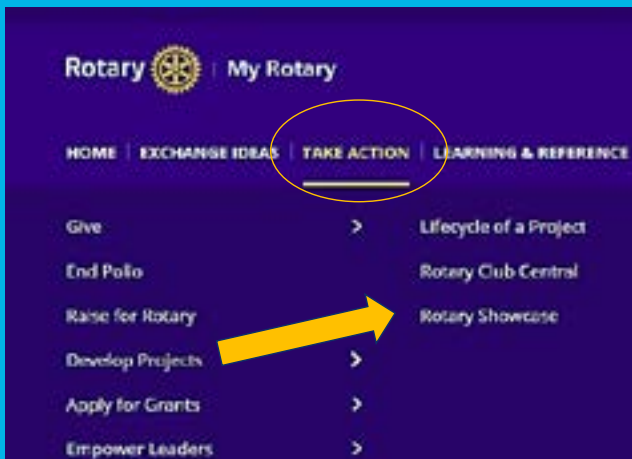
We are a global fellowship of individuals who are leaders in their fields of endeavour. We believe in the importance of leadership development and in leadership as a quality of our members. As Rotarians, we are leaders in implementing our core values.

All of these core values are reflected in the Object of Rotary and The Four-Way Test which we use in our daily lives. They inspire us to foster and support the ideal of service for developing and maintaining integrity in human relations.

This Rotary wheel actually means something when we wear it whether on our lapel, golf shirt, hats or window stickers on our automobile. In fact, a Rotary sticker on an automobile should raise the value of the automobile because the driver of that automobile is bound by the Four Way Test while driving - imagine all Rotarians driving with the Four Way Test in mind!



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!



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

YOUR GIFT CAN PROVIDE CLEAN WATER

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. Your donation to our Foundation's Annual Fund provides these essentials in communities close to home and around the world.

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate



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.



Dr. John Philip
England, District 1090

Cadre title:
Cadre Adviser for Disease Prevention and Treatment

Occupation:
Surgeon and cancer specialist

What are Rotary members saying about John?

"Dr. Philip went through our Global Grant Cancer Care project application in detail, seeking clarifications and providing suggestions. He had one-to-one meetings with our finance and screening committee members. Technical experts like Dr. Philip can be accessed any time for expert advice, even after their visit to the project is over."

— Rotarian Tharun Shah, India, District 3201

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

Mouthwatering Melbourne

Eat your way through the host city for the 2023 Rotary International Convention with *Rotary Down Under* magazine Editor **Meagan Martin**





Dining

With more than 2 000 cafes and restaurants across the city, Melbourne's culinary landscape represents a kaleidoscope of cultures and flavours. Expect a little treasure hunting in this city of secret laneways, underground restaurants and rooftop bars.

1 COOKIE

252 Swanston Street
cookiemelbourne.com.au

Cookie is housed in the iconic palazzo-style Curtin House. You'll be greeted with a vibrant wall mural, a bustling bar (the building's original), dark timber floors and soft light filtering in from large, arched windows. The menu lives up to the accolades, effortlessly blending a Thai and Australian ethos to deliver plate after plate of informal, share-style flavour bombs.



2 CECCONI'S FLINDERS LANE ↑

61 Flinders Lane
cecconis.com

Cecconi's Flinders Lane is hidden below street level, nestled in a New York-style basement on Melbourne's most famous laneway. Within the theater of an exposed kitchen and a sleek yet warm dining space, head chef Sebastiano Pezzoli dishes up some of Melbourne's finest Italian cuisine with a focus on simply prepared, Venetian-inspired food.

3 IL SOLITO POSTO

113 Collins Street
ilsolito posto.com.au

Enter Il Solito Posto, another subterranean treasure, via the small backstreet of George Parade. Its name translates to "the usual place" and Melburnians return again and again for its buzzing, welcoming vibe. While the warm and inviting cafeteria offers a relaxed and casual space with an ever-changing menu, the sub-sub-basement trattoria, lined with racks of fine wine, provides a formal dining experience for special occasions.

4 BOTTEGA

74 Bourke Street
bottega.com.au

For modern Italian fare where handmade pasta is the star of the show, try Bottega at the top end of Bourke Street (within what is often cited as the central business district's Italian quarter). Grab a booth or pull up a seat on the pavement as you would in Rome.

5 GELATERIA PRIMAVERA

157 Spring Street
springstreetgrocer.com.au

Directly across from Parliament House, tucked into the entry of Spring Street Grocer, you'll find the marble-topped counter of Gelateria Primavera. Just don't go looking for the name on a sign - there



isn't one, but a soft-glowing "Grocer" on the curved entry roof and "Gelati" in the window. The menu is always changing, but gelato scoops could include anything from licorice and bergamot to basil with honey and pecans.

6 CITY WINE SHOP AND THE EUROPEAN

159-161 Spring Street
citywineshop.net.au
theeuropean.com.au

City Wine Shop is both a wine store with a vast, global selection of vino and a chic cafe. Pull up a seat at either the sleek timber bar inside or the intimate tables nestled under umbrellas on the pavement. The nose-to-tail menu, with dishes mined from the traditions of rural France, Italy and Spain, is shared with the adjoining restaurant

The European, which includes a laid-back dining room. Be sure to order the steak frites.

7 RED EMPEROR ↑

131 Little Bourke Street
redemperor.com.au

Melbourne's Chinatown dates to the gold rush days of the 1850s. For an elegant but welcoming Cantonese dining experience, seek out the glowing neon sign of Red Emperor. The restaurant, famed for its daily yum cha and sumptuous banquets, has become a staple on the city's dining scene.



Register now at
convention.rotary.org.



Drinking

Whether you're after a classic cocktail, a craft beer, a vintage vino or a good old Aussie pub, Melbourne's bar game is on point. From rooftops to hidden doorways and basement dives, you will never go thirsty in this city.

8 CAMPARI HOUSE

23-25 Hardware Lane
camparihouse.com.au

You haven't fully experienced Melbourne until you've ventured to the city's "ceiling." A brew with a view is a rite of passage. Take the stairs to the rooftop of Campari House for casual cocktails, wine, chilled beers and incredible city views.

9 IMPERIAL HOTEL

2-8 Bourke Street
bourkestreetimperial.com

The historic Imperial Hotel dates to 1863, but today is best known for its large rooftop beer garden, live sports, ice-cold beers and classic pub fare. The 360-degree city views aren't too shabby either.

10 FARMER'S DAUGHTERS

95 Exhibition Street
farmersdaughters.com.au

Farmer's Daughters offers seasonal eats courtesy of local farmers and producers. The sunny rooftop bar features locally sourced craft beer, wines, and spirits. Also on the roof is a garden that supplies herbs for both food and cocktails.

11 HER ROOFTOP

270 Lonsdale Street
her.melbourne

Built in 1903, the heritage-listed Pacific House recently

reopened as Her, a multifaceted drinking, dining and music venue. Enjoy wine and cocktails along with Thai bites, prepared in the kitchen of the tiny BKK restaurant below.

12 POMELO ROOFTOP BAR

169 Melbourne Place
pomeloroftop.com.au

Pomelo is known for its perfectly executed concoctions. Order yourself a boozy slushy or a refreshing seltzer crafted and canned in-house. The rooftop bar is the playful sister of Bouvardia, a small, experimental cocktail bar downstairs — itself worth a stop.

