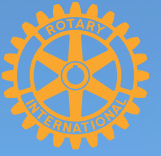


DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Rotary
District 9350



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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

GETTING OUR

DUCKS IN A ROW

- Living the Four Way Test: Is it Accessible?
- Project Spotlight: Rotary Club Windhoek Teacher Exchange Program with Finland
- Raising R1 million for environmental projects with Relate

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A WORD FROM CARL-HEINZ

Welcome, Welkom, Willkommen, Wamkelekile,
Bem Vindo ... Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and
Rotary Anns

First of all, a big thank you to all of you who
joined our Mini Conference on 24 October. I think,
we didn't promise too much with our theme
"Covid-19 opened Opportunities: the POSITIVE
Stories".



I was inspired by the many positive stories we heard for example, from our Rotaractors. I also want to salute our DRR Rex for being instrumental in getting the huge billboard erected outside Table View on the West Coast road, showing "Africa Kicks Out Wild Polio!". With actions like this Rotary will no longer be "the world's best kept secret", as I describe it, when I refer to the often non-existent marketing efforts of Rotarians worldwide.

I was also grateful for the video that our RIP Holger Knaack sent for the Mini Conference, in which he gave, amongst other things, recognition to RC Atlantis, our youngest club in the District, for their "teaching-the-learners" project via their local radio station, and to the 50 clubs in our District which have already nominated an Environmental champion.

One of the very few positive effects of Covid-19 is that, thanks to the numerous Zoom meetings, it has brought our District closer, and connected us with our friends from Namibia and Angola much better than in the past. The report of Fernando Glorias on Angola showed the challenges Rotarians there have to overcome in order to make a difference in other people's lives.

As our DG, I feel responsible for the wellbeing of our Rotarians in general and particularly for the ones who are more at risk than others. Hence, my plea to you all is, let us keep on wearing masks, sanitize, maintain actual distancing and not become complacent, like in Europe, which now has to swallow the bitter pill of experiencing a tough second wave of the pandemic.

Happy reading, stay positive, but test negative

Carl-Heinz

LIVING THE FOUR WAY TEST

AND IS IT ACCESSIBLE?

By Jeremy Opperman

As a brand-new Rotarian, inducted only a month ago, I am aware that I am pushing my luck and cannot possibly know the answer to the above question. However, as an experienced, blind Disability Inclusion Consultant, I feel more comfortable in asking the question and inspired to know the answer and to raise the flag for this cause.

I am aware that many of you reading this article might raise your own hand and ask, what on earth is he waffling on about and what exactly is accessibility?

It's a fair question, and one that I have heard way more times than I care to count. I will try unpacking some key points about this often totally overlooked human rights concept. I will illustrate, literally, how we too often miss the point of accessibility's very existence. I will highlight other avenues germane to access, other than the stereotypic wheelchair consideration.

Lastly, I will ask the question again in the context of Rotary International's guiding principle, the Four-Way Test.

WHAT DOES THE FOUR WAY TEST MEAN TO YOU?

Has the Four Way Test become an empty verse we repeat parrot-fashion at club meetings? Or has it remained a guiding precept as we go about our lives from day to day?

In this series of articles titled "Living the Four Way Test", we have asked members to share the Test it resonates within their own lives and how it remains just as relevant as it was when it was written by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932.



For those who might struggle to see the above cartoon: Two people are pictured speaking inside an hotel. The hotel manager says to an official: "Why should we make our hotel accessible? We never have disabled guests staying with us."

So what is access?

Question: Is it all about wheelchair users, and providing ramps into buildings?

Answer: I am afraid not...it is way broader than that. Access is the practical consideration towards, not only persons with many varieties of disabilities, but to many more people that could benefit from better, more considerate access. The term Universal Access describes it best.

Question: So who else benefits from good access, and what is Universal Access?

Answer: Access consideration has gained much traction over the last couple of decades and Universal Access is now recognised as the preferred baseline to work around.

Basically everyone, not just people with disabilities, benefits from Universal Access and its corresponding science, Inclusive Design. Universal Access is the outcome where everyone using the facility can do so equitably, without having to worry about inappropriate and avoidable barriers. Inclusive Design imagines this outcome as a matter of course, in the same way that it would be inconceivable to design a facility without a fire exit or bathroom.

