
NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2009

DISTRICT 9300

GOVERNOR

TREVOR NIENABER



From left to right: President Colin De Bruin (RC Benoni Aurora), RI President Dong Kurn Lee, D9300 DG Trevor Nienaber

R.I. PRESIDENT DK LEE PAYS A FLASH VISIT TO D9300

A day or so before the 16th April 2009 I received a request from the RI President's office to entertain the RI President on the 16th, since he would have six hours to kill at the Oliver Tambo International Airport on that day. To say that this threw me, my DGA, my team and my staff into a frenzy, is the euphemism of the century! I had been his Special Aide at his Rotary International Presidential Conference and had learnt about a few *do's & don'ts* at the time, but fitting all this knowledge into the three hours (out of the six) during which he would actually be available, would surely be another kettle of fish entirely. Let me just tell you, however, that it is in circumstances like these that one gets to realise how many real champions are available in Rotary and just how well they can work together.

The first important thing which had to be remembered was that the group would have to remain very close to the airport, so as to avoid possible traffic delays. For the same reason we had to stay on the eastern side of the airport and not even approach the city. Furthermore we needed to find interesting and impressive projects which would be open and active on that particular day, preferably ones of which he has a little knowledge already (such as containers projects sourced from the book project). These requirements fortunately narrowed

down the possibilities substantially and in the end it took only a few quick calls to RC Benoni Aurora's President Colin De Bruin and RC Benoni Van Ryn's President Nigel Brain to put the day together. Colin put me onto their Helen Parkinson and Nigel co-opted Robin Bath and Brian Davy: before we could even start to panic, three excellent, typically South African, container projects were available for the RI to visit. At each of these the Rotarians were ready, in their club shirts, the beneficiaries' representatives lined up and the project leaders champing at the bit to show their innovative ideas and superb workmanship to DK Lee. I was so proud that nobody could induce me to remove my chain of office. Zurika took it away from me while we had coffee ("*Don't show off so, Trevor!*" she whispered) but she had scarcely turned her back and I put it on again. Another thing which I noticed was that everybody's eyes were shining and wherever you looked the Rotarians, including the District Governor, were positively glowing. Once my Zurika had taken out the half dozen or so containers of delectable, colourful Sushi for the RI President's lunch, his eyes were also dancing. He even danced with the choir which performed at Helen's project and sat down for a very warm and friendly over-coffee-chat with the group of ladies and Rotarians at Robin's project. It was a memorable day, which Zurika and I certainly will never forget and for which I thank Colin's and Nigel's clubs for doing us so proud.

To all other clubs, situated close by, which we did not have time to visit: we only made it back to the airport with a few minutes to spare! But be assured, our District showed off some of its best!



Front from left: PP Robin Bath (RC Benoni Van Ryn) and Rotary International President Dong Kurn Lee. Back, from left: District 9300 DG Trevor Nienaber and Brian Davey (RC Benoni Van Ryn).

Although all our official club visits have been finalised we paid some interesting visits to clubs during the last couple of weeks: President Marian Laserson's RC Hillbrow celebrated their 30th charter

anniversary, President Ernest Mafisa's RC Soweto had a new induction, RC Brakpan inducted two new members, President Ian Williams's RC Benoni presented two Paul Harris Awards and President Robin Dawes's RC Springs invited us to listen to their speaker on the Gautrain. All of these visits were the kind of occasions which one will remember till one is (very much) older. Thank you, Zurika and I were honoured to spend the time with your members and guests at your club meetings.