13 BAR CLARA

87 Little Bourke Street
barclara.com

Bar Clara bases its cocktail list around clarified fruit

juices (the Clara in the name). Jars of homemade concoctions can be seen nestled between the top-shelf spirits lining the shelves of the back bar. Grab one of the soft, green velvet lounges and settle in for the night.

14 BENEATH DRIVER LANE

Shop 3, Driver Lane
driverlanebar.com

Housed in the vault of the old Money Order Office, you'll descend into another time and place in this basement bar. Nab one of the original brick-arched booths, order yourself a signature cocktail or top-shelf whiskey and enjoy live blues music. Just make sure you get there early.

15 HEROES

188 Bourke Street
heroesbar.com.au

Adjacent to Chinatown, you'll find Nitro Lab ice cream shop. But you're not here for dessert. Seek out the elevator within and be transported to Heroes with its multiple levels of revelry.

16 NEW GOLD MOUNTAIN

21 Liverpool Street
newgoldmountain.com.au

On Liverpool Street, keep your eyes peeled for a push-bike suspended on the wall

above the number 21. Step through the golden doors and into the opulence of New Gold Mountain. The intimate bar serves up some of the city's best cocktails using 100 percent Australian ingredients.

17 SIGLO BAR

161 Spring Street
siglobar.com.au

An unmarked door on Spring Street opens to a staircase to Siglo Bar. The open air, black-and-white paved terrace is a perfect location to enjoy a post-theater single malt and a Cohiba Cuban cigar, with views of Parliament House, St Patrick's Cathedral, and Princess Theatre.



18 TRINKET

87 Flinders Lane
trinketbar.com.au

From the outside, Trinket is an unassuming, vintage-inspired cocktail bar. Step through a Narnia-like wardrobe however, and you'll find a basement bar complete with velvet couches, candlelit tables and chandeliers.

19 STATE OF GRACE

27 King Street
stateofgracemelbourne.com.au

Housed in the Melbourne Steamship Co. building on King Street, State of Grace is an eclectic Euro bistro that boasts a stunning rooftop bar. Slide back a bookshelf, and enter Fall From Grace, a secret cocktail den in the basement.



IMAGINE MELBOURNE,
WHAT'S AUSTRALIA
NEXT 27-31 MAY

CHAMPIONS OF INCLUSION

Their commitment to inclusion makes an impact

Rotary honoured six members as People of Action: Champions of Inclusion in January to recognise their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion around the world. These members and their work exemplify Rotary's core values and illustrate how inclusivity can make a transformational impact on individuals and communities, writes Etelka Lehoczyk



İclal Kardiçalı - Türkiye
Project: Do You Like Music?
Rotary E-Club of District 2440

Kardiçalı, a community volunteer for 50 years, focuses on helping women and children through music. She conducts music training and therapy for displaced children, especially those from Kurdish, Syrian and Roma communities. She helps children express themselves through music and understands its role in showing how diversity enriches the human experience. Kardiçalı trains teachers and students in music education, especially at state schools in the Izmir area which have fewer resources. She also supports the Children's Peace Orchestra, whose members lack housing. Her book, "Do You Like Music?" is being translated into Braille so it will be available to even more children. She's also working with Izmir community leaders to adapt the book for children with learning disabilities. And she

donates copies of the book to students, teachers' organisations and schools to make the project more sustainable. Her project is supported by Rotary clubs from Districts 2440 and 2420, along with Inner Wheel clubs in Türkiye and Northern Cyprus, state schools, Lions clubs and the National Education Board of Çeşme for Teacher Training.



Rosemary Namboozie - Uganda
Project: Angel's Centre for Children with Special Needs and Inclusive Education Under Basic Education and Literacy Project
Rotary Club of Wakiso (District 9213)

Namboozie, an advocate for children with disabilities and for inclusive education, founded the Angel's Centre for Children with Special Needs in Wakiso, Uganda. Her advocacy comes from her experience as a parent of a child with Down syndrome who encountered a lack of services for children and their caregivers. The Angel's Centre currently hosts more than 120 children and provides early learning intervention, integrated therapy, outpatient services and nutrition-focused sensory gardens. It supports caregivers with counselling and respite care and helps teachers learn how to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Namboozie also helps young adults with disabilities find employment. Since 2012, her work has

affected more than 150 children and 200 families. As her Rotary club's president-elect, Namboozie also mobilises members to advocate for all children to have equal access to education, health care and community activities. The club's signature project supports inclusive education measures in schools, such as building libraries, implementing adaptive infrastructure, training teachers, developing a needs-based curriculum and enrolling and retaining students with disabilities.

Sarita Shukla - India

Project: Transgender Empowerment — Astitva

Rotary Club of Global Action (District 5150)

Shukla is dedicated to supporting the transgender community in New Delhi, India. She leads the transgender empowerment project, known as Astitva, at Pahal — Nurturing Lives, a mentorship organisation that works to empower young people of all genders. Shukla says the transgender community is very vulnerable as the least understood and the most abused. People who are transgender often have no options to earn a livelihood other than sex work or begging. After the COVID-19 pandemic affected those sources of income, Shukla supplied people with groceries and other necessities and worked with local authorities to get members of the transgender community vaccinated. She also helps raise HIV/AIDS awareness in the community and educates people about prevention. Through Astitva, she provides counselling, training and mentoring to help transgender people transition to government and corporate jobs. She has had an impact on more than 2 000 people through these initiatives and hopes to help many more.



Anderson Zerwes - Brazil

Project: Brazil's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Rotary Club de Encruzilhada do Sul (District 4680)

Zerwes is an advocate for LGBTQ+, racial and gender equality and disability rights who has been a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion in South America. He led the formation and is the current president of CDEI Brasil (the DEI committee in Brazil), which has more than 60 Rotary and Rotaract members from across the country and supports and guides local districts. His work has encouraged 27 out of 31 governors to make DEI district chairs part of their leadership teams and ensure that DEI activities are part of the district's focus. The committee has prepared educational materials, trained leaders, produced monthly webinars and social media content and raised awareness about DEI events. It has also built partnerships with non-governmental organisations and advised communities about DEI issues.

Zerwes has worked closely with clubs, districts and leaders in Brazil to ensure that Rotary offers a welcoming environment for people from diverse backgrounds. The committee regularly shares news about its activities with the DEI Task Force. Because of Zerwes' initiatives, CDEI has served as a model for other Rotary clubs and districts and has been replicated in other countries.

Cam Stewart - Mikostahpinukum (Red Morning) - Canada

Project: Indigenous Community Action Project

Rotary Club of Calgary East (District 5360)

Stewart has been active in diversity, inclusion and human rights for more than two decades, with a particular focus on indigenous inclusion. He founded and chairs District 5360's Indigenous Relations Committee, which is unique within Rotary because its members include indigenous, non-Rotarian leaders. The committee, which reports to the district governor, ensures that indigenous issues and people are a priority. It received a district grant for the Indigenous Community Action Project to address some calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This project creates opportunities for Rotary clubs and indigenous organisations to identify community issues, brainstorm solutions, develop initiatives and act together.



Stewart provides resources for clubs to learn about DEI issues related to indigenous peoples and organises events where people can meet, learn, celebrate and build relationships. He also arranges for

Elders or other keepers of knowledge to participate in Rotary events. Stewart has been honoured with an eagle feather and a pipe from Elder Doreen Spence and was given the Blackfoot name Mikostahpinukum (Red Morning) by Elder Herman Yellow Old Woman.



