

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

MARCH 2024



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



District  
9400

## Message from your District Governor: *Riana Pretorius*

### My Dear Rotary Family,

The theme for this month on the Rotary calendar is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. We are transforming Communities through water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are fundamental aspects of healthy and thriving communities. In District 9400, our commitments to transforming lives through WASH initiatives have been unwavering.

Access to clean water is a basic human right, yet millions around the world still lack this essential resource. Through various projects and partnerships, the district has been at the forefront of providing sustainable water solutions to communities in need.

By drilling wells, implementing water purification systems and promoting water conservation practices, we have been able to improve access to safe drinking water for many underserved communities.

Sanitation is another crucial component of public health. In our district we have worked on construction and renovation of facilities in schools and healthcare centres. By promoting proper sanitation practices and building infrastructure that ensures hygiene and cleanliness, we are contributing to the overall well-being of communities.

Hygiene education also plays a vital role in preventing the spread of disease and promoting overall health. We are busy with a campaign to eradicate pit latrines from schools. Through training sessions and awareness campaigns, we will also be educating school children and communities on the importance of handwashing and personal hygiene. These efforts will have a significant impact on reducing illness and improving quality of life.



Our WASH initiatives not only provide tangible benefits to communities, but also foster a sense of empowerment and resilience among residents by involving local stakeholders, collaborating with other organisations and leveraging sustainable practices, we will be able to create long-lasting change that extends far beyond the completion of individuals projects.

By continuing to prioritise these essential components of community development, we are working towards a world where every individual has access to clean water, sanitation facilities and the knowledge to maintain good hygiene practices.

Together, we can transform communities, improve health outcomes and build a more sustainable future for all.

We were honoured by the visit of our Rotary International President Gordon R. McInally and his wife Heather from 24 to 25 March. We had a wonderful programme – full of events, projects and fellowship over the two days – an experience that we will remember forever.

We thank them for the visit and the excellent discussions of various topics during the time. To the team that made this happen, thank you for the hard work and well done to all of you for your contribution to make this visit such a success.

Next month, we have a new theme – April will be the month of Environment. I look forward to seeing the projects that Rotarians will do during this month.

In May we have our **District Conference** with six brilliant speakers, and lots of fun in the beautiful Lowveld. I cannot wait to see you all there. Please view the DISCON Programme [HERE](#) and also check out all the competitions in which you can participate.

Yours in service,

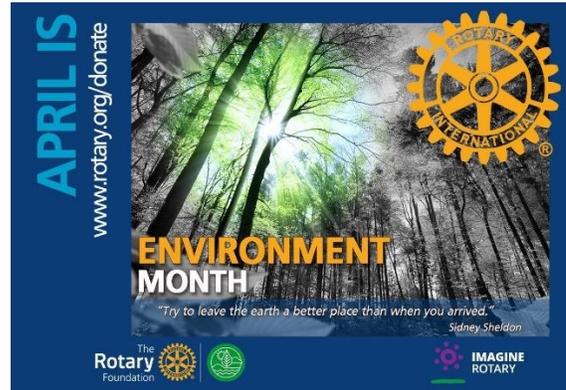
*Riana*

## APRIL is ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

Rotary International's theme for **April is Environmental Month** - The first Earth Day was held on 22 April 1970, launching a wave of action to protect our environment, including the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. Other countries soon followed suit.

Every year since, the day has been set aside to focus on mobilizing for action to protect our planet.

As people of action, Rotarians have been shaping the conversation on the environment for years, from addressing climate change that threatens entire food systems to fighting pollution that clogs our air and water. Rotarians are well-suited for the challenge. They use their connections to find creative solutions and take action to safeguard our vital resources.



## The Carter School Partners with Rotary to Scale Up Peacebuilding



The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School at George Mason University, a leading institution in peace and conflict resolution, has joined forces with Rotary International to enhance education and develop strategies for Rotary clubs to promote peace on local, regional, and global scales.



