

DISTRICT GOVERNORS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Rotary
District 9350



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Why the Rotary year starts on 1 July
- Italian Global Grant Seeks Support
- We celebrate some very special people!

DISTRICT & AFRICA CENTENNIAL AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

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A WORD FROM CARL-HEINZ



**Welcome, Welkom, Willkommen, Wamkelekile,
Bem Vindo**

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary Anns

I think you will agree that we have had some interesting and entertaining weeks recently, what with the Africa Centennial Conference (ACC), the District Conference (DisCon) and DGE Ian's District Leadership Team training (DLT).

Some of you may have joined the successful two-day Zoomed African Centennial Conference, which had 1,627 participants attending from all over the world and included speakers and panellists from all of the 16 African districts, making it a most inclusive Rotary conference. Sincere congratulations to DG Annemarie Mostert of D9400 for her leadership coupled with the team's dedicated hard work which ensured a most successful event which literally put Rotary in Africa on the map and left us all saying – 'Wow!'

All these events have made me realise two things: Firstly, when we in Africa work together, we can achieve amazing results, with only the sky perhaps being the limit. Secondly, Africa has the potential to become the powerhouse of Rotary, provided we keep growing as rapidly as we currently are.

In preparation for the ACC, all 16 African districts were asked to submit details of their best projects and their "Rotary Heroes", members who stood out in their districts. The compiled information was intended to be part of an "ACC coffee table book" to highlight what had happened in the respective African districts in the past 100 years. Sadly, this book never came to fruition, as only 4 districts, including our own, submitted their inputs. As I believe it is only fair for us to acknowledge these members and the highlighted projects of our district, we have included more about them in this edition.

Our DisCon was held on the 1st of May with 200 Rotarians present, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their attendance and support, which made it the success that it was. One of the highlights was PDG Tusu Tusubira from Uganda who gave a talk on "Re-ignite Rotary's growth – The success story of District 9211".

It gave me great pleasure to present three Paul Harris Fellowship Recognitions to Danny Pietersen, Pepe Hatewa and Rex Omameh, and five District Service Awards to Rotaractors, namely Wilbur Kastoor, Katherine Lott, Eli Mabunda, Megan Smith and Phumelela Tomtala.

All awardees were well deserving, having led by example through their dedication and commitment to community service.

A special highlight was the induction of Ian Robertson as the governor for in the coming Rotary year 2021/22. I could not have wished for a better successor, as Ian has already built and developed strong relationships with his fellow Incoming District Governors in all parts of Africa, and has a clear strategy how to grow our district. DGE Ian conducted the training for the members of his team very efficiently on the 8th of May, and I am convinced that they will all take our district to even higher grounds next year.

DGE Ian will get my full support, as I strongly believe that 'you haven't succeeded if your successor hasn't succeeded'.

And finally, notwithstanding the excellent work that has been done by all the clubs in their various projects in our district in the last couple of weeks, I want to particularly make mention of a collaborative cross club project of ten clubs, co-ordinated by the RC of Hermanus, involving the distribution of PPE's donated by the Rotary World Health in Canada, which will be delivered to various club project beneficiaries on request. The clearing of the container at Smit Amandla Marine in Paarden Eiland was done swiftly and efficiently by the clubs involved, which is commendable.

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

Carl-Heinz

A VERY SPECIAL AWARD FOR A VERY SPECIAL MAN



It is not every day that a citizen is awarded his or her country's highest medal of honour.

On 11th March PP Reverend Stefan Hippler, member of RC Signal Hill, received the Federal Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) from the German Consul General Matthias Hansen, on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. In his laudation Mr Hansen spoke of the outstanding work of HOPE Cape Town, which Stefan founded almost 20 years ago, and of Stefan's dedication and his achievements in the fields of HIV/ AIDS, social upliftment of communities, training education and skills development as well as other charitable work in South Africa.



The small event to celebrate this award was held at the residence of the German Ambassador to South Africa in Cape Town and respected all COVID-19 protocols. Dignitaries from the Church were joined by MPP Ivan Meyer, HOPE Cape Town Trustees, 2 of whom flew in especially for the occasion, associates and friends as well as senior staff from HOPE Cape Town and DG Carl-Heinz who was part of the founder team of HOPE Cape Town.