André Hadley Marria - United States
Project: Spark Thomasville
Rotary Club of Thomasville (District 6900)

Marria is a diversity, equity and inclusion leader in her club, district and community and a founding mentor of a programme for entrepreneurs from underserved communities. Currently governor-elect of District 6900, she has served as DEI chair since 2020 and built a district-wide effort. After encouraging each club to select a DEI chair, she helped people identify personal biases and improve their clubs' culture and inclusivity. Marria was the first Black president of her Rotary club and led the club's first Black history programme. She has also had a variety of roles, including board member and executive director, at Spark Thomasville, a 12-week incubator programme for entrepreneurs. She has helped participants set goals, develop business plans, improve their communication skills and perfect their presentation pitches for a competition. She initiated a partnership between Spark and her Rotary club that provides programme participants with educational materials and mentorship. Her leadership at Spark Thomasville led to a redesigned curriculum, a more diverse board, a more inclusive applicant pool and the organisation becoming a federally recognised NGO. Marria has also raised more than \$500 000 for the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Southwest Georgia, where she continues her work in youth development.



People of WASH

World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March every year. It focuses on the approximately 1.8 billion people worldwide who must rely on water contaminated with faeces, putting them at risk of contracting cholera, dysentery, typhoid, polio and other waterborne diseases.

This year there is even more motivation for Rotary clubs to get involved!

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG) is giving away US\$ for the best photos and videos of your WASH projects!

There are a number of prizes to be won and more information can be found at: wash-rag.org/page/2023-photo-and-video-contest.

So, start thinking about your next Water and Sanitation project and remember to Imagine what you can do to Do Good in the World!



IMAGINE
ROTARY

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Rotary
District 9350



District Conference
20 - 22 April 2023
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AHOY! The crew of the Rotary Club of Waterfront are excited to host the 98th Annual Rotary District 9350 Conference on the 21 and 22 April, the first in-person conference after a hiatus of three years because of COVID! It's time to **Reimagine, Reconnect and Move Forward** together as Rotarians from all three countries gather to celebrate our many successes. An exciting programme with vibrant speakers and fun-filled social events is planned, not to be missed!

The RI President's Personal Representative is RI Director Jeremy Hurst from the Cayman Islands who will be accompanied by his wife Michelle. The Executive Mayor of Cape Town - Geordin Hill-Lewis - will warmly welcome guests to the Mother City at a Cocktail Party kindly hosted by the City of Cape Town on Friday, 21 April, the opening of the conference. The support of the Cape Town City Council, the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town and Pick n Pay, our major conference sponsors is acknowledged. The Meet and Greet at the President Hotel on Thursday, 20 April is where we'll informally, reconnect and renew friendships.

One of the confirmed keynote speakers is Brett Archibald, an Inspirational Motivational Speaker from Cape Town, South Africa. He brings a message of "hope, determination, and belief in one's self". After surviving 28 and a half hours out alone in the open sea, Brett will share his thoughts and story on how he got through his terrifying ordeal. Further exciting speakers are still to be confirmed.

The iconic President Hotel in Bantry Bay is the venue for plenary sessions, perfectly positioned on the Atlantic Seaboard for sight-seeing on the MyCiti bus route. The fun-filled nautical evening at the Royal Cape Yacht Club on Saturday 22 April will certainly be a highlight to conclude celebrations on a high note with good food, fine company, music, dancing and fellowship!



Scan me!

Interested in attending the conference? Go to www.rotary9350.co.za: For more information, contact June Webber corpcon@global.co.za.

Purchase tickets at Web Tickets: www.webtickets.co.za/v2/EventCategories.aspx?itemid=1521266214

REIMAGINE. RECONNECT. MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.



IMAGINE
ROTARY

Lights... camera... Person of Action

A Ugandan Rotaractor teaches filmmaking to help others heal from trauma

It could have been a scene from a movie. Tragically, it was all too real. In the spring of 2007, Cedric Bichano was living with his parents and siblings in the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo.

“One fateful night,” he says, “our home was attacked by armed groups and I lost my parents. Miraculously, I escaped. I was still a child and I did not know where I was going. I was just running away from a bullet.”

After finding refuge elsewhere in Congo for several years, Bichano ended up in Uganda. Since 2013, he’s been a resident of the Nakivale refugee settlement, a huge rural camp in southern Uganda that’s home to about 170 000 people. An aspiring filmmaker, he’s a member of the Rotaract Club of Nakivale (D9213), “a family,” he says, “that I found in the middle of nowhere.”

An aficionado of films about Africa, Bichano is also the founder and CEO of the World Refugee Film Academy, which teaches other displaced people about all aspects of the moviemaking business, from cinematography to screenwriting to costume design to makeup.

Writing about the academy, Bichano explained that its overall goal is to equip individuals with “the creative and technical skills necessary to explore the concerns of their own communities and to help express themselves creatively.”

In so doing, the academy, established in 2017, helps both its founder and the 300 students who have attended classes heal from earlier traumas. “We have to train people to tell their stories, because sharing their stories could give them peace of mind,” Bichano says.

— Geoffrey Johnson



A close-up portrait of Gordon McNally, a middle-aged man with short, graying hair and glasses. He is wearing a brown blazer over a blue and white striped shirt. He is looking slightly off-camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is softly blurred, showing vertical lines and warm tones.

You asked. Gordon McNally answered.

Responding to your questions, Rotary's
president-elect says he plans to lead with caring
as his core value



If you ask Gordon McNally anything about his upcoming year as Rotary International president, he'll immediately stop you. "It's not about my year. It's about one of Rotary's years," he corrects. "I'm a great believer in continuity and I don't see the years in isolation."

On a blustery October day, McNally (that's pronounced MAK'-ihn-al-ee) sat down with six members of Rotary's communications team to take questions gathered via social media from Rotary members around the world. He has a quick sense of humour and an easy banter that filled the room with laughter as a film crew set up boom mikes, cameras and lights. In introducing himself as a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Scotland, he quipped about his distinctive speech: "Despite the lack of an accent, I am Scottish and very proud of that fact."

McNally's Scottish heritage is apparent in his office, where a brightly coloured landscape painting by the Scottish artist John Lowrie Morrison adorns a wall. Scotland isn't always as dreary as it is typically depicted, he notes. "Sometimes it's a very bright place."

In fact, there are a lot of stereotypes about Scotland that McNally is looking to move past. "The tartan, the plaid, it's very traditional, very stereotypical," he says.

His presidential tie, instead, was inspired by the bright colours used by Morrison, his favourite artist, along with the colours in the shell from Thailand that helped inspire his presidential theme. Among other colourful curiosities in McNally's office is a giant cardboard rendition of his head, which he

received after a Rotary institute in Minneapolis. Visitors are keen to hold it up for social media selfies. "I think they get more sense out of the head than they do out of me," he says with a laugh.

McNally joined the South Queensferry club when he was 26 years old. He and his wife, Heather, had recently got married and wanted to put down roots in the community outside of Edinburgh.

A farmer they had met invited them to a Rotary social event and then to a couple of Rotary meetings and before McNally knew it, he was on the road to Rotary membership. (Heather McNally is also a Rotarian, belonging to the Borderlands satellite club of the Rotary Club of Selkirk.) "I couldn't see how a dentist working in isolation in Edinburgh could make a huge difference in the world," he recalls. "But I very quickly realised that by being part of Rotary, I could and I did."

He would like to use his year - scratch that, the 2023/24 Rotary year - to spotlight mental health, an issue that has touched his family directly and that is all too often kept under wraps. McNally is an ambassador for Bipolar UK, an organisation that supports people with the illness as well as their families and caregivers. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland recently launched a partnership with the organisation so that members' skills build a more robust network of support groups around the country. "I'm a big believer in using Rotary members' skills, rather than just their cheque books," he says.

