

AUGUST 2026

Rotary

AFRICA

20 Meet the 2026/27 district
and club leaders

28 Water Arrives at Inyagui
Primary School





Arrive. Exhale.

30 Years of Welcoming the World

For three decades, Mountain Manor has offered a welcoming haven on the lower slopes of Table Mountain. This elegant pet and family friendly Cape Colonial property blends timeless architecture with contemporary comfort, all within easy reach of the city's restaurants, cultural landmarks and coastline.

Thirty years of hospitality. Countless stories. One remarkable address.

MOUNTAIN MANOR GUEST HOUSE AND EXECUTIVE SUITES

www.mountainmanor.co.za | info@mountainmanor.co.za | Tel: 021-461-7200

Bookings: <https://book.nightsbridge.com/10452>

CLIENT REVIEW



LORETTA FERREIRA RECOMMENDS

"WOW, what a beautiful, immaculate and unique guest house. We were always met by efficient and friendly staff. I was very impressed with the access control to the guest house and felt very safe. The rooms are very charming and super comfortable. I would definitely recommend Mountain Manor for your next trip. :)"



Contents

4	Welcome
6	RI President's Message
7	Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
8	Convention Countdown
10	When Bigger is Better
12	Club Creation Made Easy
14	Would you still Serve?
16	Coming up...
17	Leading Forward
19	Business with Purpose
20	2026/27 District Governors
21	2026/27 Club Presidents
23	Restoring Sight
24	Mandela Day Together
26	The Big D9370 Topple
27	Winter Comfort
28	Water: Delivered!
30	Young Eco Leaders
32	Polio Patrol
33	Africa in Brief
37	Welcomed & Honoured

Editor in Chief: Sarah van Heerden

Administration: Sharon Robertson

Chairperson: Andy Gray. Directors: Greg Cryer, David Holtzhausen, Natty Moodley, Joe Otin, Mariana Purnell, Lee-Ann Shearing

Publisher: Rotary in Africa. Reg. No: 71/004840/08 (incorp. association not for gain). PBO: 18/13/13/3091. Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

Design & Layout: Rotary in Africa

Advertising: *Tariff card on request*

Subscriptions & Article Submissions:
rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

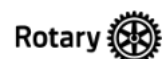
Distributed to Rotary Districts 9210, 9213, 9214, 9215, 9216, 9220, 9350, 9370 and 9400 (Southern and Eastern Africa)

WhatsApp: +27 (0)64 278 1848

Email: rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

The Rotary Emblem, Rotary

International, Rotary, Rotary club and Rotarian are Rotary International trademarks and used under licence. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of Rotary Africa, Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation



A publication of Rotary Global Media Network of Rotary International



WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

Every month, a steady stream of emails lands in the Rotary Africa inbox. Some arrive with carefully written articles and high-resolution photographs. Others are little more than a few lines and a handful of images with a note saying, "Perhaps you can use this."

Behind every one of them is a Rotary club that decided something in its community needed doing. Sometimes it is a major project that has taken months to organise and involved grants, sponsors and dozens of volunteers. Just as often, it can be a small act of service, a donation to an animal shelter, winter clothing for the elderly, sandwiches for school children or a bicycle ride for young people to explore their own city safely.

Most of these projects happen quietly and will not make international headlines, but all are done by people who are simply getting on with the job.

For me, this is the privilege of producing this magazine.

Rotary Africa, together with the more than 30 regional magazines in the Rotary Global Media Network, offers a window into what Rotary really looks like: the remarkable work taking place every week in ordinary communities across towns and cities, often unnoticed beyond the people it serves.

Yet something else becomes apparent while reading these stories, no two clubs tackle exactly the same challenge in quite the same way. One club partners with a local school. Another works alongside a business. Others join forces with

neighbouring Rotary, Rotaract or Interact clubs. Some projects begin with a Global Grant, while others start with one member asking a simple question: "What can we do?"

That is why these stories matter.

They are not published to showcase achievements. They are published because they become ideas. A literacy project in Zimbabwe may inspire a club in Namibia. A winter warmth drive in South Africa may be adapted for communities in Lesotho or a healthcare initiative in Kenya may start conversations elsewhere on the continent.

Rotary has never been about finding a single solution that works everywhere. It has always been about sharing experiences, adapting ideas and learning from one another.

Every edition of Rotary Africa becomes part of that conversation and clubs should never underestimate the value of documenting their work. Many members assume their project is too small to be of interest, but in reality, these are often the stories that resonate most. They are practical and achievable. As they are rooted in local communities, they show what can be done... what you can do!

So, as this issue reaches readers across Africa and beyond, it is worth remembering that when someone takes the time to tell the story, they give it the chance to travel further. If one article sparks one new project in another club, then the story has become part of the service itself.



IS YOUR TECH HELPING YOU GROW?

Technology should make business easier, not more stressful.

From managed IT support and Microsoft 365 to business internet, hosting, web design, branding and custom systems, VonD brings your digital world together.

One team. Clear guidance. **Practical solutions.**

DESIGN Web, graphic, social media & business materials that make your brand look credible & clear.	IT SOLUTIONS Managed IT, networks, & security that keep your business running without disruption.	CLOUD Microsoft 365, hosting, & cloud infrastructure - connected, secure, & scalable.	DEVELOPMENT Custom systems, automations, & integrations built around how your business actually works.	CONNECTIVITY Fibre, LTE, 5G, Wi-Fi, VPN & failover - so your team stays connected everywhere.

Let's Make Your Technology Work Better.



031 035 1499



vond.co.za



support@vond.co.za



VOND.CO.ZA

WE BELIEVE IN PEOPLE

My Challenge to YOU

Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically and woven intentionally into everything we do. That is the challenge I am placing before the Rotary world this year.

Rotary has long recognised peace as one of our areas of focus. But I believe peace must be more than a category of work we set aside for certain projects. It must become a lens, one we choose to look through every time we plan, every time we serve, every time we ask what kind of impact we truly want to leave behind.

The Institute for Economics and Peace has identified eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, high levels of human capital and low levels of corruption. These pillars describe the conditions that make lasting peace possible. And when I look at them carefully, I see enormous potential for Rotary. Not because our work automatically advances peace but because it can when we are deliberate about it.

That is the key word: deliberate.

A water project does not build peace on its own. But a water project designed with the Pillars of Positive Peace in mind, one that asks how equitable access to resources strengthens



community trust, can begin to lay that foundation. A vocational training programme does not guarantee reconciliation. But one that intentionally brings divided communities together around shared economic opportunity can start to build it. The project does not change. The intention does.

In Colombia, Rotary's Pathways to Peace and Prosperity programme shows us what this looks like in practice. Working in communities shaped by decades of armed conflict and displacement, the programme combines economic empowerment with conflict resolution training and community-led reconciliation. Peace was not a hoped-for side effect. It was central to the design. That is the standard I am calling all of us to follow.

As you plan your next project, whatever the focus area, I want you to pause and ask one question: How does this create the conditions for peace? Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace. Find where your work connects. Then, make that connection intentional. Share what you discover with your club, your district and your community. The more we talk about peace as a practice rather than a destination, the more naturally it will shape everything we do.

