

DECEMBER 2021

# Rotary

AFRICA | south



## Our Team

### Editor:

Sarah van Heerden

### Administration:

Sharon Robertson

### Directors:

Greg Cryer  
Andy Gray  
Peter Hugo  
Natty Moodley  
Annemarie Mostert  
Joe Otin  
Lee-Ann Shearing

### Publisher:

Rotary in Africa

**Reg. No:** 71/004840/08 (incorp.  
association not for gain)

**PBO No:** 18/13/13/3091  
Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

**Design & Layout:** Rotary in Africa

**Printers:** ROC Media

### Advertising:

Sharon Robertson  
Sarah van Heerden  
Tariff card on request at  
[www.rotaryafrica.com](http://www.rotaryafrica.com)

**Subscriptions:** Sharon Robertson  
[rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

**Editorial contributions:**  
[rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

Distributed to Rotary Districts 9210,  
9212, 9213, 9214, 9220, 9350, 9370 and  
9400 (Southern and Eastern Africa)

**Postal address:** PO Box 563  
Westville, 3630  
South Africa

**Telephone:** +27 (64) 278 1848

**WhatsApp:** +27 (64) 278 1848

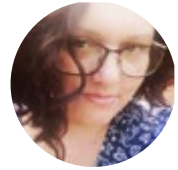
**Email:** [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

**www.rotaryafrica.com**

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

# WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden  
**Editor**



Here it is... the last issue of 2021! Crack open the bubbly and turn off your phones – it is almost time to shut down and, if you are like me, you really need this holiday time to decompress and gear up for 2022.

Normally I would try to write something wise, witty, pithy or insightful here. But this month I have chosen to share with you a story I saw on Facebook. It is a really honest post, written by David Allen, a leadership coach who has spoken at a few Rotary events and meetings. Why I chose this (with his permission) is that I think it has a great message, one that each one of us can benefit from at some stage in our daily lives.

Not many people know, but I have a history of stuttering. When I was at school you could hardly get a word out of me without a lot of stammering. I couldn't give my English orals in front of the class; I had to speak privately, one-on-one, to the teacher. Even today if I get nervous or have to read in front of people, I still have a bit of a stutter. And yet, I make a decent living speaking both locally and internationally.

There was a specific incident that helped me overcome my fear and focus on growing beyond what held me back.

I was about 17 years old (Grade 12) and at the circus. I was feeling very down as I didn't know what job prospects I, as a stuttering person, would have. I could not even work at KFC if I couldn't speak properly.

While I was walking around I noticed a huge elephant that was secured only to a chair. I started chatting (stammering) to the trainer about the security risk this could pose. A huge African elephant that can rip down trees, was just chained to a movable plastic chair. The trainer explained that the way they trained the elephants was that when they were young they were chained to an immovable object and that the elephant soon learnt that once the chain was on, it could not move. Therefore, when it was older, all it took was a chain being put around its leg and it would not move.

So, that's how you could have a huge elephant, being immobilised by a rickety plastic chair,

I realised then that I was like the elephant. I had listened to the negative comments and chains that other people had put on me and this fear of failing or being laughed at was the chain that kept me from growing. It wasn't easy, but from that day I decided to focus on my strengths.

What could you accomplish if fear didn't hold you back?

We have an average of 65 000 thoughts each day. How many of those thoughts are negative? Imagine your possibilities if you had 65 000 positive, motivating thoughts.

Don't let silly chains on plastic chairs hold you back from your true potential. Believe in yourself and even if/when you fail, pick yourself up and keep going.

## 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?



# GET ALL YOUR ROTARY BRANDED PROMOTIONAL AND DISPLAY ITEMS FROM US.

**Rotary**   
OFFICIAL LICENSEE

White Themed  
T-Shirt  
SKU: BAS4770-21



We are able to print  
any custom items with  
the Rotary logo.

Rotary theme  
badges & medals.

New member packs,  
banners & flags.

We are the only Rotary  
licensed supplier of  
Rotary regalia in  
Southern Africa.



Themed Cap  
SKU: RT503KHA-21

Theme Swivel Metal  
Keyring  
SKU: RTSWIVEL-21



Lapel Pin Full Colour  
SKU: RZ21PINPRT

Lapel Pin Silver  
SKU: RZ21PINS



Lapel Pin Rhinestone  
SKU: RZ21PINBLING



Lapel Pin  
Cloisonne  
SKU: RZ21PIN

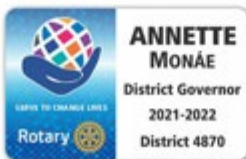
Theme Banner  
SKU: RZ21BAN3



3/8" Gold Plated  
Member Lapel Pin  
SKU: WF10110



Andy Cartwright Memory Stick  
SKU: AC2265



Name Badge  
SKU: WFR5NBCC1



**SHOP INSTORE OR ONLINE**  
Contact our dedicated Rotary account manager  
<https://merchadisestore.co.za/rotary>  
 [rotary@promoworld.co.za](mailto:rotary@promoworld.co.za)  +27114550078



# Contents

5	President's Message
6	Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
7	Convention Countdown
9	Changemakers
11	Disability Desk
14	Be Part of the Conversation
15	Champion of the Unsung Heroes
16	A Song a Day
17	Inspired to Care at RFHD 2021
19	There's Hope...
29	Update: Empowering Girls
31	Reaping the rewards
32	Serve (wine) to Change Lives
34	Lightly Roasted Rotarians
35	It Just Gets Better
36	Africa in Brief
40	Wall of Honour
42	New Club Presidents

# President's Message

## Greetings, my dear changemakers,

Public health is on everyone's mind due to the global pandemic that still threatens the safety of ourselves and our loved ones. In a sense, COVID-19 has made all of us much more aware of the roles and responsibilities of medical professionals than we were before we had to wear masks and maintain social distance. In addition, while moving through this pandemic, we have also learned about the role we can play in keeping others safe.

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month in Rotary. The pandemic unfortunately has schooled most people on the toll that disease takes on our communities. But fighting disease is something that Rotarians around the world have been doing for decades. In fact, it is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus.

As Rotarians, we believe that good health and well-being is a human right - even though 400 million people across the globe do not have access to essential health services. The work we do in establishing clinics, eye hospitals and blood banks, as well as in building infrastructure for medical facilities in underserved communities, all returns to a central belief that access, prevention and education are the keys to stopping deadly outbreaks that harm the most vulnerable.

My exposure to health work began with my Rotary club, Calcutta-Mahanagar. There, among other things, I helped pioneer a programme called Saving Little Hearts that over the years has provided more than 2 500 free heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Africa. Before the programme went international, it started locally with the goal of performing just six surgeries within our community. Today, our goal is to complete another 20 000 surgeries over the next five years.

The world relies on Rotary to tackle challenges like these and to set an example for others. Over the past decade, medical professionals and government workers have provided free health services to 2.5 million people in 10 countries during Rotary Family



Health Days, a programme of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention, which are organised by Rotarians around the world. Similar health camps in India also provide thousands of surgeries to those in need. Medical missions from India to Africa each year are an excellent example of hands-on service in disease prevention and treatment. Rotary members can also get involved at a local level; clubs in the United States and Mexico, for example, fund a free health clinic in Guerrero, a small town in Mexico.

And of course, our effort to eradicate polio is by far the best story in civil-society health care.

This month, think about how your club can focus on preventing and fighting disease. This is the time to take a bigger, better, bolder approach through both club and district projects that can impact more people. Re-evaluate where you are with your goals. Create strategies that can sustain change over years, not months.

Everyone deserves a long, healthy life. When you Serve to Change Lives, your actions today can help extend the lives of others.

*Shekhar Mehta*

Shekhar Mehta,  
Rotary International President (2021/22)



# Foundation Trustee Chair

John Germ

## TOGETHER, WE CAN REACH OUR GOALS

December marks a special time of year. It's a time of holiday gatherings and family reunions (COVID-19 permitting). It's also the halfway point of the Rotary year, when we look back on our goals, reflecting on the what and the why of our work.

First, the what. This year, to stay on course to reach our goal, we need to raise \$50 million for PolioPlus, with a 2-to-1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation bringing the total to \$150 million. To keep our Rotary Foundation programmes running strong, we set a goal to raise \$125 million for the Annual Fund. We also aim to raise \$95 million for the Endowment Fund in outright gifts and new commitments, and a further \$40 million for other outright gifts.

So how do we reach our grand total of \$410 million? We must remember that in all great endeavours, including Rotary, we are part of a TEAM: Together, Everyone Achieves More. You can't have a great team without great PEOPLE: Pride in our organisation, our achievements, and our potential; Empathy for others, which we transform into service. Opportunities to make a difference that Rotary has granted us and, O has two parts, an Obligation to pull others up and to increase our ranks. Perseverance that helps us stick to our goals,

like polio eradication, when the going gets tough. Leadership and Enthusiasm, the fuel of Rotary.

While we are revisiting our goals, we also need to remember the why. For me, this needs little explanation. Why wouldn't you help expectant mothers and their children survive and thrive by supporting a Rotary Foundation grant? And why wouldn't you initiate programmes to help preserve the environment, our cherished home? The pandemic has only renewed my conviction that life is precious and we must seize every opportunity to enhance the lives of others.

