

# NEWS LETTER JUNE 2009 DISTRICT 9300 GOVERNOR TREVOR NIENABER



## A VERY PRODUCTIVE MONTH IN D 9300 AND IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is very rewarding to see so much happen in one's District and in the districts of one's classmates. It makes a DG even more appreciative of all the hard work put in by members and clubs of our organisation. As the saying goes: Rotary is not about the District management but about the clubs and the Rotarians. Having attended quite a number of activities, which clubs engaged in during the month of May 2009 and having also attended the two Discons of D9350's DG Elwin Thompson and D9250's Ian McGlashan, I am truly prepared to confirm that Rotary is alive and well in South Africa. The Rotary Anns are also very active with their many wonderful projects, for which we are thankful.

The month of May 2009 started off with the Rotary Anns of Benoni Van Ryn's CLASSIC CONCERT IN THE PARK and the D9300 Presidents' Lunch at Kariba Ranch. Both were supremely memorable events and clearly enjoyed by all attendees. DGA Zurika and our coffee shop have never had so many functions (and so many meals to prepare) in their lives, but they have done so this year with grace, good humour and the utmost excellence. That they did it at my request makes me feel like a *man* - oh, yes! That they are still speaking to me makes me feel that the days of miracles are still with us - oh yeah!

Early in May 2009 five new Interact Club members were handed their pins and commenced their activities at five high schools in Vereeniging: the products of the hard work of Rotarians Erhard and Gwen Eiselen - Rtn Gwen is an experienced teacher and Erhard is an experienced Rotarian, so they were able to do the job with great alacrity and aplomb. All five clubs' papers have been sent to RI for registration and hopefully the clubs will be chartered officially soon. They have already had their first project and took their 80 underprivileged guests to the "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL". Gwen and Erhard and the

sponsoring club were awarded for their superb efforts at our recent Awards Evening.



*PHF's for Erhard and Gwen Eiselen who have chartered five Interact clubs under the sponsorship of RC Vereeniging.*

From 5th to 10th May 2009 DGA Zurika and I attended DG Elwin Thompson's D9350 Discon in Oudshoorn. It was not only a wonderfully enjoyable experience to attend another Discon - where one is a guest and not required to worry or work - but we also learnt a lot about how differently each district tackles its tasks, projects, administration and fellowship events. Yet, Rotary is internationally similar enough everywhere for mutual understanding and joyful similarities to warm one's insides when visiting. From Elwin's Discon we brought 65 bright pink bags which were made available to Vanderbijlpark's *Badplaas Senior Citizens Holiday Project*. These bags were packed with wonderful goodies for the guests, supplied by DGA Sylvia Knoop and AG Arthur Doyle's sponsors and then used by guests to carry their daily bathing gear to the spa pools. Excellent PR for Elwin's District, which is now not only remembered by Rotary's guests there but also by anybody they come across while carrying these bright bags once they are back home up here - very far from Oudtshoorn.

On the 12th May 2009 seven of my team (who will be attending the Rotary International Convention) spent the day filing their visa applications with the British Border Agency in Sandton. The new requirements for South African passport holders put quite a bit of pressure on us, but the typically Rotarian fun in the car, generated by 7 intended delegates, made it all well worth while. One subject which was much joked about was the fact that everybody would have to eat one meal less per day to provide the funds to repair the potholes in the floor in my office which had been seriously *ridden out* by the wheels of the chairs of my Rotary team. Seeing all the weight gained by all of us - enjoying the magic Rotarian meals provided at all the events we attended during our year - this was argued not to constitute a hardship to any of us.

One of the sad days of the past month was the 13th May 2009, when we attended the funeral of young Jason Mitchell, the son of two Rotarians serving on my Events Committee, Derrick and Frances Mitchell of Three Rivers. It was a day on which Rotarians not only gave

support to our fellow Rotarians, but also grieved with them. There were also a number of other funerals to attend and even worse, news of funerals which reached us too late for us to attend. Our sincere condolences to all who lost loved ones and our best wishes that they may find strength to get through the painful time for all of them.

From 14th to the 21st May 2009 Zurika and I spent at D9250's Ian McGlashan's Discon in Polokwane. At his Discon we found that both D9250 and D9300 were already looking forward to and were well prepared for the merger of these two districts into D9400 in 2010/11, under the leadership of DGN Francis Callard.

From DG Ian's Discon Rotary International Vice President Monty Audenart and his wife Liz from Canada spent a few days with us in a private game reserve and as guests in my home. RC Vereeniging had a smashing function at President Herman Steyn's home for them and they attended DGE Beth's Assembly on the 23rd May 2009. On the Sunday some sixty Rotarians and family members attended a most enjoyable lunch with RIVP Monty and his Liz at Kariba Ranch.

