

JULY 2022

# Rotary

AFRICA | south



Rotary





# IMAGINE CONNECTION

Unite with people of action. Exchange ideas. Share solutions.  
Celebrate being together. Then **Imagine What's Next** for  
Rotary, the world, and yourself.

2023 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
27-31 MAY 2023



MELBOURNE  
2023

Register today at  
[convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)

# Contents

4	Welcome
5	President's Message
6	Convention Countdown
7	Foundation Trustee Chair's Message
8	Just Imagine
11	Apply Yourself
16	Council on Legislation
17	District Governors
18	Story Telling in Chief
29	Evie is All Heart
30	Action Plan
32	Waste not Want not
33	Garden Survival
34	And it's a Wrap!
35	Welcome Langebaan
36	Travelling Token
37	A Club with a difference
38	Africa in Brief
42	Wall of Honour

## Our Team

**Editor in Chief:**  
Sarah van Heerden

**Administration:**  
Sharon Robertson

**Chairperson:**  
Natty Moodley

**Directors:**  
Greg Cryer  
Andy Gray  
Peter Hugo  
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](http://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 in Chief

I try not to watch the news. Honestly, it gets me down and my personality type is more crusader than ‘ultra-informed’. This is weird for someone who has called the news industry home for a long time, but my reasoning is that I simply don’t need to know absolutely every detail. I limit my exposure because if I don’t I lose my positivity and my passion to implement effective solutions that drives positive change and growth, becomes eroded.

So, I also have ‘another job’ (calling) in the non-profit sector and what I love about this organisation is that one of its avenues to uplift and transform communities is a positive media campaign.

Why?

Well, it’s simple really. The more negativity people are exposed to, the more negative and counterproductive they become. If you want to unite a community, group or organisation, you need to instil positive, hopeful and proactive attitudes - in all they think, speak and do. It works; this organisation has done some almost-unbelievable work in the six years it has existed.

As I write this, I am in a hotel room in Johannesburg, attending the Rotary Regional Training Seminar for Zone 22 (more about this next month). Last night I met two members from a club that has grown phenomenally over the last few years and their project portfolio is dynamic, touching on multiple areas of focus and implementing effective change. What struck me about these members is that they have amazing upbeat attitudes and it is great to be around them.

So this year, as we Imagine Rotary, let’s make sure that we imagine positive thinking, words and actions at all our Rotary interactions. Maybe implement a rule, where every negative comment needs to be followed by a positive or proactive comment or suggestion.

Don’t let your club become bogged down in the “we can’t do that because...” but rather let it be buoyed by the “imagine how we could do that?”

## Four-Way Test

the things we think,  
say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all  
concerned?

Will it build  
GOODWILL and BETTER  
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to  
concerned?





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Telling our stories

**E**very month since I joined Rotary, I've looked forward to reading this magazine, especially the opening essay from our Rotary president. I'll admit that as much as I appreciate a digital copy, I still revel in the tactile sensation of sitting down and leafing through the glossy pages. They are a treasure trove of photos and memorable stories about our great organisation - the one we all know and love. I have learned so much over the years about service projects and lives that each of you have transformed.

As a communications professional, I have longed for the day that our stories were a regular part of mainstream media and that our flagship magazine might populate doctors' offices, coffee shops or anywhere else people sit, wait and browse. It's great that Rotary members are better informed about all we do - and wouldn't it be that much better if more people knew our stories?

All this was top of my mind as I thought about our plans for promoting Rotary worldwide in the upcoming year. Over the next 12 months, we are going to shine a light on projects that put Rotary service on display to the world and we are going to do it strategically. Nick [her husband] and I will focus on some of the highest impact, sustainable and scalable Rotary projects from our areas of focus in what we call the Imagine Impact Tour.

We are inviting top-tier journalists, thought leaders and influencers to use their channels to help us raise awareness by reaching people who want to serve but have not yet realised they can do it through Rotary.

But there was another important issue to consider - our carbon footprint. I take seriously Rotary's emerging leadership position on environmental issues. The example set by our members during the pandemic is fundamental to how we carve out our future.

That means we will harness digital technology to tell these stories - we will be tweeting, posting and "going live" to anyone who will listen. We must consider our environment and part of that means not always travelling but continuing



**"We are going to shine a light on projects that put Rotary service on display to the world, and we are going to do it strategically."**

to connect in meaningful ways as we have for the past two years.

Of course, we are social people and we still need to be together. We simply need to be more mindful of our decisions and think about how we get together just a little bit differently. For example, if we travel to visit a project, we will plan successive visits in neighbouring areas.

So, what are your stories and who can help tell them? I hope you might consider your own Imagine Impact efforts - your story might be something you can promote just as easily on social media or during a Zoom call. Think about ways to showcase notable projects in your clubs and districts.

We all feel the impact that Rotary service and values have on us. Now it's our opportunity to share that feeling with others.

**JENNIFER JONES**

*President, Rotary International*



## Find Project Partners

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

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly.

Learn more at [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org)



# G'DAY MELBOURNE

## 2023 Rotary International Convention Countdown

The 2023 convention will take place 27-31 May inside the Rod Laver Arena and the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, which are located in vibrant riverfront precincts. This marks the second time Melbourne is hosting a Rotary Convention. The first was in 1993.

Melbourne is the coastal capital of the south eastern state of Victoria. It's the second-largest city in both Australia and Oceania with a metro population of more than five million. Melbourne is also one of the world's most culturally diverse cities. According to the city government, around 140 cultures are represented in Melbourne, from the indigenous inhabitants to more recent migrants from Europe, Asia and Africa. Widely regarded as Australia's cultural capital, Melbourne is a UNESCO City of Literature and is home to performing arts venues, live music and cultural attractions. The Economist Intelligence Unit has ranked Melbourne as one of the world's "most livable cities," based in part on its cultural attributes.

Mary Barry, past president of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, chairs the host organising committee.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne was chartered in April 1921, the first Rotary club in Australia. At present, the country has more than 1 000 clubs and nearly 25 000 members. Australia has hosted four Rotary conventions: Sydney in 1971, Melbourne in 1993, Brisbane in 2003 and Sydney in 2014.



# Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian HS Risely

As an accountant, I look at the world through the lens of inputs and outputs. We can plan with precision today for success tomorrow. My profession also taught me that numbers - those inputs and outputs - can sometimes tell great stories.

One of those stories is The Rotary Foundation: What it has given the world, starting from a modest input of \$26.50, is nothing short of remarkable.

In 1918, that amount - the surplus from that year's Rotary Convention in Kansas City, Missouri - was applied, at the suggestion of 1916/17 Rotary President Arch Klumph, to a fund with the purpose of doing good in the world. The fund grew modestly until 1947, when Rotary founder Paul Harris died and donations poured in as a tribute to him. That year, the Foundation supported scholarships for 18 students - the first indication of the greatness to come.

Later the Foundation expanded, providing programmes like Group Study Exchange and humanitarian grants, which impacted the lives of members and communities around the world. In 1979, a major grant helped immunise 6.3 million children in the Philippines against polio, which led to the establishment of PolioPlus in 1985.

Rotary's work with polio eradication - helping reduce wild polio from an estimated 1 000 cases

daily in 1988 to just six total cases in 2021 - has been one of the most ambitious humanitarian projects ever undertaken by a non-governmental body. That success story alone shows the significance and widespread impact of Rotary and its Foundation.

Perhaps what is even more remarkable is that polio eradication is but one part of the Foundation's efforts.

Today, the Foundation has grown into a multimillion-dollar charity. Our robust funding model allows districts the flexibility to choose which Rotary aspects they would like to support - polio eradication, scholarships, district grants, global grants and more. Today's Foundation impacts the world through disaster relief, disease prevention, peace education and other areas.

Everyone in Rotary is part of this great legacy; it is our responsibility to keep it going. This year, the trustees have set the goal of raising \$430 million. I know the expectations are high. But I also know just how much our members can achieve.

