



Rotary



District 9400

Incorporating clubs in Botswana, Eswatini and
parts of Mozambique and South Africa



District Governor Newsletter July 2020



**DG Annemarie and
PP Hans Mostert**

We were all inducted with the following words:

You have been chosen, because your fellow members believe you are a leader, that you will impart the message of Rotary to those with whom you come in contact, not only increase our usefulness and influence as a club, but also extend the true spirit of Rotary in your public, business, social and private life. You will make a good Rotarian.

Our global network of volunteer leaders is dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges and I have witnessed

and heard these stories, how we have the ability to connect with 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs and over 200 countries and geographical areas to match our courses.

In our district we have a certain direction and Rotary International's strategic plan shapes it. If you are elected as President or an office bearer, or join as a member, you have to agree to and follow this five-year plan. Over the past month I have officially visited 14 Rotary Club in our District. The newly elected leaders, their boards and member have successfully adopted to the new virtual way of meeting. Rotary has become faster and cooler.

Your commitment to serve and our friendly interaction broaden our outlook, widens our viewing angle and for me, this stands out as my highlight. Every day or every week – as we belong to very different professional groups and have to deal with very different problems, Rotary Opens Opportunities!

One of our basic values is diversity, and gender diversity is more important than ever. Our focus should be attracting young business professionals, more women, establishing Rotaract clubs, but not forgetting those who share our passion and values.

Some of you have become an enthusiastic Rotarian through a youth exchange or growing up in a Rotary Family. Consider inviting the Alumni members to join your club or charter a satellite club.

Our particular challenge this year is Covid-19, which leaves us speechless as we wonder how we will be able to recover from this crisis. In the words of Past International President Mark Maloney: “As leaders in virtually every community on earth, we bring a unique combination of local knowledge and access to global networks of expertise and resources. We remain committed to recovering from this health crisis for as long as it takes”. In D9400 you have answered the Call to Action. Thank you for continuing to make a difference and serve society!

Remain relevant, rejuvenate Rotary and make it more inclusive with younger and female members. Let's open more opportunities together. In South Africa, 9 August is Women's Day and the month of August is National Women's Month. This is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and the important role that women of all races and religions have played and continue to play in South African society.

Finally, as “Rotary is grounded not on fear, rivalry, and suspicion, but on the eternal and indestructible rocks of friendliness, tolerance, and usefulness”, create joy in your position and find joy in serving.



Thank you for making
our visits FUN:
Hans, Annemarie,
Angela, Kevin

Supporting the Environment

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact. Rotary Areas of Focus are categories of service activities supported by global grants. Supporting the environment joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

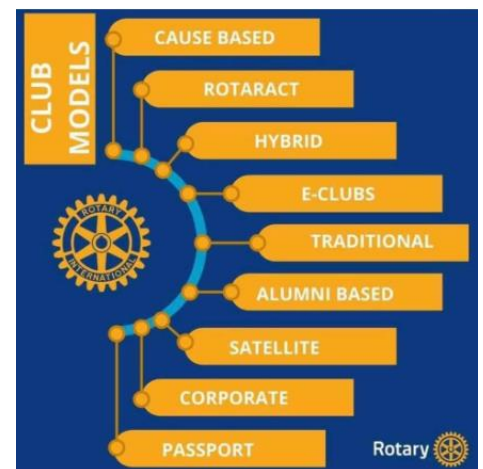
Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

August is Membership & New Club Development month

How can we attract new members?

As mentioned in the communication that went out last month, we have formed an Alumni Association, communication will be going out next week to the Alumni base, inviting them to join your club meetings. We are continuing to work on the chartering of the [Rotary Passport Club of Inter-Country Collaboration Club D9400](#), a Diplomatic Corps Club in Pretoria, and the [Rotary E-Club of Military Veterans](#).

We have also recently appointed dedicated pioneers who will be working on finding innovative ways of attracting new members to our Rotary Family. It is now easier than ever to start a [satellite club](#). Women's Day is on the 9th, why not approach a ladies' book club or share information about Rotary with the ladies in your beauty or hair salon, this may be a great way of recruiting members to start your satellite club. Please don't forget to attend the membership training on 15th August ([Register here](#)) or 16th August ([Register here](#)). The training is aimed at presidents, president elects and membership committees; however, all members are welcome to join us.