On the last weekend in March the Vaal Triangle celebrated the 14th River Festival, the annual fundraiser of RC Vanderbijlpark. It is an adventurous day, enjoyed by all visitors and Rotarians alike, with stalls, stage shows, and most enjoyable of all, some water adventure items. My home club, President Herman Steyn's RC Vereeniging, is the undisputed champion in the raft race for the last couple of years. It also does not appear to matter who the actual rowers are: they have been replaced every year and yet they are winners time and again. The raft is called the **RO-RA-RA** ("Rotary Raft Race"). Never mind that the entrance fee is much higher than the value of the winning prize - it all goes for Rotary! This year our team consisted of Rotarians Ella Brown, Gus Leibach, Jaco Van Zyl and Rochelle Rode. They were assisted by Ella's young son Declon who clung to the club flag for dear life and shouted rhythmical instructions to the rowers with great gusto. We were particularly proud of the fact that they were amongst the last to be set off but crossed the line first by sheer determination: they passed all other competitors and the last one just two inches before the finishing line. This year the team leader was anethetist Dr Anne Van Der Spuy, who was horrified that "the organisers" could not believe the superhuman effort shown by the team and demanded that a "drug test" be performed on the rowers. The Vereeniging Rotarians also did my club extremely proud with the support given to the team. No other team elicited so much noise: Archdeacon Horace McBride drew a most horrific sound from a wuwuzella, their DG pulled rank over the roaming microphone, his Special Aide found it completely impossible to wrap her Afrikaans tongue around the required "Row Rotary Club Vereeniging!" and simply sufficed by screaming wildly "Roei Ella!" Very few rules apply in this great race (one should not try and pass the thing by the Four Way Test): flour bombs are sold by the organisers, and eggs, water guns and cannons are all part of the additions to the standard rafts. Apparently next year there will also be (un)legalised damage to property: my club has been informed that they must make their raft available the day before the event as it will require some holes to be drilled into it.



*RC Vereeniging's champion team
Left to right: Rotarian Ella Brown, Rtn Rochelle Rode, Declon Brown, Rtn Gus Leibach and (at back) Rtn Jaco Van Zyl.*



PR for Rotary: a 4 metre high wall, advertising RC Vanderbijlpark's Rotary River Festival. In front is Hannes Blignaut, a regular participant in all Rotary's cycle races and tours, resplendent in DG Trevor's company's sponsored cycling gear.

ROTARY'S MAGAZINE MONTH

R.I. PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The magazine you hold in your hands is one of Rotary's oldest traditions. In January of 1911, a 12-page newsletter called *The National Rotarian* was published; it contained an essay by Paul Harris, "Rational Rotarianism," along with club news and editorials. Of the new publication, Harris wrote: "The primary purpose of *The National Rotarian* is to provide a means for the exchange of ideas between Rotarians throughout the world, not to give the national officers an opportunity to express their views. These messages are not written merely to fill space; nevertheless we look forward to the day when they will be literally crowded out by surging mobs of virile Rotarian ideas struggling to be heard."

Today, with Rotary's club membership spanning more than 200 countries and geographical areas, the mandate of its publications is more complex, and more vital, than ever. The English-language flagship magazine, [The Rotarian](#), is edited at RI headquarters in Evanston, Ill., USA, and has a circulation of about 500,000. Around the world, 31 more magazines are published in 24 other languages, for a total of 32 magazines published by the Rotary World Magazine Press, and a total circulation of about 1.25 million.

The RI Board of Directors has designated April of every year as Magazine Month. It is a time to recognize the role that our Rotary publications play in our Rotary lives – and the role that we should play in our publications. For the magazines to live up to Paul Harris' original vision, it takes more than just an editorial staff: It also takes the good work of Rotarians. I always feel that the best part of reading any Rotary publication is the opportunity to find out what other clubs are doing. Each issue, each article, is a chance to be informed and inspired.

In an era when electronic communication seems to be everywhere, the role of the paper-and-ink magazine is still important to our organization. Rotary magazines provide us with an overview of what's happening in different clubs and districts as well as important news and updates from RI headquarters. Even the many Rotarians who regularly visit www.rotary.org will find something new in every issue.

It is a privilege today to be writing this message as Paul Harris once wrote his, and to see his vision of this publication – a magazine filled with the great ideas and great works of Rotarians – brought to life.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

April 2009 - Message from the chair -- Let's End Polio Now



Dear family of Rotary,

In January, Rotary International received another influx of funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing that organization's total contribution to Rotary's polio eradication efforts to \$355 million. In turn, the Gates Foundation has asked Rotarians to match \$200 million of that amount. For many organizations, this might seem an impossible task, especially in today's uncertain

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economy. But we all know that Rotarians are both generous contributors and master fundraisers.

Our support, however, goes far beyond simply donating money for a good cause. [Polio eradication](#) has become a passion for so many Rotarians, a goal that can and must be achieved. And now is the time to achieve it.