To get there, we will work together as we always do, with each club and individual giving what they can. In this way, we will ensure that we meet our ambitious but achievable goal and move our Foundation forward.



**IF IT NO LONGER FITS. DONATE IT.**

To Donate to the Salvation Army winter drive CALL 011 718 6747 or dropoff goods at your local Salvation Army.



# Just Imagine

**DR PATRICK COLEMAN**

**ROTARY E-CLUB OF SOUTHERN AFRICA D9400**

As most of you know, I grew up in Southern California just a few miles from Hollywood. The sign in the photo was a prominent landmark as we drove through the city. Before it was the Hollywood sign, it was the Hollywoodland sign. That's what the Los Angeles landmark spelled out when it was first built in 1923 and illuminating the 50-by-30-foot letters at night wasn't easy - doing so took 4 000 20-watt light bulbs. What's more, they weren't all lit up at once: The HOLLY, WOOD and LAND portions flashed individually before the full sign was illuminated at once.

Designed by Thomas Fisk Goff of the Crescent Sign Company, the sign had nothing to do with the film industry originally - it was just an advertisement for a housing development. But as the movie business rapidly expanded over the next few decades under its literal and figurative shadow - and as many of those motion pictures used it in establishing shots as a shorthand for the area - the sign became synonymous with that industry.

During the Great Depression, the sign fell into disrepair and both the LAND segment and the light bulbs were removed around 1949, when the LA Parks Department and Hollywood Chamber of Commerce took over ownership of the sign.

The sign deteriorated again over the next few decades and had to be rescued by a group of celebrities in 1978, at which point it read something like HULLYWO D. Rocker Alice Cooper, magazine

mogul Hugh Hefner and cowboy actor Gene Autry were among the nine donors who each contributed \$27,777 to replace the original letters with new ones that were 45 feet tall and made of steel. These are the ones that are still standing today.

Why is that important? To most people in Africa, it isn't, unless you are planning a visit to Tinsel Town or watching a movie based in southern California, but it is an iconic structure on a hillside that has been restored, retouched and rebuilt several times.

So, too, is our Rotary story. The Rotary I joined in 1993 no longer exists in most places. Nevertheless, there are many in our Rotary Family who love the "old" Rotary and resist the efforts to move into the 21st century. I understand the sentiment, but the "new" Rotary is an exciting place and the possibilities for the future are simply beyond the imagination of our early founders.

None of the First Four could have imagined the outreach and successes of Rotary across the globe. It would take months for any of them to travel from Chicago to South Africa in 1905, but today we have meetings that are literally conducted with participants on six continents. We have just returned from a scaled down Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, where 11 000 Rotarians gathered together to celebrate the climax of our 117th year!

RI President Jennifer Jones has now asked us to Imagine Rotary beyond our own self-made boundaries. Where will we go? What will we see? What will we





accomplish? I am looking forward to seeing and experiencing new adventures in Rotary beyond my imagination in 1993.

It is time to re-set our goals and vision. We need to stop thinking, “What’s in it for me?” and begin concentrating on “What is the legacy that I want to leave for the next generation?” Many of our Rotary friends and colleagues did not survive the COVID-19 pandemic unscarred. Some did not make it to this Rotary year. Their goals, plans and dreams stopped.

This Rotary year we will strive to Imagine Rotary beyond our lives.

- Projects that will impact children yet to be born.
- Ideas that will improve the lives of people we have not met.
- Giving that will keep giving far beyond the life that we now live!

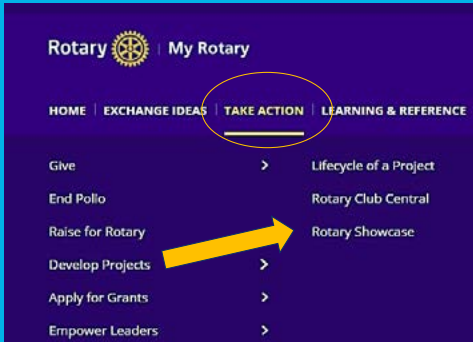
The Hollywood sign still stands on a hill in Los Angeles, but it isn’t the same sign that



first went up almost 100 years ago. It has been repaired and updated many times. It shines today because concerned people took action – and gave money – to keep it there.

Where will Rotary go? It is beyond our imagination!

## ROTARY SHOWCASE



# Attention Rotary clubs!

Attention Rotary members! An Empowering Girls tab has been added to Rotary Showcase. Project champions are encouraged to log into My Rotary and upload their empowering girls projects. This will allow you and other Rotary clubs to collaborate, showcase and inspire more projects through a single platform!



## YOUR GIFT CAN PROVIDE CLEAN WATER



Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. Your donation to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund provides these essentials in communities close to home and around the world. **GIVE TODAY:** [rotary.org/donate](https://rotary.org/donate)

# Apply yourself

As members of the family of Rotary, we are people of purpose, people of influence and people of action. Each year, committees that support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation focus on putting Rotary's strategic priorities into action, challenging us to increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ROTARY'S SUCCESS?

We are searching for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to apply their leadership skills to serve on a committee in the 2023/24 Rotary year. These positions offer an opportunity for you to share your vocational expertise and skill set and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee.

Candidates with areas of expertise as detailed in the chart are encouraged to apply. The number of openings is limited. If you are not selected this year, we encourage you to apply again next year.

All committees correspond via email and on virtual platforms, typically with one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Dual members of both Rotary and Rotaract are especially encouraged to apply.

To be considered for committee membership or recommend someone for an appointment, visit [on.rotary.org/application2022](https://on.rotary.org/application2022).

Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at [my.rotary.org](https://my.rotary.org) and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications are due by 15 August.

## SERVING CAN OPEN DOORS FOR ROTARY MEMBERS

Serving Rotary as an international committee member is a great way to gain global contacts and experience in your industry while using your professional skills to help the organisation. Previous leadership experience in Rotary isn't required, just the skills and willingness to serve. Here's how four Rotary members took a non-traditional path to gain international leadership experience.

## ENEDELSY ESCOBAR-KING

*Rotary Club of Panamá Norte, Panama*

**Committee:** Strategic Planning, 2020/24

**Professional background:** I worked most of my professional life with the UN/UNICEF in positions where strategic planning was my bread and butter. My work experience took me to multiple continents. I thought I could be of use to Rotary, given that knowledge.

**Rotary background:** I joined Rotary in 2015 and became very involved with project activities with my club, including playing an instrumental role in organising an Interact club in the secondary school I attended. Besides participating in several Rotary Conventions, my experience has been at the club and district level.

**Why I was interested in international committee experience:** This opportunity allowed me to see the organisation from a different perspective. I got to know Rotarians from other districts, whom I otherwise might not have met.



## Committee openings

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION ON COMMITTEE	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS & COMMITMENT
<b>AUDIT</b>	Advise leadership on financial reports, internal and external auditing and the system of internal control	Independence, appropriate business experience and demonstrated financial literacy in accounting, auditing, banking, insurance, investment, risk management, executive management or audit governance	<b>One position</b> for a six-year term
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Advise leadership on communication with key audiences	Professional background and experience in brand strategy, strategic planning, marketing, public relations, media or a communications-related field	<b>Two positions</b> for three-year terms
<b>FINANCE</b>	Advise the RI Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets, investment policy and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; NGO experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	<b>Two positions</b> for three-year terms



## AMANDA WENDT

*Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia*

Since joining Rotary at age 26 in 2010, Amanda Wendt had been a club president, served as district public image chair, travelled with her district on a humanitarian trip to Cambodia and spoken at a Rotary Convention breakout and zone institute. But as far as formal leadership roles in Rotary beyond the district level, she had none.

“That quickly changed,” she says, when she became aware of the opportunity to serve on Rotary’s international committees after a chance conversation in 2017. “I jumped at the opportunity to put my professional experience to use.”