**Participate
in the
MEMBERSHIP
CHALLENGE**

**Do the quick
online
MEMBERSHIP
SURVEY
by 7th August**

ROTARY ACTION GROUPS AND FELLOWSHIPS...

TWO GREAT WAYS OF GROWING MEMBERSHIP

[Action Groups](#) help Rotary clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their area of expertise.

The groups are organized by Rotarians and Rotaractors who are proficient, and have a passion for service, in a particular field based on their vocation.

[Fellowships](#) are groups of Rotary members who:

- Share a common interest in recreational activities, sports, hobbies, or professions
- Further their vocational development with others in the same profession or field
- Enhance their Rotary experience by exploring new opportunities and making connections around the world

Rotary Action Group - Rotary Family Health & Aids Prevention Custodians of Rotary Family Health Days Program

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the annual RFHA 3-day program has been postponed until October 2021. In place of the Health Days in 2020, RFHA will be handing over PPE to emergency workers in October (details of this initiative will be distributed shortly for clubs to participate). An exciting global grant application is being compiled for the 2021 program.

The NPC board is being re-constituted, and PDG Anton Meerkotter and PDG Grant Daly are stepping down as Directors – the district thanks you for your service and commitment. We wish the new incumbents, PDG Greg Stathacopoulos and AG Carolyn Khoury, all the best with their new roles and added responsibility.



Call for Rotaract Members to shadow the leadership on all community committees including Rotary Action Groups and Fellowships.



[Click here to see the MBBI's Peace Bulletin!](#)

Centennial Legacy Project



Mediators
Beyond Borders
INTERNATIONAL



Africa Rotary Community Mediation (ARCoM) is an inter-district RAG project that aims to train 100 community mediators in districts 9350, 9370 and 9400.

The budget is being finalised and numerous clubs overseas have been approached to co-finance the project as a Vocational Training Team (VTT) Global Grant with the Rotary Foundation; local corporates are also showing an interest in the project.

The curriculum and training material will be finalised soon; grateful thanks to Rtn Prof Dries Velthuisen (UNISA), Rtn Prof Martin Rupiya (ACCORD), and Mediators Beyond Borders International. The plan is to start delivering the virtual courses in October this year, finishing off with evaluation and certification in June 2021.

Rotary Action Group - Health Education and Welfare Committee

We welcome James Crosswell (Rosebank Rotary Club) as the chair of the newly created HEW Committee. The committee will be involved with HEWRAG (Health Education and Wellness Rotary Action Group), which consists of experienced and dedicated Rotarians from across the world who are approaching issues such as tuberculosis, cervical cancer, and autism.

The current co-chairs of HEWRAG, Josie Norfolk and Gail Oberholzer, are from South Africa (District 9350); the hope is that with an enthusiastic committee, it will be possible to develop a program for District 9400 which will attract major international interest and fall in line with the initiatives which are already underway, particularly in South America and in India.

James will be writing directly to all Club Presidents asking them to suggest suitable members in their Club who may be interested in HEW and prepared to join the committee to direct this important initiative. Although medically qualified members might be most enthusiastic, any interested person will be most welcome! Please anticipate this contact through your President or AG, and send James your details to be included in future communication.

Cell: 083 407 5109 E-mail: james@tribid.co.za



Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)
Rotarians Working Together To Improve World Health



WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER 2020

WE MAY NOT STEP OUT, BUT WE CAN STEP UP

Learning the Zoom-ba, the Can Can and a few other things along the way

DGA ANGELA NORRIS

From virtual inductions to monthly meetings, zoom has been a blessing to so many. Still a long way to go, but many Rotary Anns are grasping the benefits of this type of communications and stepping up to learn and in some cases teach the art of virtual communication. WhatsApp, Zoom, and good old email, have become the norm. And I have had the pleasure of learning this new language and enjoying many meetings, across the board, Rotarians, Anns and Rotaractors

Whilst children have learnt to hula hoop, the Anns can boast the Can Can. By putting one can of food away in a safe place every month preferably at your months meeting, we soon should have enough cans of food to feed many needy families. 200 Anns x 12 months you do the math.

