



# in District 9320

Monthly Newsletter

December 2006

## FAMILY MONTH

### From the Desk of the DG: ?

With 31 October the closing date for clubs to apply for the PR Grants, there was considerable focus on that towards the end of that month. With very good results: 44 of the 51 clubs in D9320 applied; one club had applied in 2005 (the only one to do so), and one club's application was on behalf of both clubs in that town. In effect, 90%. Well done, club presidents, and thank you to the Assistant Governors who kept on reminding and encouraging presidents to apply.

But special thanks go to the PR co-ordinator for D9320, Karen de Jager, whose persistence and determination to make this opportunity work for the district paid off so well. Thank you, Karen, and congratulations.

More on this elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Most important, this month, of course, is that it is Christmas, with December appropriately designated by RI as Family Month. We wish all a happy month with family and friends.

Yours in Rotary



From Wes & Ethne,

Our very best wishes to all Rotarians in D9320, and elsewhere, to their families and friends, and to all members of the Family of Rotary, for a relaxed and happy time over the festive season, safe travelling, and every success for 2007.

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(On-line Editor Barry Downs)

(Please note that, due to lack of space in this issue, the Attendance Report will be held back for a future newsletter.)



## WORLD INTERACT WEEK

With World Interact Week having taken place in November, and many of D9320 Interact Clubs having planned programmes to commemorate this event, it seems an appropriate time to give:

### ***A Brief History of Interact*** (taken from the Rotary website)

"Interact, Rotary International's service club programme for young adults at the secondary school level, was officially inaugurated on 28 October 1962. The foundation of Interact marked a new approach to youth service for Rotary. For the first time, Rotarians were not just serving youth, but were **empowering them to serve in their communities and internationally with their Rotary club sponsors.**

"Rotary service to youth dates back as early as 1917, when a committee was appointed to study youth service. Two years later, a department dedicated to "Boys' Work" was established and in 1920, the Rotary Club of New York organized Boys' Week, an annual celebration that encouraged patriotism and loyal citizenship in its young participants. The movement caught on as Rotary clubs sponsored Boys' Weeks across the United States and abroad. Thirteen years later, the programme was officially renamed Youth Week in order to incorporate girls. Although such activities engaged Rotarians in service to youth, many club members around the world began to feel that something else could be done to engage young adults actively in service to their communities.

"One of the earliest predecessors to Interact was known as the Ro Club, a service club for high school students. Ro clubs' goals and projects were very similar to those of today's Interact clubs. Yrator Clubs (Rotary spelled backward) for outstanding high school students also were active as early as 1934. Their efforts focused on community activities but did not incorporate the international element that is required of clubs today. In 1939, Pan-American Clubs for primary and secondary school students were proposed as a way to increase international understanding and goodwill. The clubs' purpose was to educate students throughout the Americas on the customs and cultures of other countries in the Western Hemisphere. However, without the official endorsement of Rotary International, the movement eventually fizzled out.

"Throughout the 1940s, Rotarians continued to serve the children and young adults in their communities by sponsoring the efforts of other organizations. Yet, feeling the need actively to engage youth in community service, Rotary clubs around the world soon began forming youth service clubs based on the ideals, principles, and organization of their own clubs. The Rotary Club of Miami, Fla., USA, sponsored the most influential of these movements, known as Wheel clubs. Although Wheel clubs were not adopted as an official Rotary programme, the RI Board decided to research the feasibility of creating a youth service organization for adoption by all Rotary clubs.

"Before the end of his term in 1960, then RI President Harold T. Thomas appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Youth to study the implementation of youth service clubs. The group studied pre-existing youth clubs and consulted with Rotarians, educators, teenagers, and sociologists. Committee Chairman Charles H. Taylor of Christchurch, New Zealand, played the greatest role in the creation and approval of the programme through his insight, leadership, and extensive research. The programme was named Interact, a combination of the words 'international' and 'action.'

"On 5 November 1962, within eight days of the official adoption of the Interact program, the first Interact club was chartered at Melbourne High School, Fla., USA. The club's 39 members reflected the universal criteria that all Interactors be male and in the last three years of secondary school. Within one year there were 177 Interact clubs in 24 countries; by October 1964 that number had grown to 450 clubs in 35 countries. Within a few years, Interact began to take on its present form. In 1967, the RI Board opened membership to female members, preceding the admission of females to Rotary clubs by 20 years. During the same year, Interact membership was extended to any student in the last four years of secondary school.

From 1967 to 1978, The Rotary Foundation of RI sponsored "Rotary International Awards for International Understanding" for Interactors. Recognition was awarded to Interact clubs that undertook projects that improved international understanding and goodwill. Youth Exchange participation, visits to foreign Interact clubs, and projects that aided developing countries were among the most common projects recognized.

"Since 1999, recognition for Interact clubs has continued in the form of World Interact Week, which is celebrated every year during the week of 5 November to commemorate the founding of the first Interact club. During World Interact Week, Interactors and Rotarians are encouraged to work together on a variety of service projects. Upon completion of these projects, clubs are recognized with a special pin and letter from the RI president.