This is not about doing different work. It is about doing our work differently, with greater awareness, greater purpose and a clearer vision of the world we are trying to build. Every Rotary project carries potential. Our task is to unlock it, not by chance but by choice.

YINKA

President, Rotary International



FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Care without Borders

As I sit beside my father in the hospital, listening to the quiet rhythm of machines that now speak more steadily than his own voice, life feels stripped down to its essentials. Serious illness has a way of doing that. It reveals what matters most and it reminds us, sometimes gently, sometimes painfully, of what should matter to all of us.

My father is facing advanced cancer. The path is uneven and often cruel, yet even in this difficult space I am struck by a simple truth: Every person, everywhere, deserves access to care that honours their dignity. Not just treatment but compassion. Not just medicine but the assurance that their life holds value.

Watching nurses move with practised grace and doctors offer both honesty and hope, I am struck by the thought that millions will never experience this level of support. Not because their lives matter less but because access to care remains uneven across countries and communities. This is not a political argument; it is a human one.

Every family deserves the same chance at healing. Through my years in Rotary, I have come to understand that The Rotary Foundation shows us how this belief is shared across cultures and nations.

At a time when international development funding for disease prevention and treatment is contracting, vital health projects risk losing momentum. Our Foundation and you, our members, provide the steady, community-driven support needed to keep that from happening.

We are funding vaccines in Pakistan, training health workers in Mozambique and strengthening fragile health systems in Guatemala. Through the Foundation, international cooperation is not an abstract ideal. It is a responsibility, achievable when people choose to act with generosity, partnership and shared humanity. I am so proud of our collective leadership.

Sitting here, holding my father's hand as he drifts in and out of sleep, I am reminded of how fragile and precious life is. The measure of a just world is not found in its wealth or its power but in how fiercely it protects the vulnerable.

My father's fight is personal. But the fight for equitable, compassionate health care that honours every life with equal value is universal. It belongs to all of us. Through your generosity and commitment to our Foundation and through the simple act of caring across borders, we move closer to a world where no one is left behind.

JENNIFER JONES
Foundation Trustee Chair



More than a Convention

For five days each year, the Rotary International Convention becomes Rotary's global meeting place, where thousands of members gather to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements and discover new ways to serve their communities.

Next year, the convention heads to Barcelona, Spain, from 26 to 30 June 2027 and it promises to be an unforgettable experience.

Whether attending a first convention or a tenth, there is something energising about spending time with people who share the same commitment to service. Some return home with fresh ideas for projects, while others build friendships or partnerships that lead to future global grants. Often, the conversations between sessions are just as

valuable as the programme itself.

The House of Friendship is always a highlight, showcasing Rotary projects and initiatives from around the world. General sessions feature inspiring speakers and entertainment, while breakout sessions explore topics.

Barcelona's striking architecture, Mediterranean coastline and vibrant café culture make it an ideal destination to explore before or after the convention. Many will choose to extend their stay and discover more of Spain or other parts of Europe.

Registration for the 2027 Rotary International Convention opens in September.

Interested in attending? Sign up for email updates at convention.rotary.org.



BARCELONA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE

BARCELONA, SPAIN | 26-30 JUNE 2027

Registration opens in September 2026 at convention.rotary.org.



Rotary's goal is to grow membership to 1.25 million by 2030. Why does that matter? asks Tom Gump, the chair of Rotary International's Membership Growth Committee.

In October 2023, the Rotary International Board of Directors did something it had never done before. It set a numerical membership goal. It's a bold vision: to grow Rotary to 1.25 million members by 1 July 2030, in celebration of the organisation's 125th anniversary.

At first glance, the number feels ambitious. But when broken down, it becomes both practical and achievable. Reaching that goal requires net growth of approximately 25,000 members a year, about 2 percent annual growth over the next five years. This is not exponential expansion. It is steady, intentional progress.

Not every Rotarian and certainly not every prospective member, fully understands the urgency of growth. Yet the reasons are compelling. Robust membership leads to stronger service, increased giving and a story more likely to entice others to join.

Growth brings new energy, diverse perspectives and expanded capacity. New members introduce skills, ideas and leadership potential. They enable clubs to take on larger projects and create greater impact. Each new member strengthens not just

1.25 MILLION
ROTARY MEMBERS
BY 2030

the club but the entire Rotary network.

For many clubs, a goal of 2 percent annual growth is both realistic and necessary. Others that are already growing may sustain higher rates. What matters most is that growth is approached intentionally, through goal setting, planning and ongoing evaluation.

No single formula will work for every club. Each community is different and each club must find its own path. What follows are a few ideas to help your club get started. But one truth applies everywhere: hope alone is not a strategy.

1. Growth is a team effort

The most successful clubs understand that growth is not the responsibility of one person. It requires a team, often a dedicated membership committee, focused on both attracting new members and strengthening the experience of those already in the club.

Beyond the club, leaders can draw on a wide network of support, including district teams, regional coordinators and Rotary staff. Tools such as club health checks and member satisfaction surveys provide valuable insights, but their effectiveness depends on how they are used.

2. A new approach to welcoming members

Each year, more than 30,000 people express interest in joining Rotary. Many are



younger professionals and a growing percentage are women, audiences Rotary is eager to engage. Yet historically, only about 10 percent of these enquiries result in membership.

To address this gap, Rotary has introduced a new prospective member system in partnership with Salesforce, a cloud-based customer relationship management platform. The system takes a "club first" approach, helping individuals find clubs that align with their interests and expectations. It also uses automated communication to keep prospective members engaged while they explore Rotary.

3. Recognising and reinforcing growth

An often overlooked element of membership growth is recognition. Rotary has long celebrated generosity, particularly through its Foundation. But growth deserves recognition as well. When members invite others to join, they are directly contributing to the organisation's future. Acknowledging those efforts, through personal recognition, letters or programmes that celebrate sponsorship, reinforces a powerful principle: what gets recognised gets repeated.

4. The club experience defines everything

People remain in Rotary because of how it makes them feel: connected, valued and inspired. Every club develops its own culture through its leadership, relationships and traditions. That culture shapes the experience of every member and guest who walks through the door. Clubs that succeed in growing and retaining members tend to be intentional about that experience. Their meetings are engaging and worthwhile. Their service is meaningful. They create opportunities for genuine connection and belonging. They also foster trust in leadership.

Leadership at the club level is especially critical. The tone set by a club president often determines whether members feel energised or disengaged. In many ways, the future of Rotary is shaped in these everyday moments, through the quality of conversations, the strength of relationships and the sense of purpose members feel.

Find resources to help you through your club's membership journey at
rotary.org/membership.

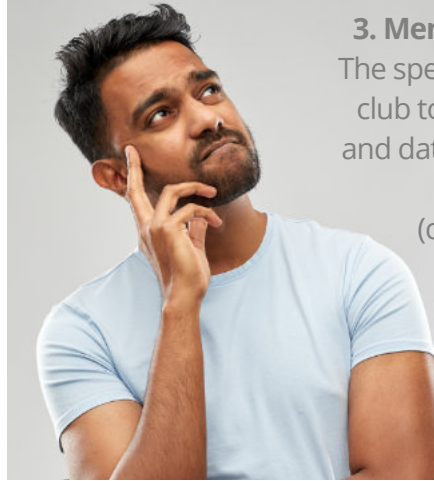
1. Club visioning

The specialist helps the Rotary members dream up an ideal club, consider what community needs it will address and envision how it will make an impact.



