

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa

JANUARY 2024



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



District  
9400

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

My Dear Rotary Family,

We celebrate Rotary's birthday on **23 February** when this organisation will be 119 years young. On this day in 1905, Rotary had its first meeting in Chicago.

In the month of February, Rotary International focuses on the theme of **Peace building and Conflict resolution**. This theme highlights the importance of fostering peace with in communities and resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding.

Rotary clubs around the world actively engage in projects and initiatives that promote peace, aiming to create a more harmonious and inclusive society. It is important to understand the significance of Peace building and Conflict resolution, as well as some of the ways Rotary contributes to these efforts.

Peace building involves collective efforts to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, ultimately creating a sustainable and peaceful environment. It encompasses various aspects, including addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting social justice, and fostering reconciliation. Peace building is not limited to resolving large-scale conflicts but also extends to everyday interactions within communities.



Conflict resolution is a vital component of peace building, it focuses on finding peaceful solutions to disagreements and disputes, rather than resorting to violence or aggression.

Effective conflict resolution involves active listening, empathy and negotiation skills. By encouraging dialogue and understanding, conflicts can be resolved in a manner that respects the needs and interests of all parties involved.

With this in mind, let's keep countries crippled by war in mind.

I have now completed all my club visits and want to use this opportunity to thank each and every club for supporting me and congratulate the clubs on their projects. I am proud to be the DG of such a vibrant District.

I would like to remind everyone as we start our new calendar year - The monthly themes are meant to highlight the wide range of Rotary's good work and give clubs some suggestions, timing, and guidance for their programs and activities.

Clubs are encouraged to invite speakers to their Club meetings on the monthly theme, organize special events and activities that highlight the theme and raise awareness of the theme and of Rotary.

Yours in service,

*Riana*

## The last presidential theme for Rotary International



The 2024-2025 theme "*The magic of Rotary*" and logo was announced mid-January by RI President Elect, Stephanie Urchick.

Decisions made at the RI board meeting of 16–18 October 2023 at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, IL, USA will result in **major changes to RI's present system**.

One of the most far-reaching highlights is the discontinuing of the annual **Rotary Presidential theme and logo**, beginning in the 2025–26 Rotary year.



# FEBRUARY is PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

The theme for February is about promoting peace and projects that are aimed at peace building and conflict prevention. This is at the heart of all of Rotary's work.

Fostering Peace and Understanding led to Youth Exchange Programmes.

It led to our Rotary Peace Fellowships - Over 1000 professionals have been selected and trained in Rotary's Peace Centres in Universities around the world. They are now working for peace in over 100 countries.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts



Through our service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, our members are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. There can be no Peace while people have poor water, disease, poor Mother & Child health, no education, and poverty.

Conflict and violence displace millions of people each year. Half of those killed in conflict are children, and 90 percent are civilians. We help leaders learn how to prevent and mediate conflict at its source.

As Rotarians, we should all be similarly committed to understanding the conflicts that exist in our own society, to speak out when necessary, and to seek solutions that reflect the values of Rotary.

Through Global Grant activities, Clubs and Districts can participate in strategically focused, high-impact activities that align with Rotary goals that address this area of focus including to train leaders, including potential youth leaders, to prevent and mediate conflict, support peacebuilding in communities and regions affected by conflict, and to support studies related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution for career-minded professionals.



## You are invited to an evening with RI President Gordon McInally



DG Riana Pretorius (D9400) DG Ann Wright (D9350) DG Jacques Venter (D9370)



RIP Gordon McInally

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) have pleasure in inviting you to an evening with Rotary International President, **Gordon R. McInally**.

Join us for this wondrous occasion as **RIP McInally** of Scotland, the 2023-2024 Rotary International President, visits the tip of Africa to promote his presidential theme, **Create Hope in the World**. He is a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Lothian, Scotland.

This event is proudly hosted by the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, the first club in Africa and will take place at the **WANDERERS CLUB 21 North Street, Illovo, Johannesburg**.

**SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH 2024**

6h30 for 7h00PM

**Cost:** R550pp  
Dinner served, cash bar available

**Dress Code:** Traditional/Formal

**RSVP** before 18 March  
Book your seat [HERE](#)

# 2024 Rotary International Assembly

Every year in January, Rotary International calls a special international assembly. All District Governors Elect in the World are required to attend the International Assembly. The purpose of the Assembly is to train DGEs in their duties and to meet with RI leaders. One of the exciting opportunities that International Assembly provides is the chance to meet and partner with other districts from around the world to accomplish good internationally.

In the heart of Orlando, Florida, USA from January 7 to 11, the vibrant spirit of Rotary took centre stage as the dynamic duo from Pretoria District 9400, represented their region at the prestigious Rotary International Assembly.

District governor-elect George Senosha and assistant governor-elect Thabang Chiloane stood proudly as ambassadors, bringing the rich tapestry of Rotary in their corner of the world to the global forefront.

District 9400 encompasses a vast territory spanning Botswana, Eswatini and the southern part of Mozambique. With a collective force of 63 clubs and 1044 members, this district is a powerhouse of Rotary impact in a region with diverse challenges and opportunities.



*RI President Gordon McNally and D9400 DGE George Senosha at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida.*



*Thabang Chiloane, Stephanie Urchick and George Senosha mingling with the Rotary International president-elect*

The International Assembly served as a melting pot for Rotary leaders, providing a platform for interaction among district governors-elect, their spouses, and aides from across the globe. This week-long event wasn't just a ceremonial gathering but a crucible for preparing the next cohort of district leaders poised to take the reins from July 2024 to June 2025.

