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## NEWS RELEASE

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### ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS DONATES A MUCH NEEDED EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 January 2016



*CAPTION: It was a proud day for the Rotary Club of Newlands as they handed over a much needed fully-kitted, multi-purpose Isuzu vehicle to the Disaster Volunteer Group, EVS in Noordhoek, Cape Town yesterday. President of the Rotary Club of Newlands, Colin Burke, has been working tirelessly with all the parties involved for the past two and a half years to raise sufficient funds to make this emergency vehicle donation a reality.*

### ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS DONATES A MUCH NEEDED EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE

*Yesterday was a proud day for the Rotary Club of Newlands. With all the recent fires, the donation of the multi-purpose Isuzu truck couldn't have been timelier. After two and a half years of negotiations, fundraising and engagement with sponsors and partners, Colin Burke, President of the Rotary Club of Newlands' dream of donating an emergency vehicle to the Emergency Volunteer Services (EVS) on the South Peninsula became a reality.*

The shortage of emergency response vehicles is a serious problem being faced in the Western Cape, with the numerous fires that need to be contended with at this time of year. The lack of vehicles often leads to emergency services taking up to 40 minutes to arrive at disaster scenes, especially in more remote areas. It goes without saying that the vital lost time can literally mean the difference between life and death.



With the Rotary Club of Newlands' recent fund-raising project, the club was able to donate a multi-purpose vehicle to the Emergency Volunteer Services (EVS). "We are incredibly grateful to all the support that we have received from all our sponsors and supporters; without their selfless generosity, this project would not have become a reality. With the generous support from Isuzu Trucks SA, we were able to donate a fully-kitted, multi-purpose vehicle, which will provide services to residents in the Deep South, from Claremont to Cape Point, including Masiphumelele, Ocean View and Redhill," says Colin Burke, President of the Rotary Club of Newlands. "The support has been overwhelming, we even received a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Albert Park in Melbourne Australia, who took it upon themselves to organise a raffle to help raise funds for this project," added Burke.

Davin Chown from EVS expressed his thanks to Rotary Club of Newlands for managing the project, "When working with Rotary Clubs, you know that the funds get invested in the projects that they are intended for. If it was not for their support and knowledge, and bringing all the parties together, we would not have this magnificent asset available for emergency support," commented Chown. "This project has been all about active partnerships and engaging with each other for the benefit of the whole community. With this vehicle we will be able to respond a lot faster and contain emergency areas a lot quicker while we wait for the larger support teams to arrive."

Councillor Felicity Purchase from the City of Cape Town who also attended the event congratulated the Rotary Club of Newlands and the EVS on this wonderful initiative and collaboration. Purchase commented on the importance of having quick access to an emergency vehicle. In the past there was always the danger of a team being isolated on this side of the Peninsula while waiting for support, with this emergency vehicle that risk has been minimised considerably.

Isuzu Trucks SA CEO, Craig Uren, added that they are thrilled to be associated with this wonderful initiative and to provide assistance to the community.

The truck will be based at Living Hope and teams will start their training on the vehicle soon.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Newlands and the projects that they are involved with visit [www.newlands.co.za](http://www.newlands.co.za) or contact [rotary@reputationmatters.co.za](mailto:rotary@reputationmatters.co.za). For more information on EVS visit [www.evs.org.za](http://www.evs.org.za)

[HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE]

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Released by Rotary Club of Newlands

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