3. Membership attraction

The specialist works with the club to set a target number and date and create buckets to represent subsets (community segments which haven't been reached) that will be essential in meeting its goals.



2. Construction and cultivation

The specialist answers questions and helps resolve concerns that can arise such as: "How come they'll pay less?" or "Will this draw members from my club?"



4. Celebrating the club charter

As Longano explains, "We always say, it's three steps and a party."



4 steps to a vibrant new club Club Creation Made Easy

You want to revitalise your Rotary club or start a new one altogether, but you don't know where to start. Your district leaders and Rotary staff are there to advise you. If you'd like some additional support through the process, there's an app for that and a team of club innovation experts who can help.

The app, designed by the North American Club Creation team in Rotary Zone 33, takes you through a four-step process for refreshing or chartering a club, whether it's a standalone, companion, satellite or impact club.

After creating an account, you'll set up a meeting with one of 27 specialists from the club creation team who will walk you through four consecutive steps, starting with your vision for your club. "We don't talk about attracting members until we get to step three," says Patrick Longano, a North

Carolina assistant governor who co-created the process with Chris Jones, a past Rotary membership coordinator, now a member of Rotary's Membership Growth Committee. "You're never going to be able to sell or attract people to your club if you can't sell the vision of what you want your club to be in the community."

Within the app, which is available at clubcreationteam.org, you can send a prospective member an email providing a form for all their essential information. It then compiles that data into a spreadsheet that the club creation team can use to submit a charter application to Rotary International.

"We put a procedure in place that follows a system proven to get results," Longano explains. "We have to figure out a way to all row in the same direction." — Arnold R. Grahl

Looking for additional ideas and resources?

Visit rotary.org/membership and scroll to the "start a club" section.

The world's deadliest animal is smaller than your fingernail.

Every year, mosquitoes kill more people than any other animal.



Snakes
100,000



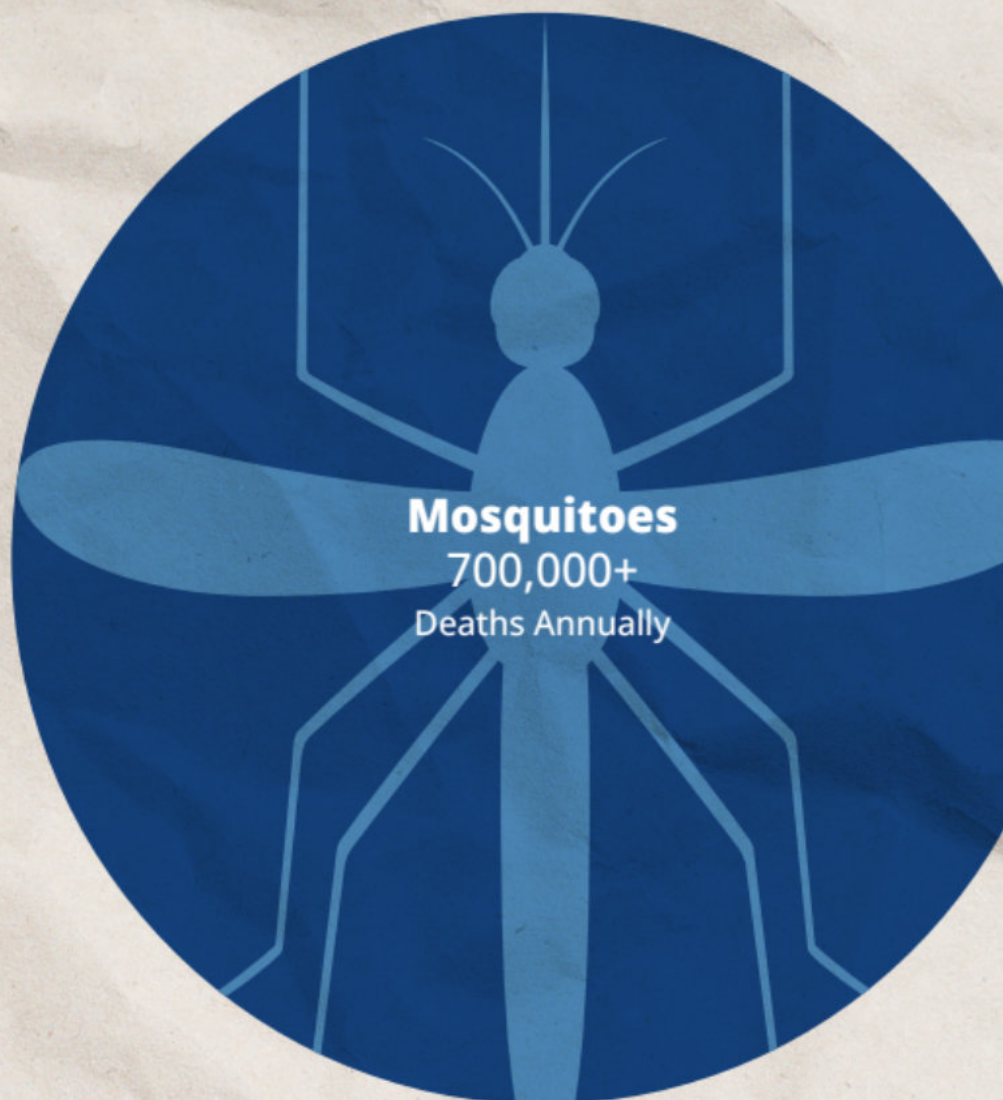
Dogs
30,000



Crocodiles
1,000



Big Cats
300



Modern vector control, bed nets, spraying, and larvicides, have eliminated mosquito-borne disease in entire regions.

World Mosquito Day is August 20, learn more about the world's deadliest animal at malariapartnersinternational.org/malaria-101.

Would you still Serve?



A Past President's Reflection

by Caroline Njiru of the Rotary Club of Kitengela (D9216).

Part of what makes volunteer leadership emotionally difficult is that most of us were shaped by systems built around reward.

Three hours into the District Legacy Awards dinner, our Rotary club table had grown noticeably quiet. Club after club was being called to the stage to receive awards as we clapped, cheered and genuinely celebrated them. Some clubs seemed to be called over and over again. Meanwhile, our table remained seated.

At one point, one of my members leaned over and jokingly asked, “Prezzo... why are we not winning any awards?”

Everyone laughed, but it was the kind of laughter that carried tension underneath it.

A little later, another member quietly said, “I’ve needed the bathroom for almost an hour, but I’m scared to leave in case our club is finally called.” That one landed because most of us understood exactly what she meant.

Our club had worked hard that year. Members had sacrificed weekends, money, family time and emotional energy, serving communities, building projects, telling our stories, fundraising and carrying the invisible weight of service. Somewhere deep inside, many of us assumed that real impact would naturally lead to visible affirmation.

Volunteer leadership has a way of confronting your expectations. Sometimes you work incredibly hard and people celebrate it. Sometimes they barely notice. Sometimes a project exceeds every expectation and nobody fully understands what it took to pull it off. Sometimes the people you hoped to help do not respond the way you imagined. Sometimes you succeed, yet the moment still feels strangely quiet afterwards.

