

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Rotary
District 9350



IN THIS ISSUE:

AUGUST 2020

- Rotarian Stephan Lombard talks about high-flying life (in more ways than one!)
- Club Spotlight: Rotary Club of Atlantis
- Celebrating our brand new 7th Area of Focus

MAKING THE

ENVIRONMENT

A PRIORITY

CONTENTS

1. A Message from the District Governor	3
2. Member Spotlight	5
3. A Message from the DRR	9
4. FEATURE: Supporting the Environment	11
5. Club Spotlight	21
6. News Spots	23
7. Project Spotlight	26
8. Africa Declared Wild Polio Free	28

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A WORD FROM CARL-HEINZ

**Welcome, Welkom, Willkommen, Wamkele-
kile, Bem Vindo**

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary
Anns

Time just flies, the first two months of the
new Rotary year are almost over, and we are
heading towards September already.



The highlight happened on 25 August, when Africa was declared Polio-free for the first time in history. This is a milestone, but the fight against Polio is not over yet, as long as it is still present in Afghanistan and Pakistan. So we should keep on contributing to the Polio Plus Fund.

I have visited 23 clubs and three Rotaract Clubs so far, all of them online, with the exception of RC Goodwood. Although I missed the personal interaction with the members, it's been fun to attend the meetings virtually. I am incredibly inspired and motivated by what I have experienced: there was not a single club where members complained about the current situation. It was actually quite the contrary: Members were very positive, they took on the challenge, caused by Covid-19 and turned it into opportunities by being creative in their fundraising efforts, for example. Online quiz- or bingo-nights happened and there were virtual wine tasting evenings; some started their first crowdfunding activities. By the way, our PI-committee will run a crowdfunding webinar on 29 August at 10.00, to assist those who would like to use this tool effectively in the future.

Clubs have also reported that their meetings have been vibrant, due to the input of "visiting" Rotarians and friends from neighbouring and also international clubs – Zoom (or Microsoft Teams) made it happen.

Our District committees have been very active, running and preparing webinars for "Youth Directors" and "Membership Chairs". The first "Presidents Forum" has taken place, with former RI-Vice-President Yinka Babalola being the guest speaker. I know some presidents feel that District is inundating them with these events. Our idea is: we want clubs being prepared for the virtual world by giving them the right tools and means.

I have had the pleasure of inducting more than a dozen of new Rotarians while I was visiting the clubs. At the induction of the President of the Rotaract Club of Hout Bay, they inducted 10 new Rotaractors at the same time. RC Swakopmund have 5 new members lined-up. Last but definitely not least, the satellite club Greyton, being in existence for just a couple of months, has chartered an Interact Club already.

Clubs in our District have been already very successful with their Global Grant (GG) applications. Since 1 July, the projects of the Clubs of Blouberg, Helderberg Sunrise, Knysna, Luanda Sul and Waterfront have been approved by the RI-Foundation (TRF) with a total volume of USD 277,263; the contribution of TRF being USD 141,782. The E-Club of Greater Cape Town has been involved in a successful GG application of a club in Mumbai, the project will be executed in India.

I am convinced that we can increase our impact and expand our reach significantly when we sustain the positive mindset and the many successful activities, mentioned above.

"Rotary opens Opportunities", as our members prove time after time.

Warm regards and please stay healthy!

Carl-Heinz

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STEPHAN LOMBARD

Consider me both honoured and mortified at being asked to share my Rotary and professional journey with District 9350.

The fact is, I've been so very fortunate by finding myself in the right place at the right time in the presence of incredible people, particularly Rotarians.

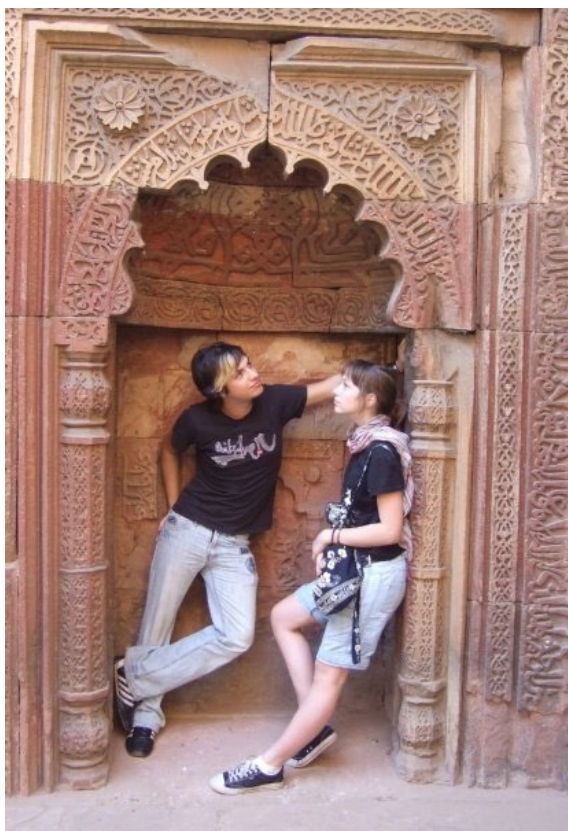
It started when my school's community outreach society ran into a most enthusiastic group of people in matching golf shirts while handing out Easter eggs in April 2006. They referred to themselves as 'Rotarians'. Next thing I knew there was a chain around my neck and the Brackenfell High Interact Club was born. Just in time to welcome RI President Bill Boyd to Cape Town on his visit to RC Oostenberg's newly-built ECD centre.

