



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9320  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONEL HEATH  
2007 - 08



Governor's Monthly Newsletter  
From the **Lion's Den**

April 2008

## MAGAZINE MONTH

### ROTARY MAGAZINES

The word "magazines" is being used fairly loosely as clubs use many names for their publications which we should talk about in Rotary's Magazine Month in addition to the official Rotary magazines.

Every Rotarian is expected to purchase an official Rotary magazine each month. For most of us this is **Rotary Africa**. However, if husband and wife are both Rotarians, one of the couple is encouraged to purchase the **rotarian**, the international Rotary magazine. This gives insight into Rotary affairs and activities. This is an option to think about from the start of the new Rotary year.



One of the pleasures of the past three years for me has been receiving a cross section of club bulletins from the various clubs. Some are exceptional works of literature and art and others may not appear as impressive but they serve the needs of the club.

A few clubs do not have bulletins and they are encouraged to start one in the new year. It needs a keen Rotarian to produce a one or two pager that is e-mailed to members every week, or a few more pages that are sent out every month. With e-mails so common now, it can take a negligible amount of time to get something out to members.

A short list of events to come serves as a very good reminder to members and a record of past activities keeps members that miss a meeting or two in touch with what is going on. A joke at the end ensures that members open the e-mail to read the joke and then look at the news!

### TWINNING WITH A CLUB IN AFRICA

One of the District 9320 goals for the year is for a club to twin with a club in Africa. This can be good fun as well as a method of building bridges into Africa.

One of the clubs that did find a new twin is the RC of East London that linked up with the RC of Nosy-Be in Madagascar.

Manfred Elster, treasurer of RC Nosy-Be writes: "... the clubs agreed to twinning, sharing projects and fellowship. As a first step three members of Nosy Be visited East London in January to establish the first contacts and to start exchanges. Together with their new friends they visited game parks and scenic sites in the Eastern Cape region and looked at important Rotary projects...

"The visiting Rotarians from Madagascar were most grateful for the hospitality and friendship they experienced during their stay and are looking forward to the return visit from 17 Rotarians and spouses of East London coming to see the Club of Nosy Be in May this year for further sharing of fellowship and assisting with Rotary projects."

What a wonderful opportunity Rotary offers you to travel into Africa and have accommodation in return for hosting a member of your twinning club. The ratio of hosting three and sending seventeen is very favourable to the South Africans but hopefully these numbers will balance out.



The island of Tanikely, just off the island of Nosy Be, Northern Madagascar.

## WATER – A PRESIDENTIAL EMPHASIS

The United Nations designates March 22 as World Water Day, but Rotarians around the globe are busy on the issue 24/7, volunteering their time and talents to provide safe water and sanitation to communities wherever there is need.

Rotary clubs are involved in about 6,000 projects in scores of countries, all aimed at addressing the lack of access to safe water and sanitation that claims more than two million lives each year, a majority of them children. Rotary is committed to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of a 50 percent reduction by 2015 in the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation.

This is an enormous challenge for humanity, and Rotary clubs are logical leaders in the challenge because they are embedded in their local communities, allowing the clubs to help define realistic solutions to local problems.

Here are Rotary-supported projects currently under way that we could copy or adapt in District 9320:

- The Tap Project, an initiative of UNICEF, raises money for water projects by asking for a \$1 donation per glass of (otherwise free) water in U.S. restaurants from March 16-22.
- Rotary clubs in the UK partner with clubs in Southern Africa to install innovative “play pumps”. The technology harnesses the boundless energy



of children at play by connecting playground merry-go-rounds to water pumps. A typical pump can give 370 gallons per hour.

([www.playpumps.org](http://www.playpumps.org))

- The Rotary Club of Nakuru, Kenya, has launched a programme to harvest rainwater at the household level, with the goal of bringing safe water to over one million people.
- Some of you may have seen a recent TV programme on Kenya where plastic bottles of water are put in the sun for a day or two as the sun destroys all the bacteria.

