



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9320
DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONEL HEATH
2007 - 08



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

June 2008

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH



Please note that the word FELLOWSHIPS above has an -S at the end. Rotary was founded on fellowship, and fellowship still plays a crucial place in our clubs. However, the one with an -s is different.

I often read in bulletins that somebody has done a fellowship make-up. You can do a makeup at a fellowships meeting (the one with an -s) but do not qualify if you meet three or four Rotarians for a beer at a local club after work for a fellowship meeting (without the -s) or attend a club fellowship event.

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

Rotary Fellowships are groups that bring together members from different countries and cultures to enjoy a shared interest. In addition to fostering lifelong friendships, Fellowships keep members active in Rotary, sustaining interest and inspiring commitment.

There are nearly one hundred Rotary Fellowships covering various interests ranging from sports and hobbies to professional interests - all of which serve to extend international fellowship, friendship, and service. In addition to offering members a chance to share their passion for a particular interest with like-minded Rotarians, many individual fellowship groups enable members to serve others. For example, the Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians has organized cleanups of polluted rivers, and members of the International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians train Rotarians and others in computer literacy.

Members of the International Fellowship of Rotarians with Repaired Hearts (a growing group in our district) are called the "Zipper Club," and have provided life-saving surgery for disadvantaged children with severe heart defects.

In 1928 Rotarians with a shared interest in Esperanto joined together. In 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts flew the Rotary flag from their boats, and adopted the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians as their name. Rotary Fellowships have changed much over the years but, today, they still unite Rotarians in friendship and provide venues for enjoying their favourite recreational or professional activities.

FIND OUT MORE – go to www.rotary.org and in the space at the top of the page type Fellowships. There are even power point programmes that can be shown at clubs or you can download the official handbook on fellowships.

NOBODY – BUT ROTARY – ADMITTED!

The natural disasters in China and Myanmar (Burma) have monopolised many news reports recently. Myanmar, more so than China, is not keen on allowing foreigners into the country, even in a disaster. Many governments have unsuccessfully tried to send in aid.

Once again, Rotarians know no boundaries in reaching out to help people who are in desperate need. The beauty of it all is we all do projects without allowing politics or preconceived notions to get in the way.

Rotarians have been able to get over 1000 Shelter Boxes through to Myanmar so far. Here some are seen being offloaded. The Rotary logo can be seen.



Each container has a tent, stove, water purification kit blankets, tools, and necessities to help a family of 10 survive for six months.

800 Shelter boxes have also been delivered to China and an additional 17 000 tents have been requested.

Myanmar families get some shelter. Note the Rotary logo is on the tent behind the boy.





HOW DO WE HELP?

ShelterBox is a UK-based disaster relief organization administered by Rotary clubs around the world. We can order entire boxes online from Shelterbox or we can purchase individual items to be placed in a box.

See www.shelterbox.org.

A complete box costs £490, a tent £250 or a children's pack £7 and so on.

This year alone Zambia, Kenya, Mocambique and Swaziland in our part of Africa have received Shelter Boxes.

HOW DOES YOUR CLUB RATE AT THE END OF THE ROTARY YEAR?

We each believe our club is the best club in District 9320. The following examples from clubs in our district can act as rating instruments.

A club's response to the only compulsory criterion for a Presidential citation - **membership** - is used first.

Club A sponsored a new club this year and has been busy with preparations for another club. It replaced all members of the club that left to start the new club, and the result is that, thanks to the club and its baby, there are now over twenty new Rotarians in the district.

To meet the District goal of twinning with a club in Africa, the club twinned with a club in Madagascar, hosted a group of Rotarians from Madagascar and sent a group of nearly twenty on a return visit.

We can also look, as a criterion, at the response of a second club to the controversial Foundation goal, especially among some of the senior members of clubs - EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year). The goal is that one day every Rotarian will make an annual personal contribution he or she can afford to the Foundation and hopefully, as many as possible, will make this \$100.

Club B shows the resistance to this goal of the Foundation is crumbling. Their average contribution per Rotarian to the Foundation this year is \$468.57. Eleven Rotarians are sustaining members, **personally** paying at least \$100 per year to The Foundation.

Club C has increased its membership by about 75% and paid in \$223 per Rotarian to the Foundation.

