

SEPTEMBER 2023

Rotary

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Rotary





SHARING HOPE IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

When the Rotary family comes together for the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore, we'll share ideas, friendship, inspiration, and hope — with each other and the world!

Register by 15 December 2023 before prices increase.



Register today at
convention.rotary.org



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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

NEW SHOES AND THE PECULIAR AGONY OF PROGRESS

Ah, change. It's like that brand-new pair of shoes you've had your eye on for months. Shiny, sleek, promising the world and perhaps even making you look a tad taller (an extra inch can't hurt, right?). But as anyone who has dared to strut in new shoes knows, there's a thin line between looking fab and feeling like you've got two vices strapped to your feet.

We live in a world that is driven by change. More progress (and change) has been made in the last four decades than what was made in the 100 years before that. And yet, we, being creatures of comfort and routine, still loathe change.

Let's be honest; change, much like a pair of spanking new stilettos, is uncomfortable. But why? I mean, surely it should be easy? You asked for a size eight, you got a size eight! And yet... it pinches, it rubs, and don't even get me started on the blisters.

Similarly, with life changes, we sometimes ask for them and sometimes they're thrust upon us, whether we like it or not. A new job, moving house, or dare I mention the hair-raising horror of a new software update (remember when they moved the trash bin icon? The audacity!). It's all fun and games until it feels like you're walking on LEGO pieces.

Both change and shoes, though, share a secret superpower. They mould to you over time. The blisters? They're like life's way of saying, "Hang in there, kiddo, it gets better." They're battle scars that declare, "I braved the shoe (or the change), and I survived!" And, much like after a rigorous dance in those new shoes, there's a feeling of accomplishment. A silent nod from the universe saying, "Well done, you old sport!"

Some shoe enthusiasts (or masochists, depending on how you view them) even suggest walking around with wet socks in new shoes to make them fit faster. But as for the life changes? Maybe dive headfirst, immerse yourself, go all in. Embrace the awkward wobbles, the occasional trips, and the unfamiliarity. Just as you'd flaunt a Band-Aid after a shoe-inflicted injury, wear your experiences with pride.

Remember, your favourite, most comfortable shoes were once new. They were rigid, maybe a bit cold, and didn't quite feel right. But now? They're almost an extension of you. They fit just right. Change, much like that, will also find its rhythm. It will blend into the melody of your life, and soon you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

So next time you're in the throes of life's changes (or trying on a new pair of shoes), think of the future. A time where you'll laugh about the discomfort, show off the battle scars, and bask in the snug fit of a well-adjusted life.

And if all else fails, remember: there's always the option of buying a pair of comfortable slippers (also known as staying in and binge-watching your favourite show). But where's the fun in that?

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think,
say or do:

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

Rotary 

ROTARY IN AFRICA

REG.NO. 1971/004840/07

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 09H00

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Rotary in Africa will be held at 728 Main Road Northdene, Durban, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa on Friday 15 September 2023 commencing at 09h00. A zoom meeting link will be made available to those members who wish to join the meeting online. Kindly send your zoom link request to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

AGENDA

1. Call to order and announcements
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 16 September 2022.
3. Chairman's report
4. Editor's report
5. Treasurer's report and submission of annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Election of directors to serve on the Board for a period of 2 years. In terms of the Company's Articles of Association, the following directors are due to retire from the Board:
 - i. Greg Cryer
 - ii. Peter Hugo
 - iii. Annemarie Mostert
 - iv. Joe Otin

Being eligible, the abovenamed individuals make themselves available for re-election together with any other nominations that may be submitted to the Secretary on or before Friday 08 September 2023. Nominations must be emailed directly to Rotary in Africa at rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.

8. To conduct or transact any other business pertinent to an Annual General Meeting.

**All current, immediate incoming and past Governors of Rotary District 9200, 9210, 9211, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9220, 9250, 9270, 9350, 9370 and 9400 are ex officio members of Rotary in Africa. A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on their behalf, provided that such appointment is advised to the Secretary at the offices of the Company at least 48 hours before the meeting.*

Natty Moodley

Secretary

21/07/2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PEACE IN PRACTICE

The International Day of Peace takes place on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

It is not enough, as People of Action, to simply avoid making war. If we are to Create Hope in the World, we must aggressively wage peace.

Where can we begin? There are countless armed conflicts around the world and the global population of displaced people is higher than ever. The opportunities are nearly limitless, but the cycles of violence and hardship seem endless.

My advice is to start small but think big. I look to Rotary members in Pakistan and India for inspiration.

In March 2020, about 50 Rotary members from Pakistan met about 50 Rotary members from India at Kartarpur Sabib, a shrine in Pakistan. The sanctuary honours Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, a religion practised in both countries. Tensions between the two countries barred many religious pilgrims from India from visiting the shrine. That is, until Pakistan opened a visa-free pathway to them in 2019.

Earlier this year, Rotary members from opposite sides of the border again met at the shrine, this time with about twice as many participants.

Any work toward building peace needs to be brave and bold. What these Rotary members have done is just that. The Pakistani government took an important step toward peace when it admitted

Indian pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sabib shrine, but Pakistani Rotary members took the next step when they welcomed Rotary members from India as friends and family. That is Positive Peace at work.

These peacebuilders did not stop there. Club representatives at this year's meeting signed twin club certificates to recognise their long-term commitment to continue to learn from one another and to work together on more peacebuilding efforts and they have held joint meetings via video chat.

The importance of communicating with and learning from another culture cannot be overstated and Rotary is making it even easier to reach out and make these connections. One way of engaging in cross-cultural dialogue and building relationships across borders is through virtual international exchanges that build on our current programmes and make them more accessible.

A virtual exchange uses online platforms to connect people from different parts of the world so they can share their traditions, priorities, values and more. Virtual exchanges can serve as a window to another part of the world through activities such as teaching a digital cooking class, learning a new language, or even designing service projects with a global impact.

These online chats have the potential to inspire new connections and more respect between societies. Taking that knowledge and using it to better the lives of our fellow human beings is the next step.

Let's see where it takes us.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



Create your Rotary moment

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair

When was your Rotary moment? It's when you realise that being part of Rotary means more than just showing up for a meeting, when you discover you are part of something that changes the lives of others as it changes yours.

I will never forget the moment when I learned about Daniel, a Haitian child. Rotary Foundation Trustee Greg Podd, who at the time was serving with me on an RI committee, had been trying to get Daniel on a plane for urgent heart surgery through the Gift of Life programme. But Daniel couldn't get the visa to travel and doctors had given him only months to live.

When Greg told me this, I remembered that Gift of Life was operating in Haiti and we could do the surgery there. This was on a Wednesday. Greg helped get a hold of Daniel's medical records. The Gift of Life surgeon I knew - who visited only once or twice every month - happened to be in Haiti. By Thursday, the surgeon had looked over the medical charts and told us that he could repair Daniel's heart but said he was travelling soon. We had to get Daniel to a medical facility by Friday morning. Daniel and his parents rode 90 minutes on a scooter through the bumpy roads of rural Haiti to get to the facility and the surgeon successfully performed the procedure. Thankful, Greg and I moved on to other projects.

A few months later, I got an email with a picture of Daniel. I will never forget his smiling face, despite the foot-long scar running down his chest and what he wrote: "I know you helped me. You saved my life. Thank you."

On behalf of Daniel and countless others, I am passing along that gratitude to all Rotary members who have helped or will help this year.

The beauty of Rotary, especially with The Rotary Foundation, is that we can create these Rotary moments anytime. Just reach out to others in Rotary and discuss our work. Our caring network, our dedicated volunteers and available resources will take care of the rest.

