



The Rotary Club of Pretoria East

Founded 28 March 1961

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

District 9400

OCTOBER 2010



President Cheryl's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians

We have passed the first quarter of the year and how it has flown by. However, much has been achieved already.

On the Service Projects front we are well on our way with the SOUNS Global Grant – and this has been accomplished so early in the Rotary year. I think this is an absolutely phenomenal project. If you look at the statistics that reflect how becoming literate changes the lives of people you will realize the impact of what our Club is involved in. Statistics have shown that if a girl becomes literate the teenage pregnancy rate and HIV/Aids rate dramatically reduces. What a legacy to leave the young ones in our rural communities. Through the efforts of the Foundation Committee our Club was able to send 2 young adults to attend the RYLA camp. Again we have managed to touch someone's life – for the better and make a difference.



We have a golden opportunity to increase awareness of our Club's activities at the Vocational and Membership Evening on 04 October 2010. I know the PR Committee has all the plans in place for the press to attend and we will have a Vocational award to two to present. Please invite a friend or colleague to attend the evening with you as we showcase Rotary, our Club and the projects we are involved in. A moment to be grasped to increase the membership of our Club!

Fundraising is moving along at a steady pace. We have secured the 4th of March 2011 as our Navi Redd fundraiser. This is a great opportunity to raise the necessary funds to secure the future of our long term projects and boogey at the same time. After the success of last year and all we learnt, I am sure that 1 000 tickets will not be a problem! I feel the Christmas Light Project is in a bit of trouble and sales are urgently required. I again request all Rotarians to reach out to all their contacts in order to sell a light. "YES WE CAN" sell at least 15 lights this year. The Foundation Committee has taken to heart the call that each Committee needs to look at fundraising opportunities and are arranging 2 music evenings at the Sher Theatre. Hopefully the other committees will follow their lead.

Club Administration is making sure that the Club remains bonded together and those that attended the Oktoberfest fellowship enjoyed themselves thoroughly. There are some interesting fellowships planned for the remainder of the year and I know we will enjoy them. I invite you all to consider joining in and visiting our sister club Benoni Aurora on 29 September 2010 for their meeting and their interesting Guest Speaker.

At the last Business Meeting I felt a great sense of pride at what is being done and achieved in the Club. There is something to pique the interest of everyone in the Club and great plans ahead to enjoy fellowship activities.

A word of thanks to the Directors of the various Avenues of Service, for your hard work at championing the projects you are involved in and the effective manner that you reported back to the Club at the Business Meeting. The members of Pretoria East chose well. To each and every Rotarian in the Club – thank-you for what you do to make our Club effective, successful and Build Communities and Bridge Continents. You make my task as your President so much more enjoyable.

As always,

Rotary Regards

President Cheryl



Spring is in the air and the wonderful scents of the Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow, the Jasmine and Seringa entice me to spend the entire day outside. That is not to be however and I find myself in front of the computer to draft my Anns' report.

The Anns met on Monday, 20th September at my home. We had a fruitful meeting and a very enjoyable social evening afterwards. Thank you to all the Anns who brought the delicious food and wine and also a very big thank you to all of you who made bibs for the Susan Strydom Home. The staff at the Home really appreciated the effort.

Janine Krah and Edie visited Abba House to take the much needed items. We spent some time playing with the babies. They take up to 14 babies at a time and currently have a full house. After our visit to Abba House, we visited the Susan Strydom Home to take the bibs that the Anns made. It was heartwarming to hear their stories and to see with how much love the senior citizens, who suffer from Alzheimer, Parkinson's and other motor neuron syndromes, are cared for.



The Anns have decided to become involved in Peas in a Pod. We have collected money to buy new school uniforms. Eben, Bessie and I visited the shelter on Wednesday 22nd September to hand over the money.

The Anns of Benoni van Rhyn Rotary Club have invited us to a Sugar and Spice brunch at the Benoni Country Club on 9 October 2010. Time: 9:30 for 10:00. A few of us wish to attend and if there are any of you who would like to join us, please contact me. It should be a very good morning. The cost is R120.00 p.p.

We would like to treat the ladies of Irene Homes to a morning tea and take some presents to them. This has become a tradition and the ladies at Irene Homes enjoy the attention and the eats we bring along. Please come and join us for a morning of fun. A possible date is Saturday,

30 October, at 10:00. Irene Homes will confirm shortly. If you can donate something in the line of shower gels, shampoos, hand crèmes, chocolates etc. we would appreciate it.

Our Christmas Lunch will be on the 5th December at 12:00 at Niche. Please diarise.

The Anns will continue to meet at my house every 3rd Monday of the month at 19:00. If anyone feels that they do not like travelling on their own at night, they can travel with their spouses to Union Caterers and join in the lift club that already exists. Please contact me for details.

Our next meeting will be on the 18th October 2010, starting promptly at 19:00.

Edie Jones



OKTOBERFEST AT THE GERMAN SCHOOL

Rotarian Oliver Krah organized a fun-filled fellowship for the opening night of the Oktoberfest at the German School. I have it on good authority (Mayda) that there were 26 Rotarians with their spouses, partners and friends in attendance, making it a highly successful event.

