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# WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

This month we are looking at the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and, specifically, artificial intelligence (AI). Now, I would not be surprised if, as soon as you read the words artificial intelligence, your mind wandered into a movie-like world of machines enslaving humanity. But I doubt that will happen, as there are people working hard to ensure that we embrace these technologies responsibly and use them to create a better world.

The 4IR is characterised by technological advancements that are driving a shift towards a more digital and interconnected world. The combination of new technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), AI and robotics has transformed the way we live and work.

In the manufacturing sector, the integration of advanced technologies into the production process has led to increased automation and efficiency. Robotics and computers are taking over tasks that were previously done by humans. This has led to a reduction in labour costs and increased productivity. With technologies such as 3D printing, the production process has become more flexible, faster and cheaper. Machine learning, a subset of AI, has also become an essential part of 4IR. It has enabled machines to learn from data and improve their performance without being explicitly programmed. This means that machines can now outperform humans in tasks such as analysing large datasets or recognising patterns in data.

In the healthcare sector, 4IR technologies have revolutionised the way we treat patients. Telemedicine has enabled doctors to diagnose and treat patients remotely.....

The biggest thing about AI at the moment is the ongoing conversation and panic about ChatGPT and other AI replacing human workers, is it going to steal jobs? This debate is raging everywhere and so, I decided to put my proofreaders to the test and the above, with the exception of the first paragraph was written by AI, specifically ChatGPT. I am proud to say that my job is secure as my proofreading team LOATHED what was written and speculated that I had used a ghost writer, perhaps an underling at my office!

As far as I am concerned, the human element in the workplace, someone needs to punch in the data and monitor results, certainly, some jobs may fall away but as is the case with the introduction of new technologies and systems, other positions will be created and training opportunities offered.

What this experiment taught me is that while it certainly remains a highly effective tool, AI is just that. A tool. Something that can help me do my job better but can't do my job without me... THANK GOODNESS!

## The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think,  
say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?







# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## People of Action - and empathy

I believe it is a time in our world for brave, courageous, intentional leadership.

Last month, in this column, you heard from my dear friend Anniela Carracedo. She is an amazing member of our Rotary family and as a past Interactor and now Rotarian; she is this kind of leader.

Anni shared a very personal story about coping with a panic attack, which I have also experienced. The outpouring and response to this story have been tremendous and illustrates how critical it is that we acknowledge not only our strengths but our vulnerabilities too.

When we talk about finding space for one another - creating comfort and care within Rotary - we're describing a club experience where we can all feel comfortable sharing as Anni did and we can all empathise with and support one another. Whatever we are facing in life, Rotary is a place where we know we're not alone.

We spend so much time helping our world, whether it's working to end polio, cleaning up the environment, or bringing hope to communities which need it most. Sometimes we can lose track of the need to apply some of our energy and care to our fellow members and partners in service.

The comfort and care of our members is the single greatest driver of member satisfaction and retention. We need to ensure that it remains a priority - and that we further strengthen these bonds by performing service that helps reduce the stigma of seeking out

mental health treatment and expands access to care.

That is why I'm so heartened by President-Elect Gordon McInally's wonderful vision to help improve the global mental health system, not only for Rotary members, but for the communities we serve.

When Gordon announced our focus on mental health at this year's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, he reminded us that helping others benefits our mental health by reducing stress and improving our mood. Studies show that performing acts of kindness is an effective way to improve your own mental and physical health. Rotary service brings hope to the world and joy to our lives.

Our new focus on mental health will take some time to do correctly, building as it does, on something that has been part of who we are for 118 years. We are People of Action and behind that action is care, compassion, empathy and inclusion.

Becoming champions of mental health is not only the right and kind thing to do, it is a tool that can Create Hope in the World, Gordon's inspiring theme for his upcoming year as president.

If we serve our members, we serve our communities and if we can meet people where they are and lift them up, they will imagine Rotary in a new light and come to fully understand our value and our infinite potential.

**JENNIFER JONES**

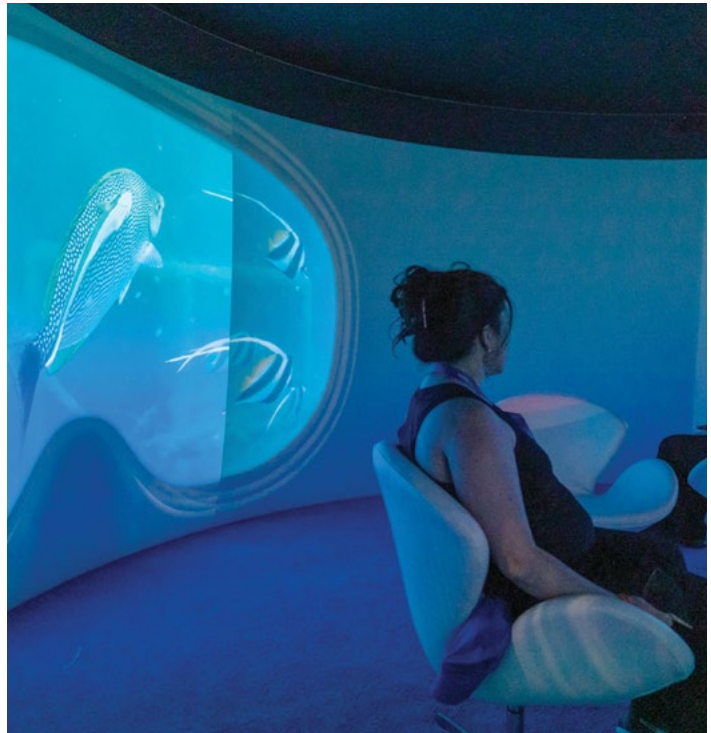
*President, Rotary International*



## Find Project Partners

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared their projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Now Rotary has added new features that make this online tool even more useful.

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly. Learn more at [my.rotary.org](https://my.rotary.org)



# SEE YOU THERE!

## 2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

From big-name speakers and breakout sessions to the flag ceremony and the House of Friendship, the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne will be full of pageantry and inspiration.

In Melbourne this month, listen to Nobel Peace laureate Leymah Gbowee of Liberia tell her story from the convention main stage about empowering girls. And choose from dozens of breakout sessions for ideas you can take back to your club. Rotary members and experts will share tips on how to live the Rotary Action Plan, do what you can to address the world's biggest challenges, polish your leadership skills, grow club diversity and interest newcomers.

Then, check out the House of Friendship to learn about projects by clubs, fellowships, action groups, and partners that will energise you to expand your club's impact. For example, step inside a sample emergency shelter from project partner ShelterBox.

Rebecca Fry, charter president of the Rotary Club of Social Impact Network, Australia, says the House of Friendship is "a true festival of Rotary" and one of the best ways to get a sense of Rotary's global reach.

The exhibition floor is a prime spot to meet up with friends, bump into new people to add to your Rotary network, and seek out leaders of projects that spark your interest.

Plus, it's a lot of fun. Past highlights include Chinese lion dancers and a virtual reality experience about a coral reef restoration project. The expo is at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre every day of the convention, 27-31 May.



# Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

“Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as ever you can.”

While we don’t know its exact origin, this widely quoted saying summarises what Rotary and The Rotary Foundation are all about: We do quite a lot of good, serving people around the world in myriad ways and we are in it for the long haul.

How many other charities do so much good in so many ways for so many as The Rotary Foundation? Not only do we, the volunteers, fund most of our projects, but we often contribute significant volunteer hours in organising and executing them. The “regional offices” of our charity - also known as Rotary and Rotaract clubs - are our reliable go-to partners in the more than 200 countries and geographical areas in which we operate. And when we lack expertise in an area, we partner with outside organisations whose trust we have earned, such as the World Health Organisation, to deliver results on the ground that truly change lives.

Unlike some charitable organisations, we don’t take the “parachute approach” to humanitarian work. We solve problems in a sustainable way. Before we lift a shovel to start any Foundation project, we conduct community needs assessments and

work closely with members of the community. The Foundation also acts quickly when needed, such as through our disaster response grants, as we did with the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Accountants like me and business and community leaders like you pay close attention to the numbers and, in this area, the Foundation is a cut above. In funding projects, we apply Rotary’s traditions of fiscal responsibility and ethics to ensure the best use of the resources of our fellow members. We in Rotary are excellent stewards of our grants, with most of the funds going toward humanitarian support itself and relatively little going to grant administration costs. This is why Charity Navigator has consistently given its highest rating to The Rotary Foundation, year after year.