To illustrate this in another way, consider how many countries' urban public transport infrastructure look at the matter. They estimate that at least 30 to 40% of the market share of travellers will be "special needs". These include:

- People with all kinds of disabilitiesThe aged
- Parents with small children, including those using prams
- People carrying ungainly objects, such as luggage
- Pregnant women
- Children
- And people with temporary disabilities, such as broken limbs or those who use crutches etc.

Viewed in this way, this puts a different spin on answering anticipated questions such as: "Is it necessary to address accessibility, isn't it only for people with disabilities?"

This brings us to the age-old issue of affordability and other practical questions.

Question: Will I be able to afford to make my facility accessible?

Answer: The answer is more nuanced than one might think.

Firstly, access, even in South Africa, has been enshrined in SANS 10400 building regulations for decades. Unfortunately, building and design professionals had chosen all too often not to consult Chapter S, which had they done so, would have provided world class guidance on producing accessible facilities. The fact is that if one builds access into a project at design level, it will cost very little, if anything, as opposed to retrofitting existing structures, which you can guarantee will cost far more.

Question: what sort of things might we think about when considering access, if not just ramps?

Answer: Here are a few, at the risk of over simplifying:

- Gradients, lengths and surfaces of ramps.

-
- Door widths.
 - Vertical access, stairs and lifts
 - Lift accessibility for visually impaired users, e.g. voice enunciation, tactile symbols on the controls.
 - Marking the edges of steps in a contrasting and tactile strip.
 - Handrails for stairs with appropriate diameter to be grasped.
 - Accessible bathroom configuration.
 - Lighting

To close this section, consider this sobering thought. Since access has been included in the building regulations SANS 10400 for ages and has been legitimised globally in such forums as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ; how morally and legally defensible is it to ignore or fudge the issue?

Question: Other than the built infrastructure, what else could benefit from better access.

Answer: Firstly, one of the most invisible and overlooked aspects of access, is the over-reliance on paper media and the absence of a digital alternative.

The second is that of digital access, which is too often rendered inaccessible by careless web and app development. In addition, presenting and presentations need to consider accessibility far more than they do.

Once again, there are global access protocols such as W3 Consortium which provide ample guidance on ensuring that digital interfaces are accessible to blind and visually impaired people.

Lastly, and most importantly, is attitudinal accessibility. The proliferation of barriers equates to inaccessibility. Inaccessibility equates to exclusion.

Barriers, with very few exceptions don't create themselves; they are created by people.

Finally, as Rotarians we are proud of measuring up to the Four-Way Test. Let's apply this test to access as well in the things we think, say and do.

- Is it the truth? Are we sure that when access is assured that it is the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned? Can it be fair to all if inaccessibility excludes some?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships? How sad if goodwill and friendship cannot reach those so often overlooked by inaccessibility.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DRR

Rex IP Omameh

Good Day everyone!

November is here, and with it "Rotary Foundation Month".

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotaractors advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health. As well as the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

During the past 104 years our Foundation has transformed the donations of Rotarians & Rotaractors into amazing projects that have changed the lives of millions of people all around the world. Through our donations Rotary members have supported thousands of projects to provide clean water, fight disease, promote peace, provide basic education and grow local economies. We've also lead the fight to eradicate polio worldwide.

The Rotary Foundation earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest and most prestigious independent evaluator of nonprofits in the United States. The good works the rotary foundation does is already evident in the declaration of a poliofree Africa, with the wild polio virus now only existing in two countries; Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary has put everything in place to achieve that success too.

I am very proud to be a member of a club that has such an impact on changing the lives of others and I encourage each of you to learn more about The Rotary Foundation and make a contribution to continue saving and changing lives. These programs work and are a great investment for a better and safer world.

For the month of November, I challenge clubs to donate a minimum of \$30 and Rotaractors \$10. All donors will be given an electronic certificate of appreciation and published on our Newsletter and the District Magazine. After donating to the foundation, please share a copy of your donation and a nice shoulder photo with me.