*Dean Ozerdem at the signing with Gordon McNally, President of Rotary International.*

Over nearly a year, Carter School faculty collaborated with Rotary to identify common missions and areas of mutual benefit. Through this collaboration, they will incubate new peacebuilding ideas, accelerate existing initiatives, and develop replicable peacebuilding models for diverse conflicts.

The Carter School's Better Evidence Project (BEP) expertise, which houses a repository of peacebuilding research, will integrate Rotary's peacebuilding efforts into its database. The partnership will also involve educational initiatives, including seminars and "Peace Salons," to equip Rotary members and leaders with effective peacebuilding strategies. The first Peacebuilding Praxis Conference is scheduled for Fall 2024.

RIP Gordon McNally emphasized the importance of creating peaceful societies, with Rotary making peacebuilding a central part of its global mission. The collaboration aims to empower Rotary members through education, expanding their capacity as catalysts for peace.

Charles Davidson, a Carter School professor specializing in local peacebuilding, will facilitate connections between Rotary members and faculty with expertise in specific geo regions or peacebuilding specialties. This collaboration is anticipated to bring innovation to peacebuilding efforts at both local and global levels.

## YOUR help is needed to reach US\$2.025 billion by 2025

The Rotary Foundation has a global campaign to increase Rotary's Endowment to US\$2.025 billion by the year 2025. Rotary's leaders hope to celebrate that achievement at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada. A gift to the Endowment Fund leaves a legacy for your family, your Rotary friends, and your district.

And promoting the Endowment Fund in your district can be a fun, creative endeavour. Carol Tichelman, an endowment/major gifts adviser in Zone 28, shares one approach on the [Rotary Voices blog](#). Her zone challenged each district to secure 25 new gifts of US\$10,000 or more. Learn more about her zone's efforts, and download the [District Guide to Growing The Rotary Foundation Endowment](#).



# Visit of RI President Gordon McInally to South Africa



In celebration of **Human Rights Day**, DG Riana Pretorius (D9400) together with fellow southern Africa District Governors, DG Ann Wright (D9350) and DG Jacques Venter (D9370) hosted several events with Rotary International President, **Gordon R. McInally** of Scotland and Rotarians in D9400.

**RIP McInally** promoted his presidential theme, **Create Hope in the World** at the luncheon hosted by RC Johannesburg, at the **WANDERERS CLUB** in Johannesburg. During the event, the District Governors of all three districts presented highlights of their regions, Paul Harris recognition was bestowed on Reverend Dr Robert Vernon Lee III and Dr Emmanuel Taban, a new Rotary club was chartered and a carved bust was auctioned at R16 000.



In a landmark event on Sunday 24 March 2024, Rotary International President Gordon McInally unveiled a cutting-edge Aquaponics Training Centre in Johannesburg, marking a key milestone in his visionary Tour of Hope. This initiative sweeps across six African nations, bringing sustainable solutions to the forefront of community development and food security.

At the heart of Randburg, the newly inaugurated State-of-the-Art Aquaponics Centre at Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk in Ferndale is set to be a beacon of hope and innovation. This project, a collaboration between Rotary International through District 9400, Southern Africa, and FreshMinistries' **Desmond Tutu Program to End Global Hunger**, is poised to empower communities not just in South Africa, but in Eswatini, Lesotho, and Madagascar with sustainable food sources and economic growth.

Leveraging the FreshMinistries' Desmond Tutu Program to End Global Hunger's 25 years of expertise in aquaponics from the Americas to Haiti and a pioneering installation in Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga, this initiative is more than a project; it's a lifeline. It has transformed lives, fought malnutrition, and fostered community economic development and literacy—core pillars of Rotary's mission.



"Food Security is not just a right but a foundation for a hopeful, thriving society," Rotary International President McInally remarked, aligning the project's launch with South Africa's Human Rights Month to underscore its significance. This Aquaponics Unit will serve as one of two training centres in Africa. The South Africa unit will train people from Eswatini, Madagascar, Lesotho and South Africa. The second will be in Kenya and train participants from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania.