Never has Rotary had such strong support in our war on polio. In addition to the funding from the Gates Foundation, World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan has put the full operational power of the WHO into the job of finishing polio eradication. And two governments have made impressive commitments: The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has pledged £100 million (\$150.3 million) for polio eradication over the next five years, and the German government has committed €100 million (\$132.3 million). Although this funding is not directed toward meeting Rotary's challenge, it will help us to move more swiftly toward our goal.

Now is our opportunity to capitalize on all these resources and get the job done. We can't wait until the economic conditions improve to continue our fight. We must move ahead now. And that means meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. It is up to our clubs and districts, to each one of you, to make that happen. I encourage you to set ambitious but achievable goals for your club's contribution to the challenge. Create fundraisers that involve the whole community, letting everyone know that Rotarians are leading the fight to End Polio Now.

Jonathan Majiyagbe
Foundation Trustee Chair

DG Trevor Nienaber has been appointed Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge Coordinator for Zone 20A south.

Don't take life so seriously! DANCE





Be a part of history and celebrate the 100th Rotary convention, which will take place in Birmingham, the heart of England!



**DGE BETH THOMAS
IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2009**

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Date: 23 May 2009
Venue: Midrand High School, cnr of First and Third Road, Halfway Gardens, Midrand, Gauteng
 Excellent parking facilities in the school ground
Time: Registration from 09:30
 Programme starts at 10:00
 Lunch and cocktail snacks are included (cash bar)
Cost: R 190 per person
Dress code: Smart (no ties/jackets needed)

D.G. INDUCTION DINNER

Date: 27 August 2009
Venue: Turffontein Race Course
Time: 19:00
Cost: R290 per person
Dress: Formal / Traditional



**5 NUWE KLUBS VIR
INTERACTORS IN VEREENIGING**

Vir jong mense tussen die ouderdom van 14 tot 18 jaar.

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Die 5 Interact klubs is deel van die Rotariër Klub van Vereeniging, onder leierskap van Dr Erhard en Gwen Eiselen. Die 5 nuwe klubs word liefderik na verwys as die "INTERACT ORGANISASIE".

As een van hulle eerste gesamentlike projekte het 154 skool-leerlinge die vertoning by Monte Casino in Johannesburg bygewoon onder toesig van 6 volwassenes.

Die 154 leerders was van vyf Interact clubs naamlik Hoër Tegniese Skool, Hoërskool Drie Riviere, Hoërskool Overvaal, Hoërskool Vereeniging en Riverside.

Die voorwaarde vir bywoning was dat hulle elk 'n minderbevoorregte kind moes vergesel en na hulle omsien vir die hele dag.

Almal was geklee in spesiale rooi Interact T hempies en "Jeans" wat hulle'n mooi homogene groep gemaak het, waarin die "Interactors" nie van die ander te onderskei was nie en dit het ook beheer baie vergemaklik. Net voor hulle per bus vertrek het, het hulle dank teenoor die Distrik Goewerneur, Trevor Nienaber en sy gade, Zurika, getoon deur vir hulle te sing.

Almal se gedrag was baie goed en alles het met die organisasie vlot verloop.

Wat hulle eintlik verwag het is baie vër oortref deur die vertoning en die leerders was almal in ekstase oor die ervaring wat hulle gehad het.

Met terugvoer van die skole af was dit duidelik dat hulle nie uitgespraat kon raak oor die vertoning nie en dan moet mens ook onthou dat die meerderheid van hulle onder normale omstandighede nooit so iets kon bywoon nie.

Rtn Gwen Eiselen
RC Vereeniging



Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar
District 5080
USA and Canada

As a newcomer to District 9300, I have been asked to write a short piece on myself as a means of introduction. My name is Chris Chandler and I am a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from District 5080 in the United States and Canada. My sponsor club is the Rotary Club of Moscow, Idaho, USA and is

located in the town in which I completed my undergraduate degree. The Rotary Club of Rosebank is my gracious host-club and my ever so hospitable host-councillor is Mrs. Ann Hope-Baile. As to academics, I'm studying for an Honours in Archaeology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. I feel quite fortunate to have come to such an amazing locale for archaeology especially as it is my first foray into the field. My undergraduate and professional training is as a dietician. In fact, I recently passed the national qualifying exam to become a Registered Dietician in the United States. However, my primary interest with food and nutrition relates to hunger and malnutrition and is a predominate reason I am involved with Rotary and the Ambassadorial Scholarship Program. I hope to continue graduate study following my time in South Africa in the area of nutritional anthropology, thus the surprising story of the archaeological dietician is revealed. I look forward to visiting as many clubs as possible during my stay and to learning more about South Africa, especially the dynamics of food security in this country.