You are one of the PEOPLE on our TEAM. I encourage you this month to join other leaders who participate in Rotary's strong tradition of philanthropy by making a gift to The Rotary Foundation. It is the season of giving, and every gift counts. Please contribute any amount that feels right by 31 December and your gift will keep on giving in 2022 and for years to come. There are many ways to give, as a club or an individual - why not set up a giving plan?

The Rotary Foundation offers us countless opportunities to help make a difference in the world. Let us never squander those opportunities, nor take our Foundation for granted.

Judy and I wish you the happiest of holidays.

## Rotary at a glance

**Rotary clubs:** 36 922

**Members:** 1 196 404

**Rotaract clubs:** 10 609

**Members:** 227 177

**Interact clubs:** 16 673

**Members:** 383 479

**RCCs:** 11 875

As at 18 October 2021

▲ Increase

▼ Decrease



# FOR FACT'S SAKE

2022 Rotary International Convention Countdown

Rest assured that the city of Houston is anything but boring! It is diverse, rich in culture and experiences, and yes, a little (or a lot) quirky! Planning on (or considering) visiting Houston for the 2022 Rotary International Convention (4-8 June)? Well, here are a few facts about the host city that you may find interesting, writes Sarah van Heerden (with a little help from her friends, Google and social media!)



Houston is home to the first traditional Indian temple, or mandir, in North America. The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir was built in 1988 and upgraded in 2004. The 33 000 pieces of Italian marble and Turkish limestone used in its construction were assembled, like a puzzle, over 28 months.  
Photo: [www.baps.org](http://www.baps.org)

In 1935, Will Horwitz built an underground tunnel that connected three of his downtown movie theatres. Today they span nearly 10 kilometres and connect 95 city blocks. Restaurants and shops can be found in the air-conditioned tunnels, which can be a welcome escape from the above ground heat! Map: [www.houstonpublicmedia.org](http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org)



In 2015, **HOUSTON'S ECONOMY WAS LARGER THAN SWEDEN'S!** Houston is home to the most Fortune 500 companies in all of Texas as well as many other thriving industries.

Houston has 18 sister-cities that promote business opportunities across five continents. Its African sister city is **LUANDA, ANGOLA.**

In 2009, Houston elected Annise Parker, becoming **THE LARGEST US CITY TO ELECT AN**

**OPENLY GAY PERSON AS MAYOR.**

In Houston, area codes are a big deal and Houstonians are apparently quite competitive when it comes to who has the city's best area code... that was until NASA stepped in. The **INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION'S PHONE NUMBER** boasts a Houston area code of 281, to be exact. If an astronaut on the space station were to call you, 281 would be the first thing you saw.

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

2022 Rotary International Convention Countdown

There are many wonderful things to do in Houston, but there are a few that you should also avoid doing - because, quiet frankly, we don't have cash to bail you out of jail! Here are some weird and wonderful laws that can apparently be found in the law books of Houston and the state of Texas. So please, watch out for:

It is illegal to sell Limburger cheese on Sundays in Houston. This 19th-century Dutch cheese has a reputation for smelling like stinky feet. In fact, the most common bacteria to grow on Limburger is the same bacteria that is responsible for body odour!



You may not sell your own eyeballs.



Criminals must notify their victims at least 24 hours ahead of time.



People who own less than 10 cattle may NOT tuck the leg of their pants into their boot!



Please ensure that all camels are properly secured as in Texas, it's illegal to let your camel roam freely in the street.



An-udder Texan law is that under no circumstances are you to be found milking another person's cow.



In the case of two trains arriving at a train crossing, both must come to a full stop - neither may move forward until the other has passed.



And lastly, please, when you are in Texas try to resist the temptation to shoot buffalo from a second-storey hotel window - yes, it is illegal!





# Changemakers

**ROTARY FOUNDATION MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER, PDG PATRICK COLEMAN**

## **CELEBRATE THE VICTORIES, BUT DON'T STOP THE BATTLE**

December is a time for celebration! Chanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Eve bring families and friends together from all over the globe – now both in person and virtually!

One of the most asked questions these days is “Why did you join Rotary?” When I ask this during a Rotary Leadership Institute training, I hear many responses. Most of them are simply ‘angelic’.

“I joined to serve my community,” or “I joined to make this world a better place,” or “I joined to improve education, health or water issues.” These are laudable reasons indeed and the world is truly a better place because of these Rotarians. Nevertheless, there are many of us who joined Rotary because somebody asked us. They joined for the friendship, fellowship, and networking with people of integrity. Being with people of like mind and spirit encourages us to be better than we already are!

THAT, of course, leads us to community service because good people tend to do good things!

It has been said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” While Margaret Mead, the author of that statement, has had many of her findings criticised, this particular statement has a seed of truth. Dedicated people have made huge differences in the world!

When Rotary began the campaign to eradicate polio we were told by international leaders that we were too small and too insignificant to make a

difference. We were (and still are) an NGO made up of volunteers. Only a few of our members are medical or scientific experts. How can we possibly make a difference in the scope of eradicating a disease as far-reaching as polio? It was not only improbable; it was unimaginable!

Fast forward nearly four decades and we are on the threshold of achieving what the world of governmental experts told us we could not do! Just imagine what we could have accomplished if the experts had joined us then!

## **OUR MALARIA ERADICATION CHANGEMAKER!**

Currently in Zambia we are attempting yet another ‘impossible, impractical and unimaginable’ task: Eradicating Malaria!

UNICEF reported that in 2019, there were 229 million malaria cases globally that led to 409 000 deaths. Of these deaths, 67 per cent (274 000) were children under 5 years of age. This means that in 2019, malaria killed 750 children under age 5 EACH DAY.

We are, with the help of Rotary clubs in the USA, The Rotary Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and World Vision, training thousands of Community Health Workers to work within their own villages, townships and compounds to diagnose and treat malaria. They are volunteers! Their only benefit is a Rotary cap, a bicycle, a backpack and tools for the task. They receive no salary. They receive no expense account. They are on call day and night AND... they are excited to be involved in helping their communities!

The all holidays in December are centred around

miracles. One celebrates the miracle of the lamp stand in the Temple in Jerusalem. Another celebrates the miracle of the arrival of the Messiah. The final holiday celebrates the miracle of surviving 2021!

Almost everyone has lost a family member or friend during this past year due to various factors and circumstances. We give gifts, gather for meals and thank our God for His blessings and protection.

**Imagine the celebration we will have when polio is finally declared eradicated and our grandchildren will only see an iron lung in museums and on Google.**

We are imagining the celebration of the end of malaria with the same enthusiasm!

Rotarians are not stopping there. Within our seven areas of focus are opportunities to be changemakers on several fronts. We CAN make our world a better place to live for our children, grandchildren and the generations beyond. Each one of us has the opportunity to be that changemaker in the lives of someone near us.

Maudy Lwenje is one such changemaker. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Kitwe and is the Project Manager of the Malaria Elimination Project here in Zambia.

This is more than a “job” for Maudy - it is a passion! She works seven days a week and actually stays on site at training centres to be available to trainees and trainers alike. She ensures that everything is in place logistically and guards the integrity of the programme like a lioness cares for her cubs.

#### WHY?

Because Maudy, like so many of us in sub-Saharan Africa, knows first-hand what malaria brings and she wants to stop it! She has taken on the task to bring malaria to its knees and put it to rest.

#### WE CAN ALL BE CHANGEMAKERS.

Find a cause that stirs a passion in your heart and act! Give to Our Rotary Foundation to “Do Good in the World.” It all rests in our hands!



*Maudy Lwenje. Below: Maudy in action training community workers.*



# Disability Desk

WITH JEREMY OPPERMAN

## WHY IS AN ENGAGING QUESTION

“That’s strange,” said my guest. “What’s strange?” I replied. “What’s strange is that I cannot see anybody with a visible disability like yours. I see you with your cane, it tells me something, it is a symbol of your blindness. But I look around me in this busy pedestrian area and I don’t see anyone with an obvious disability.” “So what?” I asked.

“Well, it’s strange because where I come from, in a large pedestrian area like this, I would definitely see more people with disabilities.”

About 15 years ago, I was hosting a man from Europe and had taken him, along with my family, to see the V&A Waterfront. It was after observing me walking with my cane that he made his interesting comment.

It was interesting because of his observation of the relative difference between here, Cape Town, South Africa, and what he had experienced in Europe.

It was also interesting because on the one hand, I could not have seen them even if an entire troop of disabled men and women were to have passed in front of me and on the other, because I had not as yet travelled overseas to verify this claim.

What it did do, is to make me stop and think, and ask, why? Why should one country seem to have more people with disabilities than another? But wait, is that assumption accurate?

Could it be a case of one country simply not seeing their people with disabilities because they are not evident or present, while the disabled people in other countries are?

This might be a good place to add something. About 10 years after this incident, I travelled with my family to the Netherlands. One of the first things my kids noticed, was how many people with disabilities they saw in the streets, using public transport and in the shops.

Surely this should be a good reason to ask the question, why?

