

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

OCTOBER 2023



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



District  
9400

## Message from your District Governor: *Riana Pretorius*

My Dear Family of Rotary,

Rotary focusses on Community Economic Development in October a subject close to my heart. As we look towards the future of our beloved South Africa, it is essential that we recognize the significance of community economic development in shaping a prosperous nation. Today, I would like to emphasize the importance of our collective efforts in driving positive change through economic empowerment at the grassroots level.



### Sustainable Development:

Community economic development that focuses on sustainable practices promotes environmental consciousness and minimizes the impact on our planet. Encouraging environmentally friendly businesses and investing in renewable energy initiatives can safeguard our natural resources for future generations, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous South Africa.

We continue to face deep-rooted economic and social challenges, including high unemployment rates, poverty, and inequality in South Africa. By focusing on community economic development, we can address these issues head-on, empowering individuals and fostering sustainable growth for generations to come.

Here are a few reasons why community economic development is vital in South Africa:

### Job Creation:

Unemployment remains a pressing concern, particularly for our youth. Community economic development initiatives can create job opportunities for local residents (within communities) helping to alleviate poverty and reduce dependency on external aid. Additionally, by supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, we can enhance productivity and drive economic growth at the community level.



### Social Empowerment:

Economic development provides individuals with a sense of purpose and self-worth. By enabling community members to participate in economic activities, we strengthen their social fabric and empower them to become active contributors to society. This, in turn, fosters a greater sense of community cohesion, reducing crime rates and enhancing overall well-being.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of communities in our District. By supporting community economic development projects, we can create a ripple effect of positive change that reaches far beyond monetary gains. Through mentorship, vocational training, and other forms of assistance, we can uplift communities, promote entrepreneurship, and provide the necessary tools for individuals to thrive.

Community economic development is a crucial component of Southern Africa's journey towards a more prosperous and equal society.

Through our collective efforts in Rotary District 9400, we can play a pivotal role in driving sustainable growth, empowering communities, and shaping a brighter future for all South Africans.

There is also a Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development and a Rotary Means Business Fellowship, that has interesting Zoom webinars on this topic, you are welcome to contact me for more information,

One more important point – Please remember that November is Foundation month and that we must contribute to foundation. I urge you to make contributions as soon as possible and not to wait for June to do so.

### Inclusive Growth:

Southern Africa has long struggled with economic inequality, which remains a significant barrier to achieving social harmony. Through community economic development, we can target marginalized groups, such as women, people with disabilities, and rural communities, to ensure that the benefits of growth are distributed equitably. By creating opportunities for all, we can bridge the gap between the privileged and the disadvantaged.



Let us join hands and work tirelessly towards the realization of an economically empowered South Africa. Together, we can be the catalysts for change that our nation needs.

Yours in service,

*Riana*

## Rotary International President 2025-2026

Mário César Martins de Camargo of the Rotary Club of Santo André (D4420, Brazil), has been nominated to become Rotary International's president for 2025-26. De Camargo plans to boost Rotary's public image by working from the top down. "Rotary today has strong competition for members and funds," he says. We need to:

- ✦ rejuvenate the **brand**, especially in some zones.
- ✦ utilise post-pandemic meeting **tools** to allow the president to address Rotarians all over the globe.
- ✦ develop more long-term **partnerships** with political, community and business leaders.



De Camargo was president of Gráfica Bandeirantes, has been a consultant to the print industry in Brazil, and served as president and chair of several printing and graphics trade associations. He has served on the board of Casa da Esperança (House of Hope), a hospital sponsored by his Rotary club that every year serves 150,000 children with disabilities.

De Camargo studied in the US and Germany and holds degrees from EAESP-Fundação Getulio Vargas in business administration and Faculdade de Direito de São Bernardo do Campo in law.

A Rotarian since 1980, de Camargo has served Rotary as director, trustee, RI learning facilitator, committee member and chair and task force member. De Camargo and his wife, Denise, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.