The rest of my Matric year was a whirlwind of deciding what I wanted to do and who I wanted to be. These decisions were made easier through two of this district's finest programmes: RYLA and Adventures into Citizenship.

Campus life wasn't the same without my new Rotary family, so a group of us went ahead and got Stellenbosch Rotaract going. Why not? Oh, and Youth Exchange was always a dream of mine, so off I went to go live in India for two months. This is the power of saying yes. It is so important because there are always opportunities in this organisation. It wasn't about personal ambition, but about dedicated Rotarians who want to see others succeed through those opportunities.

Things got rocky when I realized I was studying the wrong course at the wrong college, not having followed my instincts. It was time to accelerate any professional ambitions and where my life's greatest love first emerged: radio. Being a field reporter in your late teens means growing up very quickly, but why stay in Cape Town when the world beckons?

It was time to 'pivot' and moving to Doha to become an airline cabin attendant was a way to get out of Brackenfell, earn some dollars and quench that international thirst Youth Exchange started. Not to be too dramatic



12th century ruins in New Delhi on my Youth Exchange to India



Operating a flight during the H1N1 pandemic while working as a flight attendant

but Dickens' line "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,..." seems appropriate as for the first time in some years, there was no Rotary to be my life rudder.

(Another lesson from this time: don't show up unannounced to a Singapore Rotary club meeting in shorts.)

A little battered and bruised after operating 500+ flights in just over 2 years, I returned to Cape Town in 2011, desperate for a sense of belonging and community. RC Oostenberg, where my Rotary journey first started, welcomed me with open arms. As did the Youth Exchange committee where I felt I had something to offer to prospective students.

2012 saw my return to radio, now as a producer at CapeTalk. Less dodging rubber bullets than when being out in the field, but no less thrilling. I helped run John Maytham's Afternoon Drive programme for 7 years and then left to launch a new mid-morning show with Refilwe Moloto. Together we ushered in a brand new Breakfast broadcast in September last year where you'll still find (and sometimes hear) me now.

RC Oostenberg elected me to two consecutive terms as club president in 2016. I often feel that this was a mistake on their part, being wholly ill-equipped with time and the necessary skill that the Oostenbergers deserved. But, I will never regret that experience. Sometimes you have to be pushed to be able to step up

to the plate. The truly sincere support (and patience!) from a club makes all the difference.

For over 14 years my identity in Rotary has been based on my age. Since I am not a leader in our governing party's Youth League, I need to let that go as I venture ever further into my 30's. Allow me some indulgence as I consider my D9350 career and the role young people now play in our organisation. It's a joy to find that young people are no longer strangers and oddities at club meetings and district structures. They (we?) have a seat at the table, literally and figuratively, with something to say. Let's listen to them.

What does a Rotarian look like? Isn't it smashing that you can no longer easily answer that question! A young upstart with a pierced septum is as true an answer as that of a dignified older lady or gentleman in a fine tweed.

Let's ensure that our district makes young people feel welcome and empowered, but not at the expense or alienation of current and prospective members who have the wisdom and experience to help ensure our continued success.

Since I've kindly been offered these column inches, let me take advantage of that to celebrate the women in Rotary. Not because I write this in the middle of women's month, but because they are primarily behind my (and many others') successes and my support through failures.

Charmaine Sobotker, Elfreda Klose, Geraldine Nicol, Di Rigotti, Freda Ochse, Pam Rawbone and Joké Young are but a few in an endless list of heroes. Heroes who weren't even allowed in this organisation during my lifetime. We must never forget to mark and celebrate how far we've come.

I am looking forward to the future of this organisation and excited every day by its present.



Launching the first commercial talk show in Africa lead by a black woman



Talking Youth Exchange on air in 2013



With the family in the year I was President of Oostenberg Rotary Club



Socially distanced Paul Harris Fellow received in 2020 (of course!)



I'd rather be climbing ...

Rex IP Onameh

Rotaract District 9350 - District Rotaract Representative



DRR Message - August 2020

Happy August dear Rotaract family,

It's obvious most of us are still buzzing with excitement for the new Rotary year. There is the slate of scheduled plans and activities which are in full swing, and there's clearly the desire for collaboration in service and collective success. This is impressive.