I will follow up by calling and sending direct messages to Rotaractors throughout the month. Club presidents please take note and inform your members.

Let me conclude by saying a big Thank You for making our Rotary Foundation your charity of choice.

“

"I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO SEE FIRST-HAND SOME OF THE TREMENDOUS WORK THAT ROTARACTORS ARE DOING AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL."

”



Walvis Bay Rotaract

In an attempt to motivate and encourage upcoming potential clubs to join the family of Rotary, and of course inspired by DRR Rex, the potential Walvis Bay Rotaract Club was challenged to make 250 sandwiches of which they can donate to the people within their community.

To my astonishment, they committed and collaborated with their Walvis Bay Rotary Club to 280 sandwiches although mentioned they stopped counting!

A force to be reckoned were Ida Shimbilinga, Nicanor Nangolo and Helena Shindondola who did not give up!

The food was distributed to children of Tataleni and Otweya. A soup kitchen often run by the Walvis Bay Rotary Club provides food to the children of Tataleni.

Wishing the Walvis Rotaract Club, the utmost best and hope to see them join the Rotary family soon!

P.S. The Oshakati Rotaract Club has been challenged too.



R1 MILLION FOR THE

ENVIRONMENT

buy a
You donated money and
created jobs.

By buying Rot
bracelet

Proceeds from this bracelet support the Rotary Youth Camp of Glencairn's objective of providing environmental education in an ecologically sound habitat. The Rotary Youth Camp in Glencairn, Cape Town is a 300-hectare paradise of fynbos-covered mountainside.

There is a need for a recreation camp where kids, ordinary and underprivileged, could holiday in an environment that would uplift their spirits and heighten their awareness of the natural world around them. For many children from Cape Town's under-resourced townships, this is their first exposure to the natural environment.

www.rotaryyouthcamps.co.za

Rotary 

Youth Camp
Glencairn,
Cape Town

Thank you



Relat

100% NOT-F

www.rotary.org

Lift edges to remove this card

Make
Honorary
Rangers

Relate bracelets, the 100% not-for-profit social enterprise, has teamed up with the Newlands Rotary Club to launch the new Rotary in the Environment bracelet collection, with the aim of raising R1million in six months.

Coming at the perfect time for those seeking gifts for their eco-conscious loved ones this festive season, this limited-edition mixed stack comprises 10 different Relate cause bracelets, each supporting a different environmental and conservation-focused charity.

They are:

SANCCOB

SANCCOB is a registered non-profit organisation whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of sea-bird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds - especially endangered species like the African Penguin.

Endangered Wildlife Trust Ocean Project

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Ocean Project is dedicated to the conservation of marine ecosystems that support a myriad aquatic species, as well as the people who rely on them. To date, Relate has raised more than R2 million for this beneficiary.

Honorary Rangers of SA National Parks

The main objective of this initiative is to support SANParks in developing, managing and promoting sustainable national parks that represent South Africa's biodiversity and heritage assets through innovation



and best practice, for the benefit of our future generations.

Elephants Alive

Save The Elephants SA is a registered non-profit organisation whose mission is to secure a future for elephants while sustaining the beauty and ecological integrity of the places in which these animals live. To date, Relate has raised R939 480 for the conservation of these magnificent creatures.

Endangered Wildlife Trust: Birds of Prey

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Birds of Prey Programme is one of the largest EWT programmes and focuses on the



Have questions? Visit the [Newlands Rotary website HERE](#) for a list of Frequently Asked Questions about Relate Bracelets including ordering and delivery.



conservation of raptors and vultures and their habitats. Its main objective is to link the efforts of all individuals and organisations interested in or associated with raptor and vulture conservation in southern Africa, in order to strengthen regional conservation efforts.

Guard Dogs for Conservation

The South African Guide Dogs Association for the Blind provides services to those with visual, physical or developmental impairments, by training guide dogs, service dogs and Autism support dogs to assist with orientation and mobility. Through their great services, they have immeasurably improved the lives of many people who depend on these loving canines for their independence.

