

DISTRICT GOVERNORS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Rotary
District 9350



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Spotlight on Rotarian Lee-ann Groenewald
- Report back from Global Grant Scholars
- Graham Money celebrates 50 years of Rotary service above self

ROTARY YOUTH CAMP PARTNERING WITH SANPARKS

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A WORD FROM CARL-HEINZ

Welcome, Welkom, Willkommen, Wamkelekile, Bem Vindo

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Anns

I hope all of you had a peaceful, relaxing and healthy Easter weekend and that the Easter Bunny provided lots of chocolate eggs for you.

It was a very different Easter in our house this year. Normally Caroline and I act as the Easter Bunny for our children, Carl-Felix and Isabella, who have insisted on an Easter-egg-hunt every year, even though both have completed their university degrees! With Carl-Felix away in Germany, Isabella decided to do an Easter-egg-hunt for Caroline and me. She was excited to see us competing to see who would find the most eggs, and it goes without saying that I lost by a big margin!!

The reason why I mention this is because I believe, especially in these difficult and negative times, it is important that we, whether it be the young or more matured adults, preserve the ability to see the world through the eyes of a child to prevent us from getting bogged down by the Covid-19-pandemic, unemployment, or crime – and encourage us to focus on our more positive, or more naive sides.

In the past month, another two clubs in our district have been successful with their respective Global Grant-applications. RC Claremont, with its partner club RC Bamberg in Germany, can now implement its project in support of "Live Choices" worth of USD 193.020 = R 2,806,510 and RC Windhoek, with its international partner club the RC Takoma Sunrise from the US, will provide electronic equipment and teacher training workshops for schools in the Khomas District of Namibia for USD 49,550 = R 718,475.

Clubs in our district have managed to get Global Grant-projects approved of more than 10 million Rand in the current Rotary year. I therefore appeal to all our clubs to please contribute to the Rotary Foundation by not later than 25 June, to ensure that your donation will be counted for the current year. We should remember that each Rand we donate comes back to our district up to tenfold – we cannot ask for a higher return on our investment.

Happy reading, stay healthy, stay positive – but please test negative

Carl-Heinz



“Rotary’s leadership is united in stating that Rotary does not tolerate speech or behaviour that promotes bias, discrimination, prejudice, or hatred because of age, ethnicity, race, colour, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. There is no place within Rotary for racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, classism or ageism. We do not believe that this is a political stance and we do believe that we should openly discuss these issues within our organisation.”

HOLGER KNAACK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By Aydn
Parrott

“A leader is someone who conceptualises new ideas and starts, tries or creates something new,” says young Rotarian Lee-Ann Groenewald

“Creative, spontaneous, crazy about helping people”. That is how Lee-Ann Groenewald describes herself. The 28 year old Rotarian says putting others before herself is a lifelong philosophy. Service above self, one might say.

The Grabouw art teacher adds that she has had to learn how to set boundaries, to avoid getting hurt. “If my cup is full I can give more to others,” she says. Lee-Ann says, “a big part of my identity is being a teacher and art teacher, enjoy interacting with people,”

During her time at Stellenbosch University, the then education student, often worked with students who were her own age and older. She says, “I enjoy food, trying new recipes, new meals and when I make something delicious I never make the same thing again,”

“My faith is also a big part of my life,” Lee-Ann says. According to her, “faith isn’t a place, it is being in a relationship with God”

Lee-Ann says her love of novelty is satisfied in her role as a teacher, “I am very happy where I am, I don’t see myself as a teacher who works in the same place” she adds. “There are different children each year, a change of pace, and as such teaching can be very exciting” Lee-Ann explains. However Lee-Ann adds that love of novelty has its limits. “In my art I need to focus on finishing things, sometimes I need to sit and go deep,” she says.

Lee-Ann says this is especially important when making life choices. “Sometimes we spend too much time making the decision. “we need to think less and do more, this is what I am trying to do in my life and work,” Lee-Ann says.

She adds, “I don’t want to remove the sense of discovery and adventure.”

Speaking about how her journey with Rotary started Lee-Ann says, “my whole life I have wanted to help people,” Lee-Ann always entertained the dream of working for Doctors without Borders, but with balanced self reflection states, “I didn’t want to be a doctor” However Lee-Ann says her desire to volunteer overseas still stands.

While at school an Interact teacher approached Lee-Ann and asked her to join the management team of the school’s Interact Club, in 2009. “She said I have good leadership skills and people skills,” Lee-Ann explained.

Lee-Ann goes on, “I initially thought it would be good for my CV but eventually it became my driving force, food gardens, charity drives, fundraising, old age home, socials, team building,”

“I realised we can work hard in a team and also connect as a team,” Lee-Ann explains.

She speaks fondly of a social event with the Rotary Club of Oostenberg. Lee-Ann describes it as a great experience connecting with people and getting to know them.

“Likewise when she went on exchange to Germany, Lee-Ann says, “the girl who climbed on the plane had never spoken another language had never travelled and had lived in the same community her whole life,” She says she had to learn a new language, needed to make new friends, of the exchange experience Lee-Ann says, “Rotary changed my life!”

Lee-Ann explains that at the age of 19 she had to and did learn how to ride a bicycle. Throughout her experience a Rotary aphorism always danced in her mind, "It's not wrong it's not right it's just different,". Lee-Ann says this was an important lesson which she continues to apply in her personal and professional life.

"If you ask people why they do what they do, you learn and develop understanding," Lee-Ann explains.

Upon her return from a recent trip to India Lee-Ann says she gave her learners a lesson on India. "In that way I increase my learner's frame of reference" Lee-Ann continues.