In his acceptance speech Father Stefan acknowledged all those who had been on this journey with him from his early days as a priest in Cape Town to the development of HOPE Cape Town into a sustainable force addressing many social challenges. "This award is on behalf of all of you as well..." Stefan said and mentioned too that the Rotary Club of Signal Hill could be seen as the Godfather of HOPE Cape Town.

The District 9350 also congratulates Stefan on this unique and very special award and is honoured to be associated with him as a dedicated humanitarian and active Rotarian.

We are all very proud of you.



Why the Rotary year begins 1 July

Ever wonder why 1 July is the beginning of the Rotary year? Initially, our conventions played a key role in determining the start date of our fiscal and administrative year.

Rotary's first fiscal year began the day after the first convention ended, on 18 August 1910. The 1911-12 fiscal year also related to the convention, beginning with the first day of the 1911 convention on 21 August.

The next August, the Board of Directors ordered an audit of the International Association of Rotary Clubs' finances. The auditors recommended that the organization end its fiscal year on 30 June to give the secretary and treasurer time to prepare a financial statement for the convention and board, and to determine the proper number of club delegates to the convention.

The executive committee agreed and, in April 1913, designated 30 June as the end of the fiscal year. This also allowed for changes to the schedule for reporting club membership and payments. Even *The Rotarian* changed its volume numbering system to correspond to the fiscal year (beginning with Volume 5, No. 1, in July 1914).

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Rotary continued to hold its annual conventions in July or August until 1917. Delegates to the 1916 event in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, approved a resolution to hold future conventions in June, mainly because of the heat in cities where most of them occurred. The next one was held 17-21 June in Atlanta, Georgia.

The term "Rotary year" has been used to signify Rotary's annual administrative period since at least 1913. An article in *The Rotarian* that July noted, "The Rotary year that is rapidly drawing to a close has been signalized by several highly successful joint meetings of Clubs that are so situated as to assemble together easily and conveniently."

Since the executive committee's decision in 1913, the end of the Rotary year has remained 30 June.



DISTRICT SERVICE AWARDS



The following members received a District Service Award for the 2020-2021 Rotary year.

Wilbur Kastoor (Rotaract Atlantis)

Wilbur is leading the first-ever Rotaract Club in Atlantis. A year later the club has 23 members. When lockdown struck they started almost immediately with food drives and feeding projects, a Christmas hamper project, a data project and many team-building hikes and braais. Wilbur is the driving force behind the charter of the first-ever Saxon C Interact Club in Atlantis, bringing 3 teachers on board.

Katherine Lott (Rotaract Blouberg)

Made a smooth transition from Interact club of BIS to Rotaract club of Blouberg. She has actively carried out several projects and fund raisers for both Interact and Rotaract club. Twice in a row she organized a book collection project and she received donations of over two thousand books. She didn't just donate the books to schools, she organized a team and they read the books to the kids.

Eli Mabunda (Rotaract Hout Bay)

Eli joined Rotaract in 2018 after having been a mentee in 2017, the same year when he was the President of Interact Club at Silikamva High School. His enthusiasm towards community engagement and his willingness in helping his former school mates has allowed the club to trust him enough to assign him a mentee in 2019. Furthermore, Eli has worked tirelessly, ensuring that the mentorship program remained active under the unprecedented circumstances posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, his dedication towards the club has been dominant even prior to the pandemic.

Megan Smith (Rotaract Bellville)

Megan is her club's environmental sustainability champion. She has been able to champion the professional skills she has gained working at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to raise environmental awareness in her club. She reached out to local stores such as Pick n Pay, Shoprite and Checkers by sending out professional letters asking for food donations. Thanks to her great leadership skills, the club was able to donate 150 jars of food that fed over 400 people.

Phumelela Tomtala (Rotaract Hout Bay)

Phumelela is the first president of this club. He has contributed greatly towards the success of most of its projects, especially the Women's Day Event project. Over the past three years, he has been on the forefront of the organizing team for the women's day event and eventually managed to attract sponsors to support this project. The Woman's Day Event annual project is one of the projects the members of his club are proud of, and because of his diligence and the hard work of his team, the sponsor has agreed to support this project every year. To date, sanitary pads, face cloths, toothpastes, roll-on etc. have been provided to over 500 pupils at Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School, Hout Bay.

Congratulations!



PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIPS



Danny Pietersen (RC Atlantis)

Danny is the Charter President of RC Atlantis which was founded on 31 January 2020. What the club has done under his leadership in this short period of existence, is exceptional. When Covid struck, his club grabbed the opportunity and changed peoples lives in Atlantis by starting a food relief project. Knowing that this cannot be sustainable, RC Atlantis was amongst the first clubs in the district which started a food garden project in many sites of the town, creating entrepreneurs on a small scale.