Mr and Mrs Chris Chandler

D9300 Presidential Citation Award Applications.

Thank you very much and congratulations to the 33 Clubs (32 Rotary Clubs and one Interact Club) which submitted their applications for Presidential Citation Awards to the DG's office timeously to reach Rotary International before the deadline on 15th April 2009. It is a beautiful achievement for the District and a wonderful award for all the hardworking Rotarians, especially presidents in the year 2008/9!

Those clubs who did not make it were all tripped up by the [one member net gain requirement](#).

Work at it, guys – we will see you there next year!



GOD BE WITH YOU FRIENDS

Derek and Colleen Miller

These are sad times for my home club, RC Vereeniging, D9300 and the auditor's firm Connaughton, Miller & Smith. We are losing a great auditor, an exemplary Rotarian couple, an excellent treasurer and very dear friends. They are retiring and moving away from D9300. It is indeed a wrench - after so many years of close, brotherly contact, trustworthy services and sharing Rotary SERVICE ABOVE SELF. Derek and Colleen were my family when I was young and Derek was my sponsor when I joined Rotary.

Derek joined RC Vereeniging in 1975. Before that he was a Round Tabler and a Forty Oner. In the RC Vereeniging he served as secretary and his term as treasurer stretched for 15 years. He served as president in 1994. He is a Paul Harris Fellow, was awarded a Sapphire and a second Sapphire. He was nominated to serve as District Governor but declined the office. He was indeed the material that dream Rotarians are made of and we appreciated him as such.

Derek and Colleen are retiring to East London. We wish you well and "we'll meet again". Please remember us all as fondly as we will remember you.

SANDTON ROTARY GETS THE DRUM ROLLING (shortened version)

Water is essential to the survival of all forms of life and a clean and accessible supply is a need that many of us take for granted. However in rural areas around the world; particularly in Africa, millions of people live kilometres away from the nearest reliable source. With the task of fetching water proving to be a heavy one which often affects young children or women as they bear most of this burden on their heads.

Statistics confirm that the lack of potable drinking water contributes significantly to child mortality.



OLD WAY

Isn't that a better way for them to use ROTARY WAY?



The solution was simple:
A water container that simply rolls. A rolling **DRUM** to carry water that even children can use! And by adding the Water Maker.

An Indigenous Invention

The Q-Drum is a rollable doughnut shaped plastic drum, with a rope that passes through the middle. When full, the container can house up to 50 litres of water. Due to the low-density polyethylene it is made from, it is practically indestructible, no breakable handles and is compatible with most consumable liquids and food. A unique feature which could make distribution of the Q-Drum part of an aid package—ship any liquid needed and then distribute the QDrum for further use as a water vessel.

Finance First

The entire project—to provide 20 000 Q Drums for Rotary's Manzi Millions Project is worth R10 million. Sandton Rotary intends using Rotary Foundation's Matching Grants and Designated District Funds mechanisms to raise enough funds for an initial roll out of 1000 QDrums.

Sandton Club will initially invest R100 000 into the project and will elicit DDF's for the matching grants from at least 2 of the overseas clubs who have indicated that they have funds for a campaign such as this. The R300 000 raised in this manner will be matched 1:1 by The Rotary Foundation. This will give us enough funds for the first roll-out of 1000 QDrums.

We firmly believe that once Rotary has seen the impact that this project can have, we will motivate this as an ongoing **District** or **National** or even an **International** Rotary Project to roll out the 20 000 QDrums in this initial phase.

... Let's get the drums to people who need them but can't afford them with the help of people who can afford them but don't need them ...

ADMINISTRATION

Under the auspices of Sandton Rotary, we will set up a Q Drum order form on the Sandton Rotary website www.sandtonrotary.co.za. Funds received will be held in a trust by Sandton Rotary who will pay Q Drum (Pty) Ltd and control deliveries of the Q Drums to the various Rotary Distribution point.

