



District 9350

“Connecting the World”

Governors Newsletter 2019/20

3 – September 2019



Personal Message from our Governor David Holtzhausen

Greetings Rotarians

As we reach the end of September, I am constantly reminded of how the work we do is changing the world

While the theme for September was basic education and literacy, it is very apparent that no project can work in isolation – the importance of multi-faceted projects, dealing with relevant issues in the community is part of what makes Rotary such an amazing organisation

Two instances stand out, which I must share with you

Last weekend, I was at RYLA (as usual – nothing has changed there). One of the activities we run, is that they need to develop and present a project proposal to us – in one hour! What was really amazing was the innovative ideas that they came up with, and their unique solutions to the problems in their communities, which gives me great hope for the future. The Youth we are supporting now are our future leaders, and they are going to be great!

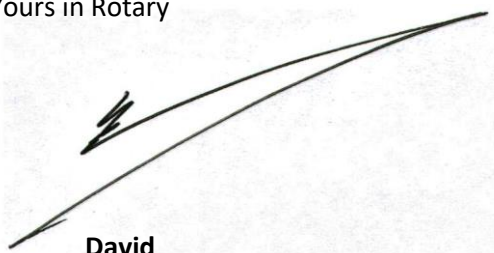
The second was during my club visit to Lobito, Angola.

We have all heard and read the messages regarding Polio – but to most of us this is history – we have not seen Polio in decades. Angola, on the other hand, is currently dealing with new cases of Polio as a result of 2 years of not vaccinating children (I won't go into the technical details, but it is not wild Polio, but vaccine a derived Polio).

What was really a reality check, was visiting a home that supports Polio victims in Cutambela (just below Lobito). My meeting these young people, and putting faces and a voices to Polio hit home hard. The Polio victims are like any young person – with dreams and wishes for the future, but now facing additional hurdles to achieve these.

As we continue our path forward through this Rotary year, remember that the work you do is changing the world, and by working as a team we can benefit from the fact that **Rotary Connects the World** and make every project even better

Yours in Rotary



David

Upcoming Events!

20 and 27 September 2019

Global Climate Strikes

28 September

RFHD Training at Intaka Island

@9:30am

26 October

Mini Conference – Beaufort West

1-6 October

RI Institute – Zone 20

Sharm El Shaik

CEO & General Secretary of Rotary International - John Hewko visited Cape Town



Above: DG David with President Graeme Smith and John Hewko (R)

Whilst attending the **World Economic Forum** in Cape Town, **John Hewko** took time out to visit the Cape Rotary Mother Club of Cape Town where he was their guest speaker on Tuesday 3rd September.

John spoke on his role at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, where he leads up a staff compliment of more than 800 people.

He discussed the many challenges Rotary has in terms of **Membership growth** and the **Strategic Plan for Rotary's future**, both of which ensure that we continue to be known as a respected and dynamic Organisation worldwide.

He also gave an update about **Polio eradication** with the very positive news that Africa will soon be announced as a Polio free continent.

With September being Basic Education and Literacy Month, which is one of RI's Areas of Focus, John Hewko explained that both are essential for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and promoting peace, and he suggested we consider these facts:

- *If all women completed Primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths*
- *Even after four years of primary schooling, as many as 250 million children cannot read and write and 781 million adults are illiterate*
- *A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five*
- *If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.*

The world is making good progress in this area. According to a recent UN report, literacy rates among adults and youths are on the rise and the gender gap in literacy is narrowing, but global needs remain whilst there are still 58 million children worldwide without schooling.

Being an enterprising man, after his studies at Oxford University in the UK, John and his fellow students bought a truck to drive through Africa, after which he then needed a 'lift' to South America and so managed to secure a crew position on a yacht 2 hours before they sailed from the Royal Cape Yacht Club to Uruguay!!

CELEBRATE POLIO DAY ON 24 OCTOBER



I WANT TO END POLIO.
JOIN ME.

ROTARY'S

WORLD POLIO DAY

ONLINE GLOBAL UPDATE
24 OCTOBER 2019

Visit the Rotary International Facebook page to RSVP.

#endpolio | endpolio.org



Shelter Boxes required for Hurricane Dorian relief?

Logistically, our Shelter boxes were not used in the relief efforts in the Bahamas following the devastating hurricane Dorian, but there was a huge response from the USA and D6990 in particular



CLIMATE CHANGE is on everyone's lips

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

- Jane Goodall -



Noordhoek Climate Strike 20 September 2019

The Noordhoek community came out in support of **Greta Thunberg and the Global Climate Strike** and Koos Burger, from the RC Cape of God Hope and the Glencairn Rotary Youth Camp was one of the people who arranged themselves to spell **CLIMATE STRIKE** on Noordhoek beach, using our beautiful natural environment to create a statement that will have a strong visual impact.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/3Z9AXqoAJIM>



Rotarians shaping the World

- If New Jersey **Rotarian Thomas Edison** had not completed his work on the incandescent lightbulb in 1878, would Bologna **Rotarian Guglielmo Marconi** been able to bring us the first radio broadcast in the early 1900's?
- If Daytona **Rotarian Orville Wright** not taken the first free controlled flight of a power-driven plane in 1903, would Edinburgh **Rotarian Charles Lindberg** have been able to complete the first solo, non-stop transatlantic flight in 1927?
- If London **Rotarian Winston Churchill** had not convinced his friend Albany **Rotarian Franklin D Roosevelt** to sign the Atlantic Charter in 1941 for America to enter the Second World War, where would we be now?
- And if Houston **Rotarian Frank Borman** had not completed the first ever orbit of the moon in 1968, would Wapakoneta **Rotarian Neil Armstrong** ever have walked on the moon in 1969?

As Rotarians we must remember that the work each one of us does now will have a significant impact on those who follow....