Rotaract District 9350

January 2026

ROTARACT NEWSLETTER

"The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away."

- William Shakespeare

JANUARY ROTARY THEME:
VOCATIONAL SERVICE

UNITE FOR GOOD

THE FOUR WAY TEST
RECITED AROUND THE WORLD

As Rotaractors, we do not need to be reminded of the content or history of our Four-Way Test. Incorporating it into the start your day could prove to be very uplifting especially if everyone around the world did it. Of the things we think, say, or do:

- **FIRST: Is it the TRUTH?**
- **SECOND: Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- **THIRD: Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIP?**
- **FOURTH: Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

Posted by Charlotte Brown Ramos
https://portal.clubrunner.ca/1579/stories/the-four-way-test-recited-around-the-world

JANUARY 2026
VOCATIONAL SERVICE

January reminds us of the value of our individual skills, and how sharing them can strengthen our communities. Vocational Service Month celebrates the dignity of work and the responsibility each of us has to use our talents for good. In Rotaract, this means turning what we know into what we give: mentoring others, demonstrating ethical leadership, and using our professions or passions to create meaningful impact.

Why It Matters:

- Vocational service bridges the gap between career and community. It reminds us that our professions aren't just personal achievements, they're opportunities to uplift others, uphold integrity, and inspire ethical practices in every field.

What We Can Do:

- Host a Career & Mentorship Session to help young people explore different paths.
- Organize a Skills-for-Service Project, where members apply their talents to solve real local needs.
- Highlight club members' professions in a "Rotaractor of the Month" feature that celebrates their contribution to both work and service.
- Partner with local businesses to create internship or shadowing opportunities that promote growth and responsibility.

How This Aligns with Rotary's Goals

Vocational Service supports Rotary's vision of fostering integrity, advancing leadership, and encouraging service above self. By living out our values in our workplaces and communities, we strengthen trust, build sustainable impact, and embody Rotary's mission to make lasting change through professional excellence and ethical action.

MESSAGE FROM DRR CHADWIN PETERSEN

Dear Rotaractors of District 9350

Wishing all our clubs a very happy and prosperous 2026. We are reminded that we are heading into a truly jam-packed and exciting end to the Rotaract year, with all roads leading to DISCON 2026.

I hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved and restful festive season, surrounded by family, friends and loved ones. A special acknowledgment goes out to those who celebrated birthdays during this time, those who have recently graduated, and those who are about to cross that important milestone. I see many of our Rotaractors graduating and stepping boldly into new seasons of leadership, service, and professional growth, and I could not be prouder of you. A very special and heartfelt congratulations to Erin Thompson, who leads our Interact portfolio, on successfully passing her final exams. We look forward to celebrating with her and the rest of our Rotaractors during graduation week.

One of the highlights on our calendar is World Rotaract Week, where some of our clubs will be taking Rotaract on air through radio station engagements, while all our clubs unite in participating in club projects on the same day. This collective effort will showcase the impact and visibility of Rotaract across District 9350.

Writing this newsletter has been particularly emotional for me, as my journey as your District Rotaract Representative is nearing its end. While it is bittersweet, I remain incredibly positive and deeply grateful. This has been a truly remarkable year, and I look forward to celebrating all that we have accomplished together at the conference in May 2026. This year, my theme has been 'Showing Up'. Showing up for service, for leadership, for fellowship, and most importantly, for one another. I am proud to say that our clubs across District 9350 have truly heeded this call. You have shown up with passion, commitment, and heart, and it has been inspiring to witness. As we head into the final stretch of the Rotaract year, I encourage all clubs to continue showing up, standing together, supporting one another, and remaining united for good.

My messaging for January and February will focus strongly on commitment and on taking a moment to reflect on why we all chose to join Rotaract. Amid busy schedules, responsibilities, and change, it is important that we pause, reconnect with our purpose, and remember the passion that brought us to Rotaract.

Let us end this year strong, resilient, and confident in the knowledge that together we can overcome challenges and continue to make a lasting impact in our communities.

Yours in Service

District Rotaract Representative
District 9350

DISTRICT 9350 EVENT

Environmental Synergy Day

The Environmental Synergy Day initiative was designed to reconnect members with nature while encouraging more sustainable ways of thinking about the environment in our everyday actions. An added objective of the project was to create opportunities for networking and collaboration between Interact and Rotaract members across the district.

Hosted by the Rotaract District's Environmental Sustainability Portfolio, the project took place over three Saturdays, 25 October, 1 November, and 8 November, in partnership with Nature Connect, a South African non-profit organisation dedicated to environmental education, conservation, and training. The initiative benefited participating Interact and Rotaract members by providing hands-on environmental learning experiences while fostering meaningful connections across clubs.

Each Saturday offered a unique and engaging experience rooted in environmental education and exploration:

·**25 October:** Participants hiked up Constantia Nek, where they received a guided tour highlighting local vegetation, medicinal plants, and insights into indigenous and invasive plant species.