This month is Membership Extension and Promotion Month and we are all encouraged to actively engage in activities that will grow and boost our membership. In line with the shared goal of inviting people to join the Rotaract family. Recruiting, retaining and educating members helps clubs stay effective and dynamic. All these activities are essential to the continued growth and strength of Rotaract and the wider Rotary family. As much as every area is unique, hence the need to study and understand what best works in our communities in regards to increasing club membership, we are also encouraged to copy shamelessly whatever model works so long as it's within the tenets of the 4-Way Test.

One of the best ways to meet our membership goals is to make club meetings, service activities and social events interesting and worthwhile. Members will feel in touch and like they're making a difference and prospects will be drawn to being a part of that too. Mentorship, a critical aspect of membership and one we have ignored for a while, should be encouraged and taken rather seriously. Members are advised and encouraged to be standard bearers of the club and mentor new members through their early periods in the club.

I encourage us to also utilise the many resources available to us for tips, insights and guidance via www.rotary.org, to ensure your members and prospective members have an enlightening and engaging experience with Rotaract. I also encourage us to utilise some of these quick tips:

- Make prospective members feel welcome and thank them for their interest in being a part of this organisation;
- Keep members engaged and thank them for showing up to make their contributions, big and small;
- Share your club story and activities with us and the world via social media pages;
- Celebrate your members' achievements and milestones, both during your club meetings and online on your social media pages, so we all have a sense of belonging.

I would also like to remind my fellow Rotaractors that each of us is a "live" sign of Rotary/Rotaract and that our actions and the service projects that we carry out will have an impact on the public image of Rotary/Rotaract in our communities and the world. Let us therefore be copycats of the ideals of Rotary/Rotaract, and the criteria of the four questions so that the others can be attracted to our clubs. Let's all enjoy a month of membership and continue to do good in our communities and in the world.

Yours in Rotaract Service



Rex IP Omameh
DRR 2020-2021
Rotaract District 9350

Rotaract IN ACTION

No dia 19 de Julho (Domingo), o clube realizou um almoço para 150 crianças desfavorecidas, esta mesma actividade realizou-se no centro de liderança juvenil Ondjango Yapongololi que é um centro parceiro do clube.

No mesmo local fez-se a cerimônia de empossamento da nova direcção do clube, onde esteve presente o PR do Rotary Clube do Lobito.

On July 19 (Sunday), the club held a lunch for 150 disadvantaged children, this same activity was held at the youth leadership center Ondjango Yapongololi, which is a partner center of the club.

In the same place, the inauguration ceremony of the new direction of the club was held, where the PR of the Rotary Club of Lobito was present.



SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A photograph of a man, Richard Saxby, wearing a bright green polo shirt and dark trousers, kneeling in a grassy field. He is smiling broadly with his arms raised in a celebratory gesture. He is holding a small green plant (spekboom) in his hands, ready to plant it in a hole. In the background, other people are visible, some standing and some working, suggesting a group activity like a tree-planting day. The setting appears to be a park or a natural area with some trees and a concrete wall in the distance.

This DG's magazine highlights the D9350, and ESRAG work being done for Environmental Sustainability (ES) and includes following information:

- Celebrating our D9350 Rotary and Rotaract Club ES Champions and club ES projects
- D9350's Greatest ES Secret: Glencairn Environmental Camp
- D9350 ES Committee's prioritised targets & guidelines & many useful ES links
- ESRAG in the world and in Africa

Picture: Richard Saxby, member of Helderberg Sunrise planting a spekboom at Redloff Park in Somerset West



26 June 2020 will always be a champagne day of celebration in the world history of Rotary International as that was the historic day the Rotary International Board finally declared that “Supporting the Environment” would be RI’s newest Area of Focus! It is exactly 30 years since then-RI President Carlos (from Brazil) urged more than one million Rotarians at that time to “unite in a mighty effort to Preserve Planet Earth”.

Thus it was with great excitement and delight that, after decades of pressure from many Rotary Districts - including D9350, PRIP Ian Riseley’s Task Force, with huge support from the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), persuaded the RI Trustees to make this major change in 2020 to include the Environment as our new Area of Focus!

Australian PRIP Ian Riseley was the 2017-2018 RI President who stated that, *“The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary’s concern. It is, and must be, everyone’s concern.”* He encouraged all Rotarians and Rotaractors to plant trees, resulting in over 4 million trees being planted worldwide, including the one he planted with D9350 in the Company Gardens in Cape Town,

near to the one Rotary’s Founder, Paul Harris, planted decades ago.



It is really wonderful to have RI and our Rotary Trustees finally acknowledge the Environment as a vital world factor, worthy of Rotary’s active attention and funding. We have all been learning to adapt to the major COVID challenges that have impacted on our lives. Rotary has now opened opportunities for us to contribute significantly to help avert the even greater impact of Climate Change.