## 2024 Discon Countdown

### BOOK NOW, PAY LATER!

*"Hello there, I am a Happy Hippo who will help you  
CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD this year!"*



*Like hippos do, I have been roaming the rivers in and around Sabie to gather the latest gossip.*

*News on the ground is alarming! The rush is on!*

*With the Forest Festival and about 500 participants in a cycle race that takes place over same period,  
accommodation is rapidly filling up.*



As your **2024 Rotary District Conference** mascot, I am urging you to book your accommodation for our **DISCON** that takes place at the **FLOREAT RIVERSIDE LODGE** in **SABIE** from **Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 MAY, 2024**.

Our theme **Empower to Prosper** encapsulates the essence of empowerment, collaboration, and positive transformation. It's about enabling individuals and communities to reach their full potential, fostering a sense of agency and ownership, and creating a better future through collective action. The Happy Hippo, represent hope and joy, reflecting the 2024 Rotary International theme, **Create Hope in the World**.

# NOVEMBER is ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

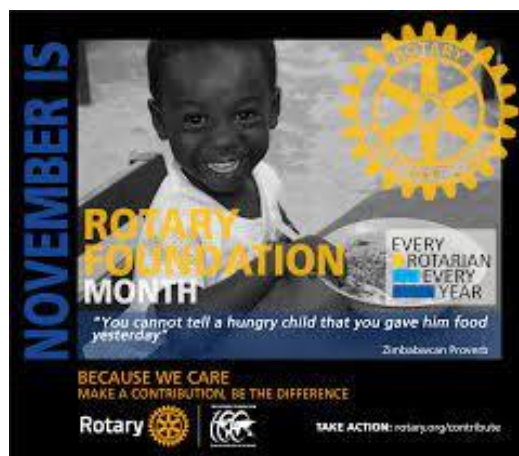
The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

In November, Rotary International dedicates to the programs and activities of the Rotary Foundation and this gives us a wonderful opportunity to focus our attention on the many great things that our foundation delivers to our world.

We take so much for granted as we enjoy our privileged life. Water streams from every one of the 10 or so taps in our houses, medical aid is just around the corner, a strong and active education system provides a future for all our children and with the exception of a few, we want for nothing. How different it is for one-third of the world's population!

Including our efforts in the area of polio eradication, your Foundation provided something like \$180 million last year to support clubs and districts in their efforts to 'do good in the world'. If you add the money supplied by clubs and districts to complete these projects, we would have a conservative spend of something like \$450 million so we are not a small, insignificant organization. We are a highly relevant significant group and we should never fail to make that point with our friends.

Nothing ever comes cheap and everything The Foundation does costs money. When the money runs out so does our ability to make a difference. Clubs can take the bull by the horns and agree to pay their TRF commitment now rather than wait until the traditional 'rush' period. We will get our money working sooner rather than later and that will help enormously. If all the clubs in District 9400 could do this then The Foundation would be in a much stronger position.



The things you do for yourself  
are gone when you are gone.  
The things you do for others  
remain your legacy...



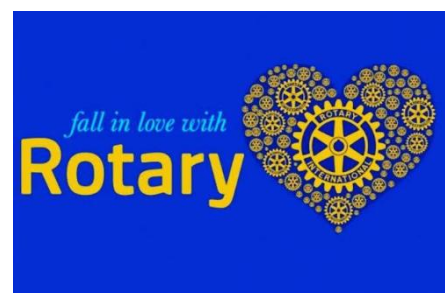
We can also help as individuals. Those of us with *Every Rotarian Every Year* commitments who aren't tied into a scheduled payment plan could consider paying this month. It's only \$100 per person but collectively it has the power to do so much. Those of us who haven't yet made the EREY 'leap of faith' might give the possibility a little extra thought. That extra \$1.92 (~\$40) a week can make such a difference to the people depending on us for a better life.

*The Rotary Foundation is your own charity and  
we're just asking you to be part of it.*

## DO YOU KNOW what your members want?

Members leave Rotary clubs because the experience they were hoping for is not the one they find. Have conversations with members to find out how to best meet their expectations.

You can practice engaging your members with this [five-minute activity](#) (no login required). Or identify your clubs [problem areas](#).



### CLUB HEALTH CHECK

Identify your club's problem areas and  
make changes to help it stay relevant.





