

MARCH 2024

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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

It is 2024 and I can't believe that we are still dealing with issues that should have been resolved in the late 1800s - the inaccessibility of water is one of them. March, Rotary's Water and Sanitation Month, serves as a poignant reminder of the critical role water plays in our lives, particularly for the most vulnerable segments of society - women and children. Access to clean water is not just a matter of health; it's a linchpin for education, economic freedom and the empowerment of women and girls across the globe.

Globally, 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water and, among them, women and children bear the heaviest burden. The task of water collection often falls to women and girls, who spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water every day. Please, stop and read that again. Are you as outraged as I am?

The impact of this responsibility on education cannot be overstated. Girls who are tasked with water collection often miss out on school, leading to lower literacy rates and limited opportunities for personal and professional growth. UNESCO reports that for every 10% increase in women's literacy, a country's whole economy can grow by up to 0.3%.

Thus, the act of fetching water not only hampers individual futures but also stifles national

economic development.

Moreover, the lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities exposes women and girls to increased risks of harassment and violence. The journey to water sources and the quest for a private place to relieve themselves puts them in vulnerable situations, affecting their physical safety and mental well-being. However, when women have access to clean water, the benefits cascade through families and communities. Women gain back time which can be invested in education, work, and participation in community life. For instance, an African study found that for every kilometre closer a water source is, girls' school attendance increased by 12%. This is a testament to the profound impact that access to water has on unlocking the potential of women and girls.

Economic empowerment follows suit. With clean water nearby, women can engage in income-generating activities, improving their financial independence and contributing to the economic development of their communities. The ripple effects of this empowerment are vast, leading to healthier, more educated, and economically stable communities.

I am always in awe of our water projects, but when I think of the ripple effects of these, I can't help but think that we must to do more... now.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THINK LIKE A ROTARY PEACE FELLOW

There are many pathways to peace and in Rotary, we are fortunate to have Rotary Peace Fellows who demonstrate this truth time and again.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fellowships for leaders around the world to study peace and development and what these peace fellows learn prepares them to work in conflict prevention and resolution and promote Positive Peace. Here are a few examples of the creative ways peace fellows advance peace:

Promoting sustainability

Alejandra Rueda-Zarate combined her Rotary Peace Fellowship in peace and conflict resolution with her master's degree in energy and resources to support her dream of protecting the Colombian countryside.

She founded the organisation NES Naturaleza in 2011 to help farmers in Colombia and across rural Latin America gain access to knowledge and training to uphold sustainable farming standards. That support has improved the lives of nearly 4,500 farmers, inspiring many of them to become entrepreneurs. And it's helped promote both natural and social sustainability throughout Latin America.

Ending racism

Peace fellows Geoffrey Diesel and Kathy Doherty have applied their fellowships in peace and development studies toward co-founding the Racial Equity Project, a subcommittee of Rotary Positive Peace Activators in North America committed to studying ways to create a more peaceful society through anti-racism efforts.

The Racial Equity Project takes a deep look

into how the eight Pillars of Positive Peace could support efforts to address racism and it works to spread this message to communities across North America. The organisation initially grew from Rotary's strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, a global think tank dedicated to promoting Positive Peace.

Managing disasters using data

Through a Rotary Peace Fellowship, Jamie LeSueur earned a master's degree in social science within peace and conflict research. He now leads emergency operations for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, setting a management and operational framework for agency collaboration in emergency response situations.

Jamie has found that research data is a powerful tool to bring calm to the complex world of disaster response. No matter what an organisation's protocols might entail, letting research be the foundation for decision making helps clarify even the most complicated emergencies.

These stories - and hundreds like them - show how Rotary is creating a generation of leaders ready and able to build peace worldwide. Nearly 1,800 peace fellows have graduated from Rotary Peace Centres and they are applying their craft in more than 140 countries.

May the continuing work of peace fellows and the Rotary members who support them inspire you to continue to Create Hope in the World through service, fundraising and creative thinking.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



More than a basic necessity

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair

Rotary's focus turns to two themes this month. March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month and we celebrate World Rotaract Week 11-17 March. Both WASH and Rotaract are near and dear to me.

Clean water, basic sanitation and proper hygiene are fundamental human rights, yet a staggering 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

We're taking action. Over the past decade, your Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$1830 million in over 25,000 water and sanitation projects worldwide. Rotary is on the ground making a difference through global grant-supported projects funded by your contributions to the Foundation.

But Rotary can't do it alone. We have partnered with organisations like USAID to deliver large-scale solutions. The Rotary-USAID Partnership has helped thousands access water and sanitation services in the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda.

Our Foundation is the connector for other water partnerships, too. This was the case when I worked with leaders from Rotary District 7020 to set up the Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiative, known as HANWASH. Foundation grants continue to play a critical role in our strategy of working with non-governmental organisations, municipalities and

government agencies in communities throughout Haiti.

Rotary efforts to connect people with clean water go beyond providing a basic necessity. We are paving the way for healthier communities and brighter futures and doing so in a sustainable manner. With access to water, communities enhance education levels, improve health and further development.

When we talk about partnerships, we can't forget our closest ally, right here in the family of Rotary: Rotaract. The engagement, energy and ideas of Rotaract complement the experience of Rotary clubs and increase our collective impact.