Two quotes of Danny are worth to be mentioned: "We have experienced that for 30 years, nothing has changed in our community and we came to the conclusion, if we don't change, nothing will change in our community". "When people lay in the dirt, this is their horizon and it is the task of us Rotarians to make them see the real horizon".

Rex Omameh (RC Blouberg) *Second Sapphire*

Rex is an example of a modern Rotarian/Rotaractor, as he is a member of both. As the District Rotaract Representative he has shown his leadership qualities. With the advent of the Corona virus Rex and his Rotaract team proceeded to make a regular difference by providing food through the CAN [Milnerton Community Action Network] project. He himself made a couple of thousands sandwiches. Under Rex's guidance they raised funds, obtain donations, converted these donations into food and have continued to deliver thousands of meals, week after week and month after month. Rex came up with the idea for a billboard on the R 27 which shows the message "Thank you Rotary for kicking Polio out of Africa". He also created the "Rotaract/Rotary-Foundation Challenge" which collected more than USD 2,000.

Pepe Hatewa (RC Luanda)

His ongoing commitment to Rotary, starting from his work as a Rotaractor in Windhoek while studying, work with Rotaract in Luanda and the expansion of Rotary in Angola are exceptional. Even when he was stuck in Paris with his family, he was busy bringing members to Rotary and Rotaract. After his return to Angola, he went onto a 40 day trip through his home country and Namibia and kept on recruiting members. Currently Pepe is the driving force behind the charter of a satellite club in Lubango and is busy with five other towns in Angola.



Congratulations!



**Zone22 Rotary
Africa Centennial
International
Conference**

Best Project Nominations

Spirit of Rotary Ambulance Service I and II

Rotary has always been closely linked with the work of the Red Cross. District 9350 has been proud to provide two air ambulances to this great organisation. The first, named "Spirit Of Rotary" was a small two-seater plane, but the second provided in the 1980's ("Spirit Of Rotary II") was able to accommodate six persons with full facilities for emergency treatment en route to hospital. PDG Charles Bashew (1972-73) was a pilot. Many a victim of a motor accident or heart attack in a remote part of our district has cause to be grateful for the services provided by these great aircraft.



Cape Town Community Chest (RC of Cape Town)

In 1928 the Rotary Club of Cape Town established the Community Chest to address the plight of less fortunate communities. The organisation thrived under the careful guidance of two men known for their exemplary moral character. The first elected Chairman, Sir Walter Stanford and following him, Sydney Lavis, the Bishop of Cape Town, took the reins – overseeing the delivery of vital funds to 24 welfare organisations, despite the financial strain that accompanied the Second World War. Rotarian Robert Blake of Signal Hill Rotary played an important management role for many years. After 90 years the Community Chest has been behind some of Cape Town's most iconic events. The Chest is still active as an important source of funds for the many charities operating in the Western Cape. It is a great memorial to that early band of men whose drive and enthusiasm made it possible.



Knysna Rotary Humanitarian Fire Relief Project (RC Knysna)

The Club's Humanitarian Fire Relief Project was swiftly put in place after the devastating fires that swept through greater Knysna on 7th June 2017, destroying over 1000 homes as well as a number of small business. Thanks to the generosity of many donors (funds exceeded R4 million), the club was able to provide material support to families as well as enabling businesses in their time of need. It also included the funding of humanitarian outreach such as psychological programmes for children.



Cape Town Cycle Tour (RC of Claremont)

Since the early editions of the “Argus” (cycle tour), Claremont Rotaractors had informally been involved through volunteer work. By the early 1980’s the time had come for the relationship between WPPPA and Rotary to be formalised. Pedal Power were the owners and founders of the event, but the numbers had grown beyond the association’s capacity, whereas the Rotary Club of Claremont could call in help from other Rotary clubs from across the district, as needed. Paul de Groot, he of the pre-race “Hoopla”, has been involved as a Rotarian since the very early days.



There were probably about 500 cyclists for the first event in the early 1980’s. Claremont Rotary Club members wanted to get involved to provide income for the club. It quickly became Claremont Rotary’s main annual fund-raising project. It is the largest timed cycle race in the world. Recent Entries numbered some 36 000 participants, with the event generating substantial funding which is shared between 28 odd Rotary clubs who assist to enable the event to run without a hitch.