# D9400 PolioPlus Sub-Committee

## Meet the team



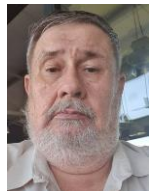
IPP Mmatepeng Muda Temane of the RC Waterkloof 2022-23 is the new District Chair: PolioPlus for 2023-26. She has hand-picked her team and now introduces them to you:

"It is an honour to be entrusted with such a huge leadership role but also a great opportunity to be part of a worthy cause that saves lives. I hope to inspire Rotarians because together we can take our District to a higher level of giving to the PolioPlus Fund"

*"Polio should only be known in the history books, it's time that we stand together and eradicate it once and for all. No Child left behind."*



**PP Doulien Knopjes**  
Secretary: PolioPlus  
Sub-Committee  
RC Pretoria East



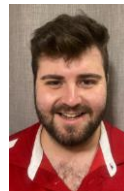
**PAG Bill McLellan.**  
Deputy Chair:  
PolioPlus Sub-  
Committee.  
RC Gaborone,  
Botswana.  
Polio Ambassador



**IPP Igor Capatine.**  
RC Polana,  
Mozambique



**IPP Wellington**  
Motsa. RC  
Manzini,  
eSwatini.



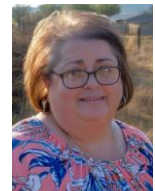
**Zander Lintvelt**  
PI Chair  
RC  
Vanderbijlpark



**PP Anastasia**  
Demertzis  
Member:  
PolioPlus Sub-  
Committee. RC  
Pretoria East



**Tinashe**  
Nondo. RC  
Sandton



**PP Jackie van**  
Waveren  
RC  
Vanderbijlpark,  
Community  
Chair.



Since her appointment as District PolioPlus Chair in July 2023, IPP Muda has received overwhelming support from Rotarians who volunteered to serve alongside her, making it very easy to formulate the District PolioPlus Committee, representing all four D9400 countries.

What is key is to have a clear strategy and to plot a way forward for the Committee to align with District goals. A challenging fact is that 50% of Clubs in the District are deemed to be "Non-Giving" to PolioPlus and Muda's main objective is to advocate for Clubs to work towards changing this narrative, and for the District to have a different report at the end of RY 2023-24. The Committee therefore, has a mammoth task to encourage and support Rotarians and Clubs in their countries, to prioritise Polio awareness activities and to contribute/raise funds for the PolioPlus Fund.

What is also humbling is to see the level of dedication and commitment that the District Committee members have, to serve above self. One can safely say it is every Rotarian's wish to see Rotary and its international partners eradicate the remaining 1% Polio for good, this would be the best gift Rotarians can give to humanity. "It is with great pride that as a District Chair, I introduce the foot soldiers of PolioPlus in our District and without any doubt, I believe that this Committee has the heart and capable hands to turn the District around and help Rotary International to achieve this goal", said Muda.

**Registration** prices are shown in U.S. dollars and include any applicable taxes. Get the best value in Singapore by booking your [accommodation](#) through Maritz Global Events, Rotary's official housing partner.

	Age 31 or over	Age 30 or under
<b>15 December 2023:</b> Last day for early-registration discount	\$500	\$175
<b>31 March 2024:</b> Last day for preregistration discount	\$595	\$225
<b>29 May 2024:</b> Last day for online registration	\$695	\$275



**"ROTARY CLUBS CAN ENERGIZE AND INSPIRE YOUNG LEADERS AGES 12-18 THROUGH SERVICE AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENS BY SUPPORTING INTERACT CLUBS."**



*District Interact Chair  
Debbie Smit*

**Interact** is a great way to do more within your community. The majority of colleges and high schools require their students to participate in community projects and events, thereby earning valuable community service hours as part of their curriculum and to build a portfolio for university applications which includes community service. Interactors provides a great vibe to any project, they can learn so much from their Sponsoring Rotary club, so ensure you invite them to your Rotary projects (where applicable) and make sure you as the Sponsoring Rotary club attends your Interactors projects & events.



#### **Interact Board selection:**

Should your **Interact** club run according to the College/ School year (January to December), now is the time to ensure the new **Interact** board is selected for the 2024 year by the current **Interact** board in conjunction with the College/ School patron.

Please ensure no matrics are on the Interact Board as the matriculants have much to do in their last year and might drop the ball on **Interact** unintentionally, so it is suggested to select the Interact board for 2024 from the current Grade 10's and the President Elect from the current Grade 9's. **Interact** matriculants can still be part of **Interact** and will fit projects/ events into their schedules where possible, so please do not leave them out of **Interact** communication and projects.