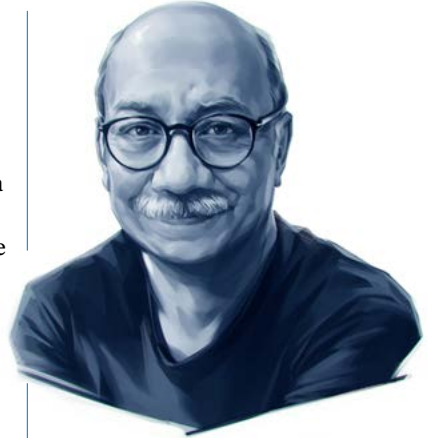
In her career, Wendt, a marketing and communications specialist, coaches entrepreneurs and leaders on building their brands. Since earning a bachelor’s degree in business, with an emphasis on marketing, in 2005, she has led marketing campaigns - producing social media, video and photography, digital content, advertising and more. She has managed large-scale behavioural change programmes to achieve government-policy reform, and she coaches organisations on attracting millennials as staff and customers.

Wendt decided to leverage her expertise by applying to serve on Rotary’s Communications Committee. She held that role for 2018-21 and served as the committee’s vice chair in 2019/20. “These opportunities to gain experience are far beyond what most young professionals get to experience in their workplace,” she says. “It’s truly one of Rotary’s competitive advantages.”

Wendt says serving on the Communications Committee is one of her favourite Rotary experiences so far. She enjoyed the opportunity to work with and learn from members around the world, rolling out global initiatives while learning about cultural nuances and localised programme considerations. “It furnished me with

experiences, skills and a network that young professionals are eager to achieve but may be waiting some time to realise in their career,” she says.

Her time on the Communications Committee led to additional speaking opportunities on Rotary’s brand and communications as well as on connecting with younger members. Now she’s getting additional district leadership experience, too: She’s serving as 2022/23 governor of District 9800.



## VINO SOOKLOLL

*Rotary Club of Phoenix, Mauritius*  
**Committee:**

Communications, 2020-23

**Professional background:** I am a branding and innovation, design and marketing communications consultant. I’ve been running my own agency for the last 40 years, and served as the president of the Association of Communications Agencies of Mauritius.

**Rotary background:** I became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Phoenix in 2003. I have been leading major communications projects for my club and the district (9220) for many years. In addition to becoming a Communications Committee member, in 2020 I became an assistant Rotary public image coordinator for Zone 22.

**Why I was interested in international committee experience:**

Joining the committee allowed me to bring my concerns about improving the tools available for building a public image to the people working on these issues at the international level. This year I am chairing the Building the Rotary Brand subcommittee. I feel at home, surrounded by passionate members. I hope those joining next year will share that same spirit of continuous improvement.

AREA OF EXPERTISE	FUNCTION ON COMMITTEE	PREREQUISITES	OPENINGS & COMMITMENT
<b>FINANCE</b>	Advise the RI Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets, investment policy and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; NGO experience preferred. Candidates should have experience in financial matters at the club and district levels.	<b>Two positions</b> for three-year terms
<b>LEARNING</b>	Advise leadership on Rotary's leadership training programme for Rotarians, clubs and districts, with a special emphasis on training for district governors	Significant training or education experience with a preference for leadership development	<b>Two to four positions</b> for three-year terms
<b>OPERATIONS REVIEW</b>	Monitor the effectiveness, efficiency and implementation of operations and all internal systems; advise the Executive Committee on compensation matters; and perform other oversight functions as requested	Experience in management, leadership development, or financial management and a thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations. Appointments are limited to past RI directors.	<b>One position</b> for a six-year term
<b>ROTARACT</b>	Advise leadership on matters related to Rotaract	<b>Rotarians:</b> Experience working with Rotaract; direct experience as a mentor or Rotaract adviser or district chair. Rotaract alumni are strong candidates. <b>Rotaractors:</b> Leadership at the club, district, or international level. Strong candidates have served as a district Rotaract representative, organised projects, or attended a Rotaract Preconvention. Age restrictions may apply.	<b>One to four positions</b> for terms of varying length
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>	Review Rotary's strategic plan and associated measures; advise leadership on other matters of long-term significance	10+ years of experience in strategy development, monitoring, and implementation and strong understanding of RI and Rotary Foundation programmes and services	<b>Two positions</b> with four-year terms

**BOBBE BARNES***Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas***Committee:** Audit, 2020-23

**Professional background:** I worked with Price Waterhouse in Toronto, then moved to academia in the accounting programmes at the University of Texas and University of Colorado. I later moved to Central Asia and became the technical accounting expert for a USAID project, working with international and local experts to develop a training programme for accountants. The programme is ongoing.

**Rotary background:** I joined the Rotary Club of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to expand my network and meet other local and expat leaders in the country. I became involved in the club by helping to implement the financial aspects of the global grants we were awarded and serving as the liaison to the Rotaract club. After I returned home, I became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Ranch.

**Why I was interested in international com-**

**mittee experience:** I wanted to serve beyond the club level in order to give Rotary what it had given me during my years overseas. I became involved in the district as a district treasurer and grants subcommittee chair. Then I saw that Rotary was calling for volunteers to serve on committees. I applied to serve on the Audit Committee as I found that best matched my expertise.



Your enhanced online Rotary experience is beginning to unfold. Enjoy a modern design and search functionality that's fast and easy-to-use.

Easily manage your club's administration functions. Gain access from your mobile device. Search for Rotarians or clubs to connect instantly. Update your personal profile to control what information is shared with whom.

All of these improvements now funnel into one clear and simple platform.

Welcome to the start of the new

**MY ROTARY.**

VISIT **MY.ROTARY.ORG** TO SEE YOUR LATEST IMPROVEMENTS.





## Council on Legislation elevates equity and inclusion

About 520 Rotary members from around the world, each representing a single district, came together for the 2022 Council on Legislation in April. They considered more than 90 proposals to change Rotary International's constitutional documents and adopted 29 of them as enactments.

In one enactment, representatives voted overwhelmingly to add "equity and inclusion" to RI by-laws, affirming Rotary's efforts to be inclusive of all cultures, experiences, and identities and to reflect the communities it serves. The by-laws now state that clubs "shall endeavour to build a well-balanced membership that celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion." Rotary prohibits clubs from denying an individual membership due to gender, race, colour, creed, national origin or sexual orientation.

Another enactment, which generated vigorous discussion before passing by a vote of 324 to 150, will allow the RI Board to pilot a new regional governance structure. Two pilot programmes are being planned: one in Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland and the other in Zone 8 (Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands). Each will last six years.

"The current regional governance structure, put in place many years ago, has grown into a significant hierarchy with too many layers and roles," said then-RI Director Valarie Wafer who spoke on behalf of the Board. "It is appropriate to modernise and consider new models that can enhance our efficiency, increase the ability of members to access

support and make volunteer positions more manageable and doable."

Representatives who opposed the proposal argued that the plan for the pilot programmes lacks specifics and could reduce the number of districts and put the role of district governor at risk. Others expressed concern that the plan could alter the autonomous structure of Rotary clubs, leading to more centralised governance and less localised management. Wafer reassured representatives that districts and district governors will not be eliminated during the course of the pilot programmes.

Council representatives also approved an increase in Rotary club dues for each of the next three years. Dues that clubs pay to RI per member are set at \$35.50 per half year in 2022/23. Dues will increase to \$37.50 per half year in 2023-24, \$39.25 per half year in 2024/25 and \$41 per half year in 2025/26.

Meanwhile, representatives rejected a proposal that would have required members to receive a digital copy of this magazine or any of the 33 regional magazines, unless they requested a printed copy. The delegates also agreed not to change the article in Rotary's by-laws that mandates a magazine subscription for each member.

"The magazine is a primer for Rotary members, keeping us informed on the who, what, when, where, why and how of the world," said District 5300 representative Sylvia Whitlock Rotary's first-ever female club president. "Without the magazine, everything is just happenstance. Any good primer is beside you all the time."