"When I climbed on the plane I thought Brackenfell and my immediate community was life but when I went overseas I realised that there is so much more to life," Lee-Ann says. This is an essential lesson Lee-Ann tries to teach her learners. "I work with a lot of children who live on farms with parents who are farmworkers," Lee-Ann explains. As such she says she tries to broaden their horizons, one way she does this is by suggesting teaching overseas to earn money and travel.

Lee-Ann says this is another area where her Rotary experience has stood her in good stead. A lesson she learned from Rotary that she still teaches her children is that there are more opportunities than we might think.

Lee-Ann speaks of how her mom initially had reservations about her going on an exchange because of financial constraints, but Rotary contacted her mom to say they can offer me a bursary.

"I learned that you must push through if you want to make a way," Lee-Ann says.

Thinking back Lee-Ann says, "I participated in Interact just to help people, I didn't think that later I would go on a Rotary Exchange,"

"The German School I attended really prepared me well for Maties," she says, "the independent study in Germany, the need to learn German in a short amount of time, having no one check on me,"

She says, "Rotary helped me develop emotional maturity and how to adapt to a new environment and life, the food is different, people are different, I experienced that on exchange whereas most students experienced that in first year."

In her practical at iKaya school in Kayamandi, Lee-Ann says she taught in English for the first time with English she had learned from Americans in Germany.

It was during this teaching practical in her 2nd year that Lee-Ann realised teaching is definitely what she wanted to do, she realised that she was living a purpose driven-life

While at Stellenbosch University Lee-Ann participated in many courses offered by the Frederick van Zyl Slabbert Institute (FVZSI), one in facilitation, equipped her to work at residences discussing diversity and building understanding. Lee-Ann says she found this to be a rewarding experience.

While working with Maties Gemeenskap Diens (Maties Community Service) Lee-Ann helped initiate tutoring programmes with iKaya, the school in Kayamandi where she had done her teaching practicals.

"You learn so much more if you get involved in activities outside of your academics," Lee-Ann says.

An example of this was developing international relationships during an international relations course at the university's Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert Institute, "connecting with international students, meeting people who wanted to connect with your fellow person and connecting with people beyond Africa," Lee-Ann says.

Lee-Ann studied intermediate and senior phase education at Stellenbosch University between 2013 and 2016.

Peer and familial pressure led to feelings of needing to do more and be more, so Lee-Ann decided to aim to be a headmaster. "So I ended up in a class with a bunch of headmasters studying my Honours in Democracy and Leadership in Education at Stellenbosch University." Lee-Ann says, "the more I studied the more I learned. I realised we live in a corrupt world. A world where we judge schools without being there, creating unrealistic expectations that are out of touch with what is actually happening in schools." She says the solutions proposed were unworkable.

In June 2017, Lee-Ann's mom passed away, so she put her studies on hold before returning to complete the studies. Lee-Ann is currently studying Visual Multimedia Art at Unisa.

She has been teaching visual arts and design at Grabouw High School since 2017.

"My classroom should be a place where you can be yourself and think as yourself. I want to offer a goal and let them chart their own course. It is important that people focus on the process, the journey," Lee Ann says.

She says "people fear a blank page...art is a constant process, you take thoughts and sleep on it, or you see other inspiration or you think there is something new to try,"

Therefore Lee-Ann says a creative process requires bravery, "you can't fear the unknown, a leader is someone who conceptualises new ideas and starts, tries or creates something new,"

Lee-Ann says, "a designer doesn't function on their own, there are other factors and considerations, and in this way art can foster team building" She adds, "if a learner can take home a life lesson, then even if they aren't great at art at least they take something home."

Lee-Ann teaches this to her learners but it is also a valuable lesson for all. That is to "ask yourself what am I taking away, what I am giving that person that they can take away."

Lee-Ann has worked for the Rural Arts Network (RAN) teaching underprivileged kids art in the afternoon, extending these life lessons of hers to them as well.

"I want to address real social issues," Lee-Ann says.

Lee-Ann says, being the young gun among older members has been a major learning curve, but one she has enjoyed. "You have to establish who you are, get to know your community, it needs to be accepted that young people will enter Rotary and will make changes, Lee-Ann says.

"It's time to change and adapt," Lee-Ann says, "I don't keep my mouth shut.

People are scared of change because it is like a blank document in front of them and we have to write a new story. Writing a new story requires editing, long hours, exposing ourselves to criticism,"

Lee-Ann believes Rotary's process of adapting will be the same. Tough but necessary.

She says, "this is where we have to have empathy with older Rotarians, we are presenting them with a blank page and they don't know what to do and so they need guidance with how to deal with that blank page."

After a rich history as an Interact member at Brackenfell High School, followed by Interact President at the same school, serving as Rotaractor in Stellenbosch and a member of various other service groups before becoming a Somerset West Rotarian, what is next for the emerging service superhero?

"I would love to tackle an individual service exchange with Rotary. That would be in the near future," Lee-Ann says.

She adds, "I would really like to experience my life in another world, see what other teachers do in other countries, how do other cultures approach challenges and use that to enrich my own learners."

"In twenty years I don't want to be a schoolteacher anymore, which is sad to say because I love the school, the learners, the town and the farm," Lee-Ann says.

She explains, "I want to grow, I see myself in a higher position, not necessarily a headmaster, maybe a faculty head, perhaps being in the Department of Education where I can advise on practice based policy decisions."

Her future also includes, "a well established personal life and "If I ever do my masters it would be in how art development can help in leadership development."