The Anns have continued to support their communities, in addition to this they have extended their interest and projects to other Anns clubs, and subsequently the camaraderie and friendship has grown enormously.

Goals have been set, and ideas have been shared. Whilst some Anns are feeling the strain of Covid-19 and subsequently finding difficulty in monthly meetings. They must take heart that we are all here to share the burden. Encouraging every one of us to ensure that our own family, friends and neighbors are not alone.



I have learnt how to host a Zoom meeting, I've learnt how to video Chat via WhatsApp, I'm in training for the Can Can.
I have also learnt how to knit and bake.

My Passion is our environment. Take care of where you live, and it will take care of you – isn't that just absolutely factual.

**Take care of your
environment and it will take
care of you.**

Keep up with the recycling, save our precious resources, save water, plant trees, and plants that clean the air that we breathe.

I am always doing that which I cannot do,
in order to learn how to do it. *Pablo
Picasso*



Blankets made with love for several children's homes and given to the elderly with lots of knitted bed socks and gloves.



Have you started your own Spekboom garden yet? My theme for this year is clean air. Easy to grow, carbon sponge, water wise, its edible, and it has pretty pink flowers. Plant responsibly and let's help Mother Nature clean our home – Earth.



ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS

Rotary Means Business has a new chapter called Rotary Means Business Southern Africa (RMBSA). It is a fellowship that enhances success by actively promoting business relationships and supporting mentorship.

The aim of RMBSA is to find and list reputable businesses on a business portal website, linking Rotarian owned and non-Rotarian owned businesses with each other. Part of the RMBSA portfolio will be a mentorship program where qualified business people can help guide young professionals towards a bright future.



AN EXCITING COLLABORATION

Toastmasters International and Rotary International. Two organizations with a long history, global impact, and proven track record of helping people. And now they have something else in common: They are teaming up to strengthen their members' skills and broaden their opportunities. The Toastmasters-Rotary alliance, announced in January, will leverage the strengths of both organizations to help members grow personally and professionally.

Expand your communication skills with four new Learning Center courses created by Toastmasters International: Inspirational speech, Interpersonal Communication and Networking, and Deliver a speech. [Log in to the Learning Center to get started!](#)



ROTARY in AFRICA



D9400 Conference and
Africa Centennial Celebration

23 – 25 April 2021

Emperors Palace, Johannesburg
(online bookings opening soon)

Haroon Noor Mahomed was born in Pretoria. He recently became a member of the E-Club of Southern Africa D9400 at the youthful age of 73. On the walls in his home are pictures with the former first female Pakistani Prime Minister, the late Benazir Bhutto and the former President of Mauritius and biodiversity scientist Madam Ameenah Gurib Fakim, to name a few. He has interacted with Rotarians for 40 years in mostly India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Mauritius. He led a delegation of rescue workers from South Africa to Pakistan during 2 missions: an earthquake in 2005 and a flood relief programme in 2010.



Some of our
members who
recently promoted
Rotary on social
media

Kayleigh Ross, together with like-minded young leaders, will charter The Satellite Club of Brits Hartbeespoort in August. This is a club and a platform for young, vibrant, forward thinkers who can take advantage of the digital age to build our communities. “We are starting this to bridge the gap between the traditional Rotary clubs and our newer generations, and change the current perception of what Rotary is and who can be a part of it. We can ALL be people of action, here is your platform”, said Kayleigh.



Joan Sainsbury transferred to the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn only a few months ago. She has lost no time in establishing the projects she is involved in at her new club. These include regular support for inmates at Leeuwkop Prison; her art group, Figures and Form, who make frequent donations to underprivileged children; and other projects she supports. But the most remarkable aspect of Joan is the energetic effect she has on other people around her. She has motivated many people, both inside and outside our club, to help with a host of causes.