I also had it on very good authority (Marco), that the style and layout of the Oktoberfest in Pretoria is very similar to what can be found in Germany at this time of the year, just on a slightly smaller scale.

Beer was served in large tankards, which we got to take home with us, although I'm given to understand that there were even larger tankards available. We were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the beer and had to limit ourselves, being concerned about the possibility of traffic officers lined up outside the school after the event, breatherlisers in hand.



The more circumspect amongst us either chose small meals or shared a plate of food, all accompanied by mashed potato and sauerkraut, thereby leaving room for the interesting desserts. The rest of us waded through heaped plates of food, determined to clean our platters. Nevertheless, nothing was wasted as President Cheryl, Edie and Nicole even collected the bones for their dogs.

We were surprised that the opening ceremony was drowned out by the general hubbub of human conversation, but this didn't seem to bother either the German Ambassador or the guests!

The music by the German band was most enjoyable, and I noted that there were a number of Rotarians singing along, quite familiar with both the tunes and the words.

It was interesting to note that it was the analytical intellectuals amongst our Rotarians who pointed out the rather unfortunate attire of a young lady sitting behind us, whose T-shirt and jeans parted company leaving a rather dramatic thong on view! Regrettably we had to censor the photograph. However, from the photos taken on Thursday evening, you will see that we all had a wonderful time.

Many thanks to Oliver for making the arrangements and coordinating the event.

Reported by Margaret Watkins



And those who attended the Oktoberfest



Photographs



The Wooden Spoon being handed over with a "Threat and a Promise"



President Cheryl with Jo-Mari Kock—Junior Mayor of Pretoria. Jo-Mari spoke of her duties and plans for the year.



Rtn Albie Mulder proudly wearing one of the birthday hats on the eve of her birthday.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Taken at the Meerhof Braai by Jenny.

What the photographer really saw

was the courage of the little boy sitting on the lap of the girl in the wheel chair. He is nine years old and yet looks like a two year old.

He is highly intelligent and no matter what was happening that evening, in spite of his short body and legs each of different length, he was always where the action was – *running* from place to place!

He was involved with setting up the telescope, asked questions and was the first to look at the moon when lifted to do so – he was there when the fire was lit and he seems to be very popular with the other students, who have been told not to carry him around like a baby.



Meerhof School was asked by the Education Department to accept this child as a special case, due to his high intelligence and the other qualities which are so obvious.

ROTARY CELEBRATES NATIONAL ARBOR WEEK WITH CHILD WELFARE TSHWANE

On Saturday, 4 September 2010, the eight Rotary Clubs situated in Pretoria joined forces to plant trees at the Child Welfare Tshwane Therapy and Adoption Unit in Sunnyside.

Rotarians were given a warm welcome by the staff of the Centre and taken on a tour of the premises, where the valuable work done by trained staff is carried out.

We found the premises to be warm and welcoming with plenty of anatomically correct toys available for the children's therapy. There was evidence that the converted house was an official organisation, but totally non-threatening to children.



After cold fruit kebabs, providing sustainable energy, work began in earnest as Rotarians rolled up their sleeves and began planting trees at both the Centre and the adjacent Itumeleng Shelter playground. Eight trees were planted, one for each Club, namely the Swart Karee tree (arranged by Rotarian Grant), which is an indigenous, medium fast grower that does not require a lot of water and will provide plenty of shade in summer.

Regrettably only 5 Clubs were actually represented at the tree planting, which meant that some Rotarians did far more than their fair share of the work. AG Nong and Coral Rose of Pretoria West planted a tree on behalf of the Sunrise Club, whilst Pretoria East planted trees on behalf of the Hatfield and Waterkloof Clubs. It alarmed this reporter to see Clive, Bernard and Eben working so hard in the hot sun!

Our Club was represented by President Cheryl, Eben, Bernard and Mayda, Clive, Terry and Margaret.

It is hoped that our gift to Child Welfare Tshwane will provide shelter from some of the storms faced by the children treated at the Centre.

Our thanks go to President Wilma Lotter of the Centurion Club and our own President Cheryl, who so ably coordinated the event.

Reported by Margaret Watkins

The Best Speeding Excuse EVER!

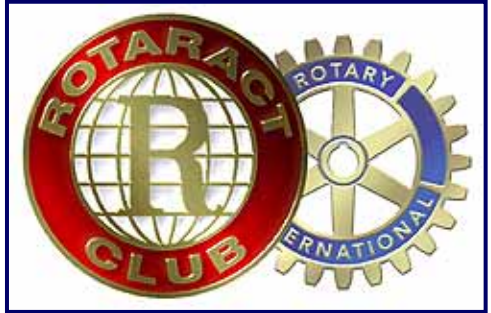


When asked by a young patrol officer, "Do you know you were speeding?"

This 83-year-old woman talked herself out of a ticket by stating "Yes, but....I had to get there before I forgot where I was going."