Endangered Wildlife Trust: Wild Dog Project

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wild Dog Project monitors and protects this highly endangered species by collaring and tracking the canines, securing and expanding their habitats, and ensuring a rapid response in the event they are injured or under threat of persecution.

Rotary Youth Camp Glencairn

The Glencairn Youth Camp is a special place in the Southern Cape Peninsula where young people from all walks of life unite to enjoy the beauty of nature. The camp exposes Cape Town's youth to a powerful environmental experience; along with many nature trails, the camp also features sports fields and children's play areas. Funds raised from the sale of this bracelet goes towards preserving this wonderful haven for children.

Rotary: I am a Water Warrior

Through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes, Rotary's main objective is to form partnerships to respond to the needs of those who do not enjoy daily access to clean water. As a Rotary Action Group, WASH invites Rotarians from around the world to join them in their bid to provide safe water, sanitation and

hygiene for all.

Endangered Wildlife Trust

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of South Africa's leading biodiversity conservation organisations, which strives to facilitate the protection and sustainable use of key ecosystems. The EWT has a cohesive and integrated approach to the conservation of species, habitats and ecosystem processes, with much of their work focused on protecting both threatened species and their habitats.

Hailing the new partnership with the Newlands Rotary Club, Relate founder Lauren Gillis says the exciting collaboration offers Relate a fantastic opportunity to showcase an array of its bracelets under the banner of Rotary in the Environment.

"By joining hands with the Newlands Rotary Club, we at Relate aim to raise a grand total of R1 million

WHAT IS THE ROTARY FRESH AIR CAMP? **Click here to watch our short video!**



through the sales of these bracelet packs. By purchasing these bracelets, members of the public also get to stand in solidarity with those who are committed to the conservation of our natural environment," she adds.

Tony Davidson, Environmental Sustainability Champion of the Newlands Rotary Club, stressed that collaborative work such as this is critical going forward if we are to successfully save our planet, and its precious animal and human inhabitants.

"We are delighted to be working with Relate, especially during this critical period of COVID-19. This collaboration will enable us to reach out to more people, and hopefully raise enough money to really make a big difference through the sales of these bracelets.

"We hope to reach our grand total of R1 million within the first six months of this project," he explains.



**You can purchase a pack
of 10 bracelets on the
Relate website for R350**

Click to Order

ROTARY PEACE

FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

Rotary District 9350 Peace Fellowships Chair, Mike Walwyn, was recently delighted to receive two emails confirming that two of our District's applicants have been awarded fellowships for 2021! Joseph Ezezue and Friederike Bubenzer have been assigned to the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,300 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.



JOSEPH EZEZUE

A resident of Awka, Nigeria, Joseph's professional background is in the military where he served for 21 years until his voluntary retirement in 2019. He is currently a conflict, peace and security consultant and also involved with the United Nations Development Programme efforts in northeast Nigeria. Joseph works with the Nigerian Navy (NN) designing a defence action plan for integrating the UN Women Peace and Security agenda into the Navy's structure and operations. He is also a visiting facilitator/SME on peacebuilding, Gender and conflict resolution at Nigerian military staff colleges, NN specialist institutions, and the German/Netherlands Corps in Germany.



FRIDERIKE BUBENZER

A former Interactor, Friederike is a Senior Project Leader at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town. Among many projects she has been involved in during her 13 year career in peace and development, Friederike coordinated transitional justice training for judges and parliamentarians in South Sudan, Uganda and Northern Uganda, consultations with victim communities in Northern Uganda, community level dialogue facilitation training in Kenya and South Sudan, community healing workshops in Zimbabwe and South Sudan and a high-level economic Diaspora consultation with the late Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai hosted in Cape Town.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020

10 - 25 December - Cape Town Carols (Online)

JANUARY 2020

23rd from 2 pm - Youth Exchange Webinar

FEBRUARY 2020

6th at 10 am - Food Gardens Webinar



THE ROTARY CLUB OF
KIRSTENBOSCH
PROUDLY PRESENTS

CAPE TOWN CAROLS

AT **kirstenbosch** - ONLINE
10 - 25
DECEMBER 2020
TO BOOK VISIT QUICKET.CO.ZA
OR CALL 021 424 9308

kirstenbosch
NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

There is no Uncle Paul's event this year BUT you can still support the security guards and tractor drivers normally employed at the event by shopping at the Uncle Paul's online store!!