With an ambitious plan to roll out 198 aquaponics units, each costing R3.5 million, across eight African countries over the next three to five years, Rotary International is on a mission to revolutionise food security, education, and economic independence across the continent.

"Aquaponics isn't just farming; it's a revolution," says Rev. Dr Robert V. Lee III, Chairman & CEO of FreshMinistries. It promises year-round produce, sustainable incomes, and, particularly, a step towards financial independence for women. This initiative isn't just a launch; it promises Africa a sustainable, secure, and hopeful future.



## RI President visits local Rotary Club projects

On Monday morning 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Rotary club of Brits Hartbeespoort played host to the current Rotary International President Gordon McInally and his wife Heather who come from Lothian in Scotland. This is the second time that the club has been fortunate to host a Rotary International President, given that there are more than 46 000 clubs in over 200 countries worldwide.

The couple joined by past district governors and other members spent the morning at the club's Nyoka Ridge Vulture project to hear first-hand from PAG John Wesson the plight of Vultures in Africa. Mike Benn from the Magaliesberg Heritage and Culture Association also shared some interesting information of background on the Magaliesberg Biosphere heritage.



A Karee tree was planted and a plaque unveiled by the RIP and President Glen Ross to commemorate the occasion.

Afterwards they visited the Rotary Interact club at Mountain Cambridge School and Kuierkids.



# 2024 Discon Countdown

*"Hello there, I am a Happy Hippo who will help you  
CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD this year!"*



DISCON is from **Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 MAY, 2024** at the **FLOREAT RIVERSIDE LODGE** in **SABIE**, ending in spectacular fashion on **Saturday** night with a gala dinner. As your **2024 Rotary District Conference** mascot, I urge you to book your accommodation for our **DISCON** as soon as possible.

DISCON's theme **Empower to Prosper** encapsulates the essence of collaboration and positive transformation. It's about enabling individuals and communities to reach their full potential, fostering a sense of agency and ownership, and creating a better future through collective action. The Happy Hippo, represents hope and joy, reflecting the 2024 RI theme, **Create Hope in the World**.

There is a dedicated web page on the D9400 website where you can find out more about what is in store at this year's conference. Click [HERE](#) to read **all the latest INFORMATION** about **DISCON 2024**.

Click [HERE](#) to **REGISTER** for DISCON 2024. From **1 to 20 APRIL**, registration is at full price and only valid if booking and full payment is received **BEFORE close of business on 20 APRIL 2024**. Rotarians, Rotary Anns, Rotaractors and their partners/ spouses are encouraged to register and pay now. You may select the full conference package or specific events.

**All DISCON bookings & payments close 20 April** || **No late registrations possible** || **No on-site registrations possible**

*Are you ready for the DISCON 2024 competitions?  
Here are some of the great prizes to be won for the  
best-dressed couples and also individuals:*

***On Thursday:*** **ROTARY REGALIA Best dressed couple will win** a 3-night weekend breakaway self-catering for 2 adults and 2 children. IN Friday 19 July/OUT Monday 22 July at **Mabalingwe, Bela Bela: Value R 6 600**

There will also be several prizes for Individuals – for a Rotarian with the most Rotary Pins, a Rotarian with the most Rotary temp-tattoos, and one Rotarian with the best Rotary outfit – hats, shirts, scarves, ties etc AND ALSO a group competition for the Club with the best Rotary outfits.

***On Friday:*** **LADY AND THE TRAMP Best dressed couple will win** a 2-night mid-week stay (Any two days from Monday to check out Friday) in a 4-sleeper self-catering unit at **African Rest Lodge, Barberton: Value R 6 000**

There will also be prizes for Individuals – the best dressed lady and best dressed man as well as prizes for Lady with best moves, Guy with best moves Jerusalem dance End Polio Now competition

***On Saturday:*** **MASKED BALL Best dressed couple will win** a weekend breakaway for a couple. IN Friday/OUT Sunday in the Honeymoon suite, Bed & breakfast at **Floreat Riverside Lodge, Sabie: Value R 5 000**

There will also be prizes for Individuals – the best masked lady and best masked man

*Rotarians, make sure you have your outfits for all three nights planned well in advance. The competition is going to be strong!*





# Guest Speaker Line-up

Our six guest speakers at 2024 DISCON will present on our conference theme "**Empower to Prosper**" and address it from various perspectives in which they are experts – township economy, moral guidelines, artificial intelligence, humanitarian field, mental health and overcoming adversity. They will Empower us to Prosper and support D9400 Rotarians in their mission to Create Hope in the World.

