



www.rotaryclubsouthafrica.org

President Arlene's Letter



SEPTEMBER 2025

BASIC EDUCATION and LITERACY Month

Dear Friends,

Did you know that - **More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population.**

As Rotarians our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

How do we make this happen?

Well, the SA government on its web site says:

Basic education

All South Africans have a right to basic education and the Bill of Rights obliges the government to progressively make education available and accessible to everyone through reasonable measures. Human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of a nation, and it is therefore vital that a country develops the skills and knowledge of its residents for the greater benefit of all.



Are the resources available and do we have the manpower to implement all of the much-needed programmes?

I will leave that question with you.

Please get back to me if you know how we can increase our resources and enable our members and friends of Rotary to implement them.

'When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime. It ripples through the community, one by one.'

Mark Wilson Rotary Club member

Yours in Rotary,

Arlene Arnold

Club President 2024-2025
Rotary E-Club of South Africa One
District 9370

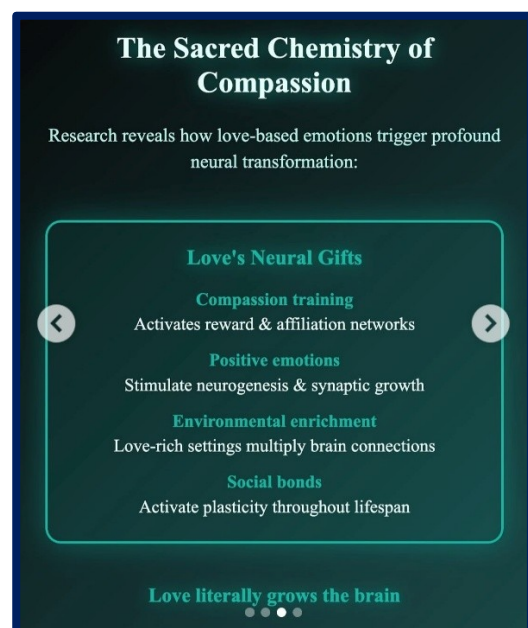
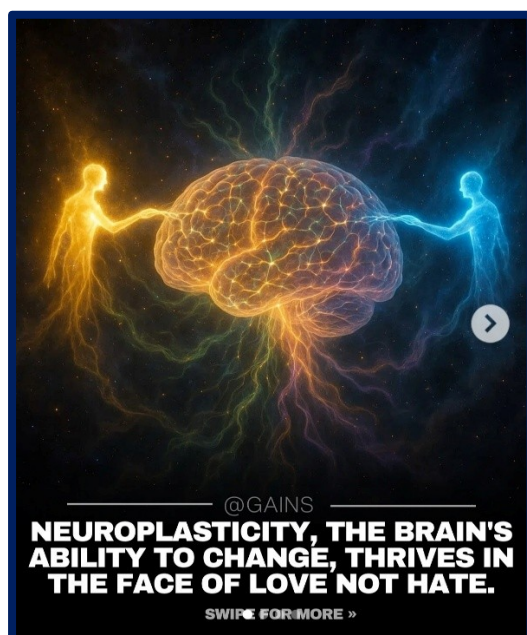
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So it often gets a little too much to remember when, as Rotarians, in our dedicated Rotary months, we also have the various World & UN International Days.

This month is Basic Education and Literacy month on our Rotary calendar – but so too is it: Charity (5th); Literacy (8th); Peace (21st) and Sign Language (23rd) on the UN & World calendar.



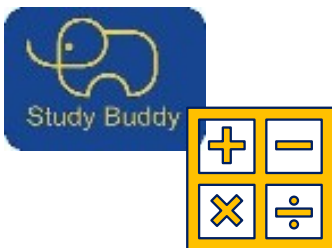


As September the 21st was World Peace Day, the Rotary E-Club of SA One decided to “mix it up” a little – a *mélange* of Education, Literacy & Peace so to speak - as you will see with further reading....

