

# DEMROTA

A Quarterly Newsletter for and about the Rotary Club of Demerara

SPECIAL ISSUE



## DEMROTA RESUSCIATED

Hansraj Singh  
President

It is my pleasure to be welcoming you back to one of the activities that the Club has been engaged in over the years - a regular Rotary Club of Demerara Newsletter. This keeps all members updated on what is happening in the Club. More so, it serves as a reminder of what we have accomplished, both individually and as a team. I am proud of the work that we have done and I know that this vibrant group will continue to uphold the principles of Rotary, both in their personal and professional lives. This Newsletter is a little longer than usual simply because we chose to highlight activities from the beginning of this Rotary year.

Thank you to each of you for bringing your skills and enthusiasm to Rotary and to those who have included their families in our projects. Let us continue to work toward embodying "Service above Self."



## HISTORY & THE FUTURE

Indira Mattai  
PR Chair

As a history fan and new Rotarian, I am proud to be part of the resuscitation of this Newsletter. Planning this issue was a challenge because there are so many stories worth featuring from RCD's 26 years in existence. The numerous fellowships that I have attended demonstrates that RCD has a habit of meaningful and worthwhile accomplishments, from having the first female Rotary President in Guyana to winning an award from Rotary International for the best community service project in the District. I've heard unforgettable stories like the medical volunteer who stitched a gash on her own arm in the bush and the serendipitous meeting (and rediscovery) of a woman receiving vital medical assistance that she would not have gotten if we were not in the right place at the right time.

Thank you to the Past Presidents who have filled in the gaps, regaled me with the stories behind the photos, and welcomed me into the fold. I look forward to our future historical discussions! Fellow Rotarians, I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed compiling it!

# 2019 & 2020 ACTIVITIES



## MEDICAL OUTREACHES

[June, Sept, Oct/2019 & Jan/2020]: Successful outreaches held in Kimbia, Muritaro, and Charity. A successful RAM outreach was also completed.

## SCAVENGER HUNT & BBQ

### Fundraising

[July/2019]: Approx. 30 teams, groups went around Georgetown to collect items and figure out secret locations.

## CLEFT PALATE

[July/2019 - Ongoing]: Assisting in adding to database of interested persons for Cleft Palate Surgery.

## HOUSE REFURBISHMENT: BERBICE

[Aug/2019]: Rebuilding & repainting 2 houses at No. 60 Village, Berbice. One was destroyed by fire and the other collapsed.

## MEDICAL COORDINATION

[Aug/2019]: Acquiring donations and coordinating transport out of Guyana for Shaniya Persaud, and assistance in transport for Sohan brothers to be airlifted.

## OFF-ROAD RALLY

### Fundraising

[Oct/2019]: 4 Routes ranging from easy to very hard. Approx. 25 teams (vehicles) & 10 bikes.

## HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE WALK

[Oct/2019]: Participation by Rotarians in the Walk.

## MOTOR RACING PROCEEDS

[Oct/2019]: Percentage of gate funds from GMR&SC Drag Race donated to Beacon Foundation.

## ARCHER'S HOME & BYER'S HOME

[Dec/2019]: Spreading Christmas Cheer, decorations and care packages.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY & TOY DRIVE

[Dec/2019]: Children's Party for 400 children in the Kuru Kururu & Swan Communities.

## BOOK DONATION TO MAHAICA HOME & ENMORE CHILDREN'S HOME

[March/2020]: Donation of books and toys to Mahaica Children's Home & Enmore Children's Home, Bookcase. This will be donated when COVID-19 advisories subside.

Many Rotarians also engaged in their personal charitable efforts and asked for the help / company of fellow Rotarians such as Rtn. Carey & PP Patrick's efforts with the children of the Mahaica Children's Home & the John Bosco Boys Orphanage.



## FEATURE

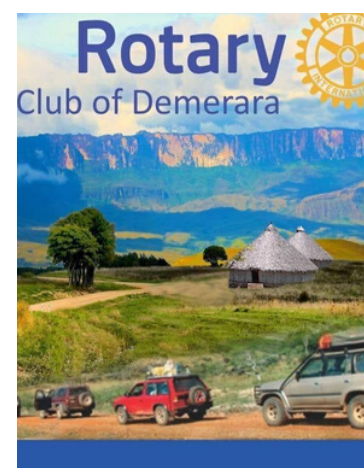
# OUR NEW PENNANT

And previous iterations

At the end of last year, we debuted the new Rotary Club of Demerara's Pennant. This current design pays homage to the RCD's "Bush boys" nickname. The Club has its roots in outreaches to the interior, and vehicles have always played a part in making the trip memorable. Senior Rotarians will remember the two major accidents on RAM trips, from a volunteer turning the vehicle over after driving a very short distance to getting stuck multiple times.

The vehicle is owned by our very own PP Patrick, who purchased it in 2015 and spent a lot of money to make it "bush ready." Since then, the vehicle has been used for all RAM trips as well as being the general go-to for Rotary work in town, including but not limited to transporting items, and most recently, the model for promotional Off-Road Rally Ads.

This is the third Pennant Design. The first was designed by PP Deborah's Partner in Service, Bernard Ramsay, and depicts key sights in the County of Demerara. The second was designed by the late PP Eon Caesar, who compiled many of the best elements of being in the interior - the mountains, benabs, savannahs, and of course - the vehicles!