Later that evening, our club was recognised for meaningful contributions to Rotary's humanitarian work through The Rotary Foundation and we celebrated loudly. However, the deeper lesson had already

begun much earlier, sitting and waiting at that table because leadership eventually asks every volunteer the same question: If recognition disappeared, would you still serve?

What I learned

Part of what makes volunteer leadership emotionally difficult is that most of us were shaped by systems built around reward. Study hard to get the grade, win the race to receive the medal, perform well and get promoted, hit your targets and receive recognition.

So when we enter service, we carry with us, often without even realising it, a similar expectation that if we sacrifice, someone will notice and if we give enough, someone will appreciate it.

Service does not always work that way. Many times your work will change lives and nobody sees the emotional labour behind it. Sometimes even the people you are helping misunderstand your intentions or respond with ingratitude. That is where leadership begins testing something deeper than performance.

Service is sustained by conviction, not convenience

Real service begins where convenience ends. It is easy to serve people who appreciate you. It becomes harder and more meaningful, when the people you are helping can frustrate, overlook or misunderstand you and you still choose to show up. That's not weakness, it is the real work.

Recognition can encourage a leader, but it cannot be the reason they lead

Volunteer leadership eventually tests your motives. There will be seasons when your work feels unseen and the effort feels thankless. If recognition is the only thing sustaining you, disappointment will eventually drain you dry.

Service is one of the clearest expressions of love

Most people spend their lives chasing success, titles and comfort, only to discover that

achievement alone does not fully satisfy the human heart. Service reminds us that we were created not only to succeed, but also to contribute.

What surprised me was how quietly ego can enter service, even among genuinely caring people.

“I’ll quit because they don’t appreciate me.”

“I wasn’t recognised.”

“I’ll serve once I’m given my due respect.”

“I’ll participate once things go my way.”

I noticed these thoughts in others. I noticed them in myself. Even people with sincere hearts have to keep checking their motives. Service humbles you that way. It has a habit of revealing what you came for.

What I would tell the next President

Before the meetings, the projects and the

expectations, take time to answer one question honestly: Why are you really here?

There will be days when leadership feels meaningful and rewarding. There will also be days when you feel tired, overlooked and quietly wonder whether any of it matters.

When those days come and they will, your reason for serving will carry you further than your title ever could.

If your why is deep enough, you will keep showing up, even when nobody applauds.

Caroline is the past president of her club and a member of the combined Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation Communications Committee.

Coming up...

AUGUST 2026

8 AUGUST 2026 - ROTARY CLUB OF PORT SHEPSTONE D9370, Hats & Butterflies

Brunch with the Anns. A fundraising brunch in aid of hospice care, featuring guest speaker Charlotte du Plessis. Enjoy live music by SuAmbi and mystery envelope sales, with proceeds supporting hospice services. Cost: R230 per person. Venue: Umthunzi Hotel, Umtentweni. Time: 10h00. Contact: Vanessa +27-82-818-1449.

SEPTEMBER 2026

29 SEPT - 3 OCT 2026 - 7TH ALL AFRICA ROTARY ZONE INSTITUTE. Rotary leaders and members from across Africa will gather for five days of strategic dialogue, leadership development, collaboration. Venue: Kampala, Uganda.

Registration: www.africazoneinstitute.org.

JUNE 2027

26-30 JUNE - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, Barcelona: Registration opens in September 2026. Learn more at www.convention.rotary.org.

Email info about your club’s upcoming events to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

Leading forward



Past District Governor Annie Steijn with President Heather Smithard.

By Nicola Wessels

Few people expected Annie Steijn to become the first female president of the Rotary Club of Benoni (D9400) in 2007. As she recalls, many joked it would only happen "when it snowed". On the day of her induction, it did. The unexpected snowfall became a moment she still remembers as a reminder that barriers can be broken and that change is always possible.

That pioneering spirit would come to define more than two decades of Rotary service. On 28 June, the Rotary E-Club of East Rand (D9400) recognised Past District Governor Annie Steijn's contribution by naming her an honorary member during President Heather Smithard's induction luncheon. The honour acknowledged a Rotary journey that has spanned leadership, legal service,

youth development and international representation.

Steijn went on to become the first female District Governor of District 9400 in 2014. During her year in office, she visited all 83 clubs across the district, travelling more than 34,000 kilometres through four South African provinces as well as Botswana, Eswatini and southern Mozambique. Those visits gave her the opportunity to experience the diversity of Rotary service and the dedication of Rotarians across the region.

Her commitment to Rotary extended well beyond district leadership. From 2017 to 2026 she represented District 9400 as Council on Legislation Representative, taking part in Rotary's legislative meetings in Chicago and contributing to decisions that shape the organisation

internationally. She also served as District Youth Protection Officer for four years and spent 16 years as District Legal Adviser to Districts 9300 and 9400, providing guidance through significant decisions and organisational change.

Throughout her Rotary journey, Steijn has remained closely involved in service projects, leadership development and mentoring. Her dedication has been recognised with four Paul Harris Fellow recognitions, reflecting years of commitment to Rotary's ideals of service and fellowship.

Looking back on the many positions she has held, she says they were never simply titles, but opportunities to serve, lead, mentor and contribute.

Her pioneering spirit has also been evident outside Rotary. Steijn was among the first women admitted to the Benoni Commando, became the first female attorney in Benoni to establish her own legal practice and was the first woman appointed as Presiding Officer of the Benoni Small Claims Court.

Throughout her career she has helped open doors for other women to pursue leadership roles in both their professions and their communities.

Although her time as Foundation Chair of the Rotary E-Club of East Rand was relatively brief, members recognised the experience, encouragement and knowledge she shared with the

club.

Her appointment as an honorary member recognises the lasting influence of Annie's Rotarian service which has touched communities, strengthened clubs and inspired fellow members across more than 20 years in Rotary.



Johanitta Cox, Annie's daughter, receives a Paul Harris Fellowship from Annie. Johanitta has a long track record of community service. She was actively involved in assisting Annie during her year as DG.

SHARE YOUR STORY *in Rotary Africa*

EMAIL NOW

ROTARYAFRICA@MWEB.CO.ZA





Business with Purpose

Business networking and community service are coming together in a new way with the launch of Rotary BizEast, a pilot initiative designed to attract entrepreneurs and professionals to Rotary while remaining firmly rooted in the organisation's tradition of Service Above Self.

Rotary BizEast, officially Rotary for Business Johannesburg East, has been established as a satellite club of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400). The initiative was conceived by District Governor Grace van Zyl (D9400) and District Governor Dr Melonie Gobel (D9370) to explore ways of engaging business owners and young professionals while upholding Rotary's core values.

Leading the new club is East Rand business leader Jacqui Keel, who serves as its founding chair under the mentorship of van Zyl.

"Rotary has always been about bringing leaders together to create positive change," says Keel. "BizEast simply speaks the language of today's entrepreneurs. We are creating a space where businesses grow through collaboration while making a measurable difference in the communities we serve."

The club serves Johannesburg's eastern corridor, including Bedfordview, Edenvale, Benoni, Boksburg, Brakpan and Springs. Members support one another's businesses while working together on community projects, creating opportunities for collaboration both professionally and in service.

