



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Issue 9

District Gazette

Official newsletter of DG Jacques Venter.

March 2024



Rotary
District 9370

RIP Gordon's Africa Hope Tour

Rotary International President Gordon McInally and his wife, Heather, spent two weeks touring through Africa visiting 7 countries between 15 & 28 March 2024, on what was called "Gordon's Africa Hope Tour."

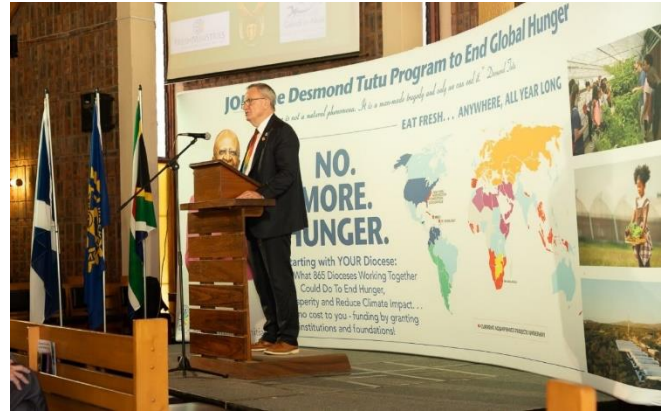
The McInally's arrived in Johannesburg on Sunday 24 March at 05h45 after their flight from Kigali, Rwanda had been delayed by 4 hours. After a brief shower, his programme kicked off with a breakfast with PDG Grant Daly and his wife Nadine, who were his Personal Aides for the trip, DG Anne Wright (D9350), and her husband Dave, DG Riana Pretorius (D9400) and DG Jacques Venter (D9370) and his wife Lynda.

The three District Governors were also honoured to spend an hour with President Gordon discussing their year so far and giving feedback about their respective Districts. The first official function was a Gala Luncheon held at the Wanderers Club for 150 invited guests.



Dave & DG Ann Wright (D9350), DG Riana Pretorius (D9400), RIP Gordon & Heather McInally, DG Jacques & Lynda Venter (D9370) prior to the luncheon.

Following the Gala Luncheon, the group moved to Ferndale in Randburg where RIP Gordon had the honour of launching a Greenhouse Aquaponics Training Facility which has been built with the assistance of FreshMinistries in the USA, the Randburg Dutch Reformed Church and E-Club Eagle Canyon. It is hoped that the Greenhouse Aquaponics programme will be rolled out throughout Southern Africa and that more Rotary Clubs will apply for Global Grants to develop these sustainable greenhouses to help eradicate hunger and food shortages throughout our Country. Talks are also underway to establish a similar project in Lesotho as well as countries north of our borders.



President Gordon during his address at the unveiling of the Greenhouse Aquaponics Project in Randburg.

Day 2 of his brief tour included a visit to the Nyoka Vulture Reserve, Kuierkidz Mental Health Home and Mountain Cambridge School Interact Club in Hartebeespoort – Britz. This was followed by a light lunch and an event at the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where a few Community Corps were chartered, Paul Harris Recognition Awards handed out and Leaders of Industry recognised.



President Gordon was also taken on a brief tour of the D9400 offices which gave the opportunity to have a photo taken with Johannesburg as the backdrop. Following the formalities, the group returned to Sandton for a night off.



An informal dinner was enjoyed at Nelson Mandela Square, but not before the three DG's had the obligatory photo with their President below the Nelson Mandela Statue.

This brought an end to what was an extremely busy visit to South Africa, and we wish President Gordon and Heather safe travels ahead.

The Month that was!

My official Club visits have finally been wrapped up and following the wonderful Wine on Water Event held in St Francis on 1 & 2 March, I was taken to a few of their projects on the Tuesday prior to their meeting.

For a Club that was only Chartered in 2019, they are really Creating Hope in their Community. Besides being involved with the upgrading of the local Fire Station, a vitally important service in their community, they have upgraded the local Sea Vista Community Hall, Library and are very involved with the Community Clinic.



The adult section of the library which includes 10 computer workstations and a braille computer.

The second floor of the library hosts the children's section which includes a reading area, computer workstation, display area and bookshelves.



The display area which is currently promoting South African Culture.

The Club is also involved with the only Montessori School which is based in a "township" as well as creche which is located in the same area.

My final Club visit was to Hibiscus Coast M&U which was cancelled in October 2023. Having visited some of their projects previously, we paid a quick visit to the Craft Market to view the facility.



Posing with President Mike Macrae at the Picture Frame

Once again, I have been extremely impressed by the wonderful work our Rotarians do in our District. If ever there has been an organisation that makes a difference and Creates Hope in the World, it is most definitely Rotary.

I have now completed 81 Official Club Visits, travelled just on 32 000 kilometres, and spent 112 nights away from home! It has been an awesome journey, and in case you were wondering whether I will do it again, yes, most definitely!