Because our worldwide operation is dedicated to seven areas of focus, volunteers and donors alike have ample opportunities to make a difference where help is needed most. Indeed, the potential to help through the Foundation is limitless.

So, if you are looking for a great charity to support or a way to do all the good you can, look no further than The Rotary Foundation. It is truly one of the greatest charities in the world and it belongs to you.

## Coming up...

### 4 MAY 2023

**ROTARY CLUB OF UMHLANGA (D9370)** Gran and Gramps Walk. Starts 8.30am at Durban View Park, Marine Parade, Umhlanga. Pre-registration essential. R80 entry includes a breakfast bag. Email [rcu.ggw2023@gmail.com](mailto:rcu.ggw2023@gmail.com) or call Rob Smith 082 405 4089 for more details. Join us and help raise funds.

### 5 MAY 2023

**ROTARY CLUB OF PAARL (D9350)** - Labyrinth Circle seminar for current/potential carers of dementia and Alzheimer’s patients in partnership with Dementia SA and True2you. Three sessions: 5 May, 19 May and 2 June at FFG, 75 Berg River Boulevard, Paarl. Time: 9:30-12:30. The first day’s speaker is Prof Dana Niehaus (Dept. of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University). Cost: R150pp. Book: [secretary@paarlrotary.co.za](mailto:secretary@paarlrotary.co.za).



# Just imagine

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

## WHAT DOES YOUTH SERVICE MEAN TO ME?

I have spent several years working with young people. I was only 13 years old when I first preached in the ‘children’s church’ at my home church, so I was still a youth when I began working with them. I was 22 when I became a youth pastor with all the enthusiasm my first education/theological degree could allow. As a school teacher and then as a principal, I led school and church youth groups in three states in the USA and learned from my experience as much as I taught.

That included...

- Staying up all night for a youth activity involving games, a film and an early breakfast.
- Playing volleyball for 41 hours and 21 minutes to break the Guinness World Record. (We celebrated with a banana split that was 41 feet and 21 inches long!)
- Learning that my phone could – and would – ring any time of the day or night.
- Listening to parents tell me that they couldn’t understand their children. (Listening to children tell me that they couldn’t understand their parents.)

I even had a pie in the face after one activity!

I coached soccer and softball teams and drove buses filled with excited teens on the way to sporting events... and sometimes had to drive those same teens home after losing a game – a rather sad trip often lightened with a stop at an ice cream shop. (Even coaches need ice cream after a loss!)

I have had to step between parents and children who could not control their anger. On more than one occasion, I sat with young people going through

withdrawal from drug or alcohol abuse.

Yes, working with young people is not all fun and games, but the rewards are incredible! I see many of them now on social media platforms talking about their successes in life, sharing photos of their families and even, in some cases, their GRANDCHILDREN! (How did those “kids” get so old?)

Rotary has many opportunities to mentor and guide young people. From the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) to Interact, Earlyact and one of my favourites, Rotary Youth Exchange. Rotaract is no longer “just a programme” of Rotary and members of Rotaract clubs are a part of Rotary. However, they still seek – and need – the guidance of older Rotarians as they plan for their future as Rotarians.

What can we do? Be available...

- Volunteer to tutor students struggling in class.
- Be a volunteer (grandparent) for a younger couple needing a “night off” to go out to dinner without worrying about leaving their child for a few hours.
- Become a volunteer assistant coach for a school sports team. (No coach in their right mind would refuse!)
- Spend time reading to younger students – giving a teacher a moment to catch their breath.
- Be a chaperone for an event involving youngsters travelling overnight. (I know... not your favourite thing, but parents will appreciate your sacrifice and you might even enjoy yourself!)

The possibilities are endless, and one can only IMAGINE our impact on the next generation.





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# The future of Rotary

For a former Interactor, the spirit of service never left his mind

A surprise call to the headmaster's office is usually cause for concern. So, when Patrick Chisanga was summoned to the office with seven other students, he remembers wondering, What have we done?

The worry was short-lived. Waiting with the headmaster at that meeting half a century ago was Richard Farmer, a member of parliament from Chisanga's hometown in Zambia's Copperbelt region - and a Rotarian. Farmer and the headmaster had been discussing starting an Interact club at the school and the eight students had been hand-picked as the club's charter members. "This is the beginning of a long journey," Farmer told them - and for Chisanga, now a member of the Rotary Club of Nkwazi (D9210), that held true.

After joining the new Interact club, he became its vice president. He began sitting in on Rotary meetings

to learn about what clubs do. He was selected to go to Kenya, where different Rotarians hosted him for a day or two, including the district governor, who took Chisanga to see several Rotary projects in Mombasa. "I was so impressed," he said during an interview with former Interactor and current Rotarian Anniela Carracedo at the International Assembly in January. "I was so intrigued by this man, his commitment and the heart he displayed for the community."

The visit convinced Chisanga that Farmer had been right: This was a journey he wanted to continue. Today, Chisanga is a Rotary International director and an expert in corporate governance. He firmly believes that Interact is the future of Rotary. "If we can inculcate Rotary values and the spirit of service at that young age, it stays with you. It never leaves your mind," he says.

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## Get to know your director

Patrick Daniel Chisanga, a chartered governance professional, is a fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute (UK) from the London School of Accountancy and a fellow of the Institute of Directors of Zambia. He has advised the World Bank on corporate governance and has served as president of the Institute of Directors of Zambia and the African Corporate Governance Network.

Working for nearly 20 years in the public and corporate sectors of Zambia, Patrick served as chief executive officer and chair of numerous companies and organizations before taking early retirement in 1994 to focus on running a family owned group of companies, Muchanga Investments Ltd, which he founded in 1987 and serves as chair. He is also chair and lead consultant of Dynamic Concepts Ltd, a consulting firm dedicated to corporate governance and leadership development across Africa. He also serves on the boards of several other local and international companies.

In 1986, he became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Nkwazi and in 1998, he realised his goal of becoming governor of District 9210. He was

the first non-white person to hold that position. "It was a turning point for me and my district," he says.

As governor, Patrick focused on supporting communities in need in his district with projects dedicated to health, hygiene and clean water, and to building safe bridges in rural areas. Later, while serving as RI president's representative at a district event in Bremerhaven, Germany, he lent his networking skills to help start a project to improve infrastructure in Zambian schools which later received several Rotary Foundation grants.

Patrick has served Rotary International on several committees, including the Membership Committee and the Reach Out to Africa Committee, as well as a training leader and Rotary Institute chair. He has also chaired regional Rotary organisations, including the Governors' Council of Southern and Eastern Africa.

Patrick has received the Service Above Service Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his partner, Petronella, are Major Donors.



# Welcome to the METAVERSE

Last year, Tana Serrano Marín decided to enter the metaverse. The family law attorney in south eastern Spain kept hearing about the vast possibilities of the immersive, 3D online world where everyone from gamers to harried parents seek an escape interaction via cartoon-like avatars.

First, a guest speaker at her husband's Rotary club meeting extolled the virtues of the metaverse. Then, a person on the district's membership committee brought it up. She watched with interest as brands and businesses adopted the technology to reach customers. Could it catch on with Rotarians? Serrano Marín and her husband decided to find out.

They started dabbling with Spatial, a platform to create virtual spaces. As interest grew, they took the idea to district officials and lined up club officers. They attended an in-person training session. The Rotary Club of Metaverso (metaverse in Spanish) was chartered on 28 November with a membership roster of 14 women and six men. Most, like Serrano Marín, are from Murcia, near Spain's Mediterranean coast.

"What makes this platform so immersive is that after just a few sessions, people identify with their avatars online and the experiences become personal," says Serrano Marín. "It's quite different from just taking part in a video conference."

So, what's a Rotary club meeting in the metaverse like? To find out, I planned a visit in January and got to work creating an avatar on Spatial. You can choose one that's lifelike or experiment with a different look, as did the club member who appeared as Elvis in the meeting space. I chose the former option.