Yet many Rotary members still do not know that, as of 2022, Rotaract club activities can be included in district grants and they are eligible for global grants, expanding avenues for collaboration.

I encourage all Rotary and Rotaract clubs to foster closer collaboration and engagement in our Foundation, whether it's rolling up their sleeves on a project or giving.

We all know that, in Rotary, great opportunities are always around the corner. When you combine water and sanitation projects, Rotaract and the Foundation, all will become a big part of your life, as they have in mine - and not just this month, but forever.



Malay neighbourhood

CUSTOMISE

YOUR CONVENTION

The Rotary International Convention in Singapore will offer so many special events and exclusive experiences that you'll want to make a plan to make the most of your time.

Come early or stay after the 25-29 May convention to take a tour curated for Rotary members or meet with potential business partners in this economic powerhouse, home to so many big corporations. Be sure to register for an extra event to mingle with fellow members.

The Host Organisation Committee has tours for you in Singapore and the region. Book at rotarysingapore2024.org. One convenient three-day tour in neighbouring Malaysia includes a Kuala Lumpur heritage walk and a batik fabric dyeing workshop.

A private tour to learn about the city's immigrants and hawker centre culture includes

tastings at the food markets in Chinese, Indian and Malay neighbourhoods.

Rotarians from the area invite you to Host Hospitality Night, with cultural and food events at exquisite venues in the heart of the city.

At the Rotary Foundation Donor Summit, a general session-style event, members will hear stories about the impact of their support. Major Donors and members of the Arch Klumph, Legacy, Paul Harris and Bequest societies can register on the convention site. Rotary Youth Exchange alumni can connect and share ideas at the Youth Exchange Officers Pre-convention 24-25 May. Stick around after the convention for the Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference 1-4 June.

Whichever Rotary-only experiences you choose for your trip, you'll be Sharing Hope With the World.



World Water Summit 16: It All Starts With Water!

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

This month, I have the pleasure of inviting Lisa Talley, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) Marketing & Communications Chair, to share insights about WASH-RAG and the eagerly anticipated World Water Summit 16, scheduled to take place in Singapore on May 24, 2024.

In alignment with Rotary International's Water and Sanitation Month, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) extends an invitation for you to engage in sustainable WASH projects and contribute to the global eradication of water-borne diseases.

The WASH Rotary Action Group (WASH-RAG) supports and ensures sustainable, durable solutions for clean water, sanitation and hygiene for communities in need. Since inception in 2007, WASH-RAG has been instrumental in assisting local Rotary and Rotaract clubs to identify international projects and global partners. This is achieved by providing technical advice through WASH-RAG's in-house Professional Resources team and offering additional funding for WASH project proposals that secure Global Grant funding from The Rotary Foundation.

Moreover, WASH-RAG Ambassadors act as champions of WASH initiatives in Rotary districts worldwide. They lend their technical expertise and support to assist clubs in planning and executing impactful projects. This opportunity is open to anyone eager to share their expertise or learn how to make a positive impact.

WASH-RAG advocates for a comprehensive, integrated approach where water serves not as an end, but as a means to enhance community life and livelihood. Thus, the WASH Rotary Action Group connects water and sanitation with improved hygiene, health, community empowerment (particularly among women), irrigation and agriculture, education and literacy and, ultimately, the reduction of child mortality.

The 2024 WASH-RAG Operations Team recently convened for their annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, USA, with members travelling from locations such as England, Luxembourg, Zambia and Ghana. They conduct bi-monthly virtual meetings to plan and coordinate global WASH projects and advocacy efforts from their respective countries.

WASH-RAG World Water Summit

The 2024 WASH-RAG Operations team convened to discuss the upcoming year and finalise preparations for World Water Summit 16 in Singapore on May 24, 2024. This year's summit shines a light on the often-overlooked aspect of sanitation, a crucial component of WASH - water, sanitation, hygiene - emphasising the necessity of separating and safely managing human excreta.

Sanitation extends beyond toilets to encompass a complete supply chain that offers income opportunities for entrepreneurs, including pit emptying, transportation, processing, distribution and the sale of fertiliser or briquettes. In healthcare facilities, sanitation also encompasses



The WASH-OPS Team: Lisa Talley, Mike Brown, Monica Louie, Big Rich Churchman, Carolyn Meub, Rashid Alhassan, Ian Rumbles, Patrick Coleman, Michael Fernando and Wade Nomura (Chair)

the critical process of managing contaminated waste.

Conducted annually on the Friday preceding the International Convention, the WASH-RAG World Water Summit is a platform for Rotarians to exchange knowledge and experiences, gain insights from experts and forge stronger connections. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (WASH) represents one of the seven areas of focus for The Rotary Foundation and Rotary clubs globally. Rotarians with a keen interest in WASH unite through WASH-RAG to share experiences, learn and support programmes for clubs, districts and their partners.

The WASH-RAG Operations Team invites you to join them as a member and participate in World Water Summit 16. By becoming a WASH advocate, you can help support and ensure sustainable, long-lasting clean water, sanitation and hygiene programmes for communities in need. For more information, please contact info@wash-rag.org, or become a member by visiting the WASH-RAG website at www.wash-rag.org.