In a 2020 survey of Rotary members around the world, 84 percent said the magazine they receive strengthens their connection with Rotary, allowing them to better understand the organisation.

This year's Council on Legislation marked the first hybrid international event hosted by Rotary during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- WEN HUANG



# Meet our 2022/23 District Governors



Manuela and her husband João  
Bettencourt, District 9210



Peace Taremwa,  
District 9214



Gavin Jepson, District  
9370



Azeb Asrat Hailemariam and his wife  
Getachew Haile, District 9212



Tracey Wilson, District  
9350



Koekie Makunyane-  
Quashie, District 9400

## HAPPY NEW ROTARY YEAR!

Celebrate your new club leadership. Submit a head and shoulders photo of your new president before 20 July 2022 to be included in our presidents feature. Email them to [rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za](mailto:rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za)

# Storyteller in chief

---

**2022-23**  
**President**  
**Jennifer Jones**  
is eager to  
advance  
Rotary's  
narrative

---

**By Diana Schoberg**

**Photography by Monika Lozinska**







Jennifer Jones with her husband, Nick Krayacich, during a visit to northern California in February





At a training seminar for Rotary club presidents-elect at a Dallas-area hotel in February, sergeants-at-arms wearing yellow vests and stetsons led participants, grouped by Rotary district, into a small room for a photo with 2022-23 Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. As the groups enter, the club leaders mob Jones - the room a flurry of handshakes, fist bumps, hugs and the occasional squeal. For each photo, the stetson-clad Rotarians (nicknamed "Rangers") give instructions on who should stand where, then Jones, who is seated front-row centre, stands up, turns around and warms up the crowd. "Is this the best district?" she asks one. She challenges a district to dance, busting a groove on the tan and grey patterned hotel carpet. Another, she teases, is the best looking. And then there's the "party" district, whose members give a raucous cheer.

Click. Click. Click.

The groups file out. More than a few people linger to get selfies with Jones and her husband, Nick Krayacich. One young woman, dressed in cobalt blue, shouts "Congratulations and thank you for being a

leader for women in Rotary!" More cheers. She and Jones bump fists as she departs.

"She's just amazing. She's a rock star," says Rhonda Walls Kerby, past governor of District 5890, who has been observing the scene.

When the photo session is finished, Jones signs several Star Wars collectors' helmets that will be auctioned at an upcoming district conference in Houston. She pulls on a Stormtrooper helmet. The phones of the Rotarians still in the room shoot up in unison to capture the moment.

Click. Click. Click.

"She makes everyone feel special. That's why everyone feels like they are best friends with Jen," says Eric Liu. Liu met Jones at the International Assembly in 2016, when he was an incoming district governor and she was the incoming RI vice president and they hit it off.

Liu's sentiment is among the common refrains heard during a whirlwind weekend travelling with Jones. Over and over, people mention that she has





an easy way with people, that for years everybody “knew” she would be the first female Rotary president, that she’s a new kind of leader.

And that she’s the leader Rotary needs right now.

The laughter in the room grows to a warm buzz as Jones jokes around with her friends. But it’s been a long day after an exhausting trip. Jones and Krayacich spent nine hours in the airport the previous day due to weather delays, after first solving logistical issues with their travel to Dallas. They are in bed by 11, a brief respite before the presidential duties start



“She makes everyone feel special” was a common refrain during a whirlwind weekend Jones and her husband, Nick Krayacich, spent visiting with Rotary members in three cities. Clockwise, from left: Jones addresses a training seminar for Rotary club presidents-elect in Dallas; poses for selfies in Los Angeles; celebrates with members of Rotary in Dallas; compares dog snapshots; delivers a speech in Danville, California; and leads attendees there in a rendition of John Lennon’s “Imagine” in honor of Ukraine.

all over again the next day.

\*\*\*

Jones, 55, was born in Windsor, Ontario and - save for a few post-college years working in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Manhattan - has lived there her whole life. The oldest of three children, she’d run lemonade stands to earn money to give to charity and recalls organising a carnival in her family’s yard

to benefit kids with muscular dystrophy. “Growing up, my parents had given us wings to do service in our community,” she says. Today, her mom, dad and one of her brothers and his wife are Rotarians. Her other brother created a painting that inspired Jones’ presidential-theme ties and scarves.

Both Jones and Krayacich are originally from Windsor, but the two met in the Caribbean. Burned out after finishing university and working in the newsroom at a radio station, Jones took time off and worked at a resort in the Caribbean, while Krayacich, a physician, had just finished his internship in Toronto and went to the islands to go scuba diving. They struck up a friendship and when they both eventually moved back to Windsor, they started dating and got married shortly thereafter.

In many ways, Krayacich, himself governor-nominee of District 6400, is the opposite of Jones. He’s quieter and more serious, preferring one-on-one conversations, traits that are suited to his vocation. “Jennifer

One of those was Rotary. As a rookie radio reporter in the late 1980s, she’d covered the organisation and remembers attending club meetings where the members were nearly all men. “I remember feeling very intimidated by the experience,” she says. “I was in my early 20s. It was the power brokers of the community.” Fast forward to 1996, months after she’d started her business, Media Street Productions. The manager of the local cable station invited Jones to a meeting. She realised she had found her home. “It was clearly one of the greatest gifts I’ve ever received,” she says. “I didn’t think walking through the door that day that it would change the trajectory of my life.”

\*\*\*

The next day at the Dallas training seminar, during a soup and salad lunch, the 1980 Kool & the Gang song “Celebration” blares over the speakers. People around the hotel ballroom begin to dance, clapping and swaying to the music. Among them is Jones, waving a colourful light stick above her head. She dances

When she finishes, the crowd stands and erupts in applause. But there is no time to bask in it. Jones has a plane to catch. The emcee asks the throngs of enthusiastic Texans to please let her through. And with that, she’s off to the airport, her sprint aided by a pair of purple sneakers that she wears throughout the trip (“I save heels for when I’m presenting,” she says). She doesn’t like to eat before she speaks, so now she grabs a bag of chips and settles into her seat to rest.

Four hours later, she arrives in Los Angeles for another presidents-elect training seminar. Tonight’s duties involve stopping by the hospitality suites to meet Rotarians from the participating districts. In one room, Rotarians drinking umbrella-festooned mai tais mingle as Hawaiian music emanates from speakers decorated with grass skirts. Jones barely makes it in the door before she is again swarmed by Rotarians eager to meet her. Randy Hart, 2022-23 governor of district 5000 (Hawaii), presents her with a lei. “All I can think about is the energy she has,” comments one man who

**“I’ve always wanted to carve my own path. Sometimes that’s meant taking risks and making yourself open to new experiences.”**

is definitely an Energiser Bunny. She’s outgoing and very much a connector,” he says. “We complement each other very well.”

Jones started her own television production company when she was in her late 20s, wowing bank officials with her business plan, negotiating a lease and investing in hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of equipment. “I’ve always wanted to carve my own path,” she says. “Sometimes that’s meant taking risks and making yourself open to new experiences.”

among the tables, stopping for a selfie here, a hug there, grooving with the crowd. The flash mob lines up in front of the stage, Jones at the centre. When the song ends, Past RI Director Don Mebus introduces Jones, who makes a heart with her hands as she arrives onstage.

Her speech brings listeners through the full range of emotions. As she speaks about witnessing a paediatric heart surgery in Jordan, the room is so quiet you could hear a Paul Harris Fellow pin drop.

is observing. “To think, this is the third room she’s visited!”

Lakecia King is one of the well-wishers, embracing Jones when they meet. “She’s so warm and genuine,” says King, the incoming president of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu and the diversity, equity and inclusion chair for District 5000. Eight weeks out from surgery for a torn meniscus, King has flown from Hawaii for this opportunity, drawn by Jones’ rally for diversity in Rotary. “I was not going to miss it for the world,” King says. “She believes



Jones at the Southwest presidents-elect training seminar in Los Angeles. "All I can think about is the energy she has," comments an observer at the event.



in something that is so necessary. This time calls for peace and unity, for embracing despite our differences and based on what we have in common.”