But before we get into giving peace a chance, lets share with you some new beginnings with the very first launch of the StudyBuddy desks to a primary school here in a near rural area inland of Scottburgh.



PROJECT NEWS....



Happy school children despite the wet & cold Heritage Day



Rotarians Nessa and Iris with community members.



Handover of the Study Buddy Desks to Celokuhle Senior Primary School.



Getting ready for the handover to all the scholars at the school....all the StudyBuddy booklets all laid out neatly in rows.



Although we understand why we have to blank out the children's faces....it's such a pity, as the joy on receiving such a cool learning tool is so clear to see in their expressions...

A huge thank you and congratulations to Rotarian Nessa Rana for her determination to get the StudyBuddy campaign off the ground.

Now E-Club members and friends need to be patient and wait to see how successful this literacy project will be in that community, as we are all aware that it's not just good enough to launch a project....but more importantly to see whether that project is a success. And by "success", we mean that the project is sustainable in the long term with just minimal support from our Rotary club.

Whether a project can become sustainable, relies on a number of factors – most importantly the project must have a Rotarian who "champions" the project and also the project needs to be effectively monitored – at least in the first 6 months to 1 year.

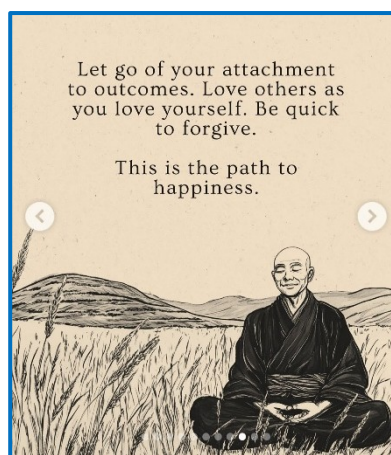
We have no doubt that this first launch of StudyBuddy will be sustainable in the long run for the following reasons:

- Nessa is the "champion" of this first school.
Her love of teaching small children the necessary skills in order to become literate is what drives her to do what she does 😊
 - A "champion" has also been allocated at the school (one of the teachers or the school principal) to ensure that the easy-to-learn StudyBuddy system that Nessa has devised, is followed closely.
- Fellow E-Club member Iris Canham, has a very good relationship with the school and the community and has developed such creative monitoring tools. These tools are used to determine whether the StudyBuddy learning system is:
 - being used correctly by the teachers at the school and
 - succeeding *ie.* to check on how the participating children's literacy skills are improving.These monitoring tools also ensure the understanding that they, as a school AND a community, are essentially responsible for the success of the programme.

So also thank you to Rotarian Iris for her part in making the launch of the first StudyBuddy project a success in this community.



Teamwork is dreamwork.....



When I was in class 7 , I used to ask a lot of questions.!

One day, I asked my English Teacher, "Why do we ignore some letters in pronunciation eg. the letter Hin Hour, Honour.etc.?????"

My English Teacher said, " We are not ignoring them; they're considered silent ".....
(I was even more confused?????)

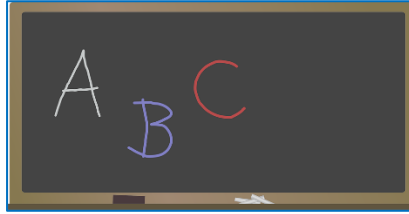
During the lunch break, my Teacher gave me her packed lunch and asked me to heat it in the Cafeteria.

I ate all the food and returned her the empty container.!!!!!!

My English Teacher : What happened? I told you to go and HEAT my food, you are returning me an empty container.

I replied, "Madam, I thought 'H' was silent.

Dedicated to all English Teachers.



Teacher: "Johnny, can you use the word "gruesome" in a sentence?"

Johnny: "Yes ma'am, I used to be shorter, then I gruesome."



Some informative peace news from Rotary International...