Why is it that in South Africa we don’t see (to any degree of



*Jeremy Opperman is a member of the Rotary Club of Newlands (D9350) and an appointed member of Rotary International Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) taskforce.*

significance) our people with disabilities, in a normal mainstream context? For instance, in our schools, public transport, workplaces and common recreational areas?

One answer might be that our society is not physically conducive to persons with disabilities. To which I would again ask why. Perhaps, the answer is that there are insufficient guidelines and legislation to encourage integration?

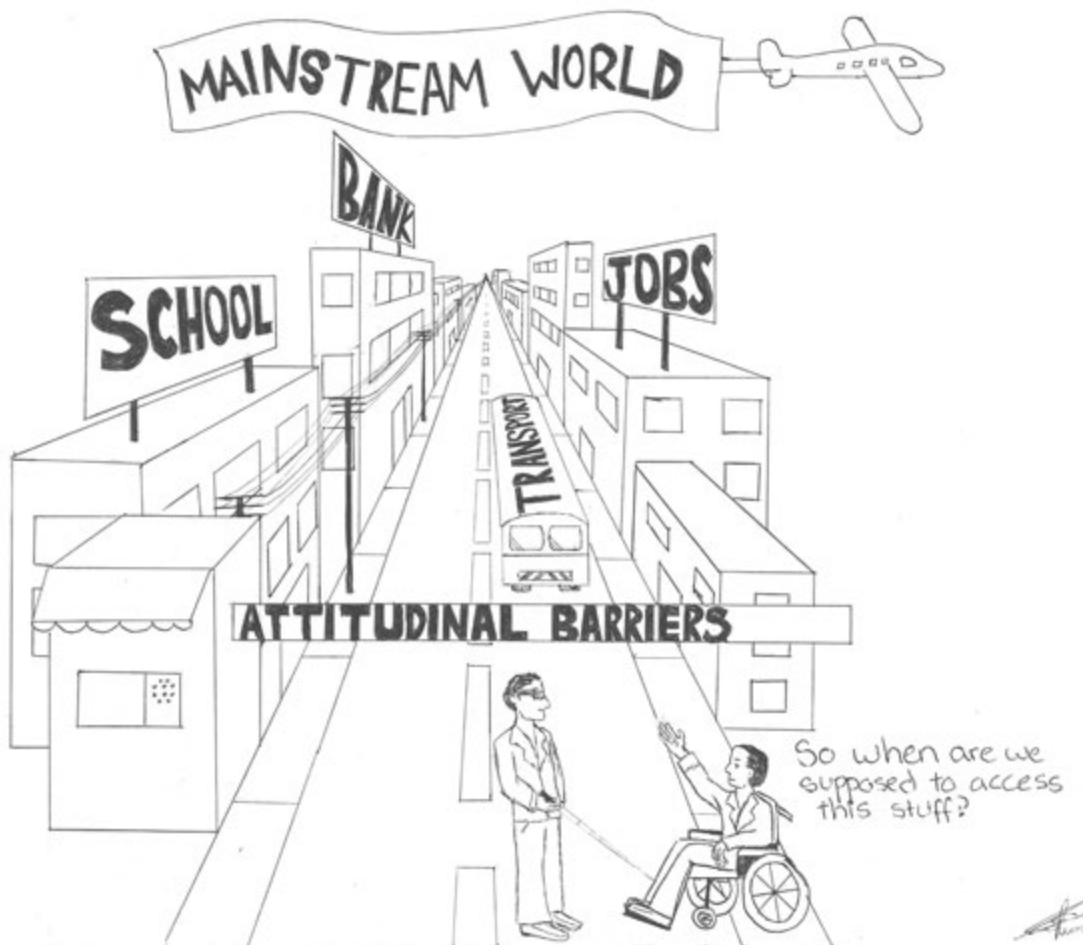
And again, I would like to know why.

Maybe, we don’t know enough about dealing with people with disabilities?

You know what I am going to say again, right?

WHY?

We are not educated enough about disability and we are not comfortable with



the issue of disability. Ah, now we are getting somewhere...

Why does disability make us so uncomfortable?

It could be because it is different and as we don't have any experience with the issue, we don't know much about it and we don't handle things well.

Do we take well to change?

If you add the general ignorance about disability to the discomfort we feel when encountering disability, it is not surprising that there is such reticence to engage with the issue.

Do we tend to engage with things that make us uncomfortable and that we don't have much

knowledge about?

Usually not. As a rule, we tend to avoid the issue, hoping that if we avoid things long enough, they might even stay out of sight or just right themselves. Either way, when things are out of sight, they conveniently slip out of mind.

And the consequence to this lack of engagement?

The answer unfortunately is little progress in integration and a whole lot of mistakes. Simply put, by resisting engagement we perpetuate the 'arms-length relationship' we have with people with disabilities and as a direct consequence ensure their continued exclusion from mainstream society.

*This article was submitted in recognition of November being Disability Rights Awareness month (DRAM) and also, 3 December being the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.*





# 2022 PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

Be part of the conversation about women and youth empowerment through issues relating to Peace, Environment and Economy.

## YOUR CONFERENCE ORGANISORS



**Yinka Babalola**

Past Rotary Vice-President  
Conference Convenor



**Kobla Quashie**

Past District Governor - 9250  
Chairman: Planning Committee



**Stella Anyangwe**

District Governor - 9400  
Planning Committee



**Victor Mensah**

District Governor - 9210  
Planning Committee

## REGISTRATION:

[www.rotarymaputo2022.com](http://www.rotarymaputo2022.com)

**4-5 MARCH 2022  
MAPUTO GLORIA HOTEL**

AV DA MARGINAL NO 4441, MAPUTO, 1102,  
MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE



**CONFERÊNCIA MOÇAMBIQUE  
PRESIDENCIAL**



*Be part of the conversation about women and youth empowerment through issues relating to Peace, Environment and Economy.*

# Be part of the conversation

A Rotary Presidential Conference will be held in Mozambique on 4-5 March 2022. The conference will see an expected 400 or so African community development leaders gather at the Maputo Congress Hotel to discuss issues relating to peace and conflict resolution, economic development, girls' empowerment, agriculture and environment.

It is mainly aimed at providing independent solutions to the development of the African continent, focusing on corporate social responsibility in our communities.

The conference is also aimed at ensuring that all Rotary club members experience Mozambique, while reminding them of the value they add to their countries through community development.

The organising committee's communication strategy will engage the African media, create awareness of the conference and encourage both Rotary members and the public to attend.

## GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

- To critically discuss effective and proactive strategies on how to deal with conflict and maintain peace across the African region and beyond.
- To generate a pool of diverse ideas in harnessing productivity in economic development.
- To encourage all Rotarians to actively partake in economic agriculture and environment activities to enhance sustainability across the continent of Africa.
- To raise a generation full of empowered girls who will be ready to independently influence the economic and political spectrum of the African region.
- To establish a harmonious environment amongst Rotarians who are socially responsible and ready to make tangible changes in their respective countries.

Learn more and register at: [rotarymaputo2022.com](https://rotarymaputo2022.com)



**CONFERÊNCIA MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**PRESIDENCIAL**



# Champion of the Unsung Heroes

*Cinderella Ndlovu, an environmentalist and a member of the Rotaract Club of Matopos (D9210), is driving change across the waste management landscape in Zimbabwe.*

Her journey started when she was accepted into an advocacy programme in Zimbabwe that empowered young women to drive change in issues they are passionate about in their communities. What started off as a personal project has grown into something bigger. It now involves many different partners and seeks to aid waste pickers through community-based structures and capacity building in entrepreneurship.

The world produces two billion tonnes of municipal solid waste each year and only 9% of this gets recycled. In most developing countries, such as Zimbabwe, there is not much infrastructure to deliver waste collection services to all citizens, let alone waste recycling infrastructure for integrated solid waste management.

“As a result, most of the waste is recycled through the informal sector by people I would refer to as unsung heroes, because of the incredible environmental services they render to communities without any support or recognition even from the very communities they come from and serve.”

When accepted into the Young Women Driving Issues programme, Cinderella chose an issue close to her heart, “Due to the onset of economic challenges, most municipalities in the country have been struggling with service delivery.”

Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe and once hailed as the cleanest city in Africa, was experiencing growing waste challenges that were

becoming more evident, threatening public health and environmental integrity.

“I chose Championing Community Led Waste Management Best Practices” as my advocacy issue where I sought to engage communities in waste management best practices through education, awareness and capacity building of community groups.

“Through engaging in a series of clean up campaigns with the Environmental Management Agency and my NGO, Green Hut, my observations on the culture of waste dumping, open burning and littering reflected the need for engaging communities in solution formulation. After all, communities are also to blame for unsanitary waste disposal methods.”

Cinderella had also noticed how waste pickers were collecting recyclable materials from bags of household waste when the bags were put out for collection. “The work of waste pickers is just about the only means through which waste gets recycled in

## “After all, they are environmental heroes, cleaning up our streets and neighbourhoods from the shadows.”

my country as there is no waste separation at source. All sorts of waste both organic and non-organic are mixed on disposal and taken to the landfill.

“This means that in the process, a lot of valuable materials that could have been recycled are also lost. Waste pickers wake up very early in the morning to search for recyclable materials such as PET bottles, cans and different kinds of plastic materials.”