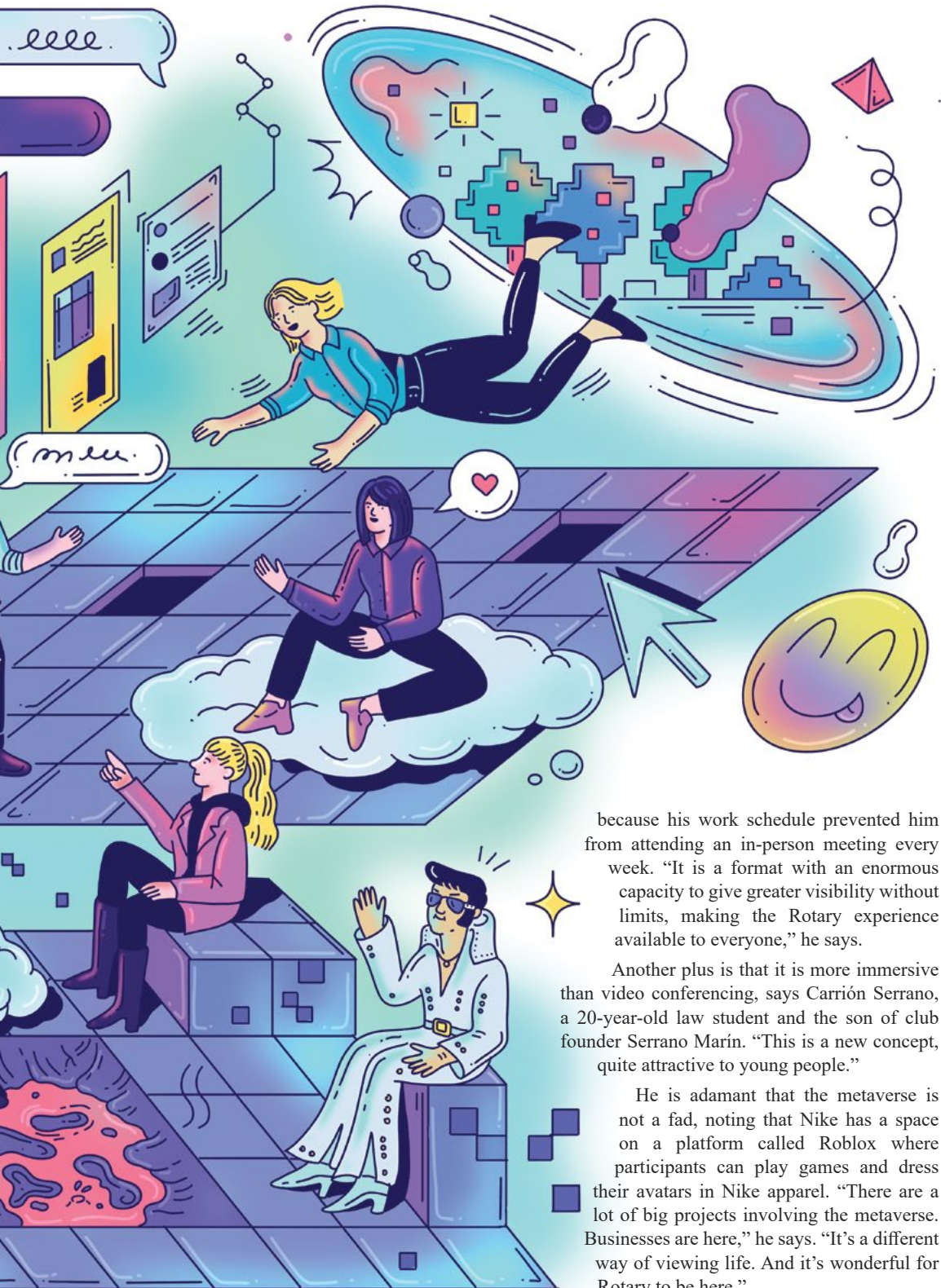
When the meeting day arrived, I watched my avatar drop into a pink-purple room with a gaming vibe. I was greeted by club member Antonio Carrión Serrano, who acted as my guide and interpreter, as the club language is Spanish. On a computer, keyboard strokes allow you to move, but the skill can require some finesse. On my early attempts, my avatar appeared to walk through others. Then, another keystroke sent my avatar floating in the air with strange motions that looked like swimming.

Another quirk to the club's meeting space is that there are no private conversations; everyone can hear you. But that allowed me to meet another newcomer to the metaverse who joined the meeting as a guest, Michel Jazzar, a past district governor from Lebanon. "This is my first time," confessed Jazzar. "It is something new. As we say in Beirut, 'New is beautiful'."

That people can attend easily from anywhere and fit meetings around busy schedules is a strength of the platform. For instance, member Juanjo Morales Aragón says he had heard of Rotary before but could not join







because his work schedule prevented him from attending an in-person meeting every week. “It is a format with an enormous capacity to give greater visibility without limits, making the Rotary experience available to everyone,” he says.

Another plus is that it is more immersive than video conferencing, says Carrión Serrano, a 20-year-old law student and the son of club founder Serrano Marín. “This is a new concept, quite attractive to young people.”

He is adamant that the metaverse is not a fad, noting that Nike has a space on a platform called Roblox where participants can play games and dress their avatars in Nike apparel. “There are a lot of big projects involving the metaverse. Businesses are here,” he says. “It’s a different way of viewing life. And it’s wonderful for Rotary to be here.”

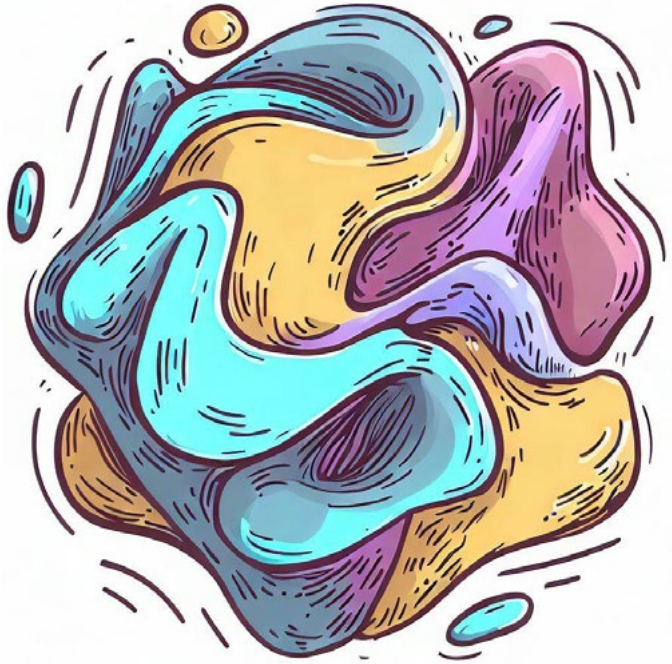
He led me into the Sala Paz (Peace Room), where posters on the walls discuss Rotary's Action Plan, mission and causes. At the far end of this long rectangular space, a walkway proceeded out over a sea of magenta water. The sky teemed with indigo clouds. I knew it wasn't real, but I couldn't avoid feeling that one false move would plunge me headfirst into a pool of lava.

A virtual bell on stage rang to begin the meeting. I entered the Sala Paul Harris, an auditorium splashed in a deeper shade of purple. On the front wall, a large screen allowed people to share presentations. The auditorium sloped downward with rows of short square seats on either side of a centre aisle. Eventually, I figured out how to click on a seat and sit. A regional expert discussed mediation and ways to settle disputes peacefully. Occasionally, applause broke out, sending streams of red hearts soaring into the air.

Serrano Marin says that the club plans face-to-face meet ups and regular virtual meetings. Like any other club, members carry out service projects in the real world. One of their first projects sought contributions from 17 companies, which received advertising space in one of the rooms. The contributions were used to buy coats for 17 children in El Palmar, a village near Murcia. Serrano Marin says members also plan to explore causes they can address in the virtual space.

At least one other club meets in this new domain, the Rotary Club of Taipei Metaverse, which chartered in June 2022 in Taiwan and has nearly 40 members. The idea seems to have appeal, judging from the enthusiastic comments from across the world on a Rotary Voices blog post that Serrano Marin wrote in January. And Jazzar, the past district governor from Lebanon, says his district is discussing a similar club. "The metaverse is the future," says Serrano Marin. "Rotary must be there."