Rotarians managed and did a lot of the manual work needed for many years. All-night sessions were common for some and very early mornings for the rest. The whole system and the overall satisfaction of the cyclists saw the Cycle Tour grow into the cycling icon it has become. It was also through Rotary links that Pick n Pay eventually became involved, a relationship that has spanned nearly 30 years. The Cape Town Cycle Tour is one of the most famous mass participation cycling events in the world, bringing huge revenue to Cape Town by way of tourism, generating substantial revenue for Rotary clubs’ service projects and mega public image opportunities for Rotary, both internationally and locally.

Kick Polio Out of Africa Campaign

During its 4-month Pan-African trip, a soccer ball signed by Emeritus Desmond Tutu travelled from Cape Town through 23 polio-affected countries, then kicked off at Alexandria before ending its journey at the Rotary Convention in Montréal. Rotary Club members throughout the continent welcomed the ball to their individual countries and arranged soccer-related/special events with dignitaries, health officials, traditional African leaders and celebrities. The specific purpose of the campaign was to mobilise parents of over 100



million children under the age of five to attend NIDs (National Immunisation Days) in each country. The soccer ball was signed by Presidents/Ministers of Health in all 23 countries, also raising considerable funding for the EPN campaign. The KPOA campaign was project-managed by PDG June Webber in Cape Town.



**Zone22 Rotary
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A Celebration of the Five Oldest Clubs in District 9350 **BEST SERVICE PROJECTS**

ROTARY CLUB OF CAPE TOWN **Chartered 25 April 1925**

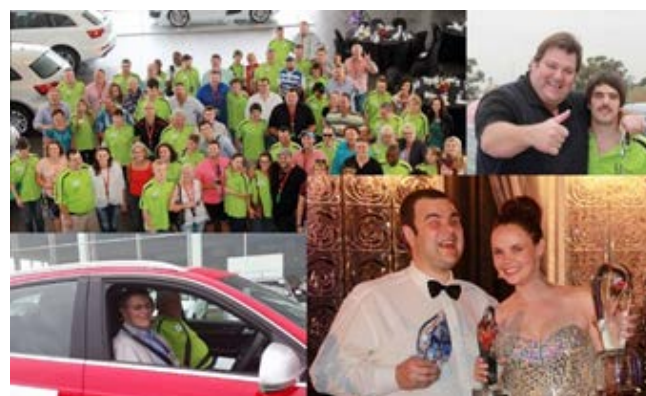
Rotary Youth Camp Glencairn - 70 years ago, the late William Haines, who was a member of the Rotary Club of Cape Town, put up the first hut on his Glencairn farm, for use as a youth camp. Haines had a great vision of training youth of all cultures in physical pursuits for the betterment of mind and body. When William Haines died on 15 February 1942, he bequeathed in his will, that his Glencairn property should be left to two organizations with whom he had many years of association. The smaller portion closer to the Glencairn beach was left to the Gordons Missionary Society. (This portion has now been bought by the RC of Cape Town.) The larger section was left to the Rotary Club of Cape Town, with the instruction that a body be formed by the Rotary Club of Cape Town to administer the property. Various hostels, cabins and cottages have been developed over the years (often with the support of others). The RC of Cape Town has a dedicated Committee and full-time employees to manage the 5 separate facilities and Rotary Camps Glencairn. We provide the opportunity for Youth from the most impoverished and violence-prone communities to spend time interacting with each other, amidst nature and in a safe environment.



The camp experience is educational, physical and aids cultural development. It helps the Youth to learn independence, experience decision making, improve/explore social skills, develop emotional skills and builds character all in an atmosphere of creativity and enrichment. More than 5 kilometres of hiking trails as well as a 3-kilometre labyrinth in this area which is visible on Google Earth! Weekend groups are regularly guided on educational hikes, introducing them to the fynbos, invasive plants and the beautiful land and sea views. For most of the young people who live on the Cape Flats and in the adjacent townships who visit the Rotary Camps, and for many for the first time, all of this is a life changing experience.

ROTARY CLUB OF WORCESTER **Chartered 2 November 1946**

The Pioneer Rally for the Blind - started in 2005 by late President Willem Venter while his son was a learner at the Pioneer School for the blind. The Rotary Club of Worcester seized the opportunity to host the first "Celebrity - Rally". Special needs education is expensive and the profit generated through the Pioneer Rally is applied in aid of the learners. Each year PP David Reade donated hand blown glass trophies for the winners as well as a glass item for the auction. The project has since been handed over to the Pioneer School.