By selling the materials they gather to recycling centres, these waste pickers are able to earn a little money - but probably not enough to survive on. Without waste sorting, the waste pickers have to search in bins and dump sites to find desired materials, which poses serious health risks. For women and children, the environment is not just physically toxic; they have to compete with men and endure significantly higher risks of physical and emotional abuse.

“To receive a meaningful amount of money, one has to amass enough waste, up to a ton, as waste materials are bought for between 20 to 40 cents depending on the kind of material. That’s a lot of picking!”

This project also involves educating communities on the importance of sustainable waste management, discouraging dumping and promoting separation to make the job of waste pickers easier.

“Through capacity building with Vital Recycling, a youth-led institution I am working with which is championing the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 [take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts], we link waste pickers to local buyers and also train them on value addition skills.”

“Engaging with waste pickers, a profession that is shunned and not recognised by the community, has taught me a lot. I have grown so much professionally through engaging other institutions both governmental, private and community based. Through working together with others, I have achieved a lot of goals that I had put on paper when I enrolled in the advocacy programme.

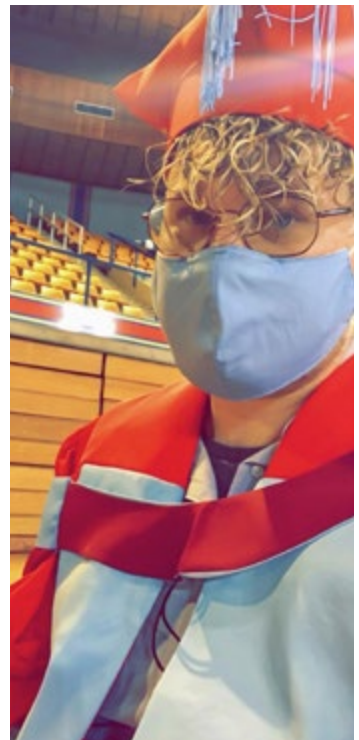
“My club, the Rotaract Club of Matopos, has also been very helpful and our members have been learning environmental stewardship. I hope to see waste picking being recognised as a profession and pickers being treated with respect and dignity.”

## A SONG A DAY may just keep the doctor away

Chad Anderson of Wenona, USA, was the recipient of a global grant bursary and hosted by the Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield (D9400). He recently graduated from the University of Pretoria in South Africa with a DPhil in Public Health for his study: *Developing a programme to educate young children about malaria to effect behavioural change through a song*.

This ground-breaking research involved the development and evaluation of a song for children under five years old to prevent malaria. In 2019, malaria killed an estimated 409 000 people, of whom 27 400 were children under five. Chad’s Master’s dissertation was about a way to find a song to prevent malaria (or any other disease) using a scientific method. This idea arose from his time in the United States Peace Corps where he served in Mali and Botswana. While in Botswana, Chad had worked with local artists to make a rap video discussing malaria prevention.

Twenty schools were involved in his doctoral study that tested the efficacy of the song. The findings indicated that an age and culturally appropriate song about malaria supported memory retention of knowledge in all who learned the song. He presented his findings at the African Malaria Conference in South Africa in August 2021.







*South African National Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, arrives at the Melusi site near Pretoria.*

# INSPIRED TO CARE AT RFHD 2021

The community of Melusi informal settlement in the west of Pretoria have been helped by public/private partnership that launched sites to provide primary healthcare needs to the immediate community. This was celebrated through the 2021 Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) that took place on Friday, 5 November, writes *Reitumetse Mahope*.

The RFHD campaign celebrated its 10th year of delivering critical healthcare services to communities that cannot normally access them. This campaign provided screening, testing, vaccinations and counselling for HIV/AIDS, blood pressure, TB, diabetes, hepatitis B and C, some cancers, COVID-19 and other non-communicable diseases. This year, special emphasis had been placed on ensuring that people with disabilities were included in the programme.

The National Department of Health has been in partnership with the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA) and other stakeholders for the past 10 years to reinforce the importance of regular health screening and testing that leads to early detection of preventable and manageable diseases in order to save lives and cut avoidable treatment costs.

CEO of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) Dr Thembisile Xulu said she was glad to be part of the day that affirmed the work government was doing, along with other sectors, to bridge the gap of healthcare services.

“We know that abject poverty and lack of access to services always creates substantial challenges in terms of our response to illnesses.” She also said that the emergence of COVID-19 in the world had hit the under-resourced communities the hardest and halted their economic opportunities.

Xulu said the pandemic had affected HIV access and treatment as programmes, such as male circumcision and distribution of condoms, reduced.

“During the early days of hard lockdown, many people missed their clinic visits for periodic assessments” and did not receive their medication.

However, she said through lobby groups, government was able to ensure an integration of COVID-19 services, along with HIV/AIDS, TB and other services. These services, and others, were intensified by government to ensure that people who had left treatment, were welcomed back into care.

Health Minister, Dr Joe Phaahla giving the keynote address said he was happy that the Rotarians were able to identify disadvantaged communities.

Phaahla said their contribution was very important as government had lost ground in the past 20 months on offering comprehensive health services. “So much of our resources, such as finances and human resources were diverted to the pandemic. We have gone backwards in comprehensive health services and are playing catch-up.”

Phaahla urged people to have the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of the impending fourth wave that is set to hit South Africa in the upcoming months. He said many other countries, especially low and middle-income countries, and on the African continent were still struggling with access to vaccination. “We’re still speaking about less than 6% of people on the continent having had access to vaccinations.”

*Reitumetse Mahope is a journalist and photographer at the Pretoria Rekord: [www.rekord.co.za](http://www.rekord.co.za)*



*Sandra Khumalo, two-time paralympian rower, motivational speaker and people with disability activist, delivered a powerful address that gave a valuable and undeniable perspective to the difficulties people with disabilities face on a regular basis. She described how often women and girls with disabilities are attacked by sexual predators, often men they know or are related to. “We always teach the girls to scream as loudly as possible. Even those next door have to hear you screaming.”*



## Jennifer Jones' Exciting News

In her message to Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) South Africa, President-Elect Jennifer Jones shared the history of polio eradication in Africa and its declaration as wild polio-free. She also detailed the benefits and successes of the RFHD programme, as well as the COVID-19 relief efforts of Rotary across the globe.

“Fighting disease is one of Rotary’s main areas of focus... Now Rotary is fully engaged in helping countries break through COVID-19 vaccine resistance and ensuring that effective vaccines are available worldwide.”

But that was not the big news. During the RFHD launch, she announced that, “Our Rotary Foundation has signed a memorandum of understanding with GAVI the vaccine alliance which is an implementing partner of COVAX to facilitate the equitable distribution of vaccines and to encourage the demand for vaccinations in select countries in Africa and Asia.” This will be done using the powerful networks and partnerships that Rotary built for polio eradication.



**Watch the launch at:**  
<https://bit.ly/3ko4Jf7>



A photograph of a dry, cracked landscape. In the foreground, the ground is parched and cracked into large, irregular blocks of light brown earth, with small green weeds sprouting between the cracks. A piece of weathered, dark brown driftwood lies across the cracked earth. In the middle ground, a stone bridge with a single large arch and two smaller side arches spans a dry riverbed. The bridge is made of light-colored stone or brick. Behind the bridge, a steep, rocky hill rises, covered in sparse, dry vegetation. In the background, several high-voltage power lines with pylons stretch across the sky. The sky is filled with long, horizontal streaks of white and grey clouds, suggesting a long-exposure photograph. The overall tone is somber and urgent, highlighting the effects of drought.

# THERE'S HOPE...

# ...IF WE ACT NOW



# Climate change

IT'S NOT ON THE HORIZON, WE ARE ALREADY FACING IT!

With mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies driven through COP26, southern Africa can reduce the impacts on local livelihoods, writes Jennifer Fitchett

Many people still think of climate change as a phenomenon that we will only face in the distant future. Perhaps that's partly because climate change projections about rising temperatures and extreme weather events are tied to future dates: 2030, 2050 or 2100, for instance.

But it's important to realise that we are already experiencing climate change and have done so for some time now. Over the past century, global temperatures have increased by approximately 1°C. Sea level rise is already starting to affect certain low-lying coastal communities. The world is experiencing more frequent, intense and extreme climate events.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report: Physical Science basis, released in September 2021, contains a comprehensive – and largely grim – assessment of the state of both recorded and projected climate change globally. The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing science relating to climate change – a group of expert scientists from around the world who author scientific reports on the state of the earth's climate and future climate change projections.

This latest report compiles research from 1 400 papers and served as an important reference document for the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, last month. It's there that science is turned into policy.

Such policy is critical for the whole world – and urgent for southern Africa, which is particularly vulnerable to climate changes. The region has already been experiencing climate changes that are more rapid, and with impacts that are more severe than the global average. It also struggles with a low adaptive capacity: there's little capital available for investment in measures to protect against future climate hazards, and very pressing immediate human rights needs for a large proportion of the population.

There's no avoiding the reality that southern Africa is in the throes of a climate emergency. By identifying trends in the frequency of weather events and their intensity over a period of decades and then exploring changes in related biological systems, it's plain to see that the region has already been rocked by climate change and related effects.