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OUR ROTARY AND ROTARACT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



SUBMITTED BY Geraldine Nicol and Lew Botha

Picture: Helderberg Sunrise member Ann Sterling-Roberts with her husband Phil at the beach clean up in Strand

The D9350 Environmental Sustainability Committee is thrilled to report that more than 70% of the Rotary clubs and 50% of our Rotaract clubs have announced their commitment to this new Area of Focus with the appointment of their Club Environmental Sustainability Champions.

- Click [HERE](#) to see the full list of Clubs Environmental Sustainability Champions
- Click [HERE](#) for Guidelines for Club Environmental Sustainability Champions



Club Environmental Projects



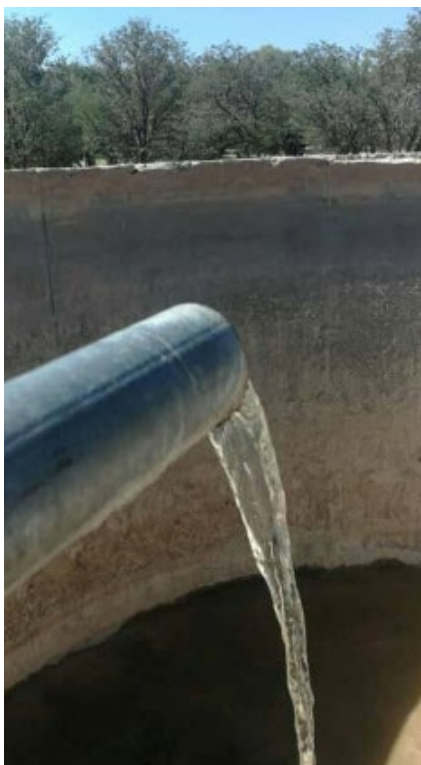
Left: Groote Schuur Rotary Club's intriguing aquaponics/ hydroponics project

Below: Angola's Lobito Rotarians "greening" beautiful Lobito with lime to protect Palms and other trees and spraying to protect them from fungi





Above and below: Swakopmund Rotary Club in Namibia installed solar-powered water pumps for improved water access for both the local community and elephants



Above and below: New Knysna Interact club boards celebrate their inductions by planting trees at their schools and cleaning up Knysna lagoon



"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries."



Jimmy Carter



D9350's BEST KEPT ENVIRONMENTAL SECRET

GLENCAIRN ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPS

If you haven't yet had a club function at Glencairn Environmental Camps then a treat is in store for those close to Cape Town, now that COVID lockdown is easing up. The Rotary Club of Cape Town strategically invested in these camps decades ago. It is now home to the wonderful Environmental Camps held for our Rotaractors, Interactors and Early Actors, along with many other youth and adult groups. Camp Manager Cape of Good Hope President Koos Burger's passion about the environment can be seen in the largest fynbos labyrinth in the Southern Hemisphere and the recent 36-metre diameter fynbos Rotary Mandala - both of which he created at the Glencairn Camps.

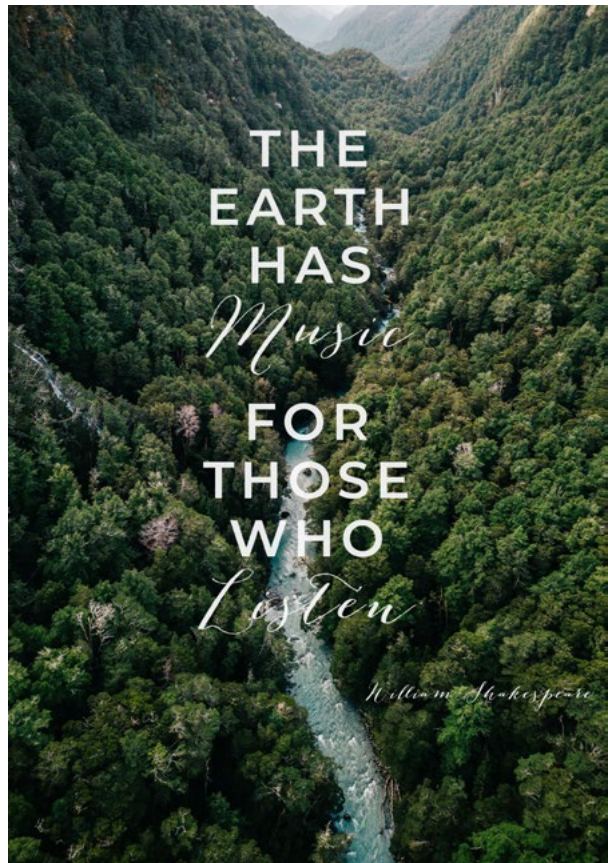
Environmental Partnerships are the key to the future

Click [HERE](#) to see a video of the rehabilitation of a now rapidly-flowing river due to the astounding reduction in invasive plants through a three-way partnership between the Rotary Clubs of Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope and Newlands at the Glencairn Environmental Camps.