WELCOME TO THE
**THREE TREES
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS**

**TICKETS
AVAILABLE
FROM QUICKET**

Where: Marsh Memorial
Children's Home

When: 16th-21st Dec 2020

Please note: this is a COVID-observant socially distanced carols with restricted numbers ***Proceeds to charity**



Bellville
Rotaract
Rotary Club Partner

ROTARACT BELLVILLE INVITES YOU TO THE
**MORNINGSTAR
CHRISTMAS
LUNCH**

Help us set up and serve a Christmas Lunch for the Morningstar community to spread some joy this December.

Please bring Christmas decorations, a Christmas hat, and a lot of Christmas cheer!

6 DECEMBER 2020
HALL SET UP WILL START AT 11:00.
LUNCH IS SERVED AT 15:00.
MORNINGSTAR COMMUNITY HALL, SKOOL STREET,
MORNINGSTAR

For more information or to RSVP:
076 965 8002 (Megan)



Sr Carmelita Kok (2e in charge of the clinic- in the absence of Sr Nazreen Perin), Enrolled Nurse Zheograta Adams, Nozuko Miti, Claudia Reynolds, President Koos Burger, Lindokuhle Nokapheyi, Zoliswa Mangesi and the Security man, Mziwakhe Ningi

Rotary Recognition Award to local Fish Hoek Clinic

The Rotary Club Cape of Good Hope and the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA) coordinate the Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) in the Fish Hoek Valley every year in the month of October, however because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the event this year was postponed.

It was decided by the National Department of Health to use this as an opportunity to celebrate 2020, being the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and at the same time to recognise and acknowledge the work done by the Nurses as the frontline workers during the pandemic. In addition, the Rotary Club and RFHA wanted to thank the health care workers who have assisted at the RFHD sites over the years. We have consequently arranged a few ceremonies in the Fish Hoek Valley, to present the Nurses with a certificates of appreciation and recognition.

On Friday, we presented a certificate to the staff at the local Fish Hoek Clinic, who also received a generous donation of a Snackwich Toaster, the electric iron and the bottles of personal sanitiser for the Clinic staff from the Manager of the Clicks Stores, Fish Hoek Main Road branch

A number of other Rotary Clubs also celebrated our traditional Rotary Family Health Day by hosting a thank you event for frontline healthcare workers.

RFHDs were the Brainchild of an American Rotarian called Marion Bunch who lost her son to HIV/Aids. She enlisted Sue Paget to run the South African operation. Sue was so efficient that she now runs the global effort...not from Chicago, but from Kommetjie!

CONSTANTIA ROTARY CLUB

A photo in the Constantiaberg Bulletin on 9th May 2013, shows the organisers meeting for the first RFHD, held at WUCT. Four of them were of them present at Constantia Rotary's event at Emmanuel Educare: Sister Nicci Woodbridge, Ann Albrecht, Di Forrester and Geoff von Klemperer.

One of the people who volunteered to work at RFHDs was Sister Jean Avis, who has been working in palliative care for more than 30 years. Rotary rewarded her with a Paul Harris Fellowship, she joined the Constantia Rotary Club, and was present at the event to hand over the certificates.



CLAREMONT ROTARY CLUB

Members of the Claremont Rotary Club visited the Hanover Park Community Health Centre (Maternity Unit) where babies have completely ignored the national lockdown and arrived into the world - ready or not! Thanks to this incredible maternity team, new moms received the very best of care during quite a difficult time for our health services.

NEWLANDS ROTARY CLUB

Newlands Rotary visited the Retreat Maternity Clinic and treated nurses to a little gift box of pamper goodies and a certificate of appreciation for their incredible hard work - particularly during the COVID pandemic.

Over 1400 babies have been born in this clinic alone in 2020 and while the nursing staff provide medical support, The Zoe Project offers new moms mentoring and other kinds of childcare assistance.



NEWS SPOTS

ENTRIES FOR THE NEWLY RENAMED WINELANDS CYCLE TOUR ARE OPEN!