ALL CLUBS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE OR SET UP THEIR OWN MATCHING GRANTS WITH THEIR PARTNERS IN THIS WONDERFUL PROJECT

YOUTH EXCHANGE



The group leaving for the USA left to right Tebog Kganye, Joachim Kallweit, Dineo Molautsi, Chris Thompson (D9300 youth Exchange Committee Chair), Isaac Noge, Rozelle De Wet, Chris Holdcroft, Traci Holdcroft, Ann Thompson.



The group arriving in Brazil is a mixture of students from all over South Africa the two girls in the middle are our Kekeletso Makoetlane, and Ali Coldrey and the boy in the back with the tie Pieter Rossouw.

D9300 ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR MARCH 2009

WELL DONE!



According to Ken Kay, D9300 Attendance Officer, the following **wonderful performances** have been recorded for the past month:

8 clubs score above 90%:

Two clubs share the highest attendance figure at **96.43% each: President Alan Bauskin's Orange Grove and President Ueli Hiller's Springs Park.** Just behind them, scoring **95.38%** is **President Fred Eksteen's Westonaria** and **President Leatitia Fourie's Brakpan** scores **95%**. **President Peter Watson's Meyerton/Henley-on-Klip** made **92.31%**, **President Alistair Brown's Johannesburg East** recorded **91.89%** and **President Cynthia Lin's Johannesburg Main Reef** **90%**.

7 clubs score above 80%:

President Ted Whyte's Johannesburg South 101 made **89.09%**, **President Bob Rundle's Kempton Park Jan Smuts** **88.89%**, **President Colin De Bruin's Benoni Aurora** **87.14%**, **President Martin Wolmarans's Three Rivers** **86.67%**, **President Phil Hall's Blackheath** **82.70%**, **President Rudi Arlar's Roodepoort Central** **82.35%** and **President Will Booyesen's Germiston** **81.73%**.

A further 11 clubs have above 70% attendance.

It goes without saying that attendance figures definitely reflect positively on the club's spirit and activities and your DG is very proud of you!

"THANK YOU, KEN KAY!"



CONGRATULATIONS TO DGNN ANTON MEERKOTTER AND HIS DGNN ANN ANNETJIE! (AND SOME CLICHED ADVICE)

Heartiest congratulations to Anton Meerkotter of RC Middelburg, D9250, whose election as DGNN of D9400 for the year 2011/12 is uncontested. We are already having the pleasure of Anton's company at some of our D9300 meetings and are certain that D9400 will be in good hands from its inception: D9300's DGN Francis Callard will be running the ship during the year 2010/11 and D9250's DGNN Anton Meerkotter will lead the District through 2011/12.

Good luck to the both of you and to your Anns – Janet and Annetjie!

It won't be easy, but it will be immensely incredible. When things get rough, remember: "*Fake it like you make it and FLAP – finish like a pro!*" Also: **MAX and RELAX!** Lastly: **lean on your lady, she will get you through this...**

Semi Annual Returns: Please Make Sure That Your Club Has Filed These Returns

Two lists have been received from Rotary International which indicate that there are still 16 clubs who have not filed their June 2008 Semi Annual Returns and 22 which have failed to submit their January 2009 returns. Correspondence in this regard has been sent to clubs directly but the response is poor. Assistant Governors have also been requested to encourage clubs to ascertain and confirm that they have indeed sent in these returns.

CLUB CLINIC

What can clubs do to ensure an accurate semi-annual report?

Start by checking the information in your club's most recent semi-annual report (SAR). All club secretaries were mailed and SAR packet on 1 January. If your club hasn't received its SAR mailing by the middle of January, write to data@rotary.org or fax 847-733-9340. Be sure to include your club name and ID number as well as a mailing address or fax number.

To correct inaccuracies in your club's current SAR, update membership data no later than 1 June.

Only club presidents and secretaries can make online UPDATES THROUGH Member Access at www.rotary.org, and they must register first to gain access. If Internet access is unavailable, the Membership Data Form in the Club Secretary's Manual (229) should be completed by a club officer and sent to RI.