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At the Lusaka meeting, the signing of the My Body is My Body and End Plastic Soup agreements, along with the protocol of Intent with Africa and agreements with D9400, mark significant strides towards global health and environmental stewardship.

Intercountry Committees are growing!

In a landmark event at the end of January, 55 countries convened to sign the Rotary Intercountry Committee (RI ICC) protocol agreement, uniting numerous Rotary districts across Africa and Taiwan. This pivotal agreement aims to foster unity, friendship and a mutual commitment to positively impact communities globally. It marks a significant collaboration between the culturally rich African districts and the dynamic, innovative districts of Taiwan, underpinned by a shared mission of service and progress.

The collaboration, initially sparked by a Global Grant in D9400 focusing on peacebuilding, has been supported by clubs and districts in America, Taiwan and South Africa, alongside The Rotary Foundation (TRF). This partnership not only amplifies the impact of service projects but also promotes cultural exchanges and builds understanding across continents.

The signing ceremony saw the participation of District Governors and District Governor-Elects from all involved districts, alongside people such as the RI ICC Executive Board President, Past District Governor (PDG) Mohamed Ghammam,

Past Rotary International President (PRIP) Gary Huang, Rotary International Director-Elect (RIDE) Naomi Lin for Taiwan (Zone 9) and Rotary International Director (RID) Patrick Chisanga for Africa (Zone 22).

PDG Mohamed Ghammam underscored the protocol agreement's potential to catalyse further achievements, enabling diverse districts to work collectively in uplifting communities and embodying the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." This historic milestone was celebrated as a testament to the dedication of its pioneers and the collaborative spirit of the districts in Africa and Taiwan.

PRIP Gary Huang lauded the profound impact of Taiwan and Africa on the Rotary global stage, congratulating all on reaching this remarkable milestone. Furthermore, RID Patrick Chisanga emphasised the agreement's significance beyond its physical form, heralding it as a testament to the strength and potential of collaboration across diverse communities. He celebrated the new bonds formed between Africa and Taiwan, acknowledging the limitless impact of their

collective efforts.

This was followed by an ICC Executive Council Meeting in London on 9 February, which showcased the International Coordination Committee’s (ICC) commitment to global collaboration, aligning closely with Rotary’s strategic vision. The gathering emphasised the ICC’s dedication to fostering positive peace, implementing impactful initiatives and broadening its global footprint. A pivotal theme was ICC’s “People of Action” ethos, stressing the necessity for equal access and embracing innovative approaches to global engagement.

The session highlighted the introduction of the “Sun Never Sets on Rotary” (SNSR) Model, aimed at enhancing international cooperation. This initiative, along with the development of a Global Model, new meeting protocols and the establishment of gateways, marked a significant step towards ICC’s global outreach efforts. Notably, the meeting underscored the vital role of partnerships with Rotary Action Groups and other international bodies in achieving these goals.

A key agenda item was the nomination of future leaders equipped with a global perspective, tasked with overcoming language barriers and reconfiguring ICC’s structure to truly reflect its international ambitions. The integration of ICC’s

strategies with Rotary’s action plan was central to discussions, aiming to cement ICC as a pivotal resource and brand within the global community. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring the protection of member data and leveraging online platforms for global meetings, positioning ICC as first responders in crisis situations.

The collaboration with the United Nations and the endorsement of agreements with organisations such as My Body is My Body and End Plastic Soup were highlighted as critical to ICC’s mission in tackling global challenges and promoting positive peace. Esteemed keynote speakers, including Steve Killelea and Brett Savill from the Institute for Economics and Peace, along with Rotary International President Gordon McNally, articulated the significance of these partnerships.

The conference concluded with an acknowledgment of the efforts of ICC Chairperson PDG Mohamed Ghamam, the moderators, the host committee and the Executive Board, whose collective dedication was instrumental in the success of the meeting. The contributions of presenters from over 22 countries were recognised, reinforcing ICC’s and Rotary’s shared commitment to a future characterised by positive peace and a more interconnected global network.



The landmark signing of agreements between Rotary Districts in Africa and Taiwan underscore the significance in fostering global collaboration.



Rolling with Rotary

The Genesis of a Ground-breaking Solution

In 1991, a revolutionary product emerged on the scene, destined to transform the way water was transported in some of the world's most resource-scarce regions. This product, known as the Hippo Roller, was not just another water container; it was a beacon of hope, a tool designed to alleviate the daily struggle of millions who trekked long distances to fetch water. The inception of the Hippo Roller initiative marked the beginning of a journey that would see over 70,000 units distributed globally, touching the lives of more than 700,000 individuals by significantly easing the burden of water collection.

The success of the Hippo Roller initiative can be attributed to the synergy between its creators and a network of organisations committed to solving water portability challenges. Among these, are more than 100 Rotary clubs which have played a pivotal role, bringing together community leaders and volunteers to make a tangible difference. The collaboration between Hippo Roller and Rotary members began in earnest in 2004, with a partnership that would grow to encompass Rotary clubs and districts across continents, from Africa to Europe, Oceania and North America.

The Ripple Effect

The journey of the Hippo Roller, from its inception to becoming a globally recognised solution for water transportation, is a testament to the power of innovative thinking and collaborative effort. The partnership between the Hippo Roller initiative and Rotary clubs worldwide has not only facilitated the distribution of thousands of units but has also sparked a movement towards sustainable solutions for water access challenges.