"I am crazy about travelling and that is Rotary's fault," Lee-Ann claims. She says if it weren't for a Rotary Exchange she wouldn't have fallen in love with travel. She says she wants to have ticked off more destinations on my travel list. These include Morocco, Israel, and Egypt.



"you can't fear the unknown, a leader is someone who conceptualises new ideas and starts, tries or creates something new"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DRR

Rex IP Omameh

Dear Friends,

How time flies! We are already approaching the end of the third quarter of this Rotary year. And much remains to be done. This month alone has so many different activities and each requiring our undivided attention.

This month, Rotaract will be 53, on 13th of March 2021 and I'm as excited as you all are about the events/activities lined up around the world to celebrate this incredible milestone, please make sure your clubs are not left out.

Allow me to focus a little more on the Women and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) themes - both of which we are celebrating this month.

Despite being late entrants into Rotary, women have become a formidable force and I honestly do not know how much we would have achieved without them. But even as we celebrate the remarkable ladies amongst us, we must recognise the odds that are stacked against millions of women and girls out there, and the distance we still have to cover to achieve gender equality. We have to continue promoting education for the girl child and community awareness to the value of educating girls.

There is also no better time to raise awareness for the need for clean water for all homes than at this period with Covid-19 still ravaging the world and numbers rising daily. We all need to play our part to ensure we raise awareness for good hygiene amongst every member of our communities.

With the worldwide spread of the second wave of the Covid-19 virus, all clubs can play their part by making sure that their communities are prepared to react to an outbreak in their area. Your club can offer to be a contact point in your area for information, health care services, support, and resources. Take the initiative and talk to your local council and offer your services.

As we celebrate, we all should remember that this is a time for all of us in Rotaract to remain engaged and in touch with our communities. Granted, social distancing may result in that engagement taking a different route, but our motto of Service above Self remains ever so relevant in these trying times. Common sense precautions will allow us to continue staying safe while providing the Service we are known for.

Let's all have us a fun and impactful World Rotaract Week and a wonderful month.

“

"AS WE CELEBRATE, WE ALL SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A TIME FOR ALL OF US IN ROTARACT TO REMAIN ENGAGED AND IN TOUCH WITH OUR COMMUNITIES."

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LEAP Interact packed goodie bags for about 300 children for the school's Easter Egg project. They will read to the children, play games, sing and teach them nursery rhymes. Tricky to deal with excited children with COVID regulations !

Cover Image: Groote Schuur High School Interact collected about 1500 Easter Eggs to donate to Maitland Cottage Hospital and to the Leap Easter project in Langa

Lovely to see our scholars running such fantastic projects while also managing their studies. Our country's future leaders in training!

Hout Bay Rotaract

Hout Bay Rotaract hosted an IT workshop to support their mentees that have succeeded in matric and preparing to start their first year at higher institutions. With the move to online learning by most institutions, we saw it fit that we provide the mentees with basic know-how information on using online platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft teams. In support of those who were not successful in securing spaces at universities to which they applied, we also had one-on-one sessions to hear about their current plans and see how we can support them. The one thing they needed urgent assistance with was tutoring as they plan to rewrite the matric exam in June.

Fortunately, we have found tutors willing to assist the students in preparation for their exams, and the sessions are set to start on the 29th of March. This day also marked the last day that we will be meeting together as mentors and mentees since we will be recruiting new mentees in grade 11. However, some of them will be joining us as members of Rotaract and eventually become mentors.



Bellville Rotaract

Since February Bellville Rotaract has been collecting jars in order to fill them with 1/2 cup of rice, 1/2 cup of split peas, 1/2 cup of lentils, 1 unwrapped stock cube and a packet of soup powder. Each jar is supposed to produce a meal that could feed a family of 4. Since the onset of this project up to its completion 150 jars were collected.

These jars were donated to For the Love of the Kidz, on the 10th of March, which runs a feeding scheme in the Heinz Park community. Furthermore, Bellville collected easter eggs to donate to the Khankhanye Educare for the entire month of March and on the 1st of April a few of our members set out to hand them out to the kids who were very happy to receive them.



Easter Egg drive

Hop on over and help us donate Easter eggs to:

KWAKHANYA EDUCARE

Our aim is to share a bit of joy with Kwakhanya Educare this Easter by donating easter eggs to the preschool .

Final day to receive donations : 31 March 2021
Easter egg drop off at Kwakhanya Educare will be on the 1st April 2021

Pick up or drop off contact
Ziyanda Nocanda-063 090 1225
Morgan Jander - 076 164 3829

Bellville
Rotaract
Rotary Club Partner

Interact

Luderitz Rotaract

The potentially new Rotaract club in Lüderitz met for their very first time on the 17th of February 2021. With only two meetings underway, the members are overflowing with energy and passion to do service within their community. The Rotaract Club had an introductory meeting with their sponsoring Rotary Club of Lüderitz for them to learn the ropes.

A board has already been put in place with the Chryssoula Grünewald as President, Sheya Shipanga as the Secretary, Fabienne Loser as the Treasurer, Linelia Elize Smith in charge of Media and Patrick van Zyl in charge of Club services and the Sergeant at Arms. Comprising of 8 individuals thus far they found their motto, "the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world are the ones who do". These young working professionals certainly showed the Lüderitz Rotary Club a few things they have up their sleeves. Cannot wait to see all the crazy the Rotaract Club of Lüderitz has in store for us!



Beach Clean up with the Luderitz Rotaract Club and members of the community really surprised them! Who knew how much dirt can be found on our beautiful beaches? And so as we take pride in keeping our beaches clean let us hope this will continue to instill a habit of cleanliness and pick up as you go.