September 2025



Promote peace through Rotary

Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows since 2002. In June, Rotary announced its [next peace center](#), to be located at Symbiosis International University in Pune, Maharashtra, India. The center will offer a one-year professional development certificate program to train peace and development

professionals from across Asia in peace studies, conflict transformation, and sustainable development. For International Peace Day, 21 September, support Rotary's peace efforts and the peace centers in any of these ways:

- [Download these graphics](#) and use them on your social channels.
- Download and share the [Rotary Builds Peace brochure](#), which highlights ways members can advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace.

- Designate a district Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair for 2025-26 to [recruit and mentor peace and development candidates](#) from local communities to apply for Rotary Peace Fellowships.
- Become a [Global Peacebuilder District](#) by contributing

US\$25,000 in District Designated Funds (DDF) or district cash this Rotary year to support the Rotary Peace Centers or the area of focus in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.





OUR MEETINGS THIS MONTH



We're really hoping that our members and Friends of Rotary are enjoying our speaker line-up that we've had so far?

The E-Club is truly grateful to all our fabulous presenters – past & future – that give of their precious time and effort in order to chat to us on the most interesting subjects.

Septembers two speakers were Neil Lamble and Fay Pretty.

On the 9th of September we had the pleasure of hearing Neil Lambles truly remarkable journey. A journey of discoveryat the tender age of 54 years...that he had been adopted as an infant !!!

When Ed. called Neil to ask whether he would be willing to share his story with the E-Club members and friends, one of the questions was: "so how would we introduce your book to those attending?".

Ed. received strict 😊 instructions from Neil to keep the subject matter/topic of his talk a secret.

Well, Neils strategy certainly worked. Everyone attending his talk stated afterwards (during question time and on our Club WA group...) that his story is truly one of a kind and we were all totally spellbound.

Should anyone wish to read this truly amazing book – *My Name was Patrick Lacy* – Neil has mentioned (and Ed. went online to check it out....) that it is available on Amazon.com & a couple of other sites.



How was that for a totally "out of the box" topic ?

Our second meeting fell just 2 days beyond International Day of Peace which falls on the 21st of September. But our speaker – Fay Pretty – was just the perfect person to have asked to chat to us all. And we had a super turnout with 13 of our members attending the meeting.....




PEACEJAM
 UNITED KINGDOM


Rotary
 E-Club of
 South Africa One


UNITE FOR GOOD



Introducing our speaker at next weeks online meeting:

Fay Pretty
Co-ordinator for PeaceJam - UK

WHERE: Online Zoom Meeting
DATE: Tuesday 23rd September 2025
TIME: 7.00 pm (GMT -South Africa) until 8.00pm

Please send an email to daviesarlene39@gmail.com & we will send you the link details.

Please feel free to invite any of your friends or acquaintance's who may find this topic of interest.

• We really look forward to "e-meeting" you.

"Service Above Self"

Fay works for PeaceJam UK, a Peace Education charity that uses the inspirational stories of Nobel Peace Laureates and educational programmes to empower youth to create positive change in their communities. Fay first became involved with PeaceJam as a teenager and won the RGB&I Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award in 2022 for her work supporting peace both locally and internationally. She will be talking about youth empowerment and the role of NGOs/Charities, such as PeaceJam and Rotary, in working collaboratively to address systemic global issues.

Fay is currently the UK coordinator of a global peace organisation called PEACEJAM.

But not long before this – in 2022 - Fay received the RGB&I Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker award, making her an ideal candidate to take on the role of encouraging young people to make positive and peaceful change in their communities.

It is quite interesting that PEACEJAM has very similar focus points as our Rotary Areas of Focus, as you will see from the following screenshots of Fay's wonderfully insightful presentation....