### NO NEW CLUB FOR POTCHEFSTROOM

It was with great sadness that I heard from PDG John McDonald that the provisional Rotary Club of Potchefstroom Sunrise will not be chartered as, despite all his efforts, he has not been able to get sufficient members. As a provisional club, it was involved in many projects, including establishing a Rotaract Club, and it is sad that these potential Rotarians and Rotaractors may be lost to Rotary,. Even more serious is that John himself, one of the most dedicated Rotarians in this district, may cease to be a Rotarian.

**RI PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE ON MEMBERSHIP AND CHILD MORTALITY**  
Johannesburg • South Africa • 1-3 August 2008

*Remember to Diarise...*

The RI Presidential Conference on Membership & Child Mortality  
- Johannesburg, South Africa  
- 1st to 3rd August 2008

Home Hosting available  
Top-notch speakers  
Great venue!  
Pre & Post Tours on offer  
open to all Rotarians in Zone 10A

Registration Form & Programme to follow soon!!  
Contact Helen with queries:  
rtpc2008@ibi.co.za

### MEET RI PRESIDENT LEE

Rotarians, especially those in the north of our district have an opportunity to meet RI President D.K Lee in Johannesburg during his conference there on Membership and Child Mortality.

The conference is intended for all Rotarians who are committed to strengthening Rotary membership, but especially club and district membership committee members, club presidents and officers, and district-level officers, including governors.

More details, including agendas, registration, and accommodation will be posted on [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and will be sent out later to clubs.



The GSE team to Colorado shortly before departure from the Port Elizabeth airport on 31 March.

## POLIO ERADICATION IS REALISTIC



All clubs and Rotarians in District 9320 are asked to raise funds or contribute during May to help Rotary match the US\$100 million grant received from the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation. The nearly 33,000 Rotary clubs in the world are each requested to contribute at least \$1,000 annually for the next three years.

Here are some suggestions:

On New Year's Day 2008, twenty hardy New York Rotarians, dubbed the "Polar Bears", plunged into the frigid waters of Lake George to raise \$25,000 in support of Rotary's challenge. "There is really no way to look very elegant when you jump into 33 degree Fahrenheit water, but we raised a ton of money and major awareness for Rotary and polio," said the DG.

The Rotary Club of Parker, Colorado, USA, has raised more than \$6,000 for the challenge by contributing \$50 per member from its service fund and matching each member's additional contribution with up to \$25. "A number of members of the Parker club have either had polio or have watched loved ones suffer and die from polio," the club president said. "The club believes that no human being anywhere should suffer from this crippling and sometimes fatal disease. Eliminating suffering is what Rotary is all about."

In the last appeal for funds to combat polio, Rotarians ran in the Los Angeles Marathon, bicycled from Russia to the Netherlands, sponsored theatre performances in Tokyo, skydived over England, auctioned off artwork in India, sold staterooms for a Canada-to-Alaska cruise, and individually sold 2,000 pieces of a puzzle in Turkey depicting Mother Teresa immunizing a child.

Here are some ways in which clubs, either alone or with other clubs, can do something:

- Auction or raffle off something with appeal – sport souvenirs, paintings, memorabilia etc.
- Create special items for sale, including CDs, DVDs, cookbooks, craftwork, and Push to End Polio T-shirts, bumper stickers, and toy bears.
- Organize special events such as a walkathon, golf tournament, car rally, festival, fun fair, flea market, variety show.

Polio mainly affects children under the age of five and paralysis can occur within hours. Let us ensure, by eliminating polio soon, that neither our nor anyone else's children or grand-children end up with this disease.



An iron lung to which many polio victims were confined.

## IN MEMORIAM

The latest bulletin of the Rotary Club of Klerksdorp carried the news of the passing of Piet du Plooy, a former member of the club. The district shares the sadness of the the club and the members of Piet's family.

## THE BEST CLUB IN THE DISTRICT?

It is interesting to read in the club bulletins how many clubs regard themselves as the best club in the district. I would hate to have to make a decision in this area as there are a large number of extremely good and well run clubs and each club has specific strengths and some weaknesses.

