



ROTARACT NEWS

DISTRICT 9320

JUNE 2005



The Rotaract News will be sent out every three months. It is a way for Rotaract Clubs to keep in touch with one another, share project ideas & lessons learnt, and build a stronger Rotaract District.

Dear Rotaractors –

A Rotaract Newsletter has been a long time coming, and hopefully by sharing experiences that each Club has, we will be able to grow a stronger Rotaract District.

In this issue, you will find:

- o An introduction to each active Rotaract Club Pg 1
- o Points to remember Pg 2
- o 2005 Conference Notes Pg 4
- o District 9320 area map Pg 4
- o Common challenges Pg 5
- o District Rotaract Board start up... Pg 5
- o Current DRR profiled Pg 5
- o Contact details Pg 6
- o Rotaract International Pg 7

In future issues there will be:

- o Query corner (submit query with your contact details so that answers can be emailed to you and included in the next newsletter)
- o Project feedback (each Club to provide details of projects)
- o Rotaractor Profile (each Club to profile one or two members, including name, profession, interests and a photo)

Feedback and comments are very welcome, so as to ensure that the Newsletter meets each Club's needs as far as possible. So feel free to contact me with your input.

Regards,
Tracy Thomas
rotaract9320@yahoo.com



Rotaractors from Port Elizabeth Club hosting the annual Uncle Jumbo's Christmas Party

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF PORT ELIZABETH

The Rotaract Club of Port Elizabeth was chartered 42-years ago. At present their membership is at 8 Rotaractors, who meet twice a month.

Their major project is the Uncle Jumbo's Christmas Party hosted each year and is a favourite with young and old alike! Each year a few charity evenings are dedicated to children who are unprivileged. Uncle Jumbo's is also a means of raising funds for other projects that take place throughout the year.

Other projects have included handing out Easter Eggs at children's wards at Port Elizabeth hospitals, a clothing drive for the Northern Lights School for the Physically Challenged, and assisting their sponsoring Rotary Club with a fun run celebrating their 80th year.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY, PORT ELIZABETH

This Club has been running for three years. Membership, currently at 35 members, consists of students of the NMMU. The Club's executive committee meets once a week.

The projects they undertake range from raffles; visits to the Cheshire Home, Mercantile Hospital, Kayaletu boys school, SOS Children's Village and EP Children's Home; and a food collection drive.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF KROONSTAD

The Rotaract Club of Kroonstad was chartered in June 2003, and consists of 31 members. They meet every second Thursday.



Kroonstad Rotaract at the Maokeng Clean Up

Over the past two years they have been very active with projects, and these include:

- o Cleaned Concentration camp on the 16th June 2004.
- o Provided a meal/ braai for the car guards of Kroonstad
- o Hosted potjiekos for an Old Age Home
- o Hosted a Rock Star party
- o Hosted a Christmas party
- o Hosted an Out-of-Space party
- o Hosted a "Bo blink onder stink" party
(Do you see a trend developing here?)

- o Helped CANSA with a 5 km walk
- o Donated a deep freezer to a Children's Home
- o Bar for Black Steers Rally 2004 and 2005
- o Pantomime: Aspoesterjie 2004.
- o Pantomime: Romeo and Juliet 2005



Kroonstad Rotaractors hosting an "Out Of Space" party

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 31 July 2005 – due date for submission of Rotaract Board representatives from each Club
- 20 September 2005 – closing date for submission for second issue of Rotaract News

ROTARACT INTERNATIONAL

- July – Literacy month
- August – Membership extension month
- September – New generations month

"ROTARACT SHOP" DETAILS

Rotaract pins can be ordered from Wynand de Kock: (Tel H) 046 648 2187 (Fax) 046 648 1771 (Cell) 082 508 0727. Other "paraphernalia" can also be ordered through Wynand.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF PE WEST



The PE West Rotaract Club was chartered in May 1996, and revived in 2003. Current membership stands at 7, and the Club meets every second Tuesday.

Projects have included facilitating a permaculture (sustainable) gardening workshop for the Langbos community and donating 5 000 seedlings; delivering pastas to various communities; taking part in the Rotary Unite Against Hunger project; whisky tasting and pub crawl fundraisers; bushwhackers obstacle course party for children from the SOS Village; promoting a pre-Easter blood drive; taking part in an international project with the Rotaract Club of Vapi, India and refurbishing the communal areas at the Buffelsfontein Retirement Village in Port Elizabeth.

PE West Rotaract planting seedlings at a crèche at the Langbos community near Addo



ROTARACT CLUB OF PORT ALFRED

The Rotaract Club of Port Alfred was chartered 8 years ago, and currently has 22 members. The Club meetings last for one hour.

Major annual projects include township work, the Settler's Marathon, Rowing Regatta and hosting the Club 101 dance.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF ROMA, MASERU

The Rotaract Club of Roma, Maseru was chartered in April 1997 and currently consists of 20 members.

The Club meets every Monday and has undertaken various projects. In January this year they sponsored a double orphan to obtain high school education at Pitseng High School. The Club held the First Annual Youth Seminar for high school students at the University hall, where the purpose was to provide them with motivational, leadership, entrepreneurial skills and HIV/AIDS awareness skills. This took place on 1st April 2005.