Although recently established, Rotary BizEast has already joined disaster relief efforts following floods in communities near the Kruger National Park, working alongside RE/MAX Dazzle and Rotary clubs across District 9400.

The club's first flagship project, PitchFest, is planned for October 2026. This will encourage entrepreneurship by connecting aspiring young business owners with experienced mentors. It will feature a business exhibition and a business plan competition for young people aged 13 to 25, with separate categories for school learners and out-of-school youth and more than R40,000 in prizes.

Ten charter members have already joined the satellite club, with membership continuing to grow. The club plans to charter as an independent Rotary club during the first quarter of the 2026/27 Rotary year.



Top: Sam Chikowore (D9210), Gerald Obai (D9213), Daniel Damulira (D9214), Saad Rahman (D9215)

2026-27

District Governors



Esayas Yesuswork (D9216),
Melonie Gobel (D9370), Anton Lubbe (D9350), Grace van Zyl (D9400).



2026-27

Club Presidents



Chenesai Mukora
Mangoma, Marondera,
9210



Graham Harmsworth
Durbanville, 9350



Brits Maree
Dundee, 9370



Julie Staub
Knysna, 9350



Nonhlanhla Zikalala
Manzini, 9400



Audra Visser
Flamingo-Welkom, 9370



Solomon Bamusi
Chitungwiza, 9210



Ivan Beaumont
St Francis Bay, 9370



Guy Kabila, E-Club of
Greater Cape Town, 9350



Rob Stuart-Fox
Claremont, 9350



Tim Smith
Hout Bay, 9350



Daniella Grünwald
Lüderitz, 9350



Alan Reynolds
Uitenhage South, 9370

ROTARY AFRICA



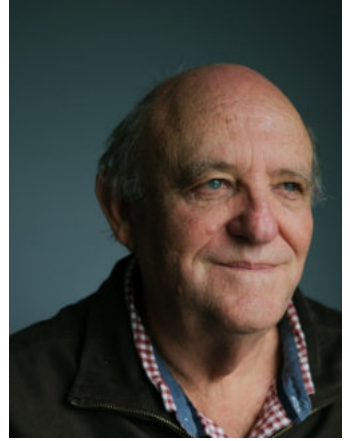
Di Russell
Estcourt, 9370



Eugene Balie
Groot Fisantekraal, 9350



Patrick Klaassen
Paarl, 9350



Richard House
Newlands, 9350



Pam Chetty, Chatsworth
High Noon, 9370



Julie Estey
Namakwa, 9350



Neels du Toit
Beaufort West, 9350



Quilaco António Pedro
Luanda Sul, 9350



Helder Preza
Luanda, 9350



Zakiyyah de Klerk
George, 9350



Michelle Mulder
Orkney, 9370



João Pedro Delgado Lopes
Lobito, 9350



Iracelma Justo
Benguela, 9350



Leonie Pelteret
Worcester, 9350



Audrey Ryan
Hibiscus Coast, 9370



Ken McGhee
Maputo Metro, 9400



Specialist eye surgeons and Rotary partners from India and Ghana worked together during a week-long surgical mission at Tamale Eye Hospital, where 40 complex procedures restored sight for children and adults while strengthening local clinical skills and laying the foundation for a three-phase paediatric eye care programme across West Africa.

RESTORING SIGHT

A week of life changing eye surgery in northern Ghana has restored sight and renewed hope for children and adults who had been waiting for treatment unavailable in their region.

The Rotary E-Club of Bangalore (D3191), supported through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant and working with Rotary District 9104 in Ghana and an international network of Rotary clubs and partners, organised the surgical outreach at Tamale Eye Hospital from 31 May to 8 June. The initiative marked the first phase of a three-phase paediatric eye care programme valued at approximately US\$60,000.

Leading the volunteer team were Dr K.V. Ravishankar and Dr Uma Ravishankar of Usha Kiran Eye Hospital in Mysuru, together with oculoplastic and ocular oncology specialist Dr Milind Bhide. Donating their expertise, they performed 40 complex procedures, including cataract, squint, eyelid, tear duct and trauma surgery.

Patients travelled from across Ghana, as well as neighbouring Togo and Burkina Faso, to receive treatment.

Among them was a nine-month-old infant, a reminder of how early intervention can change the course of a child's life.

Working closely with the Ghanaian ophthalmologists, nurses, technicians and resident doctors, the visiting surgeons shared techniques and post-operative practices that will continue benefiting patients long after they returned home.

The programme grew from the Ivory Tender Vision initiative of the Rotary Club of Ivory City Mysuru in southern India and has since expanded through Rotary partnerships in Ghana, India, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Past District Governor David Osei Amankwah conceived the Ghana initiative, while Past Assistant Governor Emmanuel Quarshie coordinated the Global Grant and its implementation.

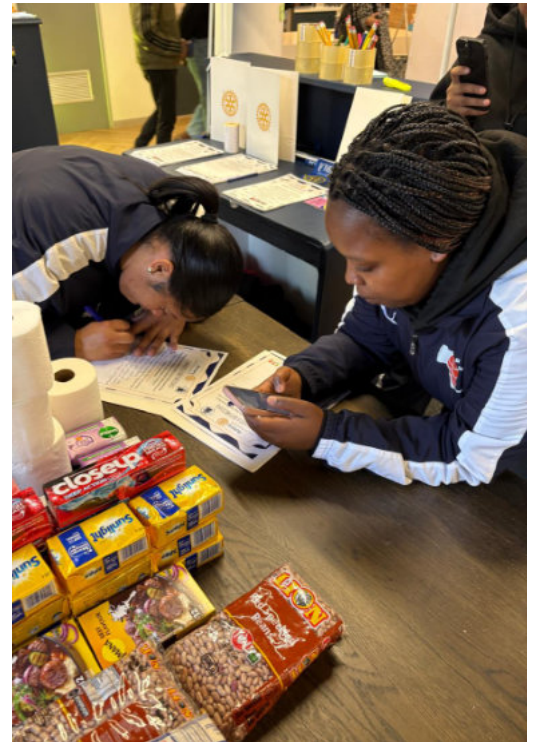
Parents and caregivers also received practical advice on protecting children's eyesight, recognising eye disorders early, preventing injuries and supporting recovery after surgery, helping to extend the programme's impact beyond the operating theatre.

MANDELA DAY TOGETHER

Every year, Mandela Day reminds South Africans that small acts of service can make a lasting difference. Rotary clubs across the country embraced that spirit once again, partnering with schools, charities and community organisations to provide meals, improve facilities, distribute essential items and lend a helping hand where it was needed most.



Members of the Rotary Club of Waterfront welcome volunteers at the club's Mandela Day activation station.



Volunteers writing messages of encouragement for each family.

Serving Cape Town

"What promise will you make today to change one life?"

That simple question greeted staff arriving for a Nelson Mandela Day volunteer event at Cape Town's V&A Waterfront. Before rolling up their sleeves, many paused to write personal messages of hope that would later be tucked inside family support boxes bound for communities across the Cape Flats.

The Rotary Club of Waterfront (D9350) joined the V&A Waterfront and several community organisations on 17 July to transform Merchant House into a bustling volunteer hub. The venue held special significance for the club, having been the place where it was chartered 34 years ago.

