



ROTARACT NEWS

DISTRICT 9320
MARCH 2006



SERVICE Above Self

The Rotaract News 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 Fellow Rotaractors –

In this issue, you will find:

- o Dates to remember Pg 1
- o Club Project Updates Pg 2
- o GSE to Texas Pg 3
- o Contact details Pg 5

An account of my trip to Houston on a group study exchange program will hopefully get you thinking about applying to be a part of this amazing experience. I had an awesome time in Texas and the memories of the trip will no doubt stay with me for a lifetime!

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



*Above L-R: The GSE team: Shameem, Karen, Tracy, Mark and Shauna, taking part in the Grand Entry Parade at the Houston Rodeo
Below: enjoying some of the local fare – Mexican food is very popular, but what would it be without margaritas?!*



DATES TO REMEMBER

20 June 2006 – closing date for updates for Rotaract News

ROTARACT INTERNATIONAL

- APRIL – Magazine Month
- MAY – District Conferences
- JUNE – Fellowship Month

RHODES UNIVERSITY ROTARACT CLUB

The Club has opened a soup kitchen in a Grahamstown township. The soup kitchen runs three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Club members deliver the bread and the soup, and Cynthia, a woman who lives next door to the kitchen, runs it.



Further projects include weekly swimming with the children from the Eluxoweni shelter on Saturdays, and visits to the Brookshaw Home on Sundays.

During the first weekend of April, before the vacation started, the Club members held an Easter Egg Hunt for the children from the Salvation Army.

PE WEST ROTARACT CLUB

The Club has hosted a series of craft workshops in order to raise funds. Local craft shops were contacted and a group lesson arranged at a discounted price. Workshops are held every second month, and at each session a different craft is practiced – for example beaded teaspoons, paper making, scrap-booking, etc. The proceeds are going towards a future Club project.

The Club has also recently received funding (approximately R19 000) from a Rotary Club in the United Kingdom to revamp the Buffelsfontein Retirement Village hall ceiling and to purchase 200



settings of crockery and cutlery for use in the dining hall.

Two projects at Easter-time consisted of donating Easter eggs to a local children's charity, as well as raising funds via a Tupperware hamper raffle.

THE GROUPS STUDY EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Two Rotaractors (Shauna-Lee Stephen of the Port Alfred Rotaract Club) and Tracy Thomas (of the PE West Rotaract Club) recently had the experience of a lifetime. Between 19 February and 22 March, they participated in a Rotary-sponsored Group Study Exchange Program.



Above: Tracy Thomas & Shauna-Lee Stephen

An excited team of five (four non-Rotarian team members and one Rotarian team leader) departed for Houston on 17 February. For some it was their first trip overseas and despite a 36-hour haul to get to the destination, it was definitely worth the jet lag!

The GSE program included staying with six different Rotary host families and sharing their daily lives with them – not to mention answering many, many questions on South Africa. Presentations were also given to the Rotary Clubs, including topics such as the South African economy, education, health and tourism. All the presentations were well-received and the Rotarians were interested in learning more about our wonderful country.

A further part of the program included vocational visits, where team members visited similar places of employ as their own profession. Shauna, a caterer by trade, visited various catering institutions and coffee shops, and even spent some time sampling the wares of a local

Starbucks franchise. Tracy, who works in the field of community development, spent some time visiting housing projects, AIDS havens, a children's place of safety and even a homeless shelter (where residents have their own en-suite bedrooms, big screen televisions, access to cooking classes and internet terminals to check their emails!)



Above: Shuttle at the Johnson Space Centre

The final aspect of the exchange was to see all the local tourist attractions of Houston and the surrounding areas. The sight-seeing activities were coordinated by local Rotarians, and the team got to experience life in Texas like no other tourist would be able to. Sight-seeing highlights included attending the annual Rodeo, watching an NBA basketball game, visiting the Johnson Space Centre, learning about Texas by visiting wonderful, interactive museums, a factory-floor tour of the Bluebell Creamery (ice-cream factory), going sailing in the Galveston Bay, meeting the mayor of Houston and many, many more.

A Group Study Exchange is a marvelous opportunity for young professionals to participate in a cultural and vocational exchange, to meet many wonderful people and experience marvelous hospitality, to learn something new and to make friends for a lifetime.

The two 2006/2007 GSE teams selected will be visiting Pennsylvania, USA and India, respectively. The official closing date for applications was 28 April, but it seems the closing date has been extended to 18 May.

A more detailed account of the GSE trip to Texas can be found on <http://www.rotary9320.org.za/>

Requirements for team members are to be between 25-39 years of age, to have been working in a specific field for at least two years, to be able to take approximately five weeks off from work in order to go on the exchange program. A team-member applicant may also not be a Rotarian or directly descended from a Rotarian (Rotaract members are eligible provided their parents aren't Rotarians).

If you are interested in participating in an exchange, or know of someone who would make a good candidate, please contact your local Rotary club for further information.



*Above: team getting a chance to play fireman at the Bellaire Fire Department
Below: enjoying a day of sailing on a Rotarian's yacht (it was named the "Freudian Ship" since he is a psychologist)
Bottom: some of the crazy antics of bull riders at the annual Houston Rodeo*



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: Shalen Singh
shalens@cbarnes.co.za

KROONSTAD

President: Pieter Geldenhuis
geldenhuis@e3.co.za

NMMU ROTARACT

President: Mary Abura
203004493@nmmu.ac.za

PORT ALFRED

President: Shauna-Lee Stephen
metalmonkey1@yahoo.com

PORT ELIZABETH ROTARACT

President: Paula Martin
psmartin73@yahoo.com

Vice President: Robert van Ordel
rvanordel@worldonline.co.za

PORT ELIZABETH WEST

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

RHODES UNIVERSITY

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

ROMA MASERU

President: Mpone Mohasi
mponem@yahoo.com