On Sunday 24th May 2009 my bratted Special Aide (pardon the pun) organised me into helping to load the Badplaas bus at 6:00 on a bitterly cold Sunday morning, which I dutifully did and ended up enjoying very much. When 51 senior citizens show appreciation for one's efforts and have nothing but grinning anticipation for the coming holiday one does not feel the cold or miss the nice warm bed you had to leave while it was still dark. Loading huge tea trolleys full of *padkos* with a good spirited university lecturer, whose daughter had recently been instrumental in the charter of a Rotaract club at the university's Potchefstroom campus, makes a DG realise that Rotary's world is not only very big but also very small: you keep meeting all the people you are proud of everywhere. At the Vereeniging departure point of the bus Herman Steyn, the president of my home club, had equally been organised into the chilly morning duties and I figured that if he could do it so can I. Perhaps he figured that if I can do it so can he... whatever, we were in it together.

Just in case you're thinking that that was all I was organised into - forget it! PP and AG Hansine Wagner who is the project leader of that award winning project, had organised me and Zurika as well as the DG in whose area Badplaas falls geographically - Ian McGlashan and his wife Blondie - to pay an overnight visit to the project on the 26th May 2009. There was a lot of joy in those activities and well worth the drive out there. Amongst the DG's duties performed by Ian and myself were to propose on our knees to one of the lovely senior citizen ladies in the most adorable black and red bathing suit with matching cap. None of us are really sure what we proposed, but it caused such a great laugh that one gent lost his dentures. There is no denying it either, they say they have the evidence on that dratted camera. After the visit to the spa pools all the guests, who had walked from the one side of the pool to the other, were awarded medals donated by the SA Masters Swimmers. Ian and I were proud to officiate in this ceremony. After Blondie's delicious *melktert* Ian used his talent as an auctioneer to

auction a hamper of biltong which he had kindly donated. I was so proud to show the guests how Rotary raises funds (even if those bidding on the article do not have any funds to pay for the purchase price) that I was easily coerced into sponsoring the ceiling purchase price. The enthusiasm of the guests, all bidding in the hope of reaching the final bid first - and thus winning the hamper - was unforgettable. And the money? It went to PolioPlus! I also received some very resounding *klapsoene* in thanks for allowing the funds to be paid over to PolioPlus in the name of the club whose project it is... By this time I had long ago lost track of what I had been organised into and what I had volunteered for that I offered (and organised Ian into it likewise) to repeat the flashing "Little Jimmy Brown" skit with the pots and ladles to entertain the guests to the shouting-with-laughter point. Our DGA's were by now so ashamed of all these activities that they sped us away as fast as they possibly could. Does this sound like a typical Rotary fun event? It does - and aren't we lucky to be part of it? This project was also awarded at the D9300 Awards Evening after their AG had properly motivated it.



From Left: D.G.A. Zurika Nienaber, D9250 D.G. Ian McGlashan, Hansine Wagner, D.G. Trevor Nienaber & D9250 D.G.A. Blondie McGlashan

On the way back from Badplaas on the 27th May 2009 Zurika and I attended the official opening of another award winning project: RC Benoni Aurora's John Wesley Centre, for AIDS and a number of other community services, where we had also been privileged to take RIP DK Lee on his flash visit to D9300 in April this year. Contrary to the old adage of "*these are the times that try men's souls*" these are in fact the times and occasions that warms one's heart, making you proud and happy to have been a part of it all.



An historical event: the signing of the ten year lease in respect of the Rotary Centre: Front left D9300 Mike

*Dyke, DG Trevor Nienaber on the right and DGSA Elsa Venter who negotiated the deal, at the back.*

On the 2nd June 2009 we also had the pleasure of seeing something, which we thought would never materialise, come to a joyful conclusion. The lease in respect of the Rotary Centre and shop in Bezuidenhoutpark was renewed for a period of nine years and eleven months at an NGO rate of rental of R499.00 per year. All the effort of hunting for the documents, finding lost 5 year old invoices for repairs, teeth gritting day long battles trying to find the right people dealing with the files, etcetera, etcetera...all of it was worth the frustration and effort. I do however seriously suggest that those, who may well have to deal with the renewal in ten years time, be duly advised of the whereabouts of the papers. Further negotiations are afoot to include the smaller building into the rented area as it is going to rack and ruin and if we can keep up its maintenance along with that of the Rotary Centre it will be a good thing.