The next SAR will be mailed on 1 July and should reflect updates and corrections made before the 1 June deadline. The deadline to correct information in the 1 July SAR is 1 December. Learn more in the Membership section of www.rotary.org.

GET READY FOR ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH IN JUNE

Rotary Fellowships are groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who join together to

- Share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.)
- Further their vocational development through acquaintance with others of the same profession
- Make new friends around the world
- Explore new opportunities for service
- Have fun and enhance their experience in Rotary

Examples of Rotary Fellowships

[Marathon Running](#)
[Scuba Diving](#)
[Flying](#)
[Canoeing](#)
AND MANY MORE

How Rotary Fellowships Operate

- Each fellowship is operated independently of Rotary International, with its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure.
- Membership in fellowships is open to Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors.
- Fellowships must be international in nature with active members in at least three countries.
- Each fellowship elects at least three officers to oversee the group's administration.
- Fellowships are expected to facilitate communication among their members and maintain regular communication with RI.

Some Benefits of Rotary Fellowships

- Fellowships provide opportunities for Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside of their own club, district, or country.
- Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding and peace.
- Fellowships serve as an incentive for attracting new members to Rotary and retaining existing ones.

Start a New Fellowship

If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented by an existing fellowship, contact [RI staff](#) to learn how

you can start a prospective Rotary Fellowship.

Related RI publications

- _ [Global Networking Groups Directory](#)
- _ [Rotary Fellowships Handbook \(729\)](#)

Contact RI staff:

Programs & Presidential Initiatives Section (PD210)

Fax: 1-847-866-6116

E-mail: rotaryfellowships@rotary.org



Left to right: Ian Cruickshank, Brizi Coetzer, Nthabiseng Nthlapi, Lucky Malabie, Shireen Vlaming

GSE NEWS

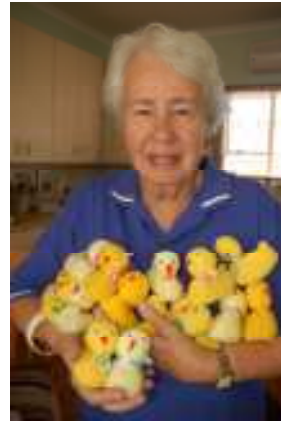
On Friday the 7th of April we said farewell to our team visiting Massachusetts in the United States. The team is led by Ian Cruickshank, a forensic architect from the Rotary Club of Sandown. The team was drawn from far and wide. Lucky Malabie, a chemical engineer, and Nthabasing Nthlapi, an editor of a regional news paper came from the Vaal triangle; being put forward by the Rotary Clubs of Kyalami and Vanderbijlpark respectively. Brizi Coetzer from Benoni has a masters degree in music technology but practices as a management change consultant. The Rotary Club of Parktown Excalibur supported her application. Shireen Vlaming, a former long term exchange student and a BA graduate runs her own import/export business. Her application came via Springs Park Rotary Club.

The team to visit the Netherlands leaves on the following Friday under the leadership of Peter van Schaardenburg of the Rotary Club of Johannesburg. Peter holds both engineering and economics degrees. His team comprises Daniel Pienaar, a masters graduate in political science and employed in the public sector. Daniel's application came via the Rotary Club of Northcliff. Ockert Reeders, an environmental graduate but now employed in the telecommunications field was put forward by the Springs Rotary Club. The final member of the team is Annabell Appalsamy, holding a diploma from Natal Technikon, is the financial manager at an event management company. The Kyalami Rotary Club also supported her application.

Applications to host the Philippines GSE team have been received. The Following Clubs were selected: Boksburg Lake, Germiston, New Dawn, Parktown Excalibur, Vereeniging and Sandton.

A call will go out shortly for applicants to visit North-Eastern India in December. The support of all clubs is again vital.

Dick Meisel
GSE Chair



THAT'S HOW ROTARY'S P.P. HANSINE RAISES FUNDS AND DOES PR: BRIGHTLY!