ROTARY CLUB OF STELLENBOSCH

Chartered 13 August 1937

Rotary Cycling Project - Stellenbosch Rotary looks back with pride on their service to the community at large for the past 83 years. Much of the focus has been on uplifting the community through cycling – which has also been a superb vehicle to create social cohesion opportunities. Stellenbosch Rotary hosted the Medallion Tour De Stellenbosch cycle race for 25 years. This was the premier road cycling race in the Winelands and largest outside of Cape Town.

Assisting the Cape Town Cycle Tour Trust and Pedal Power on the Stellenbosch Cycle Tour in logistics, event management and marshalling over many years has enabled the club to generate considerable funds for their important community service projects. In collaboration with Stellenbosch Hospice, the club constructed and then delivered 165 bicycles for nurses and home carers. Working with a wide range of partners, 665 bicycles were delivered to schools and after care centres in Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Grabouw, Cape Town and even Prince Albert. Long term sustainability for the future will be provided by ongoing road usage awareness training for the beneficiary cyclists in schools



ROTARY CLUB OF PAARL

Chartered 27 June 1940

Paarl Hospice – In 1990 there was a great need for a hospice in the area as terminal patients were mostly admitted to Paarl hospital or were transferred to the cancer wards at Karl Bremer Hospital. The founding committee in 1991 included Paarl Rotarians Benjy Dubovsky, Geoff Normanton and Rob Koch. They established a hospice where all terminally ill people in the Paarl region could receive care under the auspices of the Hospice.

Paarl Hospice, now known as Drakenstein Palliative Hospice, continued to grow over the years and purchased its own buildings with the assistance of sponsors. They currently visit between 220 and 250 palliative care (terminal) patients at their homes every month. Members of Paarl Rotary still serve on the board.



ROTARY CLUB OF HERMANUS –

Chartered 25 March 1948

The Rotary Way project: 1960

Apart from being a major tourist attraction offering magnificent views of Hermanus and Walker Bay, this scenic drive, sponsored by Hermanus Rotary club, hosts major Epic and Wine to Whales cycling events.





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Nomination of Luanda Rotary ALL AFRICA 100 YEAR CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

The Rotary Club of Luanda, Angola

The first Rotary Club in Angola was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Amarante Portugal, in Luanda and chartered on 23 September 1955. Although Rotary grew steadily in Angola the Clubs were never districted possibly because all the surrounding countries spoke different languages.

At the time of Independence of Angola on 11 November 1975 there were six Rotary Clubs in operation with 240 Rotarians, but after independence Rotary Clubs were prevented from operating. Although all Clubs closed officially, the Rotary Club of Luanda and the spirit of Rotary in that Country was kept alive by a few intrepid Rotarians led by Walter Brock.

In the 1980s there was no contact with Rotary in Angola and it was accepted that Rotary no longer existed in Angola. In 1989 a Rotarian from Cape Town visited Luanda on business and afterwards wrote as follows. Having booked into the Hotel Tropico on arrival I went into the lounge where four gentlemen were in conversation. One of them got up and came to me and noticing my Rotary lapel pin said, "You are a Rotarian". It was more a statement than a question. When I confirmed that I was he said, "So am I". My immediate reaction was, he can't be a local Rotarian as there is no Rotary in Angola so which Club was he from. He stated: "Luanda". My reaction was: How could this be?

Then the story came out. The person I was speaking to was the same Walter Brock and he told me that he and a few Rotarian friends had resolved to keep Rotary alive in Luanda even if the Club could not be officially recognised. They had continued to meet regularly at their original venue, the Hotel Tropico, and had kept the flame of Rotary flickering during those silent years. I was asked to join them for their Rotary dinner the following evening, but my visa did not permit an extra day's stay in Angola.

A colleague of mine was in Luanda a few weeks later and reported back to me that he had "made-up" on a Tuesday at the Rotary Club of Luanda. Happily, in early 2000 the Rotary Club of Luanda was once again officially recognised by RI and Angola became part of District 9350 in 2002. History will record that the Rotary Club of Luanda was chartered in 1955 and has never been closed down!