The above are examples of three among many good clubs in the district. Clubs use their strengths. Many clubs are doing superb work with Matching Grants, nearly all are helping the ill and the poor and many are meeting goals of both RI and the Foundation. Well done!

While we are rating clubs, perhaps the following true words written in jest can help you to rate your fellow club members and yourself.

Some Rotarians are like wheelbarrows-
no good unless pushed;

Some are like trailers –
no good unless pulled;

Some are like kites –
if not kept on a string they fly away;

Some are like kittens –
they are only content when petted;

Some are like rugby balls –
you don't know where they are going until they bounce;

Some are like balloons –
full of wind and likely to blow up unless handled carefully;

Some are real ROTARIANS –
always in attendance and always ready to help.

It may be time for 2008-9 Rotary year resolutions!
LET'S MAKE JAAP'S YEAR ONE OF THE BEST YEARS IN THE HISTORY OF DISTRICT 9320.

HOW ABOUT A CLUB AWARD?

HAS YOUR CLUB EVER RECEIVED A BANNER AWARD FROM THE FOUNDATION?

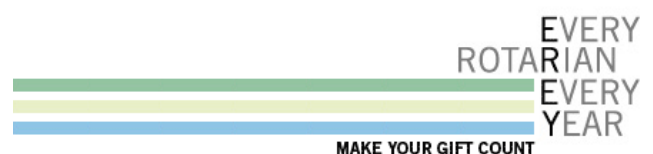
Rotary International awards clubs with banners for special achievements such as coming first, second and third in the district in the amount per capita given to the Foundation. Obviously there are only three awarded each year. There are many other banner awards, but there is one every club can receive and only 552 (less than 2% of all clubs) received them last year. This is the EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) banner. To receive this a club needs to pay \$100 per capita to the Foundation **but every member must make a contribution, even a small one.**

Ten of clubs have already paid in \$100 per head to the Foundation this year from various sources, an more will pay this month, but do not qualify on the second criterion – a personal payment from each member.

If each member of your club now paid in, say, US\$5.00 (R38.00 and less than one bottle of decent red wine) to the Foundation, and preferably to Polio, your club could be in the top 2% world wide. Some members may feel they are able to donate more than \$5.00.

To be able to pay money into the Foundation you need help from your club secretary who should be able to provide you with your club and membership numbers and a form to complete.

DETAILS ON HOW TO GO ABOUT THE PROCESS APPEAR IN THE DISTRICT SECRETARY'S ROTARY INFORMATION SENT OUT THIS MONTH



VISIT TO 9320 OF BOB AND ANN SCOTT



Foundation Chair, Bob Scott, (Centre back) and Ann (left front) with Sister Ethyl Normoyle (front centre) of the Missionvale Care Centre in Port Elizabeth, PDG Mel Smethurst, PDG Trevor Long and his Ann, Denise, and DG Lionel and Maureen.

During May we had the good fortune to be able to host the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation and his wife Ann in Port Elizabeth.

PDGs Rodney Mazinter of 9350 and Trevor Long had both worked with Bob Scott on Rotary committees and, when he was chosen to take over as The Foundation chairman, both invited him to visit South Africa and, as a result, he paid a whirlwind tour to all our districts.

Bob and Ann live within 50 kilometres of RI President Wilf Wilkinson and Joan in Canada – the closest the top two Rotarians have lived for many years.

Bob met with a group of Alumni on his first evening. On the next day he visited projects and that evening addressed a pleasingly large group of Rotarians from Port Elizabeth, East London, Port Alfred, Uitenhage, Grahamstown, and Jeffrey's Bay.

Bob is also the Rotary Polio Chairman and spoke very enthusiastically to the Rotarian gathering about recent successes in the Polio campaign and emphasised how important it was to eliminate Polio.

DG Lionel informed him District 9320 had foreseen his visit a year ago and had dedicated May to the fight against Polio! (Hopefully we have done something!)

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
The Rotary Club of De Aar celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its charter during May.

De Aar produced our second DG after the new district was established in 1968. Despite going through some tough times, the club has hung in there and is now rising like a phoenix from the ashes and membership is rising.

PDG Des Willis, DG Lionel and their Anns were among the fifty people who attended a very enjoyable cocktail function. Most encouraging was the attendance of a number of past presidents who are thinking of coming back to the resurging club.

WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT DG FROM DE AAR!