Fay is also a Rotarian and in the same Rotary Club in the UK as our Honorary Member, David Tilling. And it is thanks to David that the E-Club managed to arrange for Fay to chat to us 🙏

1 Billion Acts of Peace Campaign



 Education and Community Development


 Protecting the Environment


 Alleviating Extreme Poverty


 Global Health and Wellbeing


 Non-proliferation & Disarmament


 Human Rights For All


 Ending Racism & Hate


 Advancing Women and Children


 Clean Water For Everyone

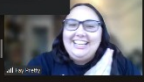

 Conflict Resolution


PEACEJAM
 EST 1994

Positive Change. Powerful Impact


 Student at Winchester PeaceJam Conference 2017


 Mentor at Winchester PeaceJam Conference 2019


 My journey with PeaceJam!


 Speaking at the World Summit of Nobel Laureates for Peace in Mexico 2024


PEACEJAM
 EST 1994

Positive Change. Powerful Impact

PeaceJam 2025-2026


 PeaceJam UK Youth Team


 'Be The Change' Programme


 Conferences and Events


PEACEJAM
 EST 1994

Positive Change. Powerful Impact



You might be asking what next?

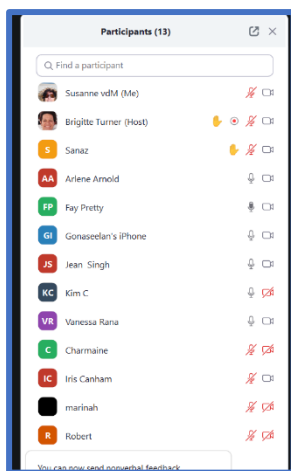
Fay Pretty- PeaceJam UK Coordinator
fay.peacejamuk@gmail.com

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southafrica@peacejam.org
 Organisation facilitating PeaceJam in South Africa
programmes@mentoringpeacebuilders.org


PEACEJAM
 EST 1994

Positive Change. Powerful Impact





Should any of our Drumbeat readers wish for more info about PEACEJAM and how it positively impacts peaceful change around the world, then please connect with Fay.

<https://www.facebook.com/peacejam.sa/>

Fay Pretty- PeaceJam UK
Coordinator
fay.peacejamuk@gmail.com
PeaceJam South Africa
southafrica@peacejam.org
Organisation facilitating PeaceJam in South Africa
programmes@mentoringpeacebuilders.org

BRAIN AT 3AM:

I can see you're trying to sleep, so I would like to offer you a selection of every memory, unresolved issue, or things you should have said or done today as well is in the past 40 years!

@mscompasshub



For the English teachers....



ROTARY NEWS TO SHARE



Here are some Rotary updates for our members to read....

CS Council Services To You Fri



2023-2026 COUNCIL CYCLE

Dear Rotarians:

I am pleased to provide you with an updated version of the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws. This can be found on the [Governance documents](#) page of My Rotary, or downloaded directly using the link below.

<https://my.rotary.org/en/document/recommended-rotary-club-bylaws-dlc>

These recommended bylaws will also be included in the 2025 *Manual of Procedure*, which is scheduled for publication later this year.

If you have any questions about the constitutional documents or the updated *Manual of Procedure*, please contact Council Services at council_services@rotary.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah Christensen

Sarah Christensen
Council Services Manager

ONE ROTARY CENTER
1560 SHERMAN AVENUE
EVANSTON, IL 60201-3608 USA



The Rotary clubs of Durban Umhlatuzana, Mtunzini and all the way up there in Parys, had some fun happenings in September.

Some fabulous idea's out there to raise funds for their projects. 🤔

QU?Z NIGHT
Friday 19 September
6pm DLI Hall
R200 pp
Entry into the Quiz & dinner.
Save the date!

CASH BAR
Beer/Wine/Juice
Cash & Card

Fabulous FUN prizes
LUCKY DRAWES between rounds

FUN Auctions
Come prepared FUN-D-RAISER
Cash & Card

Book your team's place by 10 September
WhatsApp: 082 815 7697
DLI HALL on DLI Avenue, Greyville. FREE Safe Parking. Request EFT info.