These little chickens were donated by the knitting ladies of the Pioneer Old Aged Home as gifts for the children's homes supported by RC Vanderbijlpark. The wool was donated by Hansine Wagner (in the picture). Yet another Rotarian donated the easter eggs with which the chicks were stuffed. Hansine brought the chicks to a club meeting to show them off and immediately she started receiving offers to purchase the chicks (which had never been intended to be for sale). The offers were however not to be refused and the sales started. Eventually Hansine raised almost R2000.00 from this source yet for another project. It goes without saying that the poor original donors had to make yet extra donations for the children's homes... (Ah, well).



HEERLIKE HERINNERINGE VAN 2008/9
DGA SE SPECIAL AIDE: ILSE DOYLE
Zurika en ek is al baie jare vriendinne, net solank as wat ons manne, Trevor en Arthur, saam sport beoefen - en dis donkiejare

lank! Ons vier het al die proverbiale sak sout saam opgeëet: oor en oor.

Eendag op 'n reëndag was ek en Zurika in die kombuis besig om slaai of iets voor te berei toe sy so terloops sê/vra of ek (Ilsetjie!) haar *Special Aide* sal wees vir 2008/9.

Ek was heeltemal en toetentaal verras, geheel en al uitgeboul - nooit eers daaraan gedink nie! Toe raak ek baie opgewonde en verwonderd. Eerstens dat Zurika so 'n groot eer aan my toevertrou en aan die ander kant beseffende dat ek geen benul het waaroor dit gaan of wat van my verwag word nie. Wat doen 'n *Special Aide* nou eintlik?

Maar, glo my, was dit nou 'n wonderlike, fantastiese ondervinding! Ons vriendskap het ons deur die jaar ondersteun, die vele vereistes help nakom en 'n genotvolle onvergeetlike jaar in ons lewens ingeprent.

Ek was betrokke by al die *Events Committee Meetings* wat deel was van al die beplanning en uitvoering van die baie opleidingsessies en konferensies wat in die Rotaryjaar plaasvind. Altyd stom- verbaas en verras oor hoe en wat en waar Trevor en Zurika dinge aanpak en telkens by die mees fantastiese oorspronklike aanbiedinge uitkom, wat deur elk van die Rotariërs en publiek wat dit bywoon, met oorgawe en verwondering geniet word. Elke byeenkoms is dan ook gewoonlik deur buitengewoon baie Rotariërs bygewoon.

Besondere geleentheid was onder andere Saterdagoggende wat ek en Zurika baie vroeg in die pad geval het om een of ander Rotary Anns-klub (of twee) te besoek of 'n fondsinsamelingsprojek by te woon. Die samesyn, lag en giggels, terwyl Zurika moet konsentreer dat ons veilig en op die regte plek uitkom, is kosbare herinneringe. Ook die verdwaalkere wat ons, in plaas van net 2 kilometer na die volgende *venue*, so ver verdwaal het dat ons eers toe ons die Secunda padaanwysings begin lees, begin beseef dat ons in die moeilikheid is - en nie veel beter gevaar het met die omdraaislag nie. Moeg, uitgemergel en honger sien ons toe ook uit na 'n lekker koue glas wyn en ietsie te ete, want gelukkig was tyd nog aan ons kant. Groot was ons ontnugtering

toe ons in hierdie "dooie sentrum" beland (so genoem deur die *shopkeepers*) en mooitjies maar droëbek moes doen wat ons moes doen. Die DG was geensins beïndruk deur ons brandstofverbruik tydens hierdie uitstappie nie!

Dan was daar ander kere wat ons van die projekte besoek het, wat so passievol deur die Anns-klubs bedryf word, en waar ons klein en nederig-hartseer gevoel het ten aanskoue van soveel *Service Above Self* en die steeds enorme nood wat eindeloos lyk. My oë het in baie opsigte oopgegaan en ek kan nie wag om meer tyd beskikbaar te hê om betrokke te raak en ook my deeltjie by te dra nie.

Baie jare gelede het 'n spreker aan die gehoor gevra: "waar is die armes?" of "waar is armoede?" Ek het dit telkens met skok aanskou en beseef dat nie een van ons die wêreld kan verander nie, maar ons liggie kan laat skyn net daar waar ons is.

My opregte dank aan jou, Zurika - my liefste vriendin - vir jou vertroue, leiding, geduld, onvoorwaardelike liefde, jou aanvaarding van my en my geite en die wonderlike jaar wat ons kon deel!

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