THE ROTARCT CLUB OF KING WILLIAMS TOWN

The Rotaract Club of King Williams Town was chartered in 1996, and currently membership stands at 12 Rotaractors. The Club meets every second Wednesday evening.

The latest project completed by this Rotaract Club was a movie evening at the Children's Centre. The Rotaractors provided a braai, music and movies such as "Shark Tale", etc, on the big screen for all the kids at the Center. The project was a great success, and children and Rotaractors alike enjoyed themselves.

2005 CONFERENCE NOTES

The 2005 Rotaract District Conference was held from 6 – 8 May 2005 at Spring Valley in Port Elizabeth.

A representative from those Clubs in attendance was each asked to provide a report back on the activities of the Club.

The guest speaker was John Sharwood, from the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth.

John provided a brief history of Rotaract in South Africa:

The name of Rotaract was initially called ROTORS, and was started in 1960 in South Africa because a need was felt for a service club that was younger than Rotary.

The name was changed to ROTARACT when the South African's were outvoted by American Rotor members.

John presented a brief overview of Rotary, and encouraged Rotaractors to market their Clubs to create a greater awareness of Rotaract and its activities.

The Rotaractors brainstormed a Way Forward, and the following ideas were mentioned:

- Planning a District project
- Encouraging membership through talks at Interact Clubs, university students and in the private sector
- Hosting fellowship evenings so Rotarians can get to know their Rotaractors
- Starting up a District newsletter (*Voila!*)
- Planning the next annual District conference in Colesberg in 2006 (see page 5)
- Reviving the District Rotaract Board (see page 5)



District 9320 occupies a large portion of the central area of South Africa. It encompasses the entire Free State Province, virtually the entire Eastern Cape Province, the eastern part of the Northern Cape Province, the southern portion of the North West Province and the entire Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF RHODES UNIVERSITY, GRAHAMSTOWN

The Rotaract Club of Rhodes University consists of 130 members, although about 25 – 35 are actively involved in the Club's activities. The Club meets weekly, and is involved with the two projects that take place each week: (1) swimming lessons with the local children's shelter Eluxoweni on Saturday mornings and (2) volunteering at the Soup Kitchen run every weekday in the City Hall.

Other projects include Mother's Day tea at the Senior Citizens Centre; hosting a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' for children of the Salvation Army; planting of trees at the children's shelter on Arbor Day; Street Collections for Hospice; involvement in a river clean-up of the Kowie River; Pajama Party at Friar's Pub and Grill where the pub gave a free drink for every can of food donated; volunteering at Settler's Marathon; co-ordination of Residence Community Service Representatives to run collections of clothes each term.

COMMON CHALLENGES

At the conference it became apparent that many of the Rotaract Clubs share common challenges:

- Retaining and increasing membership
- Maintaining membership enthusiasm
- Obtaining support from sponsoring Rotary Clubs

For those Clubs who have possible solutions, please send these for the next issue of the Newsletter!

ROTARACT DISTRICT BOARD

The next step is to form a Rotaract District Board. A nomination from each Club is required.

Criteria: The only prerequisite to being a Board member is that you need to be a Past President of a Rotaract Club.

Function of nominee: Each Club's nominated Board member will have the following functions:

- act as liaison between the Club and the District
- pass on information for each issue of the newsletter

Function of Board: As this is the start up of a District Board, the main function will firstly be that the Board gets to know each other. *(A suggestion is that each nominee is profiled in the next issue of the Newsletter, along with another member from each Club).*

Thereafter the Board will assume a range of tasks, among others:

- electing a new District Rotaract Representative (DRR)
- getting in touch with other Rotaract Districts, to gain more knowledge as to what is happening elsewhere
- planning a training session for Rotaract Club officers (presidents and incoming presidents)
- selecting a Club who is willing and able to facilitate and host the next Annual

Conference (to be held in Colesberg in 2006)

- start preliminary planning for a multi-district conference with other Districts (this is a two-year goal)

Function of the DRR:

- Liaison between Rotaract and Rotary Clubs, The District Rotaract Chair (the Rotarian appointed as primary Rotary counterpart), the Rotaract Board and Rotary International

PROFILE OF DRR

MARGIE MISPLON

Margie has been involved with Rotaract for the past 10 years, has been Club President twice and was elected DRR four years ago.

Margie grew up in a Rotary family; her father has been a Rotarian and her mom a Rotary Anne for the past 19 years. Her interests, besides Rotaract, include cricket scoring for the Old Grey Cricket Club for 4 seasons and she has also done a couple of provincial games.

Work-wise Margie is in the Tourism Industry and hopes to be going to the UK in August for a 2-year stint, to gain more experience in the tourism industry and to travel a bit. One of the first things she will be doing when arriving in London is to find a Rotaract and Cricket Club.