Jones finally makes it to the back of the room, where she’s swept into a hula dance with seven other women in front of an “Aloha” backdrop. She visits a few more of the hospitality suites and ends in that of District 5500 (Arizona), where she chats with a circle of Rotarians. As she raises her glass to leave the room - “Well, cheers, everybody!” - an older woman with close-cropped white hair calls out, “Thank you for being the first!” Jones responds, not missing a beat: “But not the last.”

\*\*\*

Jones and Krayacich took their first international service trip in 2000, shortly after Jones joined Rotary. (Due to schedule

conflicts, Krayacich didn’t join until 2010 when a breakfast club was chartered, two minutes from their house. “She wasn’t even the one who asked me to join Rotary,” he chuckles.) They went for five weeks to the Brazilian Amazon, where Krayacich ran a medical clinic and Jones produced a fundraising video for the clinic and created a training programme for local journalists. “Once we went on an international Rotary service trip, it resonated very profoundly with me,” she says. “I knew this was something I wanted to do more of - to help people tell their stories, to find the narrative in what we were doing and come back and share it.”

In 2001-02, she served as president of the Rotary Club of



“She believes in something that is so necessary. This time calls for peace and unity, for embracing despite our differences.”





Windsor-Roseland. Every meeting, she'd randomly pick a member, have them stand and tell them why they were important to the club. "Every week, people would show up to see who the next person would be," she says. It taught her a lesson about the importance of taking care of members, a priority now that she is RI president. "We were having fun, doing good work and we liked each other," she says. "Sometimes we try to over-manufacture the reason

why people join and stay."

At that point, her district had never had a female governor. She was under 40 and she "wanted to try to take that for a ride," she says. "I knew I wanted to put my full-on energy into Rotary. I loved it."

After her term as governor in 2007-08, she chaired the local chamber of commerce and the University of Windsor board of governors. "It was the most amazing precursor to sitting on the board of directors of Rotary," she says. "Each one was a building block."

In 2009, when Jones was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 42, her days turned to chemotherapy and radiation. She got the diagnosis in the fall and she had been asked to speak at the International Assembly, the training for incoming district governors-elect, in January 2010. Then-RI President-elect Ray Klinginsmith encouraged her to come if she was able. In consultation with her oncologist, she decided to attend. "The Sunday before, I lost all of my hair," she says. "I showed up at the event in a wig."

Some technical issues interrupted her speech, but it still made an impact, most of all on her. "At one of the lowest points in my life, someone didn't count me out," she says, tearing up. "It was just such a message that I needed at that point in time. That I had value, that I could contribute and participate. He gave me hope at a time when you think that maybe hope isn't what you're going to get."

Jones went through eight rounds of chemo and 21 rounds of radiation. Her employees stepped up to keep her business running as she stepped back. That too proved pivotal. When her health improved and she prepared to re-engage with her work, she looked at what her team had accomplished. "I sat back and thought about it," she says. "If I go back in as I was, I'm going to rob them of the leadership growth they would have had." She decided to pass the day-to-day operations of the company to her team so she could pursue Rotary almost full time.

"I wouldn't orchestrate having cancer again," she says, "but I can definitely say I wouldn't be sitting here where I am today if all of these things hadn't happened."

\*\*\*

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world in March 2020, Jones was fresh off a monthlong Rotary trip, which started in India for its Rotary centennial, continued in Nepal to visit a project started by a Rotary Peace Fellow and concluded in New Zealand for the South Pacific presidents-elect training seminar. In the airport travelling home, she began to see people wearing masks, but she still thought she'd be back out on the road within weeks for a scheduled appearance at a district conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Then, suddenly, the world changed. "I remember the moment I heard that the border between Canada and the United States had shut down," she says. "In my life I could never have envisioned hearing those words."

Jones and Krayacich isolated at their cottage on Lake Erie, about half an hour from their house. "I still remember waking up at three



Clockwise, from top left: Jones huddles with her aide Brad Howard in northern California; prepares for the day's events in a hotel suite in Dallas; smiles from the front row; readies for a photo shoot; and addresses an audience in Los Angeles. "She's so warm and genuine," says Lakecia King, one of Jones' well-wishers in LA and the 2022/23 president of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu.

o'clock in the morning and flipping open my phone to look for a newsfeed to find out what was going on. That sense of unknown we all went through at that time was so horrific."

Jones was a Rotary Foundation trustee at the time. She watched with pride and amazement as Rotary members quickly applied for disaster response grants from The Rotary Foundation to fund service projects. But she wanted to do more. Previously, she'd drawn on her vocation to plan large fundraising events for the Foundation, such as a golf outing with Jack Nicklaus in 2019. She called then-RI President Mark Maloney and pitched the idea of a telethon.

The idea came together over a matter of weeks. Jones reached out to her vast network of contacts in the Rotary world and asked them to send videos. "We really wanted to capitalise on what we could do in real time for people," she says. "Yes, raising critical funds was important, but more than anything, it was an opportunity to bring together people from around the globe and to showcase that we're people of action - even though we were all isolated in our own homes, we were able to do something." (More than 65,000 people tuned in to the event, hosted by Past RI President Barry Rassin and Past RI Director John Smarge, which raised more than \$525,000 for the Foundation.)

One of the people who contributed a video was Anniela Carracedo. A Rotary Youth Exchange student in Mississippi in 2019-20, Carracedo could not return home to Venezuela when the pandemic struck. Stuck in the United States, she started Rotary Interactive Quarantine, a global youth network for Interactors and Youth Exchange students. Jones messaged her in a chat during an online zone meeting and asked her to create a video about the youth network for the telethon.

"After that, I googled her," Carracedo recalls. "Who is this person and why is she organising this? I told my host mom about it and she said, 'People say Jennifer will be the first female Rotary president.'"

The two kept in touch. They've never met in person, but they've formed a strong bond. Jones has spoken at Carracedo's meetings and invited her to speak at the International Assembly. Carracedo has made TikToks about Jones. In an interview over Zoom, she holds up her phone to show Jones-themed stickers on WhatsApp. "I'm her biggest fan, I guess," she says. "She really inspires me to keep doing what I'm doing. That it's OK that I'm a leader and that I'm a woman. If she did it, that means that I can do it too."

And Carracedo's not the only one who feels that way. Another TikTok posted on the @interactivequarantine account juxtaposes a video of Jones with an audio clip declaring, 'She's an icon, she's a legend and she is the moment.'

\*\*\*

Jones' ability to inspire extends beyond young women. Following her visit to LA, Jones attends a District 5170 dinner at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, California. At a pre-dinner reception for Major Donors, she gives a speech in an exhibit about the American West. The vibe is more subdued than at the presidents-elect seminars she'd attended earlier in the weekend. Sequined partygoers line up to take photos with Jones, elegantly dressed in a flowing cream-colored top and palazzo pants with gold embellishments she bought on her trip to India before the pandemic. "I knew back in 2013 that someday she'd be RI president. She has an aura about her," says Joe Hamilton of the Rotary Club of Cupertino, who has been mingling in the crowd.

Click, click, click.

It's dinnertime now and the donors leave the American West for the classic car exhibit on the first floor, where tables are set up among a kaleidoscope







Jones and Krayacich pose beside a towering redwood tree during their stop in northern California.





“She really inspires me to keep doing what I’m doing. That it’s OK that I’m a leader and that I’m a woman.”

Jones shares a quiet moment with Krayacich during their visit to northern California (top) and holds a stack of thank you cards (bottom). Invited to a meeting in 1996, Jones found a home with Rotary. “It was clearly one of the greatest gifts I’ve ever received,” she says. “I didn’t think walking through the door that day that it would change the trajectory of my life.”



of gleaming sports cars. The weekend has felt like an episode of The Amazing Race. In the past 48 hours Jones has taken two flights, spoken at three major events in three cities and posed for possibly hundreds of selfies. (“There’s the paparazzi - this is the Rotarazzi,” Krayacich jokes.)