Volunteers packed 54 Dignity and Care Family

Disaster Survival Support Boxes for families facing a difficult winter. Each box contained staple foods, essential household items and a handwritten message from the person who packed it.

The project was supported by businesses, charities and social enterprises, including the SIYP Stitch Ahead Micro-factory, which donated reusable sanitary pads made by young women gaining skills and employment through the programme.

Once completed, the boxes were handed to The Salvation Army for distribution to vulnerable families across the Cape Flats, ensuring the donations reached those who needed them most.

This initiative was also supported by Deidré Vrede, CSI Manager at the V&A Waterfront and Nikita Fortuin, CSI and Wellness Administrator.

Mandela Meals



At Joostenberg Primary School are Mr Consani and Headmaster Gua Bergstedt.

Preparing 3,492 lunch packs takes far more than 67 minutes. It takes months of planning, willing volunteers and a community prepared to work together.

The Rotary Club of Durbanville (D9350), together with the Rotary Club of Tygerberg (D9350), the Rotary Club of Bellville (D9350), corporate sponsors and volunteers, marked Mandela Day by providing nutritious food parcels to children at nine under-resourced primary schools across Cape Town's northern suburbs.

The project was built around a simple meal for every learner, a freshly made sandwich, fruit, yoghurt and a drink, delivered to schools before the start of the day. Behind each food parcel was careful coordination involving suppliers, schools and volunteers working towards the same goal.

Preparation began on 20 July when about 40 volunteers gathered at Fairmont High School in Durbanville. Working in assembly-line fashion, they prepared and packed all 3,492 lunches, labelling and crating each parcel ready for delivery the following morning.

The effort drew support from local businesses that donated bread, fruit, yoghurt and sandwich fillings, while additional sponsorship helped cover

other project costs. Volunteers from the Interact clubs at Fairmont High School and Curro Durbanville, together with members of the Tygerberg Rotaract Club, joined Rotarians in preparing the meals.

On 21 July, teams delivered the food parcels to Alpha Primary, Joostenberg Primary, Vissershok Primary, Kersboslaagte Primary, Attie van Wyk Primary, Meulenhof Primary, Klipheuwel Primary, Philadelphia Primary and The Valley Primary. School principals and staff coordinated distribution to ensure every learner received a meal.

Durbanville club President Graham Harmsworth said one of the project's greatest achievements was the partnerships formed throughout the campaign. "We built a network of people and businesses who now understand what's possible when we work together," he said. "Many of them have already asked how they can stay involved in our other projects going forward."

The club hopes those relationships will continue beyond Mandela Day, strengthening future community initiatives and encouraging more volunteers and sponsors to become involved in projects throughout the year.



The Big D9370 Topple

The final dominoes were in place. Then, in a matter of seconds, thousands toppled across southern Africa as teams watched months of planning and preparation unfold in a perfectly timed chain reaction during the inaugural Global Domino Challenge.

Rotary District 9370's first Global Domino Challenge took place on 25 July, with 27 teams raising a combined R200,000 for community projects while enjoying a day of creativity, teamwork and friendly competition.

Teams secured sponsorship for individual dominoes before creating intricate layouts for the simultaneous topple. While the fundraising was the main objective, the challenge also gave participants an opportunity to work together on something that incorporated planning, patience and fun.

Team MARSEC from Marburg Secondary
26 | August 2026

Teams across Rotary District 9370 and Zimbabwe joined the first Global Domino Challenge, where they toppled thousands of sponsored dominoes simultaneously and raised R200,000 for community projects.

School, supported by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370), emerged as the highest fundraising team after securing sponsorship for 2,500 dominoes.

Rotary clubs across the district embraced the concept. The Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370) entered three teams, while the Rotary Club of East London (D9370) fielded four teams. The Interact Club of Kloof High School received the award for Best Domino Pattern, with a design that stood out for its originality and execution.

The challenge also attracted international participation. Teams from District 9210 joined the simultaneous topple, including the Rotaract Club of Harare Dawn and the Rotary Club of Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe.

Participants consistently described the event as enjoyable from start to finish.

Following the success of the inaugural event, Rotary District 9370 plans to grow the Global Domino Challenge in 2027 to include Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs, Interact clubs, schools and international teams.



Members of the Rotary Clubs of Pretoria Hatfield and Pretoria East joined residents of Bronberg Retirement Village to provide 60 hand-knitted beanies and five baby blankets for children at Kefilwe Thusano Empowerment Centre in Pretoria West.

WINTER COMFORT

A collection of hand-knitted beanies and baby blankets has shown how collaboration between Rotary clubs and community partners can make a practical difference as winter arrives.

The Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400) welcomed members of the Rotary Club of Pretoria East (D9400) and residents of Bronberg Retirement Village for a joint community service initiative that combined the skills of volunteers with the support of Rotary clubs to provide warm clothing for vulnerable children.

The partnership began on 30 May 2026 when representatives from the Pretoria East club and Bronberg Retirement Village visited the Pretoria Hatfield club at the Apogee Boutique Hotel. Led by Assistant Governor Doulien Knopjes, the visiting group presented 60 hand-knitted beanies and five baby blankets, all made by residents of the retirement village. The donation was earmarked for one of the Pretoria Hatfield club's ongoing

community projects, with the handcrafted items reflecting the contribution that community partners can make alongside Rotary service.

A few days later, on 5 June, members of the Pretoria Hatfield club delivered the beanies and blankets to Kefilwe Thusano Empowerment Centre in Elandspoort, Pretoria West. Rotarians spent time with staff and children at the centre, where the donation arrived just as colder weather began to set in.

For many of the children, the beanies and blankets provide warmth during the school day, outdoor activities and rest periods, while easing the burden on families who may not otherwise be able to provide winter clothing.

The project included different generations with residents of Bronberg Retirement Village contributing their time and knitting skills, while Rotarians handled the collection and delivery of the items to the children who needed them most.



The borehole was officially commissioned on 26 February 2026 during a lively ceremony attended by Rotarians, school representatives and members of the local community.

WATER: Delivered!