If two people can make such a difference, imagine what we can accomplish by working together in larger groups through The Rotary Foundation. Picture the impact of clubs within a district joining forces for a Foundation district grant to boost literacy, or two districts from different parts of the world transforming a community through a water, sanitation and hygiene global grant.

If you haven't discovered your Rotary moment yet, keep searching. Serving Rotary through our Foundation is a great place to find it and it will change your life.

Coming up...

28 & 29 OCTOBER 2023

ROTARY CLUB OF CLAREMONT (D9350) Papa Paul's Halloween Party. Enjoy one of two sessions held each day, either from 11am-1pm or 3-5pm. Lots of fun and games for the whole family. Food and beverages on sale. Dress up in your Halloween best (prizes for best dressed kids and adults). Please bring donation of non-perishable food stuff. Tickets cost R150 each. Children under 2 FREE. The event is intended for children aged 12 and under. **Tickets are limited. Get them at www.quicket.co.za from 1 September 2023!**



What's in a name?

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

7.6% of the Anglo-Saxon world have the surname of either Smith or Johnson. That is over half a BILLION people!

The name Smith goes back to the word smite, which means to strike with a hammer. In medieval Europe, professional smiths (such as blacksmiths and goldsmiths) were among the most skilled and respected citizens. Occupational names like Tim, the Smith were shortened. Today Smith is the most common surname in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia.

The surname Johnson owes its popularity to the New Testament. The given name John is one of the most popular in the Christian world, as the Bible is full of Johns. The spread of Christianity helped make it one of the most popular first names in the western world. When patronymic surnames became popular in the Middle Ages, Johnson became a frontrunner. It's now the second most common surname in the English-speaking world. By the way, Wang is the most common name in the world with 107 million Wangs on the planet! It's represented by the Chinese character for King or Monarch.

Names are important. When a child is born, parents choose a name that means something to their family. Many boys carry the first name of their father - becoming Junior for the rest of their lives. When my children were named, we considered the meaning of the possible name, as well as if it was easy to spell and easy to pronounce.

On the other hand, I know several people with unusual names. I have a friend in Zambia named Fewdays. He was born prematurely and his parents were told that he would not survive more than a few

days. He surprised his parents and the doctor, but to this day he is still called Fewdays. He retired as a teacher several years ago at the age of 55.

On 23 February 1905, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary club meeting. They decided to call the new club Rotary after the practice of rotating meeting locations. Today most Rotary clubs have a set meeting place or link for virtual meetings.

So, why keep the name Rotary when we no longer rotate meeting places? The name remains because it is part of our heritage. The name and the wheel have been symbols of Rotary since our earliest days. The first wheel design was made by Chicago Rotarian Montague Bear, an engraver who drew a simple wagon wheel, with a few lines to show dust and motion. The wheel was said to illustrate civilisation and movement. That wheel has changed over the years, but the spirit and purpose of Rotary remains the same – Fellowship! Being a Rotarian means having the opportunity to experience the warm fellowship of a Rotary club which can greatly expand one's circle of acquaintances, foster lifelong friendships and help one do for his or her community what he or she might never accomplish alone.

Our motto, Service Above Self, is the principle of Rotary because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. The statement then lists four areas by which this ideal of service is fostered: through the development of acquaintance as the opportunity for service; the promotion of high ethical standards in business and professions; through service in

one's personal, business and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

We all know this... or we should.

THIS is why we call ourselves Rotarians

THIS is why the name is so important to us.

THIS is why the wheel we wear on our lapels, T-shirts, golf shirts, hats and bumper stickers on our vehicles (or wherever else we may find them) is so important.

It identifies us as people who will provide the opportunity to talk about Rotary while letting people know we are part of one of the best organisations in the world. That pin on your lapel changes you. It makes you think more before you speak, think before you act and remember, all the time, that you are a Rotarian – and that as Rotarians, we are here to “Bring Hope into the World!”

So, to answer the question, what's in a name? You are!



RI CONVENTION'S DAZZLING VENUE

The triple-skyscraper complex that will host part of the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore is sure to rank as one of the coolest sites yet for the global gathering.

To start, there's how it looks. Marina Bay Sands has a roof deck resembling a long boat that connects the trio of 57-story hotel towers and includes an infinity pool. Attending the House of Friendship and breakout sessions in the convention centre below puts you in the heart of a dining, luxury shopping and entertainment megaplex.

Exploring the top attractions is a vacation in itself - one that you can fit conveniently around your

convention schedule. Buy a ticket to SkyPark on the roof deck to look over the skyline and the bay. The Shoppes mall features big-name brands, even including kids clothing stores from Dior, Versace and more.

Book a meal to remember at one of several restaurants owned by celebrity chefs. Two are recognised with Michelin stars: Cut steakhouse by Wolfgang Puck (one star) and Tetsuya Wakuda's Waku Ghin (two stars), Japanese fine dining with French and Italian touches.

Take a boat ride on an indoor canal fed with rainwater collected in a giant, transparent bowl outside. A waterfall flows through a hole in the bowl into a pool inside.

A light and water fountain show called Spectra is free each night. And there's still a stacked schedule of live shows, an art and science museum, a nightclub with a three-story spiral slide ... discover the rest on 25-29 May when you arrive to start Sharing Hope With the World.

A family of four is seen from behind, standing on a grassy field and flying kites. The father, mother, and two children are holding colorful kites. In the background, the Singapore skyline is visible, with the Marina Bay Sands hotel prominently featured. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the scene. Three kites are visible in the sky: a white one with colorful dots, a yellow one with a cartoon character, and a rainbow-colored one.

Shape-shifting **SINGAPORE**

Rotary Magazine editor Wen Huang visits the home of the 2024 Rotary International Convention for a third time and finds that the flourishing Asian city-state has reinvented itself - again

REDISCOVER SINGAPORE

In June 1999, a year after I joined the staff of Rotary International, I attended my first convention. It was then that I first witnessed the global power of Rotary and made my first batch of Rotary friends. And it was then that I was introduced to Singapore for a second time.

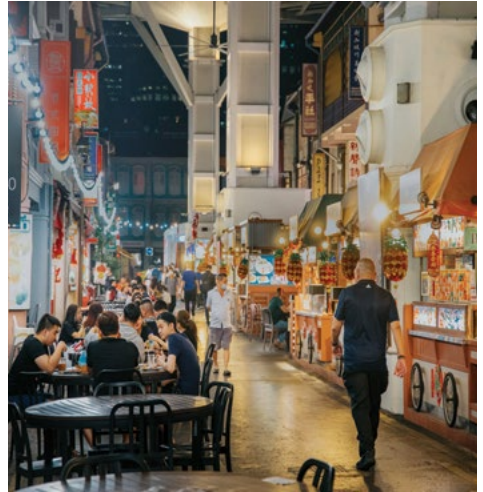
My first trip to Singapore occurred five years earlier when, as a journalist, I covered the third Europe-East Asia Economic Summit. At that time, western financial media were referring to Singapore as the 20th century's most successful development story, which meant that the summit lured scores of policy makers, economists and business people from across Europe and Asia.

Once a British Crown colony which subsequently merged with Malaysia, Singapore broke away and was founded as an independent sovereign nation in 1965. Despite predictions that a string of small islands lacked the natural resources to survive, Lee Kwan Yew, who was referred to as the founding father of modern Singapore, turned the tattered outpost of the faded empire into a thriving manufacturing and financial centre. The archipelago of 63 islands that was once plagued by malaria and rife with ethnic conflicts among its Chinese, Malay and Indian populations now stands as a gleaming-city state, known throughout the world as one of the four Asian Tigers, along with Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, for their robust economic transformation.