- Arnold R. Grahl



## SO YOU'RE READY TO JOIN THE METaverse

At least two Rotary clubs are meeting in the metaverse, drawn by a flexible, innovative meeting format with the potential to attract a young and diverse membership. But OK, how does one enter the metaverse exactly?

### CHOOSE YOUR AVATAR

You can create your look in a platform like Spatial, choosing a virtual you that looks like you. Some systems allow you to upload a photo of yourself to generate a look-a-like. Or you can get adventurous and change up your look entirely.

### DON'T WORRY ABOUT FANCY GEAR

This immersive version of the internet is best experienced with a virtual reality headset. Still, there's no need to buy one or any other fancy gear. Instead, you can still understand what it's all about from your computer or smartphone screen.

### KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have got familiar with Zoom and Rotary members have chartered e-clubs. The metaverse, proponents say, is just another step into a virtual realm with the power to connect members from across the world.





As generative AI gains pace, industry leaders explain how to make it a force for good

# Can AI help us?

by Spencer Feingol, Digital Editor, World Economic Forum

- The World Economic Forum AI & Machine Learning Platform Quarterly Connect took place in March 2023, with C-suite executives explaining what's ahead for AI.
- Fairness and bias remain a persistent challenge in AI development but the problems befalling individual companies are varied and nuanced, which is why diverse mitigation approaches are needed.
- The future of AI looks bright with generative AI and large language models with socially beneficial use cases, including waste elimination and fraud detention.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more ubiquitous, gaining more social uses and is now more accessible to the everyday person. Those prospects are exciting but there remain challenges regarding fairness and de-biased results. And what about the unintended consequences or harms of AI? How can those working in the AI and machine learning industry ensure that AI remains a force for good?

Panellists of the World Economic Forum AI & Machine Learning Platform Quarterly Connect grappled with those questions in a webinar on 23 March 2023.

The panel, moderated by Kay Firth-Butterfield, Head of AI & Machine Learning at the Forum, included Armughan Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer and President at Appen, the global leader in data for the AI lifecycle; Michael Schmidt, Chief Technology Officer at DataRobot, a company focused on value-driven AI; and Daniela Braga, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Defined.ai, which prides itself on being the largest marketplace

of training data in the world with a strong ethical focus including the privacy of data and transparency.

## TRAINING DATA FOR ETHICAL AI

All three speakers are sitting across the helm of companies that have recognized the ethical dilemmas that arise from AI when trained on bad data. All foresee fairness and bias to be persistent themes when it comes to achieving their goals. That said, Schmidt acknowledged there had been a lot of progress in the data community for tackling bias and fairness and, more recently, best practices for mitigating bias issues.

Every company may look at bias and fairness a bit differently, so there's a need to be flexible with solutions, said Schmidt.

He added, "There are all kinds of other practical concerns, like we see lots of mistakes with companies, they go after the most ambitious AI projects... we recommend to start simple and help solve some of these practical challenges and build up to the really high impact ones."

"This is the first time in the fourth industrial revolution that [farmers in developing countries] can take access to a properly trained LLM model, a generative AI model, and ask a question in their own language to then get a government subsidy because someone can very quickly train that model and give them access to that," Ahmad said.

"So how do you make sure that the opportunity becomes an income equality opportunity, not an inequality opportunity?" he added.

At Appen, Ahmad explains that they ensure good AI through three pillars:

- Good data.
- Responsibility from a compute perspective.

- The people building the models and their diversity.

Achieving those goals is not without good action by the company themselves as Ahmad acknowledged, they have to report and deliver on fair pay, their carbon footprint from data generation and diversity. If they get purpose and perspective right in their approach, then prosperity will follow he said.

However, some companies will have to slow down, especially if they are jumping onto generative AI, as it requires large amounts of data, said Braga. It is important that there are properly monitored internal systems – regular audits, consent and copyright considerations. Increasing numbers of people are using scraped data from the web, which draws in bias and they fail to train employees.

### GENERATIVE AI'S OPPORTUNITIES IN 2023

In 2023, generative AI is the big thing, built on large language models that don't need a lot of humans to train it. However, assuming humans aren't required in the loop at all would be a mistake, as Ahmad points out; they, we, are still crucial to get the best out of AI.

ChatGPT3, for instance, is dependent on prompt engineering – the crafting of a statement or question that returns accurate and apt results and ensures the AI is not “hallucinating,” as seen in some publicised examples

“If AI is the enabler, humans are the transformers,” said Ahmad.

Schmidt also pointed out that there will be exciting use cases to tackle social ills, such as eliminating waste and fraud detection and anti-money laundering use cases: “We are seeing a lot more adoption of using AI to radically make these more effective at chasing down and eliminating these sources of fraud.”

Meanwhile, Braga said that AI would determine the future of productivity.

“It is clear that AI is here to stay and to work alongside humans, to augment us,” she said. “But at the same time, we see an opportunity to build reverse engineering tools to track transparency and reliability of these data sources,” she added.

### BUILDING TRUST

As useful and game-changing as AI may be and while acknowledging the need to address bias, there are still concerns about use cases around generative AI.

For education providers to really build trustworthy

systems, for instance, Braga suggests they should seek to partner with companies or universities building generative AI models that are not feeding into ChatGPT to strengthen the tool and build trust with educators.

Meanwhile, in the European Union, the proposed AI Act, which seeks to harmonize rules on AI systems across the bloc, recently added a definition on “general purpose AI” to accommodate generative AI, acknowledging it can be used for low and high risks applications.

Schmidt admits it is hard to get generative AI models to focus on specific topics to great accuracy; there are sophisticated prompting strategies currently in the works within the community but that is still very much a dark art.

Braga distinguishes the risk attached to generative AI from other high-risk applications that have been banned or are being considered for a ban in the 27 member states, such as social credit scoring.

When it comes to generative AI, Braga suggests, “Rather than forbidding, certifying the applications that they go through all of the ethical principles would be a better idea.”

*Courtesy of The World Economic Forum*

**There are several ways in which NGOs and organisations like Rotary can benefit from AI:**

1. **Data Analysis:** Organisations can use AI to analyse the data they collect to gain insights that they can use to make better decisions.
2. **Efficiency:** AI can automate repetitive tasks, allowing organisations to use their resources more efficiently.
3. **Personalisation:** AI can help organisations personalise their services to better meet the needs of their clients.
4. **Predictive Modelling:** AI can help organisations predict future trends and events, allowing them to plan better and make faster decisions.
5. **Increased Awareness:** AI can create awareness about social issues and advocate for change.
6. **Enhanced Communication:** AI can help organisations communicate more effectively with their clients and each other.

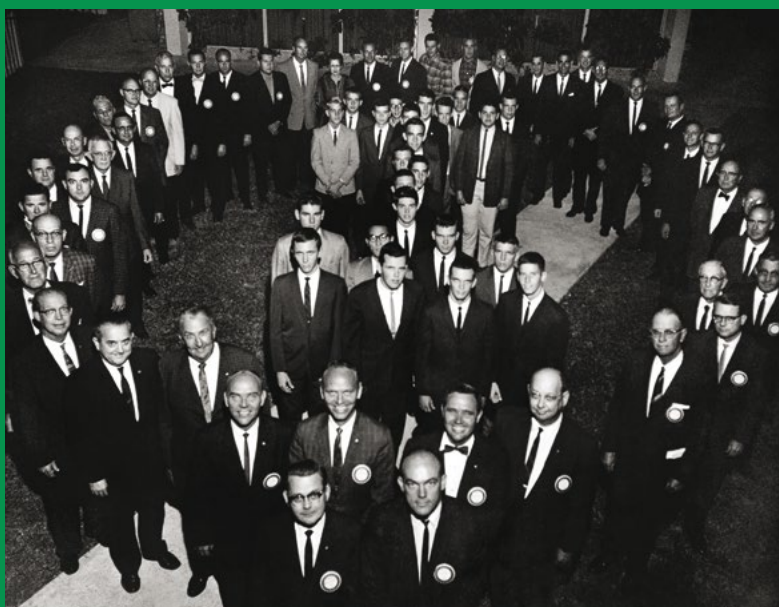


# FOREVER YOUNG

Interact is 60 going on 16 - or is it the other way around? Join us as we examine Rotary's leadership and service programme for teens through the lens of yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Encircled by members of their sponsoring club, the members of Rotary's first Interact club stand in the shape of the letter I. "Even then we knew this was a historic occasion," recalled member Woody Bowden (front row, left, at the base of the I), the inaugural treasurer of the Interact Club of Melbourne High School in Florida. "We were proud of being the first club of its kind."