## AN INCREASE IN EXTREME TEMPERATURE

Extreme temperature events can be defined



by the maximum temperature, the deviation from the norm, or the length of time of above-threshold temperatures. A number of indices have been developed by the World Meteorological Organisation to identify and quantify these extreme temperature events.

Warm events, when they meet specific criteria, are termed heatwaves. These are particularly dangerous for people, animals and plants, and are a direct cause of deaths.

In southern Africa, there has been an increase in the severity and frequency of heatwave events over recent decades. Interestingly, for a few locations, there has also been an increase in the frequency of extreme cold events. While this is not a feature of climate warming, it is induced by changes in regional climate patterns, such as the number of cold fronts which move over South Africa.

### SEVERE DROUGHT

Drought is defined as a significant and prolonged departure from mean rainfall totals. The most severe, and best known, drought in southern Africa in recent years was the “Day Zero” crisis in Cape Town. While increasing pressure for water in the City of Cape Town played a role in this, a longer-term poleward displacement in the winter-rain-bearing westerlies which bring the cold fronts and rain to Cape Town during the winter months was a significant contributor to this drought.

Southern Africa more broadly is also sensitive to El Niño induced droughts. El Niño refers to warmer than usual conditions in the Eastern Pacific that persist for a couple of months through to years, driven by a weakening of the trade winds, and a resultant reduction in the upwelling of colder water to the sea surface just off South America. This was the cause of the 2015-2016 drought in South Africa’s Kruger Park, which resulted in the drying up of watering holes, and the widely publicised death of hippos and later culling of other large mammals.

### HIGH INTENSITY TROPICAL CYCLONES

The southern African subcontinent is relatively well protected from tropical cyclones by the island of Madagascar. However, some tropical cyclones do form in the Mozambique Channel, and occasionally some tropical cyclones move across Madagascar. These storms can – and do, as was seen most recently with Tropical Cyclones Idai, Kenneth and

Eloise – make landfall in Mozambique.

Over recent decades, tropical cyclones in the Southwest Indian Ocean have increased in intensity; the first category 5 tropical cyclone for the sub-ocean basin was recorded in 1994.

Tropical Cyclone Idai, which bordered in intensity between categories 3 and 4 on landfall, provides stark evidence of the damage wrought by high intensity tropical cyclones in populated areas.

There is also evidence that tropical cyclones have expanded their range polewards over recent decades, affecting a larger region of southern Africa.

### CHANGES IN THE TIMING OF PHENOLOGICAL EVENTS

In addition to the weather we experience from the changing climate itself, climate change also has an impact on biological systems. Phenology, which refers to the timing of annually recurrent biological events, is one of the most sensitive bio-indicators of climate change.

In South Africa, scientists have recorded advances in the timing of apple and pear flowering in the southwestern Cape, and of Jacaranda flowering in the Gauteng city region. Warmer sea surface

temperatures have also resulted in a delay in the sardine run along the KwaZulu-Natal south coast.

These shifts have an impact on agriculture and tourism, but more importantly demonstrate that climate change is having an effect on the natural environment. These shifts in timing cannot continue indefinitely. Plants and animals have thresholds beyond which the stresses of climate change will result in at least local extinction.

The picture seems hopeless, but with mitigation and adaptation strategies and policies driven through, among other processes, COP26, southern Africa can reduce the impacts of climate change on local livelihoods. It is important at this stage to invest in adaptation to reduce the impacts of climate change and to make every effort to reduce our reliance on carbon to slow down climate change.

*Jennifer Fitchett is an Associate Professor of Physical Geography, University of the Witwatersrand. Source: Groundup.org.za*



# Living in the plastic age

EndPlasticSoup is a Rotary movement started in the Netherlands which is changing the conversation about the environment and which has captured the imaginations of many, writes *Dave King*

This is the Indonesian island of Saparua, surrounded by a polluted ocean, bereft of a functioning waste management system. A little boy, no more than eight or nine years old, picks his way along a path littered with plastic debris, where goats forage for food among the waste. This is the sobering reality of plastic pollution which threatens to destroy the earth's eco-system.

The image was captured by Dutch photographer, Kees Lafeber, a neighbour of Gert-Jan van Dommelen, the co-founder of the proposed EndPlasticSoup Rotary Action Group.

"Plastic soup is not just the plastic waste in the oceans, it's not just the plastic waste in the waters of our rivers and lakes. It is the plastic waste in our environment," he said.

"Eighty per cent of plastic waste gets into the ocean sooner or later, through the air or through our rivers."

In little more than two years, EndPlasticSoup is gaining traction.

Already, a number of Rotary clubs in Great Britain & Ireland have signed up to become member clubs, joining a movement which is supported by 1 500 clubs, and 3 500 Rotarians and Rotaractors globally, with 72 Ambassador clubs in 47 countries.

Their aim is simple; by 2050, to rid the world of the plastic soup which lingers in the oceans and seas, in our lakes, rivers, forests, parks and streets.

Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs worldwide work together to solve and prevent the plastic pollution problem.

As Rotary seeks to define itself to a younger audience beyond a traditional constituency of polio, so plastics and campaigning for the environment is being regarded by some as a path to millennial enlightenment.



“EndPlasticSoup really appeals to the younger generation,” explained Gert-Jan, who has been a Rotarian for less than four years with the Rotary Club of Huizen Gooimeer (D1570), east of Amsterdam.

“Youngsters now regard Rotary as a different organisation and are happy to be part of this. Many people see this as new Rotary. My own club gained eight new members over the past 18 months because of this initiative.”

Five Rotary clubs from the Netherlands started the initiative in 2018 following a plastic soup fishing weekend cleaning up Amsterdam’s canals. What now exists is an advocacy and action movement which aims to educate, challenge and provide a pathway towards change.

“Rotary cannot solve this alone,” added Gert-Jan.

“We need all the people on this planet. We need all the governments, all the industries and all the organisations to work together, building alliances, so we can accelerate and connect to make this possible.”

In practical terms, EndPlasticSoup is looking for Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs to start the debate by creating awareness in their own communities,

perhaps taking on a small project, such as the clean-up of a park or a beach. This is a perfect opportunity to recruit community-minded volunteers.

In Gert-Jan’s home town of Huizen Gooimeer, the Rotary club has strong links with the town’s high schools and have organised events with the environmentally-awakened students inspired by Swedish teenage activist, Greta Thunberg.

There they have worked with children on the perils of cigarettes – not just on the health risks of smoking, but on the dangers to animals, and that has struck a chord.

Cigarette filters contain microplastics, so when the butts are discarded on the streets, they are collected by birds and other animals and this can harm them. This is a message the school children have been successfully taking home to their parents.

Back in the Moluccas, Indonesia, where the river takes care of the rubbish when it rains, flushing the plastic debris into the ocean, EndPlasticSoup is working with its partner Happy Green Islands on Saparua to educate the children.

The school children’s task is to fill three big nets of plastic rubbish that they collect each day, with a





*A beach plastic clean-up in Western Norway*

reward once they have completed the task.

EndPlasticSoup works with 50 corporate entities worldwide that share similar values and who are making a difference in various pockets of the globe, establishing connections to local Rotary clubs, for example, in the Philippines, Thailand, Egypt, the Caribbean, Honduras, Turkey, Russia and Brazil.

As one of the examples, EndPlasticSoup is working with Dutch inventor and entrepreneur, Boyan Slat, founder of The Ocean Cleanup, which has developed advanced systems to rid the world's oceans of plastics.

They are also targeting rivers, and EndPlasticSoup is working with them in eight different locations in the Philippines, Thailand and in Alexandria in Egypt to clean the River Nile for a project which involves both Orthodox Christian and Muslim Rotary clubs.

This campaign, said the Dutch co-founder, is crossing generations. "Suddenly, people are seeing Rotary in a different way and I think that is appealing. People are so concerned about the planet and about climate-change.

"But it is difficult to do something about carbon dioxide and things you can't touch. Plastic you can grab, it is there, you can do something about it and you can start today."

Gert-Jan added: "What is important is awareness, that is why we are asking Rotary clubs all over the world to join this initiative just by adding the

EndPlasticSoup element to their actions.

"For example, you may be doing a walk for water to do fund raising for Africa, with school children or community volunteers. Why not ask them to clean up on their walk because we don't want to leave plastic in nature?

"We want to educate children not just by giving a lesson, but by asking the schools to work with parents, staff and the wider community to really reduce plastic consumption.

"In my home town, when we go to the flower shop we ask them not to use plastic wrapping but paper instead.

"It is about Awareness, Action and Alliances across the full cycle, not just clean-up at the end.

"This is not an easy thing, it is complex, but when you start doing this, miracles happen. Everybody wants the same thing, and that is what is unique about this project.

"Start at the club level, start today. Try to find a few people who feel energised to do one or two things initially. Do this step-by-step. Don't make it too big. We will need you for more years than just this year.

"Join us now and, if possible, become a member club to support us. We can share all the information and knowledge we have."

Learn more at: <https://endplasticsoup.nl/en/>





# VANESSA NAKATE

Inspired by Rotary, this young Ugandan activist is speaking out about climate change in Africa

Vanessa Nakate, a 24-year-old climate activist from Uganda, made international headlines after the World Economic Forum's 2020 meeting in Davos, Switzerland. But the story wasn't what she said about the climate crisis. The story was that her name and photo were missing from media coverage of the event.