The club wishes to do this on a monthly basis and get the Interactors involved too! We all wonder what else is cooking on the Luderitz Rotaract Clubs to-do list



GRAHAM MONEY

*celebrating 50
years of service*

Graham, a well-known member of Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club, is about to celebrate 50 years of Rotary! He has had an amazing journey, some highlights of which follow, and is the absolute personification of Service Above Self.

His first involvement with Rotary was when his father in law invited him to join Sandton Rotary Club, following which he was inducted on 15th April 1971. At this time all Rotarians were classified according to profession - Graham was the Club's 'insurance broker'. His first major fundraiser for the club was to put on a musical review entitled 'Cam-A-Laugh', a spoof on the 'Camelot' musical. The event was most successful and ran for several years. Graham also got very involved with Youth Services, starting up both a Rotaract and an Interact club. His passion for Youth Services continued throughout his Rotary career and he and his wife Bunty have hosted 15 Exchange students over the years.

In 1977 he became Sandton RC's President and soon learned how to make strong minded Rotarian colleagues work together as a team! His Presidency was followed by a spell as District Governor's Representative (now known as AG) for District 9300 which he did from 1978

to 1980. He was then himself appointed District Governor in 1982 and during his tenure visited all 58 clubs in his District. After his year as DG he was given the first of many recognition - a Paul Harris. Further Rotary appointments followed - in 1986 he was Chair of the Polio Plus campaign for southern Africa, then in 1991 Chair of the Rotary International Fellowship committee. The Fellowship initiative was designed to encourage Rotarians to share recreational and vocational pursuits. Being a keen dog owner, Graham co-founded FIDO - the Fellowship of International Dog Owners!

In 1995 Graham became Rotary Foundation Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa (a personal highlight for him) then from 2001 - 2003 he was Rotary International Membership Coordinator for Southern Africa. He was also involved in planning the 2002 RI convention in Barcelona. As a result of his outstanding contribution, he was given the Rotary International



Past District Governors' award, which he felt overwhelmingly honoured to receive. There was still no stopping him - in 2003 he was President of the International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians and organised its 40th world championship event at Sun City. As outgoing President he was given the gift of Kestrel, a beautiful black Labrador.

Although Graham worked hard, he also played hard. There was lots of fun and lots of travel along the way - RI conferences and conventions took him and Bunty all over the world. During a trip to Kenya in the early days, he was fortunate enough to meet Mother Theresa. At an event in Dallas, he met Larry Hagman, the actor famous for playing JR in the 'Dallas' TV series. Boston in the snow led to the inevitable snowball fight with Bunty (not sure who won?). Perhaps one of the most memorable occasions took place during a visit to Kenya, when Graham was made an 'Honorary Chief' by the Ruler of Uyo - an honour previously granted only to Nelson Mandela!

Having 'retired' to Somerset West in the Western Cape, Graham decided to start up a breakfast club with a meeting time of 6.30am to 8am, enabling people to go on to work afterwards. He and Bunty canvassed local businesses and the club (Helderberg Sunrise) was inaugurated on 6th June 2006. One of his most successful fund raisers was the Voice of Rotary concert, held each year at Erinvale Golf Club. This initiative resulted in a total of R500,000 being donated to a bursary fund which assisted us and company opera singers. He is still very enthusiastic about Youth Services, recently setting up Macassar High Interact Club and hosting two exchange students. Helena from Spain was a delight; Felipe from Brazil a little more challenging!

Graham has written a booklet, 40 Years Of Rotary, which is full of amusing anecdotes. One highlight is his description of when he met a most attractive lady, who introduced herself as Veronica Cash. As she pointed out, with both Money and Cash in Rotary, things are looking good! Or how about the time a most distinguished Rotarian decided to play a joke on Graham, and knocked on his hotel bedroom door wearing only a tie. The joke was on him when it was Bunty who opened the door....

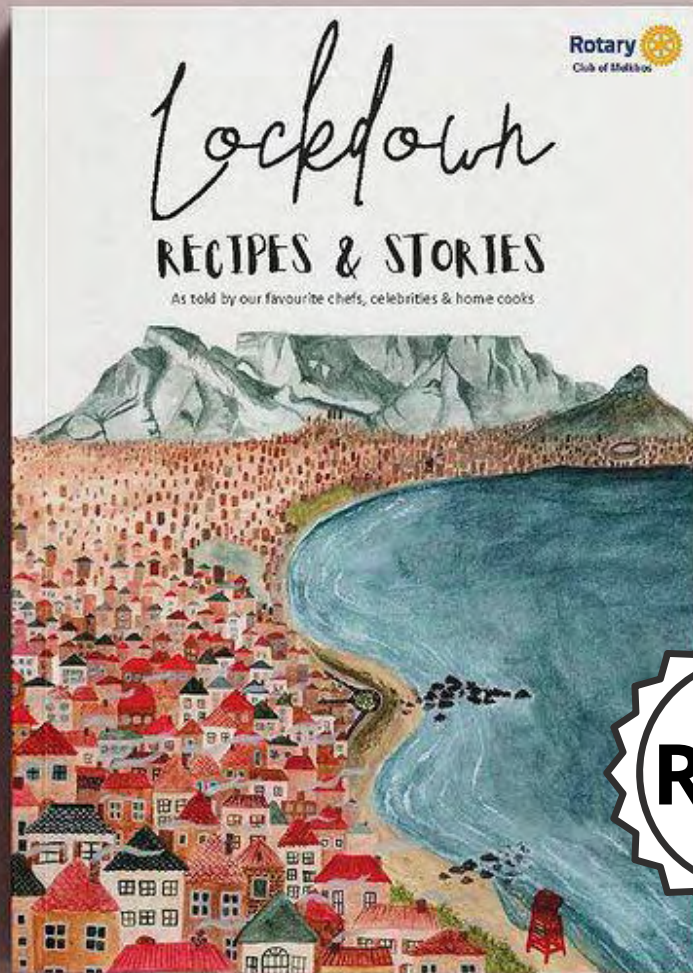
Graham is still a committed member of Helderberg Sunrise RC. Unsurprisingly, he and Bunty were very quick to take the initiative when Covid first struck South Africa - within days they were making and selling masks in aid of local animal welfare charities. Due to Covid regulations, many traditional Rotary fund-raising activities cannot currently take place. In order to help raise funds for Helderberg Sunrise, Graham has persuaded Clem Sunter, the well-known scenario planner, to present 'Beyond 2021' via Webinar. The proceeds of this will be used to fund sustainable food gardens. Clem will present his predictions for the world and South Africa on 15th April (coincidentally the exact date of Graham's 50th Rotary anniversary!) and tickets are available on Quicket.