AVE ATQUE VALE

This Latin expression means "Hail and Farewell" and is similar to an English expression, "The king is dead; long live the king." These both imply that it is business as usual immediately after a person in authority departs and his successor takes over.

This is true in the district as Maureen and I hand over to Jaap and Kim Steyn and we are sure you will give them the wonderful support you gave us. I predict a good year for District 9320 next year with Jaap as DG.

The cliché goes that time passes very quickly when you are having fun. This has definitely been the case for Maureen and me and, although the year has been hectic, we can recommend a spell as DG couple to all Rotarians who are interested and have the opportunity.

We have met "angels" throughout the country – very ordinary people without many resources of their own providing wonderful services for the poor who do not have much less than they do – like a lady in a small simple home providing soup and bread to three hundred people from her own kitchen. Many others like her are able to be "angels" because Rotary clubs and members in this district support them where possible. We have been very aware of the support Rotary provides to organisations and individuals who are also in the human service business.



We have also met wonderful Rotarians (many beyond our district) who have been hospitable and friendly and we have developed many new friendships. Not least of these are the wonderful people of Lesotho who helped with our conference. Our attachment to Lesotho and its people (see picture of DG for Lesotho) has grown and on five visits we have seen much of the country and seen how many of the rural people struggle to have enough to feed their families.

We should like to thank all the Rotarians and clubs of the district for the gracious and friendly way in which you received and hosted us. We have never been so spoilt in one year by so many wonderful people. Thank you for your hospitality, for the gifts we received and for accepting us as we are.

WE WILL TREASURE THIS YEAR FOR MANY YEARS TO COME AND HOPE OUR PATHS WILL CONTINUE TO CROSS IN THE FUTURE.



Warmest greetings and best wishes to all.
Maureen and Lionel

IN MEMORIAM

Jacques Viljoen, Secretary of the Viljoens-kroon club passed away after a long illness.

Derrick Couper, Editor of *Rotary Africa*, passed away suddenly after a game of tennis the day after his district's conference.

We share in the sadness of the members of their families and their fellow Rotarians.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



DID YOU KNOW?

If you personally donate \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation for a Paul Harris for a special person in your life, you automatically receive an additional sapphire for your own PHF.

SPOUSE'S SPOT

Greetings to all Anns, Members of Inner Wheel and Friends of Rotary

What a busy and interesting year Lionel and I have had being able to visit each club and to meet all the Rotarians and their spouses. The visits to all the different projects that the various clubs were busy with was so interesting and confirmed that Rotarians, Anns and members of Inner Wheel clubs in our district are making a very significant difference to many people in need. We have so enjoyed the opportunity to be able to part of Rotary's sharing in this way.

It is interesting to discover that what we are doing as Anns and members of Inner Wheel is so similar to what the wife of the RI Founder, Paul Harris did in 1910! The following information was found by PDG Ann, Cathy Willis, about Jean Harris, the wife of R.I.'s founder, Paul Harris.

"A few months prior to the first Rotary Convention in 1910, at the age of 42, Paul had joined a Saturday afternoon hike organised by the Chicago Prairie Club. As he climbed over a barbed-wire fence Paul ripped his Harris tweed jacket, an accident that was noticed by another hiker, a young Scottish woman named Jean Thomson. She offered to mend the tear for the dismayed young man and three months later they were married! Thus, a remarkable union started.

Jean would sew clothes for fatherless babies born at the county hospital, plan her church projects and tend to her garden. Although the couple had no children of their own, Jean enjoyed helping young people. She played a quiet but supportive role in her husband's work, yet Paul wrote - "Jean throws herself with perfect abandon into every breach to which love or duty calls. Her militant spirit was always ready to jump into a cause to defend the needy." I wonder if he was thinking of the time she berated a man for brutally belabouring his horses with his whip and he received a 'dressing down' from the belligerent Jean! This was most unusual bearing in mind that it happened in the early 1900's when women were very subordinate to menfolk!

Paul became Rotary's roving ambassador travelling the world with Jean at his side attending conferences, conventions and club assemblies. Jean devoted her life to supporting Paul and his dedication to Rotary."
(Thank you, Cathy.)

I look forward to hearing about your clubs in the future and to meeting you again at Conference in Welkom at the beginning of October when we will be able once again to share our ideas, learn something new and enjoy the very special fellowship that the Rotary family shares.

Thank you all for your support in the year of Rotary Shares.

With my very best wishes

Maureen