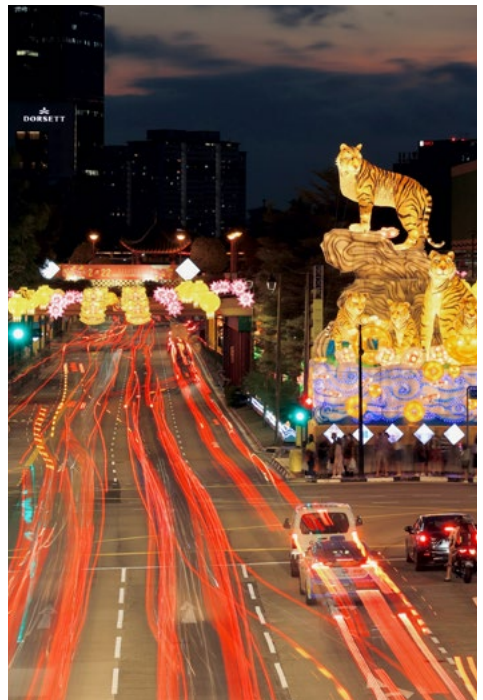
Having grown up in China, where decades of draconian communist rule had impoverished the country, I, along with millions of other Chinese, became enamoured of the Singapore model of economic success. My first impression of Singapore in 1994, which will forever be associated with the brightly illuminated skyscrapers that dotted the banks of the Singapore River, confirmed my belief that this was a place of modernity and prosperity.

My return in 1999 for the Rotary Convention only reinforced that impression. Singapore, like many of its neighbours, was still reeling from the Asian financial crisis of the previous two years. So, the arrival of nearly 18,000 business and professional leaders from around the world helped reinvigorate the tourism industry while also signalling the resurging presence of Singapore and eastern Asia.

For me, that feeling of prosperous modernity still prevailed, but in other ways, I had arrived at an entirely



Above and below: Chinatown comes alive at night.





Singapore's national icon is the Merlion, a mythical creature with the body of a fish and the head of a lion. While the fish embodies Singapore's beginnings as a small fishing village, the lion alludes to the country's former name, Singapura, which derives from Sanskrit and means Lion City. The name was bestowed by the visiting prince who founded the island settlement, which was destined to become, alongside Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan, one of the economically robust Four Asian Tigers of recent decades.



Or so legend has it, though at least one detail of the story seems emblematic of Singapore: A gateway to Asia, the place is permanently populated by a variety of visitors. With a total land area of 284 square miles - smaller than New York City - Singapore is home to 5.6 million people, with a population density 200 times that of the United States.

Today, Singapore's demographics predominantly comprise the Chinese, Malay and Indian communities as well as smaller groups such as Eurasians and Peranakans (people of mixed Chinese and Malay/Indonesian heritage).

Furthermore, it is considered the most religiously diverse country in the world. Its residents practise Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Taoism and they celebrate the Chinese (Lunar) New Year, Hari Raya Aidilfitri (which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan), Vesak (Buddha's birthday), Deepavali (as the Festival of Lights is called by the Tamil of southern India) and Christmas.

Singapore's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious identity really took hold in the 19th century, when Great Britain established a strategically placed trading post in Singapore, which eventually became a crown colony. The settlement soon attracted traders and labourers from China, the Malay Archipelago, India and Europe. Segregation in colonial times bred mistrust among various ethnic groups and the island was rife with deadly conflicts.

In 1965 when Singapore gained its independence, the government saw racial harmony as being vital to its survival and embraced it as a national ideal. That sentiment is captured in the oft-quoted statement made by Lee Kuan Yew, the first prime minister of Singapore: "This is not a Malay nation, not a Chinese nation, not an Indian nation. Everybody will have a place in Singapore."

different destination. As I explored multicultural Singapore, my senses - especially my taste buds - exploded with new impressions. I shopped for spices in Little India, visited the majestic Sultan Mosque in Kampong Gelam, savoured the famed Hainanese chicken rice in Chinatown. The experience was like a slice of mille crêpe cake, a locally popular dessert whose multiple layers of treats and colours blend toward something inscrutably delicious. Finally, I thought, I knew Singapore.

That is until recently, when I watched the 2018 movie *Crazy Rich Asians*. Partially filmed in Singapore, the romantic comedy displayed breathtaking shots of the country's architectural landmarks, lush gardens and mouth-watering food. Much to my surprise, many of those scenes were almost unrecognisable to me. I realised that my perceptions of Singapore were frayed and outdated.

But that is just another aspect of the place, no matter how recently or how often you've travelled there. "One of the secrets of Singapore's success

is our ability to keep reinventing what we need to survive and grow," says Joanne Kam, a vice chair of the 2024 Host Organisation Committee who served as the 2022-23 governor of District 3310 (Brunei, parts of Malaysia and Singapore). "Each year and each decade bring new changes. So, the Singapore you see in May 2024 will be very different from what you and others remember."

That message was reiterated at this year's convention in Melbourne when I saw a promotional video at the Singapore booth. "You think you know Singapore?" intoned a deep voice. "Think again."

It was as if the voice were summoning me back - and this July I complied, re-visiting Singapore in anticipation of the 2024 convention. Next May, thousands of Rotary members will follow in my footsteps, some of whom will be visiting Singapore for the first time. Until then, sit back and imagine that same deep voice enticing you to make that trip as I describe just a few of the delights of this vibrant and dazzlingly modern nation.



Top: RI Director Ghim Bok Chew (second from left) lunches with Rotary friends at his favourite Hainanese chicken rice joint.

Bottom: Peng Sum Choe (centre) showcases his hotel's myriad green features to fellow Rotarians.

The “supertrees” at Gardens by the Bay combine nature, art and technology.





Singapore hotels like Pan Pacific Orchard tap into biophilic design, blending vegetation and wildlife with man-made structures and adopting innovative sustainability practices.

A CITY IN A GARDEN

Even in July, the sun rises late here - after 7 am. I'm newly arrived in Singapore, cruising in a taxi along Orchard Road, an upscale shopping strip. That's when I see it: a 23-story tropical forest sprouting from an ascending stack of open terraces, each one supported by mammoth concrete columns that are themselves festooned in lush green creepers. It's as if sentinels of the equatorial jungle have overcome gravity. I squint my eyes and, from this distance, it's as if I'm looking at a giant block of Chinese script wreathed by nature.

This is the Pan Pacific Orchard Hotel that was recommended to me by the Host Organisation Committee. As a smiling front desk agent processes my documents in an open-air lobby, I ask a bellhop to show me the second-floor terrace, which is essentially a mini-tropical forest populated by exotic trees that I couldn't begin to name. Sitting on a stone step, I close my eyes. The sound of a cascading waterfall soothes my tired mind.

A man's voice startles me awake. "If you go up to the fifth-floor terrace, you will find tropical palm trees encircling a languid lagoon," says the receptionist. "You could relax on a lounge chair beneath a woven canopy of palm fronds."

My reverie on the hotel's Forest Terrace was an appropriate introduction to Singapore, which is rightly known as the Garden City - though Singaporeans prefer to call their metropolis "a city in a garden" as they strive to be the world's greenest urban centre. More than 40 percent of the country is covered in greenery, be it in the form of nature reserves, parks, gardens - or a rain forest clinging to a skyscraper. The city-state has mandated that all new commercial and residential developments use landscaping such as green roofs, leaf-lined walls or luxuriant gardens to help curtail the heat island effect found in almost all major cities.