The Induction of the board for 2024 can either take place early December 2023 or early in January 2024 with the sponsoring Rotary club and **Interact** parents in attendance - make it a big event similar to our own Rotary Inductions. More to follow regarding the Inductions.

#### **Reminder:**

#### **The 2023 Interact Awards are live!**

For this year's theme, we are inviting **Interact** clubs to promote **Interact**. Create a promotional video, photo, and/or essay that raises awareness about Interact and shares what being an Interactor means to you and your Interact club.

Awards will be given for best video, best photo, and best essay. One club in each category will win a cash prize to support one of its service projects, as well as a plaque and a letter from the Rotary International president.

Find inspiration on the [Interact YouTube Channel](#). Submissions due by 3 December 2023

# **RLI Training 2023**

This Rotary year has seen the first in-person **RLI Training** in Pretoria at Niche, the conference centre and home of Rotarian, PP Cheryl Jute. Wendy Damons, our D9400 trainer and all those in attendance were excited as the training allowed a lot of interaction and learning from each other.



The training was attended by Rotarians from RCs of Pretoria, Capital, Hatfield, Sunrise, Waterkloof, Centurion, and RCs of Fourways Main Reef, Northcliff. Lots of fun was had by all.





# ANN'S MESSAGE

## FROM IPDGA CHRISTINA

*Dear Rotary Anns,*

Social media and WiFi have enabled me to follow your activities during the past month as we moved around four countries in Europe. A memorable holiday indeed and back just in time to meet the monthly Newsletter deadline!

A myriad of activities to benefit communities have taken place among the Rotary Ann Clubs and here is just a selection of what happened in October, as shared among yourselves. It really is lovely to get all your news and interaction!

**Benoni Aurora's** Daveyton Bespoke Sewing undertaking was highlighted in the local press when DG Riana and DGE George visited the project with the Anns and Riana presented Project Leader Jimmy Matsho with Rotary's certificate of Service above Self.



Congratulations: well-deserved Jimmy, and thank you Riana and George for giving the Anns the time and recognition they so deserve.

The Rotarians and Anns also got together to join Ken from Marvellous Orchids at Hecker's Nursery for a talk on these magnificent plants. A portion of the sales of orchids was donated to the Anns for their projects: A Blooming Beautiful Success, as Ann President Janice put it!



**White River** enjoyed fellowship between the Rotarians and Anns at a Spring Brunch on a cold wet day!

However, it appears this did not dampen the enthusiasm and fun. The weather was kinder when these Anns assisted the Rotarians with their annual golf day, and even managed some time off for a glass of wine!



**The Krugersdorp Anns** celebrated two of their members' birthdays with tea in Julia's beautiful garden. Donations to funds were requested in lieu of gifts – boosting the bank balance while enjoying fellowship.

Krugersdorp received a visit from DG Riana, D9400 Secretary Alice and PDGA Janet, when they visited Polokega, a shelter for abused women and girls, and dropped off some Dude dolls and food.

Later, they visited a young girl who has been in a protected home for several years, and presented gifts for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.





As always with the Anns, giving has been paramount. **Randburg** donated teddy bears and books to the Lighthouse project.

**Phalaborwa** received a wheelchair for Joana Lopes. This was facilitated through the RC of Northcliff's wheelchair project and thanks go to Janet Callard for assisting with this donation, as well as to all concerned.

**Germiston** gave food, household items and clothing to Rimmelos, a home that accommodates up to 10 couples, as well as handed over baby packs to Bambanani.



The **Riverside Anns** treated the old folk of Golden Thoughts to an outing and a meal.

**Aurora** again harvested veggies from the Garden of Life to assist with their various feeding efforts.



**Phalaborwa Fire.** In the aftermath of the tragic fire that swept through Phalaborwa in September, donations came in from D9400 to assist the victims, especially those who lost their homes. These included 100 boxes of food, clothing and household essentials from the RC of **Pietersburg 100**. We hope and pray that the community is slowly returning to a semblance of normality.



