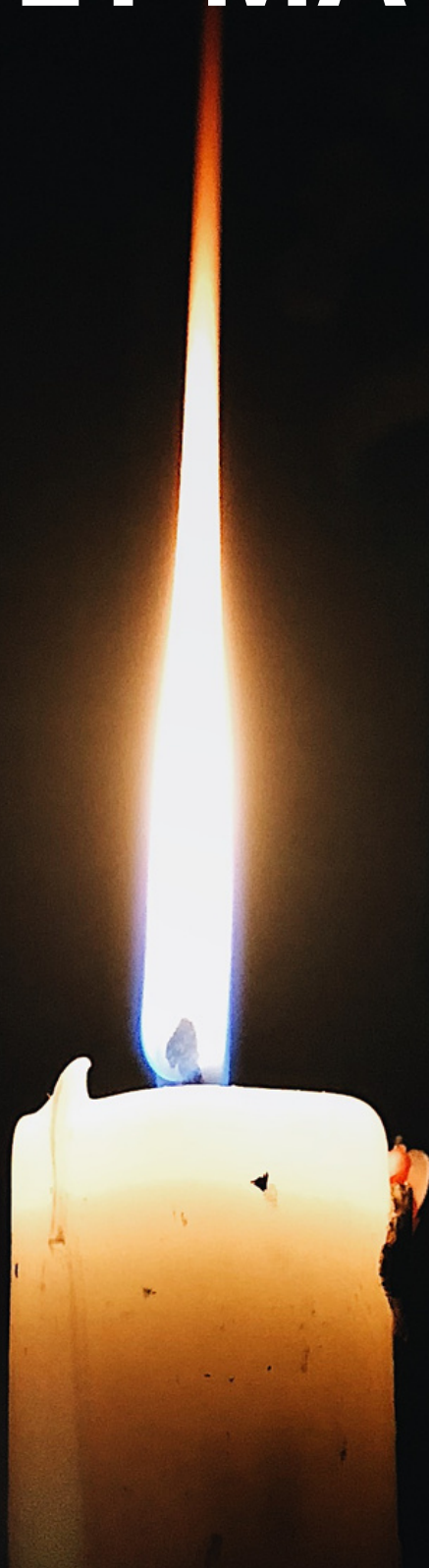


DISTRICT GOVERNORS
MONTHLY MAGAZINE



Rotary  **District
9350**

A WORD FROM CARL-HEINZ



What a year!

This month, my year as your governor comes to an end. A year none of us could have expected, but one that all of us in District 9350 certainly tried to make the best of.

We had to deal with many challenges, but this pandemic has also taught us something which we easily forget in our hectic lives. Our health, and that of our families and friends, has often been taken for granted. We had to learn the hard way that it is not.

In our global Rotary community, each club is like a big family. Therefore, it was my priority to remind us to be supportive and mindful of each other in these incredibly tough times. In my, unfortunately mostly virtual, visits I asked clubs to prioritise reaching within, before reaching out to the communities. Richard Branson once said: "Our clients don't come first, our people, our employees come first. When we take care of them, they will take care of our clients".

I was amazed how each club rose to the occasion, how Rotarians cared for and supported each other. Quiz- and bingo-nights were organised, cooking classes and wine tastings were held, zoom vibrated with meetings full of encouragement to fight the isolation and kept us connected.

Covid-19 also taught us to be grateful to be in a position to help others, especially when lockdown literally killed hundreds of thousands of jobs overnight. People starved as they lost their livelihoods.

Our clubs stepped in and provided food, PPE and medical equipment to the needy, to medical frontline workers and to clinics and hospitals.

Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, Early Actors, Anns and Inner Wheelers spent thousands of hours raising funds for their various projects, assisting soup kitchens, making sandwiches, delivering food to old age homes and hospitals – the list goes on.

Of all the hard work and dedication from each club throughout this past Rotary year, I would like to mention a few projects. RC Plettenberg Bay, a small club, raised more than R600,000 for food relief. RC Somerset West delivered 29,000 meals, prepared by the Vergelegen Restaurant, to people in need.

Club members drove almost the equivalent of a trip from Somerset West to Windhoek distributing the food. Our newest “kid on the block”, RC Atlantis started teaching lessons for scholars via the local radio station during lockdown, in addition to building fourteen food gardens in their town.

Rotaract Clubs organized training sessions for the matric students during and after lockdown. Rex, our District Rotaract Representative, ran several sandwich drives, even on his birthday, where he and his friends made more than 5,000 sandwiches and delivered them to the hungry. His initiative to make use of a billboard on the R27 with the message “Thank you Rotary for kicking Polio out of Africa” has been a great marketing-tool, as since last August, Africa is officially Polio-free. The Facebook-campaign which Janey Ball ran created awareness for Rotary and will lead to the chartering of satellite clubs in Saldanha and Langebaan – with more to come on the West Coast.