Most recently she coordinated the manufacture of 261 masks for inmates at Leeuwkop; the delivery of 230 art and craft books to Umbuyisa School of Art and Culture in Soweto; and she is one of the driving forces, along with Helene Bramwell, of the Seeds Project.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to the Rotary Youth Exchange program. The health concerns and worldwide travel restrictions have naturally resulted in disruptions to the program's scheduled activities.

Terry Cannon, Chairman of the Youth Exchange program for D9400, has confirmed that no long-term exchange students will depart until January 2022. Short-term exchange students that were scheduled to depart in December 2020 will only depart in December 2021, and short-term students will be hosted again in July 2021, Covid-19 dependant.

The Rotary Youth Exchange experience is a brilliant, often once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young people, and we hope for a speedy recommencement of activities for the program.

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Last year, for the first time, The Rotary Foundation offered a **Rotaract Giving Certificate** to recognize Rotaract clubs that contribute substantially to the Foundation. In order for a club to achieve this distinction, at least five of its members needed to donate a total of \$50.

Through this initiative, 144 clubs earned their certificates this year, and together, they contributed \$42,248 to the Foundation. Please congratulate these clubs on their excellent achievement!

[Click here](#) to see the list of clubs that earned the Rotaract Giving Certificate in 2019-20.

Rotaract



IN THE NEWS

Benoni City Times
24 July 2020

Start your own Rotaract Club! See
the [Rotaract Handbook](#) for details!



67 minutes, 67 meals

On Mandela Day (July 18), the Rotaract Club of Benoni Aurora handed out 67 cups of coffee and 67 sandwiches - all in 67 minutes. Members Tyra Theron, Jade Theron, Marcé van Moerkerken and Shannon Erfurth, along with president of Rotaract Keanan van Moerkerken (above) leading the initiative, said they were very excited to be out and about carrying out their selfless act, especially for Mandela Day. "In remembrance of Mandela spending 67 years making the world a better place, we gave 67 sandwiches and cups of coffee to underprivileged people in various parts of Benoni," explained Keanan. The club decided on this project in light of the severe impact of Covid-19. "What it has done to communities and how it has affected those around us and still is affecting people, the little difference we can make by just one selfless act, like giving a cup of warm coffee and something to eat to someone who really needs it, warms our hearts. It is good to know those in need would have a better start to their day on Mandela Day." To get involved with the Rotaract Club and find out more about the projects they undertake in Benoni, email Keananvm@gmail.com or phone 082 628 3986.

Rotary & Covid-19

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Rotarians worldwide have come out in numbers to communicate **vital information** about Covid-19, donate **protective gear and medical supplies**, and assist stricken communities with **food aid**. Our district's own members have heeded the call to action and dedicated huge amounts of time and effort to this cause. In just 3 months, Rotarians from D9400 have spent almost **12,000 volunteer hours** raising funds and bringing relief where necessary. Over **R16 million** in cash and in-kind donations have been spent on Covid-19 relief projects.

Our D9400 Rotarians have also been unafraid to seize opportunities that this pandemic has brought us – chances to embrace **new technology**, try innovative ways of **fundraising**, and confidently **interact** with our fellow Rotarians in exciting new ways. We have seen clubs raising funds through online silent auctions; the Rotary Club of Middelburg is holding a virtual race; and many clubs are now holding their meetings on online platforms such as Zoom.

IN MEMORY

This month we pay tribute to the following

Rotarians who have been called to higher service:

PRID Tony Serrano (16/07/2020) (RC Bedfordview) ([link](#))

PP Brian Leech (07/06/2020) (RC Rosebank)

PP Marian Laserson (10/07/2020) (RC Rosebank)

PP Cesare Vidulich (26/07/2020) (RC Rosebank)

The District website has a page for **club stories and projects**! Share your Rotary experiences and read about your fellow Rotarians! Submit articles for uploading to admin@rotary9400.org.za

Rotary Calendar

[Click here for the D9400 calendar](#)

August deadlines:

Club Secretary - Enter monthly membership and attendance report on Club Runner or send to district secretary alice@rotary9400.org.za no later than 7 days after the last meeting of the month.

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