# TO CHANGE THE WORLD, START YOUNG

Since 1962, generations of young people have discovered the power of Service Above Self and had some serious fun along the way. From the White House to Pisa, Italy and beyond, we chart Interact's perpetual growth and eternal youth.

## 1962

**December:** An article in the Rotarian magazine entitled "The blueprint's ready for Interact" introduces Rotary's "new youth group," whose purpose, the article explains, is "to provide opportunity for young men [ages 15 to 18] to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding." The article goes on to outline the programme's goals, which includes developing constructive leadership and personal integrity and encouraging interested Rotary clubs to obtain an Interact Club Organising Kit. As for the group's name, Interact - an amalgam of "international" and "action" - was selected from more than 200 suggestions, and "linguists agree, [it] translates clearly in almost every language spoken by Rotarians."

## 1963

**January:** The magazine article "Interact's in orbit" introduces the Interact Club of Melbourne High School in Florida; certified 5 November 1962, it is Rotary's first Interact club. Previously established as a campus service club by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, its 39 members already had 35 "helpful activities" to their credit, including collecting toys for poor children, painting gymnasium bleachers and buying a class ring for "one of their number," exchange student Katsutoshi Shintani, of Hiroshima, Japan. "The club cut across all kinds of socioeconomic barriers," member Woody Bowden recalled 25 years later. "We came from different backgrounds and cliques, but Interact brought the many groups together. We always looked forward to Monday nights when we got together."

**February:** In a letter to the magazine, Mississippi Rotarian Frank E Cotton Jr writes: "If Interact is as good as it appears, I wonder if there is any justification for our seriously limiting its potential value by restricting it to young men. The article indicated no principle of Interact which would not apply as well, perhaps better, to clubs of boys and girls."

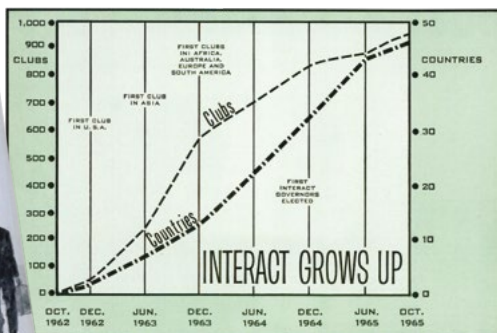
**November:** On its first anniversary, Interact numbers 177 clubs in 24 countries. That includes a club in Thanjavur, India, the first Interact club outside of the United States, with certification two months after the Melbourne club.



Members of the Interact Club of Ulverston, England's first Interact club, demonstrate their drive by washing cars, a weekly project whose goal is to raise money for a public swimming pool.

# 1964

**September:** With "deep satisfaction," RI President Charles W Pettengill announces the first Interact Week, a forerunner of World Interact Week. "It is my hope that every Rotary club in the world will take advantage of the unique opportunity," he says, "... to focus attention on this dynamic youth programme." The same issue reports that, in its most recent meetings, Rotary's Board of Directors requested district governors "to appoint district Interact advisory committees ... to assist the district governor in publicising the Interact programme, promoting the organisation of new Interact clubs and administering the programme of Interact within the district."



# 1965

**October:** A series of articles, including a profile of a club in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, recognises Interact's "booming, boyful success."

**November:** Interact celebrates the arrival of its 1,000th club, this one in Rio de Janeiro.



# WWS15

IT ALL STARTS WITH WASH

JOIN US **MELBOURNE** Friday, May 26, 2023



## Join People of Action at World Water Summit 15

Rotarians are playing a critical role addressing WASH – water, sanitation, and hygiene – necessary for community health, economic growth, food security, the alleviation of poverty, education, and well-being.

Join us right before the international convention. Keynote speakers include past RI President Barry Rassin, and “the Toilet Warrior” Mark Balla. Breakout sessions encourage knowledge sharing and networking.

WASH-RAG thanks the sponsors of WWS15:



For more information go to [WASH-RAG.org](http://WASH-RAG.org) or scan the QR code to register.



1966

**March:** At the White House, US President Lyndon B Johnson greets Peter Arroyo, president of the Interact Club of Bridgeport, Connecticut. An honour student, class president and co-captain of the football team at Warren Harding High School, Arroyo had been chosen Boy of the Year by the Boys' Clubs of America.

**October:** Ahead of Interact's fourth anniversary, RI President Richard L Evans declares it "a Rotary success." With some 34,000 members in nearly 1,400 clubs and 51 countries, Interact, he says, "has enlisted the energy of youth in service and in international understanding."

1967

**October:** "Interact, just five years old, is one of [Rotary's] newer efforts, but it could prove to be what Winston Churchill might have described as your 'finest hour,'" writes Tom Lawrence, president of the Interact Club of Meridian High School, Mississippi. "I say thanks from our Interact club for giving us faith in a better tomorrow."



Interact approaches a milestone: the certification of its 2,000th club. Among the newer clubs is the Interact Club of Pisa, Italy. It comprises 25 boys from the Ulisse Dini Science High School and the Galileo Galilei Classical High School, who, according to a May 1968 Rotarian magazine article, "have already made a fast start down the avenue of Interact service."

1968

**January:** Rotary's Board of Directors expands Interact's horizons. "Should local circumstances indicate to the sponsoring Rotary club that good cause would be served by the admission of girls, the sponsoring Rotary club is at liberty to use its discretion accordingly. Should the sponsoring club decide on a mixed membership, at least half should be boys."

1970

**October:** In a special issue of the magazine that addresses the conflicts and challenges confronting young people in a turbulent era, an article entitled "Alternatives to anger" recommends both Interact and Rotaract as a way of fostering "community builders today, world leaders tomorrow."





**1974** In April, Interactors register for a district Interact conference held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



A member of the Interact Club of Sheffield, Alabama, speaks at a panel session on international projects held at the district conference in Tuscaloosa.

**1982** **October:** After 20 years, Interact's 90,000-plus members serve in 4,100 clubs situated in 78 countries. "Everyone is aware of problems in the world," says Diane Mezzich, a member of the Interact club at St Mary's High School in Manhasset, New York. "It is a good feeling to know that we can do something positive through Interact."

**1987**



Interactors in Brazil. As its silver anniversary approaches, Interact numbers about 5,000 clubs in 83 countries.



**2002** **November:** A youthful 40 years old, Interact now has about 8,600 clubs in 107 countries. For this year's World Interact Week, those clubs and their Rotary sponsors are asked to give an inspiring presentation about Interact to a Rotary club that does not sponsor an Interact club or conduct a joint Rotary-Interact project to increase awareness of Interact.

**2009** The Interact Video Awards are introduced. The grand prize winner is the Interact Club of Communities-in-Schools at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice with a video entitled *Giving Back Through Interact*. In a surprise, two videos each win first prize: *What Interact Means to Us* from the Interact Club of Shoumen in Bulgaria and *The World We Live In* from the Interact Club of Edmonton Centennial, Alberta. In 2020, the video prize becomes a component of the more broadly themed Interact Awards, which also honour photos and essays.



**2010** The minimum age for Interact participation changes from 14 to 12.



**2013** Four Interactors from the United States celebrate Interact's golden anniversary at the House of Friendship booth that tracks Interact's history at the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal.

**2022** For Interact's 60th anniversary - when it has more than 437,000 members in about 19,000 clubs - RI President Jennifer Jones looks to the past and the future. "For 60 years," she says, "Interactors have been changing the world. ... This year, I challenge you to Imagine Rotary. Imagine a Rotary where, in the next 60 years, youth voices and youth perspective lead the way."



Anniela Carracedo, a member of the Rotary Club of Bay St Louis, Mississippi, and an Interact alumna, exchanges high fives with RI President Jennifer Jones at the International Assembly in January 2023.

# FOUR WAYS to elevate youth voices

## 1 WORK TOWARD THEIR GOALS, NOT YOURS

This is a club by and for young people - allow them to be the ones to shape it. Remember, Rotary members are there to mentor young people, not manage them. Meet them where they are. Let them set the priorities and ask them how you can best support their goals.