Rotary
Club of Durban Umhlatuzana

Rotary
Club of Mtunzini

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

AN AUTOGRAPHED **SHARKS** RUGBY JERSEY FOR ONLY **R200**

Thank you to PDG Raj,
for assisting us in making...

[Read more](#)

27 SEPTEMBER
09:00 - 15:00
NHKA CHURCH PARYS
CNR OFF LOOP & PAULSEN

+ FAMILY HEALTH DAY
BLOOD DRIVE
CPR DEMONSTRATION

FREE HEALTH TESTING

BLOOD PRESSURE	EYE TESTS
BLOOD SUGAR TESTS	BREAST EXAMINATION
CHOLESTEROL TESTS	HEARING TESTING
TOOTH EXAMINATION	BLOOD GROUP TESTING
AWARENESS : DEAF, STROKE AND EPILEPSY	

health REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA Rotary Club of Parys Sandra - 064 516 0238

Rotary Club of Parys

🌱💙 It's that time of the

goodneuroscience

YOUR BRAIN LOVES DANCING. MUSIC + MOVEMENT STRENGTHENS MEMORY CIRCUITS, REFINES COORDINATION, AND FLOODS YOUR SYSTEM WITH FEEL-GOOD NEUROCHEMICALS.



UNITE FOR GOOD

simplypsychologyofficial

Ways to reduce xenophobia

- 1 Challenge stereotypes: Question assumptions about other cultures. Ask: "Is this true, or just a myth?"
- 2 Educate yourself: Learn about different cultures, histories, and perspectives through books, films, or talks.
- 3 Build diverse friendships: Connect with people from different backgrounds. Shared experiences reduce fear and bias.
- 4 Speak up: Call out xenophobic jokes or comments when safe. Silence can signal agreement.
- 5 Support inclusive policies: Vote for policies that protect human rights. Back laws that fight discrimination.

Follow Psychology

UNITE FOR GOOD



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026

Rotary  TAIPEI 2026

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	21-25 JUNE 2026	26 JUNE 2026 TO 12 DECEMBER 2026	16 DECEMBER 2026 TO 31 MARCH 2027	1 APRIL 2027 TO 17 JUNE 2027
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$395	\$475	\$575	\$675
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$100

Register today at convention.rotary.org
#Rotary26

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.

And for those Rotarians that are able to journey across the sky and the oceans, here is a reminder about next year's exciting RI Convention in Taiwan.



Rotary  Brand Center

HOME OUR BRAND DOWNLOADS TEMPLATES



BRAND CENTER

New videos spotlight areas of focus

Compelling new videos in the Brand Center showcase Rotary's areas of focus and the transformative work that Rotary and Rotaract clubs support worldwide. These short videos can help you engage with service-minded individuals, potential partners, and your community. Show them at club meetings and public-facing events and post them to your social media channels. Each video ends with an invitation for viewers to find their cause and take action with us. Watch the videos on the [Our Causes](#) pages or download them from the Brand Center.

I ASKED MY GRANDPA, "AFTER 65 YEARS, YOU STILL CALL GRANDMA DARLING, BEAUTIFUL, AND HONEY. WHAT'S THE SECRET?" HE SAID, "I FORGOT HER NAME 5 YEARS AGO AND I'M SCARED TO ASK HER."



Last night I was walking home and decided to take a short cut past the cemetery... 3 girls walked up to me and explained that they were really scared to walk past the cemetery at night, so I agreed to let them walk along with me. I told them "I understand... I used to be freaked out too when I was alive..."
Never seen anyone run that fast!!.. 🏃🏃🏃🏃🏃



Rotarians Suresh Autar, Greg Cryer, Nan Bibbi and Roger Collins with the learners, Joseph Chipeta, and Akhona Zwane.