**Zone22 Rotary
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Hero Award Nominations

Professor JP DUMINY

Professor JP Duminy, Principal of the University of Cape Town, and a member of the Rondebosch Rotary Club, rose to become the only South African Vice-President of Rotary International. Had it not been for politics in South Africa at the time, JP Duminy would have gone on to become the first RI President from this District 9350 – South Africa.



JUNE WEBBER

Multiple PHF awardee (District & international) & major TRF donor, June was the first Woman Governor in Sub Saharan Africa. She has worked at district, regional, continent & international level in numerous Rotary roles. She created opportunities for disease prevention against AIDS, TB and Polio for hundreds of thousands through managing Rotary Family Health Days, in partnership with Government.

She project-managed the “Kick Polio Out of Africa” campaign ahead of the first FIFA World African World Cup Soccer year in 2010, motivating African Leaders in 23 polio-affected countries to sign their ongoing support and commitment to achieve a Polio Free Africa!

Internationally she chaired the RI Presidents 2016 Economic Development Conference attended by representatives from 23 Rotary Countries focusing on job creation and entrepreneurship to deal with Africa’s unemployment. Her consistent focus has been on membership growth, bringing many new Rotarians and Rotaractors into the organization through her roles as Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator, RI Rotaract Committee Chair and Chair of D9350’s Futures committee, focusing on the establishment of new clubs, both Rotary and Rotaract.



PAUL DE GROOT

A recipient of the Rotary Service Above Self Award in 2011, Paul lived his life epitomising the Rotary motto Service Above Self. Since the RC of Claremont first managed the Cycle Tour (CTCT) Paul has been part of the organising team and the Announcer and Starter of the Tour. When the Cape Town Cycle Tour Trust was formed in 1999 he became and remained a Trustee until his passing. His promotion of Rotary via this event has meant that the vast majority of Rotary Clubs now have some involvement on the day raising important funds for the work of Rotary. Through his great love of children and his association with Marsh Memorial Homes Paul arranged that the first and second Uncle Willy's Castles were built there to host the parties later becoming a



Member of their Board of Trustees until his passing. Having played an active role in the Building of the original Rotary Ikhaya House at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (for attending parents of children being treated at the hospital) he remained active until his passing, assisting at their fundraisers and Memorial Days.

DR IAN HUSKISSON

Past President, the Ian Huskisson, a specialist physician was an active Rotarian for 35 years, in the Cape Town and Knysna Rotary Clubs. By virtue of his professional career, Ian had insight into many social and medical problems. He was actively involved in Rotary International's Polioplus campaign, numerous wheelchair projects, the highly successful annual Ear, Nose and Throat Week held in Knysna (which enabled the backlog of ENT operations at the local provincial hospital to be treated by volunteer ENT specialists). More than 500 specialised ENT operations were completed in Knysna. He was in charge of Knysna's Rotary Health Days, and a key member of the Rotarydent programme held in conjunction with international NGO Medicine Arm-in-Arm and Dundee Rotary Club (dentistry for township children).



He was also involved in the Gogo's (grandmothers) project to supervise AIDS orphans in their home environments, that enabled 140 AIDS orphans living in child-headed households to be supported through the trained Gogo's project.

ALMANCIL INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB

SEAHORSE PROJECT PROJECT

Seahorses in the Ria Formosa in the Algarve, Portugal are under threat. In 2001 we had the largest colony in the world. Since then numbers have fallen by a massive 96%. There are many reasons for this including mainly loss of habitat and illegal fishing for far-east medicines. If urgent action is not taken, it is likely that the only two European seahorse species, the long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) and the short snouted seahorse (*H. hippocampus*) will face local extinction.

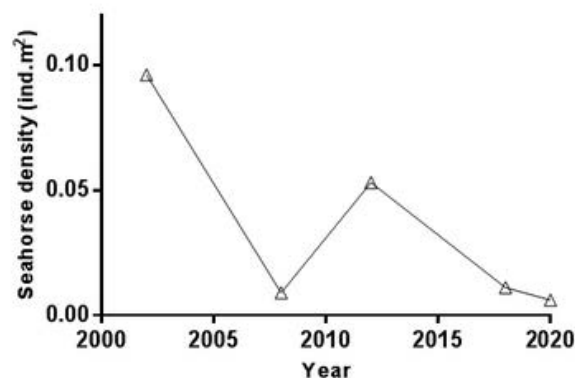
96% of the Ria Formosa Seahorse population has been lost through illegal fishing resulting in the destruction of their habitat. The harvested seahorses are dried and used as a component in Far Eastern traditional medicines.