Entries are now open for the Paarl Rotary Club's annual cycle race on Sunday 31 January. The race, formerly known as the Paarl Cycle Tour, has been renamed the Winelands Cycle Race and will start and finish at Hugenote Primary in Wellington for the first time. This will be an excellent race to help you gear up and improve your seeding for the Cape Town Cycle Tour 2021. There will be three races, with online registration, timing and seeding by RaceTec, under the auspices of the Pedal Power Association. The races will start in General Hertzog Boulevard and from there cyclists can travel on three routes in the rural Agter-Paarl/Riebeek West area.

The first race over 105km starts at 06:00 (entry fee is R280, PPA members R260). It is for more experienced riders and will be a seeding race for the Cape Town Cycle Tour. The route takes riders to Hermon, Riebeek West and back to Wellington via Voor Paardeberg.

The second race, over 90 km, is also a seeding race for the CTCT. It starts at 07:00 (entry fee R260, PPA members R240). Riders follow the same route via Riebeek West, but cut out the detour via Voor Paardeberg.

The third race, over 36.6 km, starts at 08:00 (entry fee R120 for all). This race travels via the Perdeskoen and Bovlei to the R45 and then back to Wellington and is ideal for the whole family.

The closing date for on-line registration is Monday 25 January 2020 at 12:00, but entries on the day are also accepted if the race is not fully subscribed. Please note that, due to Covid, entries are limited to 1500 riders. Masks must be worn before and after the race, and a Covid form must be filled in.



For more information on the route and to enter, go to www.winelandscyclerace.co.za. Proceeds of the race go to Paarl Rotary projects focusing on early childhood and youth development.

There will be a variety of food and beverage stalls as well as a bike park at the finish. Race numbers can be collected at ASG Paarl in the Laborie Centre in Paarl on 30 January from 08:30 to 10:30 or at Chris Willemse Cycles at Willowbridge on the same day from 12:00 to 15:00.

E-CLUB OF GREATER CAPE TOWN & CENTURY CITY HOST A DUCK RACE FUNDRAISER

Members and supporters of both clubs enjoyed a fun morning together in the Rosebank Canal racing some very competitive rubber ducks. No, not the ones with the paddles ... the ones you play with in the bath. :)

Prizes were awarded to each race winner with a few lucky draw rewards thrown in for good measure.

While running up and down the water's edge, Rotarians took the opportunity to pick up rubbish and make sure the only thing left behind were footprints (and some very amused neighbours!) A great example of simple, family-orientated fundraising events!



KAWASAKI NORTH ROTARY CLUB (D2590) DONATES AN AMBULANCE TO SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA

On the 18th September 2020, a refurbished Ambulance (previously from the Kawasaki Fire Department), was handed over to the Namibian Ambassador Luswenyo, by Mayor Fukuda of Kawasaki City. 5 Japanese Rotary Clubs, Kawasaki Kita (North), Shin Yokohama, Kawasaki Naka, Kawasaki Nakahara, Kawasaki Miyanmae and Kawasaki Saginuma, all contributed to this project.

In Japan an ambulance is taken out of service after 5 years or 200,000km. A city then donates it to any NPO, who pays to have it refurbished, which is usually in the region of R100,000. The cost to have this ambulance shipped to Namibia is R250,000 which is borne by the Japanese Government. A 2nd Ambulance will soon be made available which will also be shipped to Swakopmund.



Japanese Ambulance donation to Swakopmund handover with Ambassador Luswenyo & Mayor Fukuda of Kawasaki City

All this has been made possible through the dedication and hard work of Rotarian Uli Kulz, member of Shin Yokohama Rotary Club and his friend Koichi Ichikawa, member of the Kawasaki Nakahara RC. Uli Kulz, a member of the Shin Yokohama Rotary Club and CEO of International Education Consultants, grew up in Stellenbosch, where he also attended Stellenbosch University. He moved to Japan 35 years ago, got married to Naomi and lives in Yokohama where he owns and runs his own school and study centre and where he also offers business seminars. He brought several Japanese Rotarians on tours to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and even the Victoria Falls, over the years and built up a wonderful network of friends. Uli is also the Ambassador for Tourism, Education and Sports for the Namibian Embassy in Japan.