ENVIRONMENTAL








SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

This very dedicated team under the chairmanship of environmental lawyer, Rtn Lew Botha, meets monthly at the Glencairn Environmental Camps (and via Zoom during COVID). The 2020 ES Committee members include Lew, Koos, DG Carl-Heinz Duisberg, PDG David Holtzhausen, PDG Geraldine Nicol, Glynis Jennings, Stephan Pöltner, Tanya Stone, Dr Enrico Gennari, Prof Oliver Ruppel, Roger Sobotker, Prof Nick King (our Scientific Advisor, who is also a consultant to the UN and IPCC on Global Climate Change) and David Le Page of Fossil Free South Africa. We are extremely proud that Koos and Stephan have recently joined Prof Nick and David Le Page as qualified Climate Reality Leaders, having just completed their training by The Climate Reality Project Leader, former US Vice-President Al Gore.



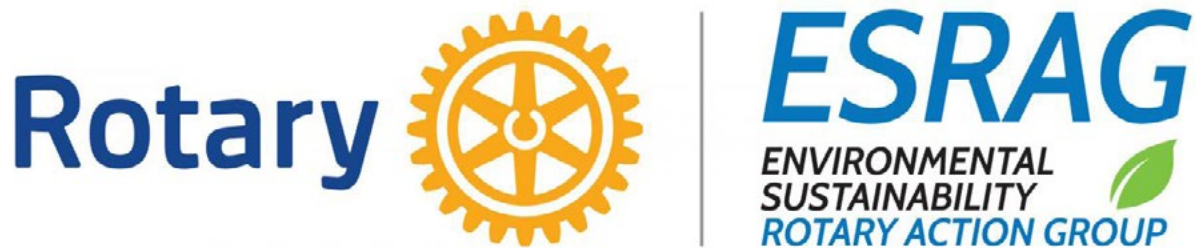
[Click HERE](#) to read the Objectives of the D9350 Environmental Sustainability Committee

D9350 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

	TARGETS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES
	1. ENERGY	1.1 Reduce carbon footprints among all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals/businesses ○ Rotary/Rotaract structures 1.2 Move towards Renewable Energy 1.3 Encourage divestment in Fossil Fuel companies
	2. NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY	2.1 Host ES Camp opportunities in all D9350 countries 2.2 Plan ES programmes for Rotary and school youth 2.3 Eradication of invasive plants
	3. FOOD AND NUTRITION	3.1. Focus on Community food gardens, not food parcels 3.2. Encourage the move to more plant-based meals 3.3. Reduce food waste
	4. CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR ZERO WASTE	4.1 Create understanding of circular economy 4.2 Waste management education in clubs and schools 4.3 Prevention, collection and use of marine waste/plastic 4.4 Target recyclable plastic waste products 4.5 Encourage projects focusing on reducing E-Waste
	5. IMPACT OF HUMAN POPULATION ON ENVIRONMENT	5.1 Reduce teenage pregnancies 5.2 Ensure equitable gender balance in all Rotary Youth programmes
 	6. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES WITH ALL ROTARY STRUCTURES	6.1 Rotary and Rotaract ES Champions and ES Committees 6.2 D9350 Presidents' Forum 6.3 DAC: District Advisory Council 6.4 DLT: District Leadership Council 6.5 COSA: DGs' Council of Southern Africa 6.6 Rotary International 6.7 ESRAG: Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group



[Click HERE](#) to explore more Environmental Sustainability Suggested Activities



One of the most active Rotary Action Groups is the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). It was ESRAG that PRIP Ian Riseley and IPRIP Mark Maloney turned to for advice on how to plan for the Environment to become the new Area of Focus – and what a successful job ESRAG did! They assisted PRIP Ian Riseley and his Task Force to motivate for the Seventh Area of Focus which the RI Trustees and the Board of RI eventually approved in June this year.

ESRAG's main objectives are to:

- Empower the Rotary family worldwide to take actions to sustain our environment, particularly to stabilize our climate
- Provide an organizing point and international resources to share information with clubs and countries about sustainable procedures and the global humanitarian crisis of climate change
- Assist Rotary environmental leaders and champions in initiating environmental projects that are meaningful and then help where ESRAG can, and publicize these awesome projects worldwide through the ESRAG monthly newsletter.

ESRAG has Regional Chapters throughout the world and D9350 is extremely proud of the fact that D9350 ES Committee Chair, Lew Botha, was appointed in May 2020 by ESRAG to co-lead the ESRAG Africa Regional Chapter. Lew will initially be responsible for Southern Africa and will work with the District Governor's Council of Southern Africa (COSA) Environmental Sustainability Workstream which will be representative of all four COSA Districts (9210, 9350, 9370 and 9400). He may ultimately work with the whole of Rotary Region 28.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT ?