Over breakfast the next day, Peng Sum Choe, a past president of the Rotary Club of Pandan Valley and CEO of Pan Pacific Hotels Group, introduces me to the concept of "biophilia," a term defined by the late naturalist EO Wilson as humankind's irresistible urge to affiliate with other forms of life. The concept of biophilic design, Choe says, permeates Singapore, where nature - greenery - has been artfully integrated into the cityscape.

The pioneering concept of a garden city was the vision of Singapore's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, who became known as the "Chief Gardener." In 1971, his government inaugurated an annual Tree



The Hindu Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple is among varied worship sites in Little India.

Planting Day on the first Sunday in November and Choe says that tree planting and other environmental projects have been a priority for Singaporean Rotary members over the past two decades.

And the city is slated to become even greener: The Singapore Green Plan 2030 calls for more than 320 acres of new parks and doubling the annual tree planting rate.

“Each time I return from an overseas trip, I’m grateful to the lush greenery in Singapore,” says Choe. “It puts me at ease, bringing me close to nature.”

If you want to see this abundant verdancy concentrated in one colourful and futuristic spot, visit the 250-acre Gardens by the Bay, home to a series of natural attractions. Flower Dome, declared the largest glass greenhouse by Guinness World Records, gathers orchids, magnolias and a multitude of other plants from around the world. Cloud Forest is a tranquil dreamland of unusual flora and breathtaking panoramas while, towering overhead, the forested slopes of Cloud Mountain soar to a height of 115 feet. Is it any wonder that Choe calls Singapore a “beacon” for sustainable tourism?

WHERE CULTURES MEET

In May, when Rotary leaders gathered at the

convention in Melbourne to appear in a Welcome to Singapore video, Ghim Bok Chew presented them with silk scarves adorned with a radiant, multi-hued orchid called the Vanda Miss Joaquim. Chew, an RI director and the chair of the Host Organisation Committee for the 2024 convention, later explained to me that the orchid is named after a woman of Armenian descent who first cultivated the hybrid flower in Singapore more than a century ago. “This orchid is Singapore’s national flower and a symbol of our history and national identity,” he said and this particular orchid is an apt symbol of the island country’s multicultural heritage.

I get a glimpse of that heritage on my first day in Singapore when Chew leads me to Chinatown, a sprawling enclave tucked alongside the city’s glittering skyscrapers. Here we see a five-storey pavilion-style temple - where a holy relic, one of Buddha’s teeth, is on display - a Chinese heritage centre and dozens of Chinese restaurants, including Hawker Chan, a funky diner famous for its soy-sauce chicken rice dish that was once known as the least expensive Michelin-starred meal. Shops along the narrow streets display a colourful array of teas, silk dresses and robes, gold and jade jewellery, medicinal herbs and porcupine-shaped durians, a sweet-tasting tropical fruit with a notoriously pungent smell.

Over dim sum at the bustling, Rotarian-owned Yum Cha restaurant, Chew tells me how his grandparents joined thousands of other villagers from China's southern province of Fujian and journeyed to Singapore in search of better economic opportunities. His parents broke with tradition and sent him to study in English; after graduating from the University of Liverpool, he returned home and, with a degree in computer science, launched a career in information technology and finance.

After our meal, as we make our way through the Saturday throng, Chew points out an imposing green structure, the Jamae (Chulia) Mosque. "There is a Hindu temple down the road," he says. "Different religions coexist peacefully here."

And then Chew sends me off to Kampong Gelam, a Malay district, where I meet his friend Tengku Indra, a business consultant who has his own family history to share. He is a direct descendant of Hussein Shah, recognised by the British in the early 19th century as the sultan of Singapore. The family eventually lost the title, but its royal heritage lives on in Tengku Indra's name: *tengku* means "prince" in Malay.

Dressed in a traditional *baju melayu* outfit, Tengku Indra, the charter president of the Rotary Club of Kampong Gelam, shows me around one of Singapore's oldest urban quarters. As we walk and talk, Tengku Indra gestures toward the golden dome of the Sultan Mosque, which his ancestor had built for his subjects. Streets and bustling byways lined with halal restaurants and speciality stores surround the mosque. Here visitors can find handcrafted jewellery, perfumes and accessories for the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. And, as Tengku Indra emphasises, the neighbourhood is also home to Indian and Chinese people, who have set up businesses there.

My next stop is Little India, where Joanne Kam, my Rotary guide and adviser, and I are joined by two other Rotary members, Rajamohan Munisamy and Anil Changarothe, both of Indian descent. Changarothe treats us to a sumptuous meal at Madras New Woodlands, a south Indian restaurant in the centre of Little India, where you will find the Corinthian pillars of the Abdul Gafoor Mosque, a 50-foot tall statue of Buddha in the Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple (known as the Temple of a Thousand Lights) and the Moghul Sweets shop, which sells colourful sweet treats and confections.

Over *paratha*, an Indian flatbread and *dosa*, a thin pancake, Changarothe, a lawyer and president of the Rotary Club of Peace Builders Singapore, chats with



Joanne Kam and Tengku Indra walk in Kampong Gelam.

us in his flawless Mandarin and English. (He also speaks Malay and Tamil.) I sit next to Munisamy, a member of the Pandan Valley club, who is a hydrographer and a practising Hindu married to a Catholic woman of Filipina descent. Their three daughters follow their mother's religion.

"Diversity is very important to us," says Munisamy. "As a small island country, Singapore does not have many natural resources. But we're rich in human resources. We want people of all races, both established immigrants and new arrivals, to live and work together peacefully. That's our valuable asset."

When I characterise Singapore's multicultural model as a melting pot, Kam corrects me. "A melting pot is a society where people blend together to form one basic cultural norm based on the dominant culture," she says. In Singapore, each ethnicity is encouraged to preserve its unique culture and traditions and appreciate that of others.

And, as Chew told me earlier, "Rotary in Singapore embodies our multicultural society," adding that the members of his Rotary Club of Bugis Junction represent 11 nationalities. It's his hope that the 2024 convention will enable Singapore - and Rotary - to showcase their unique approach to ethnic and cultural harmony.

DRIVING PROGRESS

Annemarie's New Role as Zone 22 Strategic Planning Coordinator



Last month, the Rotary scene got a bit more exciting! Rotary International Zone 22 Director, Patrick Chisanga, named Annemarie Mostert, a Past District Governor from D9400, as the Zone 22 Strategic Planning Coordinator. With her impressive track record of turning ideas into action both in her professional world and within Rotary, Annemarie's stepping up to the plate seems like a natural fit.

RID Patrick also brought on board a dynamic assistant coordinator team comprising PDG Dorothé Gounon (Region 26), PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa (Region 27) and PDG Patrick Obath (Region 28). Also appointed to the team is Rotarian Aloysie Benite who steps in as the team's administrator.

This powerhouse team isn't just about titles and formalities. Their collective leadership and knack for innovation scream potential. They're on a mission not just to maintain, but to boost Rotary's reputation in Africa. And let's spill the beans: word is that this team is aiming for Rotary to expand to a second Zone in just three years. Ambitious? Absolutely. Doable? With this team, no doubt.

While working closely with Director Patrick Chisanga and Trustee Geeta Manek, this team is counting on every governor and member to pitch in. The goal? To keep the Rotary magic alive, transforming communities and brightening lives across the continent.

Meet the Strategic Planning team!



PDG Dorothé Gounon (Region 26), PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa (Region 27), PDG Patrick Obath (Region 28) and Rotarian Aloysie Benite (administrator).

PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE:

ERADICATING POLIO A primary objective of Africa's Zone 22 strategic action plan is to magnify its impact and emphasise Rotary's pivotal role in polio eradication. The coordinators are committed to bolstering awareness and resources, partnering with local health agencies and targeting African areas still grappling with polio. They are set to launch vaccination drives, educate the community and conduct surveillance. Annemarie stated, "Over the next three years, they aim to generate \$4.5 million for PolioPlus giving." Goals are pinpointed at \$5.5 million by 2025 for the Annual Fund and \$1.5 million for the Endowment Fund. "They will cultivate a giving spirit among African Rotary and Rotaract members, underscoring, via their campaigns and events, the significant impact of The Rotary Foundation both in Africa and globally," she added.

EXPANDING REACH AND PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY

The team is dedicated to broadening Rotary's footprint in Africa and championing inclusiveness by forming alliances with African governmental bodies, NGOs, businesses, media houses, educational establishments and entities like the Institute of Directors (IoD) and the African Corporate Governance Network (ACGN). Their mission is to fortify Rotary's African presence and initiate synergistic initiatives with enduring effects. Establishing new clubs and interaction avenues will enable Rotary to make inroads in regions ripe for its constructive influence. Their concerted effort to invite a varied membership - encompassing professionals, women, community stalwarts and the youth - mirrors their ambition of building an all-encompassing Rotary fellowship in Africa. Annemarie mentioned, "The data is telling. Over the

subsequent three years, they plan to augment their membership by 30%, reaching a tally of at least 60,000 members, introduce 500 new clubs and swell their Rotaract foundation by 80,000 new members. They aim for a representation of 40% women in Rotary in Africa."

ENHANCED PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT AND ADAPTABILITY

To boost member involvement, African Rotarians have crafted leadership modules and networking functions that resonate with local sensibilities. By endorsing ventures that echo Rotary's foundational values, they foster camaraderie and allegiance among affiliates. The focus rests on member retention, matching novices with veteran Rotarians and proactively addressing any hurdles. Their collaboration with Rotaract clubs and a penchant for digital platforms illustrates their zeal to stay current and deftly adjust to contemporary challenges.

A CLEAR ROADMAP FOR ROTARY'S GROWTH

Annemarie verifies that a thorough action plan offers a lucid trajectory for Rotary's ascension and resonance in Africa. Synchronising global directives with Africa's distinctive scenario, their strategic blueprint lays the groundwork for sweeping change across the continent. By aligning global priorities with the unique African context, their strategic vision sets the foundation for transformative change across Africa. The emphasis will be on programmes and offerings, optimising virtual connectivity and digital transformation. This will leverage on training, fundraising and evaluating programme effectiveness, which highlights the forward-thinking approach to navigating the evolving landscape. The Public Image teams will also help clubs to engage in local public facing events.



Wandesile explores the world

IN HIS RUNNING SHOES

By Peter James-Smith

Wandesile Nkwilase, a member of the Rotary Club of Knights Pendragon (D9400), has always been full of physical energy. He was always running at school and on the way home and enjoyed sport, but it was only in 2015 that he realised that it could become more than that when he saw a friend wearing a Cape Town Marathon shirt at church.

“He told me all about the Cape Town Marathon and indicated that there were marathons, not only in South Africa, but all over the world. I was hooked and asked him what I should do next. As a result, I joined the church running club and the rest is history.”

Wandesile ran his first marathon that year, the Nelson Mandela Marathon, in 5 hours 10 minutes, not enough to qualify for Comrades, but the next year, finished the Cape Town Marathon in 4 hours 30 minutes. In 2017 he ran his first Comrades and a year later ran marathons in Paris and Athens.

“I wasn’t really concentrating on time during those first overseas marathons, I was more of a tourist, just enjoying being there and running.”

COVID-19 locked down the world, but Wandesile had already begun to think of running the World Marathon Majors (WMM) and becoming one of the 70 odd South Africans who have achieved the participation medal. WMM is a championship-style competition for marathon runners that started in 2006. A points-based competition founded on six major marathon races recognised as the most high-profile on the calendar,

the series comprises annual races for the cities of Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York. In addition, each edition of the series recognises and includes the results of the major global championship marathon held in that year, usually on a one-off lapped course. These races are the biennial World Athletics Championships Marathon, and the quadrennial Olympic Games Marathon.

In three years, Wandesile has finished the Boston, Chicago, London and Berlin marathons. This year, he has run in Tokyo and will complete the majors in New York this November. And his time? “Now it’s 2 hours 50 minutes and it decreases every time I run.”

“There are lots of South Africans who would love to participate in international marathons but it’s expensive and they don’t know what the requirements are.” He started a small business, not to make money, but in order to cover his costs as well as to assist other runners to participate - prices are reduced when runners apply as a group of applicants, rather than as individuals. “I started it in 2021 and in 2022 we had 36 runners in Istanbul. This year the numbers have increased with more runners and more marathons.”

By day, Wandesile is a pharmacist. How does he fit in work? “It’s not difficult because I am a managing pharmacist and draw up the schedules, so that I can easily slot it in. You only need to be away from Friday to Monday as all marathons, bar one, are run on a Sunday. It’s not difficult.”



Johan Oosthuizen (centre) received the Les Swift Award for significant service to the community. With him are his wife Ronelle and Rotarian Leo Doria.

Record setter recognised

Recognising a community hero is an annual highlight for the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South (D9370). Each year at the club's induction and awards evening, the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South's Les Swift Award is presented for significant service to the community. This, the club's most prestigious award, is named after charter president, the late Les Swift.

The 2023 recipient of the award was Johan Oosthuizen of Fuel on Wheels, who has been leading an initiative to change lives from the seat of a bicycle!

Johan is a founding member of a non-profit organisation Fuel on Wheels, which, with the

support of many volunteers, has raised hundreds of thousands of Rands to help the community. Examples of recent activities include raising money to help a young girl receive expensive medication and joining the Herald Cycle tour to donate clothing for 100 children of a Uitenhage school.

Last year Johan rode 100km per day for 100 days to raise funds for the needy and set a new world record. He also raised thousands of Rands for local schools by cycling 1,800km around Uitenhage in just six days. He set a world record for the most high-fives with the 800 pupils of Daniel Pienaar School and rode for 17h36m without stopping.



DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

Submit your stories and photos (at least 1MB in size) by email to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



District Governor Riana Pretorius with President Sanette Mostert.

District 9400's new E-Club

WELCOME!

District 9400 has welcomed a new club to the fold with the chartering of the Rotary E-Club of Eagle Canyon.

The charter members are striving to create a thriving and inclusive club culture where every member has equal opportunities and where compassion, support and empowerment are at the heart of their collective actions.

Through their dedicated efforts, they aim to foster a strong sense of community, inspire social change and improve the lives of those in need, thereby creating a future where every person feels valued, where no one is left behind and where the power of unity drives positive transformation.

This year the club is led by President Sanette Mostert, an optimal performance elevation coach, who holds an Honours Degree in Sport Science and who owns various SMEs. Sanette, who is passionate about giving back and cares about making a positive impact in the community, joined Rotary in 2021.

From a young age she possessed an innate desire to uplift and improve the lives of those around her. Her compassion and empathetic nature make her a beacon of hope in the community. She takes a holistic approach to her involvement by rolling up her sleeves and getting involved so that she makes a tangible difference in people's lives.

OUR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL FUND

Your gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund empowers Rotary members to take action and create positive change in communities close to home and around the globe. When you donate to Annual Fund-SHARE, your contributions are transformed into grants that fund local and international projects, scholarships, and other activities.

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate

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



This year's K2C Cycle Tour was an epic experience that left cyclists promising to be back next year.

WHAT A RIDE!

The recent K2C Cycle Tour, commencing in Timbavati at dawn on 15 July and weaving through private routes in Thornybush and Kapama before culminating back at the Timbavati hangar by dusk, was a tremendous success. The cyclists were treated to sightings of four of the big five, which included a leopard lounging on a tree, feasting on its prey – two impalas.

The Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400) hosted this event, which is one of its major fundraisers. Club members were up early, orchestrating the pre-dawn setup and kindling ambient fires. This all had to be executed in the darkness of 4am because leaving equipment like banners and finish arches overnight in the wild isn't wise – pesky hyenas and elephants are prone to mischief!

One young participant, brimming with enthusiasm, recounted how she was taken aback upon seeing the mesmerising sight of glowing braziers and the illuminated hangar in the midst of the veld. The participants, clad in their chic dung beetle-themed jerseys and jackets, congregated

around the fires, indulging in pancakes and coffee before the official roll call. The event truly began with the sounding of the kudu horn, and the four pelotons embarked on their journey, setting off at 10-minute intervals

While the cyclists pedalled on, preparations for their meals were in full swing. The water points, managed by Thornybush Game Lodges, and the hearty breakfast courtesy of the Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) had been in the works well before sunrise.

Organising an event of this scale demands meticulous logistics and a keen eye for detail. All hands were on deck, with all 21 members of the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit, bolstered by additional helpers, chipping in. Now in its 7th year, this event stands as its most significant fundraiser.

The proceeds will be channelled towards the reserves for anti-poaching endeavours as well as the Hoedspruit club's community enhancement initiatives.



The Rotary Anns of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth who arranged the Women's Day high tea that was attended by 320 women.

A 'royally' great day!

"Wathintha Abafazi, wathintha imbokodo" were the words that echoed through the Sea Cottage Room at Greyville Convention Centre where 320 women dressed in African attire attended the legendary Rotary Anns of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) Women's Day High Tea.

First time attendees would be forgiven for expecting a demure and elegant ladies gathering, as many might surely have expected of a high tea. From the moment they stepped through the door, these expectations were certainly shattered as the vibrantly decorated venue buzzed with excitement. A make-up artist hand painted African inspired patterns on guests, who mingled with either a welcome fizz or a cup of coffee or tea.

This year's theme was African Queens and guests were encouraged to wear their 'invisible' crowns. The high tea kicked off to music and dancing, setting an exciting and happy tone for the afternoon. Next up was an exercise by Talking Drums which filled the room with rhythm and echoes of Djembe drum beats while allowing the women to see themselves as a tribe supporting each other. Speaking all languages and bridging all ages, this form of drumming is a "speechless communication" of unity.

The ladies were inspired by Sarah van Heerden, the editor in chief of Rotary Africa and Marketing and Donor Affairs Manager of Love Howick

NPC. Her inspiring talk empowered the woman with skills and knowledge that will assist them to succeed and overcome barriers and challenges that modern women face today, while reminding them that if they each do a little – what they can, when they can and how they can – together they create an unstoppable force of change for good.

Maeshni Naicker, comedienne and renowned actress, whose impressive resume includes roles in Keeping Up With the Kandasamys movie as well as its subsequent sequels, and The Indian Detective series starring Russell Peters, had the audience in gales of laughter, using her unique style to deliver a powerful message of self-confidence and acceptance of themselves.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the event was the prestigious Woman of the Year award that was presented to Esayvanie Reddy of KZN Oils. Esayvanie is a successful entrepreneur who, through the Rajan Reddy Foundation, a successful NGO, has contributed to addressing many socio-economic issues in society. Among her many accolades is the Standard Bank KZN Top Business Personality for 2022.

What was interesting was seeing how the Anns delivered their message of community and mutual support by being the catalyst of success through the programme, and how they presented the event. A



Maeshni Naicker had the audience in hysterics.



Ann President Mallosh Pillay with Sarah van Heerden.



Some of the best dressed prize winners.

large number of sponsorships from local businesses ensured a plethora of prizes that were awarded on the day. But the corporate kindness did not end there. Ramsamy International sponsored a table to enable the Hospice Day Care patients and the aged from the Aryan Benevolent Home to attend the tea.

“This event is for women of all walks of life who want to empower themselves and forge ahead in their daily lives with renewed vigour and purpose,” explained Ann President Mallosh Pillay.

Brenden Vengetas of Affinity Must Power was one of the major sponsors for the event, with prizes also coming from Miladys and Estee Lauder, The Hub, Mangwanani Spa, Spa Ceylon, Capital Pearls, Dermal Studio, KT Nail bar and Neil Ramawtar of BG Aesthetics

“It is through the acts of kindness by our sponsors that the Rotary Anns are able to fulfil our motto Service Above Self,” said Project Coordinator Merasha Moodley.

This event was supported quietly from the wings by members of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth, who were on hand to offer help with ushering, serving and general support while the Anns managed the



Ann President Mallosh Pillay presenting Woman of the Year award to Esayvanie Reddy of KZN Oils.

programme and even had some time to enjoy the festivities!

In her final message, the Anns Public Image Officer, Navi Parumaul, summed up the event and its powerful message beautifully when she said, “Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu - a person is a success because of another person.”



Rotarians at the inauguration of the revamped sign.

LOOK WHAT'S BACK

A storm in late March brought a beloved directional signpost at the Knysna Waterfront crashing down. Installed by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) in 2005 to mark the centenary of Rotary International, the signpost was much loved by tourists and locals, and provided a distinctive backdrop to many photos and social media posts.

When the signpost came down, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that it would have to be replaced and soon the lengthy refurbishment process was underway. Rotarian Mike Smerdon spent many long hours working on the restoration of the sign. It started with the laborious hand chiselling to remove 30cm of rotten wood that was embedded in concrete without damaging the surrounding mosaic tiles. This required the

manufacture of job specific tools.

At the same time a redesign was underway to engineer a signpost that was sturdier and more weatherproof. The last and, perhaps, the greatest challenge was during erection when the directional arms had to be mounted so that they were pointing in the correct direction. During this process, there were, of course, many well-intentioned but not necessarily geographically accurate suggestions from interested passers-by. However, for the installation team there was no acceptable margin of error and eventually the job was done – accurately!

The sign was officially inaugurated by the Rotary Club of Knysna on



After the storm in March 23.

Tuesday 15 August, with President Herb Hunter cutting the ribbon. The Rotarians were joined by Gillian Gething, the owner of Scoops Home Made Ice Cream at the Knysna Waterfront, who rescued the sign from blowing into the harbour during the storm. In thanks, they supported her by buying her delicious ice cream.



President Herb cuts the ribbon.



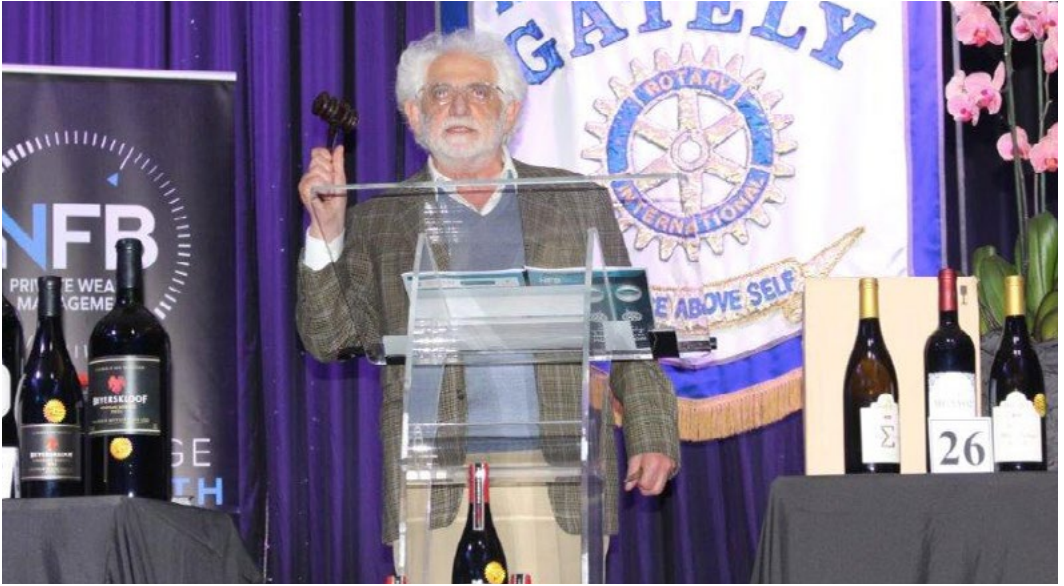
Rotarian Albert Lombaard with Scoops Ice Cream owner Gillian Gething.