Under the "Rotary Magic" theme, Rotary International president-elect Stephanie A. Urchick set the tone for the upcoming Rotary year. Her impassioned challenge echoed through the grand halls of the assembly, reverberating with a call to action for all district governors: increase membership and establish new clubs worldwide while championing the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Rotary.

"I challenge all districts to grow their membership by 100 members or more and establish at least four new clubs. If we are not growing, we are certainly dying," proclaimed Urchick with an urgency that resonated with the essence of Rotary's global mission.

Urchick highlighted the organisation's instrumental role in nearly eradicating polio worldwide in a poignant reminder of Rotary's impactful legacy. The disease, once rampant worldwide with over three thousand cases in the 1980s, now persists in only 12 cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan, thanks to Rotary's relentless efforts. Over \$1.2 billion has been invested globally in various charitable causes by Rotary, showcasing the organisation's commitment to making a positive change in the world.

Rotary International's Seven Areas of Focus, including promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, and protecting the environment, were reiterated as the guiding principles for clubs worldwide. These areas form the bedrock of Rotary's day-to-day activities, serving as a blueprint for transformative change.

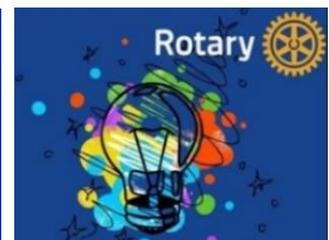
Senosha expressed his enthusiasm for the Rotary Community Corp recognition by the Rotary International president-elect. The Rotary Community Corp, a vital conduit for community engagement, plays a pivotal role in Rotary's quest to make a real difference in the world. The eagerness displayed by Urchick to reach remote and "hard to reach areas" such as Pakistan has enthused Senosha to do the same in his district as he starts his year as District Governor for D9400.

Chiloane, reflecting on the experience, remarked, "I learned a great deal about the vision of the incoming Rotary International president, and it will be easier for me to support the incoming district governor in his role in the coming year. I am thankful for attending the assembly and making many contacts worldwide."

As the curtain falls on the International Assembly in Orlando, the Pretoria duo of Rotarians leaves an indelible mark, carrying the torch of Rotary's transformative magic with them. Their journey has just begun, but the echoes of their presence will undoubtedly resonate across District 9400 and beyond, inspiring a new wave of Rotary leaders to create lasting change in the world.

**Rotary's 2022-23 Annual Report is now available**

Learn what we accomplished this past Rotary year, discover how clubs are making a difference, find out why donors say they contribute to The Rotary Foundation, and review important financial information in the [2022-23 annual report](#).



# 2024 Discon Countdown

The early bird registration discount has now expired!

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



*MOZAMBIQUE is leading the race - 40 Rotarians and Rotaractors have registered and their clubs are set to walk away with the prize for attendance! Or can your club beat them?*



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.

I also encourage you to book now for Rotarians, Rotary Anns, Rotaractors and their partners/spouses. You may select the full conference package or specific events. The next round of registrations has a limited discount and are only valid if booking and full payment is done together and received **BEFORE 31 March 2024**. Click [HERE](#) to **REGISTER** for **DISCON 2024**.

- ▶ All bookings for DISCON close on 20 April.
- ▶ No late registrations are possible.
- ▶ No on site registrations are possible.

Rotary's theme **Empower to Prosper** encapsulates the essence of empowerment, 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**.

A new conference experience awaits you in Sabie and this is the perfect opportunity to expand your experience with Rotary. You can continue adding chapters to your great Rotary adventure with brilliant sessions, inspiring speakers, and endless opportunities to connect with like-minded people of action from around D9400. There is a dedicated web page on the D9400 website where you can find out more about what is in stall. Click [HERE](#) to read all the latest **INFORMATION** about **DISCON 2024**.

## *BRING YOUR PROJECT TO THE DISCON SHOWCASE*

**Rotary Clubs, Rotaractors** and **Rotary Anns** in D9400 are invited to feature their best projects under the theme **Empower to Prosper**. Come and **SHOWCASE** your projects during the conference and celebrate our collective achievements, share innovative ideas, and inspire one another to create hope in the world. Contact **SHOWCASE** coordinator Cheryl Jute (+27 82 654 9329; [Cheryl.Jute@postoffice.co.za](mailto:Cheryl.Jute@postoffice.co.za))

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR DISCON

- ▶ **COLLECT** information, photos and data about your projects that are going to be on DISCON SHOWCASE
- ▶ **BUY** your Rotary temporary tattoos from **PROMOWORLD**
- ▶ **PRACTISE** the Jerusalem dance – on your own or with fellow club members as a group
- ▶ **GATHER** all your Rotary branded clothing and other Rotary accessories and ensure all is in good order for Rotary Regalia at the Meet & Greet on Thursday 2 May
- ▶ **GATHER** all your Club's Rotary exchange banners and check that all is in order for display Friday 3 May
- ▶ **CHOOSE** your outfit for the Lady and the Tramp theme party on Friday 3 May
- ▶ **SELECT** a mask and plan your outfit for the Masked Ball during the gala dinner Saturday 4 May
- ▶ **BRING** your walking shoes for the EndPolioNow Run/Walk on Sunday 5 May



# Speaker Reveal

Our top guest speakers will speak on our theme "**Empower to Prosper**" and address it from various perspectives in which they are experts – township economy, artificial intelligence, humanitarian field, mental health and survival. Apart from **Vusi Thembekwayo**, I am also happy to reveal some of our other speakers at the 2024 DISCON.

## Guest speaker:

### Ziaad Suleman



He will speak on our theme "**Empower to Prosper**" from an artificial intelligence (AI) perspective.