Even so, Jones, standing in front of a black screen with the words of her presidential theme, Imagine Rotary, projected behind her, is practically glowing as she speaks again.

The war in Ukraine has intensified over this

weekend and this speech ties the troubling current events to the peace-making power of Rotary. She says, “You can’t underestimate the importance of what you’re doing today.”

Jones calls the district governors and governors-elect onto the stage and leads everyone in attendance in a teary rendition of John Lennon’s “Imagine,” in honour of Ukraine. People in the crowd hold hands and sway along, imagining the power of Rotary with Jones at the helm.

Click, click, click.



# Evie is all heart!

After 15 years in Rotary, Past President Eveline van Dam remains a go-getter and is not at all afraid of change!

She was the second president (2021/22) of the Rotary Club of Lilongwe-Lingadzi (D9210) and actively seeks out the passions and talents of her club members to make the club thrive and the members enjoy every Rotary moment.

The Rotarians of this club focus their efforts on environmental programmes and girl empowerment through cooperation with clubs around the world. This year they are planting more than 6 000 trees and organising clean up days. The School Book programme, scholarship programme and reusable sanitary pad programme help to keep girls in school and enable bright students to stay in school.

As CEO of the oldest and largest Animal Welfare organisation in Malawi, Eveline not only has a great impact on the welfare of animals but also on improving the futures of farmers and veterinary students.

She manages the large-scale rabies campaign ZEROby30, which aims to reach zero human fatalities caused by rabies transmission from pets in Malawi by 2030. She is also involved in the Vets United



*President Eveline van Dam is a changemaker at heart.*

programme, which provides practical training for all veterinary students in the country, and the donkey project, which improves the lives of the donkeys and enables the owners to benefit most from the donkeys' strength and work.

Eveline also works with the Malawian government on updating legislation and enforcing the law when it comes to animal cruelty. She is passionate about removing the cruel sales of live animals from the streets of Lilongwe and seeking better long-term solutions. The mobile clinic she manages treats pets and farm animals at no cost in communities that do not have access to veterinary care.

Benjamin Tshefu is a man with a promising future and a member of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400). He started his Rotary journey as a Rotaractor and is an authority on using Technology for Good! This movement involves major tech players such as IBM and Telkom. Their goal is to create a safe and accessible technological platform for SASSA, stokvels, taxi operators and others to use to manage their financial matters. With Benjamin Tshefu are President Celeste Lance and Past President Michael Frase.



*The* **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**

# ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT

A CONVERSATION WITH  
ISAAC B. OWOLABI

"We need to do everything we can to say, 'We're thankful you're here. You matter to us.'"



## Learn what your club can do at [rotary.org/actionplan](https://rotary.org/actionplan)

### Q. What do we mean by enhancing participant engagement?

**ISAAC:** Simply put, we enhance participant engagement when we meet people where they are, rather than just assuming they'll find a way to fit in. It goes far beyond saying, "Come on in! You're welcome!" Focusing on participants is far more proactive.

### Q. Why is this such an important part of the Action Plan?

**ISAAC:** Rotary has offered me many opportunities to get involved, to learn new skills, and to lead. But I've also met a lot of people who feel there is no room for them to serve in Rotary. And we know we have a challenge when it comes to retaining members. That's why making a concerted effort to engage participants is important. When participants don't find experiences that feel personally and professionally relevant, when they don't feel seen as individuals, they go elsewhere — and they have plenty of choices.

### Q. Why are we talking about participants instead of Rotary members?

**ISAAC:** The word *participants* encompasses Rotary and Rotaract members as well as all others who engage in Rotary activities, such as family members, friends, and alumni. Thinking in terms of participants gets us to a new mindset. We begin to look at every encounter as an opportunity to show others what Rotary can do — and what they can do with us.

### Q. What can clubs do to focus more on participants?

**ISAAC:** One word: Listen. As leaders in our professions and communities, we already know how important it is to listen — and how much effort it takes to listen in ways that feel genuine and authentic to those around us. We need to apply that same skill and determination to our Rotary involvement.

**MEET ISAAC B. OWOLABI.** A professor emeritus of business and marketing and also an ordained minister, Owolabi is a member of the Rotary Club of Asheville-Biltmore, North Carolina, and a past governor of District 7670.



Don't just give people a list of things you want to accomplish and ask them to check a box. Instead, ask participants if they're feeling engaged and heard, and if Rotary is meeting their expectations — and listen to what they say.

Another important step is to make sure everyone who engages with us knows that we value their participation. We need to do everything we can to say, "We're thankful you're here. You matter to us."

### Q. You're a big believer in surveys. Why are they a useful tool for enhancing engagement?

**ISAAC:** Surveys are a relatively easy way to identify strengths and weaknesses. In my club, we conduct surveys every year to ask members how they want to be engaged and what community projects they are interested in. I'd also urge clubs to measure member engagement and satisfaction regularly so you can better understand what people are getting out of their Rotary experience.

But don't stop with your club. Consider surveying your community or sponsoring a town hall meeting where people can provide feedback about your projects and share their own ideas. When we engage with the community more broadly, we become known as the people who spot opportunities for positive change.

Let's make sure we see, value, and hear people. When we do that, we make Rotary stronger.





**Bonnie Mbithi**  
Rotary Club of Syokimau, Kenya  
E-waste recycler

## Waste not, want not

Before I became CEO of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre, I ran a NGO that has refurbished over 400 000 computers for schools in Kenya. The WEEE Centre is modelled after programmes in Sweden and Germany. We dispose of, or recycle, anything that uses batteries or electricity: mobile phones, computers, microwaves. We are removing heavy metals and things like zinc, copper, gold, mercury, lead and cadmium. Some of these nonbiodegradable elements can otherwise cause kidney disorders, reproductive complications, irreversible brain damage, or cancer through inhalation, contaminated water, or the food chain. We've safely disposed of over 10 000 tons of e-waste since we started, serving over 8 000 clients and creating over 2 000 jobs.

My first electronic device was probably a battery-powered toy. Later, I had a music player and a small radio and then when mobile phones became popular, I owned one of those old Motorolas. I have no idea where any of these went, sadly, because at that time we had no information on e-waste.

E-waste is the fastest growing stream of waste. We really need to rethink our consumer behaviours and make sure that the equipment we do buy is durable, repairable and recyclable. We need to put pressure on the manufacturers to build equipment that checks off all those boxes and finally, we have to take responsibility for our own waste and not carelessly dump it.

The long-term solution is a more circular economy, as opposed to a linear economy where disposable products are used, trashed and become waste. Circular manufacturing means producers of electronics build equipment that can be refurbished or recycled. Governments need to enforce extended producer responsibility laws that clearly define the roles of all stakeholders when the equipment is designed, manufactured, exported, sold, used, repaired, refurbished, reused and finally recycled.

It's also important to teach our children to be conscious of the environmental impact of e-waste and to practise circularity and proper waste management from a young age. At the WEEE Centre, we often have young ones visiting us to learn about e-waste, as early as kindergarten.

Many governments in Africa give very little attention to e-waste and some developed countries are dumping their e-waste in Africa, making the situation worse. Governments need to understand that prevention is much better than cure. It is far cheaper to promote proper waste management than remediation, the same way it's cheaper to prevent cancer by taking care of e-waste than it is to pay for cancer treatment.

Our work is intended to create an impact: cleaning up the environment, creating green jobs and creating awareness programmes. I joined Rotary several years ago and the connection feels very natural. We share the same values.