The following is a condensed version of the town hall interview with McNally in October. Watch the full conversation at [rotary.org/mcnallytownhall](https://www.rotary.org/mcnallytownhall).

How can we reignite members of Rotary who appear to have 'lost their spark'? *Jannine and Paul Birtwistle, Rotary Club of Guernsey, in the Channel Islands*

I think the way to reignite the lost spark in certain members of Rotary is to make sure that the Rotary club experience is as good as it can be and suits everybody. It's not a case of one-size-fits-all. Some clubs will want to meet in a country club and spend 2.5 hours over lunch. Other clubs will want to meet for 45 minutes on a Saturday morning over coffee and a bagel and then get out and do service. It all comes down to the service. We are a membership organisation and a service organisation. It's not an either/or. We need to be out there doing service, because not only will we enjoy that more, but we will also see more people want to come and join us because they can see us.

What concrete plans does Rotary have to address climate change in 2023/24? *Abdur Rahman, Rotary Club of Secunderabad, India*

One of the big projects that we're working on at the moment is planting mangroves in various places around the world and there are many others. But we have to remember that Rotary, on its own, will not be able to solve the problem of climate change. We need to work at the level we are capable of working at and encourage and advocate governments around the world to ensure that we address the issue of climate change going forward.

How can we motivate more Rotaractors to join Rotary clubs? *Dale Kerns, Rotary Club of North East, Maryland*

We need to bring them into Rotary clubs as Rotaractors and allow them to help shape the club going forward. We talk about mentoring. But there's reverse mentoring, as well. We can learn so much from Rotaractors. One of the most successful places in the world at integrating Rotaractors into Rotary is in Hong Kong. They move seamlessly from Rotaract into Rotary. As a result, there's hardly a division. They have a wonderful way of integrating Rotaract and Rotary together. Both sides gain so much from that. People say that Rotaract is the future of Rotary, but it's actually the present.

What youth programmes are important to you? *Lindy Beatie, Rotary Club of Penn Valley, California*

I'm a great fan of RYLA [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards]. We have seen very successful RYLAs in our part of the world. If you take a high school student with potential to a RYLA experience, the change that can take place is amazing. Sometimes the

quiet, introverted young students who go to a RYLA experience have, by the end of it, found themselves and are blossoming. It's important we send people with potential to the RYLA experience - not the highfliers, because they're going to fly high anyway. It's the people we have the potential to develop. I'm also a great believer in Rotary Youth Exchange. I'm delighted that we are now in a position to reignite the youth exchange programme. Just over the past few weeks, I've seen young people flying all around the world for what will be a life-changing experience. That comes back to the whole issue of creating a more peaceful world. Because if we can take young people and let them meet other young people and live in other cultures for a year, then we realise that basically we're all the same people. There is no need for conflict because we're all trying to pull in the same direction and we all desire the same thing.

Rotary keeps creating new partnerships and launching new projects. How can we ensure continuity as one president takes over from another? *Marissa De Luna, Rotary Club of Sweetwater San Diego, California*

When I talk about continuity, I don't just mean doing the same old things year after year. What I mean is a process of continually moving forward, continually improving. To do that, we need to be looking at different projects and at different initiatives, because at any given time, there are different needs and different demands being placed on us. So, I don't think the two are mutually exclusive. I think we can be part of new projects and we can look at doing new things. But we can still be practising continuity, in that we're taking it forward in the long term and not rushing to conclude things in the space of any one presidential term.

What is the biggest potential you see in Rotary as an organisation that has not been fully realised? *Claudia Arizmendi, Rotary Club of Hermosillo Milenio, Mexico*

We saw a great increase in volunteerism during the pandemic. I think we have a great opportunity to connect with those people and encourage them to carry on volunteering through Rotary. I believe it's in everybody's nature to care for other people. If we can bring that out of people and if we can build on the spirit of care that we saw during the pandemic, what a wonderful legacy. About 6.5 million people died as a result of COVID around the world and so they must not die in vain. If we can connect with the people who reignited their spirit of volunteering during that period, then we will have achieved something.

Young leaders at work

The Rotary Club of Swakopmund (D9350) may be small, but it is filled with People of Action. This month, the club is celebrating three members who are creating waves of change in their professional lives as well



1 Anke Husemeyer Mondesa Youth Opportunities (MYO) Trust

Anke Husemeyer, once a German volunteer, joined the MYO project and is now the project manager. She oversees and fine-tunes the programme so that after five years, each learner emerges confident and with a solid grounding in subjects like mathematics, English, reading, computer skills, life skills and music.

The trust is a project of the Rotary Club of Swakopmund that was established nearly 20 years ago. It provides afternoon education over and above that which is received at the local state schools. MYO tries to fulfil the potential of those underprivileged students. Learners who show great potential are invited to receive free educational support. Attention is placed on motivating them, while providing direction and guidance. The learners are taught to be respectful, well-behaved and dependable, as well as open to learning and meaningful development.

Encouraging reports have been received from high school educators and the project has an excellent success rate, with many former learners now enjoying great success and growth in their chosen careers.

2 Anja Rohwer Women's DRC Project

Anja Rohwer runs the DRC Women's Project in Swakopmund. It was established in 2010 and provides a variety of community engagements, such as a bead work programme that generates a small but steady income for women, a soup kitchen which provides a warm meal twice a week to 250 children and a kindergarten that provides early learning education to 60 children.

The beneficiaries are women and children who live in harsh circumstances on the far outskirts of Swakopmund. Here, where homes are built from discarded cardboard, pieces of pallet wood and zinc sheets, life is fragile and difficult.

Initially, this project was operated from converted containers, but thanks to a bequest of N\$9 million from a German medical doctor, Dr Annedore Knak, who died in 2017 and left her estate to this project, it was possible to build and equip a much larger centre.



Children of the DRC School project release heart-shaped balloons, each containing a note expressing a personal wish.

3 Volkan Sazli Tangeni Shilongo Namibia

Volkan is a new member of the Rotary Club Swakopmund and founded the German-Namibian NGO, Tangeni Shilongo Namibia. The NGO was registered as a non-profit association in Germany in 2015 and in Namibia since 2021.

Volkan and his team operate a school project and community centre in the far outskirts of Swakopmund in a low economic area. The project takes care of more than 100 children and youth throughout the day.

The school project is located on the sandy ground of the Namib Desert and primarily focuses on the needs of children and teenagers. A diverse range of education projects are offered. These include classes for children without a placement at a state school, early childhood development, homework classes, urban gardening and environmental education and a community centre and library.

The DRC School Project is a child's companion from kindergarten to a successful farewell into the world of work. Tangeni Shilongo Namibia also offers the Open Doors scholarship to finance the tertiary education of financially vulnerable but exceptionally committed youth in Namibia. The scholars also regularly meet in think tanks to combine their expertise and discuss ideas for the good of Namibia. Currently, the programme has 16 scholars and two alumni.

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



Waste - not!

Worried about the environment? That's not weird; it's wise

By Alan Castator

My wife thinks I should seek therapy. She says I'm obsessed with waste and that I exhibit weird and unnatural behaviours that reveal my compulsive obsession.