One final anecdote - Graham had to make a speech at a District Conference and was most concerned that he would be presenting directly after Clem, a highly renowned, world class speaker. He was understandably nervous. However, Clem congratulated him warmly afterwards, which made Graham's day.



Have you bought your copy?

Anna-Mart van der Merwe, Bertus Basson, Reuben Riffel, Simoné Pretorius, Schalk Bezuidenhout, The Twins Tebo and Lebo Ndala and other famous South Africans share their stories and recipes. This book, without pretence or prejudice, aims to capture a glimpse of the South African morale at a time when uncertainty was the norm and reveals that South Africans are resilient and hopeful and warm-hearted.



R235

www.lockdownrecipes.co.za

Order 10 books and receive R 85 discount per book.

Proceeds from the book will be donated to the Rotary Club of Melkbos for their charity initiatives.



BASTER EDITION

ROTARY WORKING WITH SANParks



Our Rotary Youth Camps and South African National Parks (SANParks) held a celebration on Friday 20 February, a little more than a month after SANParks acquired part of our property at Glencairn, to be added to the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).

The property is at the northern end of our property and (literally) is a part of the mountain range, indeed, it has been managed by SANParks since 1994 when a co-operation agreement was set up between SANParks and the Rotary Club of Cape Town, under the guiding hand of PDG John Gomes.

We were delighted to have John join us, as he has (as with so many of us) been something of a hermit during the pandemic lockdown, but what a pleasure to see his smiling face and, for want of a better term, to close the circle.

The land transferred adds to the TMNP land about 236 Hectares. As TMP General Manager, Frans van Rooyen stated this brings SANParks “to 85% of SANPark’s objective of land acquisition for TMNP” and therefore an important part of that process.

This has become possible because of doors being opened between SANParks and Rotary. As Frans noted “This relationship prompts us to develop with other partners in conservation adding value to conservation and biodiversity”.

The Labyrinth developed by Koos Burger and his team is a case in point,

Frans continued “We have successfully opened the corridor and linkages to the South for TMNP, including extending ecological linkages. The property has been preserved in perpetuity and adds to TMNP, and its status as a World Heritage site”

For Rtn Francois Coetzee, Chairperson of the Camps Management Committee, and involved with Camps for about a decade (or more!) the deal was a natural development in our relationship with SANParks. “Rotary Club of Cape Town was established in 1925, so this transaction was largely done during our 95th year. The land was bequeathed to us by the late William Haines, whose legacy was for the benefit of the Youth. The property was transferred to us in 1948 and we have been operating as Rotary Youth Camps ever since, bringing the benefits of the open air, camping and sports, camaraderie and bringing many of our underprivileged youth to the experience of the mountains, the river and the surrounds to many for the first time in their lives.

“Mr Haines also left the property to the south of ours to the Gordons Missionary Society, who operated their Camps as long as we have. In late 2019 the Gordons Missionary Society handed their property to the Rotary Club of Cape Town for us to add to Rotary Youth Camps.

“We operate on a non-profit basis, and we charge our visiting youth on that basis.

“Our aim in the future is to add an educational component for our youth, with the emphasis on the environment. Maybe we can co-operate and work with SANParks in this regard.



“Rotary International has what we call Areas of Focus, and a recent addition is environmental Sustainability to that list. This is therefore one of our goals. We look forward to working with SANParks in the future.”

Mike Slayen, Director Planning TMNP, noted that SANParks has a long lease for the “mountain” part of the Gordons property above the Glencairn Freeway. The redoubtable Koos Burger, General Manager of Rotary Youth Camps (and current President of the Rotary Club of Cape of Good Hope) noted that one thing he had learnt was to take small steps and go slowly. But things then happen!

“Since clearing the land in question of alien species, with the help of botanists, we have discovered over 250 species of indigenous flora within what was a relatively small area, clearly revealing part of the rich floral kingdom of the mountain range. “Our objective is to develop our youth and give them an understanding of our natural environment. With Rotary International and SANParks working together we hope we have a winning recipe!

“And it makes me happy ... I will sleep well tonight!” said Koos Burger.

Councillor Simon Liell Cock, accompanied by Clifford Deacon and Andre Rossouw of the City of Cape Town’s Ecological Services, spoke for the City. “The truth is that almost every activity of the City has an environmental impact, from population issues, waste management, roads and all avenues of city management.

“We can do much to improve our conservation and sustainability challenges and surely the best solution is to engage the kids. Introducing conservation issues and education to our kids is essential. “Koos Burger is a legend! We are in awe of your hard work!