**RIEP:** Condolences to friends and families of two former Krugersdorp Anns who passed away: Kathy Eksteen and Adrie Steyn. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Please also read the rest of DG Riana's Newsletter to stay abreast of the latest Rotary news and next year's DISCON. Until next month, may you continue to Create Hope in the World.

Sincerely yours, IPDGA Christina.

*IPDGA Christina*

IPDGA Christina Forsyth-Thompson 2023/24



Join the [District Facebook Page](#). Click [HERE](#)





# D9400 PEOPLE OF ACTION

Click [here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online! Send your Club Newsletters to [admin@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:admin@rotary9400.org.za) to have them loaded onto the D9400 website!

## Rotary Club of Pretoria East

RC Pretoria East continues its collaboration with the Bronberg Retirement Village. The ladies from Bronberg Retirement Village knitted and crocheted more than 50 knee blankets and some scarves and toys. The club delivered the items to the Trauma Center of Garsfontein Police Station and the Wierdabrug Trauma center.



This is one of the projects of PP Doulien Knopjes of RCPE.

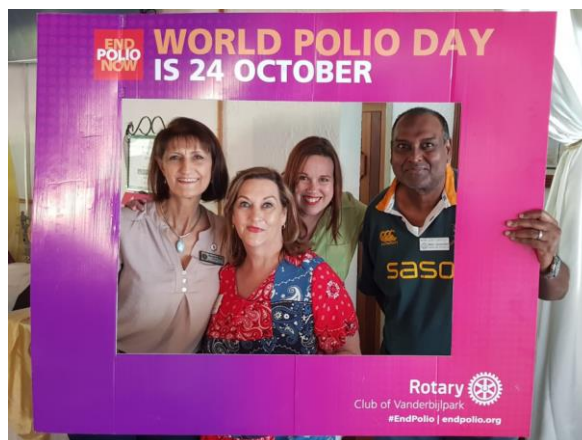


## Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark

RC Vanderbijlpark is a staunch supporter of the Polio eradication drive and makes an annual contribution towards the Polio Plus fund.

Past President Jacky van Waveren arranges a Polio breakfast fundraiser annually where she provides realistic props which serve as a centre piece on every table. This year's Polio breakfast was a huge success as always and our Foundation chair, Alan Claase, enlightened the audience about the fight to eradicate Polio worldwide.

The event was supported by fellow Rotarians from RCs Northcliff, Riverside and Parys.



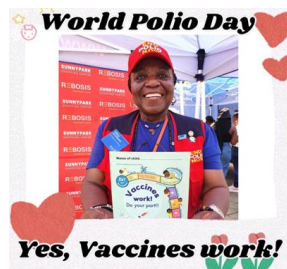
*R to L Sandra Uys (President Rotary club of Parys) President Adri Roos, Lilly Badenhorst (Rotary club of Riverside) Ragu Govender (Rotary Club of Northcliff).*

## Rotary Club of Pretoria West

On World Polio Day Rotarians worldwide raise awareness and funds for polio eradication. Polio is a paralytic disease caused by a virus that can be prevented by vaccination of ALL children under 5 years of age. However, vaccinating all children worldwide requires lots of money.

PDG Stella of RC Pretoria West initiated a major fundraising where she undertook to walk 4-5km every other day until the 24th, and asked for a donation of R20/\$1 for every km walked. She posted her walking details each day and on the 24th, she calculated the total km walked, and each friend will kindly donate for those km walked. Donations can be sent to the account of my Rotary club, given below. Your donation will help make polio history.

Her personal commitment to this cause was ignited during my time with the World Health Organization in 1996, where I aided WHO/AFRO in large-scale immunization drives against polio in Africa.





## Rotary Club of White River



RC White River has supported the Mashadza Special Care Centre for many years.

Mashadza Special Care Centre is a day care centre for children who suffer either physical or mental disabilities.

A group of Rotarians went out to start on an upgrade of the playground and work out what needs to be done in order to give the children the most benefit from the area.

The club is concentrating on improving the playground facilities and also getting the vegetable garden up and running.



Assistance has been given to the gardeners working in the vegetable garden.



## Rotary Club of Pretoria East

RC of Pretoria East held its annual Engadini Landscaping Potjiekos competition at the home of Rtn Robin and Edie Jones for the eleventh time, with Rtn Grant Adam at the helm.