We look forward to their valuable insights on:

## Township economy

**VUSI THEMBEKWAYO**  
Public Speaker,  
Investor &  
Author

## Moral guide: 4-way test

## Moral guide: 4-way test

**Dr LLEWELYN CURLEWIS**  
Faculty of Law,  
University of  
Pretoria

## Artificial Intelligence

**ZIAAD SULEMAN**  
Chief Commercial  
Officer EOH

## Mental Health

## Mental Health

**GERRIT LANING**  
CEO Community  
Keepers

## Humanitarian issues

**ANAS AL-HAMATI**  
Deputy Director,  
Gift of the Givers,  
Middle East Office

## Overcoming Adversity

## Overcoming Adversity

**Dr EMMANUEL TABAN**  
Medical Doctor  
and COVID  
Champion

# ANN'S MESSAGE

## FROM IPDGA CHRISTINA

*Dear Rotary Anns and Friends,*

By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated Easter and be well on our way to the start of a new Rotary year, when DGAE Cheryl will step into the very able shoes of PDGAs Janet and Ros, who kindly and efficiently have been filling the breach this year.

The Benoni van Ryn Anns are preparing to host this year's Conference at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Benoni on 20 April. This is a special event as it is Cheryl's club - so here's hoping for a great turnout to support her going forward! Details from Elaine or Cheryl.



**Benoni Aurora** gave over 20 Handbags of Hope to Linmed Hospital for women and girls who are rape victims.

The bags contain comforting teddy bears, toiletries and other essential items.



**Riverside:** These busy Anns presented a wheelchair to Siphiliswe Ndlovu of Sebokeng. This lady, who previously relied on her son to transport her in an old wheelchair tied together with strapping and wire, can now look forward to grater mobility – thanks to caring Rotary Anns.

During Easter, **Benoni Aurora** also attended the Rand Show with the Paws 4U Therapy Dogs photo booth, which they donated to the charity for Christmas. This helps to promote the association at flea markets and other events, where donations are collected in return for having photos taken in the booth. The colourful graphics were donated by Sharpline.



The **Randburg Anns** donated clothing a food to 12 families living in a Krugersdorp squatter camp. How grateful they must have been.

The ever-sociable **White River** Anns entered a team in the annual Potjiekos Competition of their club.

The position they achieved is not recorded but it seems a lot of fun was had, as always.



Little Eden, an organisation that supports the mentally handicapped, also received donations from the **Randburg Anns**.



Easter for the Golden Age Village residents was celebrated with a special tea given by the **Krugersdorp Anns** at the Rotary Club House, where they enjoyed good company and special treats at beautifully decorated tables.



Meanwhile **Rosebank** celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Maude Londal, who until a few years ago, was a very active member of the club. She is seen here with Debbie Steenhoff and Liz Short at a morning tea that was given to celebrate the occasions. Congratulations Maude: you don't look a day over 75 and may you celebrate many more happies!

**Rosebank** also supported *Fight with Insight*, an NGO that runs a boxing programme for young offenders. This exercise has become recognised as an effective intervention that

contributes to positive behavioural change. About 300 inner city children are involved in the various activities. The Anns, who have donated running shoes and soccer boots, were represented by Penny Robinson, who gave out prizes.

In closing, I wish you a happy month of April as you continue to do what you do best: helping the less fortunate while enjoying the social life and fun of being a Rotary Ann! Very well done to all the clubs.

Sincerely yours in Rotary, IPDGA Christina.