·**1 November:** The group explored Cecilia Forest, walking to the waterfall while learning about natural plant life. Along the way, members engaged in mushroom foraging tunnels and discovered fascinating facts about wild mushrooms.

·**8 November:** The final session included dragon boat rides on the vlei, paired with education on the critical role of wetlands. This was followed by a guided walk in the nature reserve, featuring tracking and birding activities.

Across all three Saturdays, strong connections were built through shared experiences, learning, and a mutual appreciation for nature among members from different Interact and Rotaract clubs. The project successfully blended environmental awareness with fellowship, leaving participants inspired and more environmentally conscious.

DISTRICT 9350 EVENT

Environmental Synergy Day

CLUB PROJECTS
RC BELLVILLE

Matric Study Packs Project

The Matric Study Pack Project is an initiative aimed at supporting Grade 12 learners during their final examination period by providing essential stationery and motivational resources. The goal was to ease some of the practical challenges faced by learners and to encourage them as they prepared for this important milestone.

On 14 October 2025, Bellville Rotaract donated study packs to all matriculants of Bellville South High School. Each study pack contained key stationery items including pens, a pencil, eraser, ruler, and notepad, as well as a motivational note with important support hotlines and information on where to access past examination papers. The project directly benefited the Grade 12 learners by equipping them with tools to support effective studying and by reminding them that their community believes in their success.

One of the most memorable highlights of this project was seeing Bellville Rotaract members come together to pack the study packs. The activity was filled with energy, laughter, and teamwork, creating a meaningful opportunity for members to connect beyond our usual meetings and responsibilities.

The packing session not only allowed us to contribute to the academic journey of matric learners but also strengthened our bond as a club. Sharing conversations and working together toward a common purpose reminded us that service is not only about giving back to the community, it is also about building fellowship, unity, and lasting connections within Rotaract.

CLUB PROJECTS
RC BELLVILLE

One World, Many Action – Majik Moves

On 15 November 2025, the Rotaract Club of Bellville hosted an environmental hike as part of the One World, Many Action – Majik Moves initiative. The aim of the project was to educate members about environmental awareness and conservation while creating a meaningful opportunity to connect with nature.

The hike provided a refreshing outdoor experience that allowed members to reflect on the importance of protecting the environment. In addition to its educational value, the activity promoted fellowship, encouraging members to engage with one another, share insights, and enjoy time together outside of formal club settings. The project primarily benefited Rotaract members by enhancing environmental consciousness and strengthening club unity.

A standout moment from the hike was the environmental charades game, which quickly brought out the competitive and playful side of our members. The activity was filled with laughter and excitement while reinforcing key environmental concepts discussed during the hike.

By the end of the day, members walked away with stronger connections to one another and a deeper appreciation and understanding of the environment. The experience highlighted how learning, fun, and fellowship can come together to create meaningful impact.

CLAREMONT IN COLLAB WITH BELLVILLE & WYNBERG ROTARACT

Sensory Garden

After 10 weeks of dedicated work, Claremont Rotaract Club is proud to announce the completion of a Sensory Garden for children who are survivors of sexual violence at Karl Bremer Hospital in Bellville, Cape Town. This deeply meaningful initiative aimed to create a safe, therapeutic, and joyful space where children can begin to heal, feel protected, and reconnect with their surroundings.

The project began with improving the physical environment by painting the surrounding walls and repairing structural cracks with cement to ensure safety and durability. Once the area was secure, we introduced a range of interactive and therapeutic elements. Artificial grass was laid to provide a soft, safe surface for children to sit, play, and move freely. The garden was further enhanced with sensory features such as a music wall, touch wall, and other interactive tools designed to stimulate sight, sound, and touch.

The vision behind the sensory garden was to establish a nurturing sanctuary that promotes healing through play and sensory engagement. This impactful project was made possible through the collaboration between Claremont Rotaract, Bellville Rotaract, and Wynberg Rotaract, whose members committed their time, energy, and passion to bringing this vision to life. The project was led by our former member, Sibo Moyo, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental to its success.

This project was a powerful reminder of the strength of collaboration. By working together across clubs, we were able to create something far greater than what any one group could have achieved alone. Seeing the space transform from a bare area into a place of colour, safety, and comfort was incredibly rewarding and reaffirmed the impact of collective service driven by compassion.

CLUB PROJECTS
RC STELLENBOSCH

Teachers Celebration and Networking Event

Stellenbosch Rotaract hosted a Teachers Celebration and Networking Event for educators from a local underprivileged school, Vision Afrika Primary School in Kayamandi. The project aimed to recognise and celebrate the dedication of teachers while creating a space for connection, appreciation, and networking.

As part of the initiative, the club also contributed to the school's vegetable garden, supporting sustainable food initiatives and long-term community development. The project directly benefited the teachers by acknowledging their hard work and providing encouragement as they closed off the academic year.