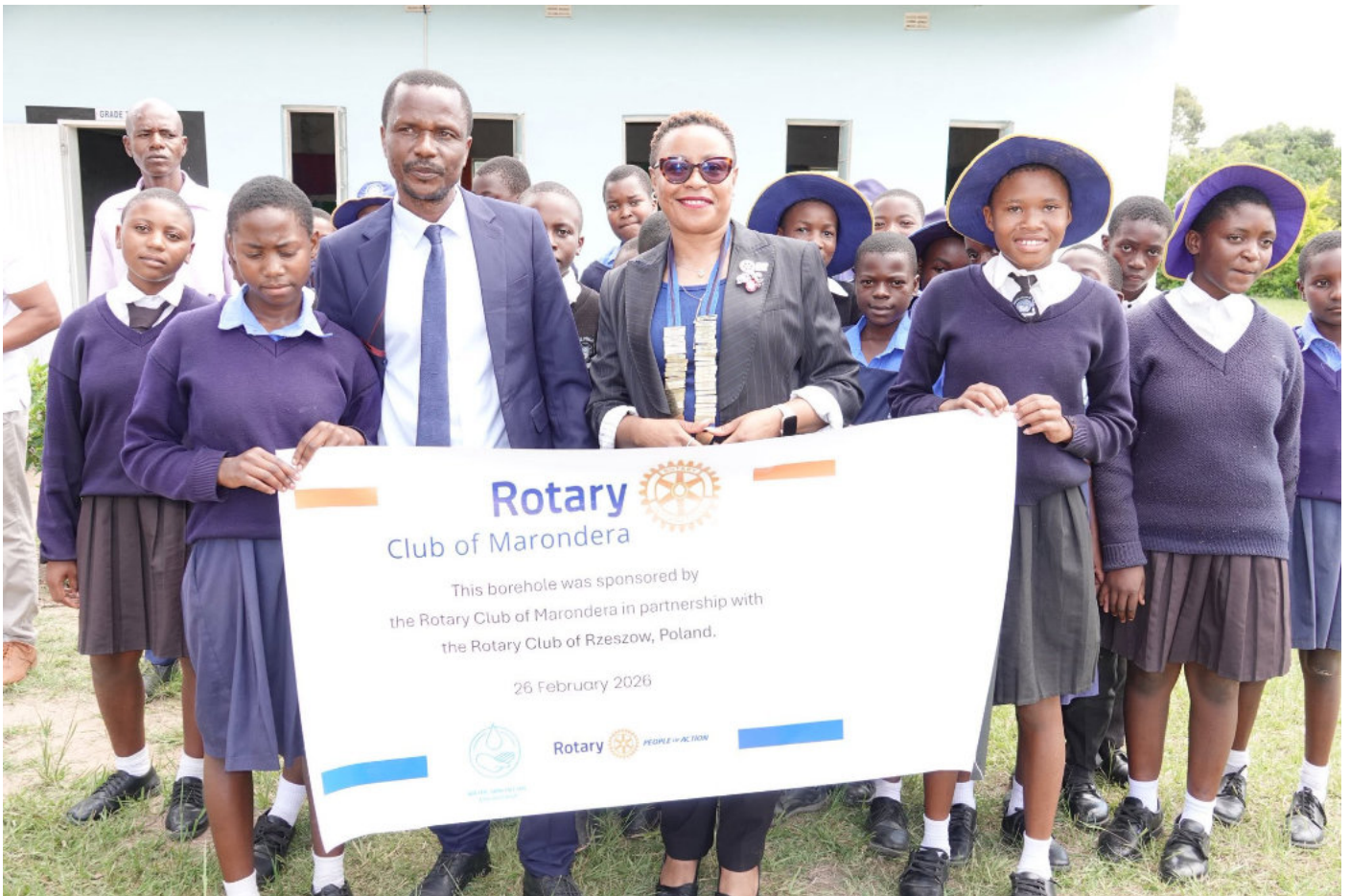
For years, access to clean water shaped daily life at Inyagui Primary School, in Zimbabwe, where learners and teachers relied on an unreliable supply that affected classrooms, sanitation and the wider community.

The Rotary Club of Marondera (D9210), working with the Rotary Club of Rzeszów in Poland, has changed that through the installation of a solar-powered borehole that now provides a dependable source of clean water. Situated about 5.5 kilometres from Marondera on the Murehwa Road, the school serves 502 children between the ages of four and 13.

The project began with a hydro-geological survey to identify the best drilling site. Although

Learners gather around the new solar-powered borehole at Inyagui Primary School following its official commissioning.





School children and delegates at the ceremonial handover of the project, completed by the Rotary Club of Marondera in partnership with the Rotary Club of Rzeszów, Poland.

the original location had to be abandoned because it did not meet legal separation requirements from a nearby cemetery, an alternative site between the classroom blocks was approved on the day drilling was due to begin, allowing work to continue without delay.

The change proved worthwhile. Drilling started on 20 November 2025 and struck water at less than 40 metres, an encouraging result at a time of year when groundwater levels are usually low. The borehole was completed to a depth of 70 metres, securing a reliable long-term water supply.

Completed the following month, the solar-powered system includes a pump, solar panels and upgraded pipework connected to the school's existing water network. The total cost was US\$4,455.

The new water supply has improved hygiene and sanitation, provided reliable water for staff housing and created a healthier learning environment for pupils, while nearby residents also benefit from the additional source.

International cooperation was central to the

project's success. The Rotary Club of Rzeszów, founded in 1994, has supported humanitarian initiatives ranging from clean water projects in Zimbabwe to assistance for Ukrainian refugees, medical treatment for young people and equipment for children with disabilities.



YOUNG ECO LEADERS

Young environmental champions from across the Cape Garden Route gathered to share ideas, showcase research and celebrate practical action to protect the natural world during the third Knysna Rotary Schools Eco-Science Symposium.

The Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350), in partnership with Knysna Elephant Park, hosted the Environmental Youth Symposium and Eco-Science Awards on 23 May. Five high schools and seven primary schools accepted the challenge, presenting projects that explored local environmental issues and practical conservation solutions.

This year's themes encouraged learners to focus on the natural environment close to home. Primary school teams explored the theme Guardians of our Environment, highlighting ways children and communities can protect and improve their surroundings. High school learners examined Fynbos, Our Living Treasure, explaining the importance of the unique ecosystem and the role young people can play in conserving it.

Jason Oberholster of Keurbosch School returned for a third consecutive year as master of ceremonies, while Jarrett Joubert from the African Elephant Research Unit delivered the keynote address. Judging the presentations were Nondumiso Mgwenya and Lwazi Khuzwayo from SANParks together with Jason Reid from the African Elephant Research Unit.



Learners from Concordia Primary present their environmental project during the Knysna Rotary Schools Eco-Science Symposium.



Jane Spies receives the inaugural Michael Spies Eco Award trophy, to present to the winners, Hornlee Primary School, from the master of ceremonies Jason Oberholster. With them is President Murro-Wayne Spies.



Participants enjoy the opportunity to feed the resident elephants at Knysna Elephant Park.

Hornlee Primary School received the primary school gold award, followed by Forest Edge Schools with silver and Concordia Primary with bronze. Participation certificates were presented to Fraaisig Primary, Keurbosch School, Seabridge School and Thembelitsha Primary.

Among the senior schools, Knysna Secondary School claimed the gold award, Keurbosch School received silver and Plettenberg Bay Secondary earned bronze. Forest Edge Schools and Knysna High School also received participation certificates.

The symposium provided learners with an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn about environmental initiatives taking place in neighbouring schools and build new friendships. A visit to the resident elephants at Knysna Elephant Park added another memorable element to the day, giving participants the chance to experience wildlife up close.

The event also marked the introduction of the Michael Spies Eco Award, a new annual environmental award established by the Knysna club in memory of the late Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow Michael Spies. A passionate environmental educator, Michael initiated the first Knysna Rotary Schools Eco-Science Symposium in 2024. Members of his family attended the ceremony, where Jane Spies presented the inaugural Michael Spies Eco Award to the Hornlee Primary School team in recognition of its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Knysna club thanked Knysna Elephant Park, the judges, participating schools and everyone who contributed to the success of the symposium, continuing a partnership that encourages young people to explore science, conservation and environmental responsibility through practical action.

Polio Patrol

Keeping Zimbabwe polio free depends on more than vaccines. It relies on thousands of health workers and volunteers reaching every child, often by going door to door in neighbourhoods and setting up vaccination points in busy public spaces.