OK, you decide. We have a sign above our toilet that says: All toilet paper, except brown, goes in the waste can. We know it's gross ... but you'll get used to it. I ask you, "Is that weird?" My daughter dropped her paper in the toilet and then apologised. I told her, "It's not too late to put it in the bin." My wife said that was weird. My wife also thought it was weird when, feeling cold in the house, she suggested turning up the thermostat - and I suggested she might want to put on a hat. Is that weird? Suggesting that someone who is cold put on a hat?

I will admit that years ago, when recycling came

into vogue, I may have got carried away. First thing you know, I'm the only guy in the whole town riding his electric bicycle to the recycling facility with a load of recyclables on the bike rack. Why drive when you could ride an electric bike? OK, so I was the only guy with an electric bike. So what?

Then we moved out West and met some people who were even more dedicated to conservation. Like my neighbour. He dries his clothes on wood racks connected to pulleys so that he can raise the racks to the ceiling to utilise the rising heat. That was the end of our clothes dryer. Don't own one now; wood clothing racks all the way. And the moisture ups the humidity in the house in the winter.

We live in the mountains, where the forest desperately needs thinning and the summer wildfires

are out of control. The forest service thins the forest and gives you wood to burn, all cut into rounds. We started using our wood stove to burn that free wood, but then we noticed the smoke coming from our chimney. Unacceptable.

So, we purchased a well-engineered, high-efficiency wood stove, which we use to heat the house and cook our food. The stove has a catalytic converter that burns the smoke before it goes out the chimney. Our HVAC [heating, ventilation and air conditioning] is a floor fan attached to the wall that blows the heat downstairs. Unattractive, but it works quite well.

An empty car idling in front of a store angers me. Not only is it a waste of gas, but it pours carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Trucks, SUVs and big cars rankle me, but an unattended vehicle idling at the kerb is outrageous. As for trucks, SUVs and big cars, they not only burn lots of fuel, but their manufacture dumps carbon into the atmosphere due to the pig iron necessary to make those huge things. My wife and I reduced our automobile inventory to one car decades ago. And always a Prius, purchased used. Most passenger flights deposit tons of carbon emissions into the atmosphere, so we don't fly. Instead, we drive the Prius and take the extra days necessary to arrive at our destination. And look at the benefits we enjoy. We get to see the United States and we don't get treated like an animal going to the slaughter by airport personnel. You reclaim your independence when you don't fly.

My wife and I take "military" showers. That means water off when soaping up and water on when rinsing off. We stand in the shower in plastic tubs that catch the grey water, which we then use to flush the toilet. Nothing weird about that. Our energy conservation has cost us at least one friendship. We were gone from our home in Michigan for several months and the 30-gallon hot water heater was turned off. Our friends wanted to stay in our house for 14 hours while attending a party. We said, "Fine, but please do not turn on the hot water heater." End of friendship. You have to walk the talk.

This isn't political; it's personal. It's existential. What kind of an environment awaits a child born today? I won't be alive 30 years from now, but if you will, what do you think the planet is going to look like? Do you think you're going to ski in the mountains? Do you think you'll be able to see objects 100 feet below the surface of Lake Tahoe? What will Florida's coastline look like? Can we just be bothered to change our habits and preserve the place a little longer?

Thomas Friedman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the New York Times, recently provided an unflattering assessment of our demands as Americans: "We want the cheapest possible gasoline and heating oil prices so we can drive our cars as fast and as much as we want - and never have to put on a sweater indoors or do anything to conserve energy." Can we dispute that notion generally? I'm sorry, but we can't have it all. We have to address this climate crisis - and there's nothing weird about that.

Fortunately, there's one extraordinary group of people already well-positioned to address the problem: members of Rotary. In the five years before Rotary adopted protecting the environment as an area of focus (in 2020), The Rotary Foundation allocated more than \$18 million in global grant funding to environment-related projects. So Rotary is already walking that talk. It would be weird to show members of Rotary a problem and not offer some solutions. So, here's one: solar panels. No speeches, no legislation, no agonisingly long wait for a return on your dollars and efforts. No carbon exchanges, no carbon tax credits to calculate. One solar panel, anywhere, means fewer greenhouse gas emissions over time. Buy one today, maybe 100 next year. You always get a bang for your buck. Just like a single polio vaccine. Or a million polio vaccines. Is it possible for you members of Rotary to start funding some solar panels? I know that your clubs already have their budgets in place and that your favourite projects are already rolling along. And you're to be commended for that. But could you perhaps schedule solar panels for next year? Your mission statement could be decreasing the more than 50 billion tons of annual global greenhouse gas emissions by generating electricity for individual households through solar panels.

That's one solution. And there are lots more. Making the change from our former habits to new habits of continuous conservation is an easy mental adjustment. There's no extra work, just different work. Different habits. It can be fun, kind of a game with yourself.

I have a game with myself. I pick up clothing from the side of the road, launder it and wear it. Makes for great conversations. And funky hats. I aspire to find a leather belt with someone else's name tooled into the leather that I could wear. I mean, why not? It's fun and it conserves energy and resources. It's just one more positive environmental habit. And if that's weird, all right then, I'm weird. Just don't tell my wife.

A retired trial lawyer and a champion of Rotary's solar oven projects, Alan Castator is a docent at the

Seahorse rescue

When it comes to a crisis, Uschi Kuhn invariably raises her hand. An SOS for the Ria Formosa's disappearing seahorses sent her into full battle mode, but how would she fund her rescue mission? Meanwhile in South Africa, Elizabeth (Biffy) Danckwerts, of the Rotary Club of Constantia (D9350), had an answer.



By Debbie Reynolds

Published with permission: ALGARVE PLUS magazine

As I step into Uschi's intriguing Vale Telheiro home I get a delicate paper seahorse brooch pinned to my dress. It tells me she means business, but it also perfectly represents the precarious position of these little creatures, which were once more prolific in the Algarve's Ria Formosa lagoon than anywhere else in the world.

Sadly, their existence here now hangs in the balance. The result of a census requested by the Oceano Azul Foundation and conducted by University of Algarve biologist Dr Jorge Palma found that in 2018 the Ria Formosa was home to only 100 000 seahorses compared to the two million recorded in 2001.

"This represents a decline of around 90%," says Uschi. "To say the situation is critical is an understatement." Like most people who love this southern Algarve national park, one of Portugal's seven natural wonders, Uschi was blissfully unaware that the Ria Formosa's famous seahorses were facing extinction. "I got involved through my Rotary club when we were given a presentation by the Algarve Centre of Marine Sciences," she says. "I realised immediately that we had to do something to help."

Having been the first female president of the Rotary Club of Almancil International and still a stalwart member, Uschi sprang into action, officially forming a special Seahorse Committee in 2021, along with Mo Gova, Klaus Ukens and Alan Wallis.

"All this started happening during Covid, so not only was it difficult to speak to people, but when I did, they weren't that interested. The attitude was mostly that they had bigger things to worry about."

While Uschi has been involved in various causes throughout her life, this one really grabbed her because it was a problem on her doorstep, and it meant doing something for the next generation.

"The main problem is that the sea grass in the lagoon is being destroyed by fishing and recreational boats, climate change, illegal fishing and poaching," she says. "Sea grass is the seahorses' natural habitat, the only place they can live and breed."

"It's all about the lagoon's natural balance – if you take one piece out then the rest will start disappearing too. No fish, no crabs, no octopus, no food... nothing!"

RAISING VITAL FUNDS

Working with the Centre of Marine Sciences, the University of the Algarve and the Institution of Nature Conservation, it transpired that there were plans to rehabilitate the Ria Formosa seahorses, but, as always, funding was crucial.