First, what is meant by “environmental sustainability”?

Let’s assume that we all agree that, in order for humankind to exist on Earth, we need to harvest renewable resources (such as forests and food crops) as well as access and use some non-renewable resources (such as iron ore and minerals). Also, we need to accept that, in doing so, we will, inevitably, produce a certain amount of pollution that will land up in the air, on land or in the oceans.

However, the rate at which we do each of these things is vital to humankind’s survival on Earth. It has been determined that the required rate is an “indefinite” one, namely, we should be able to do these things forever - and never harvest renewable resources or access and use non-renewable resources until there are insufficient for humankind to continue to exist - or pollute the air, land or oceans beyond their capacity to deal with that pollution. Thus, we should seek environmental sustainability.

Click on any of the following links on Environmental Sustainability and find out how YOU can help!

[The Story of Stuff](#)

[United Nations Environment Programme: World Environment Day 2020](#)

[Calculate your ecological footprint](#)

[What you can do on a daily basis](#)

[Project Drawdown](#)

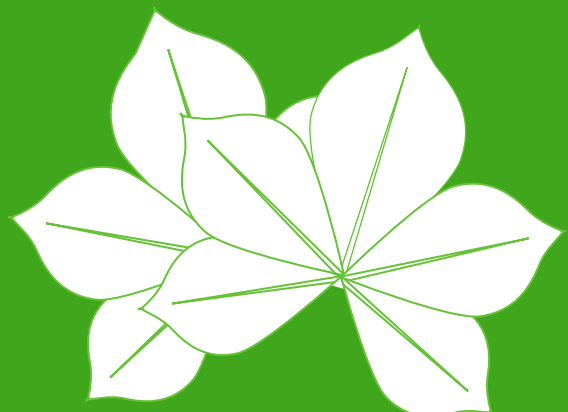
[Human Population](#)

[Population Matters](#)

[The Climate Reality Project](#)

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

[World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency](#)



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ATLANTIS ROTARY CLUB

Our newly inducted club, Atlantis Rotary, has initiated a new and exciting project called the Atlantis Radio Educational Program (AREP). This initiative came from educator and Atlantis Rotary Club President, Mr Danny Pietersen. He was looking for an alternative, affordable solution to how young learners could have easy access to ongoing education during the COVID19 lockdown. The concept was unanimously and quickly supported by the members of the Atlantis Rotary Executive.

The aim of the Atlantis Radio Educational Program is to provide an easily accessible means of education for those learners who have not yet returned to school, namely Grades One to Six, using a medium that is affordable to all in Atlantis. As most learners do not have the means to access computer technology, and cannot afford expensive data, radio provided the perfect solution. This initiative is the first of its kind for Atlantis.

From the outset, Atlantis Radio Station Manager Dean Goliath enthusiastically embraced the Rotary Atlantis's proposal. He was willing to discount the cost of the program and accommodate and restructure the



Teachers on radio (l to r): Miss L. Andrews, Miss C. Davidson and Miss K. Johnson

SECTION TITLE

morning radio program to include the educational lessons. Fortunately, Rotary was able to draw on the experience and skills of one of its members, Nico Wagenstroom, an experienced Radio Atlantis presenter, to provide the necessary technical assistance during lessons.

Rotary received solid support from Provincial education, government, and civil authorities. All twelve Principals of Atlantis schools agreed to collaborate with the program and release some of their teachers to act as weekly lesson presenters. The Western Cape Education Department gave its approval and encouragement. The Western Cape Provincial Government provided free of charge a COVID19 resource book for use by learners during the lessons. The program was generously sponsored by the Philadelphia Farmers Association for a period of two months.

The program airs on Radio Atlantis 107.9FM from Monday to Friday for two hours each morning. The thirty-minute lessons cover the subjects of Afrikaans, English and Maths for Grades One to Six. The content of the lessons follows the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement or CAPS for each subject. Twenty-one teachers from different Atlantis primary schools, including two private teachers, volunteered to teach the lessons according to their subject specialty and Grade.

The feedback from learners, parents and educators in regard to the radio lessons has been very positive. The children particularly like hearing the stories and the interesting content. Some parents have indicated their children can easily follow the lessons. A few parents have asked Radio Atlantis to re-broadcast the lessons in the evening so they can be part of the lessons after they have returned from work. Some principals have stated that this project is one of the best things that has happened for young learners in Atlantis, as it fills an important gap for children who are unable to go to school during COVID19 restrictions. Educators didn't want their learners to be falling behind. Radio Atlantis have calculated that their actual listening audience, that normally reaches 170,000 to 200,000 listeners a week, has now gone up by 15-20% during the morning educational program timeslot.