“Capetonians, even where we are not part of TMNP, should strive to uphold the standards and rules of the Park. We need to get our kids out and to experience the rich heritage we have in TMNP and we need Koos’s passion and energy!”

“How do we get our kids to learn these values? – by getting them out here!”

Llewellyn Botha, Rotary District 9350 Environmental Sustainability Committee Chair environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) Africa Regional Chapter Co-leader, expanded on this theme. “Our children are our future and the Rotary Club of Cape Town is ahead of its time! A partnership with SANParks will help reach those children.

“Youth needs to engage with biodiversity and without them nothing will change. We must encourage our youth to take ownership of these principles.”

And on that lovely summer’s day at Roberts Camp, the words of Nelson Mandela came to mind: “Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation!” – a message for our youth to take to heart and live their lives by....

Barbara Whitfield

ROTARY, VERGELEGEN AND THEIR STORY OF UBUNTU



For five months of last year Vergelegen, like many other establishments, was forced to close their restaurants. However, Vergelegen, in Somerset West, decided to keep their kitchen staff at work and continue to produce food – but for the truly hungry.

During this time they prepared approximately 29 000 meals – every one of which was picked up by the Rotary Club of Somerset West and delivered to one or two chosen points, where responsible members of the various communities would take delivery and carry the food to the needy.

All in all, members of this club passed through the Vergelegen gates just over 500 times... and drove almost the equivalent of a trip to Windhoek and back. Over this period not a single delivery was missed.

However, the real hero in this show of Ubuntu was Vergelegen, and the club decided to present them with a framed certificate, signed by all the members of the delivery team.

And so, on Friday March 12, Michael Johnson and Bryan Butler met with Sharon Hosking to hand over the frame, and the Rotarians were met with scrumptious scones with cream and jams and steaming cups of cappuccino, and were joined by Sharon, the manager responsible for hospitality and HR, and taken to the kitchen to meet the staff.

Afterwards they were whisked off in Sharon's Jeep for a tour of the upper areas of Vergelegen – as high as the top dam. It was an opportunity to see just how much Vergelegen has done since the devastating fires of 2008 which burnt not only the indigenous shrub but all the aliens as well.

The estate decided to let only the indigenous plants regenerate and to this day, they still have teams in the fields, with specially-designed machettes, cutting back and removing any sign of alien growth.

Sharon, who has worked at Vergelegen for 15 years, shared her extensive knowledge of the estate, and also showed the Rotarians the new vegetable garden where produce is grown for the restaurants, but with substantial excess for use by the less fortunate.



■ Rotarians Michael Johnson and Bryan Butler met with Sharon Hosking of Vergelegen.

Article originally published in The Bolander on 24 March 2021

Birth of the Rotaract Club of Hermanus

We are proud to announce the birth of the Rotaract Club of Hermanus which took place on Saturday the 6th March 2021 at Mollergren Park Hall, our Rotary Club venue. The event was a joyful occasion, including a friendly Potjie Competition, which began at 4pm and later provided supper for our gathering of forty plus people.

In order to observe Covid 19 protocols, the tables and chairs were set out on the stoop and on the lawn below, though some Rotaractors did venture into the Hall itself, prior to the Charter ceremony, to enjoy a game of pool and darts!

We were delighted to welcome Rex IP Omameh our District Rotaract Representative and Biffy Danckwerts our District Rotaract Chair to the event.

DG Carl Heinz could not be with us in person, but he observed our activities on zoom and AG Tony Butcher attended as his representative.

The Rotaract Charter began with an opening address by the MC, PP Richard, and a welcome from President Lourina.

There followed inspirational messages from Rex, Biffy and Tony, who all expressed their pleasure in being present at the birth of the new Rotaract Club.

AG Jenny Howard, who has been greatly involved in the setting up of the new Club, introduced each of the new members in turn and handed over their Rotaract badges. PP Richard asked the four new office bearers to say a few words, followed by President Lourina decorating Victoria Young-Pugh the Charter President with the Rotaract chain of office.

The formalities were brought to a close with DRR Rex leading the Rotaractors in reciting together the Rotaract Statement of Intent. The evening was still young and the time had now arrived to feast on the five delicious Potjies prepared earlier by our members, plus the dessert of muffins beautifully decorated by the Rotaractors.



Birth of the Rotaract Club of Hermanus



IT graduate thrives thanks to Rotary support

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a true test for business, the world, communities and community based organizations such as Rotary. The Cape Town Rotary club with its rich history steeped in tradition was no exception.

Never has it been more difficult to execute some of even the basic needs which our beneficiaries have become so accustomed to and ourselves in our ability to deliver ongoing community services have come to take for granted. Ever so often notwithstanding these mounting challenges, we get to enjoy rays of the sun as it emerge from behind the dark clouds.

One such case in point is our undergraduate student which we have been sponsoring since 2017, Momelezi Qasana. Here is a gentlemen that not too long ago when I first met him, was looking rather hopeless and defeated by the unfair odds stacked against him. With limited ability to help many students with a bursary, he was the fortunate one even though his results were not the most glowing of all the candidates we saw that faithful Sunday. What he had in his favour was that the opportunity that would make the biggest difference in his life.

Fast forward to February of 2021 and many ups and downs along the way I am personally proud to have listened to him as he shared his journey with Rotary Cape Town as the main speaker.

Having completed his degree against all odds after having lost family members (breadwinners), being robbed en route to campus, he persevered.