## 2 INCLUDE YOUTH IN YOUR COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND TEAMS

Look for opportunities to include Interactors in leadership roles in your club and district. Invite Interactors to your district conferences and training events, where they learn alongside other leaders and can contribute to the broader conversation. At the international level, starting in July, Interactors will sit on a re-imagined Youth Advisory Council, giving them the chance to have a voice on Rotary's youth programmes.

## 3 LET THEM LEAD

It's by planning club meetings and service projects that Interactors gain lifelong skills in management, negotiation and relationship building. So, play the supporting role by volunteering at Interact events wherever they need help. Think about additional ways to help Interactors learn leadership skills, such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, district leadership events and local training opportunities.

## 4 WATCH OUT FOR 'ADULTISM'

Adults always know best... or do they? Instead of assuming you know all the answers, be ready to ask questions and listen. Think about the respect you'd give another adult's viewpoints and ideas and treat a teen the same way.





# SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

**Printed Subscription increased to R215** (posted to addresses in South Africa) and **R268.75** (posted to addresses outside South Africa)

**NO INCREASE FOR DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (R135)**

Rotary Africa magazine subscriptions are billed bi-annually in January and July of each year. **We do not have access to ClubRunner or My Rotary and rely on clubs for member updates.**

Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records. Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

## DEADLINE

**20 June** - Final day for updated subscriber list for **billing period July - December 2023**

At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

**Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.**

*New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.*







Young people in Africa should have a say in decisions that affect their health

# 7 ways to include them

By Daniella Watson, Postdoctoral Researcher and Health Psychologist, King's College London

Most of Africa's population - 70% - is under 30 years old. In 2017 there were 628 million young people under 25 on the continent. This figure is predicted to reach 945 million by 2050.

Young people bear the brunt of many challenges facing African countries. African adolescent girls and young women have the highest HIV infection rates. The continent has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in the world. Many young people in Africa live with conflict and violence and are displaced. Many lack food, education and jobs.

Yet young people are not heard in decisions that directly affect their lives and health. The United Nations Youth envoy stresses the importance of giving young people opportunities to be involved in decision-making. Leaders around the world pledge to work with young people, but they don't know how.

In our recent research we set out ways to work with

young people in healthcare. Our recommendations are based on an overview of 30 published studies of working with young people in a number of countries, including South Africa and Tanzania.

Our study provides seven ways that leaders and organisations in healthcare can ensure that young people's time and opinions are valued within their programmes. This includes long-term engagement and frequent contact as well as valuing young people's changing school, work and social lives.

## SEVEN WAYS TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Include young people from the beginning and throughout the decision-making process. Young people need to guide programmes on what is important to them. They should be invited at the beginning of any new programme to ensure that it is based on young people's agendas and priorities. This should also be monitored throughout the programme

and adapted to young people's evolving opinions and to world events.

2. Make a long-term commitment and make frequent contact with young people to build trust, respect and leadership. Youth-led committees and councils ensure that young people are leading the decision-making. Committing to at least a year shows the young people that their opinions are valued. Frequent contact builds young people's trust in the programme. Having in-person meetings also helps to build trust, especially in the early stages of the programme.
3. Use digital tools. Take advantage of social media to find young people to work with and keep them engaged between meetings. Ask young people what social media they are using, such as Instagram, BeReal and TikTok. Using creative digital tools such as games, avatars and videos as part of your programme can also keep young people interested. Digital tools also support young people with disabilities, who live in remote areas or are without transport to attend in-person meetings. Issues such as internet connection and unreliable electricity would need to be worked out together with the young people.
4. Build in training opportunities for young people to improve their leadership and advocacy skills. The teenage years are important for learning new skills and for young people to learn what they want to do with their lives. Young people see skills training opportunities as an incentive to take part. These can also help them apply for jobs or further education. Training helps young people to feel more confident to make decisions and work in the team.
5. Plan to manage power dynamics between adults and young people. This may include strategies on communication, neutral spaces for young people to discuss and work away

from adults, ways to report any issues, and who makes the final decisions.

6. Involve community leaders, parents, friends and siblings to build trust. Young people like to work with people similar in age to them. They may also want to discuss opinions with their parents. Inviting community leaders to meetings further shows that you value young people's opinions as they have the opportunity to tell the leaders what they want.
7. Value their time and respect their changing school, work and social lives. Try to understand what is going on in their lives. Often young people are writing exams or starting new schools or universities or want to spend more time with friends or new partners. For long-term commitment, programmes should give a suitable payment to show that you value their time and investment in the programme. We encourage you to provide young people with references for jobs and education.

## THE WAY FORWARD

Leaders and organisations across Africa need to seriously rethink how they work with young people. Is it a meaningful, respectful and productive use of young people's time or just a tick-box exercise?

At the end of January 2023 the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted the first ever Youth Council. Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, the WHO director-general, pledged:

We will listen to you [young people] carefully because I know you will bring fresh perspectives because this is your generation, your time. You understand things very differently to how we understand things and that's why we need to take your ideas very very seriously.

It is encouraging to see the WHO leading by example. We hope this will trickle down to leaders across Africa.

*Courtesy of The Conversation*



## HAVE YOU ANY LESSONS TO SHARE?

Share them with us! Submit stories and photos of at least 1MB in size. Email [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)



To ensure sustainability, the club has partnered with other schools in the area which help train the maintenance staff and educators at the upgraded schools. To assist the schools, the club appointed individual Rotarians to visit them and serve as a point of contact for the principals once physical construction is complete.

# MASSIVE SCHOOL UPGRADE

Appropriately for Rotary, March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene month and we had many reasons to celebrate our seven schools' global grant, writes President Belinda Tudge of the Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370).

Elizabeth Davis, the Regional Director for Rotary Foundation Grants, visited Grahamstown to see the progress of the club's latest project, creating change in seven schools in the area. During the visit, Davis shared that this project is currently the only global grant in South Africa with the maximum grant allocation of \$400 000; the only other one underway in southern Africa is being implemented in Zambia and is focusing on malaria eradication.

The journey began in January 2019 with the R100 000 upgrade of tanks, gutters and pumps at Nombulelo, followed by an R2 million upgrade of water and sanitation here at Ntsika in 2020 and then

an R500 000 installation of tanks and pumps at 10 schools in 2022.

"Now we have a \$400 000 (R6.5 million) project to upgrade the kitchens and toilets at seven schools," says President-Elect Gavin Keeton.

Quintus Hahndiek and Glenn Arthur led the project team that monitored each project to ensure the focus remained on what was needed. They also arranged the bulk purchasing of materials for all seven schools instead of each individually. This enabled the club to qualify for bulk discounts and fixed essential costs against future price escalation during the project's life.





Before and after.



The project's construction phase is almost 50% complete, with the expected completion date being about mid-year.

The club members took their guests on a project tour, including a gathering at Ntsika Senior Secondary School. Keeton gave an impassioned speech about the seven schools project journey, leaving many feeling rather emotional.

Principal Madeleine Schoeman lightened the mood when she asked the guests what feature of the renovated ablutions they thought would be the most popular among the learners. It turns out it was the bathroom mirrors, which was a last-minute addition at the suggestion of Allan Starke.

Ntsika's maintenance manager, Mr Ndubela, spoke in isiXhosa and encouraged all to take pride in and care of their new facilities. Club members were pleased that the school's ablution blocks and kitchen still look pristine, nearly three years after completing the upgrades. Two learners also spoke to the gathering and explained why it's so important for other township schools to have decent toilets. Ntsika is the jewel in the crown of the clubs' R2 million makeover of the school's sanitation development project that started in 2020.



Ray Oliver, Gavin Keeton, Elizabeth Davis, President Belinda Tudge, Sally Terry, Helen Holleman and Rotarian Luc Marechal during the tour of the Seven Schools' project.

# A NEW FOOD HIGH!

Rotarians in one of South Africa's fresh produce hubs are tackling food insecurity while reducing food waste.

The Limpopo province is a major agricultural producer in South Africa. As such, its capital city, Polokwane, is a hub for distributing local produce and fruit and vegetables from other areas. This central distribution feature in the agricultural supply chain has led to the development of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400) food distribution project.

Project coordinator John Dunlevey explains that produce distributed by the major suppliers must have a shelf-life of at least five days to ensure that high-quality merchandise reaches the customer.