They have exhausted their own local stocks and will now pay premium rates for European stocks.

Seahorses inhabit seagrass meadows in shallow waters and generally spend their lives within a few square meters. Seahorses are among the many genera whose life histories might render them vulnerable to overfishing and/or other disruptive factors such as habitat damage and degradation.

They are generally characterized by sparse distributions, low mobility, small home ranges, low fecundity, lengthy parental care and mate fidelity. In addition, it is the male seahorse, rather than the female, that fertilizes and carries the eggs.

In sum, the combination of a low fecundity, which makes them unable to cope with direct extraction from the wild and the exposure to environmental impacts (habitat degradation) results in a massive impact for the conservation of these sensitive species.



Combined seahorse density (individuals m⁻²) of both *Hippocampus guttulatus* and *H. hippocampus* in the Ria Formosa lagoon between 2003 to the present.

This clearly shows the decrease in habitat over the years.



A solution to the problem is available. It is proposed to create two Marine Conservation Areas (MCA) within the Ria Formosa where navigation and fishing is excluded. These MCAs will require unequivocal visual signaling to prevent entry. These designated locations are known to have local seahorse populations, but habitat requalification is necessary. To comply with it, seagrass habitats will be re-established at lower depths (2-4 m below tidal limit) and artificial holdfasts will be deployed at higher depths (4-6 m) where sea grasses no longer occur, but seahorses do. Similar methods have proven successful (e.g. North Sea areas).

The Olhão Captaincy have already issued a navigation order delimiting the area of the Reserve which will be identified with signal markers. Commercial fishing is already illegal within the Ria Formosa and it is proposed to introduce a mobile telephone warning system. Mooring and anchoring will not be permitted as it destroys the seagrass habitat.

AIRC is seeking donations from Rotary clubs, Rotary Districts, Rotary International, and private individuals to provide the infrastructure for this project. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be the responsibility of our partners CCMAR (Centro de Ciências do Mar (Centre of Marine Sciences)), ICNF (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas) and Universidade do Algarve. Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139, Faro, Portugal (University of the Algarve).



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Rotary have recently declared the Protection of the Environment an official cause. Please support us to get this important project going before it is too late. If we don't act then part of Portugal's National Heritage will surely be lost with another species becoming extinct. An opportunity has arisen for Rotary and selected donors to participate in the formation of the first protected seahorse reserve in Portugal and one of very few in Europe. This will be combined with an educational project to inform the younger generation of the crisis at hand and providing the professional staff at the CCMAR and ICNF with the necessary training to sustain this project in the future.

Please support us by pledging your club and district to become international partners in our Global Grant.

REX'S BIRTHDAY SANDWICH DRIVE

The fight against Hunger has always been dear to me. I have been making over 200 sandwiches weekly for the past 9 months, and on two occasions I've made over a 1000 with family and 2055 with Rotaract and Interact friends.

It was my birthday on the 4th of May and I usually organize what I call, End Polio Lunch/Dinner to raise funds to assist the Rotary Foundation in the fight against polio. This year I decided to focus on another area I'm also passionate about, the fight to END HUNGER.

I came up with an idea to celebrate with a twist by breaking my daily record of 2055 sandwiches done with the team and aimed at 5000. It wasn't an inexpensive or solo decision, so I sent the word out there to sponsors and invited friends and volunteers. On Saturday 8th of May, at about 8am for the team and 6am for David and I, we gathered at 1st Blaauwberg Sea Scout's Hall to make over 5000 sandwiches to give to the neighboring communities.



It was such an incredible experience, we had an amazing turn out of people. We worked while following all Covid protocols from 8am till early afternoon and we managed to make 5193 sandwiches with 75 loaves left to spare. To our Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotarians and friends, you guys immersed yourselves into the work and truly made this a reality. Thank you all for sacrificing your time and finances for this.

This incredible experience shows the power of what can be accomplished together, it is never too little, your one act of good can inspire thousands to act. Thanks dearly to Scouts honor for providing their facilities for us to use. The best is yet to come and truly, with a great team, anything is possible, it's limitless. Together we can truly END HUNGER, Let's take it very seriously. If you can't feed a hundred people like we do, then feed just one person.