During Round Two of Zimbabwe's Sub-National Polio Vaccination Campaign, held from 2 to 5 June 2026, Rotarians and Rotaractors from the Rotary Club of Chitungwiza (D9210) worked alongside health officials to encourage parents and guardians to have their children vaccinated. Club members supported awareness campaigns in communities, staffed static vaccination posts and used social media to help spread the message that every child counts.

Health workers inspect finger markings to ensure vaccination records remain accurate.



Health workers, volunteers, Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Community Corps members combined their efforts to support Zimbabwe's campaign to keep the country polio free.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Members of the Galeshewe Youth Network and the Safe on the Road family explored Kimberley by bicycle during a family cycle ride that included visits to the Big Hole Museum and North Cape Mall, with plenty of opportunities to discover local attractions and spend time together. The Rotary Satellite E-Club of the Karoo Region (D9370) supports the programme by providing bicycles and safety helmets, while also training a bicycle mechanic to maintain the fleet and help ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiative. The project is supported by the International Committee of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (D7620), Maryland, USA and uses cycling to promote road safety, encourage healthy lifestyles and strengthen community connections through shared experiences.





A crisp winter morning and a full complement of bowlers set the scene for the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora's annual Charity Bowls Challenge. Hosted jointly by the Rotary Club of Benoni Aurora (D9400) and its Rotary Anns, the event took place at Northmead Bowling Club in Benoni. Twenty-four teams of four players, gathered for the event, which also featured raffles, with prizes awarded to the lucky winners. Funds raised through the Charity Bowls Challenge will be shared between the projects of the Rotary club and its Anns.



On a cold winter morning, the Anns of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) gathered outside The Dogfather in Somerset West to hand over a donation of dog and cat food worth R10,000 to the Animal Welfare Society in Gordon's Bay. The donation will help provide much-needed nourishment for vulnerable animals during the winter months. Pictured, from left, are Helderberg Rotary Anns Ingrid Edelson, Mieke MacDonald and Pauline Brinkworth with Animal Welfare Society Inspector Kyle Gerodo, who welcomed the donation and said it would make a significant difference to animals in the society's care.



Members of the Rotary E-Club of District 9220 launched their first service project of the 2026/27 Rotary year with the distribution of Winter Kits at Centre Masoandro Mody in Antananarivo, Madagascar, supporting elderly residents and people living with Alzheimer's disease. The club's Winter Kit project, which began in 2015, provides practical support to vulnerable communities during the colder months. At the launch, 50 beneficiaries each received a blanket, beanie and scarf, with a total of 300 Winter Kits scheduled for distribution across Madagascar before the project continues to Réunion and Mauritius. The initiative was supported by local partner Les Missionnaires de la Paix, whose members shared refreshments with residents, while donations from Rotary members, families, friends and supporters, including the Rotary Club of Croissy Beaubourg (D1770), helped make the project possible.



Every winter, Roshni Karsan, an Ann of the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South (D9370), sets aside time to knit beanies for people in need, turning a personal skill into a practical act of service. This year she completed and donated 120 handmade beanies for distribution to vulnerable members of the community, building on the 100 beanies she produced and donated last winter. Each beanie is carefully handcrafted, providing warmth during the colder months while reflecting the spirit of volunteer service that supports Rotary's work. Through her continued commitment, Karsan demonstrates how individual acts of kindness can make a lasting difference, one stitch at a time.



District 9210 Governor Sam Chikowore welcomed representatives of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the World Health Organisation and Rotary's Zimbabwe National PolioPlus Committee to the Rotary Centre in Harare on 20 July for discussions on strengthening Zimbabwe's efforts to keep the country polio free. The meeting brought together Global Polio Eradication Initiative Coordinator Dr Wondu Gebresilasie, WHO Technical Director Dr Maxwell Rupfutse, Rotary Zimbabwe National PolioPlus Committee Chair Past District Governor Rose Peters, Polio Ambassador Professor P.P. Sydney Makarawo and Treasurer Past Assistant Governor Don MacDonald. Discussions focused on future collaboration, the challenges of sustaining polio eradication programmes and the resources required to protect every child from the disease.

WELCOMED & HONOURED



Christa van Bemmelen is a new member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400).



Ben Lomnitz was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Durbanville (D9350).



Judith Viljoen is a new member of the Rotary Club of Durbanville (D9350).



Dr Dillon Manuel was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Rotary Club of Dundee recognised Anita and John da Silva as Paul Harris Fellows. With them is Past President Michele du Plessis (2025/26).



Riku Muller was made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South (D9370).



Jason Pieterse, Madeleine Pieterse, Jerry Moelich, Vera Hodgson, Jacqui Keel and Quinton Adank are new members of the Satellite Club of BizEast (D9400). With them is DG Grace Van Zyl.



Dr Vernon Els (91) was made an honorary members of the Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) after completing 50 years of active Rotary membership. With him is outgoing president Pierre Botha (right).



Major Darren Huke is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Rob Gardner is a new member of the Rotary Club of Claremont (D9350).



Eric Dabbs is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Mary Andalaf is a new member of the Satellite Club of BizEast (D9400).



Eileen Griffiths is a new member of the Satellite Club of BizEast (D9400).



Jayne Leach is a new member of the Satellite Club of BizEast (D9400).



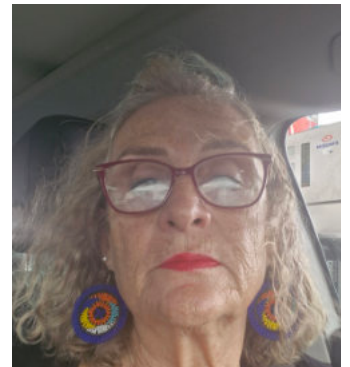
Hendrik De Klerk is a new member of the Satellite Club of BizEast (D9400).



Lis Purves is a new member of the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400).



Jennifer McIntyre is a new member of the Rotary Club of Arcadia (D9370).



Lyn Lupke is a new member of the Rotary Club of Arcadia (D9370).

DISCLAIMER: All opinions published are not the opinion of the publisher. The publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of any of the opinions, information or advertisements in this publication. No responsibility is accepted for the quality of advertised goods or services or the accuracy of material submitted for reproduction. To the extent permitted by law, the publishers, their employees, agents and contractors exclude all liability to any person for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred as a result of material in this publication. All Rotary Marks (Masterbrand Signature, Mark of Excellence and so forth), as well as ROTARY are trademarks owned by Rotary International and used under licence.

MISCELLANEOUS

CONSTANTIABERG FUNERAL HOME: Sensitive, dignified and personal service by Alan Lindhorst - all hours, anywhere within 200km of Cape Town. Very reasonable prices and premiums. Cnr Kenilworth and Rosmead Ave, Kenilworth. 021 671 2400 or 083 653 6536.

Rotary 



 WhatsApp



**Follow Rotary International's
new WhatsApp channel!**

**Find us in Channels or
Updates in the app.**





EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION!

Your donations to our Annual Fund support extraordinary projects that make a sustainable impact in communities close to home and around the globe. Thank you for Doing Good in the World!

LEARN MORE: my.rotary.org/annual-fund