Unfortunately, fresh produce that doesn't meet wholesale organisations' strict specifications is rejected. There is also occasionally some produce which, due to supply/demand financial constraints and criteria, is not accepted by the markets. This product is usually returned to the producer or marked for 'disposal'.

The Rotarians saw an opportunity and created a project to interrupt this waste cycle. Rotarians collect the rejected fruit and vegetables from suppliers and wholesalers to distribute to retirement homes, shelters and care groups. The project ensures that the rejected fresh produce is distributed within 24 hours.

This food distribution scheme, which started in 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown, reached a very significant high in mid-March when the produce distribution in 2023 reached just over 15 tons (more than a ton a week).

The project shows that a small group of coordinated and dedicated Rotarians can make a significant difference in the lives of many while at the same time assisting distribution organisations and farmers in solving fresh produce supply chain problems.







## DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

Your year-end gift to Rotary's Annual Fund supports projects that help create lasting change in your community and around the world.

**GIVE TODAY:** [rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate)





# Sew, knit, braai!

Stephan Ferreira's Charity Begins With Me is one of the NGOs the Rotary Club of Rosebank (D9400) members greatly admire. Ferreira feeds as many as 1,500 children every Saturday from informal settlements surrounding the Durban Deep Mines to the west of Johannesburg.

This is not a hand-out. In return for a plate of food, he expects the children to bring a bag of recyclables. He also runs a toy, books and stationary swap shop where the children can choose an item in exchange for what they brought that day.

Ferreira established a vegetable garden to help women earn an income by selling fresh vegetables. Additionally, the club donated a Jojo tank to harvest rainwater for the dry winter months. In 2019, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the community, the club presented him Ferreira a Paul Harris







Those who can't sew or knit, braai!



### Fellowship.

More recently, the club members saw a Facebook post where Ferreira asked people to help ensure the 1,500 vulnerable and needy youngsters had a warm clothing item this winter. The Rotarians acted swiftly, and soon a Sew-a-Thon was planned. The support for this initiative was overwhelming. Every member, including the Anns, supported it and those who could not attend donated towards the purchase of fabric, wool and sewing supplies.

“Sitting in the shade on Jean’s driveway, there was a hive of activity from every side; groups of knitters under the gazebo, cutters, sewers and braaiers all working together. We had such fun! It was so heart-warming to be part of the club, with nine Anns participating,” says Rotary Ann Liz Short.



Stephan Ferreira’s Charity Begins With Me gives children a meal in exchange for recycling they collect.



EarlyActors with coordinator Danielle Barnard (far left) and the food they collected.

## Help for Shelter

The EarlyAct Club of Outeniqua Primary School recently concluded its latest community service project supporting George Night Shelter (GNS). The club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of George (D9350), was impressed at the essential service GNS provides and wanted to assist it in a meaningful way.

Established in 1992 and completed in 1994, GNS provides shelter, food and ablution facilities to about 115 people each night. Donations, fundraising activities, and a subsidy from the Department of Social Development fund its operations. A social worker is part of the staff complement and assists those seeking shelter to take the path to rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The EarlyActors, assisted by their parents, collected food supplies and delivered them to the shelter in late March. After handing over the collection, the children toured the facilities and asked many questions.



EarlyActors eagerly wait to ask their questions.

## PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE

Clubs are to please submit their details for the annual Which Club Meets Today directory by NO LATER THAN 31 May. Please email submissions or questions to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)







After an exciting match filled with tumbles, straight running and bat clutching, the biggest shock was that the Knysna Rotarians had actually won! This fun annual cricket match between organisations is one of the social highlights of the club's calendar.

# Yes, they won!

The annual cricket match between the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) and Epilepsy South Cape Karoo, once again organised by Mike Smerdon, a Rotarian and chairperson of the Epilepsy Board, took place in perfect weather conditions on Sunday, 19 March. As has been the custom for the last 20-odd years, both teams' supporters turned out to watch the hotly-contested fixture.

The Epilepsy team, under the tutelage of their coach Glory Campbell, looked sleek and professional in their smart new green uniforms as they strode onto the pitch.

The Rotary team, well-bolstered this year by family and friends, did their best not to be intimidated as they went into bat. Happily, the North American members,

headed by President George Coon and President-Elect Herb Hunter, demonstrated that they'd made significant progress since last year's match. For example, they remembered (most of the time) not to throw down the bat before setting off between the wickets and... [insert incredulous pause] they also appeared to have mastered running straight rather than in a large circle!

The Knysna Sports Academy had prepared the pitch for a fast and furious game. There were several tumbles from the Rotarians; after picking himself for the umpteenth time, President George announced he would purchase spiked cricket shoes for next year's match.

Umpire and Rotarian Elwin Thompson remained





Team Epilepsy SA ready to face anything the Rotarians may throw at them!



The Knysna Rotarians and the trophy they won!



Knysna Rotarian demonstrating the Canadian Swoop, a little known cricketing swing. It is unconfirmed as to whether Epilepsy SA Coach Glory Campbell was setting the bales before or after the demonstration.





Epilepsy SA scoring a few runs on the pitch at Knysna Sports Academy.

patient, impartial and unmoved, despite the loud appeals after every ball. He showed great capacity to multitask as he simultaneously managed to coach less experienced players, calm frustrated bowlers and timeously warn the Rotary in-house photographer Carol Wilkinson when balls came perilously close to knocking her over.

Rotary captain Mike Mills adopted a tried and tested strategy when setting his field for the second half of the game. Those capable of catching a ball and throwing it with some degree of accuracy were brought in close, whilst less confident players co-opted to play took up positions on the boundary. Between bowling and directing his team, multi-talented Mike periodically dashed off the field to check on the progress of the post-match braai.

Knowledgeable scorers Rotarians Vicky Tricker and Louise Pannell are accustomed to the fluid rules of the fixture and meticulously recorded the game. So it was a great surprise to all that the Rotarian team, despite their unorthodox and inelegant style of play, managed to clock 143 runs to Epilepsy's 112.

Somewhat disconcerted at the rare occurrence of being presented with the trophy, the Rotary captain immediately passed it back to the Epilepsy team to act as motivation for next year's match. This match is played in good humour every year, with large doses of fun and friendship, so all who play win! Everyone then strolled off to enjoy the traditional braai together.

*Ed - In last month's magazine we incorrectly 'corrected' the spelling of Rotarian Filicity's name. Although we received an email regarding the spelling, it was after we had completed production and we sincerely regret any inconvenience caused.*



We all know what is on President George Coon's Christmas list... spiked cricket shoes!



President George Coon presents Captain Mike Mills with the match trophy.



COVID-19 restrictions, over the past few years, made it difficult for us to realise the full potential of our club's primary fundraiser, our Burns Night Supper. This year, we filled the Johannesburg Country Club's Rainbow Room, writes Ron Smith, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Knights Pendragon (D9400).

# A NOBLE VISITOR

Over 100 guests joined us for the evening. Donations and an auction of fine whiskies and exotic port-style wines raised R250 000 for the club's charities.