## DG TREVOR BLAKE'S VISIT

In February, District Governor Trevor Blake visited Guyana and some Rotarians had the pleasure of meeting him in person. He was officially welcomed by Rotary Guyana at a dinner held in his honour. Among other things, he spoke of some of RCD's Projects over the last year. President Hansraj handed over one of our new Pennants to DG Blake, and an RCD Team accompanied DG Blake to Berbice, where he was able to see our work on the two houses, meet the families, and hand over Tablets.



## RCD & COVID-19

Officially classified as a pandemic by the WHO, Covid-19 / Coronavirus has reached Guyana and the country is in the midst of response at various levels. While some local Clubs have individual activities, there is also a larger coordinated Rotary Guyana effort. RCD is also a part of this, and will be assisting in managing funds received from donors, contributing sanitizing supplies for Care packages being prepared for key areas by multiple Rotary Clubs in Georgetown. RCD is also assisting in distribution.

The PR Chairs from each Club are also coordinating with Red Entertainment to develop a diverse PR Campaign, including the dissemination of information more applicable locally that has been vetted by PAHO. Plans and activities are at various stages of implementation.

This pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of the District 7030 Conference in St. Kitts in April, as well as the RI Conference in Honolulu in June. Refunds are being processed.

All Rotarians are encouraged to take all necessary WHO/PAHO approved precautions to keep themselves and the general public safe as well as to prevent the spread of this virus.

## PAST PRESIDENT FEATURE: RAMESH SEEBARAN

Every Quarter, we plan to focus on a Past President and some of their work during their Presidential year. This quarter, we look at PP Ramesh, our current Treasurer, who was President from 2016-2017.

**2016 - 2017 Theme:**  
Rotary Serving Humanity



Extension of Kuru Kururu School

### Key Projects:

- Extension of Kuru Kururu Nursery School
- Building fence and concrete drains at Archer's Home
- Medical outreaches at Kuru Kururu
- Distribution of school supplies in Linden (a joint project with LRC)
- 'Retro' party to raise funds
- Distribution of 6 bunk beds at Enmore Orphanage
- RCD/RAM medical outreaches



Sanitary Block at Archer's Home

“

MY TEN PLUS YEARS IN ROTARY CAUSED ME TO GIVE MORE MEANING TO MY UNDERLYING VALUES IN LIFE AND TO EXPERIENCE, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE HOW OTHERS BRING MEANING TO THEIR VALUES AS WELL.

PP RAMESH SEEBARRAN  
RCD PRESIDENT 2016-2017

# MEETINGS

## PRESENTATIONS

- Rotary Foundation
- Rotary Training & Leadership
- Sexual Harassment
- Smile Train & Cleft Palate
- Diagnosis and treatment of cancers at GPHC
- Vocational Talk
- PCOS Awareness
- Vocational Talk
- RAM Outreach
- Enmore Children's Home
- Cancer Challenges in the 21st Century
- Work at the Ministry of Telecommunications
- Suicide

PP Marcel Gaskin  
PP Liz Cox  
Vidyaratha Kissoon  
Dr. Shilindra Rajkumar  
Rtn. Gillisa D'Aguiar

Rtn. Tariq Jagnarine  
Rtn. Tariq Jagnarine  
Rtn. Ronald Nandlall  
Rtn. Kersee Ann Welch-Duncan  
Rtn. Rebecca Anwar  
Dr. Carl Niamatali

Min. Cathy Hughes

Min. Volda Lawrence

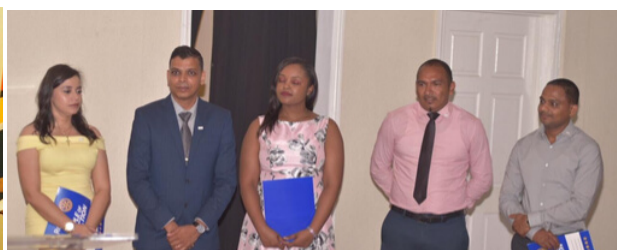


## VISITS

- Secretary Tamika visited the Rotary Club of Barbados South in Barbados [Jan 2020]
- Rtn. Lancelot & Rtn. Indira visited the Rotary Club of Portobello in Scotland [Oct 2019]

## NEW ROTARIANS

- |                    |                            |                   |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Lancelot Khan    | • Seenan (Ricky) Ramcharan | • Tariq Jagnarine |
| • Indira Mattai    | • Sohan Shetty             | • Ronald Nandlall |
| • Hance Thompson   | • Marissa Lowden           | • Keisha Chin     |
| • Gillisa D'Aguiar | • Domanique Cameron        |                   |



## UPCOMING Q2 EVENTS

*Note: All dates are tentative in light of Covid-19*

### APRIL

Covid-19 Coordination & Response: Care Hampers to key Groups / Agencies, etc.  
Paul Harris' Birthday [19]

### MAY

Hygiene Kits to girls at Mahaica Home  
Library Project at Mahaica & Enmore homes  
Scavenger Hunt  
Induction of new Rotarians

### JUNE

St. Cuthbert's Mission Medical Outreach  
End of Rotary Year  
Handing Over Ceremony