**Ziaad Suleman** is the Chief Commercial Officer and an Exco Member of EOH, one of South Africa's largest technology services companies. He believes that adaptability, agility, and a forward-thinking mindset is needed to navigate the fast-moving digital economy.

Over and above EOH, Ziaad represents South Africa as the SA Chair of 4IR on BRICS, Chair of the ICT 4IR Public Private Growth Initiative, ICT Lead on the Digital Work Accelerator Presidential Programme, Independent Non-Executive Chairperson of Qode, Non-Executive Director of Charities Aid Foundation Southern Africa and Executive Member of D1GIT NPO.

Ziaad was previously a Director and the Chief Operating Officer for IBM Southern Africa. He was schooled at St. Johns College, Johannesburg and has an honours degree in Law with distinction from University of Natal. He also obtained an MDP Business Management degree with distinction from GIBS Business School.

## Guest speaker:

### Anas Al-Hamati



He will speak on our theme "**Empower to Prosper**" from a humanitarian perspective.

**Anas Al-Hamati** received a Peace scholarship from the Rotary Club of Sandton, D9400 in 2021 to attend the Rotary Peace Center program for graduate studies, at the International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan (2022-2024).

He is a project manager in the humanitarian field with Gift of the Givers with more than 10 years' experience and has worked in several countries around the world. He facilitated the negotiations to release Yolande and Pierre Korkie Al-Qaеeda captives in Yemen, without any ransom.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in French literature from the faculty of arts – University of Sana'a (Yemen), a postgraduate degree in management practice from Henley business school (Johannesburg, RSA) and an MBA in business administration from the University of Reading, UK with a specialty in "Organizational leadership in Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) business environment". Currently he is an MA candidate at the International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan). His research is about "Stability and development accelerations strategies in fragile states".

## Guest speaker:

### Emmanuel Taban



He will speak on our theme "**Empower to Prosper**" from the perspective of overcoming extreme adversity.

Dr Emmanuel Taban is a former child refugee and was only 17 years old when he arrived in Johannesburg from war-torn South Sudan with nothing. His epic journey to triumph is captured in an autobiography called "The Boy Who Never Gave Up". His motto is "Your colour does not limit you, but your mental capacity will limit you".

Today, he is a pulmonologist, and the Director and Partner at The Lung Institute. Dr Emmanuel Taban was named as one of the 100 Most Influential Africans of 2020 by London-based New African magazine.

Dr Taban made the headlines during the COVID-19 pandemic when he successfully used a unique procedure known as flexible fibre-optic bronchoscopy on critically ill COVID-19 patients. He studied at the Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA), University of Pretoria and University of Witwatersrand.



# CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!



We need **TWO** photographers for the District Conference in May 2024! **Rotarians** and **Rotaractors** in D9400 are invited to apply as **Official DISCON Photographers**.

As we gear up for the upcoming DISCON, we are reaching out to our talented and passionate Rotarians who have a keen eye for capturing special moments through the lens to submit their applications.

### What We're Looking For:

- ▶ Enthusiastic individuals with a passion for photography
- ▶ Basic knowledge of photography equipment
- ▶ To capture candid moments that reflect the spirit of Rotary
- ▶ A commitment to delivering high-quality images

### Why You Should apply:

- ▶ Opportunity to contribute to the visual storytelling of DISCON
- ▶ Networking with fellow Rotarian photographers
- ▶ Recognition for your photography contributions during DISCON
- ▶ A chance to showcase your talent and passion for Rotary service

If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity, please reply to [mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za](mailto:mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za) (+27 82 3368 534) by **29 February**. We will provide more details, including a brief orientation session to ensure you are well-prepared for your role as an official photographer. Your invaluable contribution as a photographer will play a crucial role in preserving the memories of this significant Rotary event. Thank you for considering this invitation, and we look forward to creating lasting memories together.

## Are you up for a Polio Fun Run/Walk at DISCON?



Join the District Polio Plus Sub-Committee in the exciting Discon count down. The Committee can't wait for the good vibes and is already blowing a Vuvuzela for Clubs to get ready for a unique experience at Sabie. Rotarians are called to dust off their EndPolioNow Regalia and show up in style.



"Our Thursday promises to be dramatic with lots of fun while there'll be great rewards for Clubs/individuals that display their commitment to promoting Polio Awareness and giving, says Polio Plus Chair, Muda. Get your dancing shoes and come ready to show us how you will "dance Polio away" with your unique **Jerusalem** dance.

Cherry on top will be our very first **DISCON 5km Polio Fun Run/Walk** which will take place on Sunday morning. Clubs are once again encouraged to up their game and raise the bar to represent their respective countries in this fundraiser for PolioPlus giving.

EndPolioNow T-shirts/Caps will be sold and there will be a small Registration fee for Rotarians to take part in this activity. "The Committee is intentional and committed to make a mark in changing the narrative of our District from being non-giving, and this can only be achieved by a collective effort of every individual and every Club" says Muda.

## NOMINATE NOW

for ROTARY INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL AWARDS



Award	Recipient	Type	Deadline	Who Can Nominate	Nomination Form	Award Type
<b>Significant Service Award</b>	Club	RI Award	All Year Round	Club president	<a href="#">Significant Service Award Nomination Form (qualtrics.com)</a>	Electronic certificate
<b>World Interact Week</b>	Club	RI Award	All Year Round	Sponsoring club or D9400 Interact chair		<a href="#">Customizable certificate (PDF)</a>
<b>World Rotaract Week</b>	Club	RI Award	All Year Round	Sponsoring club or D9400 Rotaract chair		<a href="#">Customizable certificate (PDF)</a>



# THE SUN NEVER SETS IN ROTARY

The Sun Never Sets in Rotary (SNSR) is part of a global event initiated by RID3232 running for 24 hours from 19h30 on 23 February until 19h30 on the 24th IST, in celebration of Rotary's Anniversary, the birthday of Paul Harris, World Peace & Understanding and Rotary's investment in people.

