

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

FEBRUARY 2025



District
9400

Message from your District Governor George Senosha

Dear Rotarians of District 9400,

As we welcome March, we celebrate **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month**. I encourage all clubs and the **WASH Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG)** to develop impactful projects leading up to our **Breaking New Ground District Conference**. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development and improving lives.

Breaking New Ground - Exciting progress is being made with **Breaking New Ground**, and we are proud to announce that **Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick** has appointed our very own **DGN Grace Van Zyl** as **Rotary International President Personal Representative (RIPPR)** for D9370. This well-earned recognition reflects Grace's dedication and service. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and are incredibly proud of her achievements.

Sun Never Sets in Rotary - We are still celebrating the success of the '**Sun Never Sets in Rotary**' experience! Our **District 9400**, along with our sister districts **D9370** and **D9350**, had the honour of securing the prestigious **opening one-hour slot**. A special thank you goes to **Grace Van Zyl** for spearheading this opportunity. Behind the scenes, our dedicated **Rotaractors** worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. We extend our sincere appreciation to: **Ziyanda Nobinda, Shanice Masoha, Tafadzwa Ndofirepi, Xhasile Mpofu, Kevin Ndlovu, Vânia Chambule, Chantelle Bennett, John Bintcliffe and Evangeline Nazaré** - Your hard work and commitment did not go unnoticed!

Student Exchange: TwinSpiration - The **Rotary Youth Exchange Program** continues to change lives! **Motlhaka Motala High School's** twin sisters, **Reboke Mokwana and Rorisang Mokwana**, have expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to travel to Germany, made possible by the **Waterkloof Rotary Club**.

This journey fulfilled their long-time dream of **"One day when I grow up, I want to go to Germany."** Not only did they experience international travel for the first time, but they have also been inspired to give back to their peers and community.



Strengthening Bonds with the Ann's - On **22 February 2025**, I had the privilege of attending the **District Ann's Conference**, where I reaffirmed our commitment to collaborating with the **Ann's** and ensuring they feel fully integrated into our movement. Their work closely aligns with the **Rotary Community Corps (RCC)**, and together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive Rotary family.

DG Club Visits and Club Support - I am pleased to announce the completion of my **District Governor Club Visits** in **South Africa, Eswatini, and Botswana**. To further support clubs, especially those facing membership challenges, we have launched a **survey** to assess their needs and determine how we can best assist them.

Reboke, a **Grade 11 science student**, was recently elected **President of the school for 2025**. On **25 February 2025**, she participated in the **Vaalwater Circuit Representative Council of Learners (RCL) Induction**, where she was elected **President of the Vaalwater Schools Circuit RCL**, an official body representing all learners in secondary schools across the circuit.

This experience highlights the transformative power of travel and global exposure in developing young leaders. The twins have since joined the **Girls Empowerment Twinning – My Body, My Body Autonomy** initiative under the **District Youth Committee**, forming **TwinSpiration** to inspire their peers. Rotary continues to play a crucial role in shaping future leaders and making a meaningful impact in young lives.

We will soon resume our visits in **Mozambique**, continuing our efforts to strengthen and engage with clubs across the district. As we focus on **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene** this month, let us continue to uphold the Rotary spirit and work towards breaking new ground in service, leadership, and impact.

Here's to an incredible 2025 filled with service, fellowship, and success!

Yours in Rotary service,

DG George

MARCH is WATER, SANITATION, and HYGIENE MONTH

March is Rotary's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month. During March, we're celebrating our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Rotary members work to ensure that everyone has access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030. The relevant goals are:

- ✚ Build wells
- ✚ Install rainwater harvesting systems
- ✚ Improve sanitation facilities
- ✚ Provide toilets and latrines
- ✚ Educate communities on hand-washing and hygiene habits.

Clean water, sanitation and good hygiene is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives.

We don't just build wells and walk away. Rotary members integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene into education projects. When children learn about disease transmission and practice good hygiene, they miss less school. And they can take those lessons home to their families, expanding our impact.

Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.

In 2015, the United Nations introduced their new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation encourages us to address universal access to drinking water and sanitation along with improved water management to protect ecosystems and build resiliency.

Rotary members are committed to reaching the water and sanitation SDG through projects like building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure.



COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION: DEADLINE for Rotary clubs to consider new legislation is 31 March



THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL D9400 ROTARY CLUBS

The Rotary International Council on Legislation (COL) is scheduled to meet from 13-17 April 2025 in Chicago, Illinois, USA to vote on the new Enactments that will amend Rotary's constitutional documents.

- Now your Rotary Club can provide some input to PDG Annie Steijn, the D9400 COL representative, to help her prepare for the meeting in April 2025. She has shared the suggested Enactments for Rotary clubs to discuss at their club meetings and provide feedback.
- The legislation was published in the **DG Newsletter of January 2025**
- At the top of each piece of legislation is a Council number (for example, 25-01). Items of legislation are grouped by topic and may have similar or identical titles. Should you have questions about the COL, you may contact Council Services at council_services@rotary.org.
- Click [here](#) to download the detailed information of each Enactment below. Does your club agree with or object to the Enactments and, if so, what is the objection. Send your feedback to PDG Annie at assteijn@gmail.com before March 2025.

Unite for Good in 2025-26



Rotary International President-elect Mário César Martins de Camargo asked members to **Unite for Good** by embracing growth, service, and connection as he outlined a plan to expand “the best-qualified team of volunteers on the planet.”



President of Rotary International for 2025-26
Mário César Martins de Camargo

“Rotary’s greatest asset is not our history, our projects, or even our unmatched global reach. It is our members,” de Camargo said at the organization’s **International Assembly** in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 10 February. He noted praise from one of Rotary’s partners about “the extraordinary dedication” of Rotary members. “That recognition from an outsider deepened my understanding: Rotary’s greatest gift to the world is its people.”

De Camargo, a member of the Rotary Club of Santo André, São Paulo, Brazil, emphasized the importance of seeking out new perspectives and strengthening Rotary’s service to communities around the globe. He outlined three “essential pillars” for growth: innovation, continuity, and partnership.

Innovating while also building a consistent legacy

Noting how quickly the world changes, de Camargo urged members to innovate. “Technology, social expectations, and economic conditions evolve constantly, and Rotary must evolve with them,” he said. “Innovation is how we adapt to this changing world.”



One important way to do this, is by embracing and promoting a variety of club models. **Satellite clubs, cause-based clubs, enterprise clubs, and passport clubs** offer people different ways to experience Rotary.

He also emphasized the importance of leadership **continuity**. Districts thrive when DGs build on their predecessors’ efforts, ensuring that programs and strategies continue without interruption. “Continuity is not about uniformity; it’s about alignment,” de Camargo said. “When district leaders work together, envisioning Rotary beyond their ‘governor year,’ they set the stage for long-term success.”

The power of partnership

Rotary members working alone can achieve great things, but **collaborating** with others makes it possible to change the world. He noted that Rotary’s historic effort against **polio** has been undertaken with partners such as the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF. Without these partners, Rotary couldn’t have had the same impact. He suggested exploring other kinds of partnerships to attract members and revitalize clubs.

Partnering with **business associations, professional organizations, and academic institutions** can help Rotary attract members while embracing diversity in professions and perspectives, he said. “By reaching out to professionals who share our values of service and engagement, we can expand Rotary’s capacity to do good in the world.”

All of Rotary’s achievements and growth depend on **members**. By focusing on attracting and retaining them, Rotary can renew its strength as well as its ability to create change in communities for years to come.

In a world often divided, Rotary stands as a beacon of unity and hope. Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies, and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a shared purpose: to do good in the world. ... Let’s build a Rotary that unites for good and ensures a brighter future for all.

ICC in ISTANBUL 2025



Peace Center visit



ICC Summit



Registration and Opening Reception



Conference Day one



Conference Day two

International Development Week



As the Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) for the 2024/25 year, **DGN Grace van Zyl** was invited in February 2025 to be a panelist for **International Development Week (IDW)** by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation in Canada. IDW is celebrated annually highlighting the significance of world development and international cooperation. This year, IDW celebrated its 35th year and took place from 2 to 8 February. The theme this year was: **Building a better world together.**



The focus was on the use of dialogue and story-telling in peacebuilding and community building. The panel focused on principles/ethics/considerations/dangers etc., we hold in mind and in practice. Earlier in the Rotary year, she was requested by Peace Fellow and global peace advocate, Susan Hartley to contribute to her anthology, **Global Voices for Peace**. This contribution by DGN Grace, shown below, is to be published in Susan's book.

