



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Issue 7

District Gazette

Official newsletter of DG Jacques Venter.

January 2024



Rotary
District 9370

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

It has recently been brought to my attention that there appears to be a misconception regarding Rotary International's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and what is expected of us, as Rotarians. As such, I would like to share the following which I downloaded from My Rotary.org.

"At Rotary, we're committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect, allowing everyone's voice to be heard, and providing equitable opportunities for fellowship, service, and leadership.

Our members want and expect Rotary to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization. Although the Rotary experience may differ from country to country, issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are globally relevant.

We embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recognize that being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization will enhance the experience that members have in Rotary, allow us to carry out more meaningful and effective service efforts, and create open, welcoming environments that appeal to people who want to connect with us.

- Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Celebrate diversity.

Although free expression is important, what we say and how we behave matter. Rotary does not tolerate speech or behaviour that promotes bias, discrimination, prejudice, or hatred because of age, ethnicity, race, colour, disabilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity".

In a nutshell, as Rotarians we are committed to respect everybody for who and what they are. We do not promote minority groups, nor do we provide them with a platform on which they can promote their cause.

Should any members still have doubts or concerns this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.

District at a Glance

Total membership	1 July	1 Feb	Change
Rotarians	1 128	1 147	+19
Rotaractors	52	56	+4
Honorary members	238	231	-7
Total Clubs			
Rotary Clubs	81	81	0
Rotaract Clubs	11	11	0
Satellite Clubs	2	2	0

Congratulations to all the Clubs which inducted new members during the month of January. I certainly hope that this trend will continue. Just a friendly reminder to all Club Presidents / Executive Secretaries to please ensure that your members are all uploaded onto Club Runner and that the information is correct.

2024 Rotary International Convention



The foundation of our focus is our DEI commitment statement.

The DEI code of conduct provides a supportive framework for how Rotary members can create and maintain an environment that is collaborative, positive, and healthy for everyone. It asks Rotary members to:

- Use respectful language.
- Be supportive.

Hero of the Month

Following my article last month about young Cody Joubert, I have been alerted to another young hero. Leané Grobler, who is the granddaughter of President Sandra Uys of Parys, is a Grade 6 scholar at Curro Arora who decided to run a project aimed at providing stationery and books for less fortunate children to foster education and motivation for the upcoming year.



Young Leané with a small portion of stationery and books collected.

She collected stationery, books for reading, writing, colouring as well as school cases and shoes. Furthermore, she diligently cleaned, packed and prepared these items into gift parcels which were distributed at the beginning of the new school year. She is a true ambassador of Creating Hope in the World!

2024 AG & POETS Training

The 2024 series of Assistant Governor and President & Officers Elect Training Seminars will take place across 3 venues in February and March.

The venues are as follows: –

- Port Elizabeth: 17-18 February - German Club
- Bloemfontein: 24-25 February – Sewe Dame Community Centre
- Durban: 16-17 March – Rosehill Primary School, 225 Buttery Road, Umgeni Park, Durban North.

Saturday Registration is from 7.30 a.m. to start at 8.30 promptly. Sunday, we have an early start 8.00 a.m. Tea /coffee will be available. Lunch will be provided, as will supper – we need you to confirm you are staying for meals. Sunday will start at 8.30 a.m. and be over by 12.00 p.m. latest.

Kindly register as soon as possible - Port Elizabeth need to advise the caterers by the 12th.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

You will receive a response like this:

Google Forms

Thanks for filling in [AG TRAINING & POETS 2024-2025](#)

Here's what was received.

AG TRAINING & POETS 2024-2025

The month that was

January saw me visit 6 Clubs and traveling 1 316km spending 5 nights away from home. Our first port of call was the Rotary Club of Viljoenskroon where we enjoyed a lovely evening of fellowship and a good Fee State lamb braai. The Club is doing well, and membership is growing. True country hospitality.



DG Jacques, DGA Lynda, President Leon Taljaard and AG Div Lategan.

We next visited Orkney and having had a constructive Board Meeting, the visit was wrapped up with a Community Recognition Evening where individuals within their community were recognised for the Hope which they are Creating. A short video presentation was done highlighting the numerous projects with which the Club was involved with. The function concluded with a light finger supper and fellowship.



President Ronel Strydom, PP Herman Botha, DG Jacques & DGA Lynda.

Our next visit was to a Club, which, 18 - 20 months ago was down to 1 member! But how things have changed! The Rotary Club of Parys has risen from the ashes and are on the way up. Having hosted their 1st ASA Crater Mile Road Race, they are now firmly established on the Athletics South Africa (ASA) annual calendar due to the success of the event.



Members from the Rotary Club of Parys along with AG Colin Engelbrecht.

Under the leadership of President Sandra Uys, membership has grown to 9 with a few prospective members in the pipeline. Congratulations!

Our penultimate stop was the Rotary Clubs of Potchefstroom and Potchefstroom Mooi. Again, we received feedback of the wonderful work our Clubs are doing across the District uplifting communities, providing services and most importantly, creating hope.



Potch-Mooi Clubhouse set and ready for the Rotarians.

RC Potch-Mooi arranged for a combined formal dinner the Thursday evening, which, as usual was highly successful. For some unknown reasons, photographic evidence of the evening is rather scarce – maybe it is a good thing...



The dinner in full swing as seen from the outside!

Our final port of call was Klerksdorp, which started off with a Board Meeting, followed by a wonderful Project visit where skills are being taught and well as a vegetable garden is being developed.



The visit was concluded with a formal dinner where three new Rotarians were inducted. Congratulations!



President Alison and the newly inducted members of the RC of Klerksdorp.

The month ahead

A busy start to February will see me wrap-up my visits to KZN (barring Hibiscus Coast M&U) leaving me with only 3 remaining Club visits to be done.

Monday	29-Jan	Hillcrest
Tuesday	30-Jan	Kloof
Wednesday	31-Jan	Reservoir Hills
Thursday	01-Feb	Durban Bay
Friday	02-Feb	Pietermaritzburg Azalea
Saturday	03-Feb	KZN Stayover
Sunday	04-Feb	KZN Stayover
Monday	05-Feb	Westville
Tuesday	06-Feb	Chatsworth High Noon
Wednesday	07-Feb	Durban Clairwood Park
Thursday	08-Feb	Pinetown

District Conference 2024



A friendly reminder that Registration has opened for the District Conference being held in May 2024. On site accommodation is limited, so please book soon to avoid disappointment. Registration can be done online on our District 9370 Club Runner Web Page. Should you encounter any problems, please feel free to drop me an e-mail and I will have it attended to.

2024 Zone 22 Institute



The 2024 Zone 22 Institute and GETS will be held in Mauritius from 23 – 28 September 2024. Please access the website for further information. The Zone Plenaries should commence on Thursday 26 September 2024.

