

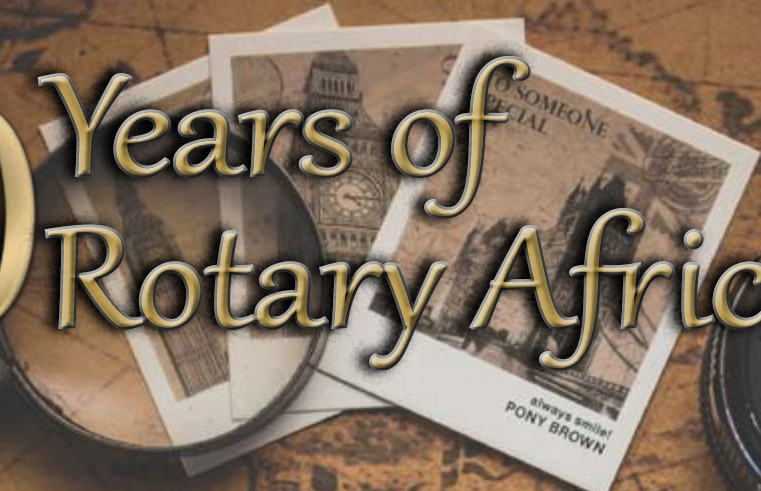


90 Years of Rotary Africa



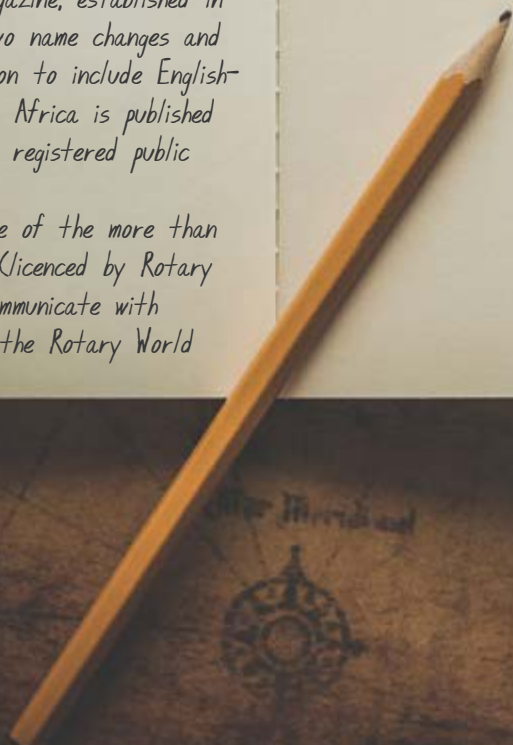
July 2017 marks the 90th anniversary of Rotary Africa. The magazine, established in 1927, has undergone two name changes and expanded its distribution to include English-speaking Africa. Rotary Africa is published by Rotary In Africa a registered public benefit organisation.

Rotary Africa is one of the more than 30 regional magazines (licenced by Rotary International) which communicate with Rotarians as part of the Rotary World



Magazine Press. More than half of Rotarians worldwide receive a regional magazine. These publications are distributed in more than 130 countries, published in 24 languages and have a combined circulation of 872 000.

Each magazine has a regional point of view but also includes articles and photographs of international interest from The Rotarian...



Rotary arrived in Africa with the formation of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg in 1921. One of the club's charter members was 'Rusty' Rusterholz, a US businessman living in South Africa. In 1925 clubs were chartered in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The Rotary Club of East London was chartered the following year. With the formation of these clubs, District 55 came into being and 'Rusty' Rusterholz was elected first district governor. In 1927 Rusty suggested the establishment of a magazine to serve the district's eight clubs. Benjamin Herbert Dodd, the editor of East London's Daily Dispatch, offered to run it.

1927

The first issue of South African Rotary was published in July. It was a four page paper, about 10 centimetres wide and 20 centimetres deep - smaller than many club bulletins. The first print order was for 400 copies, which allowed every Rotarian to receive a copy and for a small reserve to be kept.

1928

Dodd asked to be relieved of the job of running the magazine and Percy Bishop, assistant editor The Natal Advertiser (now The Daily News), accepted the task. Percy ran the magazine for 18 years.

1930

In July, the magazine's name was changed to Rotary In Africa to reflect the expansion of Rotary across the continent with the chartering of clubs in Nairobi and Bulawayo. This extended the boundaries of District 55 to include Africa south of the equator. By the time the district conference was held in 1930, there were 17 Rotary clubs on the continent.

1945

Glen Buchanan became editor and was the only editor who had no experience in journalism. Although there were only 21 clubs and about 500 Rotarians in the district at the time, Glen and his Ann, Mary, saved the magazine from extinction.