The recipe of a Potjiekos competition, mixed with the adventurous spirit of the pots' master chefs, seasoned with the flair for fun of Rotarians when they gather, yet again proved to guarantee a wonderful day of fellowship.



The pots were tasted and judged by Rtn Grant, PDG Stella and the appointed champion of each pot. This proved to be a challenging task, all pots were winners, but the final choice was the pot brewed by Rtn Alvene with the able assistance of a new potential recruit to Rotary, Dougie.

The runner up was created by PP Cheryl's father, Donavon, but every other pot was celebrated. Participants moved through the pots tasting here and there.

There were seven pots cooking and about 35 participants. The RCPE was obviously best represented, led by our Club President P Owen and many others, but there was one pot from RC Pretoria West championed by Rtn Matsepo's daughter, supported by Rtn Matsepo and PDG Stella.

Rtn Grant now a member of the RC of Brits was joined by D9400 Alice Meyer, also from RC Brits and AG Jean-Francois Mercier from RC Hatfield.





Prizes in the form of plants that were donated by Engadini proliferated and most participants left with a tangible memory of the day.

At the prizing giving, PDG Stella gave an update of the status of the Polio Plus project which was very enlightening for all but particularly for the many friends of Rotarians who joined us for the day. Yet again the event, a simple recipe, gelled into a day which was fun for all.

## Rotary Club of Johannesburg



AG Grace van Zyl (in the red EndPolioNow T-shirt) of RC Johannesburg did a Polio walk at Kyalami in 55:44 minutes, beating her time of the previous night by 8 minutes. She walked with Polio Survivor and Ambassador Div Louw who is the Para-athletic Triathlon Africa Champion.



## Rotary Club of Pretoria Capital

RC of Pretoria Capital President Toni teamed up with PDG Stella and other Rotarians on World Polio Day. She participated in Polio Awareness at Silverton Primary School and also joined in with the vaccination of children at the Shalom Primary School







## District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>3</b>	November <b>2023</b>	<b>Third Africa Peace Concert</b> – Friday, November 3, 2023, from 15:00 Hours (GMT) - 18:00 Hours (EAT) \$100 /person live or virtual. The link to watch the Concert will be shared in due course.
<b>8-10</b>	November <b>2023</b>	<b>Rotary Family Health Day</b> – The global Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention, Inc. (RFHA) dedicated to disease prevention and treatment.
<b>18-19</b>	November <b>2023</b>	<b>RLI Training</b> , Mokopane Education Multipurpose Centre, 805 Rufus Seakamela Street, Mahwelereng, Saturday and Sunday 08:00 - 15:30
<b>1</b>	December <b>2023</b>	<b>World Aids Day</b> – Raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who've died of the disease.
<b>3</b>	December <b>2023</b>	<b>2023 Interact Awards</b> – Closing date for Interact clubs to submit a promotional video, photo, or essay that raises awareness about Interact and shares what it means to be an Interactor. Awards will be given for best video, best photo, and best essay
<b>21</b>	February <b>2024</b>	<b>Happy Hippo Golf Challenge</b> ERPN Golf course, on Pretoria Road in Benoni. Contact Grace van Zyl <a href="mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com">grace@gracevanzyl.com</a> or Sanette Mostert <a href="mailto:sanette@mindfullanes.co.za">sanette@mindfullanes.co.za</a>
<b>23</b>	February <b>2024</b>	The Sun never sets on Rotary. Showcase your club project during a 24-hour long global celebration of Rotary 16h00 to 17h00. Contact Grace van Zyl <a href="mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com">grace@gracevanzyl.com</a>
<b>2-5</b>	May <b>2024</b>	<b>D9400 District Conference</b> , FLOREAT Riverside Lodge, Sabie
<b>25-29</b>	May <b>2024</b>	<b>2024 Rotary International Convention</b> , SINGAPORE

### 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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### A Prova Quádrupla

Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:

1. É a VERDADE?
2. É JUSTO para todos os interessados?
3. Criará boa VONTADE e MELHORES AMIZADES?
4. Será BENÉFICO para todos os interessados?

**DISTRICT 9400**



To view the 4-Way Test in some of the other languages spoken in D9400, click [here](#)

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**SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:**  
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