Empowering the next generation: Rotary's youth leadership initiative

THE ROTARY CLUB of Widenham is thrilled to announce that two outstanding learners from Umzinto Secondary School have been selected for a prestigious six-day youth leadership course in October.

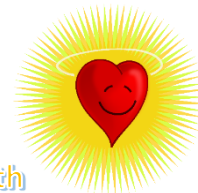
After interviewing four candidates, we chose these two Grade 11 students, thanks to the gener-

ous sponsorship of our community. We look forward to hearing them address the club upon their return. A huge thank you to Suresh Autar for leading this project and for his vision to launch an Interact club at their school, fostering a lasting spirit of service.

Rotary in Action

And such lovely news from the now very established (what was our satellite club) Rotary Club of Widenham which sent 2 deserving students from Umzinto Secondary School to the RYLA youth leadership course to be held in October.





World Polio Day is coming up on the 24th October, so please all try to do something small and simple to raise funds – at ECD centres or schools or even at your workplace.

Even the smallest donation will make a difference.



POLIO

Are you ready for World Polio Day?

World Polio Day, 24 October, is fast approaching. If your club isn't already planning its World Polio Day event, now is the time to begin.

Visit Rotary's Brand Center for [End Polio Now resources](#) such as graphics, videos, photos, public relations templates, and more. Additional materials will be added throughout September and October.

After you've planned an event, [don't forget to register it](#). New this year: District- and zone-level events can also be registered, not just club events. Let's show the world that Rotary's commitment to polio eradication is stronger than ever!



And now for our upcoming SPEAKER CALENDAR



***** ALL MEMBERS TO PLEASE ATTEND THE NOVEMBER MEETINGS – ADG & DG VISITS !!!*****

Probably most important of all are the visits by our ADG Ash on the 4th of November and by our DG Steve Shone on the 18th November, so please may we ask ALL members to diarise these 2 dates and make sure you set an hour aside for these meetings?

But of no lesser importance is the Rotary International EndPolio campaign.





Our next meeting falls on October 21st.....just 3 days before WORLD POLIO DAY...so at this meeting we will be watching a couple of really insightful videos on how Rotary is a champion, aiding in the efforts to eradicate this debilitating and disfiguring disease from our Earth.



Date	Guest Speaker	Topic	Contact Details for Speaker
7th October	Chelsea Swanepoel of ngoLAW	ngoLAW provides practical legal advice and assistance to not-for-profits.	0312669427 Chelsea Swanepoel chelsea@ngolawsa.co.za
21 st October	EndPolio Club Meeting	Let's all learn a little more about polio & RI's efforts of eradication.	
4 th November	ADG Ash VISIT	***ALL MEMBERS TO PLEASE ATTEND***	
18 th November	DG Steve Shone VISIT	***ALL MEMBERS TO PLEASE ATTEND***	



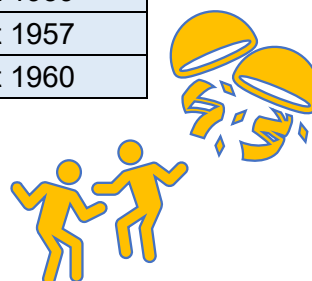
BIRTHDAYS in October



October was a busy month in 1939, 1957 and 1960 🤪

All the E-Club members wish Logie, Pree and Viktor a very happy birthday in advance....

Viktor	Cytra	18 Oct 1939
Logie	Naidoo	24 Oct 1957
Pree	Parumaul	25 Oct 1960



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



And now for our first edition of.....

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT is dedicated to bringing awareness to our fellow Rotarians here in SA as well as worldwide, of projects that touch our heart as the E-Club.....but we simply do not currently have the funding to help these deserving organisations.

At the beginning of each new Rotary year, our intrepid Projects Director Logie, alongside President Arlene, our money-lady Brigitte & the rest of the board, assesses our funds situation for the coming year. These funds are then allocated to specific projects – for the entire year. As a result, we do not have extra funds to support any new, bigger, projects that catch our attention during the current Rotary year.