"Interact continues to experience phenomenal growth. The United States, India, Brazil, and Japan boast the highest number of Interact clubs. Interactors also frequently join with other local and international organizations in the name of service. Working together, Interactors and Rotarians continue to show that they are ready for "international action."

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, **World Interact Week** is at time when schools in the southern hemisphere are busy with exams. Nonetheless, Rotary Clubs in District 9320 have been able to **Lead the Way** with their Interact Clubs, each in their own special way:

Leané Cilliers, President of the Rotary Club of **Jeffreys Bay** writes: "Our club decided to get involved with one of our Interact clubs (**Nico Malan Interact Club**) during World Interact Week and try to achieve special recognition from RI by completing and sending of the necessary Entry Form as found on RI website.

We have:

1. Invited the Interactors to join us at our club meeting on 30 Oct and one Interactor, Martinette, spoke to the club on what Interact has meant to her (2 Interactors and 10 Rotarians with partners). We also handed over a Vocational Service Award to a member of the community.
2. On 31 Oct 3 Rotarians and 3 partners joined the Interactors for their meeting and I spoke to the Interactors on what I believe they mean to Rotary.
3. Our club forwarded an inspirational letter from Vasti Botma (Interactor) to President Brits of the Ladybrand club.
- 4 On 3 November we had a combined project, a Christmas party for a Disabled school in Humansdorp. The Interactors (35) provided gifts and entertainment and the Rotarians (5 + 1 partner) provided Boerewors Rolls, Cooldrinks and Ice cream. We had a lovely time with our Interactors."

Raadzaal President Mark Ellis wrote: "The **Raadzaal Rotary Club** invited its **Interact Club** from **Brebner High School** to assist with the sale of food at the Pick 'n Pay and OFM Cycle Race, which was held in Bloemfontein over the past weekend. On both the Saturday and Sunday, five Interactors and a teacher helped in the food tent. Having these young people helping in our midst did wonders for team spirit and bonds of friendship were formed."

PJ Cloete advises that the **Kwa Komani Interact Club** is hard at work completing the forms for submission, for RI recognition.

Tim Gane, of the Rotary Club of **East London**, wrote that the Club hosted some of the Teachers and Presidents for lunch at their regular meeting; he agreed that it is a hopeless time for SA Schools.

Marlene Larter, a teacher at **Queens College**, arranged for the **Interact Club** to lead the devotions at the Assembly. After the school sang the carol *Joy to the World*, Jason Carr, the President, explained that as it was World Interact Week the Interactors wanted the school to know a little more about Interact and that the motto for the year was **Lead the Way**; Vice-President Simphiwe Siko, did a short illustration on leading the way using rhinos as an illustration; board member Chauvano Adkins, did a short devotion on Service above Self; Matthew George, also a board member, then asked everyone to stand while he read the **4-Way Test**, explaining that this was the code that Rotarians and Interactors tried to live by; finally board member, Chuma Hlawula, closed with a prayer.

**Thanks to all Rotary Clubs and Interact Clubs that have participated in some way in World Interact Week.**

## THE FAMILY OF ROTARY

*(taken from the RI website)*

Friendship was the foundation, the rock on which Rotary service was built. The Family of Rotary resource Group will encourage clubs to care for Rotarians, their families, and members of the larger Rotary family, thereby strengthening clubs and instilling a sense of integrity, tolerance, and unselfishness in the next generation.

Over the next year, the Family of Rotary resource group will provide guidance to Rotary clubs and districts, and encourage them to promote projects and activities to enhance every Family of Rotary member's experience. In addition, the resource group will encourage every Rotarian to celebrate December as Family Month. By boosting membership and participation in Rotary clubs, the success of the "Family of Rotary" concept will help to ensure Rotary's continued presence as a vital instrument of service in the century ahead.

### Specifically, the Family of Rotary is:

- Rotarians' family members
- Spouses
- Widows and widowers
- Children
- Grandchildren
- Other relatives

### The larger Rotary family includes:

- Our neighbors in other clubs and districts around the world
- Rotary Foundation alumni
- Group Study Exchange members
- Rotary Youth Exchange students
- Rotaractors
- Interactors
- RYLA participants
- Inner Wheel and other spouse groups
- Global Networking Groups (Rotary Fellowships & Rotarian Action Groups)

### Supporting Family of Rotary is of critical importance because it:

- Builds lifelong friendships
- Enhances our personal families' relationships
- Builds world understanding and peace
- Improves international solidarity and tolerance
- Contributes to membership growth
- Contributes to diversity of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, and profession
- Improves Rotary's public image
- Strengthens clubs and the commitment to service

## District Trophy Winners for 2005 – 2006

Presented at the District Conference, September 2006, in Queenstown  
*(information supplied by IPDG John McDonald)*