As we document this remarkable story, it's clear that the impact of the Hippo Roller extends far beyond the numbers; it's about the lives changed, the communities empowered and the global network of volunteers committed to making a difference.

The Kyalami Connection

The partnership's roots can be traced back to the Rotary Club of Kyalami (D9400), located a mere 12 km from Hippo Roller's headquarters in South Africa.

The club's decision to order a Hippo Roller not only marked the start of a significant alliance but also symbolised a commitment to serving the local community, aptly reflected in the club's name Kyalami, meaning *my home* in Zulu. This initial engagement laid the groundwork for what would become a widespread movement to address water access challenges.



A Global Coalition

What began with the procurement of four Hippo Rollers by the Rotary Club of Gibsons (D5040) soon evolved into a larger mission to fund 50 units. This long-standing project has been the passion project of Rotarian Luke Vorstermans and his partner, Linda Ryan.

This once small initiative quickly transformed into a global effort, uniting over 125 Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs from 26 districts across multiple continents. This coalition exemplified the power of collaboration, significantly extending the reach and impact of the Hippo Roller project and demonstrating the collective capacity of Rotary clubs worldwide to drive meaningful change.



Rotarian Scott Westgaard, of the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara (D5240), has been championing the cause of the Hippo Roller in the USA. He is also the person behind the partnership with ESRI to use GIS technology to map the direct impact footprint of Rotary clubs' partnership with Hippo Roller. "This," he says, "is only the beginning. Imagine if we were able to visually map the impact footprint of every Rotary water project."

Mapping Impact

In an innovative leap forward, the partnership between Hippo Roller and Rotary members has embraced the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) through a dynamic collaboration with ESRI, a global leader in location intelligence. GIS is a framework for gathering, managing, and analysing data rooted in the science of geography. It integrates many types of data and layers them to provide a comprehensive visual representation of real-world locations, making complex patterns and relationships easier to understand. This technology allows for the creation of detailed maps that can show not just where things are but also how they relate and interact across space and time.

The creation of a massive GIS story map by a team of Rotarians and Hippo Roller representatives is set to transform how the impact of water distribution projects is tracked and visualised. This map will offer real-time tracking of the distribution footprint of these vital water projects, enabling contributors and stakeholders to zoom into the beneficiary community to an astonishing detail of within 6 metres of where the distribution occurred. Such precision and clarity mean that donors can see the direct impact of their contributions - visualising not just the community they've supported but also gaining a deeper understanding of the geographical and social context of their aid. This level of engagement and transparency is unprecedented, providing a vivid, interactive narrative of the partnership's success in improving access to water, thereby enhancing the lives of countless individuals and communities.

CULTIVATING HOPE: THE 1,000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT

In an era where collaboration and innovation are key drivers of impactful change, the 1,000 Survival Garden Kits, a project of the Rotary Club of Hillcrest (D9370), stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through collective effort.

Orchestrated by a global network of over 125 Rotary, Interact and Rotaract clubs across 26 districts spanning North America, Europe and Africa, this initiative has become a beacon of hope and empowerment for numerous communities. At its core, the project aims to provide Survival Garden Kits to 1,000 individuals, equipping them with not only a Hippo Roller but also essential farming tools, fertiliser, seeds and seedlings. This comprehensive approach fosters self-sufficiency and promotes food security, with the project's ripple effect benefiting 7,768 individuals across 20 different communities.

A Blueprint for Sustainable Development

Through these diverse stories of transformation, the project not only addresses the immediate needs of water and food security but also sows the seeds for a future where communities can thrive independently, empowered by the tools and knowledge to sustain themselves.



Hippo Rollers and survival garden tools were provided to The ZeroFive Trust and Early Education Centres in KwaZulu-Natal as part of the Rotary Club of Hillcrest's 1000 Survival Gardens project!

TRANSFORMATIVE STORIES FROM THE GROUND

Roosboom: A Return to Dignity

In Roosboom, the Survival Garden Kits have done more than just provide the means for sustainable agriculture; they have restored the dignity of local women.

The traditional headwear, once replaced by water buckets, is now worn with pride, symbolising a return to cultural roots and the alleviation of physical burdens. Nelly Nkosi (right), among 150 recipients, stands as a testament to the transformative power of these kits, enabling her to dedicate her energy to nurturing her garden and securing her family's food source.

Qhayiya Primary School: Educating Through Agriculture

At Qhayiya Primary School in the economically challenged area of Port Alfred, Eastern Cape, the Rotary Club of Port Alfred (D9370) introduced a vegetable garden project. Celebrated on World Food Day, this initiative has enriched the educational experience by introducing students to agriculture, sustainability and nutrition. This hands-on learning experience transcends the confines of traditional classrooms, planting seeds of knowledge that promise to grow into lifelong virtues.

The Valley of 1,000 Hills: A Glimmer of Hope

Known as an epicentre of the AIDS/HIV epidemic, the Valley of 1,000 Hills witnessed a glimmer of hope with the distribution of 38 Garden Survival Kits. This collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook (D5360) and the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust has empowered women to sustain their families, offering a beacon of hope and a sustainable solution to combat food insecurity in the midst of adversity.