Holding fundraising events during COVID was impossible, so Uschi reached out to the global Rotary community initiating a Zoom meeting with the Inter Country Committee.

Here she met Elizabeth (Biffy) Danckwerts, of the Rotary Club of Constantia (D9350), who suggested she apply for a global grant. Biffy provided guidance and advice on the application process and her Constantia club became the international partner in the global grant.

"We needed €45,000, but the way it works is that we had to show intention by raising money first and then the Foundation would add a percentage." And so began the committee's hardest task. "We were often so disillusioned that we nearly gave up," says Uschi. "One



ABOUT Uschi Kuhn

A feisty, determined redhead, Uschi was born in Germany before moving to Cape Town when she was 19. Ten years later, with husband Rudolf and children Rudi and Nicole, she returned to Germany, opening a hairdressing salon. "I've always been artistic and for me hair styling was all about being creative," she says. "We entered competitions, and I was one of the first to start body painting back then. We also used to do shows and fundraisers for charity, because that has always been part of who I am."

Missing the South African sun and sky, they decided that the Algarve was the next best thing and moved there 20 years ago, opening an art retreat in Loulé.

"I wanted to give something back to the country I had chosen to live in and so I joined the Rotary Club of Almancil International, where I was the first female president in 2015 and then was president again in 2020."

It was after the untimely death of her husband in 2013, that Uschi began painting again. "It was a healing process at first and then I became more serious, showing my work in a local art gallery and creating an art retreat."

Today, however, she has dedicated herself to Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best.

of our Seahorse Committee members, Alan Wallis, even made a large personal donation to get us started. We kept motivating each other, made lots and lots of presentations and just kept going.”

Two years later, it is finally happening. The practical elements are in place with two ‘no go’ sanctuary areas having been created in the estuary between Faro and Olhão, where boats and people are strictly forbidden.

Research has found that in place of sea grass, seahorses respond well to artificial structures that have been developed to recreate their natural habitat. Because seahorses are not good swimmers, they need to be able to anchor themselves to something or they get washed out to sea.

Recently, seahorses born in the tanks of the Ramalhete Marine Station in Faro were released into these sanctuaries. Also, coming soon to provide extra protection for the sanctuaries are specialised navigation buoys, for which permission has just been granted and funds received. Once that’s done, Uschi will continue her mission to raise awareness about the plight of our seahorses.

“Education is key to the conservation of these endangered little animals,” she says, explaining that much has been done, but that much more is needed.

Project Save Our Seahorses posters have gone up at various harbours and islands on the Ria Formosa and there’s been a feature article about the project in the German Die Stern magazine, as well as reports in

DID YOU KNOW?

- Seahorses are monogamous in that they mate for life.
- Females ‘plant’ the eggs in the male’s belly. The males carry and give birth to the babies.
- They swim in pairs with their tails linked together.
- Each seahorse has unique identifying marks on their bony ‘crown’, so no two are the same.
- They have no teeth or stomach so food passes through their digestive system so fast they need to eat constantly to stay alive.
- There are 47 recognised species of seahorses – two of these are found in the Ria Formosa lagoon – the short-snouted seahorse and long-snouted seahorse.

various local media.

Uschi frequently visits schools, which she says are the main “breeding grounds” for getting the word out. “The kids are fascinated and inspired by saving our seahorses and we’ve launched an art competition with the schools, which has resulted in some amazing work by the children.”

The children’s paintings, as well as work by other artists, including Boliqueime’s Jessica Dunn, were displayed at an exhibition at the São Brás Museum in December. Another coup was getting award-winning Portuguese underwater cinematographer João Rodrigues to allow use of his seahorse photographs for their projects.

“Fundraising will be ongoing and we are eternally grateful to all the people, from private individuals to established businesses, who have helped us make this dream come true,” says Uschi. “On behalf of Rotary, we’ll be overseeing the project for the next two years, during which time we will also be funding divers to go into the sanctuaries to see if the project is working and the seahorse population is improving.”

Not content to leave it at that, Uschi is determined to work with Dr Palma to expand the current seahorse aquarium at the Ramalhete laboratory.

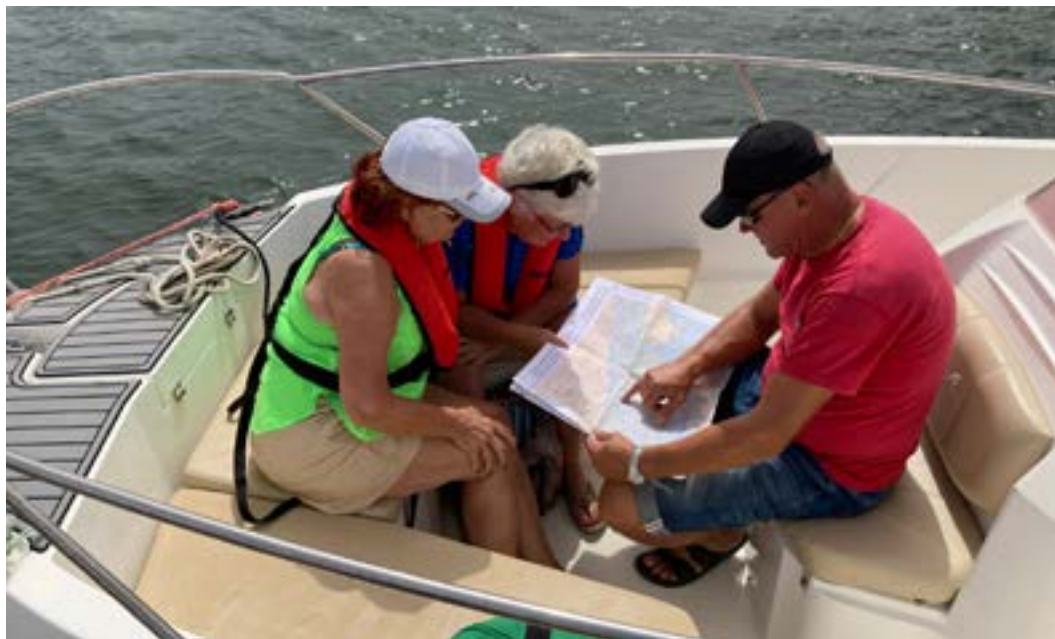
“Now the public can’t enter the seahorse facility. Our dream would be to have a laboratory with a big window so that people can see the seahorses rather than going diving to see them in the wild and destroying their habitat.”

Before I’m allowed to leave, Uschi insists that I make it clear that the SOS (Save the Seahorse) project is not about her. “It’s about being connected to the world, being a Rotarian, the incredible team and all the people who have helped in their own way, big or small.”

It’s a fact that no man is an island and in her desire to give back to the country which has nurtured her for 20 years, Uschi has certainly proved that.

She wrote in her story, *Under the Star-Filled Sky* (part of Alyson Sheldrake’s anthology *A New Life in the Algarve Portugal*): “I bow my head to this country.”

Well, there is no doubt the seahorses are bowing theirs to her.



Uschi Kuhn, Biffy Danckwerts and Klaus Ukens, who is the seahorse project manager to Faro University



Uschi Kuhn and Biffy Danckwerts.



Biffy's story

During the COVID lockdowns, I attended a lot of international clubs' online meetings. Uschi and I were both attending an online meeting of a club in the UK, I was in Cape Town and she was in the Algarve. Uschi asked if I lived in Cape Town and shared that she had lived here.

And so a friendship was born. I attended a few of their club meetings and it was during one when they spoke of a project providing medical equipment worth more than €20 000, that I asked if they had used a global grant. The Rotarians asked me, 'What is that?'