Susan Hartley explored how we can bridge divides and create lasting change through dialogue and storytelling to help build more resilient communities during the 2025 International Development Week event where DGN Grace was a panelist.



Growing up in South Africa, peace is more than a concept—it is a daily pursuit woven into the fabric of resilience, reconciliation, and hope that defines us as a nation. Our history is one of profound struggle and transformation, marked by the courage of those who envisioned a country where diversity is our strength and unity our goal. Yet, peace remains a living, breathing endeavour—a process of constant rebuilding, nurturing, and reimagining as we confront new challenges in a rapidly changing world.

Growing up in South Africa during the apartheid era, my earliest memories of peace—or its absence—are tangled with confusion and quiet tension. I remember the siren sounding at sunset, signalling that certain people were no longer permitted on the streets, and I remember seeing separate parks and facilities, designated for “white” and “black” people. As a child, I couldn't grasp why these barriers existed, but they lingered in my mind as silent questions about what made us different, and why it mattered.

As I grew older, my understanding of apartheid deepened, but the reasons behind this enforced separation and systemic discrimination still eluded me. I came to see the pain and generational scars apartheid inflicted, scars that ripple through our country even today. These wounds of division and injustice continue to fuel racism and inequality, embedding themselves in our institutions, communities, and psyche.

In South Africa, peace is not the absence of these challenges—it is the courageous commitment to confront them. Peace means reckoning with the past while forging pathways of hope and healing, even when the journey is hard. True peace is the commitment to actively address the wounds of inequality, violence, and systemic hardship that have shaped our communities. It is an unbreakable promise to create safe, inclusive spaces where every voice is heard and valued. From the informal settlements to the centres of governance, the call for peace resonates, reminding us that sustainable peace can only emerge through social justice, economic empowerment, and educational access for all.

As the chair of the Rotary Action Group for Peace 2024/2025, I carry this perspective with me. I am inspired by those who, despite past suffering, work to mend divisions and build resilient communities rooted in justice. Rotary's commitment to Positive Peace aligns with our South African vision: a peace grounded not merely in coexistence but in mutual upliftment, justice, and opportunity for all. My hope is that these efforts encourage others to become intentional peacebuilders, fostering unity and understanding not only in policy but in hearts, minds, and daily lives.

By DGN Grace van Zyl

Rotary International President Representative (RIPPR)

District Conferences are a time of inspiration, information and motivation for all and also presents an opportunity for celebration and fellowship for all members of Rotary, their families and the community.

Stephanie A. Urchick, the 2024-25 Rotary International President, has invited **DGN Grace van Zyl** to be the RIPPR at the next District Conference of D9370. This district covers KwaZulu Natal, Lesotho, Eastern Cape, Free State, North West and Northern Cape. DGN Grace and her husband will attend the DISCON in Durban, South Africa from 01 to 03 May 2025.



ANN'S MESSAGE

FROM DGA CHERYL



Dear Rotary Anns, Rotary Family and Friends,

On the 22nd February, the Anns of District 9400 celebrated in style at the annual Rotary Anns' Conference. This year the conference was hosted by Krugersdorp Rotary Anns and they went all out to ensure that the event was spectacular. The Magic of Rotary was evident from the moment the guests arrived and saw the tables beautifully decorated in vibrant colours and adorned with magician hats, gloves and wands. We were welcomed with tea, coffee, delicious homemade scones and other tasty eats. That was just the start of a thoroughly enjoyable day.

So much thought went into making this conference very special. The photo booth was such a lovely idea and created so many laughs! The goody bags were filled with so many unusual and useful gifts. A group of young gentlemen from Hoërskool Monument provided musical entertainment and even knew the songs that were appropriate for the advanced age of their audience. The lunch was scrumptious and we were served so expertly by the Interact group from Hoërskool Monument. There was plenty of time for 'old' friends to catch up and I was so aware of the warmth of the conversations taking place in the hall. Every little detail was planned to perfection, and every Ann was even presented with a beautiful anthurium to take home.