Rotarians Joan Huskisson and Riana Appel.



Rotarians Elwin Thompson and Julie Staub.



Michael Fridjhon, an international wine aficionado, whose coaxing of high bids probably adds 30% to the Gately auction's turnover.

Record-smashing auction

By Ted Keenan

Well run charities are businesses packed with volunteers and the Rotary Club of Gately (D9370) is no different, although its annual wine auction might set it apart from many.

At the recent 2023 auction, auctioneer Michael Fridjhon set the bar pretty high; he wanted the bidders to dig deep and spend in excess of last year's R1m, all destined for charities. To reach the target 60 wine lots, averaging 30 wines each, had to sell for around R20,000 per lot, he said. The top bid, at R34,000, beat it handsomely!

This year's auction yielded R1,15m, the first time in its 30 year history. "In my opinion this is the best community wine auction in the country. Some Cape auctions might have bigger turnover, but they are lifestyle-based, while this one's lots are mostly great wine," said Fridjhon, who has wielded the gavel since 1998 and has not missed a year since. It is widely accepted that his auctioneer pedigree and immense wine knowledge probably adds 30% to the takings. As his contribution to the auction he pays for his own travel and adds the last auction lot, always wine-associated, which this year fetched R6,000.

Fridjhon said Gately has developed a reputation for giving back to the wine community. It supports

several charities in wine areas and a few years ago purchased a bus for a wine charity.

Over the years Gately has supported African Angels, Berea Gardens Retirement Foundation, Buckaroo, CANSA, Carel du Toit Centre, Down Syndrome, Guardians of Hope, Masithethe, NSRI, Robin Good Initiative, Salem Baby Care Centre, St Bernard's Hospice, Umoya and several other charities.

Fridjhon said most people are not aware of the flood of requests that get sent to the top wine estates for donations, many wineries get up to 50-60 a week. "They cannot give to everyone. Many estates now produce special auction bottles that are only available from the estate. They are used to support select events and Gately's auction is among them."

Many years ago Gately gave the estates pineapples from Gatelyan Corder Tilney's farm. Not quite a fair exchange for wine but the estate staff loved the idea, and it has become a ritual.

"There is an agricultural connection, an exchange between the fruits of the land. The net effect is a wonderful sense of synergy," said Fridjhon. "It is unique in my experience, possibly because so many senior business people are involved and they do it for charity."

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Mark Anderson, CEO of Birdlife SA, Renier Balt representing WESSA and Birdlife Harties, John Wesson representing Rotary, Birdlife Harties and WESSA, Vincent Curruthers and Glen Ross, current Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400) president.

New bird book launched



On Saturday, 29th July 2023, the 'Birds of the Magaliesberg Biosphere' e-book had its grand debut at the Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre, located near the Hartbeespoort Dam in the De Wildt area. Over seventy enthusiasts graced the occasion.

Leading the discussion were Vincent Carruthers, John Wesson, Renier Balt, and Mark Anderson. Helena Atkinson, WESSA's CEO from Cape Town made a special appearance.

This e-book is the brainchild of the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400), Birdlife Harties and WESSA Northern areas region, with John Wesson and Renier Balt contributing as authors. Remarkably, this publication is the third in a series. The inaugural book, launched in 2010, was the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort's Rotary Centenary project.

It's not just a book. It's an invaluable guide for birders and nature aficionados keen to delve into the Magaliesberg biosphere. It sheds light on unique habitats, birding hotspots, and specific avian species to watch. Additionally, it provides comprehensive insights into the eight sub-birding areas, accompanied by the most recent and verified bird lists, informed by the latest South African Bird Atlas Project 2 data.

Members from all the partnering organisations attended, and heartfelt appreciation was extended to everyone supporting this endeavour.

Keen to get a glance? The e-book is available for free here: <https://cld.bz/2JoWBTo>

Stay tuned, as the e-mag will undergo periodic updates with fresh data, new hotspots and additional advertisers. For further information, get in touch with PAG John Wesson at jjwesson674@gmail.com.



Top: The book cover. Above: President Glen Ross closing the meeting.



Top careers evening

For many years, the Rotary Club of Kloof (D9370) has hosted an annual Careers Evening at Kloof High School. This prestigious event draws a diverse and knowledgeable team of over 40 speakers who provide insights into their respective careers. These professionals span a wide array of disciplines and possess extensive experience in the workplace.

The event is structured into three separate sessions, commencing at 5.30pm and ending around 8.30pm. Parents are invited to accompany their children and pose any questions they might have. To facilitate presentations, each classroom is equipped with either a screen or TV for PowerPoint slides.

Each session, lasting approximately 45 minutes, offers students an overview of a specific career. Topics covered include academic requirements, essential skills, tertiary education pathways and potential workplace opportunities.

Over the years, countless students have immensely benefited from these career talks. Not only do they receive first-hand insights into various professions, but they are also better equipped to select subjects that align with their future aspirations.

The success of this event is attributed to the dedicated speakers who passionately share insights from their careers. Their willingness and enthusiasm have been instrumental in the event's success.

Behind the scenes, meticulous planning and preparation ensure the evening runs smoothly. On arrival, speakers are greeted by Kloof Rotarians and guided to their designated classrooms by student volunteers. These volunteers also ensure all technical needs are met.

Kloof High School, along with its students and parents, express sincere gratitude for this invaluable initiative, recognising its immense benefit to all participants.

GREAT CLUBS DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT

Be intentional about providing your members with a great club experience.

Our **MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOLS** can help you get started.



Get to know new and prospective members with the **member interest survey**.



Identify groups in your community that are underrepresented in your club using the **diversity assessment**.



Create a plan to invite more people to visit or join your club with the **prospective member exercise**.



Meet members where they're at in their membership journey using the **retention assessment and analysis**.



Learn what your members want and keep your club relevant with the **member satisfaction survey**.



Understand why members are leaving your club with the **exit survey**.



rotary.org/membership

Rotary 



Left: The new veggie garden at the Catholic Church. Top right: Allison de Lange, club president; Lwandile Booi, Executive Head for Vodacom Gauteng Region; Moses Hartzenburg, County Manager at Vodacom; Cheryl Katz, Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370).

Mandela Day magic

Mandela Day proved to be a bustling occasion for the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp (D9370). This enthusiastic club embarked on three community service projects on the day.

Firstly, they delivered fresh vegetables to the Klerksdorp Community Centre for its regular soup kitchen. It's worth noting that each week, the centre provides soup and bread to over 500 Klerksdorp residents, a heart-warming effort sustained by generous donations from the local community.

In another initiative, the club took the reins in sprucing up the Klerksdorp Police Station. They didn't just stop at a fresh coat of paint for the building. Multi-coloured tyres filled with hardy

succulents were placed around the station, giving the exterior a lively and refreshing transformation.