Now an even more determined Momelezi is eagerly applying for bursaries and funding to pay for his registration so that he can continue his Honours in Computer Science (much needed skills in our country). You are welcome to contact our club if you wish to contribute in any way to helping us raise the required registration or for additional sponsorship.

PP Johan March



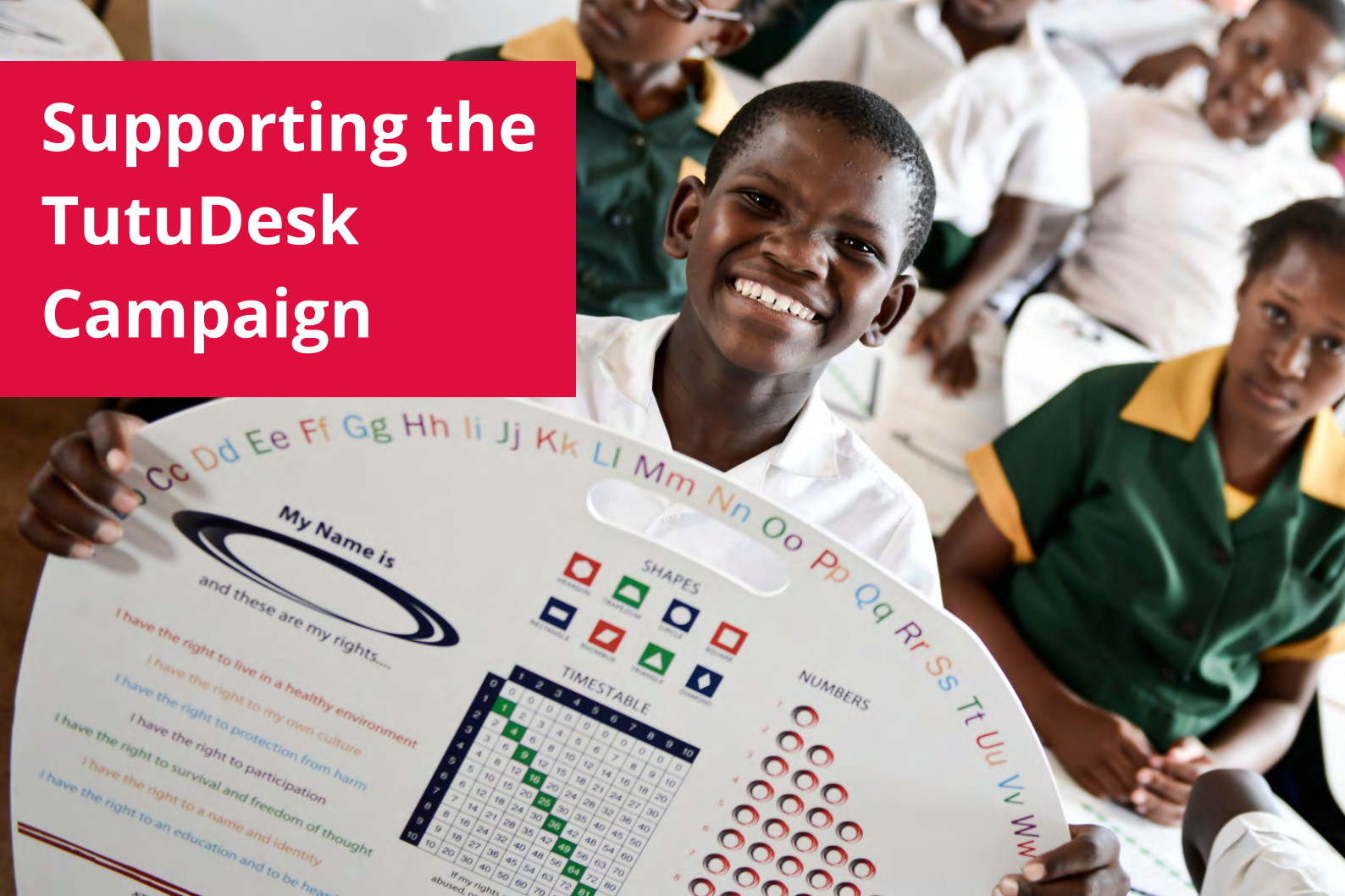
The gift of sight

On World Vision Day, 08 October 2020, Orian Organisation had local optometrist and Rotarian Frederick Jansen visit the center to do eye tests. A few weeks later Frederick and the team from Jansen & Vorster together with Melkbos Rotary Club did a handover of the spectacles to the beneficiaries of Orion.

This was such a memorable moment as the barrier of not being able to see was crushed and the quality of the lives of people with sight impairments at Orion was improved tremendously.

"A very special thanks to Frederick from Jansen & Vorster Optometry and the Melkbos Rotary Club for this awesome donation of spectacles, we truly appreciate both the support as well as the amazing relationship that we have built with you."

Supporting the TutuDesk Campaign



An estimated 95+ million children in sub-Saharan Africa are affected by classroom desk shortages. The TutuDesk Campaign provides children with a mobile steady and stable desk made from a high-grade, child-safe, proprietary polymer that will not shatter like other plastics if dropped. A long-term collaboration has begun, where Rotarians and TutuDesk can partner to drive Rotary's area focus of Supporting Education; click here for more information on this worthwhile campaign! If you would like to participate in this campaign, click the links below for more information or for a donation form!

<https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050107/en-au/files/sitepage/club-news/inter-district-tutu-desk-project/ROTARY-TUTUDESK-Brochure-241120.pdf>

<https://rotary9400.org.za/documents/en-au/2995ba0c-5b2c-4731-938f-3dbacfc5c623/1/>





Have you ever witnessed a colourful array of ducks floating down a canal? If not, then you have missed out! And no, we are not talking about real living ducks, we are talking about little rubber duckies.