South African Rotary

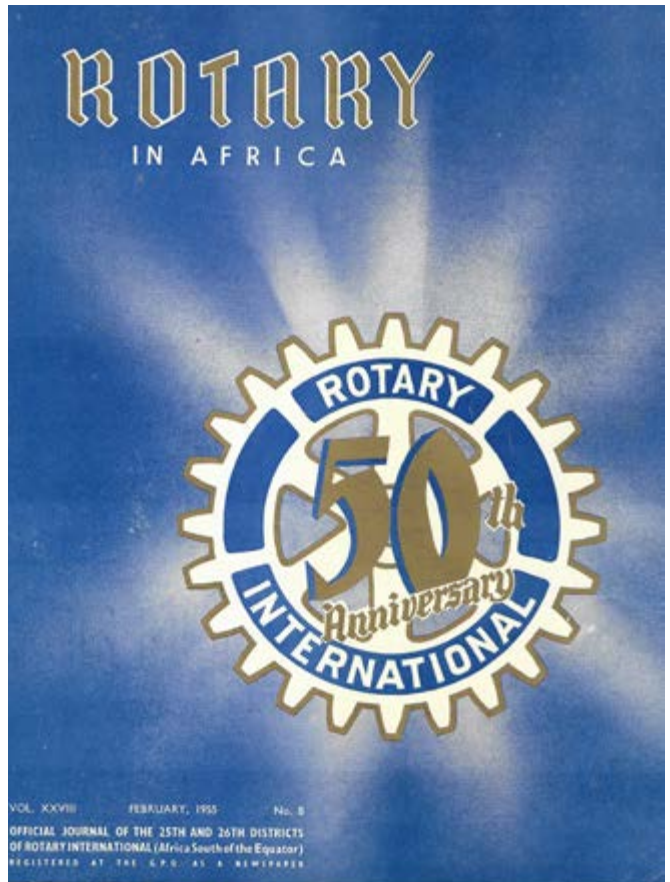
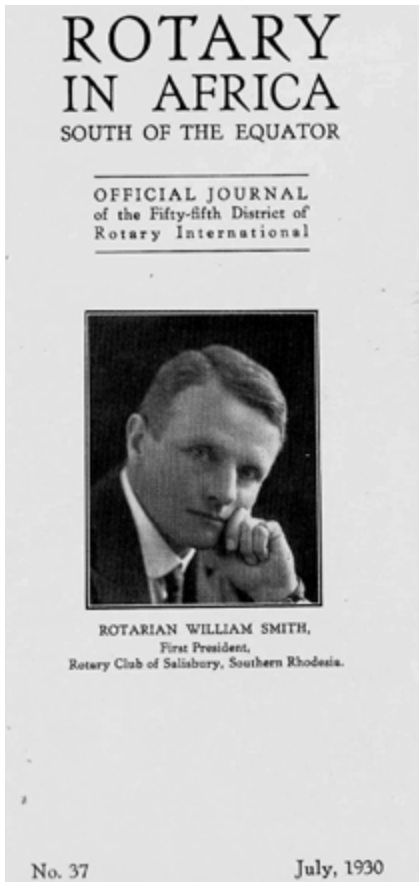
Official Journal of District 55
Rotary International



ROTARIAN JOHN INNES,
Special Commissioner, Rotary International.

No. 35

May, 1930



1948

Kelsey Buchanan was appointed editor in January. He was the managing editor of the South African Mining Journal group of papers. There were now 27 clubs and 900 Rotarians in District 55 (between Nairobi and Cape Town).

1965

Neels Meyer, who was editor of the South African Sugar Journal, took over the reins in May and although not a Rotarian, carefully nurtured the magazine's growth through another period of expansion. District 55 was redistricted into Districts 25 and 26 in 1950 and Rotary In Africa now served the 167 clubs.

1970

Peter Wrinch-Schulz, managing director of Group Editors (Pty) Ltd, took over total management - editorial, business and printing and spent 26 years as editor.

1970

Rotary in Africa, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, was formed. The company still exists and is run by a board of directors who are Rotarians. All current, immediate incoming and past governors of Districts 9200, 9210, 9211, 9212, 9220, 9250, 9270, 9300, 9320, 9350, 9370 and 9400 are ex officio members of Rotary in Africa

1983

It was decided to drop the word 'in' and the magazine became Rotary Africa but the publishing company remained Rotary in Africa.

1996

Derrick Couper, who had over 30 years' experience in the technology of electronic typesetting and printing - a career he adopted after 21 years of farming, was appointed as editor.



2008

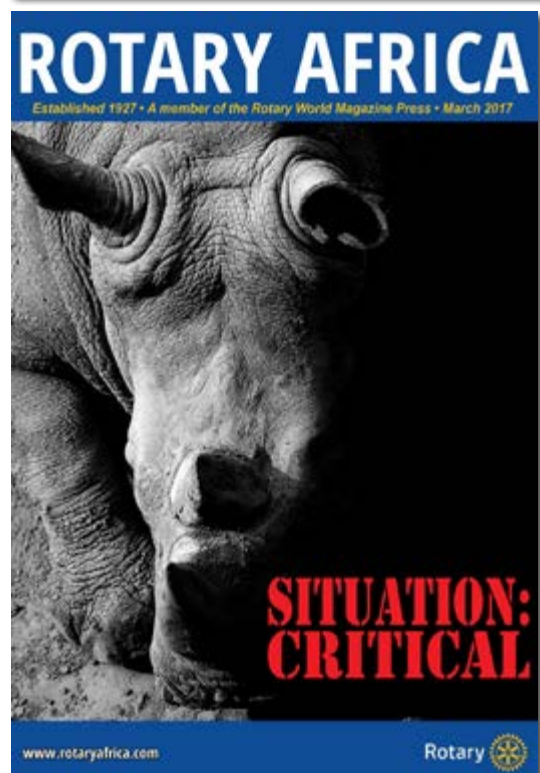
In May, Derrick suddenly passed away after receiving his second Paul Harris Sapphire pin the night before. With less than two weeks until the magazine needed to be at the printers, the grief stricken Rotary in Africa board sought advice from Robyn Scott, editor of the Highway Mail newspaper. On Robyn's recommendation the board asked Sarah van Heerden to act as the interim editor

2009

After a few months of burning the midnight oil, Sarah applied for the position of Rotary Africa's editor and was officially appointed in January 2009.

2017

In 90 years, the magazine has only had eight editors: BH Dodd, Percy Bishop, Glen Buchanan, Kelsey Buchanan, Neels Meyer, Peter Wrinch-Schulz, Derrick Couper and Sarah van Heerden. The magazine is now available in digital and print.



Rotary Africa continues to chronicle the activities of Rotarians in Districts 9210, 9211, 9212, 9220, 9350, 9370 and 9400.