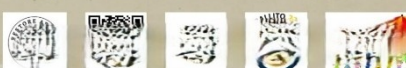
So this part of the Drumbeat is a call to our fellow Rotarians and our Friends of Rotary all around the world, for funding for some very specific projects that “catch our hearts”.



FIRST UP is an organisation that we would like to become involved in, as this project would support Rotary's ENVIRONMENT Area of Focus.



Potatoes 4 Kids
Helping those who need a little help to help themselves



Dear Guest, We are excited to invite you to our
OFFICIAL HAND OVER & SPRING DAY CELEBRATION

Date: 1 September 2025
Time: 10:30 am
Venue: Sizani Combined Primary School
6b Old Fort Rd, Salt Rock




Rotarians Logie, Nessa and Ed. attended the Potatoes4Kids official handover by the organisation to a combined primary & secondary school here in Ed's neighbourhood.

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUEST:		
Description	Unit cost	Total cost
Potato growing bucket x12 ECD Centres	R 250.-	R 3,000.-
Garden tools (hand trowels) x 12	R100.- (approx. cost)	R 1,200.-
TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED	approx. R 4,200.- to R 5,000.-	

- We have 12 ECD centres south of Durban in the inland rural area's that we work with through Rotarian Iris Canham.
- We will need some garden tools – a few small spades etc. - for maintenance of the buckets by the ECD Centres (price of spades to be confirmed, but approximate cost is +- up to R100.- each).



NEXT UP is a request for funding for the purchase of some learning and educational tools for the Alabaster Box Autism school in Chatsworth, Durban by the E-Club. The Drumbeat wrote about this in the July & August 2025 editions.

The Alabaster Box Autism is an organisation that has set in motion the start-up of a fully established, no-fee autism school that will offer quality education, therapy services, sensory rooms & skills



development catering to the developmental needs of autistic learners in the Greater Chatworth community.

This is a project that our E-Club member, Rotarian Pree Parumaul is passionate about.

On the 22nd August this year, Pree presented the E-Club board with a quote that she had received from a therapy supply store that was approached to supply the needed equipment.

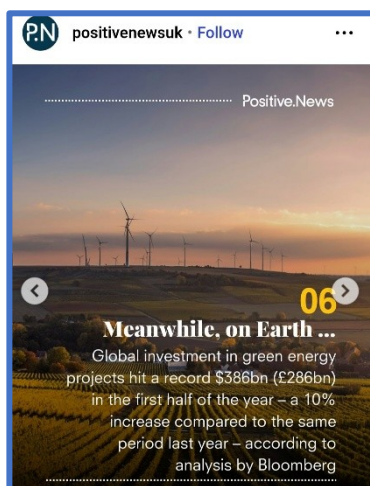
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUEST (an example of some of the costs):	
Description	Unit cost
The LEAST expensive therapy item was:	R 352.17
The MOST expensive item was:	R 11,652.17
TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED	N/A

Any donation, big or small, will be gratefully accepted by our Rotary Club so that we can help out with supplying some of the much-needed, but very costly, equipment needed for the kids.

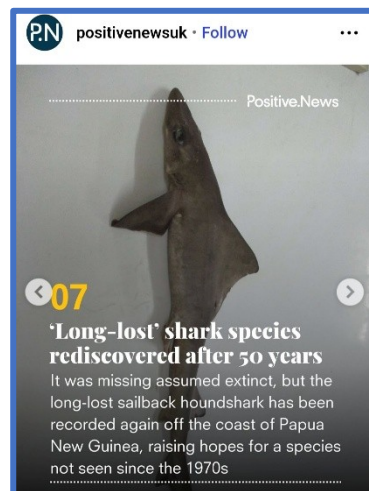
THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR CONSIDERING DONATING FUNDS TOWARDS THESE NEW/ADDITIONAL PROJECTS THAT THE E-Club WOULD LIKE SUPPORT.