1. Presented by 2005-2006 District Foundation Chairman,  
Trevor Long:

Foundation support awards

### Joy Ewing Rotary Foundation Participation Award

(presented to the club receiving the most points allocated in respect of receipt of monies or completion of assignments): **RC Algoa Bay**

### Ronnie McWilliams Trophy - RC Flamingo, Welkom

2. Presented by District Adjudicator, Kim Steyn:-

### Frank Connock Shield - RC Flamingo, Welkom

3. Presented by IPDG John McDonald:-

### Fanie Cronje Trophy - RC Goldfields Sunset

*(See the District Code of Practices (available on the website) for further detail on District Awards and Competitions)*

## PR GRANTS

So successful was the programme, that RI received over 3,200 applications from 90 countries. We have been advised that submissions that have NOT met programme requirements will receive notification to that effect by 22 November. Those clubs are encouraged to work on their proposals, and to make corresponding changes, so that they can submit again next year for future consideration.

By December 15 notification will be sent to clubs which are eligible for the first round of funding. These first approved proposals will have been selected as the best PR plans in their respective regions.

By February 13, Clubs eligible for funding in the next Rotary year will be notified. These are good proposals with significant PR impact on their local communities.

So, to all clubs in D9320, thank you, and good luck - we hope for success for all submissions.

## VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

**October** was **Vocational Service Month**. Different clubs recognized this in different ways. The Rotary Club of **Klerksdorp** presented certificates to leading members of the community for their work in their respective vocations. They also had a day where learners from schools were invited to 'shadow' Rotarians at their various workplaces.

## ANNS' REPORT

Having visited the majority of the Anns' Clubs in my section of the District, I am pleased to advise that Rotary Anns in this area are very active. Not only are they supporting their respective Rotarians, but are active in their own right. Large and small clubs, the community are benefiting from their various activities.

A Christmas tree meander organised by one Club was well supported as well as being a financial success. At a smaller club, a project supplying a little bit of warmth for babies infected by HIV/AIDS. Australian friends, who knitted little vests for newborn babies, generously supported them.

A first time in the Eastern Cape and East London will be Wheel Chair Tennis Tournament. The Anns will prepare meals for the participants, with the help of their Rotarians.

At this time of the year entertaining and preparing Christmas parties for Senior Citizens is well in hand, as has been done for these people every year.

In fact the Anns play a vital part in Rotary and the community in general, who are better off from their hard work.

Finally, when all this is done you all deserve a well-earned rest with your families.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas and peace to you all.

Lynn Grenfell

## In Memoriam

Again a time of sadness, as we pay tribute to two more of our Rotarians:

**Paddy Skelton**, Past President and Paul Harris Fellow, passed away recently. Deepest sympathies to his family and friends, and to his fellow Rotarians at the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay.

**Norman Bauer**, a founding member of the Rotary Club of King William's Town, passed away at the age of 83. The sympathies of D9320 go to his family and friends.

## CHRISTMAS TIME in D9320

Right across the district, clubs have joined in the **Tree of Joy** project, and participated in other **Christmas** activities. In East London and in Port Elizabeth, clubs have worked together, and the **Tree of Joy** projects have been handled on a grand scale. Thanks to all who have participated so readily in this activity. Unfortunately, at the time of going to print with this newsletter, few photos had been received.



**LADYBRAND** Rotary Anns making up 300 sweet packets to hand out to Aids orphans at the Hospice Children's Christmas Party.

From Left, Geetha Hart, Ailean Auckland, Anns' President Lenie Brits and Christine Jaeger.



The Rotary Club of **Kroonstad** introduced *The Festival of Light* for the first time in 2002. The actual Festival starts with a Rotary Gospel Music Evening, held this year on 29 November, in the "Moederkerk" in Kroonstad's main street, with wonderful instrumental and vocal artists.

On 2 December, Rotary holds its own Night Market with at least 4000 people strolling through the streets of Kroonstad when all the festival lights in the town are switched on. This project is well supported every year.

Rotary's aim is to make Kroonstad look like a fairy land, bringing the spirit of goodwill to the town, as well as attracting sightseers and promoting business in the town.

Businesses can also hire lamp poles, by way of a donation to Rotary, and hang their customised decorations from these poles. The municipality very kindly installs and connects all these decorations.

The rest of the project is run in the form of a competition with businesses decorating their shop fronts and buildings with Christmas lights. Homeowners are also encouraged to support the project by decorating homes and gardens in the festive spirit.

This year's event promises to be another highlight in the Rotary Club of Kroonstad's calendar.

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The **Tree of Joy** of the Rotary Club of **Jeffreys Bay** (for 20 kiddies from 2 schools, viz 7th Heaven Haven & Rainbow School for Disabled Children.

Rtn Dave Kan and Rtn Ronnie van Vuuren next to the tree.

In a combined project with the **Nico Malan Interact Club**, during World Interact Week, the Rotary Club of **Jeffreys Bay** organized a Christmas Party for Sonstraal School for Disabled Children in Humansdorp:



...with the Rotary Wheel much in evidence...



...fun for the children...



...and participative interaction from the Interactors