Inchanga: Enhancing Community Resilience

In Inchanga, another community within the Valley of 1,000 Hills, the joint efforts of the Rotary Club of Hillcrest and the East Coast Lions Club have underscored the project's reach. The distribution



of Survival Garden Kits here not only addresses water portability challenges but also strengthens community resilience, showcasing the profound impact of collaborative humanitarian efforts.

Mophela and Driefontein: Improving Quality of Life

Thanks to the fundraising prowess of the Rotary Club of Chilliwack Fraser (D5050), the villages of Mophela and Driefontein in KwaZulu-Natal have seen a marked improvement in their quality of life. The provision of Hippo Rollers and Survival Garden Kits has streamlined water transportation and bolstered food security, paving the way for enhanced economic opportunities through agriculture.

uMgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute: Supporting Smallholder Farmers

The uMgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute, an NGO dedicated to aiding smallholder and women farmers, received Hippo Rollers to support its "Stop the Hidden Hunger Campaign." This initiative, aimed at addressing the nutritional needs of school children, highlights the vital link between agriculture, education and community health, showcasing the multifaceted benefits of the Survival Garden Kits.



In developing countries, collecting water for the household is a chore that falls mostly on the shoulders, or heads, of women and girls. This results in missed school, health defects and fewer opportunities to generate additional household income. The Hippo Roller is changing this by using simple solutions to streamline the process.





70,000+ Hippo Rollers have already been distributed to 56 countries over the past 29 years and have positively impacted at least 700,000+ people directly and many more indirectly.

Grant Gibbs, CEO Hippo Roller

The Synergy of Innovation and Service

The partnership between the Hippo Roller and Rotary members has been instrumental in tackling the critical issue of water access and portability in underserved communities. With women and children spending over 200 million hours daily fetching water, the need for efficient solutions has never been more urgent. The Hippo Roller, with its innovative design, addresses this challenge head-on, enabling the easier transportation of water and significantly improving the quality of life, health and economic opportunities for these communities. Its distinctive features, such as a large opening for easy cleaning, highlight a commitment to both hygiene and practicality, setting it apart from traditional water containers.

Bob Ashley's Contribution: The Village Water Filter

Parallel to the efforts of the Hippo Roller, Rotarian Bob Ashley of the Rotary Club of Summit County (D5450) has made significant strides in clean water access through his invention, the Village Water Filter (VF100). Awarded Rotary International's Service Above Self Award in 2019, Ashley's invention is a testament to his belief in the moral duty to assist others.

The VF100, a portable water filter, stands out for its efficiency, affordability and use of high-quality hollow fibre membrane technology. Capable of providing up to five gallons of clean drinking water per hour and removing 99.99% of bacteria and protozoa, the VF100 meets or exceeds EPA standards, with its efficacy validated by WHO approval.



Last year, Rotarian Scott Westgaard and Hippo Roller CEO Grant Gibbs took a Roller to the UN in New York where it attracted great attention.

Scott, an extreme sports enthusiast, had no qualms about rolling it through the full assembly hall. "After the third pass, I got the tap on the shoulder from security... As you know it is better to ask for forgiveness than permission!



HAMPERS AND CLOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS





The project team of the Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills with some of the hampers they distributed.

An annual project of the Rotary Club of Reservoir Hills (D9370) is distributing food hampers to individuals and families of the communities of Phoenix, Reservoir Hills, Clare Estate, Newlands and surrounding areas in KwaZulu-Natal. This initiative, ongoing for the past 12 years, has proved to be a vital lifeline for those facing financial hardships.

A notable aspect of this charitable endeavour is the focus on terminally ill recipients in Phoenix, spanning from teenagers to pensioners. Many of these individuals, ineligible for social security assistance, rely on the hamper, which can sustain a family for an entire month. Despite some receiving the old age pension, it falls short of meeting their monthly financial needs.

This year's distribution held a special surprise as the Rotary Anns joined forces, contributing beautifully packaged and labelled pre-loved clothing to accompany the hampers. The recipients not only left with essential

groceries but also a cooked meal for the day and, remarkably, at least five items of clothing. The well-coordinated event took place on Saturday, 4 November and left the community filled with gratitude.

Kamla Govender, a dedicated Rotary volunteer, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of this initiative. Managing logistics with precision, she spent weeks ahead coordinating the database of recipients at her own cost and time. Under the leadership of President Premesh Jagganath, the 2023 programme witnessed the distribution of an impressive 240 hampers, amounting to a total cost of R60,000. The funds were generously raised through the support of kind-hearted donors and sponsors.

This project holds a special place in the hearts of every Rotarian and Ann associated with the club, as they see the impact of their generosity continue to resonate within the communities they serve.

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE

Clubs are to please submit their details for the annual Which Club Meets Today directory by NO LATER THAN 31 May. Please email submissions or questions to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za





The first shipment of bicycles arrived at Durban Harbour last year.

Bikes for Africa

In a global community development initiative spanning three continents, the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (D7620) has sent the first shipment of used bicycles from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, bound for the port of Durban.

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek is collaborating with the Rotary Club of Empangeni and the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region (D9370) to collect and ship 6-12 forty-foot containers of used bicycles to South Africa over a three-year period. The goal is to address poverty and improve access to education and healthcare in rural communities.