DG George showing his expertise as a wine steward



The beautifully decorated tables epitomising the Magic of Rotary



We remembered the Anns lost this year: Elisabeth Franke, Ann Smith, Eileen Dryden-Schofield



The Rotary Anns of White River earned the Betty Cowden Trophy for Best Attendance at Conference



President Penny Robinson of Rosebank Anns receiving the Jill Pope Trophy for the Best Club Participation in the DGA theme for Rosebank's consistent support of the Rotary Club of Rosebank



President Ina Labuschagne from Riverside Rotary Anns earned the Dawn van der Bijl Trophy for maintaining the best communication with the district



President Janice Carter from Benoni Aurora was awarded the Bunty Money Trophy for the Best Club Project for the club's twiddle sleeves



PDGA Ros Cartwright from Kyalami Anns was a most deserving recipient of the Marlene Liedtke Trophy for the Ann who has done the most to assist the DGA



Riverside Rotary Anns

Kyalami Rotary Anns





President Ina Labuschagne presents the Estelle Botham Trophy for the Most Motivated New Ann to Sarah Venter for her dedication and enthusiasm to assist in all of the Riverside Club's projects



PDGA Marilyn Rautenbach presented the Marilyn Rautenbach Trophy for the Ann of the Year to Julia Du Plessis from Krugersdorp Rotary Anns

Rotarian Margaret Stafford gave a thought-provoking speech and opened our eyes to the horrors of human trafficking. We then had the pleasure of being addressed by our very own Honorary Ann DG 'Georgina'. He certainly made us laugh, while conveying his appreciation for all that the Anns do. DGAE Francis Hyson was introduced to the Anns and gave a brief outline of what she wants to achieve in her Rotary year. I know we are in for an exciting and meaningful year under her leadership.



Leadership in disguise



Benoni van Ryn Anns



White River Anns

While every single Ann and Anns' club is deserving of recognition, it is appropriate at times to identify certain people and clubs for special mention. The photographs show the recipients of the various trophies awarded at the conference.

I was thrilled to see how many Anns attended this conference and I look forward to seeing you all at the 2025/2026 conference to be hosted by Pietersburg 100. Krugersdorp Anns - all your very hard work paid off in creating an exceptional successful Rotary Anns' Conference. President Hannetjie and your amazing team -thank you, thank you!



Warmest wishes

DGA Cheryl Jennings

Join the Movement for Peace

2nd Africa ICC Peace Forum, Cape Town 2025



The Rotary Inter-Country Committee invites all Rotarians to attend the 2nd Africa ICC Peace Forum, at Cape Town's Vineyard Hotel from 25-27 April, 2025. This event will bring together thought leaders, Rotarians and changemakers dedicated to fostering peace and sustainable development across Africa and beyond.

You're invited to
The 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum in
Cape Town, South Africa

"Bridging Cultures,
Building Positive Peace."

25-27 April 2025

Attendees can look forward to dynamic discussions, inspiring keynote addresses, expert panels, impactful networking opportunities and guided tours, including the 'Footsteps of Africa' bespoke tour and a visit to the Nelson Mandela Exhibition at Cape Town City Hall.

Be part of a movement to shape Africa's future. Book your place today:

<https://icpeaceforum-capetown.org/>

2025 OUTBOUND Friendship Exchange



LAST CHANCE!!! If you are going to the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada, **21-25 June 2025**, why not extend your trip and join the 2025 Friendship Exchange to Canada? Or join us just for the Friendship Exchange!

The Friendship Exchange to D5020 to **Vancouver Island** is from the **26th of June 2025 to the 09th July** both days are inclusive of arrival and departure.

*If you want to join us,
contact Felicity Jones*

076 3236513; Fbj6302@gmail.com



**ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA
Register today at convention.rotary.org



CANADA

26 June-9 July 2025

Friendship Exchange to Egypt

The District 2451 now serves 78 Rotary clubs with a total membership of 1,964. The Clubs in the District sponsor 53 Rotaract Clubs and 31 Interact Clubs.



We met up with DGN Grace's counterpart from D2451



Banner exchanges with various clubs in Cairo



*Always eating. Lots of bread! No alcohol!
Lunch is usually at 4pm*



And we saw our 2024 RIPPR again



For more information, visit the D9400 Friendship Exchange Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/rfe9400>



D9400 PEOPLE OF ACTION MAKING MAGIC

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

Rotary Club of Maputo

RC Maputo brought Christmas joy to children at Channah Shelter during a special day of solidarity, hope, and generosity.

Embracing the spirit of the festive season, RC Maputo organized the event at Channah Shelter, bringing joy and support to 25 vulnerable children. Donations of food supplies, hygiene products, and school materials were distributed as well as a special festive snack lovingly prepared made by **SMS Catering**, creating a moment of happiness for the children. This initiative reflects RC Maputo's ongoing commitment to community service and making a difference in the lives of those in need.