Additionally, in a commendable collaborative effort, Vodacom and Chatz Connect partnered with the club to establish a sustainable vegetable garden for the Catholic Church in Jouberton.

The purpose of this garden is not just limited to cultivation; it serves a broader community cause. Those who buy fresh produce from the garden will be given access to an internet container, another initiative sponsored by the club. To ensure the garden thrives, Vodacom generously provided an irrigation system, essential gardening tools and seeds.



The handover to the schools took place at the Parkridge Primary school. Principals and representatives of the 12 schools attended to receive the donation.

Grade R classes equipped

In 2009, the Rotary Clubs of Riverside and Vanderbijlpark created the C4C (Children4Children) project to provide Grade R children with bursaries. The project was the brainchild of Past President Dr Angela van Pletzen who championed the project and was an educator at the time.

Many fundraisers were held to sustain the project. The most popular of these were the Ladies' Chocolate Tea, Children's Art Competition and a wine auction. The principals of 12 primary schools in Vanderbijlpark selected children to receive the bursaries and members of the C4C committee met with them quarterly to check on their progress.

The children received goody bags packed with educational toys, toiletries, jerseys, beanies and mittens, blankets and more during these visits.

Until COVID-19 put an end to the project, 324 children had benefited from it. Once the world reopened, the committee had to decide how to spend the remaining funds for the project. At a meeting with the school principals, it was decided to use the funds to supply educational materials to the Grade R classes as more children would then benefit from the project over a longer period of time.



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Rotary members are creating community-driven, sustainable projects to improve access to quality education around the world. Your gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund supports these projects to inspire learning at all ages.

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AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400) has been at it again! In July the members collected food at the Village Mall for the various NGOs they support. Four Interact clubs assisted at the collection and were given allocations to distribute to their outreach projects.



Meet Bertie the Beaver! Without a doubt, there are many busy beavers in Knysna, but from this point forward, each month the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) will recognise the busiest beaver of them all (the one who works tirelessly towards accomplishing the goals set for this Rotary year) and present that Rotarian with Bertie the Beaver. This fun monthly recognition is the brainchild of President Herb Hunter (right). Like Herb, Bertie hails from Canada, where beavers are the national animal. Beavers are known to be industrious and hardworking – traits that characterise Rotary members. The first Rotarian to receive Bertie was Mike Smerdon.



The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) has initiated a fresh endeavour called “Soup for Socks.” On a chilly winter morning, club members prepared soup and took it to a local market. In exchange for a warm cup of homemade soup and a bun, individuals were invited to donate a pair of socks. While many embraced this direct exchange, others chose to make a monetary contribution. These cash donations were channelled to purchase socks from market vendors. Impressively, the club amassed 140 pairs of socks. These were subsequently donated to an elderly home in a neighbouring township, three orphanages, a residence for mentally challenged adults and the Sonskyn project, which supports families facing tough circumstances.



Weza Solange and Mpho Mokgotsi.



Ntombikayise Maselwa.

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400) consistently takes pride in its members. Indeed, they are a commendable group. However, at times, it's important to recognise and celebrate certain members due to their exceptional achievements.

The Gauteng Women of Wonder Award is bestowed upon women who have not only distinguished themselves in their respective careers and fields but have also significantly contributed to their communities. These women have spearheaded projects and have left a positive mark on society.

This year, the award witnessed a staggering 4,300 nominations within Gauteng alone. Of this impressive number, 40 exemplary women were selected. Remarkably, three of these women are esteemed members of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn: Weza Solange, Ntombikayise Maselwa and Mpho Mokgotsi.



The Rotary Club of Helderberg's Rotary Anns (D9350) delivered reusable sanitary SUBZ sanitary pads and panties to 80 learners from various schools in the area. The donation was valued at R 18 320. This project has been run since 2015 and about 1,500 girls have benefited from the donations, thanks to sponsorship from companies like Pick n Pay and from private donors.



The Interact Club of Greenbury Secondary School (D9370), under the supervision of Rotarian Shoba Champamoni, collected Easter eggs for children in the rural areas of Inanda. The eggs were given to KZN Valley Dogs, an NGO that serves the Inanda community, to distribute.



The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) recently held a Christmas in July event and recognised local businessmen for the work they do in the community. Club members also set a table in memory of the five Rotarians who passed on to higher service in the last two years. All attendees donated non-perishable food to be given to an old age residence in Welkom.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) and Pathmadevi Feeding Scheme recently served 700 meals to homeless and destitute people in and around Polokwane.



The South African National Scrabble Players Association (SANSPA) holds a monthly competition for its members. In 2000, PP Anastasia Demertzis of the Rotary Club of Pretoria East (D9400) and SANSPA agreed that the Rotary club could host one competition a year and receive the net proceeds. This agreement has been honoured for the last 23 years. In July, 18 Scrabble players met at Niche for the annual RCPE Scrabble competition. The day raised R4500 for the club which provided prizes and refreshments. SANSPA ran the event and the results were included in its national rating system. This system determined which players would represent South Africa at the World Scrabble Championships in Las Vegas later that month. All three of the South African players, Ike Obidike (finished 100th), Gwen Rea (finished 118th) and Steven Grudz (finished 88th), played in the Pretoria East competition.



Earlier this year, the Rotary Club of Amazimtoti (D9370) and Khanya Hospice celebrated Rotary's 118th Birthday together. With President Neil McDonald is Sr Sue Van Rijsbergen, PP Aneska Dupont, (back) Carolyn Beukes, Trevor Keet and Tanya Sandberg.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) distributed wheelchairs to disabled people and children in its community. At a wheelchair distribution is Past President Chymie Naidoo.

OUR 2023/24 PRESIDENTS



Nomsa Zikonda
Pretoria Sunrise, 9400



Aneska Dupont
Amanzimtoti, 9370



Riku Muller
Uitenhage South, 9370



Rita Millan
Northcliff, 9400



Catherine Edge
Port Elizabeth West, 9370



Margaret Morontshi
Mokopane Limpopo, 9400



Carol Oliver
Port Alfred, 9370



Debbie Haskins
Kloof, 9370



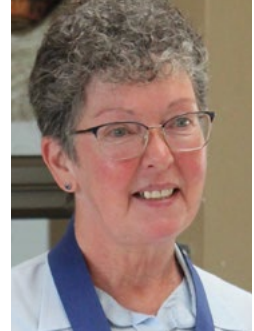
Maaik de Bruin (Anns)
Kloof, 9370



Christo J van Heerden
Mtunzini, 9370



Adri Roos
Vanderbijlpark, 9400



Margaret Lambert
Tygerberg, 9350



Sanette Mostert
Eagle Canyon, 9400

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!

Thank you to all the clubs which sent photos for our New Presidents Feature. Regrettably, due to space constraints, this is **the last issue that will feature new presidents this year.**



WALL OF HONOUR



Craig van Heerden, Hemant Nathoo and Mickey Swift were recognised as Paul Harris Fellows by the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South (D9370). With them is Past President Alan Reynolds (second from right).



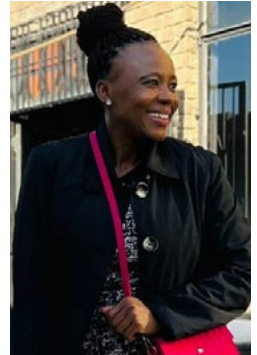
Mike Bird was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350).



Polla Coetzer was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Goodwood (D9350).



Charlotte du Plessis is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400.



Nokuthula Thomas is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400.

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Attention Rotary clubs!

Please don't forget to record your project details on Rotary Showcase. This web-based platform helps promote your projects and will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!



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