- AS TOLD TO PETE NELSON





*So far, nearly 600 garden kits, worth R1.4 million have been distributed by the project that aims to secure the food supply for people in need.*

# Garden Survival

Malnutrition and the death of children due to hunger is beyond comprehension and illustrates that dependency on food handouts is not sustainable. The survival garden kits provide an immediate solution, that is available locally, writes *Rob Campbell* of the Rotary Club of Hillcrest, D9370.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rotary Club of Hillcrest together with the Rotary Clubs of Winnipeg and Gibson (Canada) and the Roll a Hippo Foundation launched the Survival Garden Project to improve food security within impoverished communities.

The project helps to facilitate an easier access to water resources in remote communities, encourages food security through the development of community and homestead gardens, empowers women to sustainably support their families in a dignified manner and frees children from the task of helping to fetch and collect water so that they can attend school and obtain a meaningful education.

The project aims to distribute a 1000 Survival Garden Kits to impoverished communities to help establish homestead and community gardens. An SGK is estimated to provide for an average of seven to eight people.

The SGK contains a Hippo Water Roller, garden tools, fertiliser, seeds and seedlings, sanitiser, a mask and a bar of soap. The Hippo Water Roller is manufactured in South Africa and enables people to safely and conveniently transport water from a source to a garden or home and also provides safe storage for drinking water.

By partnering with nine Rotary clubs in District 9370, NGOs and other organisations that are active within homestead and community gardens field, 584 SGKs, worth R1,4 million, have already been distributed.

Hillcrest has registered an NPC called the RC Hillcrest Siyabambisana that is able to issue Section 18A tax certificates to donors and corporate sponsors who financially support the project.

For more information about the project and how to participate, see [www.1000survivalgardens.com](http://www.1000survivalgardens.com) or email [rob@campbellscargo.co.za](mailto:rob@campbellscargo.co.za).



*The Rotary Club of Chatsworth with District Governor Maddy Webber.*

# And it's a wrap!

The eighth annual District 9370 Conference was held in Grahamstown during the last weekend of April. The 1820 settlers' monument was the setting for the event that followed a hybrid format, writes *Pippa Steele-Gray* of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).

The weekend began with a meeting of the DG Nomination Selection Committee which nominated the 2024/25 District Governor, Radash (Raj) Ramchunder of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth High Noon. Registration opened that afternoon and was followed by a meet and greet supper, the highlight of which was the arrival (after 14 hours travelling), of the Rotary-branded bus carrying a large contingent from the Rotary Club of Chatsworth.

The evening also gave a chance for us to meet the Rotary International President's Personal Representative (RIPPR) Per Hoyen and his wife Anette from Denmark. They are both multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, Bequest Society Members and benefactors of The Rotary Foundation. Together, they very much entered into the spirit of things as they brought greetings from RI President Shekhar Mehta.

For those needing to clear their heads the next morning, there was a very early Yoga for Polio Session before the conference began. PDG Greg Cryer was probably one of those who didn't make it to the yoga session as, much to the amusement of us all, he arrived to take up his role of MC still in his pyjamas. His choice of dress continued to entertain throughout the conference and we can only wonder what our RIPPR had to say in his official report!

Matt Hogarty, the founder and director of Love Howick NPC and the new Love Cities network, got the ball rolling with an interesting presentation on the successful establishment of an organisation that acts as a catalyst in bringing people together for transformation and uniting a community to create positive change. This has been done by creating partnerships between key sectors of the local community to see the vision of a prosperous city

emerge and how this would be rolled out to include other communities in South Africa.

Lindsay Hopkins spoke passionately about her mission to raise awareness and educate our communities about the impact of plastic pollution while Dr Heidi Webber, Dr Puleng Letsie, Tumelo Tladi and Quinlan Caiger gave us food for thought on such subjects as empowering girls and men mentoring young men.

Many of us had met David Allen before, so we really enjoyed hearing him speak again on the subject of leadership and body language - and What not to do when you're guilty! Theo Venter, Professor of Practice at the School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy at the University of Johannesburg brought us up to speed with how to remain agile in changing circumstances.

Rotarians DGE Jacques Venter, Bala Gangiah, Charlie Panday, Ian Robertson, Nitesh Harry,

Barbara Dobrowsky, Helene Visser, Eugene and Ruleen de Witt and Siham Boda added interest and depth with their presentations on subjects ranging from conflict resolution, support from international partners and districts working together.

The Rotary Anns of D9370 have always been a force to be reckoned with and Twiggy Naidoo, president of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth's Anns spoke eloquently about all that they achieved. Although there was no specific event for them this year, PDGA Arlene Jacobs sent a much-appreciated gift to each of the Anns present.

Perhaps the most special aspect of any Discon is the opportunity it affords us all to renew old friendships and make new ones - especially after two years of pandemic. Friday night's Gatsby Karaoke and Jazz Band, and Sunday's Texas Comes to Grahamstown provided the right, wonderfully relaxed platform, to do just that.



*The charter ceremony that was held at the West Coast Fossil Park.*

# Welcome Langebaan!

There were many elements that contributed to the successful charter of the Rotary Club of Langebaan (D9350) in May. The club has blended the old with the new as Charter President Jolene Butler-Wicht is the grand-daughter of PDG Harold Hofmeyr who was a member of the Rotary Club of Saldanha Bay (D9350), as was her father.

The Saldanha Bay club closed in 2010 and Jolene arranged for its memorabilia to be displayed at Langebaan's stellar charter event that was held at the West Coast Fossil Park. The event included a fascinating talk by Pippa Haarhof, a charter member and the Manager of the West Coast Fossil Park, about the history, vision and mission of the park.

The West Coast Fossil Park is world-renowned for its exceptionally well-preserved fossilised faunal remains that date back to the terminal Miocene/early Pliocene (circa 5.2 million years ago). The magnificent displays and dig site provided hard evidence of the effect climate change has had on our living planet over this vast period.

More than 90 people, including representatives of 10 Rotary clubs, community members, friends and family, celebrated this milestone event and welcome Langebaan as the 59th club in District 9350. As the sponsor of this club, the Rotary Club of Waterfront was well represented.





*President George Coon and Past President Albert Lombaard with Ann Williams (centre).*

# Travelling Token

When a Rotarian from outside of South Africa visits the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350), the club presents them with a Travelling Token made from indigenous wood. The token has a QR code on the back that enables the recipient's details to be captured. The visitor is asked to take the token back to their home club, which in turn passes it on to their next international Rotarian visitor. The QR code provides the club with contact details for each new recipient.

In January this year, the club welcomed Ann Williams of the Rotary Club of Tarporley in

Cheshire, UK. Ann is the primary contact for an ECD global grant between the two clubs. The club presented Ann with Travelling Token 123.

Rotarian Ken Mullin from Australia picks up the story: *I was visiting a friend, Tony Yeates in Tarporley. Tony had previously visited our Rotary club in Perth, Western Australia, so he invited me to the meeting of the Tarporley club.*

*Ann heard that an international visitor was attending and jumped on the opportunity to pass on the token. I am very pleased to have it and will pass it on in due course.*

## Share your news with Africa.

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





# A Club with a Difference

The Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370) held a special charter ceremony for its new community-based Interact club, the Interact Club of Carriage Rock. The club is the first of its kind in District 9370 and the ceremony was attended by Assistant Governor Ray Oliver.

Most Interact clubs are based at the specific high school from which it draws its members. However, in this instance, the town of Kenton-on-Sea was lucky enough to have caught the eye of Thomas Sutherland. Tom had recently opened Carriage Rock College to fill the growing need for another secondary school and had started speaking to President Eugene de Witt about getting the learners more involved in their community.

The Interact model was an obvious and happy solution which has culminated in the creation of this club that will draw its members not only from the college, but from the community at large. The Rotary club already has another Interact club at Ekhamvalesizwe Combined School.



*Headmaster Thomas Sutherland, President Eugene de Witt and Youth Service Director Sandi Peter.*



*Charter President Wietske Prinsloo.*

## AFRICA IN BRIEF



The Rotary Club of Harare City (D9210) and its partners built a pedestrian bridge over the Shavenhowe River. Before the bridge was built, school children had to cross the river on foot to get to school. Many children were swept away in the waters and drowned. These children were remembered with the planting of trees to commemorate their lives. The ceremony was attended by more than 50 Rotarians, 12 Rotaractors, five government officials, officers from the army (including a colonel and lieutenant colonel) and Chief Mangwende. In total more than 1 000 people attended and each received a meal.