The international service project involves training local community members as bicycle mechanics, responsible for assembling, repairing and maintaining the bicycles. The shipping containers will serve as on-site storage and repair facilities. Young women will be enlisted as bicycle mechanics and receive training in basic business management skills.

Rotary clubs in Western Australia, Africa and North America, including the Carroll

Creek club, are actively involved in collecting and distributing the bicycles. Partnering with Rockville MD-based Bikes for the World, the project has collaborated with allied bicycle organisations on three continents.

Bicycles For Humanity chapters in Calgary, Alberta (Canada), Seattle, Washington (US), Charleston, South Carolina (US) and Western Australia are also part of this initiative.

The lead project coordinators, Stephen Bamonti of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek in Frederick, MD US and Jonathan Moore Warner of the Rotary E-Club of the Karoo Region who is based in Frederick, MD US, are spearheading the efforts. The team also includes Andrew Killick and Fulvio Pace of the Rotary Club of Empangeni and Richard Jones of the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region.

The next shipment is anticipated to come from The Porter-Gaud in South Carolina as the initiative gains momentum in its mission to provide bicycles for transportation to school, employment and healthcare in South Africa.



YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS



MICHAEL E. LIRIO
Philippines, District 3820

CADRE TITLE:
Cadre Financial Auditor

OCCUPATION:
Certified public accountant/chartered accountant
and professor in accountancy



**WHAT ARE ROTARY
MEMBERS SAYING
ABOUT MIKE?**

“Mike gave guidance on finishing reportorial requirements for a global grant to provide the island with potable water that started seven years ago. He patiently checked the voluminous documents and gave stakeholders much-needed direction and encouragement to complete the project.”

— PDG Connie N. Beltran-DV, assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, District 3810 (Philippines)

The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers is a network of hundreds of Rotary members who are experts from around the globe. These advisers use their professional skills and technical expertise to enhance Rotary members' grant projects in our areas of focus.

THE CADRE CAN SUPPORT YOU BY:

- Providing project planning advice and implementation guidance
- Helping with community assessment design
- Incorporating elements of sustainability into projects
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SCHOOL HEALTH DAY

In November, the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town and the Rotary Club of Atlantis (D9350) collaborated to organise a School Health Day at Avondale Primary School in Atlantis. The event, held under the banner of HEWRAG (Health, Education, Wellness, Rotary Action Group), saw 400 Grade 7 learners from four schools actively participating.

The day was dedicated to providing essential information and engaging demonstrations on various topics. Attendees were enlightened on Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), healthy exercise, life-saving techniques, swimming skills, the significance of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and cervical cancer awareness, hand washing, hygiene practices, mental health, diet, HIV/AIDS awareness and the importance of environmental conservation.

The initiative aimed at fostering health, education and wellness was well-received, with the participating students gaining valuable insights into maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The School Health Day at Avondale Primary School was a commendable effort by the Rotary clubs, addressing crucial aspects of well-being for the young learners of Atlantis.



Grade 7 learners engage with healthcare professionals, diving deep into vital wellness topics from CPR to environmental conservation at the School Health Day. A day of learning and inspiration at Avondale Primary School.





Senior citizens clubs performing at the event.



Seniors' cultural day

The Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) recently hosted a Senior Citizens Cultural Day at the Kharwastan Temple Hall on Sunday, 3rd December 2023. Approximately 320 senior citizens from various clubs in Durban South attended the event, emphasising the club's recognition of the significant role the elderly play in society.

The hall, filled beyond capacity, saw members enjoying a scrumptious meal of chicken breyani, generously sponsored by Indian Delights Caterers. The dynamic entertainment programme featured a delightful array of songs, dances and sketches performed by enthusiastic members from different clubs.

Guests were privileged to have Mariam Bassa, also known as AYA, as the guest speaker. AYA enlightened the audience on the vital importance of caring for and honouring the elderly, emphasising their sacrifices and ongoing role in society. AYA also shared some of her favourite movie lines with the attendees.

Sathie Moodliar, the Community Services Director, paid homage to the late PP Steve Chokalingum for his previous work on the project. Moodliar expressed gratitude to the Rotary team, Anns and other sponsors for their generous contributions to the goody bags distributed to each guest. Special thanks were extended to the Kharwastan Temple Hall Society, major partner in the event.

Acknowledging the event's success, President Cogie Muthulingum and club members thanked the various sponsors, donors and well-wishers who made the Senior Citizens Cultural Day possible.



On 2 January, the Knysna Waterfront hosted the annual Knysna Splash Swim and Duck Race, an event cherished by holidaymakers and organised by the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350). This year's competition attracted 154 participants aged 10 and above, who competed in three open water swim events of 300m, 1650m, and 600m, all commencing at the Knysna Yacht Club.

In a closely fought contest, the legendary Quack Attack Duck Race at the Knysna Quays featured 1000 yellow ducks navigating the channel and passing under the bridge.