ROTARACT REPORT

Towards the end of August, we had the pleasure of having Vanessa Garland (Co-DRR with Rowena Viljoen) from the Rotaract of Germiston, and DRRC Robert Janbroers from the Rotary Club of Northcliff, at one of our meetings. Vanessa supervised our club's activities and elaborated on the D9400 newsletter that was launched this month, with the intention of strengthening ties between the various clubs in D9400. Our club featured prominently in this publication. Robert complimented us on the strong relationship we have built with Rotary Pretoria East as well as non-sponsoring Rotary clubs such as Centurion, since many Rotaract clubs in the district are poorly supervised by Rotary. We are very thankful to Rotary Pretoria East in this regard.



Despite this good relationship, we have decided to experiment with a change in meeting structure. Some of our members felt that meetings are too formalized, especially when Rotarians are present. Although the Rotaractors greatly appreciate the input and advice of Foundcom Rotarians that attend our meetings religiously, the club decided that the second meeting of every month would be an informal meeting reserved for Rotaractors. Since caution was advised in this strategy, the club's performance as a result of this change will be monitored over the next few months.

Moving on to international matters, The Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College, Mumbai sent us an invitation to exchange a tabloid with them to showcase our club and share with them our unique South African cuisine. The tabloid will be released at the end of the month, and most of our members have contributed to the content. We look forward to trying out interesting Indian dishes, whilst the Mumbai club tries their hand at *melktert*, *koeksisters*, chakalaka and of course Mopani worms!



Hungry, anyone?

In the next issue of the Clarion I will report on the experiences two of our members had at the Rotaract Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp from 17-19 September at Warriors, Magoebaskloof.

Our club completed painting of the classroom that was donated to the *Peas in a Pod* shelter, and there are other projects associated with *Peas in a Pod* being discussed in our club currently. In closing, I would like to inform all the Rotarians of a Rotaract information day and fellowship which has been book at *Niche* for Saturday 23 October. We are finalising the details of this event, but we will duly inform the club about the activities planned.

Steven Hussey
Acting President, Rotaract Pretoria East

SOAPkidz Environmental Education Day

A report from the organizers at SOAPkidz acknowledging Rotary Pretoria East's contribution to this project.

It is the club's current involvement with ***Preserve Planet Earth*** and Deon and Cornelia were as usual, our representatives at this annual event.



Once more SOAPkidz held its annual Environmental Education Day on Saturday 11th September - this year moving further along Moreletaspruit to Mamelodi. Partnering with Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre for this year's event, activities were held in the grounds of Walter Sisulu environmental centre and the adjacent parkland surrounding the spruit.

As usual, the day started bright and early, packing crates of food and essential supplies into various bakkies and cars before driving out to Mamelodi.

After group photos we all went to the auditorium to hear the program for the day and listen to inspirational speakers from Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre, Love Life and SOAPkidz. The message: each child is a unique and special individual living in an amazing world. There is a saying: "Feel the love"; here you really could. Every child deserves love, respect and attention as does the environment of this wonderful country we live in.

At 11am we started collecting litter and there was LOTS! I have assisted in previous environmental days along Moreletaspruit but this was by far the most polluted section I have been to. I think you could have an Environmental Week and still not finish removing all the rubbish. So we were kept busy until lunch. The mountain of filled bags beside the truck grew and grew until 375 bags were collected. Some of the more intrepid kids in my team accompanied me through the tunnel and we collected masses of litter from the spruit. They really thought I was crazy paddling through the filthy water collecting bottles, bags thrown from the bridge and the odd discarded gumboot.



Lunch was a feast, everyone was tired and very hungry so it disappeared in record time. After a photo with everyone in front of the now very full rubbish truck it was time for song, dance and war cries!

A big thank you to the following sponsors and partners

1. Super Spar Atterbury – for giving us the food at cost price
2. **Rotary Club of Pretoria East** for sponsoring the pictures and certificates handed out to every participant

Something to Smile About!

A big mining company recently hired several cannibals. "You are all part of our team now", said the HR manager during the welcoming briefing. "You get all the usual benefits and you can go to the cafeteria for something to eat, but please don't eat any of the other employees".

The cannibals promised they would not.

Four weeks later their boss remarked, "You're all working very hard, and I'm satisfied with you. However, one of our Admin girls has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to her?"

The cannibals all shook their heads indicating "no".

After the boss had left, the leader of the cannibals said to the others, "Which one of you idiots ate the Admin chick?"

A hand rose hesitantly, to which the leader of the cannibals continued, "You fool!!!!!! For four weeks we've been eating Managers and Supervisors and no one noticed anything, but Noooooo, you had to go and eat someone who actually works!!!!!"



PRAYER FOR GRANDPA

Dear God,
Please send clothes for
all those poor ladies
on Grandpa's computer.
Amen

Postal Address

ROTARY CLUB OF PRETORIA EAST
PO BOX 28833
SUNNYSIDE 0132
SOUTH AFRICA

E-mail addresses

president@rotarypretoriaeast.org.za
secretary@rotarypretoriaeast.org.za

Website address

www.rotarypretoriaeast.org.za