On the 3rd June 2009 we attended a new beginning: the induction of the President Elect of RC Johannesburg Main Reef, Spyros Paizis. On the 4th June 2009 something old: we attended a farewell lunch with RC Orange Grove at Old Eds. To both clubs we wish only the best for the new year and the future! On the evening of the 4th of July 2009 at Stonehaven-on-Vaal we joined in the handover function of Vanderbijlpark's River Festival funds to their beneficiaries. On this occasion I handed over two Paul Harris fellowships awarded by the club: one to Stonehaven owner Rosemary Anderson and the second to my Special Aide. Asked if she had known about what the evening held for her she replied: "All the secretary told me to do was to remember to wash my face before I came to the meeting!" Had she but known, she would receive a second PHF with Sapphire the very next night - from me.

The 5th June 2009 saw our Awards Evening at Thaba Ya Batswana, where we were inducted just more than a year ago. It was our wish to have a stunning event and this my Zurika and my Events Committee succeeded in providing to some 210 attendees. The understated elegant tables in black and white with silver and proteas were only matched by the exquisitely printed program on the tables, the gourmet food served by the chef himself and the perfectly executed procedure on the evening itself. MC Francis Callard kept strict control of the many items necessary to get through, two photographers made it easier for awardees to give up the trophies themselves, and two huge Rotarians kept a strict eye on any possible forgetful presidents who endeavoured to walk off with the trophies. All clubs and Rotarians are deserving but on this evening the winning ones were awarded. One is also happy to have had the opportunity to give recognition to those who have given service above self in one way or another. Apart from all the stunning trophies, other awards and tokens of thanks, there were three awards of the highest calibre, granted by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International: an Award for Meritorious Service to PDG Gregory Stathacopoulos and an Award for Distinctive Service to both PDG Ted Pope and PDG Ernie Hendriks. All award winners with their trophies have been e-mailed their photographs. Some seventy awards were presented. June 2009



*Julius Civin of RC Bedfordview receiving his trophy for 48 years 100% attendance.*



*PDG Ted Pope with his TRF Award for Distinguished Service.*



*PDG Ernie Hendriks with his TRF Award for Distinguished Service.*



*PDG Greg Stathacopoulos with his TRF Award for Meritorious Service.*

On 7th June President Phil Hall was inducted for his second year of service in RC Blackheath and on the 9th June 2009 I attended RC Alberton's Youth Bursary Awards with my old friend and sports buddy: their AG Arthur Doyle.



*From left to right: DGTrevor Nienaber, sponsor Group 5 shareholder Bill Robinson who did the installation personally, RIVP Ann Liz Audenart, DGA Zurika Nienaber and RIVP Monty Audenart from Canada.*

On the 9th of June 2009 one of my personal dreams was made real. A Computer Centre with 15 brand new computers, sponsored by Group 5, benevolently looked upon by cooperating Rand Water and 3 S Media. Fifteen Students from Eureka School for handicapped children had their first lesson from a teacher who is himself wheel chair bound. Some of them are unable to speak and some have difficulty in using their hands effectively, but they all will have the opportunity to learn to use the computer and perhaps find employment through this course. This was my dream and I am inordinately proud of it. My home club RC Vereeniging then had the honour of hosting the representatives of these sponsors at our ordinary club meeting.

And now, the end is near  
I draw the final curtain...

Thankfully I am not passing away, but I am passing on to make room for the next DG Beth Thomas and her team whom we wish the best of luck for their coming term of office. My year was an unparalleled experience of extremely hard work, wonderful opportunities, in the

June 2009

company of superb and talented people with the assistance and help of persons I will never forget for as long as I live. How can the world which needs such service from an organisation do anything but benefit from such devoted service-above-self-devotees?

Thanks to all clubs and officers throughout the entire D9300 for the assistance and help throughout 2008/9. I enjoyed my contact with clubs more than anything during the year and was both charmed and impressed by the wonderful projects you all run to serve your communities. Keep up the good work and keep in touch!

I am honoured to have been here with you and I thank you.

DG Trevor.

#### **MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

The attendance report supplied by District Attendance Officer Ken Kay can be summarised as follows:

The highest attendance was listed by President **Ted Whyte's Johannesburg 101 at 93.18%**.

Nine clubs recorded attendance of over 80%:  
 President **Fred Eksteen's Westonaria 89.29%**;  
 President **Alistair Brown's Johannesburg East 87.50%**;  
 President **Cynthia Lin's Johannesburg Main Reef 86.67%**;  
 President **Ueli Hiller's Springs Park 83.93%**;  
 President **Bob Rundle's Kempton Park Jan Smuts 82.50%**;  
 President **Alan Bauskin's Orange Grove 82.14%**;  
 President **Ian Williams's Benoni 82.14%**;  
 President **Anton Liebenberg's Mafikeng 81.25%**;  
 President **Aidan Brown's Little Falls 80.95%**.