**It is a round the clock cycle of meetings hosted by Clubs and Districts in different time zones across six continents.** Rotarians worldwide are invited to share Rotary projects in 7 areas of Focus, fellowship and fun at SNSR. Awaiting all of you!

D9400 has partnered with D9350 & D9370 to showcase the remarkable work done in Southern Africa which includes South Africa, Angola, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Botswana. This is your opportunity to connect with the rest of the world to strengthen relationships and find global partners for friendship exchange, youth exchange and funding.



## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:

**23 February 2024 @ 16h00 SA time** when District 9400 is honoured to be the opening slot for the 4th edition of the Sun Never Sets in Rotary, supported by RI President Gordon McInally.

## WATCH SNSR ANNOUNCEMENT:

RI President Gordon McInally announced the Sun Never Sets in Rotary (SNSR) global initiative and that Rtn. Heather, our first Lady Heather will sing the SNSR Rotary song for us. Advisor PRIVP Celia penned the song.

<https://www.facebook.com/100000079796250/posts/7351568101522443/>



## Annual Report 2022-2023 for the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention

The Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention Inc (RFHA) develops and implements large scale community development and humanitarian service programs, which provide preventative health care and education to children and families who normally can't access them. CEO Sue Paget, recently announced the first RFHA Annual Report. She extended her heartfelt gratitude to each one who has been an integral part of the RFHA family.

On the ground, Rotary clubs work with local NGOs and their government to mobilize hundreds of additional partners to provide add-on services at site level and engage thousands of community volunteers. There has been incredible progress and we set our sights on an even more impactful future through shared commitment to health, hope, and humanity. The healthcare initiatives have expanded to fostering transformative collaborations.

This 2022-2023 RFHA Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of the impactful journey together with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the past year, highlighting the milestones, challenges overcome, and the collective strides made towards our shared vision. Recently, Rotary Family Health Days made a significant impact in Mozambique, bringing essential healthcare services to communities in need at the third edition of Rotary Family Health Days in Matutuine, Mozambique.

Just as the majority of an iceberg is concealed beneath the water, the success of health days is rooted in the extensive efforts below the surface, ensuring a solid foundation for impactful, community-driven healthcare initiatives that reach those who need it most. The unseen aspects include strategic planning, collaboration with local communities and healthcare providers, logistical coordination, and the dedication of volunteers and healthcare professionals.



*Sue Paget, CEO of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention*

Download the RFHA Annual Report 2022-2023 here <https://www.rfha.org/annual-report>



# Rotary Peace Fellow

## Recruit candidates



Districts and Rotary and Rotaract clubs play a key role in recruiting and recommending Rotary Peace Fellow candidates. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards fellowships to leaders in peace and development to study at one of the Rotary Peace Centers at premier universities around the world. The fellows can earn a master's degree or a postgraduate diploma through the professional development certificate program.



The application will be open 1 February through 15 May, and the peace fellows who are selected will begin their studies in 2025. Find out [who is eligible and how they can apply](#).

Help midcareer change-makers and young professionals who have [peacebuilding experience](#) apply for a fully funded [Rotary Peace Fellowship](#). Connect with your district Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair to [learn more about recruiting candidates](#) from your communities.

Among the applicants who are accepted this year will be members of the first cohort at Rotary's newest peace center, Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. The new center will offer a [certificate program](#) in peace and development studies for candidates who plan to focus on peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Since the Rotary Peace Centers program began in 2002, more than 1,700 fellows have graduated. They are now working on peace and development initiatives in more than 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, nongovernmental organizations, education and research institutions, peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies, media and the arts, and international organizations such as UNICEF, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Follow the [Rotary Peace Centers' Facebook page](#) for updates about peace fellows' work.

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## Plan to achieve your goals in 2024



District and club leaders, do you have a Rotary goal for 2024? Achieving goals can be challenging, but if you create a plan, you're halfway there. If your goal is to grow your club, remember that every January we see a big increase in inquiries about joining Rotary. These prospective members are waiting to hear from you. You can gain a better understanding of how to turn these leads into members by taking the [Online Membership Leads course](#).

Establish a leads management process within your district or club, and distribute the workload within your membership committee. This way, tasks can be completed efficiently and effectively. It's important to create a consistent, positive experience for these potential members.

If you know people who might be interested in joining Rotary, follow your club's process for proposing a new member or ask them to complete the [Join Rotary form](#). The form allows prospective members to indicate their preference for a club meeting location.

When new members join your club, engage with them right away. Make sure all new members take the [member interest survey](#) so you can understand their interests and how they'd like to get involved. According to recent Rotary research, a fulfilling club experience still is what matters most to members. But creating that experience is complex, and it takes time to figure out what works for your club. Luckily, the [Club Experience Concierge](#) is available to give you tailored advice. This online, interactive resource offers ways to improve the five aspects of the club experience that matter most to members.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

EndPlasticSoup is a global initiative already supported by thousands of Rotarians and hundreds of Rotary, Rotaract & Interact Clubs worldwide. Its goal is that by 2050 there is no more plastic soup in the oceans, seas, no more plastic waste in our lakes, rivers, forests, parks and streets. Rotary, Rotaract and Interact Clubs worldwide work together to solve and prevent the plastic pollution problem throughout the full cycle.