I asked a few questions and believed the project would qualify for a global grant. I became part of their project team, guiding them from Cape Town. Everything was falling into place and my club became the main international partner.

During our weekly meetings, I was always asked, when I would I come to visit. My standard reply was, "When I win the lottery!"

Within two days of the global grant being approved, I received a phone call and was told I had won the lottery! Soon, I was visiting the seahorses and got to meet many new friends in person.

Dr Jorge Palmer, a scientist working on the project.



At the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando are DGE Ann Wright (D9350), DGE Riana Pretorius (D9400), PDG Annemarie Mostert (D9400) and DGE Jacques Venter (D9370).

Assembled!

Rotary held its International Assembly in Orlando, Florida. Four hundred and ninety-one district governor-elects from more than 200 countries shared ideas, strategies, knowledge and experiences as they gathered during the eight general and 360 breakout sessions, discussing topics that affect the whole Rotary world.

This year, discussions revolved around how the DGEs will lead their districts to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

PDG Annemarie Mostert and PDG Christophe Koreki represented Zone 22 as Lead and Partner Trainers of Rotary International Assembly. They facilitated various breakout sessions that were conducted in different languages to ensure a very successful and outstanding learning experience.

“Africa featured not only during the African hospitality night but also hosted a cultural exhibition site, showcasing our warm hospitality, projects and programmes as well as vibrant colours and African rhythm,” says Mostert.



Rotary Director Patrick Chisanga with his spouse, Petronella.



It's not a dog's life

Four members of the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400) serve as Honorary Rangers and a favourite duty is looking after the dogs at the K9 Centre. Each year, the club holds its K2C Cycle Tour in which 100 cyclists cycle 100 kilometres through Big 5 territory. This event raises funds in support of conservation. Last year, the club donated R30 000 from the K2C to the SHR K9 Project Watchdog for use in the Kruger National Park. This donation assisted in covering essential support for the dogs such as veterinary bills, as well as contributing to the satellite data bill for their GPS harnesses.

Dogs are an integral part of our everyday lives. While domestic animals will always provide much companionship and pleasure, the role of working dogs in protecting South Africa's wildlife and conservation endeavours is important and often unrealised.

A critical contributor to the success of anti-poaching initiatives is the work of the SANParks K9 Unit. Poaching in national parks remains a major conservation challenge and most encounters with poachers that involve working dogs result in arrests.

Anti-poaching is the unit's primary objective. It uses working dogs for the detection and tracking of poachers. The dogs are specially bred for the important work that they perform in the reserve. Malinois (Belgian shepherd dogs) are hugely active animals, which love to please their handlers, and function as detection dogs. Among their duties is the detection of firearms, ammunition and wildlife products which enter and exit through park gates.

The Bloodhound Dobermann crosses are tracker dogs

and can follow scent trails for hours on end, diligently pursuing their target. These remarkable dogs follow scents, which may be hours old, over vast distances. Tracker dogs are deployed by helicopter or vehicle and operate throughout the park.

The SANParks K9 Centre in Kruger National Park is supported by members of SANParks Honorary Rangers (SHRs) through K9 Project Watchdog. A volunteer organisation, SHR volunteers give freely of their time and skills to support SANParks in fostering conservation in South Africa's national parks.

The volunteers approved to work with the dogs are organised and deployed by coordinating the SHR for dog handling support, Monica Stark. Monica advises on the specific way to deal with each animal; "Approach the dog, quietly and speak to it at all times" or "the dog is best handled by females".

Honorary Rangers, Hazel and Alan Partington and Lovelle and Michael Henderson do regular service at the centre over weekends and public holidays, looking after and caring for the dogs. "We get very attached to the dogs", says Lovelle, "and my favourite is a bloodhound who works the area in which the centre is situated. She goes out early every morning on her tracking duties with her handler whom she adores." Lovelle adds that when the bloodhound returns late morning,

she is very tired but after a nap in her shady run, she loves a cuddle and a brush. The run was supplied and installed by a team of Honorary Rangers. Hazel enjoys keeping an eye on dogs who may be at the unit for medical reasons or because their handler is on leave, giving them that extra bit of TLC.

Michael and Alan's favourites are a Bloodhound and Dobermann-Bloodhound cross respectively. These dogs are extremely strong and it is necessary for handlers and volunteers to be non-confrontational and to keep their wits about them when taking the dogs for a walk on their leads. During cuddle and brushing times, the dogs often roll on their back waiting for the brush strokes and enjoying the attention.

All dogs are fed special individualised diets each evening. It is essential to be meticulous in following their respective diets to ensure that the right dog gets the correct food and medication.

The work at the K9 Unit is not glamorous! Early

morning is the time to don wellies to clear the run and thoroughly scrub and sterilise all the kennels and beds, before checking for overnight intruders and the inevitable (smelly) results of dogs being there!

These highly trained, very expensive animals are precious and there are strict guidelines when caring for them, ensuring that they are nurtured and kept healthy, safe and happy.



At a site visit to Khutliso Daniels Secondary School, which has 746 learners and 19 staff members, are Mike Behrens (Project Manager), Allan Starke (contractor), President Belinda Tudge, School Principal Radio Mchaba, and Rotarians Quintus Hahndiek and Luc Marechal.

UPLIFTING PARTNERSHIPS

Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) has recently emerged as the best-performing educational district in the Eastern Cape and community initiatives and partnerships contributed to this achievement.

One such project, is a multi-million-rand upgrade to the kitchens and toilets at seven local, no-fee primary and secondary schools. This follows a similar upgrade in 2020 of the kitchen and toilets at Ntsika Secondary School, as well the installation of water tanks and pumps at 10 schools in 2021.

Led by the Rotary Clubs of Grahamstown and Grahamstown Sunset (D9370), the project was

funded by Rotary clubs, The Rotary Foundation and individual Rotarians in USA, Canada, Brazil and South Africa, as well as District 9370.

Phase 1 has seen the upgrade of the kitchen at Mary Waters Secondary School completed and the revamp of the kitchen and toilets for staff and pupils at Khutliso Daniels. Similar work is currently underway at Fikizolo and Tanti Primary Schools. The intention is to complete this work, as well as upgrades at the Nombulelo Secondary, George Dickerson Primary and Samuel Ntsiko Primary Schools, by mid-2023.



Before and after pictures of the houses that are being renovated by the Rotary Club of Chatsworth and the RIBI Disaster Trust.

REBUILDING HOMES

The Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) worked feverishly to assist the Umlaas Community, more commonly known as 7-Tanks, after two storms caused untold destruction and devastation.

This humble settlement consists of basic tin and mud structures, some of which are over 80 years old. During the past two devastating floods, damage was caused to the structures which were in urgent need of repair or replacement.

Many sheets of roofing, window frames and panes were completely destroyed. Mudslides also caused further damage to water and sewer pipelines. Access to most of the homes were also extremely difficult and challenging due to damaged road structures.

This mammoth project was undertaken in conjunction with a Rotary International partner, the RIBI Disaster Recovery Trust (Rotary International Britain & Ireland). The club submitted an urgent disaster grant application and received £5 000 (approximately R99 650) in August 2022, after

doing an in-depth community needs analysis. The club set out to refurbish a total of twenty-seven houses within the community.

The club also received much needed financial support and assistance from the Rotary Clubs of Claremont and Knysna in District 9350, which gave R16 000 and R25 000 respectively. Kasturie Naidoo of Hilary also contributed R2 000 to the project.