The Atlantis Radio Educational Program meets an urgent need for learners in a disadvantaged area, during this challenging and difficult period of COVID19. It also represents a vital collaboration between Rotary and a number of key stakeholders in the Atlantis community that benefits the ongoing education of vulnerable young learners.



Danny Pietersen, President Atlantis RC



Nico Wagenstroom, Radio Presenter

NEWS SPOTS

HOUT BAY ROTARY SUPPORTS LOCAL FIRE FIGHTERS

A general appeal from the Western Cape Firefighters Association for assistance with PPE's landed in Joelle Searle's "inbox" and she quickly made contact to see how Hout Bay Rotary could help their local fire station. As it turned out, they were in need of washable cloth masks for their 32 firefighters, a no-touch digital thermometer, some sanitizer and disposable masks for their trauma center.

On Tuesday evening 25th of August, Hout Bay Rotary delivered 64 washable cloth masks, 2 x 5 lt bottles of sanitizer, a no touch digital thermometer and 50 disposable masks. Alderman JP Smit was there to witness the handover and thanked RCHB. He has strong ties to Rotary and asked us to say our 4 Way Test. He said that if every citizen was a Rotarian, the world would be a better place. From his lips to Gods ears.

What a warm and friendly welcome the club was given. We hope the club's small gesture will help keep their local firefighters safe and reflect the respect and appreciation we have for what they do in our community. President Ali was so excited to be allowed to climb up into the big fire truck pictured behind everyone.



WINDHOEK ROTARACT SUPPORTS VICTIMS OF THE TWALOLOKA FIRES

On Sunday evening 26 July 2020, the people of Walvis Bay in an informal settlement called Twaloloka experienced devastating fires. The fires caused hundreds of homes to be destroyed, and left countless of people homeless. The whole country was in shock, as we witnessed shacks burning unabatedly, people were emotional as they lost all their valuable belongings.

The following day the club released a public statement showing sympathy on the fires that occurred and pleaded towards the public to donate anything of use towards the people of Twaloloka community. The Namibian public responded positively, as we donated blankets, clothes, food items and sleeping bags, etc. We had two trips that went to Walvis Bay, the first one went on the weekend of 31 July 2020, and the second one left on the weekend of the 7th of August 2020.

The DHL transportation company sponsored us with the delivery of the items to Walvis Bay free of charge. The Windhoek Rotaract Club also collaborated with the new Walvis Bay Rotaract Club, in terms of ensuring that the items reach the Twaloloka community.

The Windhoek Rotaract Club worked with the Klein Windhoek Valley & Windhoek Rotary Clubs as they also sponsored items to be donated to the affected community. Part of the report attached are pictures of the goods donated towards the people of Twaloloka community.



OUR DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE IS A SANDWICH MAKING SUPERHERO!

Our DRR Rex Omameh, has been doing some good work making sandwiches to support the Milnerton Community Action Network (CAN). "The Group has been formed by members of the Milnerton community as a rapid social community-based response to COVID-19 pandemic. With the economy at a standstill, many are feeling the devastating financial effects, and many are struggling to simply put food on the table. The Milnerton CAN is a direct intervention to this, focusing on disadvantaged and vulnerable people and families within the Milnerton area. Focus areas include Joe Slovo Park, Phoenix, Summer Greens, Sanddrift, Rugby, Brooklyn and Ysterplaat. If anyone wants to get involved, please contact Rex on Rexta0405@yahoo.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

5th from 2pm - Entrepreneurship

5th from 10 am – Membership

12th from 10 am - How to run a covid compliant meeting

19th from 10 am - Membership

OCTOBER 2020

10th from 9am - Learning to Manage Conflict with the Facilitation Support Team

24th from 9 am - MINI CONFERENCE



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

RC Swakopmund & Mondesa Youth Opportunities (MYO)

RC Swakopmund is supporting a project called Mondesa Youth Opportunities (MYO) for many years, with Rotarian Vera Leech being the project coordinator. The CEO of MYO, Neels Strijdom, reports on the project:

Mondesa Youth Opportunities, www.mondesayouth.org, is a Rotary sponsored afternoon education project in Swakopmund, Namibia, that offers intensive education intervention for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Swakopmund's townships. Mondesa Youth Opportunities, also known as MYO, offers extra lessons in English, reading, mathematics, computer science, life skills, music and sports for 120 Grade 4-8 students (ages 9-13). Namibia is currently facing an education crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which further highlights the need for a project like ours that provides quality education and helps young students on their academic journeys.

Since 2004 MYO has maintained a good track record of providing free, quality education for students whose parents unfortunately cannot pay for the education they need. In our formative years we were greatly helped and supported by Rotarian Erhard Krause from Rotary Club Bad Homburg in Germany. After touring our project he motivated the Swakopmund Club to take us on as their Rotary project. MYO has received wonderful support from the Rotary Club of Swakopmund, with a current project being the sponsorship of a bus for MYO. Through our project, the Rotary Club of Swakopmund has also provided food package donations to families in need during the lockdown.