EndPlasticSoup Annual Report 2022-2023 including Financial Report is now available at: <https://endplasticsoup.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/EPS-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf>

# D9400 Stewardship Committee



Rotary International has a strong commitment to ethical behaviour. Proper grant management includes adherence to ethical standards in project implementation, financial management, and reporting. This commitment enhances Rotary's reputation and credibility.

The importance of good management of donated funds is crucial for the success and impact of any charitable or non-profit organization.

Proper financial planning and management contribute to the stability and continuity of programs and initiatives, allowing Rotary International to have a lasting impact on its beneficiaries.

The Stewardship Committee plays an important role in managing grants within a Rotary club or district. The Stewardship Committee is a subcommittee of the Foundation Committee.



To ensure continuous improvement in the grant management process it is necessary to regularly review and update grant management processes and guidelines. By adhering to the management processes and guidelines, Rotary grants are used wisely, contribute to meaningful and sustainable projects, and align with Rotary's mission of service above self.

To assist Rotary Clubs and the District to ensure that grant activities comply with Rotary International's terms and conditions, a grant monitoring and evaluation guideline document have been drafted. This document is not a comprehensive guide and committee members should also refer to the various policies and guides as referenced in the document.

Should any member wish to provide input or have any suggestions, you are welcome to contact a member of the Foundation Committee or the Stewardship Committee.

## MEET THE D9400 DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE DESIGNATE 2026-2027



Grace van Zyl was born in Gauteng on 18 October 1966. Married to John Bintcliffe with 3 children aged 37, 33 & 24 and 1 grandchild aged 11 whom I raise. Serial Entrepreneur owning the following brands: Your Legacy, Woman's Financial Toolkit, Financial Savvy Network.

### ROTARY PROFILE:

Dec 2010 Joined Rotary  
2010- 2019 Member Benoni Aurora  
2014/15 Rotarian of the Year  
2015/2016 President Benoni Aurora 2015/16  
2016-2022 D9400 Polio Plus Chair  
2019-Now Member Johannesburg  
2019/2020 D9400 Membership Com 2019/2020 President Johannesburg  
2020/2021 President Johannesburg  
2020-Now SNSR Co-Ordinator

2014/15 & 2021/22 Rotarian of The Year  
2021/2022 Citation Meritorious Service from TRF  
2021-Now Regional leader Africa Peace Hour  
2021-Now D9400 Peace Club Chair  
2021-2025 D9400 Discon Com.  
2022-2027 Director for RAGFP  
2022/2024 Secretary RAGFP  
2023-2026 D9400 Com. Service Chair  
2023-2027 CEO Foundation of Southern Africa Rotary Clubs  
2023 - Chair Elect RAGFP  
2023-2026 Assistant Governor

Attended 5 International Conventions and 12 District Conferences. Paul Harris Fellow+5, Bequest Society member, Benefactor, Paul Harris Society member, Polio Plus Society member. Written 12 successful District grants, facilitated 2 global grants and served or chaired every committee at club level.

Chartered the 1<sup>st</sup> Community based Interact Club in the District, Keynote speaker globally via Zoom and in person on Peace, Polio, leadership. Presented at an International Youth Kindness Convention in October 2020 - Topic Caring. Successfully 'chartered' the 1<sup>st</sup> Peace Builder Club in Southern Africa. Charter member of the Rotary Action Group of Menstrual Hygiene Management. Member of 4 action groups and various Rotary Fellowship Groups. Successfully completed strategies to create and maintain Positive Peace through the Rotary Peace Academy. IEP Peace Ambassador.

## High school student creates water harvesting innovation

Looking for collaborators to spread her invention far and wide



Madeline Abrams, ([mlabrams06@gmail.com](mailto:mlabrams06@gmail.com)) a junior student at Green Meadow Waldorf School in New York USA, has created a unique way to use discarded water bottles to create an irrigation system for growing vegetables. Her project coach, Ron Feuchs, is very proud of the water harvesting system she invented and is helping to promote the concept amongst Rotarians.

Her innovation can benefit communities and help people harvest rain water for growing vegetables and crops. By using empty water bottles, cutting them in half lengthwise, duct taping them with water proof tape, Madeline has created a gutter system to capture the rainfall that comes off of a roof. She then uses water bottles to create a downspout to direct the water to a holding tank similar to a rain barrel.

**Harvest Every Drop** is a system designed to vastly increase the amount of rainwater collected using an existing surface area and accessible, upcycled materials. The inclusion of "single-use" plastic bottles directly helps to address plastic waste.

Madeline recently presented on Zoom to Rotary Clubs in Zone 22 and will be presenting her water harvesting innovation again on Zoom on 18 February.

You and your members are invited to log on for the date that works for you. Please share these Zoom links with your members.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Madeline Abrams [mlabrams06@gmail.com](mailto:mlabrams06@gmail.com) or  
Ron Feuchs [ron@standoutforcollege.com](mailto:ron@standoutforcollege.com),  
Mobile +1 914-420-8115 What's App: +1 9144208115

### WATCH HER PRESENTATION ON ZOOM:

06:00pm Sunday, 18 February, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423733453?pwd=VWFkQjJwVUJIS2hUUllsNGZQVkJuQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 2373 3453 Passcode: 347656



# Training 2024



All Rotarians, Rotaractors & Rotary Anns are invite to attend the DTTS (District Team Training Seminar) and PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) that will take place at **Rotary D9400 Headquarters**, JCC House, 27 Owl Street (Cnr Empire Road), Milpark, Johannesburg, South Africa. There are two dates to choose from – **Saturday 17 February 2024** OR **Saturday 2 March 2024**. The same training will be held on both days. Registrations close on 10 February.