I am happy to report that we managed to get four new Rotaract Clubs chartered in 2020/2021. I proudly present Rotaract Hermanus, Waterfront, Lüderitz and Saldanha.

Our clubs quickly realised and adapted to the new opportunities Zoom and other platforms presented in connecting all Rotarians worldwide. They built partnerships with clubs from overseas and achieved 14 Global Grants with a total of almost USD 1,3 million, which is more than Rand 18 million. The matching by the Rotary Foundation has been almost USD 480,000 which is more than Rand 7 million.

With these GG's we will change people's lives.

A big thank you to our clubs which contributed to the Rotary Foundation for the Annual Fund and Polio Plus. I am pleased to report that a record number of 50 clubs have donated money which will enable our district to support District- and Global Grant-applications in the future. The matching by the Foundation is the lifeblood of our projects and the “return on invest” which comes back to our district is enormous.

I will go down in the history of our district as the “Zoom-DG”. Many of my plans could not be realised. I wanted to be a DG who was there for you in person, and not via screen only. Alas, Covid-19 had other plans.

It's time to say Thank You:

-To the District Governor Team: to David, Ian, Tracey and Ann. We worked as a team – there were no egos involved. Occasionally, we had different views, but always came to a solution which was supported by all of us – and we had fun. I could not have wished for a better successor than Ian Robertson, who will get my full support. I strongly believe that I have not succeeded, as long as my successor does not succeed.

-To my District Leadership Team: the twelve AG's, the six committee chairs and the respective sub-committee chairs. To Siham, who chairs the District Facilitation Support Team, to Menno with his Membership Support Extension Team, to Lew who is heading the District Environmental Committee, to Freda and Muriel in the District Office and to Rex, our DRR.

-A big Thank You to Lynette and Casper, our district trainers. Without them I could not have done last year's POETS, the Assembly and this year's District Conference – what an awesome studio for our Conference we have had!

-To David, who, as my predecessor, made it so easy for me to follow the tracks he had laid and for the hard work he put in as the host of many district events.

-A special Thank You goes to Geraldine Nicol, for being my mentor in so many ways.

-To my beloved wife Caroline. Without her support, I could not have done my job. After our DG training, she was so excited to accompany me on my club visits, get to know the members, exchange ideas and learn about the various projects in our huge district. Sadly, out of the 76 clubs we could only visit 4 together.

-Lastly, the biggest Thank You goes to all our members! Many thanks for all that you have done in our communities in these last twelve months.

I am extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to serve you in the current Rotary year. It has widened my horizon and made me humble to experience what Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors, even Early Actors, have done to make a difference in people's lives. It has been an absolute honour to serve as your DG.

I look forward to continuing to serve you as a PDG and in any other role my successors may have for me.

As I always say: "Stay healthy, stay happy, stay positive – but please test negative!"

May God bless you all

Goodbye, Totsiens, Auf Wiedersehen, Adeus

Carl-Heinz

REFLECTIONS ON A VERY SPECIAL MAN

The news of the passing of our Koos Burger hit me tremendously. Although I knew that he was in hospital, I was optimistic that he would overcome COVID-19 and soon be back at his most favourite place: Glencairn. Regrettably, this was not to be.

I know there are other Rotarians who are more entitled than I to reflect on Koos, but I feel I must share my thoughts with you. While I was putting them on paper, I felt tears roll down my face.

All comments that I have read after his passing reflected on him as a "Great Rotarian", a "Humanitarian", an "Educationalist", "Environmental Captain", "passionate about the youth" – and rightly so. Everyone who was privileged to meet Koos was touched by his humbleness and his positive approach to life, the latter being especially contagious.



When I spoke to him before he went into hospital he was in his typical positive mindset, and we chatted about my Rotary-year-end-party which he was organizing at Glencairn. We agreed to "sell" this unique place not only to Rotarians and the youth but also to corporates for workshops and the like to market the importance of protecting the environment more efficiently and in a much larger scale.

"Oom Koos", as he asked the youth and Rotaractors to call him, has left a wonderful legacy behind and it is our obligation as his fellow Rotarians and friends to make sure that this legacy will stay alive and be developed even further.

My sincere condolences go to his wife Antoinette, the Rotary Club Cape of Good Hope which has lost its president and one of its stalwarts and to the Rotary Club Cape Town which lost its warden, camp manager and, as President Heinrich wrote, "great soul".

As much as we mourn his passing, feel heartbroken, and are in despair, we should be grateful that we have had the privilege to be his friends.

"Oom Koos", you exemplified a human being in its best form. We will never forget you.

See you again next month!