*IPDGA Christina*



### FOR YOUR DIARY

**D9400 DISCON:** 2-5 May, Floreat Riverside Lodge, Sabie. Remember there will be fabulous prizes including weekend breakaways for the **best dressed couples** on all three nights!

- ▶ **Thursday - Rotary Regalia**
- ▶ **Friday - Lady & the Tramp**
- ▶ **Saturday - Mask Mania**

# Interact 2024



District Interact Chair Debbie Smit

## 2023 Interact Awards winners:

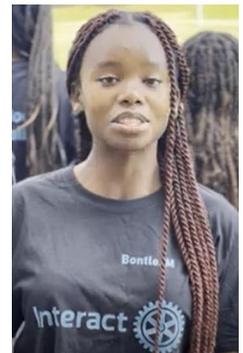
### Rotary's young leaders raise awareness about Interact



Each year, over 15,000 Interact clubs across the world are driving positive impacts within their communities. To celebrate their hard work, Rotary International hosts an annual campaign: the Interact Awards. Interact clubs are invited to submit a video, photo(s), and/or essay that showcases their club experience and service initiatives. By participating, Interact clubs have the opportunity for their submission to be named "Best Video," "Best Photo," or "Best Essay," alongside receiving funds to support their next service project.



This year, Interact clubs were asked to "Promote Interact: Create a promotional video, photo, and/or essay that raises awareness about Interact and shares what being an Interactor means to you and your Interact club." The 2023 Interact Awards encouraged more participation than ever before, with Rotary International receiving 596 submissions! View the Best Video, Best Photo, and Best Essay submissions below to learn what Interact means to Interact clubs across Malaysia, the United States of America, and Egypt!



See more about the winners [HERE](#). D9400 Interact Clubs also submitted videos for the Interact Awards. Please click on the link to see the video of the Interact Club of Reddam House Waterfall, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kyalami:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qs70\\_HLXHQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qs70_HLXHQ)



# D9400 PEOPLE OF ACTION

Click [here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online! Send your Club Newsletters to [admin@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:admin@rotary9400.org.za) to have them loaded onto the D9400 website!

## Rotary Club of Hatfield

RC Hatfield in Pretoria and Maluti Rotary Club in Lesotho have been collaborating on a project since 2011 to help the remote and underdeveloped Ha Ramabanta community in the outskirts of Maseru district.

The two Rotary clubs convened an athletics competition for five primary schools in Ha Ramabanta. The event was sponsored by Liberty Life, Coca Cola and Blue Ribbon which respectively donated 220 pairs of shoes, cold drinks and bread for the students.



Rapoleboea Primary School won the award for best athletics with 63 points, followed by Letsunyane which received the award for best spirit with 51 points. Both schools were awarded with trophies and medals. Student performance was fantastic and the community turn-out was amazing. By means of a Rotary grant, about M65 000 was spent on school shirts, school shoes and lunch for the students this year. In the previous years, His Majesty King Letsie III attended the handing over ceremony.

Both Rotary clubs have been helping the community in various ways, including donating blankets and school uniforms to the underprivileged students. After the athletics event, the two clubs also distributed goodies to community members, donating 180 pairs of school shoes and shirts to the vulnerable students from Letsunyane, Rapoleboea, Fatima, St Odilon and Likhameng Primary Schools. The remaining 40 pairs of shoes will be donated to primary schools in Mohale's Hoek district.

According to President Melanie Steyn, RC Hatfield Pretoria is committed to developing and sustaining the community as well as the environment of rural area of Ha Ramabanta. Next year RC Hatfield would be planting trees to conserve the environment also assist schools with resources like geometry sets and calculators.

President Mamonyane Ade Lekoetje of RC Maluti said the community had fully embraced the initiative. The clubs also started an embroidery project for women in the community who make bags and provide career guidance to Raboloetse High School.

## Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark

One of RC Vanderbijlpark's many projects, is sponsoring students displaying leadership skills to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy) weekend training.

Selected High schools are chosen to identify learners in grade 10 to 12 with potential leadership skills to participate in the training at Hartebeespoort. Last year Suncrest High school was approached again due to their commitment to this project.