Having in-person training will allow us to be more inter-active. Please note that **ONLY** clubs further than 200km from Johannesburg will be allowed to attend online. A zoom link will be sent to these attendees.

- ▶ Any member is welcome to attend the training;
- ▶ NB: IT IS **COMPULSORY** FOR PRESIDENTS TO ATTEND THE TRAINING. IF NOT, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE OFFICE IN THE NEW ROTARY YEAR. Should a president not be able to attend, they may appoint a representative from their club to attend on their behalf;
- ▶ The cost will be R250 per person;
- ▶ Please bring your laptop or tablet, if possible, as not all applications work well on cell phones.

Please click [HERE](#) to register

Payments must be made to:

**Rotary 9400 E-commerce  
Standard Bank**

**Fourways Mall**

**Account No 242 609 473**

**Ref: PETS and club name**

If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact Alice Meyer at

[alice@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:alice@rotary9400.org.za)

# ANN'S MESSAGE

## FROM IPDGA CHRISTINA



*Dear Rotary Anns and Friends,*

Happy 2024 to you and the Rotary family. As January progresses, it is clear that the Anns have extended the Christmas spirit into the New Year, continuing to tirelessly support their communities and those in need.

**Discon 24:** There is an opportunity for the Ann Clubs to SHOWCASE their special projects: Janet Callard is sharing information on this so please give it some thought! Please also read the rest of DG Riana's Newsletter to stay abreast of the latest Rotary news and DISCON.

Click [HERE](#) to read all about DISCON 2024 – Theme, Pricing, Programme, Speakers, Accommodation.

Click [HERE](#) to register for DISCON 2024.

**Ann Conference:** Benoni van Ryn is hosting the event on 20<sup>th</sup> April at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Benoni. Information will shortly be sent by the co-ordinators DGAE Cheryl and PDGA Elaine. Further information will be forwarded soon. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

**Riverside:** The Anns presented stationery valued at E5,000 to Unitaspark Primary School: three of them are seen here, including 90-year-old Janet Miller: still very active and still making a difference.



The Club also honoured Sylvia Knoop's 91-year-old Aunt Rina Thorold and made her an Honorary Ann. Riverside now counts two grande dames in its numbers!



Aunt Rina, an Ann for over 40 years, knitted pretty bed socks to spread winter warmth and made a snazzy red pair for herself while at it!

**Sad Closures:** We sadly advise that the Rotary Anns Club of Middelburg has decided to close. However, Ann President Michelle Bollers has now been inducted into Rotary. Congratulations Michelle: I know you will be as dedicated a Rotarian as you were an Ann! Following the closure of the RC of Matola, the Anns unsuccessfully tried to affiliate themselves to another club but without success so that club has also ceased operating.

**Condolences:** Our sad condolences to PDG Greg and PDGA Elaine Stathacopoulos on the passing of Greg's brother George in the UK on 19<sup>th</sup> January after a long illness. MHSRIEP. Condolences as well to the family and friends on the passing on 20<sup>th</sup> January of Ann Rosalie Smith, who was a member of Riverside (previously Vereeniging) for 49 years. RIP Rosalie.



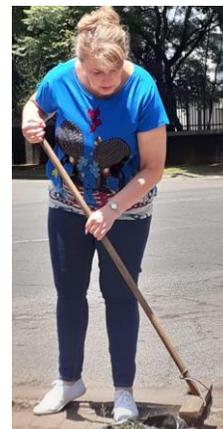
**Pietersburg 101** welcomed DG Riana and District Secretary Alice, and took them on a tour of Our Home, a senior citizens' residence, to see the improvements they made there. Later they all enjoyed lunch at the home of Ann Eileen Schofield.



**Germiston:** The Anns assisted the Rotarians to distribute items from the Sleigh Evenings to the Elandsvalei Old Age Home. They also donated grocery parcels to the residents of Rose Innes with sufficient left for other causes. Well done as always!



**Kyalami** presented 39 knitted Teddies to the Vincent Pallotti Paediatric Ward: all were knitted by Ros Cartwright, our stalwart and seemingly tireless Ann Secretary.



**Benoni Aurora:** The Anns also assisted their Rotarians with Benoni's Community Cleanup Campaign. The ladies got down to some serious manual labour – while the men chatted round the braai. Nothing changes!

**PS:** A Rotary Ann is travelling alone to Singapore to attend the International Conference. If another single Ann or lady Rotarian would like to share accommodation with her, please contact me direct on +268 7602 0466 or [cft@realnet.co.sz](mailto:cft@realnet.co.sz).

Until next month, all the best with your inspiring projects and wishing you peace, happiness and prosperity for the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Rotary, IPDGA Christina.

*IPDGA Christina*

## Rotary Youth Protection Guidelines: Safeguarding Our Future Leaders



**In Rotary, our commitment to service extends beyond the projects and initiatives we undertake—it encompasses the safety and well-being of the youth we engage with.**

As stewards of the future, it is imperative that all clubs within our district adhere to stringent youth protection guidelines to ensure a secure environment for the young minds we mentor and nurture.

Rotary clubs actively involved in Youth Programmes play a vital role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow. To maintain the integrity of our mission and foster a safe and supportive environment, it is mandatory for every club to comply with established youth protection requirements.