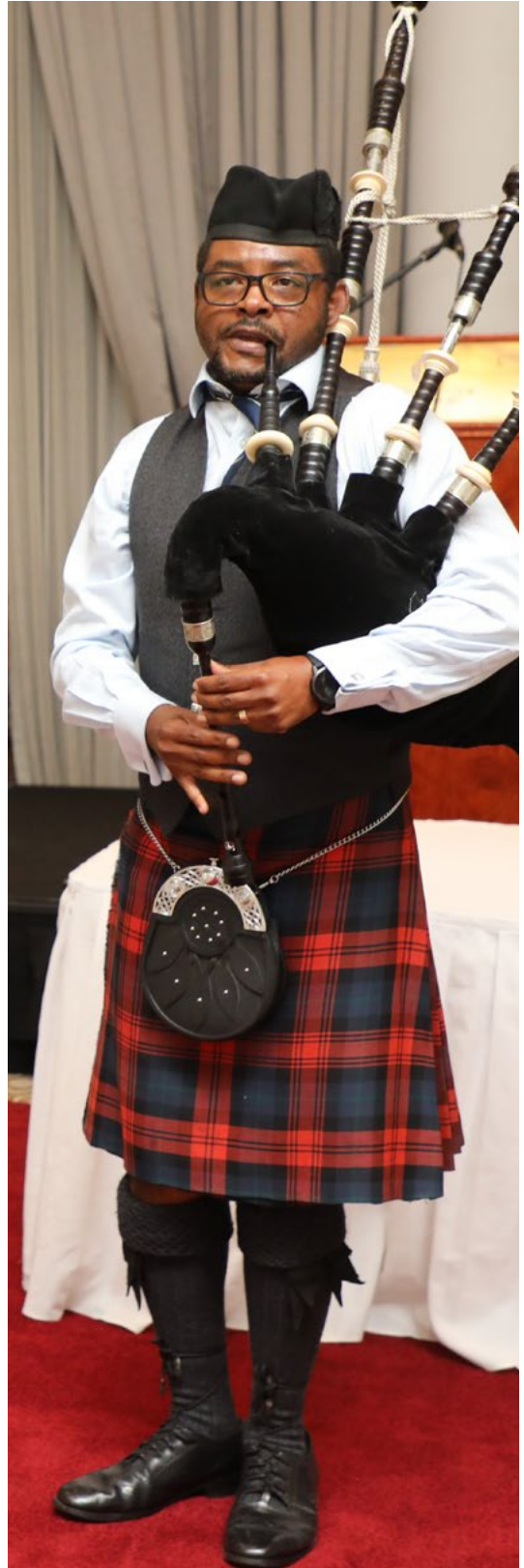
Key to the success of our project were two of our honorary members, Michael Murray, the Marquis of Tullibardene, next in line to the Duke of Atholl and his brother Lord David Murray. The Marquis of Tullibardene flew from the United Kingdom to attend our Burns Night Supper. For some time, he and his brother and their late grandfather, Nick Andrew, have supported the Bethany Home for abused women and their children in Bertrams, Johannesburg. Recently, they have set up a bursary scheme for children at the home to give them a chance in life.

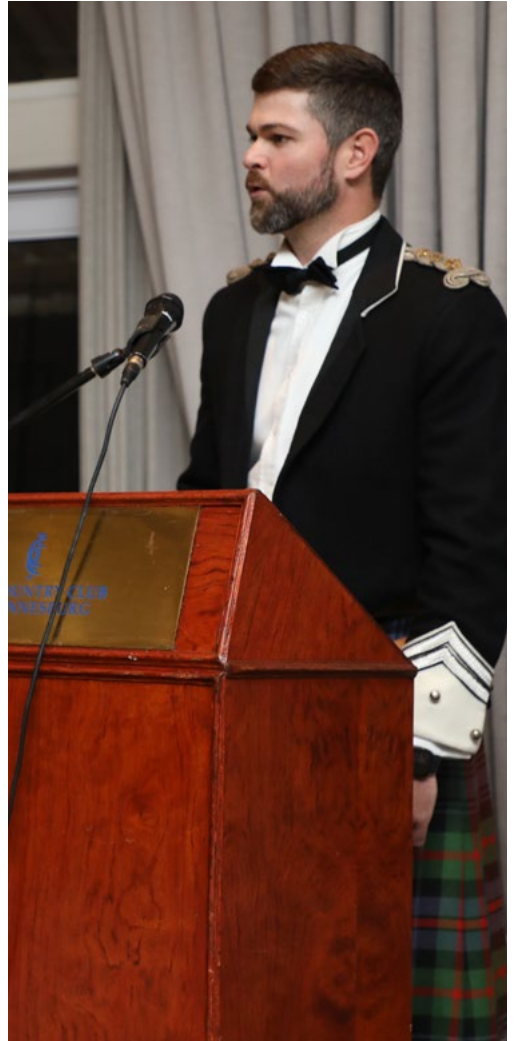
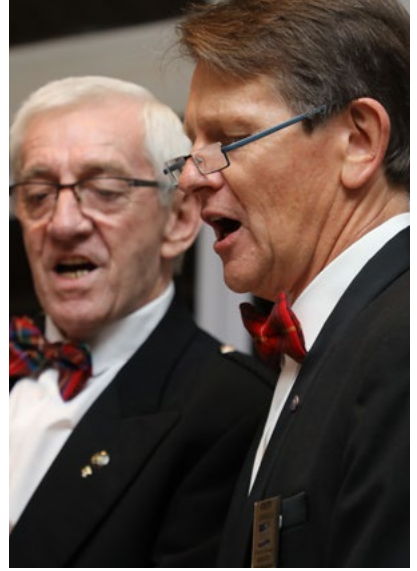
The Marquis is a Commissioned Officer with the Athol Highlanders of Blair Athol Castle and has led them on many ceremonial occasions. More recently, he led the Athol Highlanders at the start of the celebrations for the late Queen Elizabeth's jubilee.

The three-course meal at the country club was excellent. The first course offered haggis, that delicious Scottish delicacy with neaps and tatties (parsnips and potatoes). Haggis tastes so much better when you have bagpipes in the background and a good glass of Scotland's finest whisky in your hand.

Our Piper Clement Zvikonyo, originally from Zimbabwe, has graced us with his piping for many years and is part of our clan. We also welcomed Robert and Douglas McNeillage, who recited the Bard's Poetry and "Tam O Shanter".

For those interested in clans and clan names,





From top: Bridget Edwards of Bethany Home with the Marquis. Master of Ceremonies Robert McNeilage with President Andrew Connold singing Auld Lang Syne. President-Elect Ron Smith with his wife, Bev. The Marquis of Tullibardene addressing the Burns Night guests.

our clan is the “Much More Munch Clan,” created by our Mothership, the Rotary Club of Knights Pendragon.

Finally, as Rotarians, we achieved our objective to have a great time, enjoy ourselves with our visitors, and raise a handsome amount of money towards our projects. As the evening finished, many people confirmed they would return next year!



## AFRICA IN BRIEF



Rotarian Owen Govender sporting a new look.



Event coordinator Irmela Pakendorf



Three children who choose to Spray!

Since 2012, the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) has supported the annual CANSA Shavathon. Rotarian Irmela Pakendorf, assisted by a team of Rotarians and local stylists who volunteered their services, coordinated this year's event. It was held at two venues, a mall on Saturday, 25 February and a coffee shop near the Knysna Waterfront on Monday, 27 February. The event is split between two venues as each draws a different audience and this strategy ensures both residents and tourists are engaged. This year, the club raised R27,300, the most it ever has at a Shavathon, for the Cancer Association of South Africa.



President-Elect Herb Hunter





The Rotary Club of Polokwane's (D9400) first Safari fundraiser of 2023 took place in April. Guests from San Fransisco (USA) were introduced to the safari experience in the Kruger National Park and visited Siloe School - a project the club has supported since the 1960s.



Members of the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) were joined by Interactors at the site they managed during Rotary Family Health Days.

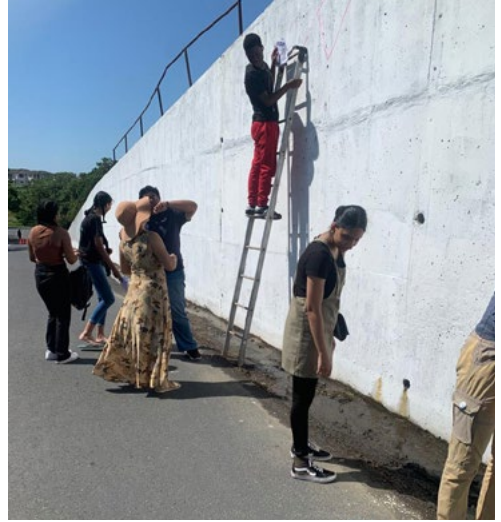




## Swimming, sunshine, pancakes and fun!

The 20th annual Ebenezer Mile Swim, hosted by the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400), went very well, with 238 swimmers taking to the water with a large happy crowd of spectators and supporters cheering them on. The day was filled with sun, good old-fashioned pancakes from a local church, loads of food and snack stalls and, of course, a much-needed beer tent.





It started as a project to create awareness, build healthy friendships among the Interactors, and encourage upkeep and beautification of our town. The Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370) chose a ‘forgotten’ wall on a busy road and asked four high schools if their ‘arty’ learners could get involved. To prepare for the mural project, the wall was pressure-cleaned before the carefully chosen murals and messages were sketched and painted by the learners. The club challenged other service clubs in the area to Adopt-a-Wall, or a bridge, too!

## WALL OF HONOUR



Richard Pool is a new member of the Rotary Club of Grahamstown (D9370).

# Rotary

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