At POETS and the AG training last year it was decided that we would send out a form containing the district goals on which each club could indicate to what extent it had attained the district goals.

Now that clubs have completed their applications for the Presidential Citation, the form with the district goals is going out. Once this has been submitted, we may be able to have some ideas which is or are successful club(s) this year by measuring the extent to which the goals were attained. If nothing else, I can publish the achievements of some big and small clubs so that next year you will know what can be achieved in a small or a large club.

## PAUL HARRIS SAPPHIRE RECOGNITION

As the district had some Foundation credits, it was decided to award a certain number of Paul Harris Sapphire recognitions to Rotarians who had contributed their time and their talents towards the district and at a higher RI level.

One recipient, PDG Charles Keast (seen here with his Ann, Rosemary, and DG Lionel) could not receive his recognition at a club meeting as his health keeps him confined to his home. DG Lionel presented him with his sapphire at his home.



Charles was DG from 1996 to 97. He has served the district in many capacities and has always provided wise counsel and good advice. He promoted the writing of a history of the district and has rendered support to Henk Kayser in the ROMEX project. In particular, the district recognised his service as an active member of the International Interact Committee for two years.

## INTER CLUB RIVALRY

There is one area in which a Rotary club in Port Elizabeth can claim to be the best in the town – the inter club Trivial Pursuit League held on the first Tuesday of every month. Maureen and I attended a league match for the first time and found it to be a wonderful Rotary fellowship event – full of fun, banter, friendly rivalry and frustration when an answer sits at the tip of your tongue.

Relationships between the Port Elizabeth clubs appear to be much better this year than they have

been before and this type of activity keeps the Rotary family together.

What is most interesting is that, at this stage in the league, only two points separate the top three teams – all tied at 151 from the bottom two who both have 149.

Not all clubs are in bigger towns like Port Elizabeth where there are a number of clubs, but I am sure clubs can get other groups in smaller towns – the bowls club or a church team - to organise a similar form of fun and fellowship.

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## SPOUSE'S SPOT

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Greetings to all Anns, Members of Inner wheel, and friends of Rotary.

Thank you to all of the Anns' and Inner Wheel Clubs that keep me in touch with all that is happening in your clubs. I see that a lot of clubs have completed fundraising projects and are now enjoying spending the money on worthwhile projects. Do send your photographs to me for publication in this magazine and also send on a copy to Rotary Africa.

I will be at POETS in Colesberg (18 - 20 April) and will have Merit Certificates with me. Please ensure that a representative from either your own club or your Rotary club goes home with the certificates you wish to award to someone who deserves recognition in your community or club.



This very serious, but lovable, AIDS orphan is able to face life with dignity thanks to Rotary Anns and their social partners. His "home" has received a large number of disposable nappies collected by the Rotary Club and Anns of Harrismith from PDG John McDonald – a good example of sharing Rotary.

At our recent Conference in Maseru I asked each Anns' or Inner Wheel Club to make a donation to the Rotary Foundation this year. We are all aware of the tremendous benefit that our district receives from the Foundation – especially with regard to matching grants. A Merit Certificate represents a donation of R60.00 to the Foundation. I will be notifying each club individually about money received by the Fiscal Agent, PDG Metcalf Fick, in this regard so that you are able to confirm your deposits.

(The deposit details are ABSA Bank Ltd., Boston Street, Bellville Branch no. 505 210. Cheque Account No 404 960 7366. Just state the club name and **Anns** (not Rotary Club of.) An e-mail to confirm the deposit is advisable - [metcalf.fick@mweb.co.za](mailto:metcalf.fick@mweb.co.za) You should receive notification of the deposit. If each club made a deposit, however small, it would together become a significant donation from the Anns' and Inner Wheel Clubs in our district.

I am looking forward to meeting again any of you that are attending POETS this year. I understand that we have an interesting programme lined up which I am sure we will enjoy. There will also be opportunities for us all to share our ideas and to collect new ideas for the 2008 - 2009 Rotary year.

With my best wishes to you all  
Maureen