These funds were ploughed into the restoration of the storm-stricken area where various builders worked to ensure the successful completion of the renovations. The club also provided food hampers and other much needed items to the community.

The grant process started in the 2021/22 Rotary year, under the leadership of then-President Tina Pillay. Guidance was received from RIBI Trust Chairman, Brian Stoyel and his amazing team, and PDG Kevin Dersley (the International Country Committee Representative for D9370).



The steering committee includes Rotarians, Interactors, educators and members of the Galeshewe Youth Network.

KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

This project of the Rotary Satellite E-Club of Kimberley – the Karoo Region (D9370) aims to help school girls stay in school by providing menstrual cups at no cost to the girls or to the school.

Many girls in South Africa, feel stigmatised and embarrassed because they can't afford sanitary wear, often excluding themselves from school and social activities. It is estimated that 3-out-of-10 schoolgirls in South Africa miss some schooling each month during their periods.

Access to affordable, safe and hygienic menstrual hygiene products is critical, because having a period at school without these products can impact the girl's longer-term social and economic activities.

The menstrual cup is reusable, affordable and can be purchased without a prescription. The

willingness to use a menstrual cup is increasing, which is mainly due to the public's desire to use the eco-friendly products.

This project was funded by two \$3 000 grants, one from the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (www.carrollcreekrotary.org) and one from Hope in South Africa (www.hopeinsouthafrica.org). Implementing partners include Galeshewe Youth Network (www.facebook.com/GYN19), Grassroot Hope in South Africa (www.facebook.com/HOPEINSOUTHAFRICA), FAMSA (www.famsanational.org), and local Interact and Rotaract clubs.

The Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region (www.facebook.com/rotaryclubkaroo) is a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Kimberley: (www.facebook.com/RotaryClubKimberley) in South Africa.



Some of the winners I-Shan Cheng of Montrose Primary School, Callan MacIntyre of The Kings College and Preparatory School, Stasi Rankin of The Kings College and Preparatory School and Ivania Dos Santos of Trinity House Preparatory School Randpark Ridge.

In a few words...

The Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400), in conjunction with Trinity House Preparatory School, hosted the club's annual Public Speaking competition. The contest was open to Grade 7s from both public and private primary schools in the area.

Nine schools participated in the event that was held at Trinity Preparatory in Randpark Ridge late last year. The competing schools were Constantia Kloof, Crawford Ruimsig, Montrose Primary, Franklin D Roosevelt, Northcliff Primary, Bryanston Primary, The Kings College and Preparatory School Bryanston, Pridwin Preparatory School and hosts Trinity House Rand Park Ridge.

"The club has hosted this annual event, which has become a highlight in the primary school calendar over the last 40 years, with the exception being during 2020 when the hard lockdown [COVID pandemic] was imposed," explains President, Godfrey Ajusi.

The winner of the prepared speech category was Ivania Dos Santos of Trinity House Preparatory

School and the runner up was Stasi Rankin of The Kings College and Preparatory School, Bryanston. The Impromptu category was won by I-Shen Cheng of Montrose Primary School and the runner up was Callan MacIntyre from The Kings College and Preparatory, Bryanston.

The winning team was The Kings College and Preparatory School, Bryanston, Ivania Dos Santos (Prepared Speaker) and I-Shen Cheng (Impromptu Speaker), who were led by Adele Greasley, the head of English.

Chief Adjudicator, Brian Appleton, of the National Eisteddfod Academy was extremely impressed with the high standard of speaking, which exceeded his expectations, as all schools and participants scored over 90%.

The concluding address was given by Dean Gounden and President Godfrey Ajusi who distributed certificates and book prizes to the speakers. A framed plaque was presented to Principal Hilton Scott.

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

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Last year, the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370) handed over a teddy-making project to the TAFTA Sewing Angels. During the last few months, these very busy elderly women have made 131 cuddly teddies for the CHOC children. Each teddy is made with special eyes that can't come loose, be pulled off and swallowed. The car-load of teddies was gratefully received by Agie Govender - the KZN regional manager of CHOC.



Rotary Ann Ingrid Edelson, of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350), presented a large amount of baby clothes to Lindy Officer of Mama Themba. The clothes were donated by the Helderberg Craft Club.



"You are loved!" is the message a Danville Girls' High School matriculant wrote inside her pair of school shoes that she dropped in a big box as she left school for the last time last year. The collection was arranged between the Rotary E-Club of South Africa One (D9370) and the school. Girls who had second hand school shoes that were still in a good condition dropped them in the box. These were then given to learners at Kuswag High School in Amanzimtoti.



The Rotary Club of George (D9350) gave five new wheelchairs to Carpe Diem School for physically disabled learners. The donation will make a huge difference in the lives of the learners. Principal Elzeth Grobler said many learners had exclaimed, “Ma’am, look at my new set of wheels!” The club is a regular supporter of the school and has developed vegetable gardens and tunnels there as well. At the presentation are Gerhard Eggers, President Di Kershaw and Principal Elzeth Grobler.



A donation from abroad enabled the Anns of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) to give 50 food hampers to the residents of Kay’s Caravan Park. At the hand out are Ann President Mieke MacDonald and Rotary Ann Ingrid Edelson.



About 1 700 cyclists took part in the annual Winelands Cycle Race organised by the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350), a seeding race for the Cape Town Cycle Tour. The participants cycled the 102 kilometres from Wellington to Riebeeck Kasteel and back in ideal weather. There was also a shorter race of 52 kilometre for less experienced riders. At the finish, cyclists were treated to refreshments, medals and lucky draw prizes. The funds raised go to local Rotary projects focusing on early childhood development.



Rotarians Marita van der Sluys and Adele de Almeida assisted in handing out medals to the cyclists at the finish.



At the close finish are the first four cyclists to finish, Johan Trotzky (time: 2:25:56), Jaco Venter, Clint Hendricks and Leonardo van Onselen. The first female rider to complete the 102 km course was Hayley Preen.

Photo: Sieb Sieberhagen (Picsieb Photography)



Tragedy struck in Jagersfontein, a small town in the Free State province, on 11 September 2022 when a dam at a diamond mine collapsed and sludge flooded through the community, destroying homes and land and leaving many people injured. Members of the Rotary Club of Bloemfontein Thabure (D9370) could not ignore the suffering and soon arrangements were being made to help the people of Jagersfontein. The club leadership consulted with SASSA staff members and community leaders as it arranged to visit 13 of the most destitute families, identified by SASSA staff members to be the recipients of assistance from the club. In October, club members travelled to Jagersfontein with gifts of clothes and food parcels for the disaster-stricken households.



Two organisations, APD Makana (Association for Persons with Disabilities – Makana) and Gift of the Givers, each received donations of R35 672 raised by the Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370) auction last year. At the presentation of the cheques are President Robyn Cooper (Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset), Ikhona Mvaphantsi, APD Rep Nomakhosazana Cacula, Francine Mwepu (APD) and (left) President Belinda Tudge (Grahamstown).

WALL OF HONOUR



Abigail Dhlwayo, Panganai Dhlwayo, Lettie Banda and Alfonso Marachin are new members of the Rotary Club of Pretoria Sunrise (D9400).

PLEASE NOTE

We are busy preparing the annual Which Club Meets Today directory. If you have not already submitted your 2023/24 club and district leadership lists, please do so ASAP. Submissions close on 5 June 2023



Graham Glover was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370).



Sally Terry was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370).



Sue Kilkie is the 2023/24 president of the Rotary Club of Westville (D9370).

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