Rotary's support and friendship to MYO has been invaluable from the start of the project to where it is now. Rotary clubs have donated funding to furnish our kitchen and our office space, to pave and roof outside areas, to buy computers and other teaching equipment, books for the library, benches to sit on during outside lessons or lunch hours. The list is endless, and we have not forgotten the debt we have to all those Rotarians in far-away places, who understood what work we were doing, and reached out to support us.

Through Rotary's support, MYO has grown into a project that continues to have a positive impact in the Namibian community through providing quality education.





AFRICA DECLARED WILD POLIO FREE

Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) were proud to announce an historic public health achievement: Nigeria, the only remaining country in Africa with endemic poliovirus recorded its last case more than three years ago; as a result, the World Health Organization today declared Africa polio free.

This is significant: the virus affects mostly children younger than 5 years of age. One in 200 polio infections will result in lifelong paralysis. Of such cases, 5 to 10 percent are fatal. Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious viral disease. While Millennials and GenZ may not have heard of it, in the 1980s approximately 350 000 people were infected annually, mainly via the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, through contaminated water or food.

There is no cure but polio can be prevented through a simple and effective vaccine. June Webber, the South African Rotarian who spearheaded the “Kick polio out of Africa” campaign, acknowledged the impetus given to the project by Nelson Mandela in 1996, a time when almost all countries in Africa were still suffering from polio.

Since then, thanks to the dedicated efforts of thousands of Rotary members and other Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, local and national leaders, health workers, traditional and religious leaders, parents, and country leaders, African nations have immunized hundreds of millions of children across 47 countries and strengthened polio surveillance networks, averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of wild poliovirus on the continent.

Volunteers and frontline health workers, mostly women, travelled by every form of transportation imaginable to reach children with the polio vaccine. They worked up to 12 hours a day, often in soaring temperatures of over 40-degrees.

Quoting from the late former President of South Africa’s speech at the launch of the campaign, Webber said, “With his famous foresight, Madiba noted that ‘Cooperation between nations across the world, coupled with scientific advancement has made the global control of certain diseases possible. One of the great achievements of our generation is the eradication of smallpox,’ he said.

“Similarly, the eradication of wild polio in Africa will go down as one of the greatest achievements of this generation,” Webber continued. “But we cannot let our guard down. As President Mandela noted then: ‘Our aim is not merely to reduce the numbers afflicted – it is to eliminate the disease completely. No country can be safe from this disease until the whole world is rid of it. For it can cross borders with ease.’

Polio Free Graphic by Evan Burrell

"While Rotary and its global partners rallied to Madiba's appeal and we celebrate today's announcement, we cannot let our guard down. Polio vaccination efforts throughout the African region must continue," Webber emphasised. "The wild virus continues to circulate in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as long as it circulates anywhere, all children are at risk."

Sue Paget, CEO of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention, echoed Webber's point: "It is critical that funding in the African Region continues so that we can continue immunizing children, maintain strong levels of polio surveillance, and ensure that children are protected against cVDPVs. If we maintain our vaccine programmes and surveillance, no more African children will die or be paralysed by the wild poliovirus.

"But this is a momentous announcement. We must acknowledge the tireless efforts of the frontline health workers and volunteers who worked long hours, often in difficult circumstances, just as they are doing now," Paget noted. "Against the background of Covid19, this announcement serves to illustrate what can be achieved when the system is trusted and children are vaccinated against an infectious disease.

"If the same trust can be replicated, the same success will be achieved with this new challenge, and we stand ready to help. We already are. The massive polio infrastructure that Rotary members helped build is playing a critical role in responding to COVID-19, providing broader health services to communities in need and protecting children from other vaccine-preventable diseases."

Rotary International President Holger Knaack added, "The world has had very little good news to celebrate in global health this year, and the challenges ahead are formidable. That is why we must recognize this great achievement and commend all of the people who played important roles in eradicating wild polio in the African region. It took tremendous effort and partnership over many years. I'm particularly grateful for the Rotary members throughout Africa and around the world who have dedicated themselves to making polio a disease of the past."

There are Rotary clubs in all 47 countries in Africa, and the region is home to almost 32 000 Rotary members in nearly 1 400 Rotary clubs. These Rotarians have played a critical role in helping the region achieve its wild polio-free status by holding events to raise funds and awareness for polio, and working with world governments and national and local leaders to secure funding and support for polio eradication. Rotary members around the world have donated their time and money to supporting polio eradication, the organization's top priority.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!!

We have created and collected a range of photos, infographics, videos and information which you can use to share this historic news with your network.

[Download Polio Resources](#)



**See you again next
month!**