This year the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town and Rotary Club of Constantia teamed up to host the first duck race of 2021 in the Rosebank Canal on 13 March 2021.. One hundred and ten ducks were all contending for the winning position. Heats of ten ducks raced against each other, with the winning two ducks being placed in the final race, competing head to head for the grand prize of a night away for two people at Atlantic Beach. This year the Duck Race was generously sponsored by Rawson Estate Agents, Muizenburg.

“The money raised through this fun, Covid-friendly, outdoors event will be put towards two great projects”, said Biffy Danckwerts, Vice President of the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town. The Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kansas and a newly established Rotary Club called Rotary Club for Action Against Trafficking (RCAAT) in District 5710 (in Kansas, USA), will put the funds towards a human trafficking project. This project aims to rehabilitate victims of human trafficking who “come home” with little or no skills or qualifications (probably not even a matric in our language).

The victims will be provided with skills to re-enter the work force and provided with trauma healing assistance. This will assist victims to stay out of the cycle of human trafficking, as they will be offered or afforded the skills to do so

The Rotary Club of Constantia will put the funds towards a sports development project at Westlake Primary School in Westlake, Cape Town.

The project is developing sporting activities at the school and to date has provided netball bibs and a netball court and is in the process of levelling out land within the school grounds to develop an athletic sports field.

If you are interested in getting involved in the second Duck Race in November of this year, gather your grandkids (or grandkids at heart) and contact Biffy Danckwerts on aecon.e@mweb.co.za. “Without the support of these events, we are not able to implement life-changing projects in our local communities and surrounds”, said Bronwyn Maree, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Constantia. If you are interested in joining a Rotary Club, please also give us a shout!

Bronwyn Maree
Rotary Club of Constantia



ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP

Rosa Domingos



My experience in the Netherlands has been wonderful to say the least. The knowledge I have gained over the past 17 months has shaped my understanding of water resource management in my field. I appreciate the fact that the theoretical knowledge taught throughout the initial stages of the MSc programme could be applied in the thesis research (the second phase of the programme). My programme has immensely increase my network from an academic and social spectrum and hence I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Rotary and IHE Delft.

I was fortunate to be selected at the Rotary-IHE Delft student Ambassador for 2019-2020 and also the Class representation for my specialisation (Hydrology and Water Resources). I have been to multiple Rotary meetings, both physically and, of course, online. I believe that my journey with Rotary has just begun and I hope to assist Rotary Bellville club as much as possible. I would also like to commend Rotary for linking me to my Host, Simone Bel. She has been a like mother to me and she is one of the biggest reasons why my stay in Delft has be memorable.

I cannot wait to come home, but at the same time, the thought of leaving Delft and the friends and family I've formed is saddening. I am privileged to represent the Rotary Bellville Club, this is the 'doing good' I would like to see often in our country. Lastly, it is my hope that Rotary's continuous efforts to reconcile their objectives to communities is strengthened through Natasha's and my success story.

Thank you once again,
Rosa

Natasha Davis-Wolmarans

Natasha has been employed for the last 16 years, by the National Department of Water and Sanitation, based in the Western Cape Regional office in Bellville, Cape Town and is responsible for the regulation of municipal water and wastewater treatment and management.

She was awarded a scholarship to complete an 18 month MSc in Water Management and Governance programme at UN-IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. The programme started in October 2018 and ended in April 2020. The UN-IHE is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world and is focused on building the much water-related expertise in developing countries to aid meeting the UN SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation objectives.

Natasha's thesis focused on how to generate benefits derived from ecosystem services in order to promote and upscale implementation of nature-based solutions. To this, research was conducted in the Netherlands, looking at the Biesbosch wetland area, situated in the South of the country which has a 600 year history of social-ecological change.

Natasha graduated in April 2020 during lockdown.

As condition of the scholarship it is required to do a water related project with the sponsor Rotary club (Cape of Good Hope).

"I will be working closely with the Rotary Youth Camp in Glencairn providing service and expertise in building environmental awareness and stewardship amongst visiting youth."

"I am also working on a potential river maintenance plan for the Else River that flows through the youth camp that aims at improving water quality downstream by generating the ecosystem services provided by the river system to address pollution originating from stormwater and sewage overflows into the river."



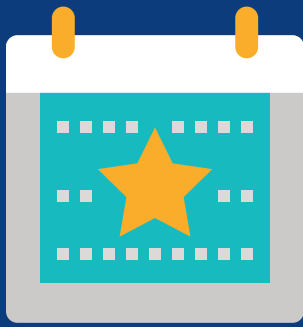
Want to offer a scholarship?

Rotary clubs can apply to The Rotary Foundation for district and global grants to support scholarships. Global grants are for graduate students studying abroad in one of Rotary's six areas of focus.

Scholarships last from one to four years and can include an entire degree program. Global grant scholarships are funded using cash or District Designated Funds matched by the World Fund.

District grants can be used to sponsor secondary school, undergraduate, or graduate students studying any subject, either locally or abroad. The scholarship may cover any length of time, from a six-week language training program to a year or more of university study.

Rotary members are essential to recruiting qualified candidates for Rotary Peace Fellowships. You can advance peace in troubled areas around the world by promoting peace fellowships and supporting peace fellow candidates through the application process.



District 9350 EVENT CALENDAR

1 MAY
2021

ROTARY 9350 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ONLINE EVENT

TBA

22 MAY
2021

ENVIRONMENTAL WEBINAR
ONLINE EVENT

TBA

See you again next month!