MELKBOS ROTARY HELPS CREATE A LIFETIME FRIENDSHIP

In June 2020 the Rotary Club of Melkbos received a request from Honey's Garden for Medical Assistance Dogs for help in sourcing a wheelchair to assist in the training of an assistance dog for one of their clients. Carmen is an eighteen year old young lady who was born with Downs Syndrome and about five years ago suffered additional substantial spinal injuries.

Honey's Garden has found a suitable dog to be trained to assist her but it needs to be trained alongside a wheelchair. It will be trained to assist her in daily functions of picking items up, support for her when walking, and also provide emotional support for her and boost her Social Confidence.

Blue is a two year old Swiss Shepherd Dog. We were able to find and donate a suitable folding wheelchair for Blues training with Carmen and for her to get used to him being beside her chair. Both have responded well to the training they are due to graduate in a few weeks. This is a great achievement in Carmen's life and I am proud that we were able to assist the Honey's Garden project and achieve this success.



Honey's Garden for Medical Alert Dogs

★ Favorites • 4m • 🌐

Yesterday we said goodbye to our big boy Blue Boo. He has graduated after 2 years of training as a Multipurpose Service Dog for Carmen who had a spinal chord injury.

Blue assists Carmen by opening and closing doors, picking up dropped items, providing physical and emotional support, and by simply becoming her very best friend. He is her exercise and physio partner, skills development officer (although she is making sure he works on his skills too 🙌) shoulder to lean on and relax with, and literally opening the doors to her independence.



Worcester Rotary Club

On 17 April, DG Carl Heinz and Caroline, accompanied by AG Langeberg Stephen Young and his wife Jackie, visited Worcester Rotary Club for a very special event. Worcester club members were worried that President Jeanette Meiring had had a tough year due to the COVID 19 restrictions and wanted to show their love and respect for her leadership and achievements in difficult circumstances. So they organised a secret reception for her at the beautiful Barn Restaurant and Coffee Shoppe, home of PP Lorna and PP David Reade.

President Jeanette was completely unaware of what was happening, thinking that she was going out for a family dinner, until she arrived at the venue to be greeted by the Rotary Club members. DG and AG arrived a few minutes later to complete the surprise. President Elect Trevor Pigg was the MC who outlined the club's achievements so far during Jeanette's Presidency including multi million Rand feeding schemes and portable water bottles for soup kitchens as well as bags for women in need at the House of Hope. President Jeanette was presented with a certificate for "Courage under Fire" by DG Carl Heinz on behalf of the Club.



Sea Point Rotary Park Gets an Upgrade

Sea Point and Waterfront Rotary decided to refurbish the 10-year-old Rotary Pavilion Park, which was done a few months ago.

The original mural was looking faded and peeling, so it was decided to use the mural replacement as a kickoff event for our new Waterfront Rotaract Club.

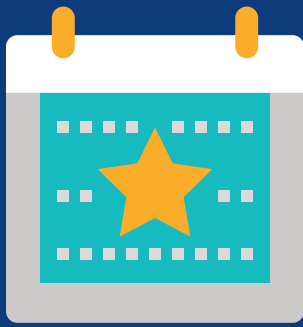
The Two Oceans Aquarium Education Foundation as our potential Waterfront Rotary corporate member, was approached for a new design, which Jessica Sloan – the Two Oceans Aquarium Graphic Designer created. She decided to feature the sea turtle which is an important part of the Two Oceans Aquarium conservation focus.



JP Feyt, National Executive Marketing and Trade Manager from Dekor Paint (Pty) Ltd and Colin Whitehead, Director of Whitehead Painting Contractors (Pty) Ltd agreed to sponsor the paint and prepping the wall respectively.

On April 24 the mural was painted by volunteers, mainly Rotaractors from Atlantis Rotaract and potential Waterfront Rotaract members and looks absolutely stunning!





District 9350 EVENT CALENDAR

9 JUNE
2021

WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD GARDENS

ONLINE EVENT with the District Food Garden Committee

17:00

10 JUNE
2021

HOW TO RUN A CLUB PUBLIC IMAGE AUDIT

ONLINE EVENT with the Public Image Committee

18:00

24 JUNE
2021

HOW TO USE CANVA FOR DESIGNING CLUB MATERIAL

ONLINE EVENT with the Public Image Committee

18:00

REGISTER FOR THE
**2021 ROTARY
VIRTUAL
CONVENTION**

10 - 16 June 2021

REGISTER NOW

**2021 VIRTUAL
CONVENTION**

Rotary



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

See you again next month!