Two of their students who attended the course and taken part in the Youth Exchange program during previous years exceeded all expectations. This year, one of the RYLA students, Lethabo Mohaladi, was appointed President of the Suncrest High school. Lethabo is involved in several committees and can speak six (6) languages. Football and Formula One racing are just a few of his areas of interests.

The RC Vanderbijlpark appreciates the liaison assistance of Mrs Wendy Irvin with the chosen learners and Principal Celeste Vermeulen for her involvement.

President Adri Roos and PP Petro Bester (Co-ordinator of project) paid a visit to the school to congratulate Lethabo on his achievement and handed him a book by Steven Covey on Leadership Skills.

## Rotary Club of Sandton

The RC Sandton celebrated International Women’s Day. President Ntombi Mhangwani welcomed the inspirational females within the RC Sandton family. I am proud that we as Rotarians, champion women and have some powerful women at the helm, inspiring others and achieving some impressive feats.

A great example of this is the work RC Sandton delivers working in conjunction with Voices of Change at the RYLA camps. They sponsor young girls from various schools to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Camps.



The club is committed to raising leaders and its access to the RYLA camps – thanks to the sponsorship provided by Voices of Change – allows it to walk the talk and change the future trajectory of young girls and boys. RC Sandton aims to promote and achieve an environment where every individual – regardless of gender – can aspire to and achieve their definition of success.

In the spirit of inspiring inclusion, she encouraged all to celebrate women’s achievements, raise awareness about discrimination and take action to drive gender parity to advance women on International Women’s Day 2024 and beyond!

## Rotary Club of White River

Late last year, the RC White River was approached by a Rotarian in the UK and asked if we would be interested in getting a container full of medical equipment for distribution in our area. Peter Emery and Brian Hyson of RC White River maintained contact with a group in the UK, PhysioNet, and between them arranged for container to be packed and sent to South Africa.



The container finally arrived in White River on Thursday 22 February.

There was great excitement as the container was opened on to a treasure trove of equipment – ward equipment for hospitals, wheel chairs of all sizes and types, walkers, crutches; the list was endless. Of course, it all had to be unpacked and then re-packed into a store room ready for distribution. We are now ready to hand out the equipment to those in need.





# District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>19-21</b>	April 2024	<b>RYLA Camp @Harties.</b> Contact PAG Alice Meyer +27 82 5300 361; <a href="mailto:alice@rotary9400.org.za">alice@rotary9400.org.za</a>
<b>20</b>	April 2024	Ann Conference: Hosted by the Rotary Anns of Benoni van Ryn @ Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Benoni.
<b>20</b>	April 2024	<b>DISCON REGISTRATION CLOSES.</b> All payments must be received before 20 April. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to REGISTER & PAY now for DISCON 2024.
<b>24-30</b>	April 2024	<b>World Immunization Week</b> , recognized by World Health Organization, showcased by Rotary and our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative
<b>2-5</b>	May 2024	<b>D9400 District Conference</b> , FLOREAT Riverside Lodge, Sabie. Learn, have fun, enjoy!
<b>4</b>	May 2024	<b>2023-24 Rotary Day at UNESCO</b> will be held in Paris, France. The focus will be on education and peace.
<b>15</b>	May 2024	Rotary's <b>Youth Advisory Council</b> webinar on <b>Wednesday at 10:00AM (UTC-5)</b> .
<b>24</b>	May 2024	<b>World Water Summit 16</b> , WASH-RAG Summit on Sustainable sanitation. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to register.
<b>25-29</b>	May 2024	<b>2024 Rotary International Convention</b> , SINGAPORE

### The Four-Way Test

**Of the things we think, say or do:**

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### A Prova Quádrupla

**Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:**

1. É a VERDADE?
2. É JUSTO para todos os interessados?
3. Criará boa VONTADE e MELHORES AMIZADES?
4. Será BENÉFICO para todos os interessados?



Botswana



Eswatini



Mozambique



South Africa

To view the 4-Way Test in some of the other languages spoken in D9400, click [here](#)

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**  
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