Eleven clubs reached attendance rates of over 70% and the lowest rate is 44.79%.

**30 June 2009 deadline**  
**Clubs must complete their semi-annual reports and send dues payments.**  
**Non-payment will result in termination**

#### **ANNUAL AUDITS/ REVIEWS OF CLUB BOOKS FOR 2008/9**

All clubs are reminded to have their accounts for the year 2008/9 either duly audited or reviewed.

### June is Fellowship Month.

Fellowship is one of the Rotary Activities enjoyed most by all of us. If you have good fellowship you have an enthusiastic club.

*En kan die Rotariers nie lekker kuier nie?*

I am going to the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham with my team from on 17th June 2009 to 25th June 2009 and as this is my last DG's Newsletter I will not be able to place any further information of your fellowship activities, but please enjoy every minute of it !



### MEMOIRS OF A SPECIAL AIDE

5th June 2009 came to see the D9300 Awards Evening and farewell dinner of DG Trevor and DGA Zurika Nienaber. It was a formal function marked by unparalleled understated elegance, held at the same tasteful venue where the couple's induction had been held just less than a year ago. Indeed a stunning event to end a stunning year (as stated by Events Committee Chair DGN Francis Callard).

Early the afternoon a team from Trevor's office and club arrive at the venue to set out the trophies. The hall and tables are already dressed in the accordance with the theme and took our breaths away.

Trevor has brought at least two dozen pop-up banners promoting all imaginable Rotary projects and drives, all collected with great enthusiasm during his year of office. Trevor personally starts to erect the pop up banners in every available open space in the hall, much to the horror of his Special Aide.

Aide: "Ag nee man, Trevor!"

DG: " Now what?"

Aide: " You can't put those things up in here - this is an elegant evening - just look at this hall!"

DG: "Oh, yes, I can! These banners are what Rotary is all about and I am putting them up right here."

Aide (to herself): "We will see about that when Zurika arrives..."

Within a few seconds Zurika does arrive and says in a deathly quiet calm voice: " Get this stuff out of here."

DG: "Yes, darling."

A man knows when not to mess with a redhead.

June 2009

### **AWARDS EVENING**



*The Club who won the most awards was RC Sandton: they won five awards. Here President Di Kershaw receives one of them.*



*My own home club, RC Vereeniging, did me proud by winning three awards. Here President Herman Steyn receives one of them.*

Apart from winners there were also people to thank and several PHF's were awarded.



*Thank you to my PA, Rtn Ella Brown, for the immense assistance she has given me for the last 16 years and especially during the last year. She looked after me on a day to day basis - without even knowing it I knew every day just where I had to go, what was expected of me and even what I was expected to wear and talk about. Once one has five or six appointments per day one really appreciates this kind of care. This picture shows Ella with her PHF.*



*Rotarian Jaco van Zyl was a real champion during the last year and I would not have been able to deliver my services or anything else had it not been for his help. The picture shows Jaco with his PHF.*



*Rotarian Gerald Nienaber with his PHF awarded to him for his I.T. expertise and assistance at all my events.*



*Two proud PHF Sapphire Awardees: Special Aide Elsa Venter, friend and sportsbuddy AG Arthur Doyle.*



*DGN Francis Callard, chairman of 2008/9 Events Committee beaming after receipt of his PHF with four sapphires.*

## DEAR ROTARY ANNS & MEMBERS OF THE INNER WHEEL



The Rotary year has come and gone...and what a year it has been.

Our awards morning was very successful and, as usual, very different. Our speaker spoke about looking out of the box at change and motivation. Participation by Anns was a requirement and all the Anns participated. We put boxes out over our heads and laughed throughout the presentation. By his use of humour he carried over his strong and sincere message. Thanks to everybody who attended.

I cannot say **"thank you!"** enough to all the Anns in the District for what you do for the needy.

**LADIES, YOU MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE DISTRICT!**

To all my Assistant Governors: a huge **"THANK YOU!"** for all the work you have done!

To DGAE Sylvia Knoop: Girl, you will be a wonderful District Governor's Ann and you have all my support. To my wonderful friend Ilse Doyle: "Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support, prayers and the love you give me!"

Ladies of D9300. I say goodbye to you and wish you a wonderful new Rotary Year!

All my Love. Zurika



*Rotarian Ilse Doyle served as D.G.A. Zurika's special aide during the past year and did this job with such distinction that she was awarded this trophy as the Ann of the year who assisted the D.G.A. the best. They have been friends for many years. Ilse is the wife of well known A.G. Arthur Doyle.*



**A bedspread of banners  
made from all the banners  
of all the clubs I visited during  
my year of office  
as promised.**