### Key Guidelines:

- ▶ Screening and Training
- ▶ Two-Deep Leadership
- ▶ Open Communication
- ▶ Appropriate Boundaries
- ▶ Parental Involvement
- ▶ Emergency Protocols

By adhering to these youth protection guidelines, Rotary clubs not only fulfill their ethical responsibility but also contribute to the positive development of the youth we serve. Our commitment to service extends beyond projects—it encompasses the creation of a nurturing environment where our youth can thrive, learn, and grow into the leaders the world needs. Together, let us uphold these standards and continue making a lasting impact on the lives of the young minds entrusted to our care.

All the Clubs in D9400 should be aware of how to protect our youth as we are all at some stage involved with the youth.

All clubs participating in Youth Programmes must ensure that they comply with youth protection requirements.

**As District Youth Protection Officer, PDG Annie Steijn**, is there to assist and guide you.

Please contact PDG Annie for assistance and to make sure that your clubs, Rotarians and Volunteers comply.

[assteijn@gmail.com](mailto:assteijn@gmail.com); 082 550 0806



# 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 Kyalami

RC Kyalami's Interact Club of Reddam House Waterfall went out with a bang with their very last event of 2023 at Cluny Farm which is a home for Residents with special needs. A Christmas party was hosted by Interact Club of Reddam House Waterfall at Cluny Farm with volunteer Students from Reddam House. About 60 Residents with caretakers and 30 Interactor volunteers participated and had loads of fun.

Some quality time was spent with the Residents with various activities including pass the parcel where the Interactors collected chocolate donations generously donated by Students of Reddam House and the Residents passed the parcel until the music stopped. Lunch as well as bonding time was part and parcel of the festivities which the Residents enjoyed tremendously.

Other activities included the Reddam House Waterfall band playing Christmas Carols, the Marimba band was loved by all while some Students sang Christmas songs filling the air with Christmas spirit. The Residents with assistance from Interact and the student volunteers decorated some cookies in the same spirit – this can be a messy but fun event.

Lots of dancing, including line dancing with lots of smiles, joy and happiness by Interactors, Students volunteers and the Residents alike. The day ended by providing each Resident with a gift that was sponsored by Kyalami Corner. Thank you so much to The Interact Club of Reddam House Waterfall for ending their spectacular year with such care and generosity to Cluny Farm.



## Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn

RC Johannesburg New Dawn started the new year again on 10 January with a delicious breakfast and catch-up meeting. Lots of exciting initiatives and projects were discussed and several high-profile guests were welcomed as well. Suzy Sibanda presented 50 handmade crackers to Prof Lucille Blumberg's NGALAVA Day Care Centre.

The club also celebrated their successful participation in the Ferndale Christmas wrap. Besides their creative parcels, they thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the shoppers. Also, a big thank you to Francoise, Jack Chen and particularly Suzy, who set up the display every day at 07h30.



A remarkable 93 three-hour shifts were undertaken by Rotarians from RC Johannesburg New Dawn as well as RC Kyalami, RC Fourways Main Reef, Sandton Satellite, RC Johannesburg East, RC Northcliff, Rosebank, Centurion and the Southern Star Rotaractors. During this period from 9-24 December, over 1 500 gifts were wrapped. This initiative brought in donations of R40 000.



## Rotary Club of Pretoria Hatfield



RC Pretoria Hatfield shared their projects in the last quarter. The first was a fundraiser. The club conducted the Car Guard fundraising project in October.

This yearly consistent and successful project has always been a financial booster for the club to continue sustainable contributions to community services. This is also great community engagement creating awareness of what Rotary International is all about to the Menlo Park community.



The other was a Life skills Program. The club, together with Success Youth Organization facilitated Life skills program for the youth of Lesedi Baptist Church in Nelmapius Mamelodi around October 2024.



In November, the same program was hosted at the New Hotel for unemployed young adults in Pretoria CBD. The program empowers candidates with setting goals, drafting CV's, financial literacy and building self-esteem.



## Rotary Club of Johannesburg



RC Johannesburg Rotary and other clubs within District 9400, encompassing Johannesburg and its neighbouring areas, joined hands in a heartwarming initiative during the festive season. Collaborating with Ferndale on Republic, Rotary volunteers dedicated their time to wrapping gifts at a professional booth.

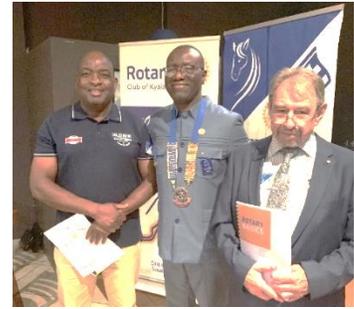
Acknowledging the success of the project, Grace van Zyl from RC Johannesburg extended her heartfelt gratitude to the generous shoppers who not only had their gifts wrapped but also contributed to making a positive impact in the communities served by these Rotary clubs.



## Rotary Club of Kyalami

On 7 December, RC Kyalami inducted Daniel Musengi.

Daniel has always been involved in communities that he lived in dating back to his student days. He was an active member of the Young Christian Students (YCS), was involved and participated in annual national work camps where they built schools, toilets, rehabilitation of roads, assisted street kids to get off the streets among other projects. He later joined the Justice and Peace Commission and participated in arranging, monitoring and managing elections for office bearers at his local Parish church.



His brother Dominic is a Past President, a Double Paul Harris Fellow who has served as a District Officer for District 9210 and is currently District Advocate of RAGAS (Rotary Action Group Against Slavery) and played a huge part in getting Daniel into Rotary.

Rotarian Daniel is looking forward to attending his first ever District Conference and is hoping to identify areas where he could add value and uplift the community. Rotarian Daniel is a banker, has a BSc Honours Degree in Economics and an MBA.

## Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark



RC Vanderbijlpark has explored many different means to raise funds for their many projects in the community.

Their latest light bulb idea was to enter a competition run by the Vaal Mall Vanderbijlpark for putting together the best Christmas tree. They did not have a problem in deciding which material to use. The club has received donations of thousands of books for our book sales and literacy projects, some of which could enable them to erect the tree.

The idea was in line with the Rotary logo for the year "Create hope in the world" and one avenue of service, Promoting Basic Education and literacy.



*Lidia Corte, Maretha Lombard (Marketing Manager Vaal Mall), PP Petro Bester, Zander Lintveld, Guidetta Grosso (Exchange student from Italy)*

Rotarian Lidia Corte gathered a team to assist with the project. There were no engineers involved, only Rotarians and friends with common sense and hands to help.

Everyone was astonished with the end result. Members of the public came from all over to take photos and compliment them on the original idea to make use of books. It was a done deal that they were in the race for the first prize which they received.

The PRO of Vaal Mall, Maretha Lombard, handed the team members vouchers to the value of R15,000 sponsored by various businesses in Vaal mall. All the funds will go towards deserving organisations and projects that they support. RC Vanderbijlpark is now in the process of discussions with a private entity who are considering buying the books used to set up a library for their workers.



## Rotary Club of Pretoria Capital



In December 2023, RC Pretoria Capital secured furniture for the Sizanani children's home and conference centre in Bronkhorstspuit.

The Sizanani children's home is a facility caring for children and young people (youth) with various serious disabilities. Its purpose is to serve communities around Bronkhorstspuit and beyond that have been identified to be people with special needs. In the past, this facility was run through donations mainly from overseas, but over the years these have run dry and the center has been battling to meet most of its needs.

RC Pretoria Capital obtained 50 Tables, 80 Cupboards, 50 Chairs and 50 Pictures for decoration from Nedbank South Africa branches in Sandton and Menlyn Maine and donated it to this home. The club covered transport costs.



## Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn

RC Johannesburg New Dawn members, The Mask Clinic and The Village Parkview community donated an overwhelming collection of 370 children's gifts. Wrapping each gift was tirelessly tackled by the Parkview community's children, Rotarians Ivone Vosloo and Helene Bramwell.

Grateful recipients included Hotel Hope, Umbuyisa School of Arts & Culture, The Word of Hope, Hug Me Bear and Graceland Day Care. Hundreds of excited children benefitted from the generosity of Helene Bramwell and her team on Christmas Day.



## Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn

RC Johannesburg New Dawn and Royal View collaborated to provide festive delights for children at the Salvation Army's Carl Sithole Centre, a home where broken hearts are mended.

50 hand-made, cloth crackers, cupcakes, biscuits and sweets, brought much joy to the children at the Salvation Army's Carl Sithole Centre, Soweto, on Christmas Day.

Rotary New Dawn members Jeni, Barbara, Francoise, Suzy, Joan and Royal View residents, spent a fun filled morning preparing each cracker.





# District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>1</b>	February 2024	Early bird registration has expired. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to read all about DISCON 2024 Pricing for Registration from now until 30 March.
<b>1-21</b>	February 2024	Sell Barrow of Booze Raffle tickets for the Happy Hippo Golf Challenge. Get your Raffle sheet from Mariana Purnell <a href="mailto:mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za">mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za</a>
<b>17</b>	February 2024	DTTS & PETS training @ Rotary D9400 Headquarters, JCC House, 27 Owl Street (Cnr Empire Road), Milpark, Johannesburg, South Africa. Please click <a href="#">HERE</a> to register. Registrations close 10 February.
<b>18</b>	February 2024	Water harvesting innovation @ 06:00pm Sunday. Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423733453?pwd=VWFkQ0JwVUJlS2hUUIlsNGZQVkZuQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423733453?pwd=VWFkQ0JwVUJlS2hUUIlsNGZQVkZuQT09</a> Meeting ID: 864 2373 3453 Passcode: 347656
<b>21</b>	February 2024	Happy Hippo Golf Challenge ERPM Golf course, on 85 Pretoria Road in Boksburg. Contact Grace van Zyl <a href="mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com">grace@gracevanzyl.com</a> or Sanette Mostert <a href="mailto:sanette@mindfullanes.co.za">sanette@mindfullanes.co.za</a>
<b>23</b>	February 2024	119 years of doing good in the world. Rotary International celebrates the first meeting held on 23 February 1905 in Chicago.
<b>23</b>	February 2024	The Sun never sets in Rotary. Showcase your club project during a 24-hour long global celebration of Rotary 16h00 to 17h00. Contact Grace van Zyl <a href="mailto:grace@gracevanzyl.com">grace@gracevanzyl.com</a>
<b>2</b>	March 2024	DTTS & PETS training @ Rotary D9400 Headquarters, JCC House, 27 Owl Street (Cnr Empire Road), Milpark, Johannesburg, South Africa. Please click <a href="#">HERE</a> to register. Registrations close 10 February.
<b>23</b>	March 2024	Evening with RIP Gordon R. McNally at WANDERERS CLUB 21 North Street, Illovo, Johannesburg 6h30 for 7h00PM @ R550pp
<b>2-5</b>	May 2024	D9400 District Conference, FLOREAT Riverside Lodge, Sabie
<b>25-29</b>	May 2024	2024 Rotary International Convention, 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 & 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**  
Riana Pretorius  
[riana@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:riana@rotary9400.org.za)



Join the District 9400  
Facebook Page  
CLICK [HERE](#)

**SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:**  
Mariana Purnell  
[mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za](mailto:mariana.purnell@egrain.co.za)