Nakate was one of five young climate activists, including Time magazine's 2019 person of the year, Greta Thunberg, who had participated in a press conference at the event. But the photo that the Associated Press released to global news outlets included only the four activists from Europe; Nakate, the only Black climate activist in the group, had been cropped out. A video that she made in response went viral and Nakate has since made it a personal crusade to amplify voices that are not being heard in the climate movement.

"Being cropped out of that photo changed me. I became bolder and more direct in how I talk about the climate crisis and racism and how I articulate the many ways families are being impacted right now," she writes in her book, *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*, which is being released on 2 November. "I decided, from my perspective as a young African woman, that I would dedicate as much of my time as possible to addressing the many interlocking facets of the climate crisis, environmental justice and gender discrimination - and to do so without apology or fear of erasure."

On her path to becoming a climate powerhouse, Nakate was influenced by her father, Paul Mugambe, a long-time Rotary member. As president of the Rotary Club of Bugolobi in 2017-18, Mugambe helped coordinate a five-year project, Mission Green, in which clubs in former District 9211 (Uganda and Tanzania) planted trees in communities across their district. (In photos from the 2019 United Nations climate talks in Madrid, where she was invited to speak, Nakate was wearing a Mission Green polo shirt that her father had given her).

"Watching my dad as a leader of Mission Green sowed a seed that made me decide to be a voice of change," she says. "His courage and his action inspired me to find my voice and to stand up for what I believe is important and what is needed in society."

Galvanised by the tree-planting project, Nakate decided to embark on an environmental project of her own as she finished her degree in business administration from Makerere University in Kampala. As she researched the challenges that people in her community were facing, she was surprised to discover that climate change was at the heart of many of them. In January 2019, she began protesting at public sites around Kampala, demanding climate action as part of the global Fridays for Future movement begun by Thunberg in Sweden a few months before.

Nakate later founded the Rise Up Movement as a platform for African voices in the global climate change discussion. At grassroots level, Nakate has

also worked to instal solar panels and eco-friendly stoves in schools.

Nakate spoke with Rotary senior staff writer Diana Schoberg over Zoom in July about why girls and women will play a particular role in fighting climate change, what the effects of climate change will mean for the African continent and how Rotary members can help.

“Surely this is what Rotary International means - to be people of action,”

Nakate said in a speech at the 2021 Rotary Convention. “So let’s stop talking and start taking action. And the action must start today.”

### **How will climate change affect countries in Africa?**

In recent decades, the African continent has been responsible for as little as 3% of global CO2 emissions, yet right now Africans are suffering some of the most brutal effects. The climate crisis is here, now, for many African countries.

In my own country, Uganda, we have seen floods, landslides and droughts. Throughout East Africa, we saw a locust invasion that left many people in dire need of food because the locusts ate everything. We saw Lake Victoria’s water levels rise, causing massive destruction and contamination of water resources. When you look at Lake Chad, it has shrunk to a tenth of the size it was just 50 years ago. We saw more than 100 people die in Sudan last year because of floods.

In south east Africa we saw Cyclone Idai [in March 2019, one of the worst tropical cyclones to hit the Southern Hemisphere], which left 1,300 people dead and many more missing, resulting in an economic crisis in the affected countries.

And the climate crisis continues to affect people even in the aftermath of a disaster.

It is about more than weather or statistics. Because when these disasters occur, they create many other challenges for communities. There’s the risk of a rise in conflict because of resources being depleted, such as water sources drying up. We won’t be able to eradicate poverty if climate change is pushing millions of people into poverty traps. We won’t be able to achieve zero hunger if millions of people must travel to find food because extreme weather conditions are causing droughts in their communities.

### **You’ve been outspoken about the exclusion of voices from the global south in the climate change movement. Why is it important to amplify the voices of people who are already being affected?**

When I was at the press conference with fellow activists and was cropped out of a picture, to me,

that was an erasure of my message, of my story, of everything I had said. Everything regarding what we were experiencing in my country and what we were seeing on the continent of Africa had come out of my mouth, but it never actually reached people.

Many times we hear about the need to amplify missing voices, but the voices aren’t missing. The voices are present; the problem is that we are not being listened to. We are not being amplified. The other problem is that other people are telling our stories. We are in a better position to tell our own stories.

It is important to listen to every activist in the climate movement. I know what is happening in my country. But I don’t have full knowledge of what our fellow activists are seeing unfold in their countries, in Kenya or India or South Africa. I may have an idea, but I don’t have full knowledge of how people are actually suffering. I may have known that Zimbabwe faced a water crisis, but I didn’t know how valuable water was until I talked to an activist from there.

We cannot have climate justice if some people are being left behind. We cannot have climate justice if the most affected communities are not being listened to.

### **Why is it important for Rotary members to include local voices when they’re doing projects?**

When someone carries out a project, takes it to a community and then leaves, it feels like it has just been dumped there - and that’s the end of the story. But when community members are involved in the implementation, they’re not just receiving the project, they’re also receiving education about the project. Then when you leave, there are people who can still manage that project so that it can continue to sustain the community.

When a community is not involved in a project, it makes people feel inferior - they cannot even take part in the decision making, they cannot advise on anything.

Also, some projects, however good they may be, might not be welcomed by the community. A project may lead to displacement of certain people or affect the water source that the community needs.

It’s important to involve community leaders and the community at large so that they can agree on the project and you can work hand-in-hand on it.

### **How can Rotary members get involved in climate initiatives?**

What we really need now is to create as much awareness as possible about the climate crisis. If you are in a house that’s on fire, you want to do everything you can to save yourself. That’s why it’s important for

us to keep speaking up and spreading this message until many people come together. Rotary members can use their platforms to talk about the climate crisis and to share the work of the different activists who are speaking up.

It would be great if Rotary clubs across the world would invite activists to talk about the work they are doing and the challenges they are facing. Some Rotary members work with the media or have connections with other organisations and they can amplify the stories of activists to reach different or bigger audiences.

Every activist has a story to tell, every story has a solution and every solution can change a life.

It would also be great to have Rotary members supporting the physical protests of activists across the world. This could mean attending the protests, or it could mean providing financial support so the activists can purchase placards or banners. There are different ways that you can show support. But many times, I feel that in-person support is what is needed most. When you are there, we know that we are all fighting together.

Another way that Rotary members can add their voices to the climate movement is by supporting grassroots projects that activists are doing in their communities.

It doesn't matter how small a project or activity is. If I'm doing something and you're doing something and another person is doing something - if millions of us are doing projects in our communities - if we put them together, we will change the world.

### **What role does educating girls play in fighting climate change?**

Many times the solutions to tackling climate change that our leaders talk about still need so much research and development.

Yet we have solutions that we know could work right now and one of those solutions is educating girls. Why girls? Girls and women are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

They are at the front lines when climate disasters occur. They're the ones who work more when farms are destroyed.

They're the ones who have to look for food for their families. They're the ones who walk long distances to collect water, exposing them to diseases and gender violence. They're the ones who look for firewood.

When climate disasters cause families to lose everything - their homes, their farms, their businesses - many times the male child is prioritised for school and the girls have to drop out, putting them at risk

of early marriages. Here, especially where I come from in Uganda, when a girl gets married, the family expects the right price. And this is not just about the climate crisis. Many girls have been given up for marriage during the COVID-19 pandemic because their families are telling them that if they don't get married, there won't be money to feed the family.

The 2017 book Drawdown listed 100 things that we can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Educating girls and family planning ranked as the sixth and seventh most impactful solutions. Educating girls will not only reduce the inequality that girls and women already face, but it will also help to reduce emissions and to build the resilience of individuals, families and communities, all at the same time. Look at the climate movement. Most of the young people who are speaking are young women demanding climate justice - and we can only see girls rise up to be leaders if they have been in school.

### **Why have many girls and young women been such strong voices in the climate movement?**

I think it's because they realise that they are among the most vulnerable people when it comes to the climate crisis. They speak so passionately about these issues because if nothing is done, then more girls are going to continue to suffer and more women are going to continue to be exploited. More are going to face these inequalities as this crisis continues to worsen. More girls and more young women are speaking up about this issue because they want a better world for women - a world where people respect the planet more and they also respect girls and women more.

### **How would you describe the climate activist community and where do you fit into it?**

The activism in my country has been growing steadily and we have more young people speaking up, mobilising and organising. We have also reached more young people by visiting schools.

Globally, since we cannot meet in person, most of the mobilisation happens on social media. That is where we support and amplify each other. That is where we advocate for specific campaigns to demand climate justice. It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of the climate movement in my country and to be able to connect with other young people across the world.

One of the things that really gives me hope and motivates me to keep demanding climate justice is knowing that there are millions of young people who are speaking up - knowing that if today I am not able to speak up, there is someone else speaking up on my behalf. We see a lot of solidarity and a lot of support from each other.