Our District at a Glance

Total membership	1 July	1 April	Change
Rotarians	1 128	1 154	+26
Rotaractors	52	52	0
Honorary members	238	223	-15
Total Clubs			
Rotary Clubs	81	81	0
Rotaract Clubs	11	11	0
Satellite Clubs	2	2	0

It is with great sadness that we lost a few Rotarians and Honorary Members over the past month. May they Rest in Peace. On a positive note, PDG Greg Cryer and PDG Richard Brooks have been hard at work in Scottburgh where we hope to charter a new Club in the Windenham Retirement Village. DGN Steve Shone and I recently attended a Meeting of Interest with the Community and things are really looking promising.

AG & POETS - Durban

Our third and final Assistant Governor and President & Officers Elect Training Seminar took place in Durban from 15 to 17 March 2024. Once again, the event was well supported with approximately 70 delegates in total.



Group photo of the Durban Delegates following Session 1.

The Regionalisation of the Training Sessions has once again proven very successful with almost 170 delegates having enrolled for the various venues. Previously we would only have between 70 & 90 delegates attend POETS. I certainly hope that this number increases, as the members realise the value of these annual events, not only for learning, but also for fellowship and fun!

District Conference 2024

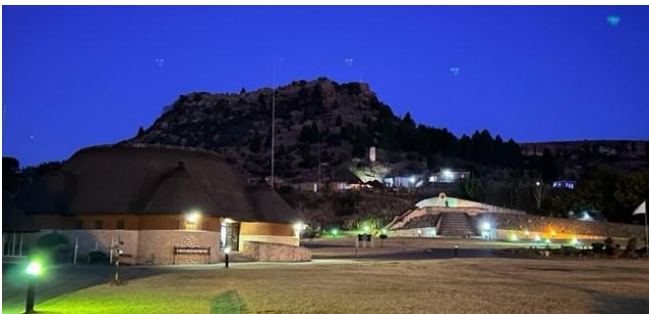
The 2024 District Conference (DISCON) is around the corner, and if you have not yet registered, you better do so sooner, rather than later! Click on the link should you need a reminder of what is to be expected (please ensure that your speakers are on):

[Rotary Discon promo 1.mp4](#)

We hope to share the DISCON Programme shortly, but some of the Guest Speakers (discussion topic in brackets) include: Mr Kalosi Ramakhula (Diplomacy in Conflict – King Moshoeshoe 1's Legacy), Ms Mandy Muchnick (Mental Health, How can I Help), Zone Coordinator Ken Mugisha (Engaging & Retaining members), Foundation Services Officer Elizabeth Ng'anga (The story of Major Gifts – Creating Hope), NokuGcina Maseko (Creating Hope in Diversity – Lessons from our rich history) and Ms Darleen van Tonder (Educating our Future Leaders).



The Host Organising Committee is also arranging an excursion to Morija Museum and – the Royal Palace, Matsieng for those who are interested. Added to this is an informal “Meet & Greet” Cocktail Party on Wednesday, Traditional Evening on Thursday and the Official Banquet on Friday where King Letsie III and Queen Masenate will be our Guests of Honour.



Thaba Bosieu Cultural Village at night!

How to get to Thaba Bosieu: Those travelling from the Eastern Cape are encouraged to travel via Aliwal North to Wepener where you turn off to van Rooyen's Gate Border Post and follow the A2 to Maseru. (Do NOT take the Wepener / Hobhouse / Ladybrand road as it is in a very poor condition). From KZN we recommend you take the N3 to Harrysmith, N5 to Bethlehem and then to Fouriesburg, Ficksburg, Ladybrand and Maseru. This road has been repaired and is in a fairly good condition. We have been unable to get an update on the road from Harrysmith to Fouriesburg via Golden Gate &

Clarens. We will try and update all delegates with route information closer to the time.

Rotary International Convention

The 2024 Rotary International Convention is less than 2 months away. Rotarians who are still interested in going are to please register as soon as possible. Should you have any queries, please contact our District Coordinator Charlie Panday (084 545 7475 or charpan@mweb.co.za) for more information.



Register today at convention.rotary.org



Zone 22 Institute - 2024



For Rotarians interested in attending the Zone Institute, please go to www.rotaryinstitute.info for more information on the programme, accommodation, guest speakers and other useful information. The Institute takes place from 27 to 28 September 2024.

Photo Gallery of the month that was



POETS selfie with DGN Steve Shone, President Sandra Uys (Parys) and District Interact Chair Craig Thompson (East London)



A familiar face in the crowd. PDG Maud also attended the Sunday events of RI President Gordon's visit to South Africa.



The inspirational Youth Librarian and Rt Tom Roux, Community Services Director at Rotary Club of St Francis.



Addressing the Gala Luncheon with an update on District 9370.



The Braille Workstation which is available at the Sea Vista Community Library in St Francis.



Our latest People of Action Poster created following POETS 2024. With me in the poster, are two of our newest members in District 9370.



The Wanderers Club Banquet Hall, the venue for the Gala Lunch with RI President Gordon and Heather McNally