**Learn what happens when every club  
uses one voice to tell Rotary's story.**

Tune in to [on.rotary.org/gameshow](https://on.rotary.org/gameshow) to watch "One Voice, Every Club."





The Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills (D9370) has been handing out water, bread and sanitisers to people in Tongaat on a weekly basis. These people have been without piped water since April when the floods washed away huge sections of the water supply infrastructure. Repair work has yet to begin, but in the meantime, the club is doing all it can to provide vital support.







In the wake of the mass devastation, loss of life and interruption of basic services, such as water, electricity and other amenities, the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) swung into action to help the communities of Phoenix, Verulam and Tongaat. From 15 April to date, the club has delivered over 12 000 litres of bottled and tapped drinking water and continues to deliver to communities in need as the basic water supply has still not been repaired. The club has also provided new blankets, linen, warm shoes, clothing and bread to communities impacted by the floods. A hot meal and bottled water were also provided for people displaced and living at a community hall in Phoenix during the April floods.



The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) delivered 20 mattresses and blankets to Mampotse Crèche and Aftercare Centre in May. Rotarian Phuti Ragophala visited the centre and discovered that children were sleeping on the cement floor. She suggested that the club consider doing something about it as “The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground.” The Rotary Club of Polokwane donated 20 blankets from its annual winter blanket drive and Sizabantu Piping Systems donated 20 mattresses. Rotarian Geshim Francis’ company assisted with transporting the donations.



The Rotary Club Vanderbijlpark (D9400) is often approached by companies and asked to distribute donations on their behalf. FreshlinQ Market Group is one of those companies and has asked the club to distribute a number of donations for it. The club identified beneficiary organisations, Jeugland Old Age Home and Kgahliso Children's Home to receive these goods.



To celebrate women and the contribution they make to the world, the Rotary Club of Beau-Bassin Rose-Hill (D9220) decided to pay tribute to women and their role in creating peace by holding an art competition titled Women for Peace. The Ministry of Arts and Heritage, led by Minister Avinash Teeluck, offered to sponsor and support the event. A special ceremony was held to announce the winners. With them are President Arvin Authelsingh and Rotarian Tanya Subbamah, who led the organising committee.

## 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)



# WALL OF HONOUR



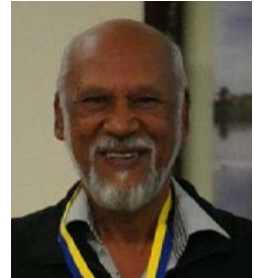
The Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370) has welcomed five new members, Mike Rishworth, Wikus and Lesley de Jager, Moya Truter and Jef Forrer.



Bev Lloyd and Debbie Buchan are new members of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



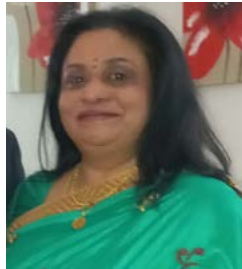
Vuyisani Nobi is a new member of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



Dez Jansen was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Pinelands (D9350).



Dhaya Moodley is a new member of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth High Noon (D9370).



Pam Chetty is a new member of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth High Noon (D9370).



Dan Moodly is a new member of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth High Noon (D9370).



Peter Long is now a member of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370).



Geshim Francis is a new member of the Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400).



Sanjeev Singh was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow from the Rotary Club of Durban-Morningside (D9370).



Paula Maleka is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400.



Pamela Maleka is a new member of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa D9400.



## 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.

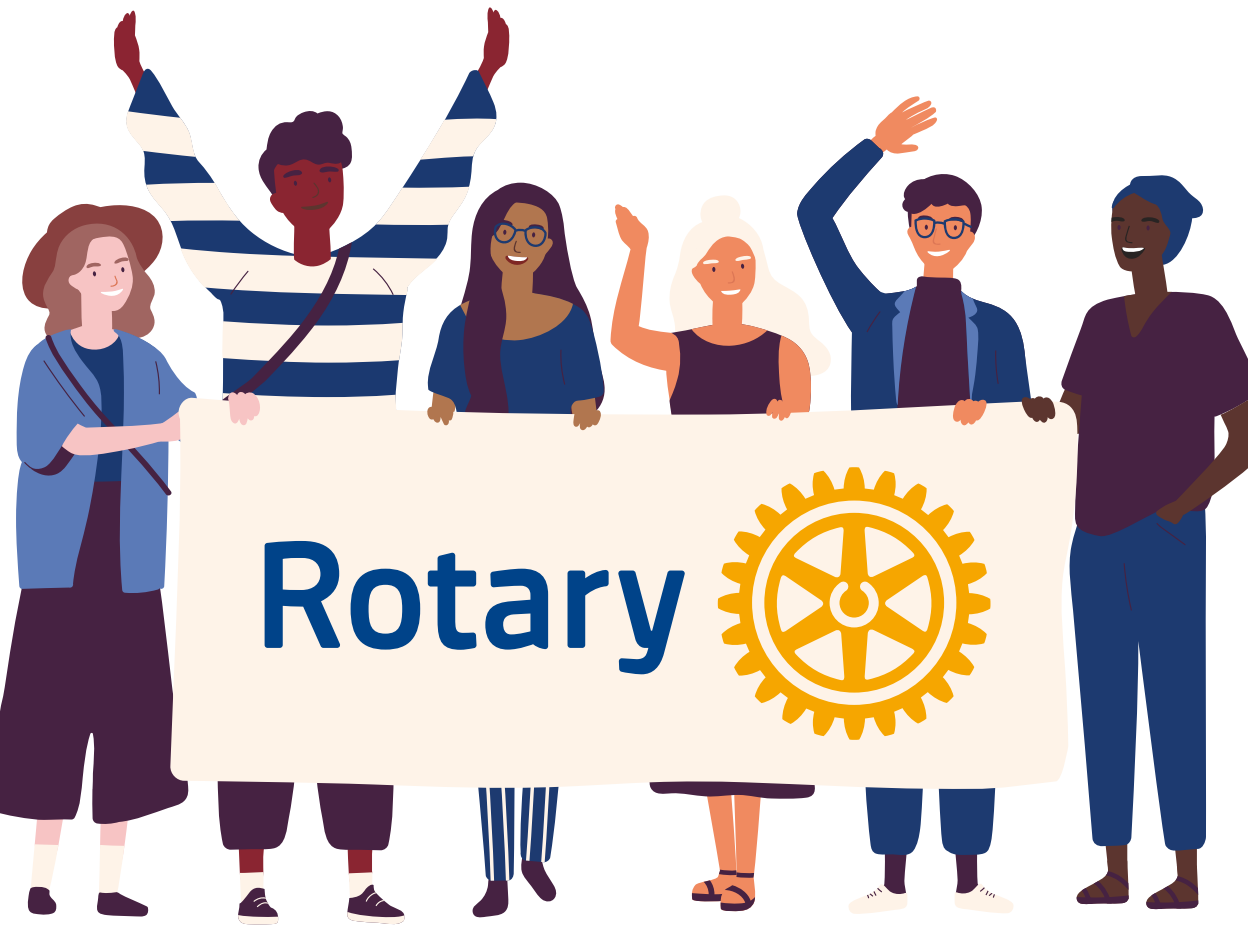
# AMAKHOSI CONTAINER SALES

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

DENNIS WESLEY: **083 733 6208**

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

# Share the gift of Rotary



Each of us was given an extraordinary gift when we were proposed for membership in Rotary.

Extend that gift to others by visiting the Member Center in My Rotary and referring a new member.

**Refer a new member today**

[my.rotary.org/member-center](https://my.rotary.org/member-center)