### Would this have been possible 10 or 15 years ago without social media?

It would have been possible, but the method would have been different. Before the Fridays for Future movement, other climate movements have happened. We've seen other people rising up and speaking up for the planet, speaking up for the people. One of the people whose activism and story inspires me and pushes me to keep speaking is the late Wangari Maathai [a Nobel Peace Prize-winning environmentalist from Kenya]. She led a powerful movement even before I thought of activism or Fridays for Future began. I give much respect to those in the climate and environmental movements who have been fighting for the planet for generations. We need an intergenerational movement where we all work together to demand climate justice and a better future for us all.

### Are there any lessons from the world's response to the pandemic that we can apply to climate change?

One is that when it comes to the climate crisis, leaders have failed to listen. We have seen during the pandemic how leaders have followed the guidelines that were put in place to keep people safe. Leaders can listen to the science, so it's actually their political will to decide whether or not to act.

The other thing I can think of is that many times when we talk about what a healthy world can look like, some people say that effecting change is really

hard. But we have seen during this pandemic that to protect others' lives, people can adapt. We may not have ever envisioned a work-from-home experience, but we saw it happen. People can easily change and adapt in order to ensure a world we can live in.

### What would you ask of Rotarians who might be reading this?

We can all do something for people and for our planet. The climate crisis is here and it's affecting communities right now.

If you don't believe that, it only means that you haven't yet seen it in your community or your country. We are all facing the same storm - it doesn't matter where you are, it doesn't matter who you are. The climate crisis will affect all of us in the end. That is why we all have to stand up and work together to transform this world and make it a better place for all of us.

### FOLLOW

Watch [esrag.org](https://esrag.org) for updates during the UN climate talks. Make a gift to The Rotary Foundation to support the environment area of focus at [my.rotary.org/donate](https://my.rotary.org/donate).

## Rotary's role in protecting the environment

Last month, world leaders gathered to negotiate how to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. The United Nations' 26th annual global climate summit, known as COP26 (short for Conference of the Parties), took place in Glasgow, Scotland.

Vanessa Nakate and Rotary were there!

To reach the stated goal, the world must halve global emissions over the next decade and reach "net zero" - the point where we produce less carbon than we take out of the atmosphere - by the middle of the century. To do so, governments, businesses and civil society organisations will need to work together. Rotary is poised to put its global networks into action on this challenge wherever it can make a difference.

"Given that we now have the environment as our new area of focus," says Judith Diment, "I see this as an opportunity for Rotary members to showcase what we are doing around the world to address the environment."

Diment is dean of the Rotary Representative Network, which is made up of members who serve as liaisons to the UN and its programmes and agencies, as well as to other international organisations, giving Rotary a seat at the table at high-level meetings.

As of press time, four Rotary members will serve as delegates to COP26 talks; additional members will also attend on behalf of other organisations. "We'd love to see Rotary members have a role in holding their countries accountable," says Karen Kendrick-Hands, one of the Rotary delegates. "I like to think of it as Rotary being the world's conscience."

Posters created by school children to illustrate ways to mitigate climate change will be displayed during the talks. Hundreds of clubs are participating in the poster competition organised by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland and more than 2,000 entries had been received as of mid-September. "It's these children's future that we're going to be helping to protect by the decisions at COP26," Diment says.





*Over the last four years, with the help of hundreds of North American volunteers, they have distributed more than 13 000 of these kits.*

## Partnered to Empower

In a country where poverty is rampant, as high as 70% in many South African villages, women need a hand up to establish themselves as leaders in their communities. Rotary clubs in District 9400 have long partnered with Blessman International on several projects, including farming and drilling wells for water. Now, Rotary D9400 is working on a new initiative with BI to further empower women in Africa.

One key Blessman International ministry component is helping young African girls compete in the educational arena. All too many girls stay home from school during the days of their menstrual cycles because they are unable to afford feminine hygiene products. Often, they never complete their formal learning.

Blessman International became aware of this need and aligned with Days for Girls, an international NGO to sew washable, reusable menstrual health kits. During each of these distributions, the young ladies are given motivational talks, encouraging them to work hard in school as a path to success. They are also instructed in women's health issues and Christian values.

In planting two churches in Limpopo Province, Blessman International has collaborated to offer guidance and support for young women, to which they can turn in troubled times. Celebrate Recovery - trauma counselling and fellowship - meets every

Friday evening at their Del Cramer Children's Campus in a small village outside of Mokopane. There, Blessman International creates a safe space for young woman to share, heal, and grow in their Christian faith.

In a second vital programme to empower women, Blessman International employs five ladies in their sewing micro-enterprise. This last year, The Rotary Club of Haenertsberg, South Africa joined with Blessman International to take the programme to a much larger scale. Their FemKit Grant enables more women to become entrepreneurs, as a means of creating self-reliance and financial security.

The grant provides for training 25 African ladies in sewing, trained by Blessman International's experienced employees, and business management to prepare them to establish their own sewing business. The funding provides access to sewing machines and materials needed to complete 10 000 new menstrual health kits that will be distributed over the next 18 months.

Maya Angelou said, "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without claiming it, she stands up for all women." It is a great cooperation, offering new skills for adults that, in great measure, directly provide a hand up to the next generations of young South African women. Blessman International and Rotary D9400 are uniquely partnered to help make this happen.

## Update: Empowering Girls



Members of the Rotary Club of Constantia (D9350) decided to give what they would have spent on dinners had they not been meeting online, to an empowering girls project. A total of R5 600 was collected and used to buy 28 comfort packs that police will give to children who have been raped or sexually assaulted. The club partnered with Matla A Bana, an organisation that raises funds and helps authorities with creating child friendly facilities at police stations. It also provides comfort packs to children, as well as training to police, medical personnel and schools. Matla A Bana helps 30 000 children per year and aims to prevent the secondary trauma that children may suffer when reporting crimes against them.

## Fighting Period Poverty

Ricardo Stringer of the Ocean View Ishaqua Fisheries approached the Rotary Club of Cape of Good Hope (D9350) for assistance with the distribution of sanitary pads he had collected for the schoolgirls during his recent 'Power Run' charity drive.

Maughreen Ladbrook, a member of the club, networked in the communities of Fish Hoek and Simon's Town for further donations. Thanks to their generous support, a large number of pads were given to the girls at Ocean View Secondary School and Kleinberg Primary.

Pastor Shaddie from My Father's House in Simon's Town and Clicks in Harbour Bay Mall helped collect more than 500 packets of sanitary pads for the girls at Simon's Town School and the Ocean View Elsen School for Special Needs.

Ricardo said that he and his Ishaqua team were overwhelmed by this show of support and owe a huge



debt of gratitude to everyone and the Rotary club for their wonderful and caring community spirit.

Maughreen and the Ishaqua team will continue to collect sanitary pads on behalf of the club and endeavour to keep more girls in school!

# What empowering girls and women projects are you busy with?

We would love to hear more about them! Send your stories and photos to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)



*This agricultural and economic development project was the club's first global grant project and was so successful, that we are sure it won't be its last!*



# Reaping the rewards

A project to create sustainable income for unemployed people, mostly women and youth, has turned a section of the Inanda Valley near Durban, South Africa, into a thriving agricultural hub. By developing small vegetable farming co-operatives, it has simultaneously benefited the greater community by bringing economic development to the disadvantaged area.

The Rotary Club of Umhlanga (D9370) partnered with the Rotary Club of Martinsburg (D7360, USA) in a global grant worth R560 000 to support the project.

The club based the Inanda 2 Agricultural Project on an earlier project it had successfully undertaken with the Rotary Club of Wageningen (D1560, Netherlands). The original project had been done on a smaller scale without global grant funding and was followed up with a small club-funded project.

With the global grant funding in place, it was all systems go and six motivated candidates, who could obtain concessions of suitable land from the tribal authorities, were selected. Once identified, they received training and assistance with initial preparation of land after clearing. Fencing materials, tools, irrigation pumps, storage tanks and piping systems were also provided. The project also ensured that the beneficiaries were assisted with the acquisition of seedlings, subsistence support during planting and financial assistance for marketing.

Intensive guidance and support for the farmers was provided by Rotarians Mbali Ismail and Kagi Mosaka with support from Rob Hay, Munro Papanicolaou and Peter Harmsen.

Complications arose from the arrival of COVID-19 in the country and caused the project to eventually be completed in June 2021.





*The guests (in-person and virtual) at the tasting at the Nitida Cellar.*

# Serve (wine) to Change Lives

Through our 2021-2022 theme, our RI President Shekhar Mehta is urging members to be more involved in Rotary service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own, writes PDG Lynette Stassen of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town (D9350).

Together, the Rotary E-Clubs of Hamburg Connect (D1890, Germany) and Greater Cape Town planned the perfect fundraiser around this perfect theme – with a bit of ‘shaken, not stirred’ added. The end result was an online wine tasting fundraiser that served wine to change lives.

Between 10 and 15 Rotary clubs, NGOs, businesses and friends gathered in three countries (Germany, Namibia and South Africa) to be part of the tasting experience. The guests tasted the exact

same wines at the exact same time while listening to the same wine maker. This took some planning, but it worked brilliantly!

Beautiful wine tasting boxes, that included spices and tasting notes, were sent to help the guests become future expert wine drinkers. The wine maker walked them through the tasting process, which included having to smell and taste the spices before sipping the wine and then comparing the senses and wine notes.