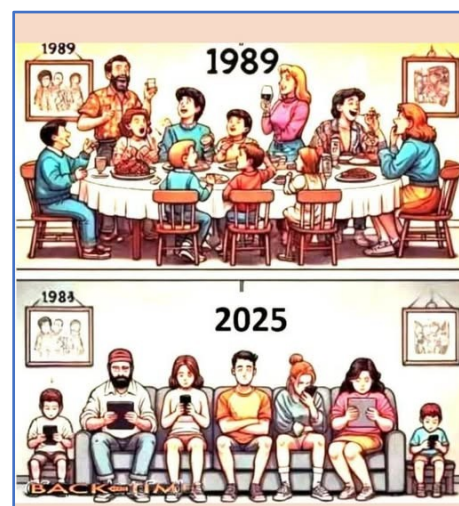
We always like to share any positive news from around the world in the Drumbeat, so here is some positivity from September.....

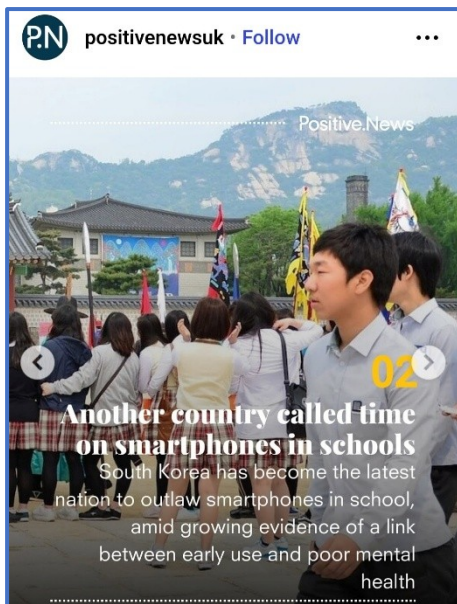


.....and these ones are especially for our member Chris Bell....



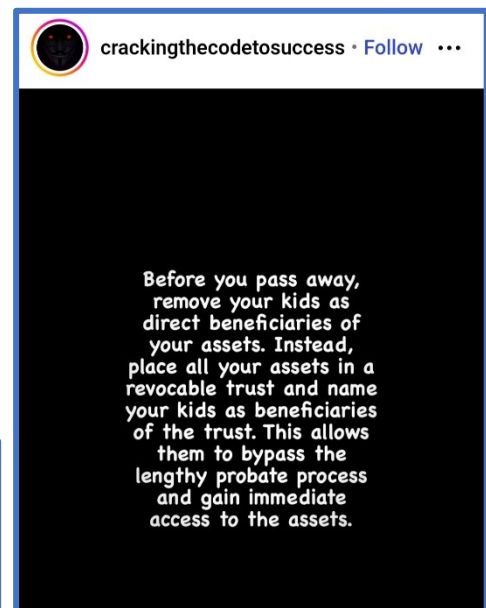
We started this month's Drumbeat with wise words from President Arlene, and now we are parting ways with some "thinking material"....but thankfully, with a positive ending....





And now as we part...firstly some words from the wise....

....And some hopeful info for those that need it.....



But let's laugh our way through October until you receive the next Drumbeat.....

A teacher is teaching a class and she sees that Johnny isn't paying attention, so she asks him, "If there are three ducks sitting on a fence, and you shoot one, how many are left?" Johnny says, "None." The teacher asks, "Why?" Johnny says, "Because the shot scared them all off." The teacher says, "No, two, but I like how you're thinking." Johnny asks the teacher, "If you see three women walking out of an ice cream parlour, one is licking her ice cream, one is sucking her ice cream, and one is biting her ice cream, which one is married?" The teacher says, "The one sucking her ice cream." Johnny says, "No, the one with the wedding ring, but I like how you're thinking!"

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Six." Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven!" Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!" Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