A particularly special highlight of the event was the opportunity to connect with our wider Rotaract family from Germany. Together, we planted a peach tree at Vision Afrika Primary School, a generous donation from an 88-year-old German philanthropist, symbolising growth, sustainability, and international fellowship.

The end-of-year celebration created a meaningful moment for teachers to feel valued and appreciated for the incredible work they do every day. The atmosphere was filled with gratitude, connection, and shared purpose, reinforcing the importance of recognising educators who play such a vital role in shaping our communities.

Stellenbosch Rotaract looks forward to many more social visits and collaborative projects with both local and international Rotaract partners in the future.

CLUB PROJECTS
RC WATERFRONT

Christmas Party for Children – Chev's Kitchen in Collaboration with District 9350, Rotaract Club of the Waterfront, Rotaract Club of Wynberg, and Rotaract Club of Claremont

Brief Description of the Project Chev's Kitchen, in collaboration with District 9350 and the Rotaract Clubs of the Waterfront, Wynberg, and Claremont, hosted a large-scale Christmas Party for 790 children at the Athlone Civic Centre on 16 December 2025.

The day was filled with festive cheer, delicious food, laughter, and joy. Children enjoyed a variety of activities including jumping castles, soccer, board games, ice cream, party packs, and each child received a Christmas gift. The event aimed to ensure that every child experienced the warmth, joy, and generosity of the Christmas spirit.

A key highlight of the day was serving 790 children, ensuring that every child, regardless of their circumstances, was fed, celebrated, and gifted with the joy of Christmas. The smiles, excitement, and laughter throughout the venue reflected the true impact of the collaboration and the power of service through unity.

CLUB PROJECTS
RC ATLANTIS

Festive Season Clothing Drive

On 13 December, the Rotaract Club of Atlantis returned to Klein Dassenberg as part of its Festive Season Clothing Drive to donate collected and packed clothing to the local community. With the support of our network and partners, the club continues to uplift communities where support is needed most. This initiative focused on providing practical assistance during the festive season, demonstrating how small acts of kindness can create a meaningful and lasting impact.

One of the most rewarding moments was delivering the clothing and knowing that both adults and children would be better prepared for the summer heat. Another special highlight was witnessing club members dedicate their Saturday to sorting and packing donations, truly embodying the Rotaract value of Service Above Self.

CLUB PROJECTS
RC BELLVILLE

Christmas Shoebox Project

The Christmas Shoebox Project aimed to spread love, joy, and hope during the festive season. On 10 December 2025, the Rotaract Club of Bellville donated 70 Christmas shoebox gifts to the children of The Ark, City of Refuge. Each box was thoughtfully filled with toys and essential items, carefully tailored to suit the age and gender of each child.

To make the experience even more special, club members wrote personalised letters to each child, creating a meaningful connection and making the gift-giving experience memorable for both the recipients and members.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, Rotary Club of Bellville and Marlene from Booksite Africa. This project would not have been possible without your generous support.

The day was filled with joy as we were welcomed by bright smiles and warm energy from the children. Festive Christmas music played in the background, setting a cheerful and celebratory atmosphere. Club members worked together to package and wrap the gifts, each one carefully curated with love and intention. Witnessing the children's excitement and happiness as they received their gifts was a powerful reminder of the impact of service and the true spirit of Christmas.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Honorable Mentions are a token of gratitude to recognise those who have gone above and beyond in supporting the work of Rotaract. This acknowledgment is for Rotary Clubs who have contributed to our efforts in service. It's our way of saying thank you to those who continue to believe in the power of collaboration and the impact we can make together. As the year continues, we look forward to connecting and working alongside even more clubs, strengthening the partnership between Rotary and Rotaract across our District:

- Kirstenbosch Rotary
- Stellenbosch Rotary
- Cape Town Rotary
- Hermanus Rotary
- Pinelands Rotary
- Waterfront Rotary
- Atlantis Rotary

From all of us in Rotaract, we celebrate not just your special day, but the light you bring into our District, your club and community.

Anesipho Benani
Nowelah Baleke
Tanaka Jaravaza
Tanweer Mohamed
Clyde Muller
Rebecca Zvova
Khanyiso Maqoqa
Emily O'Ryan
Kamohelo Khabele
Sizwe Khuzwayo
Nwabisa Mbisholo
Phendukeni Cuthalele
Daniella Grünewald
Gabriella Lamour
Tariro Namawa
Mbasa Vanga
Believe Kabila
Ziyanda Nocanda
William Fonseca Lima
Chevano Frans
Charlotte Mbatha
Jessica Andrews
Tsepiso Vumbukani
Lee-Roy Maans
Lisa Mauricio
Stacey Mele
Lawrence Marufu
Innocenciah Ntuli
Zanele Tshazibane

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

- Albert Schweitzer

Rotaract District 9350

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https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vaql3K4KAwEq1DvY8B3u

Pay Club Dues + UPDATE MyRotary & ClubRunner