*District Governor Ian Robertson and his wife, Barbara, at the event that raised funds for an ECD project.*



*Nitida owner, Bernhard Voller.*



*The spice packs that guests used during the wine tasting that spanned two continents!*

The tasting was not just virtual, as each of the virtual guests had invited a small group of people to join them at their home to share the tasting experience.

At the Nitida wine cellar, spirits were raised by the guests who had been invited to enjoy an exclusive tasting and meal prepared by the farm restaurant. Among these guests were District Governor Ian Robertson and his wife, Barbara, PDG Carl-Heinz Duisberg and his wife, Caroline, many Rotarians and some potential new Rotarians.

During the tasting, a wonderful surprise was revealed when Past Rotary International President Holger Knaack joined from Hamburg, shared a special message and stayed to enjoy the whole evening.

About R40 000 was raised for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre in Temperance Town, Gordon's Bay, which is in dire need of upkeep and renovations. The Rotaract Club of False Bay will be greatly involved with this project and add their skills to it.





*Dane Doubell with his backstage pass.*



*The programme that was streamed on YouTube.*



*Gino Fabbri and Michelle Brown during the livestream of the 2021 Big Draw.*

# Lightly Roasted Rotarians

The annual Big Draw hosted by the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370) is a BIG annual fundraising event. With the emergence of COVID-19, the last year's event had to be cancelled, even though there were communities in Port Elizabeth that desperately needed help.

The club members realised that for the 2021 Big Draw to go ahead, they needed to think outside the box to raise some much-needed funds and soon, the Virtual Big Draw was conceptualised.

The draw was hosted by Gino Fabbri on his popular YouTube show 'Gino's Spot'. Gino was joined by Rotarian Michelle Brown to host the show.

The two had a great time and the show was very funny with some light 'roasting'. A number of the Algoa Bay members joined the show virtually to speak about Rotary and what Rotary club members do in their communities. A total of R36 000 was raised. The show is still available on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/3LEdnbrqOgQ>





*Dave Marshall relaxing after his day in the sun with Mike Vink and Hannes Dressler.*

# It Just Gets Better

“What do you get when you combine 112 golfers with a club of enthusiastic organisers, hundreds of raffle ticket buyers and at least a dozen sponsors?” asks *Mike Vink* of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400).

You get a whole lot of fun, fellowship and a very, very successful golf day at the Wanderers Golf Club on Friday, 15 October! Johannesburg New Dawn has been organising golf days for the past seven years and this one, the second this year (the first was in March), was by far the most successful in terms of funds raised, number of golfers and, not forgetting the reason Rotarians go to all this trouble, fun and fellowship shared.

This is no mean feat during these COVID-19 times, although the date fitted in perfectly with the end of the third wave of COVID-19 infections. The golfers were also blown away by their prizes, all donated by members or companies and contacts of members.

A raffle for a week for eight people at a beach

house in St Francis Bay, belonging to Adele Dabbs, a member of Johannesburg New Dawn was held. The second prize was a wheelbarrow full of ‘booze’ that was donated by members. There were also some smaller prizes, but the two main prizes proved to be big drawcards.

Success breeds success and with more and more people becoming involved in the golf days, it bodes well for future fundraising efforts.

The funds collected were for the organisation Donate a Loo, which seeks to create a safer environment for the children and staff at crèches and playschools by replacing pit latrines with proper functioning toilets. The knock-on benefit of this project is that government requires these schools to have ‘proper’ toilets before approving their grants.



## AFRICA IN BRIEF



A World Polio Day fundraiser was held by the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) at Stonehaven on Vaal. Guests included Rotex club members, previous youth exchange students, prospective exchange students, members of Rotary Club of Riverside and friends of Rotary. Rotarian Alan Claase presented an informative presentation on polio eradication and Rita Benecke shared the history of the club's rotating Rotary Polio doll. Each year, the club members enter a raffle to win the doll and Rita won the doll the year she attended a Rotary convention in Mexico. She travelled to the convention, through border control posts with the doll in plain sight which resulted in her being questioned by a few suspicious border control staff members. This year, President Celeste Lance won the doll and promised to keep it safe and give it back for next year's draw.

The Rotary Anns of Helderberg (D9350) gave 20 packs of reusable sanitary pads and panties to young girls at a day drop in centre in Somerset West.







The Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) celebrated Global Handwashing Day at the Dunamis Christian School's pre-school. Children were taught the importance of handwashing.



Thanks to a number of sponsors who came on board, the Rotary Club of Durban Clairwood Park (D9370) distributed 150 grocery hampers to residents of the Clairwood/Merebank area to celebrate Diwali, the Hindi festival of lights.





The Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) raised R10 000 for polio eradication at its Barcelos and Bingo night. The members, Anns and their friends enjoyed an evening of fun, laughter, games and shopping with prizes galore.



The water kiosk project, undertaken in partnership by the Rotary Club of Atlantis (D9350), Grosvenor Primary and Water Kiosk SADC was recently launched. The project will use a desalination machine to produce safe drinking water that can then be sold to help fund future club projects and needs at the school. At the launch are Tony Clarke, District Governor Ian Robertson, President Danny Pietersen, Assistant Governor Pamella Rawbone, Frederik Jansen (Rotary Club Melkbos), Principal Terence Adams, Nico Wagenstroom and Karin Smith.

Rotary



Rotary Africa  
Magazine

## SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

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!

### DEADLINES

**20 December** - Final day for updated subscriber list for  
**billing period January - June 2022**

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.*



# WALL OF HONOUR



Bruce Wesson received a sapphire pin from the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Mandy Volschenk received a Community Service award from the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Noelene Jorgensen was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth South (D9370).



Rabin Heera is a new member of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370).



The Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) recognised five of its members as Paul Harris Fellows. The recipients were Pauline Brinkworth, Brian van der Grijp (second Sapphire), Rejane van der Grijp (Sapphire), Ingrid Edelson (second Sapphire) and Winfried Löffler (Sapphire).



Bob and Donna Andrews are new members of the Rotary Club of Benoni Van Ryn (D9400).



Kagiso Molefe is a new member of the Rotary E Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Beulah Molefe is a new member of the Rotary E Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Mems Ramaila is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Munira Carim is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



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



Ilse Jaquire is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).





Sanette Mostert is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Veerash Srikison is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Susan Paget is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Hafsa Carim is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Denise Fairhurst is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Arthie Moore-Robbertson is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Christine Keke is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).



Maude Mmachacha is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Octavia Sangweni is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Emmanuel Gamor is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



Gustave Ololo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400).



John Landless was recognised by the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370) as Rotarian of the Year.



Vaughan and Alison Nisbet are new members of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



Kanaya Maharaj is a new member of the Rotary Club of Port Shepstone (D9370).



Shameem Baksh is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa (D9400).

## 2020-21 ROTARY CITATION



Awarded to District

9400

for helping **Rotary open opportunities** in the lives of people all over the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holger Knaack'.

Holger Knaack  
President, Rotary International

District 9400 was one of 102 Rotary districts (out of more than 500), which earned a District Citation for the 2020-21 Rotary year. At least half of the Rotary clubs in District 9400 earned the 2020-2021 Rotary Citation.

### NEW CLUB PRESIDENTS



Mark Samuel  
Phoenix, 9370



Francois Joubert  
Benoni Van Ryn, 9400



Ann Smith (Anns)  
Benoni Van Ryn, 9400



Colin Murphy  
Port Alfred, 9370

# Share your club's stories with Africa

Email stories and photos to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

Please note that photos need to be at least 1MB in size

## ACCOMMODATION OFFERED

\*\*\* B&B Accommodation in Kimberley. Staying over in Kimberley? The Nook B&B \*\*\* Semi-Self Catering B&B offers excellent accommodation and rates. All rooms luxury en-suite with private entrance and secure parking.

Close to CBD and places of interest. For more info contact Rtn Rob Gibson at 072 116 8390. Web: [www.thenookbnb.co.za](http://www.thenookbnb.co.za)

## MISCELLANEOUS

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

# ENHANCED. REDESIGNED. SIMPLIFIED.



Welcome to the new  
**ROTARY LEARNING CENTER**

Enrich your Rotary experience and leadership  
by visiting the improved [rotary.org/learn](http://rotary.org/learn)



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

# AMAKHOSI CONTAINER SALES

**STORAGE : REFRIGERATED : CONVERSIONS**  
**BEST PRICES AND QUALITY : 3m, 6m, 12m**

DENNIS WESLEY: **083 733 6208**

**29 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
[dennisw@acsales.co.za](mailto:dennisw@acsales.co.za)



# STAY FRESH WITH ROTARY

THE PERFECT **SUMMER** ACCESSORY

**25L**  
STAINLESS STEEL  
**COOLER**



**25L** CAN HOLD UP TO 31 CANS  
MADE OF STAINLESS STEEL  
RETAIN ICE FOR UP TO 4 DAYS.

**51L**  
STAINLESS STEEL  
**COOLER**



**51L** CAN FIT 2L BOTTLES  
MADE OF STAINLESS STEEL  
RETAIN ICE FOR UP TO 4 DAYS.

**SHOP INSTORE  
OR ONLINE**

Contact our dedicated Rotary account manager  
<https://merchandisestore.co.za/rotary>  
+27114550078

**Rotary** 