QUOTE: "I am hoping that our District 9320 will be in full swing by the end of the year, that we have a board in place and that there is regular communications between clubs in the district and other districts! Also, that there is greater communication within the Rotary Family. Being involved in Rotaract is a very humbling experience, especially being involved in Uncle Jumbo's, when you see the smiles on the children's faces when Father Christmas hands them their gifts, it makes all the hard work and effort worthwhile!"

CONTACT DETAILS

Below are the contact details for each Rotaract Club as well as the President of the sponsoring Rotary Club.

Should these details become outdated, please provide updated information including name, email address and contact telephone number.

KING WILLIAMS TOWN

President: Luke Rawlins
rawlins@cbarnes.co.za

Incoming President: Shalen Singh
(to be provided)

Rotarian: Mervyn Spring (KWT)
kwt@cbarnes.co.za

KROONSTAD

President: Johan Geldenhuis
spaski@e3.co.za

Incoming President: Pieter Geldenhuis
geldenhuis@e3.co.za

Rotarian: Paul Smit (Kroonstad)
paulsmit@telkomsa.net

NMMU ROTARACT

President: Mary Abura
203004493@nmmu.ac.za

Incoming President: to be announced

Rotarian: Vernon Wait (PE Sunrise)
vernon@pemburytours.com

PORT ALFRED

President: Shauna-Lee Stephen
metalmonkey1@yahoo.com

Rotarian: Malcolm Christie (Port Alfred)
malcolmc@imaginet.co.za

PORT ELIZABETH ROTARACT

President: Paula Martin
psmartin73@yahoo.com

Vice President: Robert van Ordel
rvanordel@worldonline.co.za
(Offices will remain the same for 2005/06)

Rotarian: Michael Stapp (PE)
stapps@global.co.za

PORT ELIZABETH WEST

President: Tracy Thomas
pewestrotaract@yahoo.com

Incoming President: Vanessa Graham
vanessa.graham@pkf.co.za

Rotarian: Kevin Dersley (PE West)
kevin@handm.co.za

RHODES UNIVERSITY

President: Willene Janse van Rensburg
g02j5049@campus.ru.ac.za

Incoming President: Claire Raciborska
g04r0482@campus.ru.ac.za

Rotarian: Les Reynolds (Grahamstown)
l.m.reynolds@ru.ac.za

ROMA MASERU

President: Mpone Mohasi
mponem@yahoo.com

Incoming President: Keneuoe Mokapela
(to be announced)

Rotarian: Geoffrey Moekoa (Maloti)
g.moekoa@nul.ls

CURRENT ROTARY DG: (PE Club)
Des Willis – dwillis@icon.co.za

INCOMING ROTARY DG: (Potchefstroom)
John McDonald – macpotch@lantic.net

DISTRICT ROTARACT CHAIR: (PE West)
Mel Smethurst – melsmeth@mweb.co.za

ROTARACT INTERNATIONAL

INTEROTA

Interota, a worldwide Rotaract meeting held every three years, is organized and sponsored by Rotaractors and provides a forum for sharing ideas, concerns, and experiences.

Interota 2005 will be held 11-18 September 2005 in Munich, Germany, and is hosted by District 1840. Topics for discussion will include education, international understanding, health, the environment, and international service projects. The conference will also serve as a platform for getting to know a lot of Rotaractors, making friends and establishing transcontinental partnerships with the help of atmospheric celebrations as well as an attractive culture and sight-seeing program.

Interota is organized and sponsored by Rotaractors and provides a forum to share ideas, concerns and experiences with their counterparts around the world. While not an official Rotary International meeting, the RI Board of Directors recognizes the value of Interota and supports the event through approval of its program content and by ensuring representation of RI leadership.

For more information about Interota 2005, please visit www.interota.org.

TWIN ROTARACT CLUBS

Rotaractors around the world have a unique opportunity to learn about other cultures and foster goodwill through the global family of Rotaract. This partnership can involve establishing a pen-pal/e-mail relationship, arranging Rotaractor visits, exchanging project ideas, and undertaking small international or community service projects.

Rotaract clubs considering such a venture can choose a partner that shares similar interests, challenges, or language

capabilities. Rotaractors can also correspond with clubs located in an area of geographical interest. The possibilities for friendship are endless and greatly rewarding.

To find a suitable match, Rotaract Clubs can use the resources available through the *Worldwide Rotaract Directory*, their sponsoring Rotary club, and their district Rotaract chair or representative. For more information see www.rotary.org/programs/rotaract/participate/twin.html

PE WEST TWINNING WITH THE ROTARACT CLUB OF VAPI, INDIA



In 2005/2006 the Rotaract Club of PE West will be twinning with the Rotaract Club of Vapi, India. In 2004, PE West and Vapi joined up for an international project named "Sanskriti / Setso Sa Rona" which in the Hindi and Sotho languages basically means a sharing of cultures.

The project was simple, yet effective in concept. Each Club sent a "care package" to the other, containing curios and/or snacks and a cd containing details of their respective countries, Rotaract projects and Club members. In this way each got to learn more about the others' culture.

The Club of Vapi actually won "best international project of the year" in their district, spurring a twinning of the two clubs.

This year the two Clubs will undertake a similar service project, to take place on the same day in both countries.