"The act of giving reminds us that, together, we can achieve anything. It is a gesture of love and, above all, a symbol of hope."



Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark

It's not every day that the RC Vanderbijlpark inducts eight new and one honorary member within two weeks! We welcome them into our Rotary Family.

The club achieved a milestone when inducting their youngest member ever, 19-year-old Megan van Schalkwyk. This brought the average age of club members down dramatically. Another achievement came about when the active DG of District 9400, George Senosha was inducted as an honorary member at the same event.

Gerrit van Bommel was inducted to support the minority male members. This brings our club members up to 31 active and seven honorary members. The new members' knowledge and expertise in their fields promise to enhance the club's many and new projects in the community.



PP Mike Fraser, Nicky Jansen van Rensburg and President Adri Roos



DG George Senosha and 19-year-old Rotarian, Megan van Schalkwyk



PP Mike Fraser (Membership chair), President Adri Roos, President elect Zander Lintveldt, Gerrit van Bommel, Khanyisa Madhukwane, PP Rita Benecke (Sponsored 4 members), Esme Young, Sharon Gordon, Paula du Preez, AG Jackie van Waveren (sponsored 2 members)

Rotary Club of Maputo

RC Maputo improved learning conditions at Muchisso Primary School in Matola District by providing a new three-classroom block that benefits

over 320 students in Maputo Province that no longer endure the difficulties of studying outdoors. RC Maputo was honored with an Honorary Diploma from the Government of Maputo Province.

The new block, generously donated by RC Maputo, was officially inaugurated on 31 January 2025 in a special ceremony presided over by His Excellency Manuel Tule, Governor of Maputo Province.



The initiative stemmed from a visit in November 2023 by Dr. Lorne Parker, President of Steven's Hope, and representatives from the High Commission of Canada which highlighted the urgent need to expand the school's infrastructure. As a result, the second phase of the expansion project for new classrooms was launched. The project's second phase, initiated in late 2024, was partially funded by Steven's Hope, amounting to a total investment of 4,463,711.80 MZN.



Developed in collaboration with the Maputo Provincial Directorate of Education, this initiative reaffirms RC Maputo's commitment to fostering quality education.



Rotary Clubs of D9400

DG George Senosha and District 9400 Rotarians went all out to celebrate Rotary's 120th anniversary.



Rotary E-Club of Baobab and RC Pietersburg 100 in Polokwane celebrated 120 years of Rotary with 4 other Limpopo clubs and a Round Table club at the annual potjiekos competition.



DISCON 2025

The 2025 District Conference theme of "**Breaking New Ground**" aligns seamlessly with Rotary's priorities. Please save the date for DISCON 2025 from **1 to 4 May 2025 at Glenburn Lodge in Muldersdrift!**



Preparations for our District Conference (Discon) at Glenburn Lodge and Spa in Muldersdrift are underway! All Rotarians are encouraged to register and participate in this transformative event. Discon Chair Shirley Downie and the committee are making this conference an inspiring experience for all. You can now register for Discon 2025. Please click on the link below to secure your place at this event! Remember to also book your accommodation as soon as possible.

More details to follow. <https://app.glueup.com/event/discon-2025-121157/home.html>



District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

9	March 2025	Cape Town Cycle Tour. Contact PDG David Grant 083 626 4523; davidgrant.rotary@gmail.com
15-16	March 2025	President Elect Learning Seminar IN-PERSON training for President Elect, President Nominee, Secretary and Treasurer at 7th floor JCCI House at 27 Owl Street, Milpark, Johannesburg
22	March 2025	World Water Day
25-27	April 2025	2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum (Rotary Intercountry Committees) in Cape Town. Theme " <i>Bridging Cultures, Building Positive Peace.</i> "
1-4	May 2025	DISCON 2025 at Glenburn Lodge in Muldersdrift
21-25	June 2025	2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada
26-09	June/July 2025	Friendship Exchange to Vancouver Island, Canada If you want to join us, contact Felicity Jones 076 3236513; Fbj6302@gmail.com

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?

A Prova Quádrupla

Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:

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

DISTRICT 9400



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

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
George Senosha
george@rotary9400.org.za



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SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:
Mariana Purnell
mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za