Uli's heart is still in Africa and through his network of Japanese Rotary friends he has been instrumental in raising more than R1 Million over a 9 year period for the 'Adopt a Learner' program, which was run by the Cape Town Rotary Club. This unfortunately came to an end in 2019. Two years ago Uli received an ambulance from Yokohama City and his Rotary Club, the Shin Yokohama RC donated it to Lesotho after King Letisi 111 of Lesotho and Ambassador Ramoetsi of the Lesotho Embassy reached out to him to assist them.

This year's Rotary theme of Rotary Opens Opportunities is so very appropriate.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Martti Ahtisaari Primary School Windhoek Teacher Exchange Program with Finland

For many years the Rotary Club Windhoek (RCW) has had a particular focus on education, more specifically on various ways to improve education. It is and has been a distinct goal for RCW to develop and improve education in Namibia in order to contribute to a better future for the youth of the country.

Among the educational projects that RCW has been supporting, in this specific case in collaboration with Rotarian friends from Finland, is the Martti Ahtisaari School in Windhoek, Wanaheda. Inaugurated in 1992, this school has currently 1500 learners and 60 teachers. The school was named after Finland's previous President, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and United Nations diplomat Martti Ahtisaari, who was responsible to oversee the process that turned Namibia into an independent country in 1990. It was then that members of the RCW met this extraordinary politician for the first time. And it is the reason that RCW gladly and without hesitation became a partner of the RC Pasila in Finland when they decided to support Martti Ahtisaari School.

Finnish Rotarians have been visiting Namibia several times since, looked at the school and its specific needs and initiated several innovative projects, Global Grants and exchange programmes.

The basic set-up at the school was gradually improved and both, teachers and learners benefitted from the provision of appropriate and comprehensive teaching and learning materials.

As Finland is known to have one of the best educational systems worldwide the idea came up to initiate a teacher exchange programme between Martti Ahtisaari School in Windhoek and selected schools in Finland. The RC Pasila, already well experienced in drafting and defending Global Grant applications, went to work with a lot of enthusiasm and stamina. They convincingly motivated other Rotary Clubs in Finland to get involved and join the fundraising efforts. An impressive 20 clubs in total became involved in the project. Ultimately the Rotary Foundation agreed to a Global Grant, stretching over 3 years. The original plan

SECTION TITLE



Heikkilä school learners under Namibian gentle care

was that each year 2 teachers from Finland spend time with the colleagues at Martti Ahtisaari School, sharing their skills and expertise and 2 teachers from Martti Ahtisaari visit schools in Finland, collecting first-hand experience of a highly successful and holistically integrated school system.

To date four teachers from Finland have been to Namibia, two in 2018 and two in 2019, spending 7 weeks respectively. In return two teachers from Martti Ahtisaari School spent 7 weeks in Finland during 2019. The visit scheduled for this year unfortunately fell victim to the Corona pandemic.

The teachers from both sides enjoyed their visits tremendously. They learned from each other, shared ideas, discussed the current situation and potential alternative approaches and also got to know a new country, different culture(s), strange language(s). They became friends with their respective counterparts and continue to be in close contact with each other. Obviously the teachers also visited the local Rotary Clubs to present and promote their home countries and to share impressions of their host country.

Upon their return from Finland the two Namibian teachers visited RCW to present their summary report. They were most impressed by the following

- Small group approach
 - Class-assistants
-

SECTION TITLE

- High technology in classes
- Straight forward teacher-learner relationship
- Teachers have common approach
- Free lunch
- Open discussions are encouraged
- Schools have learner parliaments
- Learners learn independently
- Lot of breaks (45 min vs. 15 min.)
- Teachers guide learners supportively
- Good maintenance of school environment

Action plans for the near future have been drafted and it is hoped that they can be completed during the next 2 years. The final report to the Rotary Foundation is scheduled for September 2022.

So far the project has exceeded expectations and everyone involved is looking forward to proceed as soon as the global pandemic allows for it.



**See you again next
month!**