An unexpected turn of events saw the race's direction change, adding an element of surprise to the competition. Graham Hunter's duck emerged victorious, clinching first place and the R7000 prize, which he generously donated to Knysna's National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI). Isla van den Berg secured the second spot, winning R4000. Her father announced plans to deposit the prize money into her first

Top: And they're off! The much-anticipated Duck Race starts. Below: The top three swimmers from the 600 metre event. Riley Parr (second), Ella Chalupsky (first) and Amy Ireland (third) with Rotarian Albert Lombard.



bank account, a gesture prompted by her success.

The event not only provided entertainment but also raised funds for the Rotary Club of Knysna's Safe Swimming initiative. This programme offers local children, who might otherwise lack the opportunity, the chance to learn to swim. In 2023, the initiative supported swimming lessons for 80 cadets from the South African Sea Cadet Corps - TS Knysna, in collaboration with Knysna Aquatics and Little Sharks Swim School. These efforts ensure that cadets meet the prerequisite swimming skills needed to undertake sailing courses, reinforcing the club's enduring partnership with the Sea Cadets.



Top: The ducks are released.

Above: The briefing before the 600 metre open water swim.

President Herb Hunter (no relation to Graham) presenting the R7,000 prize to Graham, who then handed it to Jerome Simonis, the director of Knysna's NSRI.



YOUR PROJECT PLANNING EXPERTS



G. VIVIANA

Santa Cruz, Mérida
Bolivia, District 4690

CADRE TITLE:

Cadre Adviser for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

OCCUPATION:

Civil engineer specializing in water and sanitation



**WHAT ARE ROTARY
MEMBERS SAYING
ABOUT VIVIANA?**

“Viviana’s contribution has been fundamental for Rotary members in our district to be trained on water and sanitation projects being planned, structured, sustained, and based on the needs of the community.”

— Livio Zozzoli, district Rotary Foundation chair & district governor-elect, District 4690 (Bolivia)

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WINELANDS CYCLE RACE

The Rotary Club of Paarl (D9350) hosted the annual Winelands Cycle Race on 28 January, attracting 1,700 participants under sunny skies. The event saw cyclists navigating a 102 km route between Wellington and Riebeeck Kasteel, passing through picturesque vineyards and wheatlands. This race serves as a preparatory event for the Cape Town Cycle Tour.

Jaco Venter, who was last year's runner-up, emerged as the victor of the race, clocking in at 2:24:17. Jaco showed a remarkable improvement and clinched the title. Close behind him were competitors Hanro Geldenhuys and Alan Hatherly. Catherine Colyn led the female cyclists, finishing in 2:39:23, ahead of Daria Pravilova and Layla Schwellnus.

Jaco Venter, last year's runner-up, triumphs in the Winelands Cycle Race with a time of 2:24:17, closely followed by Hanro Geldenhuys and Alan Hatherly.



Rotarians, alongside friends and supporters, played a pivotal role in the event's success, serving as marshals, and distributing refreshments, medals and prizes at the finish line. The proceeds from the race will be channelled into various Rotary projects, furthering the organisation's commitment to community service.

Catherine Colyn (right), the foremost female cyclist in the Winelands 102 km cycle race, completes the course in 2:39:23. Beside her, Layla Schwellnus secured the second runner-up position.

Daria Pravilova was the first runner-up. Photo: Sieb Photography



The cyclists on the road. Photo: Sieb Photography



Mare Siedentopf, a youth exchange student from Germany, spread a little love this last Christmas.

From Germany, with love

The Rotary Club of Dundee (D9370) has welcomed Mare Siedentopf, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Braunschweig-Hanse (D1800, Germany), as a long-term exchange student. The club, which has facilitated over 60 such exchanges, believes these experiences profoundly impact both inbound and outbound students, as well as the Rotarians themselves, including those in their later years.

Shortly after her arrival in Dundee, Siedentopf visited a local care centre alongside fellow Rotarians. There, she witnessed the challenges faced by children living in poverty, yet noted

their joy and camaraderie. Since 2016, the Dundee club has supported this well-managed centre, which assists orphaned and vulnerable children. Approximately 40 children benefit from daily meals, adult interaction and essentials like school uniforms provided by the centre.

In the spirit of Christmas, Siedentopf secured funds from her German club to assemble 35 gift shoe boxes, each valued at approximately R200. These were individually wrapped and designated for each child, identified by name, age and gender, ensuring each received a personal token of kindness.



DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

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



Kirumba Masaka, the EndPlasticSoup Ambassador in Uganda and member of the Rotaract Club of Muteesa 1 Royal University (D9214). Youth for a Plastic-free Lake Victoria is sponsored or Youths working for a plastic-free Lake Victoria.

END PLASTIC SOUP

The issue of plastic pollution has been identified as a more significant environmental threat than climate change, with its origins tracing back to the 1950s when single-use plastics became a commonplace substitute for paper bags. This has led to a pervasive presence of plastic waste across various ecosystems, including oceans, lakes, rivers and even remote areas like the Arctic and Antarctic. The degradation of plastics results in the formation of micro and nano-plastics, which not only persist in the environment but also enter food chains, affecting human health through contamination of blood organs and even breast milk.

Globally, two billion people lack access to safe waste disposal methods, leading to hazardous practices such as dumping or burning plastic waste. These methods contribute to the release of greenhouse gases and toxic fumes, exacerbating the climate crisis and posing severe health risks. The entire lifecycle of plastic, from production to degradation, is associated with harmful greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, a potent gas that significantly contributes to global warming.

The ocean, which has historically absorbed 30-50% of human-related carbon dioxide emissions, is now threatened by increasing ingestion of microplastics by plankton, resulting in reduced carbon dioxide absorption. Furthermore, the production and mismanagement of plastics have profound human rights implications, affecting vulnerable communities, including children, poorer populations and informal sector workers,

through exposure to toxic pollutants and living conditions in waste dumps.

In response to this crisis, EndPlasticSoup, an initiative founded by Rotary clubs in Amsterdam in 2018, aims to halt global plastic pollution by 2050. This initiative, supported by hundreds of Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs worldwide, focuses on creating awareness, building alliances and initiating actions to combat plastic pollution. EndPlasticSoup collaborates with sister organisations such as ESRAG, WASHRAG and the RAG Menstrual Health and Hygiene, aligning its efforts with Rotary's areas of focus, including disease prevention, clean water provision, environmental education and economic growth.

This year, under the theme "Create hope in the world," EndPlasticSoup seeks to inspire hope by addressing the challenges posed by plastic pollution to people, nature, climate and peace. The Rotary Vision Statement echoes this sentiment, envisioning a world united in action for lasting change. A recent memorandum of understanding signed by the executive board of the Intercountry Committee and EndPlasticSoup aims to leverage the extensive Rotary network for global cooperation against plastic pollution, promoting awareness and defining joint projects eligible for district and global grants.

For more information on EndPlasticSoup and its initiatives, including details on the regional directors for Africa, visit www.endplasticsoup.org and <https://rotary-icc.org/about-cip/>.



The George Old Car Show brings together enthusiasts from across southern Africa, celebrating not just the evolution of the automobile but the community spirit that binds us. With the International Oompah Band setting the soundtrack, it's a weekend where memories are made and traditions are honoured.

AUTOMOTIVE FESTIVITIES

The 27th Annual George Old Car Show, organised by the Southern Cape Old Car Club on 10 and 11 February, honoured German automotive craftsmanship with a spectacular display of vehicles. Held in George, this event attracted enthusiasts from across southern Africa, offering a unique insight into the evolution of motorcars, motorcycles and tractors from various eras, with a special focus on German engineering.

The show presented an impressive collection of German marques, featuring iconic brands such as Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a diverse range of vehicles, appreciating the innovation and craftsmanship that have made German automobiles renowned worldwide.

Adding to the weekend's festivities, the International Oompah Band performed on Sunday, providing a musical backdrop that enhanced the German-themed celebration. From 11am to 2pm, their lively tunes contributed to a family-oriented atmosphere, creating an intimate setting that fostered community spirit among visitors.

The George Old Car Show is not merely an exhibition of vintage and classic cars; it is an event that brings together people with a shared passion. The George Rotarians played an important role in the event, managing bar points and ensuring the smooth running of the show, thus reinforcing the sense of community that makes the event a much-anticipated annual tradition.



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR



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GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate



Members of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400), in collaboration with The Mask Clinic and The Village Parkview community donated 370 gifts for the children of Hotel Hope, Umbuyisa School of Arts and Culture, The Word of Hope, Hug Me Bear and Graceland Day Care. The donations were meticulously wrapped by the children of the Parkview community, along with Rotarians Ivone Vosloo and Helene Bramwell.



SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES

Email stories and photos (of at least 1mb in size) to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za.



Neil McDonald, past president of the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370), was presented with water-purifying granules by Charlie Panday and Suren Singh, both members of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370). The donation, aimed at addressing the urgent need for clean water in the flood-affected KwaZulu-Natal province, couldn't have come at a better time. With the recent flooding causing contamination of rivers and dams, the populace was left with no choice but to consume water from these polluted sources.



Science education at St. Gregory's Primary School has received a welcome boost from the Rotary Club of Estcourt (D9370). The club donated science kits to learners in Grades 4 to 7.



The Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370), in collaboration with Imbeko, had great fun in handing over dress up clothes and reading books to Heatherbank School.



In a successful conclusion to 2023, the Rotary Club of Flamingo-Welkom (D9370) achieved notable milestones. Rotarians, joined by friends, gathered an impressive total of 24 Santa Shoeboxes. Elvee Lotter from the Flamingo-Welkom club and Petru Koch representing Santa Shoebox played pivotal roles in this charitable initiative. The club also participated in Rotary Family Health Days, collaborating with the Rotary Club of Goldfields Sunset (D9370).

WALL OF HONOUR



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



Debbie Potgieter received a vocational award from the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370).



Heloise Beukes is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Elizabeth Cluver was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Durban (D9370).



Lauraine Lafferty was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Durban (D9370).



Mkhululi Dlamini is a new member of the Rotary Club of Amanzimtoti (D9370).



Adrian Gore was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Knights Pendragon (D9400).



Simon Chikumbu is a new member of the Rotary Club of Morningside (D9400).



George Suliali is a new member of the Rotary Club of Morningside (D9400).



Dee Tshabalala is a new member of the Rotary Club of Morningside (D9400).

PLEASE NOTE

We are busy preparing the annual Which Club Meets Today directory. If you have not already submitted your 2024/25 club and district leadership lists, please do so ASAP. Submissions close on 31 May 2024

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Attention Rotary clubs!

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

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